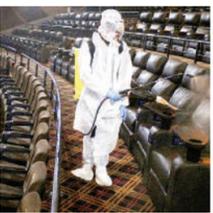




### BRIEF



A worker sanitises a cinema hall ahead of its reopening for visitors, in Gurugram, Sunday.

### Watery grave

■ **Shahdol:** Two children drowned on Sunday in a water-filled pit near their house in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, police said. The incident took place in Singhpur village, some 15 kilometres from the district headquarters, when Prince Choudhary and his cousin Dipak Choudhary, both two years old, ventured into the pit while playing, Inspector Rameshwar Uike said.

### Terrorists killed

■ **Srinagar:** In a major success for the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, a top self-styled commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was among five terrorists killed in two separate overnight encounters in Pulwama and Budgam districts of the valley, officials said on Sunday.

### Fire

■ **Muzaffarnagar:** A farmer was charred to death after a fire broke out at a sugarcane field here on Sunday, police said. They identified the deceased as Rajpal (65) from Rajpur Kalan village under Jansath police station limits. Police said Rajpal was working in the field when the fire broke out. His crops, too, were burnt. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, they said.

### Mishap

■ **Hyderabad:** Three women and a girl died when a car allegedly driven by a 16-year old hit a group of labourers sitting on a pavement in Karimnagar town on Sunday morning, police said. The incident happened at around 6.50 AM when the teenager lost control over the steering while rubbing his eyes due to thick smog in the area and rammed into a divider and hit those sitting on the pavement, they said.

### Geo park

■ **Jabalpur:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of the country's first geo park at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada river in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, local MP Rakesh Singh said on Sunday. He said the GSI has sanctioned Rs 1.30 crore to prepare a detailed project report of the geological rock formations in five acres in the Lamheta village, located 20 km away from the Jabalpur district headquarter, where the park will come up.

### IEDs

■ **Hazaribag:** Two powerful IEDs, weighing 15 kg each, were found in a forest in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Sunday, police said. The improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found near Kharki village in Balakmakka jungle in the Bishnugarh police station area, they said.

**Weather**  
High 30 Low 13

### MANN KI BAAT

## India fighting new wave of Covid with 'great success'

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is fighting the new wave of Covid with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength".

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, Modi said, "Now the cases of corona infection have also started decreasing, this is a very positive sign."

It is a matter of pride that till now about four-and-a-half crore children have been administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine, he said.

"This means that about 60 per cent of youth in the age group of 15 to 18 years have got their vaccines within three to four weeks. This will not only protect

our youth but will also help them to continue with their studies," he said.

Another good thing is that within 20 days, one crore people have taken the precaution dose as well, Modi said.

"This trust of our people on the indigenous vaccines is our great strength," the prime minister said. He asserted that India is fighting the new wave of coronavirus with "great suc-

### Corruption hollows country like 'termite'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said corruption hollows the country "like a termite" and all have to work together to rid the nation of it as soon as possible. In his Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi also said India is fighting the new wave of COVID-19 with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength". He said more than one crore children have sent him "their Mann Ki Baat" via postcards which have come from many parts of the country and even from abroad. These postcards give a glimpse of the broad and comprehensive outlook of the new generation for the country's future, Modi said.

"People should be safe, the pace of economic activities of the country should be maintained -- this is the wish of every person in the country," Modi said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi congratulated fellow citizens for this "momentous feat" of full vaccination of 75 per cent of all adults and said he is proud of all those who are making the inoc-

ulation drive a success. Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat."

## 2 yrs on, vaccines, following protocols most effective weapons

### Against COVID-19

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

As India completed two years since the outbreak of COVID-19, vaccines and following COVID Appropriate Behaviour remain the most effective weapons against the deadly virus.

Though a number of drugs and other methods have been tried, no definitive treatment has emerged as yet.

The country saw its first case of COVID-19 on January 30, 2020, when a third-year medical student from Wuhan University tested positive. She had returned home following semester holidays.

Since then, India has

witnessed three waves of COVID-19, though the line of treatment has remained the same throughout. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said irrespective of the COVID-19 variants, "Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and Adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour" continue to remain the tested strategy for COVID-19 management.

Several medical treatments were also tried to tackle COVID-19 but no widely accepted treatment has been seen till now.

Recently, at a press briefing, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul expressed concern over the "overuse and misuse" of drugs.

### Rs 2300 CR CHEATING CASE

## Former Religare CMD Sunil Godhwani denied bail

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

A Delhi court has denied bail to Sunil Godhwani, former chairman and managing director of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), in a case related to alleged misappropriation of funds, noting the seriousness of allegations, loan amount involved and his role in the transactions.

The court said that economic offences are considered to be grave, especially when public money is involved and courts have to be careful in granting bail in such cases. According to prosecution, Godhwani and others had put Religare

Finvest Limited (RFL), a group firm of REL, in poor financial condition by disbursing loans to entities having no financial standing. Those entities then allegedly willfully defaulted in repayments and caused wrongful loss to RFL to the tune of Rs 2,397 crores.

In 2019, police registered an FIR against Godhwani, Malvinder Mohan Singh, Shivinder Mohan Singh, and others on a complaint from RFL's authorised representative (AR) for allegedly diverting the company's money and investing in other companies. REL was earlier promoted by the Singh brothers.

### MOMENTOUS FEAT

75% adults in India fully vaccinated against Covid

New Delhi, Jan 30:

With 75 per cent of all adults fully vaccinated, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated fellow citizens for this "momentous feat" and said he is proud of all those who are making the vaccination drive a success. Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat."

### BUDGET EXPECTATIONS

## Clarity on crypto taxation, hike in 80C limit, duty rationalisation on EVs

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents her fourth Union Budget on February 1 all eyes would be on how the government balances out populist measures while walking the tightrope of fiscal consolidation.

While Indian corporates are expecting some key announcements which will enable them to reset their growth agenda, individual taxpayers are expecting some more disposable income in their hands to invest and consume more.

As India works towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, and with just 2 days to go for 2022-23

Budget, here are the top five market expectations on direct and indirect taxes.

**DIRECT TAXES:** 1. 80C deduction available up to Rs 1.5 lakh a year be revised upwards significantly; 2. To make the optional concessionary tax regime, which came into effect from April 2021, more acceptable, raise the threshold Rs 15 lakh income for laying peak 30% tax rate; 3. As Web 3.0 unfolds, crypto assets encompassing a wide array of digital assets like non fungible tokens, wrapped asset token etc, will gain tremendous traction. It is being expected that a specialised regime for taxation of

### 'Resume long-stalled promotions in CSS immediately'

Officers' body to DoPT

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

Citing a recent Supreme Court judgment, an organisation of government officers urged the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Sunday to immediately resume the long-stalled promotions in the Central Secretariat Service (CSS).

In a letter to DoPT Secretary P K Tripathi, the organisation urged him to direct the wing concerned to update its records so that the promotion orders of the CSS officers are issued without further delay as many of them are retiring every month without getting their due career benefits. The letter assumes significance as there are over 1,800 vacant posts at the levels of section officer, undersecretary, deputy secretary, director and joint secretary against their sanctioned strength of 6,210, a member of the CSS Forum -- an association of all CSS officers -- said.

## Naxal killed in encounter with security forces

Sukma/Konta, Jan 30:



A Naxal was killed in an encounter with security forces in Sukma district on Sunday morning, an official said.

The gunfight took place around 6.45 am in a forest near Thimmapuram village under Chintalnagar police station limits when a joint team of different security forces was out on patrolling duty, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard and the 201st battalion of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), an elite unit of the CRPF, were involved in the operation to ensure security for the ongoing road construction works in interior areas, he said. A group of armed ultras opened fire on the patrolling team near Thimmapuram, located over 450 km from the state capital Raipur, leading the gun-battle, he said. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a male Naxal clad in 'uniform' and

firearms were recovered from the spot, he said.

When the patrolling team was withdrawing from the forest, an exchange of fire broke out again, the official said, adding that intermittent firing was still underway in the area. The encounter lasted for about 40-45 minutes, after the firing stopped, the body of an unidentified male Naxalite was searched closely and from the site of the incident, 01 nos.

Contrimed 12 bore rifle, 01 nos. Pitwu, Contrimed light hand granite, codex wire 05 meters, detonator 03 nos., power wire about 15 meters, 02 nos. Gelatin rod, 01 iron rod, 02 nos. nut bolt tightener pan, 02 nos. Chargeable torch, 05 nos. Batteries, medicines and other daily useful items were recovered.

## EC to review ban on physical rallies

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

### Decision on Jan 22

The Election Commission will meet on Monday to assess the COVID-19 situation in the five poll-going states and decide on whether to continue the ban on physical rallies.

The Commission may also decide on whether fresh relaxations can be extended to political parties and candidates in holding physical campaigning events.

Citing the rise in COVID-19 cases, the poll panel had imposed a ban on physical rallies and roadshows when it announced the poll schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur on January 8. During its last meeting on

During its last meeting on January 22, it had extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31 in the five states but had allowed public meetings with a maximum of 500 people in the constituencies going to polls in the first two phases and relaxed door-to-door campaign rules.

January 22, it had extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31 in the five states but had allowed public meetings with a maximum of 500 people in the constituencies going to polls in the first two phases and relaxed door-to-door campaign rules.

## Kerala's daily spike continues to remain over 50k

### TPR nears 50%

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 30 (PTD):

COVID-19 cases in Kerala continued to rise with the southern state reporting 51,570 new infections on Sunday taking the total number of affected people to 59,83,515.

The state has reported 14 coronavirus-related deaths in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 53,666, the state health department said. The state has tested 1,03,366 samples in the last 24 hours, a release issued by the health department said. On Saturday, Kerala had re-

ported 50,812 cases. On January 25, Kerala had registered 55,475 cases, the highest ever single-day spike in the infection count since the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020. Among the districts, Ernakulam reported 9,704 cases, the highest in the state on Sunday, followed by Thrissur with 7,289 and Thiruvananthapuram with 5,746 cases.

"Currently, there are 3,54,595 active COVID-19 cases in the state out of which only 3.4 per cent are admitted to hospitals," the health department said in a release. There are 5,27,362 people under observation in

the state out of whom 12,628 are in isolation wards of various hospitals across Kerala, it said. Out of those who were found infected on Sunday, 177 reached the state from outside while 47,778 contracted the disease from their contacts. The sources of infection of 3,178 are yet to be traced. 439 health workers are also among the infected. Among the latest fatalities, 87 were recorded over the last few days, while 374 were designated as COVID-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of the Supreme Court.

### PAK PM TO VISIT CHINA

## Cash-strapped Pak looks to secure USD 3-billion loan from China

Islamabad, Jan 30 (PTD):

Cash-trapped Pakistan is looking to secure a USD 3-billion (PKR 529 billion) loan from China and investments in half a dozen sectors during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing next week, according to a media report on Sunday.

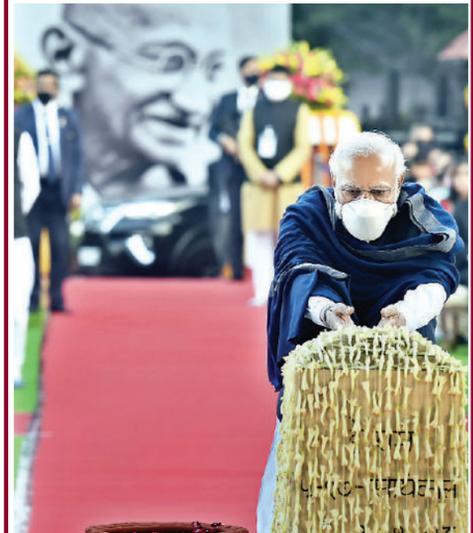
Khan will visit the Chinese capital on February 3 to attend the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics and to also meet the top Chinese leadership on the sidelines for bilateral talks.

The Express Tribune reported quoting government sources that a final meeting to shape the agenda of the visit would take place on

Tuesday. A senior finance ministry official said the government was considering requesting China to approve another loan to the tune of USD 3 billion in China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, known as SAFE deposits, so as to boost its foreign exchange reserves.

China has already placed around USD 11 billion (PKR 1,940 trillion) with Pakistan in the shape of commercial loans and foreign exchange reserves support initiatives, including USD 4 billion (PKR 705 billion) in SAFE deposits. The Chinese money is part of the country's current official foreign exchange reserves recorded at USD 16.1 billion (PKR 2.8 trillion).

### MARTYRDOM DAY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage at the Gandhi Smriti, on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, in New Delhi, Sunday.

## Woman, lover arrested for killing husband

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Police have arrested a woman and her boyfriend on charges of killing the former's husband. This blind murder incident had occurred in Housing Board Colony of Charoda. CCTV Footages and Mobile Phone locations and other technical inputs helped the investigation team to trap the accused.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control Room on Sunday, ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar Dhruv informed that on January 25 they had received information regarding the death of one Sunil Sharma of Housing Board Colony, Charoda. He was found fatally injured at his room and his family members had taken him to the Government Hospital in 108 Ambulance where he was declared dead.

His wife Rani Sharma had given statement that

Sunil Sharma had gone to bed in his room while she was sleeping with her daughters in other room. When she woke up on January 25, she found that the room door was bolted from outside.

Thereafter she contacted her relatives on mobile phone after which her mother reached there and found that Sunil was lying in a pool of blood on the bed while Rani Sharma was locked in other room. Police conducted crime scene investigation and a case was lodged against unidentified assailant under section 32, 450 of IPC.

Taking the sensational incident into serious consideration, SSP Badrinarayan Meena gave necessary directions to the Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Old Bhilai) Vishwas Chandrakar to trace the



unknown accused. A special team was constituted for investigating the case. The team collected CCTV footage installed on the routes around the crime scene. Mobile numbers of the suspects were obtained and technical analysis was conducted.

During investigation, police came to know that wife of the deceased, Rani Shama, has a love affair with one Dheeraj Kashyap of Panchsheel Nagar. He often visited Rani Sharma's house and they were very close. Technical inputs also confirmed the fact. The in-

vestigation team later found that the suspect Dheeraj Kashyap was admitted to Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Hospital, Chandkhuri as he was suffering from Covid 19.

Police maintained a watch on him and he was immediately taken in custody after being discharged. He was strictly interrogated and soon he admitted to have love affair with Rani Sharma. Dheeraj further disclosed that he and Rani Sharma had taken a huge amount from one Sandeep on promise of

getting him appointed in government job. Sandeep was pressuring them to return the money and had warned them that if they did not return money till January 25, he will lodge an FIR next day.

Dheeraj and Rani tried to seek loan against the Life Insurance Policy but their loan application was rejected. As they were already willing to remove Sunil Sharma from their path, they planned a conspiracy to kill him. They thought that after Sunil's death, Sandeep would give some more time to return the money.

As per the plan, Dheeraj reached Sunil Sharma's residence on the intervening night of January 24-25. Rani opened the door and they reached to Sunil's room and found him sleeping. Dheeraj hit him on head with a heavy iron rod. He suffered fatal injury and started screaming. At this moment, Rani closed his

mouth with a dupatta and within some time, Sunil became unconscious.

After that both of them came out of Sunil's room, Rani went to her room and Dheeraj closed the latch of her room and escaped. Later being Covid positive, he got admitted at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Hospital, Chandkhuri. Police separately interrogated both the accused and both of them narrated the same story and confessed their crime.

Police have recovered the iron sabbal (murder weapon) used in the incident and the blood-stained clothes (dupatta) from the accused. Police have booked Dheeraj Kashyap (40) son of Late Chhedilal Kashyap a resident of Panchsheel Nagar Charoda and Rani Sharma (35) wife of Late Sunil Sharma a resident of Housing Board Colony Charoda under section 302, 450 of IPC.

## Karm Shiromani awards given away in Finance department



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Karm Shiromani awards were given away in SAIL-BSP's Finance department recently. Dr AK Panda, CGM I/c (F & A) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The function was organised in Finance department's Conference hall. MP Joshi, JSA (Finance), Vivek S Joshi, SSA (Finance) were felicitated with the Karm Shiromani awards.

Employees are shortlisted for this award for inno-

ventions, better resource utilisation, following Safety standards etc at the workplace. A certificate, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to Karm Shiromani awardees.

DN Karan, CGM (F & A), SS Mohanty, GM (F & A), DK Bhandopadhyay, GM (F & A), RK Bissa, GM (F & A), Lalit Khanna, DGM (F & A), Johnny Kutty, DGM (F & A), G Rajesh and Usha Saji, Manager (P-NW 1) were present on the occasion.

## Unique Stud Welded Tagging on structural items introduced in Merchant Mill

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Unique Stud Welded Tagging on structural items produced in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Merchant Mill has been started from January 2022 onwards.

The Stud Tagging will ensure proper identification and traceability of BSP's structural products. With Bar Code printed on the tag, the new tagging gives information about the product, heat number, plant, date and time of tagging, thereby helping improve customer confidence in SAIL-BSP's product.

The new system of unique stud welded tagging on structural prod-



ucts of Plant's Merchant Mill eliminates the earlier problems of tin plate attached to strapping falling off. In the event of tin plate falling off from strapped bundles, it gets difficult for customer to search for and identify the product. In such cases, there are possibilities of customer rejecting the

product altogether. The new system of Unique Stud Welded Tagging introduced has several other advantages. Besides bar code printing, the Welded Tag is heat and weather-proof and thus more dependable. The new tagging will also be helpful in stockyard handling.

## Son and nephew arrested for gold theft at home

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** With the arrest of two, police claimed to have solved a seven years old incident of gold theft. 80 grams of stolen gold were recovered from them. The accused are the son and nephew of the victim. They had mortgaged 110 grams of gold in IIFL Gold Loan. ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv informed that Chingri Para (Ward-5) Supela resident Shrivalkhan Chaudhary had lodged a complaint in the year 2015 regarding theft of 200 grams gold from his house.

The incident occurred when they were shifting from their Chingri Para residence to a new house in Panch Rasta of Supela. Gold and silver jewellery were stolen from the locker and later the stolen silver jewellery was found lying in the verandah of the house. But 200 grams of gold jewellery was missing. The victim family was beyond comprehension as why the thief had thrown away the silver jewellery



after taking the gold jewellery. They also expressed suspicion on some of the family members but matter could not reach to any conclusion. Later the family head lodged a complaint at Supela Police Station. Police registered the case and made efforts but the matter remained unsolved. The victim had some doubts on his nephew Bhupendra who resided in Kurud but after the incident, he was staying in Uttar Pradesh. Few days ago, Bhupendra came back to Kurud

from Uttar Pradesh. The victim reported his arrival to police. Supela Police sought guidance from senior officers including Senior Superintendent of Police BN Meena; Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) RK Joshi and a strategy was devised to revive the seven-year-old case. The suspect Bhupendra was arrested and was thoroughly interrogated but he had become mentally prepared

over the years. The police kept trying and eventually Bhupendra broke down and narrated the whole story of the theft. He revealed that the victim's son Manoj assisted him in the crime. After theft, they threw about 01 kg of silver jewellery in the house as they were unable to dispose it off. During interrogation, Bhupendra and Manoj disclosed that they mortgaged about 110 grams at the office of IIFL Gold Loan in Akash Ganga while the remaining 80 grams was divided

among the two. Police have recovered 80 grams of gold from them. Police collected information from IIFL Gold Loan and have received the documents regarding the gold loan taken by the accused. As per the company's policy, in the event of non-payment of the amount, the mortgaged gold is sold out. Departmental proceedings are going on with IIFL Gold Loan in this regard. The accused Bhupendra and Manoj have been arrested. Inspector Suresh Dhruv (SHO), Sub Inspector Pramod Srivastava, Head Constable Bharat Yadav, Constable Vikas Tiwari, Junaid Siddiqui, Upendra Singh, Niyaz Khan played vital role in solving the case. The accused Bhupendra Kumar Chaudhary (34) son of Manikchand Chaudhary a resident of Kurud and Manoj Kumar Chaudhary (37) son of Shrivalkhan Chaudhary a resident of Kripal Nagar Kohka were produced before the court and have been sent to jail.

## Devendra elected President of CG Amateur Volleyball Association

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** MLA Devendra Yadav has been elected as the President of Chhattisgarh Amateur Volleyball Association. He was unanimously elected as the President during a special general body meeting of the association held at Power House on Thursday.

The new body of the association for the tenure 2022-26 was elected in this meeting. Gaganendu Das (Associate General Secretary) was present as observer from Volleyball Federation of India had joined the event online while Bashir Ahmad Khan was the observer from Chhattisgarh Olympic



Association. The election was conducted by Election Officer Arun Dwivedi (President, CG Pradesh Judo Sangh). MLA Devendra Yadav has been unanimously elected as the President; Gopal

Khandelwal as Senior Vice President; Mithilesh Kumar as Vice President; Saheer Ram Jakhar - General Secretary; Arun Yadav - Joint Secretary and Khwaja Ahmed has been elected as Treasurer.

Raman Kumar Sahni (General Secretary, Throwball Federation of India); R Gajendra (President, CG Pradesh Amateur Boxing Sangh); Jagannath Singh Yadav (President, Chhattisgarh Kushti Sangh); VR Channawar (Secretary, Chhattisgarh Cycling Sangh); Inderjeet Singh (President, Curling Association of Chhattisgarh); Umesh Singh (General Secretary, Curling Association of Chhattisgarh); Chavan Ram Sahu (Treasurer, Curling Association of Chhattisgarh); Mohan Lal (Secretary, Chhattisgarh Football Sangh) and others were present as special guests.

## Kshitij entrusts significant responsibility to Bhuvanesh

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** All India Professional Congress State President Kshitij Chandrakar has expanded the organisation in the state. He has entrusted another significant responsibility to Durg Chapter President Bhuvanesh Sahu. Now he will work as State Coordinator - Fellowship of All India Professional Congress in Chattisgarh.

Prithviraj Chandrakar has been appointed as the Lok Sabha coordinator. It needs to be mentioned here that Bhuvanesh Kumar Sahu had proved his leadership qualities while working as Durg Chapter President. He played vital

role in conducting several important social and political works and activities in Durg Chapter. For this reason only, the organisation has given state-level responsibility to him.

In the recent past, Bhuvanesh Kumar Sahu persuaded famous personalities including International Cricketer Rajesh Chauhan; Padmavibhushan Teejan Bai and Runa Sharma of Raipur to join AIPC. Along with this, Giri Rao has been included in the state level advisory committee. State Vice President Pratyush Bhardwaj has been elevated as INC Coordinator and Deep Saraswat as Finance Coordinator; Sudeep



Maitra - Coordinator Research; Prithviraj Chandrakar as Durg Lok Sabha Coordinator and Mamta Singh has been appointed as President of Durg Chapter. Bhuvanesh Kumar Sahu has expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel; AIPC National President Shashi Tharoor, East Zone Coordinator Szarita

Laiphlang and State President kshitij Chandrakar and has assured them to make best possible efforts for strengthening the organisation.

MLA Arun Vora, former MLA BD Qureshi, former MLA Bhajan Singh Nirankari, DMC Speaker Rajesh Yadav, PCC General Secretary Jitendra Sahu, former District President Tulsi Sahu, MIC member Sandeep Nirankari, Hemant Banjare, Raju Bhatia, Rakesh Mishra, Manjit Nirankari, Imran Ansari, Vinod Gupta, Ayub Khan and other senior Congmen have congratulated Bhuvanesh on his appointment as state coordinator.

## KPS Durg celebrates Republic Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Krishna Public School, Durg celebrated the 73rd Republic

Day amidst patriotic fervour and following all necessary Covid protocols & guidelines. The Director & Principal, Mayank

Sharma unfurled the National Flag and addressed the gathering highlighting the importance of Republic Day, the significance of the constitution, which came up into picture on this day in 1950. He also paid homage to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the Nation. Vice Principal, Iti Sharma was also present in the function. The program ended with a patriotic song sung by music teacher Devansh Halder.



## Ore Handling Plant B sets New Record in Wagon Unloading

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Ore Handling Plant B has set a new shift record of unloading 92 wagons at Wagon Tippler 6, surpassing previous best shift record of unloading 88 wagons in B Shift on January 18, 2022. This new record was made possible under the supervision of Shift In-charge and Senior Manager Vipul Vishwakarma and combined efforts of Sanjiv Kr Sinha, OCT, Lochan Pal, OCT and Saroj Kumar Sharma, ACT.

Director In-charge Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban



Dasgupta congratulated the collective of OHP and associated departments for the record performance and expressed confidence that the team of OHP will keep up the good work. Congratulating Team OHP for rising up to the challenge, AK Tiwari,

CGM (Traffic) stated this achievement has helped BSP to keep its commitment to Railways for timely release of wagons. CGM (OHP) BL Chandwani felicitated OCTs Sinha and Pal and ACT Sharma for their proactive role in achieving the new record. The

achievement has been possible as a result of better and strategic planning and execution. The collective efforts made by the committed members of OHP have resulted in timely supply of raw materials to various shops and departments of the Plant, he said.

I congratulate each and every member of OHP for setting new records and timely inspection so as to ensure optimum equipment availability, he said adding that efforts are being made to further improve systems and sensitise the collective about behavioural based safety, achievement of ABP targets etc.

OBITUARY

Neelachal Das



**Bhilai:** Priest of Sector 4 Shri Jagannath Mandir and Khursipar resident Neelachal Das left for heavenly abode on January 30. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. Office bearers and members of Shri Jagannath Samiti and Utkal Samaj have expressed condolences.

## 'Flame of Ch'garh Amar Jawan Jyoti to be lit in Raipur'

In honor of martyrs  
Major announcement by CM

Central Chronicle News



service nation. The party knows how to honor sacrifices. Our history has been a witness that any society which does not honor its martyrs, does not preserve the memories of their sacrifices, insults their signs, that society is destroyed.

In the year 1972, the first female Prime Minister of India Late Indira Gandhi lit the Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi in honor of the martyred brave soldiers of the country. However, the central government has merged the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame with the one at the National War Memorial. The eternal flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was visible to the visitors and installed in them a sense of pride and gratitude towards the martyrs of the country, said the

chief minister.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the centre's move of shifting Amar Jawan Jyoti, Baghel said that it had hurt his sentiments, but now the flame of Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti will be lit in the honor of the martyrs in Raipur as well.

"We will honor the martyrdom of the sons of Chhattisgarh who sacrificed their lives for the country by joining uniformed services, as well as the bravehearts of the country who sacrificed their lives in Chhattisgarh through 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti,'" the Chief Minister said.

**Crescent shaped wall to be about 25 ft high**

A wall with names of Martyrs, memorial tower and VVIP platform will also be set up at Amar Jawan Jyoti in Chhattisgarh.

The Wall will be constructed with brown marble with the names of Martyrs engraved on the same.

This crescent shaped wall will be about 25 feet high having a length of about 100 feet, and the thickness of this wall will

**Cong & BJP are two ends of a river: CM**

**Raipur:** The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also offered rich tributes to Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary observed as martyrdom day. Coming down heavily against BJP through his Tweet message, CM said that BJP and Congress are like two ends of a river. The path of Congress is that of brotherhood, harmony and unity..., whereas that of BJP is that of violence and communalism. CM charged that the party for whom sacrifice is like an 'ornament' (which can be easily removed) how they will understand the true meaning of martyrdom. On this occasion also made a statement related to 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' to be lit in Raipur.

be 3 feet. The memorial tower will be set up of sandstone, brown white marble granite in front of a crescent-shaped wall.

A memento will be made on its top. Rifle and helmet will be in the form

of insignia on the base in front of the memorial tower. The flame of Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti will be lit in front of this symbol which will be ignited 24 hours by fuel supply through underground pipelines.

**Fort-like two-storey building in front of memorial tower**

A fort-like two-storey building will be constructed just in front of the memorial tower, the length of the base of which will be 150 feet and the width will be 90 feet.

The height of this building will be 40 feet. A picture exhibition of martyrs will be kept on the first floor of this building and an arms exhibition will be kept on the second floor. Well equipped Mess and residential rooms will be constructed in this unit for the stay of the families of the martyrs attending the State Level Police Commemoration Day to be organized every year on 21st October.

The Chief Minister has expressed hope that soon Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti will be established as a place of pride for the country.



**RMC and WRD is not paying any attention towards inflow of pollutants and drainage water from city into city lifeline - Kharun River, raising cause of concern.**

## Four arrested under Excise Act

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur:** Four persons have been arrested under Excise Act from three separate police station areas. The first two identified as Ashwini Markande and Manoj Patle, were arrested by Kharora police after they were nabbed carrying 20 bottles

and 30 bottle of country liquor respectively. Both the accused were later booked separately under Section 34-1 of Excise Act. The third one, identified as Syed Niyamu was arrested by Azad Chowk police from hind Sporting Ground after he nabbed carrying 30 bottles of foreign liquor. The

final one, identified as Rajkumar Sahu was arrested by Khamtarai police from the near local market after he was nabbed carrying 32 bottles of foreign liquor. Both these accused were later booked under Section 34-2 of Excise Act by respective police stations.

## Ch'garh sees 3,783 new COVID-19 cases, 15 fatalities

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Chhattisgarh's COVID-19 tally rose to 11,20,797 on Saturday with the addition of 3,783 infections, while the death toll mounted to 13,824 after 15 patients succumbed to the viral infection, an official said.

Chhattisgarh's average positivity rate is 8.62 per cent on Saturday, 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 10,81,858 after 221 people were discharged from hospitals, while 4,555 others completed their home isola-

tion during the day, the official said. Chhattisgarh is now left with 25,115 active cases. Raipur recorded 623 cases, followed by Durg 497, Dhamtari 271, Kondagaon 253, Bilaspur 240, Rajnandgaon 181, Kanker 169 and Janjgir-Champa 144 among other districts, he said.

With 43,887 swab samples examined during the day, the total number of COVID-19 tests in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,61,96,081, the official said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,20,797, new cases 3,783, death toll 13,824, recovered 10,81,858, active cases 25,115, today tests 43,887, total tests 1,61,96,081.

## Drinking water to be supplied through taps to every house by March 2023

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Implementation of various schemes in urban areas and schemes of the labour department has brought relief to the common citizens during the last three years of Bhupesh Government in Chhattisgarh. Door to door drinking water supply will be done through taps in tanker-free state by March 2023. Presentation of Clean State award to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for Chhattisgarh's top ranking in cleanliness across the country was a major achievement of Congress government in the state'. This was stated by Urban Administration and Labour Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Dahria at



Meet the Press programme here today.

Dr Dahria told that the policy of giving compensation was made only after the survey was done at the meeting of the aggrieved farmers on Saturday regarding the Naya Raipur land compensation case. City's old pond and other ponds have been made clean across the state under Sarovar Hamari Dharohar programme, he

said, adding that dust of roads is being cleaned with the help of sweeping machines.

He said that with reconstruction of city roads the facility of movement was being made available to the common man. The benefits of Late Dr Khoobchand Baghel Health Scheme are easily available to the general public in the slum areas, said Dr Dahria, adding that medicines are being distributed with health check-up under Didi-Dai scheme with visit to the localities by mobile medical vans.

Regarding generic medicines, Dr Dahria said that expensive medicines were not available to the poor people. With 62 per cent discount, now every sick

person is availing medicines under Shri Dhanwantri Yojana, he said.

About non-payment of salaries for months to the sanitation workers of the Municipal Corporation, the Minister said that he had made it clear to the officers concerned that he would not take his salary till sanitation workers get their salaries. Now sanitation workers are getting salary till 7th of the month.

Referring to the extension of the retirement age of the journalists he said that as a Minister of Labor would solve every problem of journalists. According to him the work is underway on a large scale to lay the road network in the villages.

## Land fraud complained in Pandri

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jan 30:** A land fraud has been complained in Pandri police station wherein the complainant has duped 3000 sq. ft. through a fake power of attorney.

According to police, land owner Shaheen Niyazi of Bemetara had donated a land measuring 3000 sq. ft. in Mowa locality. This land was later registered in name of Kafil Ahmed, the legal holder of power of attorney the disputed land. The property was subsequently registered for a sum of Rs 90, 000 at the rate of 30 per sq. ft.

The demarcation of the land in Revenue Department had mentioned that north side of

the land was property of land owner. The east side was left for walking by locals and the south side of the property was of other land owners and the west side property was property of the land owner.

However this power of attorney was fraudulently hijacked by accused Ezaz Ahmed who later manipulated to land and got registered with Revenue department for a total land of 3500 sq. ft.

This forgery came to light recently after which a complaint was lodged in Pandri police station where an offence was registered 420 IPC against Ezaz Ahmed and further investigation is now underway.

## State's Police band plays tunes of Mahatma's Bhajans

To pay rich tributes near Telibandh Pond in city



**Raipur, Jan 30:** The Chhattisgarh Police Band gave a wonder presentation on occasion of death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and played the favourite tunes of Gandhiji near Telibandh pond (Marine Drive) in capital city here on Sunday. One of them was 'Abide With Me' also which this time was removed by the Defence Ministry from the Beating the Retreat ceremony on Republic Day.

On Sunday morning paying tributes to Gandhiji on martyrdom day, the Chhattisgarh Police Band played the favourite tunes of Mahatma Gandhi and this was hailed by the people present. The Police Band also played tunes of Mahatma's Bhajans as well.

It is worthwhile to men-

tion here that CM Bhupesh Baghel has also made a Tweet related to the presentation made by the Police Band. It is notable that such a programme was organized for the first time in capital city, when the Mahatma Gandhi was remembered along with tunes of his 'Bhajans' and songs.

## Launch of 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' on Feb 3

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain today reviewed preparations for the launch of state government's ambitious 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' and 'Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club scheme', laying of foundation stone for Police Memorial Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti Memorial and establishment of 'Sevagram' in Nava Raipur to cherish the memories of Mahatma Gandhi at a virtual meeting here. The programme will be organized on 3rd February at Science College Ground in Raipur. Lok Sabha Member of

Parliament Rahul Gandhi will be present as chief guest at the programme. All the divisional commissioners and collectors were present in the virtual meeting organized regarding the preparations.

According to the announcement of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, an amount of Rs 2000 will be transferred as the first installment to the accounts of the beneficiaries of this scheme in the programme of launch of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 6000 will be given to the beneficiary

family in a year in three installments.

To cherish the memories of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, 'Sevagram' will be established in Nava Raipur as a pilgrimage of modern India on the lines of Sevagram Ashram in Wardha. 'Sevagram' will be developed as an important center of Gandhiji's thought, philosophy and Gandhism. 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti' will be established on the lines of New Delhi India Gate in Chhattisgarh Armed Force Mana Raipur. A theme based development exhibition will be organized at

Science College ground from February 03 to 05. Various income oriented activities related to Godhan Nyay Yojana, activities of Livelihood Mission, unique identity and achievements of Bastar division will be showcased live in the exhibition.

Seminar-discussion will also be organized in this exhibition, to be held from February 3 to 5, on topics like Mahatma Gandhi's ideology, contribution of youth, rural landless agricultural labourers, salute to martyrs. Theme based domes will be installed at the exhibition site.

## Two bikes lifted

**Raipur:** Unidentified lifters escaped with two bikes from separate locations Tikrapara in police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, a Hero Honda CD-110 bearing CG22-M-0302 was lifted from Saswat Nagar in Boriya locality where it was parked by owner Vedram Yadav. The lifting was later complained in Tikrapara police station. The other one, a Hero HF-Deluxe CG04-MY-1179 from was looted from outside Bhatagaon bus stand. Both the lifting have now been booked under Section 379 IPC against unidentified lifters and further investigation is now underway.

## Farmers to stage demonstration at Ghadi Chowk to observe 'Betrayal Day'

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Farmers will stage demonstration at Ghadi Chowk near the statue of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Statue here on Monday (January 31) at 12:30 pm in response to a nationwide call given by Samyukt Kisan Morcha Delhi to observe 'Betrayal Day'. A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister will be handed over to the Collector after demonstration.

Demonstrations will also be held on district and tehsil levels on betrayal day with compliance of guidelines for prevention of COVID-19. The betrayal day programmes would be held in at least 500 districts across the country.

Tejram Vidrohi, convenor board member of Chhattisgarh

Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh and secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Krantikari Kisan Sabha, told that this decision was taken in its meeting of Samyukt Kisan Morcha held at Singhu border in Delhi on January 15 to protest against the deceit with the farmers. A memorandum will also be given to the central government through demonstration, he said.

The preparation of betrayal day programme was reviewed at online meeting of the board members of Chhattisgarh Kisan Mazdoor Federation on Friday. Board of Directors Janak Lal Thakur, Tejram Vidrohi, Parasnath Sahu, Jageshwar Jugnu Chandrakar, Thakur Ramgoolam Singh, Tikeshwar Sahu, Gajendra

Kosale, Vishwajit Harode, Vagendra Sonber Shatrughan Sahu, Hemant Tandon have charged the central government with adopting anti-farmer policy and said that the Government of India did not fulfill any promise made in its letter of 9 December.

No action has been taken in the last two weeks on the promise of immediate withdrawal of the case during the agitation and compensation to the families of the martyrs. The government has not announced the formation of a committee on the issue of MSP. Therefore, the Morcha has called upon the farmers across the country to convey their anger to the government through 'Betrayal Day'.

## Govt's priority to provide ration to all families of the state: Akbar



**Raipur, Jan 30:** There was happiness in the faces of hundreds of such families of Kawardha and Pipariya urban bodies of Kabirdham district when the problem of ration for all their family members got a concrete solution. On the other hand, Divyang Faleet Manhar of Pipariya expressed happiness after getting the new ration card. He said that now the worry of ration for my family has gone away. For this he also expressed his gratitude to the Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar. In fact, all of them have been sep-

arated from their families in the present circumstances. Earlier, they were getting the benefit of this scheme collectively. A new ration card was distributed to 49 families of Kawardha Municipality and 26 new families of Pipariya Nagar Panchayat.

Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mr. Mohammad Akbar distributed ration cards to all these families through video conferencing, connecting them with the priority scheme of the state government, the Universal PDS scheme. He said that Saurabh PDS is the priority scheme of the State Government. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, our government has kept the promise, from the very first year, all the families of the state are being benefited by this scheme.

Visit [www.hdfc.com](http://www.hdfc.com)

**HDFC Home Loans**  
@6.70%  
p.a. onwards

Zero prepayment charges  
Credit score linked interest rates\*

Give us a missed call on 09289 120 120

Disclaimer: \*\*All loans are at the sole discretion of HDFC Ltd. For detailed terms & conditions, visit [www.hdfc.com](http://www.hdfc.com) CIN: L70100MH1977PLC019916

## Sahu inaugurates new District Co-operative Bank branch

More than 11000 farmers will get benefit under the new branch

Raipur, Jan 30: State's Home Jail, Public Works, Tourism, Religious Trust and Endowment Minister, Tamradhwaj Sahu, during his stay in the Gram Panchayat Kharra of Berla's development block of Bemetara district, 63 of undivided Durg district and District Co-operative Central Bank under Bemetara district inaugurated the 19th new bank branch. The program was presided over by MLA Bemetara, Ashish Kumar Chhabra. The Home Minister Mr. Sahu said that I congratulate the brothers and sisters of the five committees for opening a new bank branch. The common people of



rural areas will be benefited and about 500 farmers of this area will get the facility. Co-operative society is such an organization in which there is a lot of opportunity to work. Earlier farmers used to think that they had to take only seeds, paddy and loans for their living. But now the present government has given business orientation to the cooperative sectors, in which farmers have been attracted towards small scale industries, whether it is animal husbandry, goat rearing, poultry farming, paying atten-

tion to all these. Through this, a beginning has been made to advance the people of rural areas. Bemetara MLA Mr. Ashish Chhabra said that by opening a new branch of cooperative bank in village Kharra, the nearby villagers would get its benefit. Farmers can withdraw the amount of paddy procurement from this branch. Earlier, there used to be more congestion in the cooperative bank branch of the block headquarter Berla, the pressure in Berla bank would be less due to the

opening of the bank branch in Kharra. On this occasion, Chairman of District Co-operative Bank, Durg Mr. Jawahar Verma, Assistant Nodal Officer of District Co-operative, Central Bank Mr. Arvind Verma, Branch Manager Kharra, Surendra Bhuwal, Assistant Manager Hridesh Sharma, Marketing Officer SK Nivsarkar, Chief Executive Officer Mrs. Apeksha Vyas, Janpad Panchayat President, Mrs. Hira Devlal Verma, District Panchayat President Mrs. Pushpa Tankesh Sahu, District Panchayat Vice President Berla, Nawaz Munshi Khan, Janpad Panchayat member, Yamini Suresh Vaishnav, Banshi Patel, Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Kharra, Virendra Pathak and villagers were present.

## Uncontrolled road roller runs over police constable



The deceased under the wheels of a road roller.

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Jan 30: A road roller out of control ran over a police constable and killed him on the spot. Earlier roller had hit a former sarpanch and constable on point duty, injuring both of them. The incident is of Pendra main road. Later it came to fore that roller was driver by the helper not its regular driver. As informed, Komal Janghel, posted as a constable in police department on Saturday afternoon was going towards Main Road Durgawati Chowk for doing a private photo copy work. He was

standing on the square. At the same time former sarpanch Rohit Paraste and constable Praveh Jaiswal on point duty was also present there. Suddenly at 3:45 pm an uncontrolled road roller reached there and the person driving it was not able to control it. The uncontrolled road roller first hit former sarpanch and he got his leg fractured. Before people could understand the situation, driver with road roller ran over constable Komal and he died on the spot. Later roller hit another constable Praveh Jaiswal and



The family members of the deceased staging protest with the dead body for compensation.

injured him. The roller then hit against a post and stopped. The people present there caught Kundru Yadav who was driving the roller. He confirmed of taking out the roller from road construction site as the regular driver was not present there. The police arrested Kundru Yadav. Rs 25 lakh compensation demanded. The people started agitating and vented anger on Sunday. The agitating people staged chakka-jam at Power House Chowk at 11:00 am. They demanded that the deceased may be

given the status of 'martyr' and Rs 25 lakh compensation should be given to the family members of deceased.

### What official says

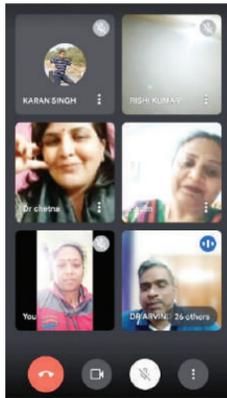
"Komal Janghel was posted as constable in the police department. He was on duty and went for some work when met with accident. He died on the spot. An FIR has been registered and body has been sent for postmortem."

Archana Jha  
ASP GBM

## Webinar on mental health for Teachers of DAV Bachel

Central Chronicle News

Bachel, Jan 30: DAV Public School Bachel conducted a webinar on "Mental Health" for teachers under the able guidance of the Principal-Dr. Chetna Sharma on January 29, 2022. The guest speaker was Dr. Arvind Pandey- Joint CMO, NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel Complex. The webinar was conducted to address and spread awareness about mental health and how to deal with such issues of mental well being during this pandemic. Dr. Arvind Pandey through his wonderful presentation made the session very interactive and made clear the term 'stress', what are its causes and how to manage it in personal life as



well as in professional life. Other topics he dealt with were basic human aspiration, gross misunderstanding. He beautifully made known the feelings in human relationships and how one becomes the sole

responsible for the hues and cries in one's own life. After the speaker's presentation, there was a question hour by the teachers. Wonderful questions were asked by certain teachers. The queries were satisfied in a simplified manner by the guest speaker.

The entire session was very informative and enlightening and the whole interaction created an awareness among all the attendees. Principal and her team thanked Dr. Pandey for his marvellous and sincere effort. Principal - Dr. Chetna Sharma also thanked NMDC Management for the continuous and motivational support in all the endeavours. With a happy note the session ended. The event was anchored by Mrs. Nadim Parveen.

## Rich tributes offered to Mahatma Gandhi



### At div. Commissioner's and Collector's office

Jagdulpur, Jan 30: On occasion of martyrdom day, the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi was offered rich floral tributes in the Divisional Commissioner's office and Collectorate here on Sunday. In the Commissioner's office Dy. Commissioner

Madhuri Som garlanded the photo of Mahatma Gandhi. On this occasion the officers and employees present offered two minutes silence to offer tributes. In the programme held at the Collectorate, Joint Collector Gokul Rawate and other officers and employees offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and recalled his ideology and works and administered pledge to follow on the path of non-violence and favour truth.

## Governor gets booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine

Raipur, Jan 30: Governor Anusuiya Uikey got the precaution dose (booster) of Covid-19 vaccine administered at Raj Bhavan on Saturday. She appealed to all the people to get precaution doses as per eligibility, children above 15 years of age and all eligible citizens to be vaccinated against corona. She said that the vaccine is an important weapon to protect against Covid-19. Apart from this, everyone should compulsorily follow the Covid protocol. On this occasion the Chief Medical and Health Officer of Raipur Mrs. Meera Baghel and Dr. Rupal Purohit were present.

## NSUI protests lathi-charge on students



Bilaspur, Jan 30: NSUI is staging demonstration against the lathi-charge by police on students protesting against the NTPC examination results recently declared by the railways. In this connection NSUI activists on Friday led by NSUI former secretary Lucky Mishra staged demonstration at railway station demanding decla-

ration of changed result of NTPC, remove CBT-2 from Group D examination, suspend NEET PG examination and give additional chance to all the students for appearing in competitive examinations. The demonstration was attended by Vikki Yadav, Vivek Sahu, Gopi Kaushik, Sajid Khan, Kamran Memon, Nikil Pandey and others.

## 'Soldiers have an important role in Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

Amarnathak, Jan 30: Lt Gen (Retd) Dr. A.K. Mishra (Vice Chancellor of Mangalayatan University, Jabalpur) said that people especially students should know about their army, army does not mean soldiers with arms. The Indian Army came into existence independently on 15 January 1948. Since then till today, the Indian Army has contributed significantly in nation building along with tarnishing the teeth of enemies in various battles. Today in this program the memory of the self-respect of the army is being reminded. The army has played a role in the development and building of the nation. The army is engaged in relief and rescue work at the time of disaster in the country. She continues to contribute to the internal security as well. The inclusion of defense as a subject in the new education policy is a unique initiative. The army



has increased its capacity after independence and at this time there is no shortage of resources with the army. The countrymen should take a pledge to do morale boosting work of the army. NCC to the students. They should take an active part in this, which will prove to be effective in nation building as well as in building their personality. A video was also shown by Mishra. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Shriprakash Mani Tripathi, presiding over the program, said that today the whole

country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of freedom, in the true sense it will be completed only when the hail of Hind will resonate all over. Our jawans who have dazzled the nation with their valor and courage, those who serve the nation, who are standing as sentinels on the border and who are engaged in their work day and night regardless of the weather. They are seen in different forms everywhere, whether it is land, sky or water, service to the country is paramount in them, they not only have war skills but also

have a sense of service towards humanity. Our soldiers have an important role in Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat. So we should respect our soldiers. We should learn from the soldiers that how they lay down their lives for the nation. We all should try to render our services in the army in some form or the other and we should always respect our soldiers.

The convener of the program was Professor Tarun Kumar Thakur (Professor and Head of Department - Faculty of Environmental Science). The program was conducted by Dr. Vijay Dixit (Assistant Professor Faculty of Commerce) and technical support was given by Vinod Verma. This program was organized on Google Meet, a service of Google, in which teachers, staff and a large number of students of this university participated.

## SECR earns Rs 200 cr from scrap disposal

Bilaspur, Jan 30: South East Central Railway (SECR) created new record in scrap disposal with scraps worth Rs.200 crores being sold in the last ten months from April last year till January this year which is Rs.20 crore more than the corresponding period last year. In the last fiscal SECR recorded Rs.180 crores scrap disposal during the ten months from April-January. With still two months left, SECR is heading towards surpassing the target of Rs.210 crores scrap disposal given by the Railway Board (RB) in the current fiscal.



Scraps disposed by SECR through e-Auction.

In a large organization like Indian Railways (IR), parts of machines, equipment and many other types of materials are stored in large quantities, which are useful for other places. Such materials are declared as 'scrap'. Scrap disposal is one of the important functions of material management in any organization. Traditionally, scrap disposal was being done through public auction in the physical presence of buyers to

bid. Presently with the advent of technology, IR as well as SECR is selling scrap through e-Auction instead of public auction as was done earlier. In this type of modern system, any buyer can participate from any corner of the country and is not restricted to buyers coming to participate in the auction. Scrap disposal in SECR has gained momentum by implementing all these modern measures as in

this zone General Stores Depot (GSD) located at Raipur as well as in all three Railway divisions also sells heavy scrap of rail and P-way material, wagons, coaches, locomotives etc. through online auction on site. In this series, as an important work towards scrap disposal, SECR has performed best this year. For the current financial year 2021-2022, RB has set a target of scrap sale of Rs.210 crores to SECR.

It may be noted that SECR recorded the scrap sale during Covid-19 pandemic period through e-Auction when frequent lockdowns in the earlier months brought everything to a halt and adversely affected the earnings of Railways due to sub-optimal utilization of passenger and freight train services. According to information received from Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Saket Ranjan, SECR has augmented the earnings through disposal of scraps and the major portion of this earning was from disposal of redundant lines and sidings

which were non-operational tracks in the sidings lying abandoned. The CPRO further mentioned that inspite of lockdown induced problems, scarcity of labour and transport, SECR is heading to become completely scrap free. "The disposal of scrap materials not only augments to the earnings but also help in providing a cleaner and greener environment by recycling of scrap materials", he pointed. According to Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCMM) PKB Meshram, all the auctions were conducted online through the e-Auction module of Integrated Railway e-Procurement Systems (IREPS) developed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS). The purchasers from all over the country were able to participate in the bid and purchase the materials through e-Auction without any human interface from comfort of their homes. Online payments by the bidders were facilitated through bank payment gateway linked with IREPS.

## SECR GM hosts Half Yearly meeting of Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committee

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 30: The half-yearly virtual meeting of Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committee was held under the aegis of General Manager Alok Kumar at the South East Central Railway (SECR) Zonal Headquarters here on Saturday evening. Besides SECR, officials from other Government sectors and Public Sector Units (PSU) and banks also attended the meeting. The meeting set off with Chief Rajbhasha Officer of SECR and Vice

President of Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committee Amitabh Choudhary presenting a power-point presentation on the achievements and implementation of Hindi in Railways and all other Government sectors and PSUs. He also presented the half-yearly reports of the committee and asked the authorities to encourage the officials and employees for maximum usage of the National Language. Addressing the gathering General Manager Alok Kumar stressed on



Officials during the virtual meeting.

maximum utilization of Hindi and constant monitoring of the process. He said that being the National Language more than 90-percent people in

the country speak and understand Hindi and hence maximum usage of the language must be ensured. He said that all the Government sectors and PSUs are doing well in the usage of National Language in their respective organizations and with little effort, they can achieve the target. He said that today people are not hesitant in using Hindi in official works and with various websites it has become easier to use Hindi as their medium of conversation and correspondence. He also directed to

ing exact reports before the committee which would help them further improve their performances in the usage of official language. He said that the officials must use common Hindi language so that it is easily understood, exchange of information in Hindi, develop computer software in the offices so that everyone can use Hindi language, training to the staffs in Hindi and issue the office orders, notifications and circulars in Hindi. He also suggested conducting competitions in offices

and select the best Hindi working staff every month and honor them which would encourage others for maximum usage of the National Language. The meeting was also addressed by Additional General Manager Vijay Pratap Singh. Dignitaries including Secretary of SECR Himanshu Jain, Senior Officer Vikram Singh, officials from other Government sectors and PSUs and banks besides others were present in the meeting.

ing exact reports before the committee which would help them further improve their performances in the usage of official language. He said that the officials must use common Hindi language so that it is easily understood, exchange of information in Hindi, develop computer software in the offices so that everyone can use Hindi language, training to the staffs in Hindi and issue the office orders, notifications and circulars in Hindi. He also suggested conducting competitions in offices

and select the best Hindi working staff every month and honor them which would encourage others for maximum usage of the National Language. The meeting was also addressed by Additional General Manager Vijay Pratap Singh. Dignitaries including Secretary of SECR Himanshu Jain, Senior Officer Vikram Singh, officials from other Government sectors and PSUs and banks besides others were present in the meeting.

ing exact reports before the committee which would help them further improve their performances in the usage of official language. He said that the officials must use common Hindi language so that it is easily understood, exchange of information in Hindi, develop computer software in the offices so that everyone can use Hindi language, training to the staffs in Hindi and issue the office orders, notifications and circulars in Hindi. He also suggested conducting competitions in offices

## 7 tractors, 1 matador seized illegally transporting minerals

Combined action by Fingeshwar Police and Mineral deptt



Gariyaband, Jan 30:

The Fingeshwar Police took strict action against illegal excavation and transportation of mineral by sand and mineral mafia and seized 7 tractors and 1 Matador transporting minerals illegally. It was as per instructions from the SP Gariyaband that regular actions are being taken against such illegal operations and the action on

Sunday created sensation among such illegal transporters and excavators in the region.

It is notable here that news about illegal excavation of sand and other minerals from the region was being published for last few months and still no action was taken, despite knowing the fact that many an elites having strong political connections are involved in it. All

the more it raised questions on the unbiased working of the local administration and those from the mineral department and the Police to put an effective check on such activities. On Sunday the Fingeshwar Police got tip from an informer about illegal transportation of sand and stone. On this TI Fingeshwar Rajesh Jagat informed about it to senior officers in the district and

holding coordination with mineral department formed a combined team. In the temporary check-post created near Gram Khuteri near Sargi nullah, 7 tractors with illegal sand and 1 matador near Puren turn was seized illegally transporting 'stone' (frashi patthar). The Mineral department took action as per the act and kept the material and vehicle safe at Fingeshwar Thana.

In the above action, TI Fingeshwar Rajesh Jagat, Himanchal Dhruv, head constable Nemichand Patel, Puran Sahu, R Kritesh Prajapati, Manoj Nishad, Kuleswar Sahu, Ravi Sonwani, and Mineral Inspector Faguram Nagesh and his team played an important role.

## Tricolor hoisted in various places in Takhatpur

Takhatpur, Jan 30:

Republic Day was celebrated at the Mahatma Gandhi statue site under the aegis of Congress Seva Dal, in which the flag was hoisted by Congress State Secretary Ashish Singh Thakur, who was present as the chief guest.

Ashish Singh Thakur while singing Vande Mataram said that the importance of Mahatma Gandhi is so much that even today our country honors him as the Father of the Nation, irrespective of all. Congress Seva Dal state general secretary Pradeep Tamrakar conducted the program.

The flag hoisting at Janpad Panchayat Middle School, Sadar Ba Jar was done under the joint aegis of Ashish Singh Thakur and District Panchayat Chairman Jitendra Pandey. Flag was also hoisted in the agricultural produce market with

regional MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh as Chief Guest.

After offering flowers on the photo of Mahatma Gandhi, the flag was hoisted and the tricolor was saluted along with the national anthem. Rashmi Singh said that till date no government in Chhattisgarh has done even 10 percent of the work done for the farmers, as done by the present government. She also appreciated the contribution of the government on the transformation of the agricultural produce market.

Flag hoisting was also done in the Municipality Office premises under the chairmanship of Regional MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh and the President of the Municipality, Pushpa Munna Shrivastava. Pushpa Munna Shrivastava mentioned in detail the ongoing development works in the city.

Pushpa Munna Shrivastava mentioned in detail the ongoing development works in the city.

Rashmi Ashish Singh read out the message of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel after mentioning in detail the establishment of the constitution. Mohit Singh Rajput conducted the program.

Flag hoisting was done in the district panchayat office premises under the chairmanship of Janpad District President Rajeshwari Kaushik, MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh. Rashmi Ashish Singh said that the schemes of the government are implemented in rural areas from the Janpad Panchayat itself.

In this direction, the work of Takhatpur Janpad Panchayat is also getting better because after 25 years, Congress President and Vice President have been made here, she mentioned in her address. On these oc-

casions, prominently former MLA Jagjit Singh Makkar, District Panchayat President Jitendra Pandey, Congress Seva Dal State General Secretary Pradeep Tamrakar, former Municipality President Ajay Devangan, Municipality President Pushpa Munna Shrivastava, Vice President Vandana Bala Singh, City Congress General Secretary Munna Shrivastava, Abhishek Pandey, Basant Gupta, Councilor Tekchand Karda, Mukim Ansari, Paramjit Lovely Hura, Kailash Devangan, Laxmi Yadav, Sunil Ahuja, City Congress President Bihari Devangan, A l d e r m a n C h a n d r a p r a k a s h Devangan, Sunil Jangde, Mohit Thakur, Dinesh Devangan, Omprakash Devangan, Shailendra Nirmalkar, Jitendra Raj and others were present in large numbers.

## MLA Chandan Kashyap hoists the flag in Sukma



**Sukma, Jan 30:** The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated in a dignified atmosphere in Sukma district, with President of Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board and Narayanpur MLA Chandan Kashyap as Chief Guest. He hoisted the flag and took the salute at the district level Republic Day function organized at the mini-stadium of Sukma and also released white doves symbolizing peace and love and colored balloons symbolizing joy and gaiety in the sky. On this occasion, he read out the message of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to the people of the

state. In the ceremony, Shri Kashyap honored the families of the soldiers who were martyred in the Naxalite violence by giving them shawls and shripal and presented citations to Corona Warriors.

On this occasion, District Panchayat President Harish Kawasi, Municipal Council President Jagannath Sahu, public representatives, Collector Vineet Nandanwar, Police Superintendent Sunil Sharma, all administrative officers- employees and officers of Police Department, employees and dignitaries were present.

## Republic Day celebrated with gaiety

■ Assembly Speaker Dr. Mahant hoisted the flag at Baikunthpur

**Korea, Jan 30:** National festival, the 73rd Republic Day was celebrated in a dignified manner with gaiety in Korea district. In the main function of Republic Day organized at Mini Stadium of Government Adarsh Ramanuj Higher Secondary School, District Headquarter Baikunthpur, Speaker of the Assembly Dr. Charandas Mahant took the salute of the parade by hoisting the flag.

The chief guest of the main function of Republic Day, Dr. Mahant sent warm greetings to all the people of the district on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day. He asked the public to continue with the vaccination campaign by following all the guidelines to avoid Covid 19 and appealed to be aware of their own safety. Paying humble tributes to



the brave sons of the soil of the district, he bowed down to the personalities who raised the pride of the region on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day. He said that efforts should be made to fulfill the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and for the overall development of the people of the country. At the same time, he said that be aware of your rights and fulfillment of national obligations. Thereafter, Collector Kuldeep Sharma read out the message sent by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to the people of the state.

The chief guest honored the families of the mar-

tyrs and those who did excellent work during the Corona period apart from teachers of development block Baikunthpur, Shambhu Singh, Rehana Sultana, Sushil Shukla, Neetu Kushwaha, K. Sunita Kujur, Dev Sharan Ravi, Jitendra Sahu, Priyanka Tigga, Manisha Sonwani, Teacher of Block Sonhat Umesh Kumar Pandey, Uday Lakra, Kaushilya Singh, Bhawan Rajwade, Vijay Sonpakar, Savita Rajwade, teachers of block Khadgawan, Sumant Bhattacharya, Gangaram Yadav, Shamsud Ansari, Sujit Kumar Sahu, Renuka Ajgale, teachers of

block Manendragarh, Rajiv Singh, Kevali Singh, Nabgh Singh, Sita Armo, Rajkumar Verma and others. Similarly, constable of police station Khadgawan Suresh Tigga, constable of police station Podi Nirbhay Narayan Singh, constable of police station Manendragarh Istaq Khan, constable of police station Baikunthpur Ilyas Kujur, head constable of police station Chirmiri, Sandeep Bagis, constable of police station Kelhari Pradeep Sahu, Police Station Patna constable Rajeshwar Sahu, Thana Charcha constable Narmada Srivastava, Superintendent of Police office constable Vijay Kujur, District Senani Nagar Army's Lance Naik Mahesh Kumar Mishra, District Fire Office driver cum operators Rajaram and Rajesh Khatik, President of Aarti Women's Self Help Group Januva Sembai, Jai Prakash Kurre, President of Gothan Samiti Ghughra Lalman Rajwade were also felicitated.

## Collector RK Sharma hoists flag in Collectorate premises

Kawardha, Jan 30:

District Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma hoisted the flag at the district office on the occasion of Republic Day. Earlier, he paid homage to the statue of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, installed in the campus, by garlanding and offering prayers.

Collector RK Sharma, after hoisting the flag, congratulated the district officers-employees on Republic Day and wished them well. In his address, he said that the spirit of patriotism should be in everyone's heart. As a government servant, what are the expectations of the country, for this everyone, being an Indian citizen, should discharge their duties and responsibilities with utmost seriousness and honesty, he said.

On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Sandeep Agarwal, Additional Collector B.S. Uike, Joint Collector Dipti Gote, Deputy Collector Rekha Chandra, SDM



Vinay Soni and officers and employees of all departments were present.

## R-Day celebrated following Covid protocol

Dr Tekam hoisted the flag at CSEB Football Ground



**Korba, Jan 30:** Due to Covid 19 infection, the festival of Republic Day was celebrated here in district with simplicity, with Minister for Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development, Backward Classes and Minorities Development, School Education and Cooperation Department and Minister in charge of the district, Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam hoisting the flag in a brief program organized at CSEB Football Ground lo-

quince. In the program, 73 Corona Warriors doctors, police personnel, health workers and sanitation friends were honored. Government officials and employees who did excellent work in the program were also rewarded. Mayor Rajkishore P. Rasad, Chairman of Municipal Corporation Shyam Sundar Soni, Collector Ranu Sahu, Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel, District Panchayat CEO Nutan Kanwar, Municipal Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey, ADM Sunil Nayak, DFO Korba Priyanka Pandey along with other officials, public representatives and dignitaries were present.

## Vikas Upadhyay hoisted the national flag



■ In Bilaspur as the Chief Guest

**Bilaspur, Jan 30:** The 73rd Republic Festival was celebrated enthusiastically following the protocol of Covid-19 in a dignified atmosphere in the district. The main function was held at Police Ground and Parliamentary Secretary of Public Works, Home, Jail, Religious Trust, Endowment and Tourism Vikas Upadhyay presided as Chief Guest. The national flag was hoisted and the chief guest flew white doves symbolizing peace and tricolor balloons were released in the sky symbolizing joy and gaiety. Upadhyay read out Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's message to the people of the state. On this occasion, the chief guest honored the families of 26 jawans of the

district who were martyred in the Naxal violence. The Chief Guest Upadhyay felicitated the Corona Warriors for doing excellent work during the Corona transition period and 58 officers and employees who showed their integrity in various departments by giving them citations. The program was attended by Vice President Shailesh Pandey, President of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Atal Shrivastava, District Panchayat President Arun Singh Chauhan, Mayor Ramsharan Yadav, Inspector General of Police Ratanlal Dangi, Collector Dr. Saransh Mittar, Superintendent of Police Parul Mathur, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Harish S. including other public representatives and officials, employees, media and dignitaries were present.

## R-Day celebrated with fervour in SSHSS

**Dongargarh, Jan 30:** The Republic Day (R-Day) was celebrated with patriotic fervour in Sarwati Shishu HS School (SSHSS) Dongargarh. On this occasion former MLA Sarojini Banjare, Sunil Jain Vidyalay Shiksha samiti President, Neelam Chopra Secretary; Prakash Girdhar Treasurer; Laxmi Narayan Agrawal; Naryan Lal Agrawal, Suresh Soni, Rajendra Jain V-P; and Principal of School Prakash Yadav and head mistress Vaishali Desh were present on the dais. The introduction of guests was done by senior teacher of School Thaillesh Sahu and group song was presented by Bodhan Bharadwaj. The guests were welcomed by applying 'tilak' by Acharya Suresh Vaishnav and senior 'didi' Triveni Mandal. Former MLA Sarojini Banjare in her address made an appeal to all the students to make India strong and vibrant. In the same way Principal Prakash Yadav instilled feeling of patriotism among students and expressed gratitude to all for being present. In making this programme successful and in its conduct Preeti Bala Vaishnav and Thaillesh Sahu made remarkable contribution.

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना	नाम परिवर्तन सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं धर्मिस्ता पटेल पिता श्री विनोद पटेल निवासी 1033 विधानसभा रोड मोवा सडडू रायपुर तहसील व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) यह शपथ करती हूँ कि मैंने अपना पुराना नाम को त्यागकर नया नाम धर्मिस्ता बेन पटेल (Dharmista Ben Patel) पति श्री भिमानी पिन्डू पटेल रख ली हूँ अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नये नाम धर्मिस्ता बेन पटेल पति श्री भिमानी पिन्डू पटेल के नाम से ही जाना व पहचाना जावे।	सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं पिन्डू पटेल पिता श्री अमरशी पटेल (Amarshi Patel) निवासी 1033 विधानसभा रोड मोवा सडडू रायपुर तहसील व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) यह शपथ करता हूँ कि मैंने अपना पुराना नाम को त्याग कर नया नाम भिमानी पिन्डू पटेल (Bhimani Pintu Patel) पिता श्री अमरशी पटेल रख लिया हूँ अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नये नाम भिमानी पिन्डू पटेल पिता श्री अमरशी पटेल के नाम से ही जाना व पहचाना जावे।
धर्मिस्ता बेन पटेल 1033 विधान सभा रोड मोवा सडडू रायपुर (छ.ग.)	भिमानी पिन्डू पटेल 1033 विधान सभा रोड मोवा सडडू रायपुर (छ.ग.)

## PHE refutes reports of closure of 'Neer' water ATM machines

**Koriya, Jan 30:** Sixty water ATMs have been installed in Korea district by Public Health Engineering Department, of which 10 water ATMs have been provided to SECL from CSR aid. Lately taking quick cognizance of the news published regarding the closure of water ATMs District Collector Kuldeep Sharma had directed the concerned department to investigate and clarify the situation. mMeanwhile refuting the news after investigating in detail, the Executive Engineer of PHE Department said that all the water ATMs are in

working condition and improvement is being done continuously. The EE also informed that for the maintenance of Korea Neer established in rural areas, B.B.S. Water Technology Baikunthpur has been entrusted with the work of improvement, and maintenance work. The closure of water ATMs of College Baikunthpur, District Hospital Baikunthpur, Kenapara, Kudeli, Sarbhoka, Katgodi, Udhnapur has been mentioned. Giving further information on which the department said that in

the present situation all the sites were inspected by the firm, in which all water ATMs are found in working condition. He has also described the complaint of typhoid among people due to contaminated water as misleading. He said that at present no complaint of typhoid patient from drinking water has been received at any place. In the event of deterioration of Koriya Neer in the concerned Gram Panchayat, maintenance work can be done by in-forming the Public Health Engineering Department or the concerned firm.

**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा** Regional Office Dhamtari First Floor, Bank of Baroda, Indira Place, Civic Centre, Bhillai, District Durg, Pin: 490006, www.bankofbaroda.com

### Tender Notice

Bank of Baroda invites tenders from competent contractors having sound technical and financial capacity for Interior work of Mahasamand Branch of DHAMTARI Region. For more details & updates kindly visit our website <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/tenders/>. The application/ Tender is to be submitted to Regional Head, Bank of Baroda Regional office Dhamtari, First floor Bank of Baroda Bhillai Civic Centre Branch, Bhillai-490006

**Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda**

**Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited**  
Registered Office : Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opp. ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. Email : info@ahfcl.com CIN : U65923MH2013PLC248741

### DEMAND NOTICE

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rule) in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of said Rule, the authorized officer has issued Demand notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Co-borrowers, Guarantor/s to repay the loan amount mentioned in the respective demand notices issued to them. In connection with above notice is hereby given once again to all the parties to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s) amount dues on date of Demand Notice and Security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant Name / Guarantor Name	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (immovable property/ies)
LXDUR00318-190070370/ Utsav Mitra / Monika Utsav Mitra	20-Apr-21 / Rs. 933814 /- (Rupees Nine Lac Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Only)	Ward No - 10, Ph No- 19/14, Rnm Durg - 1, Kh No- 5357, Shaji Nagar Kohka Ward, Vill Kohka, Near Mgm, Durg, Chhattisgarh- 491881

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFCL as aforesaid AHFCL shall proceed against the above secured assets Under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risk of the said Borrowers as to the cost and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFCL. Any person who contravenes or abates contravention of the provision of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and / or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-  
**Authorized Officer**  
For Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.

Date: 31.01.2022  
Place: Chhattisgarh

**BRIEF**

**Cybercriminals**

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Police arrested three cybercriminals from Jharkhand who were wanted in over 170 cases in 20 states. The accused were identified as Pradhun Kumar Mandal, Krishna Kumar Mandal and Chetnal Mandal. They were living in a rented house in Bhubaneswar since December last year, ADGP, Crime Branch, Sanjeeb Panda told. 33 SIM cards, 11 mobile phones, two laptops, a tablet and two debit cards were seized.

**Detained**

**Jammu:** A man was detained in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir for carrying a 12-bore gun without valid documents, police said. The man, Dewan Chand, a resident of Nanzala Sigdi, was taken into custody for questioning. The weapon was seized and he was taken into custody for questioning," the spokesperson said. He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Chatroo.

**Injured**

**Nuh:** A male leopard was found lying in an injured condition on the Kundli Manesar Palwal (KMP) Expressway near Padheni village. A villager noticed the injured leopard and informed the forest department in the morning, which rushed a wildlife team to the spot. It put the leopard in a cage and sent it to the zoo hospital in Rohtak for treatment. Officials said that the leopard must have strayed from forest onto the expressway.

**Held**

**Ahmedabad:** A fire officer was arrested for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh through his accomplice for the speedy issuance of a fire safety NOC for two buildings in Gandhinagar, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said. The accused Mahesh Mod, who is also the in-charge deputy director of the Gujarat State Fire Prevention Service (GSFPS), allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 5 lakh for expeditiously approving a fire safety plan.

**Property**

**Bhubaneswar:** A primary school teacher in Odisha's Rayagada district was allegedly found to be possessing properties worth over Rs 4.73 crore. Acting on a tip-off, the teacher's properties were searched and assets disproportionate to the known sources of his income were found. The teacher of an upper primary school in poverty-stricken Kashipur block was allegedly found to be possessing five buildings, 35 houses with asbestos roofs.

**Bribery**

**Kottayam:** A staff member of a university was caught receiving Rs 15,000 for allegedly providing a student the marklist and a certificate of a course in MBA, said a team from Vigilance and Anti-corruption Bureau. The person was arrested for demanding Rs 1.5 lakh, the police said.

## Caught in crossfire, NTPC urges railways to rename rail tests



**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

"Caught in the crossfire" over the rail exams, NTPC, the country's largest power producer has written to the Railways to rename its Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC) tests organised by the Railway Board.

The Railway exams have been in the news for the last week over large-scale protests over certain irregularities in its screening process.

The abbreviation of the exams which is the same as the one used for the power producer has been widely used to refer to the

controversial test during the reportage on the issue.

"This is with reference to the recent protest in some parts of the country with respect to Railway Recruitment Board Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC RRB) exam of Indian Railways," a letter from NTPC (the power corporation) states.

"While we are confident that the Railways is taking all necessary steps to address the situation, we just wish to bring to your notice that NTPC Limited has inadvertently been caught in the crossfire. The media has been using the abbreviated form NTPC, which gives the im-

pression that the exams are linked to India's largest power producer," the NTPC said.

"This, you would agree, is also hurting our reputation," it pointed out.

It further requested that the full form of the tests be used by the national transporter.

"Use full form of the Railway Recruitment Scheme in your press releases/ statements so that this misconception is not carried on creating wrong impression amongst the users of social media and also public at large," the NTPC said.

"We would therefore urge you to kindly rename these exams so that no confusion is created in future," it said.

Since the protests, the Railways has suspended this exam along with the Level 1 tests and have formed a committee to look into the grievances of the aspirants.

## 'Drive to confiscate properties of Nawabs to be launched soon'



**Abdullah Azam**

**Lucknow, Jan 30 (PTI):**

Samajwadi Party leader Abdullah Azam on Sunday said the properties given to the Nawabs for being loyal to the British should be confiscated and that a movement in this connection will be launched from Rampur. Abdullah, who was recently released on bail after losing his MLA berth in a fake birth certificate case, claimed innocence and said it was the

handiwork of vested interests to tarnish his family's image. The members of the Nawab family were loyal to the British, which is why they were given awards and titles. Such people have no place in India. Properties given to the Nawabs for betraying the country should be confiscated. A movement will be launched in Rampur to convert these properties into government properties," Abdullah, son of senior SP leader and Rampur MP Azam Khan, told PTI. The two political families have been arch-rivals since 1980s. When asked about BJP ally Apna Dal Sonelal fielding Haider Ali Khan of the Nawab family as his rival for the Suar seat, Abdullah said, Who is Haider Ali Khan... I don't recognise him.

## Delhi court denies bail to Bulli Bai App's alleged creator

**Separate case was filed based on complaint of a journalist**

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

A Delhi court has dismissed the bail application of Niraj Bishnoi, the alleged creator of the Bulli Bai app, saying his offence was not only against the essence of womanhood but was also designed to disturb communal harmony.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana denied the relief to the accused on January 29, noting that the allegations against him were serious in nature and the investi-



**Ferries carrying sand cross Ganga river despite ban on sand mining, in Patna, Sunday.**



**Niraj Bishnoi**

gation was at a nascent stage.

Several complaints were received by police stations in the country regarding the listing of Muslim women for "auction" on the 'Bulli Bai' mobile application with photographs sourced without permission and doctored. It has happened

for the second time in less than a year. The app appeared to be a clone of 'Sulli Deals' which triggered a similar row last year.

The judge passed the order after hearing arguments of the accused as well as the prosecution.

The sardonic conduct of the applicant accused in targeting women journalists of a particular community, using offensive monikers with derogatory communal overtones, on a social platform is not only an offence against the essence of womanhood but also an act designed to enrage passion and cause ill will amongst communities and disturb communal harmony, the judge said in the order.

## MVA is Maharashtra's political future: Sanjay Raut

**No room for Sena-BJP reunion**

**Mumbai, Jan 30 (PTI):** Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday asserted that the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is the political future of Maharashtra and there is no truth in speculations about an "under the table deal" for a reunion of the BJP and Sena. In his weekly column 'Rokhthok' in the party mouthpiece Saamana, Raut said state Chief Minister and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray in his address to Shiv Sainiks on January 23 had turned the tables on the BJP, which was criticising him over his illness. Thackeray, who underwent a cervical spine surgery a couple of months back, had hit out at the

BJP over its "hypocrisy", "double standards" on Hindutva and elaborated on how the Shiv Sena had "rotted" in alliance with the BJP, he said. "The message from his speech was that the Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, is the political future of Maharashtra, and there is no truth in speculations that there was an under the table deal happening between the Shiv Sena and BJP and they could get back together," Raut said. Thackeray's speech and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis's response to it have made the state's politics clear and there is no room for confusion, he said.

## MP forest Dept wants to allow killing of nilgai, wild boars

**Animals damage crops**

**Bhopal, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The Madhya Pradesh forest department has sent a draft to the state government to allow the killing of 'nilgai' and wild boars which damage crops of farmers, an official said on Sunday.

Following strict rules issued in 2000 and 2003 pertaining to the hunting of blue bulls and boars, respectively, no animal was killed, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Alok Kumar told PTI.

The state government now wants to simplify the rules following complaints from farmers that their crops were being destroyed by these animals, sources in the forest de-



**A Nilgai visits a potato farm to eat crop in Madhya Pradesh.**

partment said. Madhya Pradesh, specially western part of the state, has a huge population of nilgai (blue bulls) and wild boars.

The MP forest department has sent a draft to the state government to allow killing of these animals which damage crops,

and the government in-turn has sought the opinion of MLAs on it, Kumar said.

As per the draft, a person having a licensed firearm has to seek permission from forest authorities to kill a nilgai or wild boar; the official said.

He said according to the

draft, after seeking permission, a person would be allowed to kill five nilgai and as many wild boars in a year for damaging crops outside the forest area. We want to simplify the procedure under the new rules, the official added. In 2012, the MP government had tried to simplify rules for the hunting/killing of these two animals, but faced strong opposition from animal rights activists, including Maneka Gandhi, and some religious leaders, said Sartaj Singh, who was the state's forest minister at that time.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had then told me to drop the idea after stiff resistance. Let's see what will happen this time around," he told PTI over phone, noting that these two animals were causing huge crop losses.

## In winter of life, Bhattal confident of winning another poll battle

**Bhattal never had cordial relations with Amarinder Singh**

**Chandigarh, Jan 30 (PTI):**

Punjab politics' iron lady and the state's only woman chief minister so far, Congress leader Rajinder Kaur Bhattal exudes confidence about winning the Lehra seat in the assembly polls and says her opponent Parminder Singh Dhindsa of the SAD (Sanyukt) is just a "Modi representative". The 76-year-old Bhattal had been winning the seat since 1992 until she lost the poll in 2017 to Dhindsa, who is now leader of the SAD (Sanyukt) which is headed by his father and veteran



**Rajinder Kaur Bhattal**

leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, and is seeking reelection from the segment.

However, the Congress veteran and five-time legislator is eyeing to wrest the seat from Parminder, who had shifted his seat from Sunam to Lehra in 2017 to contest against Bhattal. "He is Modi's numayanda"

(representative), she says. The BJP has a tie-up with the SAD (Sanyukt) and former chief minister Amarinder Singh led Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) for the February 20 polls. Among others in the fray from Lehra, also known as Lehra-ganga include AAP's Brindar Kumar Goyal and SAD's Gobind Singh Longowal, a former SGPC president. The contest in the constituency, which has traditionally been between the Congress and SAD until 2017, has been spiced up with the entry of AAP. In the wake of the Election Commission's Covid-induced restrictions on holding rallies, Bhattal has been addressing small meetings in the constituency.

## Civic buildings, parks thematically decorated for 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'



**Dabri flyover in Delhi decorated.**

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

Municipal buildings have been decked up with thematic murals, metro pillars decorated with images of various dance forms of India and martyrs' memorials beautified in Delhi to mark the 75th year of India's Independence. The three civic bodies in the

national capital - North, South and East corporations, have come up with a host of activities as part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

From school buildings to hospital structures and parks to public roundabout, thematic decorations have been done to mark the occasion.

## 'Make in India, 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' new definitions of 'Swadeshi'

**Ahmedabad, Jan 30 (PTI):**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre's schemes like Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local are the new definitions of "Swadeshi", the movement promoted by Mahatma Gandhi.

The ideas propagated by Mahatma Gandhi to rebuild India after achieving freedom were forgotten for several years before they were given a new lease of life by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

Shah was in Ahmedabad to unveil a wall mural of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his death anniversary, which is also observed as the Martyrs' Day.

The mural, installed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission



**Union Home Minister Amit Shah gives electric pottery wheels to the people on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad, Sunday.**

(KVIC), adorns a wall on the Sabarmati riverfront. It is made on a 100 square metre aluminium plate using 2,975 clay pots made by 75 potters brought from different parts of the country and trained here.

"Mahatma Gandhi not

just fought for India's freedom, but also offered many ways to rebuild the country after it had achieved freedom, through swadeshi, satyagrah, swabhasha, sadhan shuddhi, aparigraha (non-possessiveness), prayer,

fast and simplicity," Shah said in his address.

He said Mahatma Gandhi instilled these ideas in the consciousness of the citizens while fighting against the British, so as to make them the base for the country's reconstruction after it achieved freedom.

"Unfortunately, while homage was paid to the photos of Bapu, and he found mention in speeches for many years, Khadi, handicrafts, use of swabhasha and swadeshi were forgotten. After becoming the prime minister, Narendra Modi gave a new lease of life to all these ideas of Bapu," Shah said.

The Centre's schemes such as "Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local are the new definitions of Swadeshi," the Union minister said.

## Not cadre rules, empanelment worries AP IAS officers

**Amaravati, Jan 30 (PTI):**

More than the proposed changes to the cadre rules, non-empanelment for various ranks has become the major stumbling block for Indian Administrative Service officers of Andhra Pradesh cadre, depriving them of the opportunity to serve at the Centre. The 360-degree system, under which senior IAS officers, and even retired bureaucrats, are called at random to evaluate junior officers before they are considered for empanelment at the Centre, is affecting their prospects, the officers lament. From the AP cadre, there are now only three IAS officers in the Secretary rank, one Additional Secretary rank and four in the Joint Secretary rank working in the central government on deputation.

## BRIEF

### Displaced

**Kibumba:** Thousands of people in Congo have been displaced after they fled ongoing clashes between the Congolese army and rebel fighters this week. A fresh attack carried out by the March 23 Movement, or M23, targeted a Congolese army position in the territory of Rutshuru, just north of the city of Goma in eastern Congo. While authorities confirmed the attack, they did not provide details about it. Residents saw gun-fights and bodies.

### Orders

**Istanbul:** Turkey's president has ordered that steps be taken against media like TV programmes that are deemed contrary to Turkey's fundamental values. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a circular posted on the Official Gazette, said the decision aims to eliminate the harmful effects of television programmes with foreign content that have been adapted in Turkey. All precautions would be taken against productions.

### Seizure

**Bangkok:** Police in Laos have made their second huge seizure in three months of methamphetamine, a development that a UN expert on the illicit drug trade said reflects a breakdown of security in Southeast Asia. Jeremy Douglas, the regional representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said the seizure of 36.5 million methamphetamine tablets in Bokeo was second largest after 55.6 million meth pills were captured.

### Ease

**Vienna:** Austria plans to loosen coronavirus restrictions in February after the country's national vaccine mandate, the first of its kind in Europe, takes effect. Starting Feb 5, restaurants will be allowed to remain open until midnight, as opposed to 10 pm. In addition, rules effectively barring unvaccinated people from stores and restaurants will be phased out. Starting Feb 12, proof of vaccination or recovery will no longer be required.

### Rating

**Pittsburgh:** A 50 year old bridge that collapsed in Pittsburgh had been rated as poor on a recent inspection report, but transportation officials and engineering experts cautioned that doesn't necessarily signal imminent danger for the thousands of other US bridges with the same designation. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Highway Administration have been combing through rubble from the collapse.

### Fire

**Pierce:** Three children died when a home caught fire in a rural area of northern Nebraska in US. Three people got out, but a 17-year-old, 15-year-old and 12-year-old were unable to escape. They were pronounced dead at the scene, Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency Chief Investigator Adam Matzner said in a news release. But what gives it extra

# North Korea tests longest-range missile since 2017

Seoul, Jan 30 (AP):

North Korea on Sunday fired what appeared to be the most powerful missile it has tested since President Joe Biden took office, as it revives its old playbook in brinkmanship to wrest concessions from Washington and neighbors amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy.

The Japanese and South Korean militaries said the missile was launched on a lofted trajectory, apparently to avoid the territorial spaces of neighbors, and reached a maximum altitude of 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) and traveled 800 kilometers (497 miles) before landing in the sea.

The flight details suggest the North tested its longest-range ballistic missile since 2017, when it twice flew intermediate-range ballistic missiles over Japan and, separately, three intercontinental ballistic missiles that demonstrated the potential to reach deep into the American homeland.

Sunday's test was North Korea's seventh round of launches this month. The unusually fast pace of tests indicates its intent to pressure the Biden administration over long-stalled nuclear negotiations as pan-



A TV screen shows a file image of missile launch at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday.

demically-related difficulties put further stress on an economy broken by decades of mismanagement and crippling US-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons program.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in called an emergency National Security Council meeting where he described the test as a possible mid-range ballistic missile launch that brought North Korea to the brink of breaking its 2018 self-imposed moratorium on the testing of nuclear devices and longer-range missiles.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi also told reporters that the missile was the longest-range the North has tested since

its Hwasong-15 ICBM in November 2017.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un chaired a ruling party meeting on Jan. 20, where senior party members made a veiled threat to lift the moratorium, citing what they perceived as US hostility and threats. The latest launch suggests Kim's moratorium is already broken, said Lee Choon Geun, a missile expert and honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

In his strongest comments toward the North in years, Moon said the situation around the Korean Peninsula is beginning to resemble 2017, when North

Korea's provocative run in nuclear and long-range missile testing resulted in an exchange of war threats between Kim and Trump.

Moon said the North's latest moves violated UN Security Council resolutions and were a challenge toward the international community's efforts to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula, stabilise peace and find a diplomatic solution to the nuclear stand-off.

The North should stop its actions that create tensions and pressure and respond to the dialogue offers by the international community including South Korea and the United States, Moon said, according to his office.

Moon had ambitiously pushed for inter-Korean engagement and held three summits with Kim in 2018 while also lobbying to set up Kim's first summit with Trump in 2018, where they issued vague aspirations for a nuclear-free peninsula. But the diplomacy derailed after the collapse of the second Kim-Trump meeting in 2019, when the Americans rejected North Korea's demand for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

## 'MANEKI-NEKO' STATUES



'Maneki-neko' or beckoning cat statues are pictured at Gotokuji temple in Tokyo, Japan on Sunday.

# Danger, despair one year in Myanmar under military

Jakarta, Jan 30 (AP):

An elderly woman forced to flee bombings. A former peace negotiator leaving his job to fight Myanmar security forces. A woman's husband shot during a peaceful protest, leaving her alone to care for their two children.

Since Myanmar's military dismissed the results of the country's democratic election and seized power on Feb 1, 2021, peaceful nationwide protests and violent crackdowns by security forces

have spiraled into a nationwide humanitarian crisis.

The Associated Press spoke to people in Myanmar about how their lives have changed in the year since the military took power. They spoke on condition their names are not disclosed for fear of reprisal. Before his death, Khine's husband earned enough money making door gates that her family lived a comfortable life in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. She was able to stay home to care for the

couple's two young daughters while the husband worked.

On Feb 1, Khine's husband got a phone call from a friend, telling him about the military takeover. 'He looked really sad, angry and couldn't talk much,' Khine told the AP by phone.

In the weeks that followed, protests calling for the military to restore democracy and free imprisoned politicians rippled through the country. Khine and her husband joined the crowds.

# Portugal picks new government

● Low wages are common grievance among voters

Lisbon, Jan 30 (AP):

Portuguese voters went to the polls Sunday in an early election that looked set to produce another vulnerable minority government, just as the country is poised to start spending a huge windfall of European Union funds.

That outcome would leave Portugal back where it started two months ago, when lawmakers rejected the minority Socialist government's spending bill and the country's president dissolved parliament.

The center-left Socialists and their main rivals, the center-right Social Democratic Party, were in a tight race, opinion polls suggested. Those two parties traditionally collect around 70% of the vote



A woman casts her ballot at Galveias Palace polling station in Lisbon on Sunday.

and have for decades alternated in power in Western Europe's poorest country.

The landslide victory needed to form a majority government, which can pass most legislation despite opposition in parliament, is rare. Portugal has had just three majority governments in the past half-century. That means one of the two main parties likely will have to form parliamentary alliances by cutting deals with smaller parties.

The stakes are high: Portugal, a country of around 10.3 million people, is poised to begin deploying some 45 billion euros (\$50 billion) of aid as a member of the EU to help spur the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two-thirds of that sum is intended for public projects, such as major infrastructure, giving the next government a financial bonanza. The other third is to be awarded to private companies.

# 2,000 children recruited by Yemen's rebels died fighting

United Nations, Jan 30 (AP):

UN experts said in a new report that nearly 2,000 children recruited by Yemen's Houthi rebels died on the battlefield between January 2020 and May 2021, and the Iranian-backed rebels continue to hold camps and courses encouraging youngsters to fight.

In the report to the UN Security Council circulated, the experts said they investigated some summer camps in schools and a mosque where the Houthis disseminated their ideology and sought to recruit children fight in the seven-year war with Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

The children are instructed to shout the Houthi slogan 'death to America, death to Israel, curse the Jews, victory to Islam,' the four-member

panel of experts said.

In one camp, children as young as 7 years of age were taught to clean weapons and evade rockets. The experts said they documented 10 cases where children were taken to fight after being told they would be enrolled in cultural courses or were already taking such courses, nine cases where humanitarian aid was provided or denied to families solely on the basis whether their children participated in fighting or to teachers on the basis of whether they taught the Houthi curriculum, and one case where sexual violence was committed against a child who underwent military training. The panel said it received a list of 1,406 children recruited by the Houthis who died on the battlefield in 2020 and a list of 562 children recruited by the rebels who died on the battlefield be-

tween January and May 2021.

They were aged between 10 and 17 years old, the experts said, and a significant number of them were killed in Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Hodeida, Ibb, Saada and Sanaa. Yemen has been engulfed in civil war since 2014 when the Houthis took Sanaa, the capital, and much of the northern part of the country, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led coalition that included the United Arab Emirates and was backed at the time by the United States, entered the war months later, in 2015, seeking to restore the government to power.

The conflict has since become a regional proxy war that has killed tens of thousands of civilians and fighters.

The war has also created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine.

# Boris Johnson's mounting trouble is treasure for satirists



Political cartoonist Martin Rowson shows Britain's PM Boris Johnson cartoons in his studio in London.

London, Jan 30 (AP):

A politician's troubles are a humorist's treasures. The scandal-prone British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has given cartoonists and meme-makers unimaginable riches for years, and with his hold on power now in jeopardy, their fortunes are only growing. Johnson and his staff are facing civil and criminal investigations into social gatherings they hosted last year while the rest of the UK was hunkering down under coronavirus restrictions. The episode raises serious questions about Johnson's leadership and political accountability. But what gives it extra

bite and gives humorists much to chew on are the often ludicrous details: political aides hauling suitcases of wine into the prime minister's residence, or drunkenly breaking a swing set belonging to Johnson's toddler son. One recent newspaper cartoon captured the collision of tragedy and farce by depicting Johnson as the betrayed Roman ruler Julius Caesar, stabbed in the back with corkscrews. Martin Rowson, a political cartoonist for The Guardian newspaper, says mockery is one of the trade-offs in democratic societies between government and governed: They have power and we have the right to laugh at them.

# Lanka's Tamil TNPF holds anti-13A protest

● TNPF has sought Indian Govt's intervention

Colombo, Jan 30 (PTT):

Sri Lanka's hardline Tamil minority party Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) on Sunday organised a protest march in the Northern capital of Jaffna to protest against the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Tamils reject 13th amendment protest rally was held near the historic Nallur Kovil, organisers said, adding the protesters would also stage a walk from Nallur to the Kittu Park in Jaffna town.

The protest rally was held after the main Tamil party Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and their allies wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week seeking India's intervention to force the Sri Lankan government to implement the provisions of the 13th Amendment, also known as 13A, in full.

The amendment is aimed at creating provincial councils in Sri Lanka and enable Sinhalese and Tamil as national languages while preserving

English as the link language.

The TNA wants the 13th Amendment to be made meaningful to address the political concerns of the Tamil minority. It has since 2015 has been pressing for a reasonable political solution within a united Sri Lanka to fulfill political aspirations of the

Tamils in the island nation. India has insisted that it would want Sri Lanka to pursue the 13A as the tool to address the concerns of the Tamils on devolution of power.

The amendment brought in elected councils to each of Sri Lanka's nine provinces with a temporary merger of the

north and eastern provinces which the LTTE, who led a bloody separatist campaign, called the Tamil heartland.

## SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

### E-TENDER NOTICE

**E-Tender No:** SrDEE-G-R-OTP-21-22-24, **Date:** 24.01.2022.  
**Name of Work:** Electrical (G) portion of work for "(1) Soft up-gradation of Belha station (2) Provision of High Level passenger platform with amenities in DN main line at Nipania (NPI) (3) Raipur Division - Provision of welding facility at Peri Pheral yard Bhalai and long haul formation lines at Down through in Bhalai Marshalling Yard (4) Construction of rolling IN & OUT hut at exchange yard BIA (5) Construction of Bicycle stand at Peri Pheral Yard, Bhalai (6) Raipur Division-Construction of road under bridge for closure of Level crossing no.438 (D-Cabin Gate) at km846/28A-30A between D-cabin & H-cabin section of Raipur-Durg section. (7) Improvement of staff Training centre/Traffic at BMY, (8) Construction of twin box RUB (size 6mX3.4m) near bridge no.380 in connection with NG express way. **Tender Value:** Rs. 25,55,055.00/- **EMD:** Rs. 51,200.00/- **Submission of tender:** Upto 11.45 hours on 25.02.2022. For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of Sr.DEE/G/R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offers received shall be rejected. **Sr. DEE(G)/SEC, Raipur**  
PR/R/Sr.DEE(G) AP/140  
f South East Central Railway e @secrail

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लो.नि.वि., संभाग क्र.-3, डी-1/17, सेक्टर-17, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
NIT -24/2021-2022/ व ले लि दिनांक : 14/01/2022

निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 05/02/2022 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक

केकेदारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदायें प्राप्ति करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 10/02/2022 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक

निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- 11/02/2022 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे तक

निविदाकारों की श्रेणी :- सभी निविदाओं हेतु ई-पंजीयन के अंतर्गत श्रेणी 'द' से 'अ' तक

निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम/ No/Of Calls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में) अमानत राशि (रु. में) बैंक सार्वजनिक (रु. में)
1	2	3
T0156	उपसंभाग अमनपुर के अंतर्गत आने वाले विभिन्न मार्गों में बी.टी. पंच का कार्य	20.00 150000.00 300000.00

निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाइट [www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur](http://www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur) में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध हैं। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संभाग कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु संभागीय कार्यालय में संपर्क करें।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड, संभाग क्रमांक 3 रायपुर**

G-67276/2

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

**ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय कार्य हेतु निम्नानुसार ऑन लाईन कार्य आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक	निविदा क्रमांक दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि
1	91566	28/27.01.2022	सिंगल विलेज विखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम-गोरपार एवं छिपानी	99.20	74400/-

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन की ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। दिनांक 14.02.2022 तक समय 17.30 तक बिड डाले जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रकाशन पश्चात समस्त संशोधन केवल ऑन लाईन ही देखे जा सकेंगे। अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते हैं।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)**

G-67286/1



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 118

## Relevance of assets

The BJP accounted for almost 70 percent of the total assets declared to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by seven national parties in 2019-2020, a report by the Association for Democratic Reform (ADR). The BJP's share of the total assets of the seven parties increased from 54.29 percent in 2018-2019, according to ADR's analysis in 2021, while the Congress remained as the party with the most liabilities. The report said that 44 regional parties declared assets worth Rs 2,129.38 crore, with the Samajwadi Party being at the top of the list with Rs 563.47 crore, followed by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi with Rs 301.47 crore and the AIADMK with Rs 267.61 crore. Among the top 10, the Shiv Sena had assets worth Rs 185.90 crore, the DMK declared Rs 184.24 crore in assets and the Janata Dal (United) had Rs 45.094 crore. Regional Parties declared Rs 30.29 crore under Borrowings and Rs 30.37 cr under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, TDP declared the highest total liabilities of Rs 30.342 crore (50.02 per cent) followed by DMK that declared Rs 8.05 crore (13.27 per cent). The interesting data is not just about dominance of BJP but that regional parties can politically dominate their states with little amount of assets. Every political party has their own dream of expansion. Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress are the biggest political parties of India but now the time has come when the regional parties are making it clear that they want to expand. The void in Indian politics is no more a secret. It is not just the size of assets used by political parties but how little amount of assets can be utilised for expansion outside traditional areas of influence. Relevance of monetary assets has limits, which is not observed in ADR data.

The regional parties of India have realised that this is the golden opportunity to expand. Starting from Trinamool Congress led by Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to Aam Aadmi Party led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Shiva Sena led by Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray are showing that there is more to offer than just Hindutva and hyper-nationalism. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is one of the most experienced politicians of India right now. She has a glorious career as MP, cabinet minister and chief minister. She does not have an all India image but she has political connections, willpower and the hunger to expand. For expansion, Mamata Banerjee is targeting the rebels of the Congress party in several states and directly poaching them. Her next target is Tripura and Goa. In the last few years, Kejriwal has established a different model of governance in Delhi. His work in strengthening the education system of Delhi has been a success. On the other hand, a political party like Shiv Sena is pitching for a different political idea. They are taking it slow but making it clear that they want to expand beyond Maharashtra. Recently they have won a Lok Sabha seat in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The party wants to expand in Goa too. They are pitching coalition politics. Regional parties are not governed from Delhi though most of these parties are supreme centric. However, these parties are trying to expand by offering alternative welfare ideas.

## Hacking for political coercion

A group of Belarusian politically motivated hackers known as the Belarusian Cyber Partisans (CPs) announced on social media that they had breached the computer systems of Belarusian Railways, the country's national train system, as part of a hacktivist effort the attackers call Scorching Heat. The hackers have since posted screenshots that appeared to show their access to the railway's backend systems and claimed to have encrypted its network with malware, for which they would only provide decryption keys if the Belarus government met a list of demands. The hackers appear to have successfully made at least some of Belarusian Railways' databases inaccessible. Ransomware and destructive malware purporting to be ransomware has certainly been used for political coercion in the past. North Korean hackers, for instance, planted destructive malware on machines across the network of Sony Pictures in 2014. Posing as hacktivists going by the name Guardians of Peace, they appear to have sent an email demanding payment prior to the attack, then pressured the company not to release the Kim Jong-un assassination comedy The Interview. In 2016 and 2017 the Russian hackers known as Sandworm, part of the country's GRU military intelligence agency, used fake ransomware as a means to destroy computers across Ukraine and ultimately hundreds of other networks around the world while posing as profit-seeking cybercriminals.

Unidentified hackers appear to have targeted systems in Ukraine with the same tricks, on a much smaller scale, earlier this month. Even if the Cyber Partisans' ransomware turns out to be a thin disguise for irreversibly destructive malware, as in those earlier cases, the incident still seems to represent a new phenomenon. The group appears to be actual, bona fide hacktivists rather than state-sponsored hackers posing as such. Whether the Cyber Partisans' ransomware attack on Belarusian Railways will be a tactical success remains far from clear. The goals that Cyber Partisans set are hard to achieve, but it created a very serious pressure on the regime, disrupted the system, and showed that the dictator is not in control. It's too early to say if Russia troops were affected, but we hope that it will indirectly make an impact on their movements. In the larger view of hacktivism and ransomware, however Cyber Partisans' tactics could soon bleed out to other groups who see the power of ransomware to achieve political coercion for good and for ill and raise the stakes of Belarus' own political conflicts. The looming horror of ransomware is precisely just how many systems are out there about whose criticality we don't understand until they're unavailable, so if this is a continued tactic of theirs, the world will definitely see a ratcheting up of the pressure on both sides.

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.

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S DISCOVERY



French underwater photographer Alexis Rosenfeld poses with one of his pictures of corals, in Marseille. He discovered massive reef of giant rose-shaped corals hidden off the coast of Tahiti in Pacific Ocean.

## Prism for reforming 'Indian Administrative Service'

**RAGHAV CHANDRA**

Through what prism should we see reforms in the IAS cadre rules? Should primacy be given to localism or their all-India character? Should States be permitted to exercise overwhelming rights over the careers of IAS officers assigned to them? Should individual officers be allowed to exclusively determine where they want to serve? These questions become pertinent in the context of the sharp reaction of some states to the amendments proposed in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 whereby the officers to be deputed to the Central Government shall be decided by the Central Government in consultation with the respective State Governments and in case of any disagreement, the decision of the Central Government will be final.

At a broader level, the best answer to this conundrum is found in the words, spoken seventy years ago, of Sardar Patel, the statesman-administrator, regarded as the patron saint of the civil services, when he spoke about the expectations from the newly created steel frame: 'Successors to the ICS and IP, which, apart from filling the existing wide gaps in these services, would contribute to the unity of the country and the strength of the administrative structure, and make for a high standard of efficiency and uniformity' IAS officers are recruited by the

Central Government through the meticulous UPSC, but their services are placed under various State Governments. Although it is part of the service conditions that they would be obliged to serve both under the State and the Centre, no minimum period for central deputation is stipulated. Currently, 40 percent of the sanctioned strength of officers in a state is the central deputation reserve or CDR against which IAS officers in a state can come on central deputation. In the past, in some cadres, such as those in the troubled Northeast, there was a preponderant attraction towards working in Delhi and the CDR was breached. However, with time, the ground level atmospherics and conditions in the states have changed significantly - officers have multiple charges and so the operational spread of resources and canvas of work is significantly richer - making a posting in the state attractive.

Besides, Delhi postings at the Deputy Secretary and Director level are perceived as desk bound grunt jobs, with hardly any contact with the public and with limited scope for experimentation and innovation. Thus, we have the troubling phenomenon of young officers managing to stay in the state without experiencing working in the central government until they reach the rank of Joint Secretary. Given that the CDR utilization has dropped from 25 percent in 2011 to 18 percent as on date, Government of India's initiative to get states to commit adequate number of officers for central posting is entirely justified. IAS officers are the backbone of the government at all levels and every Ministry needs a few Deputy Secretaries and Directors who have had the experience of the field as Collectors

and Administrators of various development projects to help formulate policies that are grounded and beneficiary-oriented. The contention of some states that this will prevent officers from giving their best to the state because of the uncertainty of where they could be assigned next, they forget that it is in the best interest of IAS officers to work alternatively in the central government and the state so that they enrich their own experience with a suitable mix of both nation-wide and state-specific planning. Such knowledge and experience sharing is also crucial to the states to ensure that their interest is protected in central policy-planning.

Officers cannot but be aware of the higher level of uncertainty in the states than in the government of India, thanks to a faster turnover of political regimes and the spoils of power. As a result, we witness the frequent and whimsical transfers of officers, of some being punished senselessly for opposing those close to the party in power, even refused permission to go on deputation to the Centre. On the other hand, there are officers who wallow in the incessant patronage bestowed on them for their localized loyalty - making them perennially indispensable to the state. Some end their entire careers without even once budding out of the state for a posting elsewhere.

Precisely for this reason it is important to create a regime whereby the IAS officers should spend at least a third of their careers in the central government out of which at least 7 years should be at the Deputy Secretary/Director level. It is also necessary to shape the IAS like a central elite corps, with ultimate commitment to the nation, without any parochial loyalty to the State cadre they are

borne to. It is only when officers spend time out of their comfort zone in the state - even a posting to another state should be acceptable if an officer is not happy to work in Delhi - that IAS officers will be able to shed their provincial mindset. Only then will the all-India character of the IAS be preserved - with direct benefits for the unity of the country and uniformity in governance standards as espoused by Sardar Patel.

At another level, at the time of recruitment it should be made abundantly clear that officers would have to serve for defined periods both in the central government and in the states. To foster an inclusive and modern mindset, training in the very best universities of the world on government account has to be mandated as part of the career planning equation. An online system should be devised to facilitate officers to apply for government jobs in consonance with their sectoral specializations and choices. Even if officers want to go to the private sector for limited periods of their career, they should be permitted to step out to absorb the best practices of the corporate world to create an ecosystem in which the private sector and the public sector can work collaboratively.

IAS officers will be best utilized when they are groomed and positioned as an elite corps with skill sets and experience to work efficiently in the global arena, in the central government and in the states. To ensure that the States utilize them effectively and provide them a conducive working climate to elicit their best effort, it is important for the Centre to adopt an approach with the states which is consultative, tolerant and paternalistic. (Raghav Chandra is a former IAS, ex-Secretary to the Government of India.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bitter experience

Online shopping has acquired a new sense of urgency in the post-Covid-19 pandemic scenario primarily due to its contactless characteristic. The ease of the mobile apps developed by the various online players has accelerated its adoption among the young and also the not-so-young folks. However, my experience with this medium of purchase, particularly of groceries and other necessities, is bitter, to say the least. During the peak of the ongoing pandemic, I had ordered groceries online. On three occasions, either the order was cancelled or partially delivered, apart from delayed delivery in respect of orders which were delivered. I then switched to another big name expecting a better and smooth experience considering their aggressive promotions on online shopping. Here too, my experience was no different. This is due to their vehicles being not equipped with the GPS (Global Positioning System) devices unlike the Ola, Uber, Pe India etc. The common masses depended on these virtual markets during these difficult times when venturing out was a risky affair. But these two retail giants failed to deliver literally. Ironically, many of the misses happened during their sale-campaign periods when discounts are doled out to woo the customers. Therefore, the government must launch a site/portal where aggrieved consumers can seek redress for their grievances against the online shopping marketplaces. As citizens are embracing virtual markets - either out of compulsion or convenience or cost reasons - there should be adequate safeguards and checks and balances to curb the whimsical functioning of the online market players.

Rajiv, via email

### Pandemic pollution

Air pollution has been a widespread and visible concern that has increased significantly over the last decade across many parts of India with several consequences for human health and well being. The novel Coronavirus termed COVID-19 by World Health Organization (WHO) first emerged in late December 2019 in Wuhan, China. In early March 2020, due to its rapid spread, the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Recent studies have reported improvement in air quality due to restrictions placed upon industrial activities during the lockdown. Climate scientists have indicated that greenhouse gases (GHGs) concentrations could drop to levels not seen since World War II. Highly industrialized cities located in cold climate zones observed a higher reduction in air pollution. Gujarat, which is the industrial state in Western India, observed a significant reduction in major air pollutants during the lockdown period, mainly due to restrictions on traffic and slow-down of production in factories. The COVID-19 has affected people's lives in many ways. However, it has a good impact on the environment.

Parilina, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Annie Thomas**  
@AnnieThomas

These jobs don't have growth opportunities too. What a waste of our demographic dividend. This is what tech-enabled startups have done to us in the name of providing convenience. Destroyed real job opportunities and offered up dead-end ones.

**Shefall Merchant**  
@MercShefall

I selected Science neither for job, nor for education. I followed my friends. Was absolutely clueless on what I would do after I finish graduation. Parents were also clueless. Luckily could not complete graduation. Later, ended up in Finance/Investments - most of my career so far.

**NSamarjeet@samarjeet**  
Our veggie garden, today evening.**Thejesh GN@thej**

My father poor kid from Magadi failed in Hindi (10th std). Went to Ramanagara to write supplementary exam but didn't have a place to stay (exam was next morning). So went to police station and showed them hall ticket. They allowed him to stay there, got him breakfast. True story.

**Harsh Goenka@hvygoenka**

One Delhiite to another, 'Let's go to Taj hotel for dinner. Five star ambience with great pizza, dosa, burger.' At Taj hotel, when the waiter arrives they study the menu for a long time and place the order, 'Ek dal makhni, ek paneer butter masala aur do butter naan le aana ji.'

**chandana@chandanas**  
I know what silence tastes like. It has pinch of love, a spoonful of fear, a few grams of hope, and generous helping of angst. Seasoned with wait, it is embellished with fine anticipation. I know how silence tastes, I am well versed.

**BRIEF**

**Markets**



**New Delhi:** Apparel exporters' body AEPCC on Sunday said it is looking at new markets such as Latin America, Australia and Israel to push the country's exports. Chairman Narendra Goenka said the Council is also engaging actively with Indian missions abroad.

**Expects**

**New Delhi:** PDD Falcon expects sales from online channel to account for 50 per cent of its turnover in at least next five years, Director Sneha Visaria told PTI because consumers are really turning to online purchases, explaining the reasons

**Enrolments**



**Mumbai:** MechaniK TV, an independent skill-tech platform for automotive mechanics expects to see around 10,000 enrolments in the next 12 months, its co-founder Rajiv Radhakrishnan told PTI. As many as 80 per cent of two-wheelers get services at local garages.

**Coal**

**New Delhi:** The country's coal import declined by 22.5 per cent to 15.78 million tonnes (MT) in November 2021 compared to 20.35 MT in the same month of last year. India's coal and coke imports during November 2021 through the major and non-major ports are estimated to have decreased by 22.5 per cent over November 2020.

**Invest**



**New Delhi:** Embassy Office Parks REIT will invest Rs 850 crore to develop nearly two million square feet of office buildings in Bengaluru. COO Vikaash Khloya told PTI that as demand has started to rebound, we are now focusing on growth and remains bullish.

**Jump**

**New Delhi:** Exports of marine products jumped 35 per cent to USD 6.1 billion during April-December 2021 as compared with USD 4.5 billion in the same period of the previous year, the commerce ministry said on Sunday.

**Sought**

**Chennai:** The Federation of All India Real Estate Association (FAIRA) representing the real estate industry has sought the Centre to offer sops during the budget stating a boom in the sector would also increase tax collection.

## Eyes on GDP forecast by Economic Survey despite recent misses



**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The pre-budget Economic Survey, which is tabled in Parliament ahead of the Union Budget to present the state of the economy and suggest policy prescriptions, quite often misses on the GDP forecast, sometimes by a significant margin.

This time, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the Economic Survey for 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha on Monday soon after the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament. She will present the Union Budget for the next financial year beginning April 1, 2022, on

Tuesday. One of the most-watched numbers in the pre-Budget Economic Survey, authored by a team led by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA), is the projection of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the next fiscal.

The previous economic survey was presented in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The ray of optimism as the country recovers from the impact of the pandemic is likely to figure prominently in the current year's economic survey. However, various high-frequency indicators like GST collections and corporate profitability are pointing towards significant upward movement.

Just days before the presentation of the Economic Survey, the government appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the new CEA. Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, succeeds KV Subramanian, who demitted the office of CEA in December 2021 after the completion of his three-year term.

The Economic Survey for 2021-22 is expected to give a growth projection of around 9 per cent for the next financial year as Asia's third-largest economy is showing signs of recovery from the pandemic.

The last survey, presented in January 2021 amid the Covid pandemic, had projected the economic growth for 2021-22 at 11 per cent. However, India's statistics ministry has estimated the economic growth at only 9.2 per cent for the current fiscal.

## Mcap of 9 of most valued firms erodes by over Rs 3 lakh cr

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):** Nine of the top-10 most valued companies together lost a whopping Rs 3,09,178.44 crore in market valuation last week as selloffs continued.

In a holiday-shortened past week, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,836.95 points or 3.11 per cent amid geopolitical tensions, global sell-off triggered by a hawkish US Federal Reserve and unabated foreign fund outflows.

From the top-10 list, State Bank of India was the lone gainer as its valuation jumped Rs 18,340.07 crore to reach Rs 4,67,069.54 crore.

Coming to those whose valuation got eroded were Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), HDFC, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel.

The market valuation of RIL diminished by Rs 96,512.22 crore to Rs 15,79,779.47 crore, taking the biggest hit among the top-10 firms.

## CommMin proposes repeal of decades-old tea, coffee, spices, rubber Acts

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The commerce ministry has proposed repeal of decades-old laws pertaining to tea, coffee, spices and rubber - and introduce new legislations with a view to promoting the growth of these sectors and creating a conducive environment for businesses.

The ministry has sought views of the stakeholders on the drafts of Spices (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022; Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022; Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022; Tea (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022.

Public/stakeholders can send their comments on these four draft bills by February 9 this year.

In four separate office memoranda, Department of Commerce has said it is proposing repeal of Tea Act, 1953; Spices



Board Act, 1986; Rubber Act 1947; and Coffee Act 1942. "It is proposed that these acts are 'repealed and a new legislation is enacted to reflect the present realities and objectives,' according to the draft bills, posted on the website of the commerce ministry.

It said that the principal reason for proposing the repeal of Tea Act is that there is a paradigm shift in the recent decade with respect to the way tea is grown, marketed

and consumed and this necessitates amendment of the existing Act.

"The legal regime has to be enabled to address several areas of modern functions of the tea board namely, support for production, quality improvement, promotion of tea and skill development of tea growers. Many of these activities were originally not included in the mandate of the tea board, but now need to be incorporated into its functions and powers," it added.

## FPIs withdraw Rs 28,243 cr from Indian equities

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out a whopping Rs 28,243 crore from Indian equities in January as US Fed signalled interest rate hike.

As per the depositories data, FPIs took out Rs 28,243 crore from equities between January 3-28.

During the same period, they pumped in Rs 2,210 crore into debt segment and Rs 1,696 crore into hybrid instruments.

The total net outflow stood at Rs 24,337 crore.

With the latest pull out of funds from Indian markets, FPIs have become net sellers for fourth consecutive month. "With US Fed signalling that it will start

hiking interest rates soon and shrink its bond holdings, FPIs went on a selling spree in the Indian equity markets," said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

This is indicative of an end to the ultra-loose monetary policy regime.

"FPIs have been booking profits in IT where they have been sitting on big profits after the huge appreciation in the last two years," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted.

FPI selling has depressed the stock prices of financials, particularly that of leading banks, he added.

## Budget should focus on ESG issues

### Leapfrog to next level of transformation

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

With the government committing to become carbon neutral by 2070, it is imperative that the forthcoming Budget should focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues by providing tax and non-tax incentives needed to promote green economy, say experts. Indian businesses are undergoing significant changes amidst externalities such as climate change, finite resource availability, technology disruptions, emerging linked ecosystems and evolving stakeholder expectations. According to PwC India, the budget should incorporate ESG parameters when structuring incentives, allocating resources and in the procure-



ment processes, afforestation and nature based solutions are critical for creating an enabling ecosystem for ESG adoption," said PwC India. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for the next fiscal in Parliament on Tuesday. Rishi Raj, COO, Max Estates Ltd, said as a progressive real estate player, his company wants to make a positive contribution to the environment.

"Government interventions and policy changes like tax rebates for meeting set environmental standards and certifications, green taxes on harmful environmental activities, and subsidies on use of green products and services like solar panels, electric vehicles and carbon neutral materials can go a long way in furthering the agenda of sustainability, which has steadfastly become the need of the hour," he said.

## Action-packed week for equity market with Budget, macro data

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

It will be an action-packed week for the equity market as a host of crucial events are lined up with the Union Budget hogging the limelight along with macroeconomic data announcements, quarterly earnings and global trends, analysts said.

"This week is critical, not only for the equity market, but for the economy as a whole. We have the Union Budget scheduled for February 1 and we expect the government to continue with growth agenda but with a roadmap for fiscal prudence.

This week marks the beginning of a new month also and auto sales start

pouring in from February 1. "Besides, we have manufacturing and services PMI data also scheduled during the week," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Mishra further said that the Union Budget would set the tone for the domestic markets amid the global sell-off.

"Volatility remains high during the budget week so participants should continue with a cautious stance," he added.

"This week is going to be very important and extremely volatile on the back of the Union Budget however the good part this time is that the market is heading to the budget on a very light note and there is a high probability of a post-budget rally.

## Healthcare industry want fund allocation to 3% of GDP

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The government should look at according priority status to the healthcare segment while increasing the public expenditure on the sector to at least 3 per cent of the GDP in the upcoming Union Budget.

As per the leading healthcare providers in the country in the private sector, the government should also consider continuation of tax incentives, upgradation of medical facilities in smaller towns and skilling of workforce in the Budget.

"The government had rightly placed health and well-being as the first of the six pillars in the Union Budget 2021 and the focus must continue in 2022 too. Firstly, the outlay for healthcare infrastructure to be increased further...facilities in tier 2-



3 towns need to be equipped with diagnosis centres, ventilators, ICUs, critical care facilities and oxygen plants," Fortis Healthcare MD and CEO Ashutosh Raghuvanshi noted.

There is an urgent need to allocate a separate budget for a national campaign around preventive health, testing and screening as these are key to reducing the overall disease

burden in India, he added.

"Healthcare should be accorded priority status so that the sector can derive benefit from the GST transition and providers and healthcare service delivery institutions can avail loans at lower rates and extended tenure. It is also essential that the government reduces duty and cess for critical care and life saving equipment and drugs to reduce costs for

both providers and patients," Raghuvanshi said.

Apollo Hospitals Group Executive Vice Chairman Preetha Reddy said the immediate priorities must include taking up public expenditure on health to at least 3 per cent of GDP, a concerted thrust on encouraging investments that bridge gaps in infrastructure and resources and also efforts to accelerate the adoption of digital technologies.

"These actions are pivotal building blocks of an Atmanirbhar healthcare ecosystem. Also, more than ever before, at this point in time, the people of India are looking to the Union Budget 2022-23 to chart a transformational course in nurturing good health for all and also to be able to access best in class healthcare at all times," she stated.

## India's Q3 manufacturing outlook improves

### Cost of doing biz remains cause for concern

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The outlook for India's manufacturing sector seems to have improved in the October-December 2021 quarter even as the cost of doing business remains a cause for concern and hiring prospects remain subdued, according to a FICCI survey.

The findings of the latest quarterly survey on manufacturing unveiled on Sunday also reflect sustained economic activity in the sector, with existing average capacity utilisation in the range of 65 to 70 per cent.

It also highlighted that manufacturers are looking forward to the upcoming Union Budget to en-



hance growth and investments in the sector. The Budget will be presented on February 1.

The percentage of respondents reporting higher production in the third quarter of 2021-22 (October-December 2021-22) was around 63 per cent, almost double than the year-round period (around 33 per cent), noted FICCI.

This assessment is also reflective in order books as 61 per cent of the respondents in October-

December 2021-22 had a higher number of orders as against July-September 2021-22, the survey found.

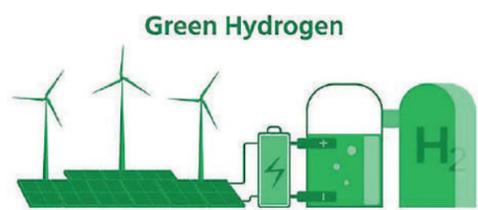
High raw material prices, high cost of finance, the uncertainty of demand, shortage of working capital, high logistics cost, low domestic and global demand due to supply chain disruptions are some of the major constraints that are affecting the expansion plans of the respondents, it said.

The survey assessed the performance and sentiments of manufacturers for Q3 (October-December 2021-22) for 12 major sectors namely automotive, capital goods, cement, chemicals, fertilisers and pharmaceuticals, electronics & electricals, medical devices, metal & metal products, paper products, textiles, textiles machinery and miscellaneous.

## Incentives for green hydrogen likely in Union Budget

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):**

The government may provide for targeted fiscal incentives and allocation of funds for promotion of green hydrogen in the country in Union Budget 2022-23, which is slated to be unveiled in Parliament on Tuesday. The government launched National Hydrogen Mission in 2021. Earlier this month, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh had indicated that a green hydrogen policy will be unveiled in February which would feature many incentives to boost green hydrogen in the country. "While 2021 saw the launch of National Hydrogen Mission, it is likely that the Budget may provide for targeted fiscal incentives for R&D in green hydrogen segment, creation of do-



mestic supply chain for hydrogen and reduce customs duties on electrolyzers to boost green hydrogen production," says Venkatesh Raman Prasad, Partner, J Sagar Associates (JSA). Prasad is of the view that India's commitment at COP 26 of achieving net zero emissions by 2070 and meet 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030 shows that the government intends to focus on cleaner sources of energy. Hemant Mallya, Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy,

Environment and Water (CEEW) opines that green hydrogen has many industrial uses and can potentially decarbonise many hard-to-abate sectors, like the iron and steel industry. He says that an outlay of Rs 1,200 crore by 2024 in the upcoming Budget could trigger pilots in various end-use applications such as testing green hydrogen readiness of natural gas pipelines, underground hydrogen storage, and pilots for equipment such as furnaces, boilers, and process heaters.

## No major impact of fresh COVID-19 wave on housing sales

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):** Housing sales are expected to remain strong during this current quarter and there will not be any major impact on demand from the fresh wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to industry experts. Many states imposed restrictions like weekend curfew to curb the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, affecting visits of prospective customers to project sites. However, real estate developers and consultants said there was a minor impact in the first two weeks and sales enquiries are strong. "The impact of Omicron on housing sales is not expected to be significant as com-

pared to the last two waves," Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri told PTI.

Anarock is one of the leading housing brokerage firms in the country. "Unlike the last two waves, we have not had a complete lockdown and mobility has not been severely impacted. The sentiments have remained broadly positive as the fatality rate has been very low and so has the hospitalisation rate," he observed. Though the week-

end lockdowns in a few cities have impacted the site visits, Puri said the developers have maintained the sales momentum due to the rapid adoption of digital technologies.

"Another notable factor is that the affordability is still attractive for the homebuyers that have kept the inquiry pipeline of the developers healthy," he said. Cushman & Wakefield India MD (Residential Services) Shalin Raina said sales have been marginally impacted by the

new wave. "The year 2021 witnessed a historic rebound for the residential real estate market in India. "There were multiple reasons including low mortgage rates, stamp duty cuts by certain states, strong economic recovery across industries and the need for larger homes for WFH (work from home) professionals," he said. The momentum was carried forward to 2022 but the Omicron variant has certainly slowed things marginally, Raina said. "Due to restrictions and lockdowns, site visits to projects by consumers reduced significantly resulting in the reduction in sales in the NCR market," Raina said.



## Simran roped in for Karthik Subbaraj's Vikram-starrer 'Mahaan'



Actress Simran plays a character named Naachi in director Karthik Subbaraj's much-anticipated Tamil action-drama 'Mahaan', featuring Vikram and his son Dhruv Vikram in the lead.

With the film all set to release on Prime Video on February 10, the makers have started disclosing the names and looks of the characters that the lead artistes in the film are playing. Simran, the team announced, will be playing Naachi. Sharing the film poster on Twitter, Simran said: "Me as Naachi in 'Mahaan'."

Karthik Subbaraj also disclosed that Muthukumar would be playing a character called Gnanam and Sananth would be playing Rocky in the film.

More importantly, the director, putting out an unseen still of Vikram from the film, said: "He will rise... Tomorrow," indicating that he would be disclosing the character's name on Monday. The film, produced by Lalit Kumar, is a narrative of a series of events that transform the whole life of an ordinary man as well as all the people around him. 'Mahaan' features real-life father-son duo Vikram and Dhruv Vikram together for the very first time, along with Bobby Simha and Simran in pivotal roles.

'Mahaan' is the story of a man whose family leaves him when he strays from the path of ideological living in his search for personal freedom. However, as he realises his ambitions, he also misses the presence of his son in his life. Having fulfilled his dream of becoming a billionaire, does life give him a second chance to be a father?

This story is about how his life goes through an unexpected series of events in this thrilling, action packed journey.



## Shefali Shah opens up on how she doesn't let her characters affect her



Shefali Shah, who was most recently seen in the medical thriller 'Human', follows a different approach to work around with her characters. She takes an objective route and does not let her characters affect her emotions as a human being.

Talking about the demarcation in her subconscious, Shah said: "When I do a project, I get completely submerged in it. Having said that, I am not the person who would carry the emotions of a scene or from the set back home. Yes, I will give everything that I have for that moment." Despite the emotional disconnect, her mind constantly keeps exploring her characters, going deeper into them.

She said: "I do not disconnect as an actor because I come back home, freshen up and start working on the next day's scenes. It is a continuous process, I don't stop. Because that character has an identity of its own, you have to keep feeding that identity with your observations and homework to put a certain conviction into that character."

## Peyush Bansal spills beans on choosing Katrina's as brand ambassador

While Lenskart's first brand ambassador was the gorgeous superstar Katrina Kaif, it seems that there is more to the picture than just her sporting fashionable glasses! On The Kapil Sharma Show when the founder of the optics brand, Peyush Bansal graced the sets with his Shark Tank India mates Ashneer Grover, Anupam Mittal, Aman Gupta, Vineeta Singh, Ghazal Alagh and Namita Thapar, host Kapil Sharma asked the reason why the actress was chosen as the brand ambassador of Lenskart.

Talking about why Katrina Kaif was chosen and answering Kapil Sharma's question on whether it was his business or personal strategy choosing the gorgeous actress, Peyush Bansal said, "I think that spectacles are a fashion accessory. So I chose Katrina Kaif because she is a fashion icon. As she wore spectacles, everyone started wearing them too!"

Tune in to The Kapil Sharma Show this Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.



A prayer posted by actress Aishwarya Dutta on Instagram is winning her appreciation from fans and followers.

The actress, who has been a part of critically acclaimed films like 'Tamizhukku En Ondrai Azhuthavum', said: "A journey of so many days. A journey of so many years. A journey of my hard work. A journey of my success."

A journey of my memories. A journey of mine from a different city. A journey of my transformation. A journey of transforming from every bad to good. "Thank you God for everything. Thank you for holding my hands and never letting me go off. Thank you God for giving me all the strength to rise, to wake up every day with a new hope. Thank you God for being my parent." The actress, who shot to fame after her participation in the television reality show Tamil Bigg Boss, ended as the runner up in the second season of the show.

Actress Aishwarya Dutta's prayer on Insta wins appreciation

In the Republic Day week &TV, the audience are going through the myriad emotions of Khushi and Gham across its shows with a tinge of patriotism across a few tracks. These include Baal Shiv, Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?, Happu ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai.

**Kya bach payenge Baal Shiv Mayasur ki jaal se?**  
In &TV's Baal Shiv, Parvati (Shivya Pathania) continues to share the story of Sati and Mahadev (Siddharth Arora) with Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari). However, Baal Shiv will stop her midway to pick Mahasati Anusuya (Mouli Ganguly). As Baal Shiv searches for the flowers, Mayasur (Vinit Kakar) hatches a plan to bring Baal Shiv to his disposal. He kidnaps an old lady's grandson, Sukarn and traps a tiger in the magical caves to kill Baal Shiv. The old lady, Sheelavati, calls for help, and

Baal Shiv promises to bring her grandson back to her. He reaches the cave and tells Mayasur to free Sukarn, but instead, Mayasur picks his sword to kill Sukarn. Nandi hears the whole incident when Sheelavati informs about it Mahasati Anusuya and decides to help Baal Shiv in the magical cave. Mahasati Anusuya (Mouli Ganguly) shares, "Anusuya is shocked to know that Baal Shiv has gone to fight a monster and quite worried for him. But will Nandi rescue Baal Shiv, or will they face the beast's wrath? It will form the main crux of the plot and make for an interesting watch." Tune in to watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 PM, Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki at 9:00 PM, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 PM, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!



Different moods in &TV shows

## HOROSCOPE MONDAY JANUARY 31

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

The explorer that you are, today your restlessness will get the better of you! Your plans will finally take off, whether it is a new entrepreneurial or educational course or a trip to your home town. It's a promising day, says Ganesha, and you never know what you may find!

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

There is a lot of brain-racking in store for you today, as you try to conjure up ways to convert your extraordinary brilliance into exceptional performance. Keeping in mind that your family is the foundation of your success could provide some vital insights, says Ganesha.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Ganesha tells that today is the day to have fun and enjoyment by getting rid of the daily cycle of events. There is a possibility that you will go for a visit to a tourist place with family members and friends. But the tension of work will not allow you to live in peace even there. You would like to solve the phone.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

This day will be filled with a lot of emotional intensity. So says Ganesha. Most of the day you will be driven by your feelings and sentiments and remain absorbed in family issues concerns. You will, nevertheless, not lose out on your professional and business affairs. Others will understand your preoccupation with home affairs and will remain helpful and appreciative.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

There are strong indications that you will find it easy to assume a leadership role and set the agenda at work today, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be busy looking for an expensive gift for someone very important to you. You may not be able to find the right gift, but that is only because you want it to be really special.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You are likely to be in good spirits throughout the day. With you brimming with confidence and positive energy, others around you will also feel upbeat. The entire day, you will be looking forward to the evening, so that you could spend some quality time with your loved ones. It will be worth the wait.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

With Lady Luck smiling down on you, today promises to be rather special, forecasts Ganesha. Expect to find favourable conditions and come out with flying colours in whatever task you undertake, especially if it happens to be something like an interview. Bask in the kudos and appreciation at work, as your performance far exceeds the expectations of the management.

### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping, looking for a gift that you feel like giving to a loved one. You will spend the evening planning your long-term goals with a close friend or family.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesha predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused. You may devise and come up with some innovative method to speed up work, much to your relief.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

It is quite likely that you will have an outstanding field day today, predicts Ganesha. At the workplace, you will possibly feel that you are stuck in the rut doing regular activities day after day. In relationship matters, evening will be full of surprises and excitement for you, expects Ganesha.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Work while you work and play while you play, says Ganesha. On the professional front, you will outclass your rivals with sheer brilliance, leaving them flabbergasted and intimidated. On the personal front, you may spend quality time with loved ones or spend your evening being chased by the spotlight of a party.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

You will settle for nothing less than excellence in whatever work you choose to take up, says Ganesha. In fact, working extra hours may leave you a little exhausted in the afternoon. Here's the remedy: delegate work to those around you and see that they meet your high standards.

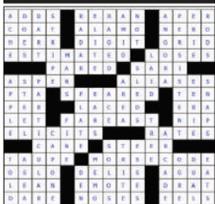
## CROSSWORD

201



- 47. Slippery creatures
  - 48. Compass pt.
  - 49. Warned
  - 52. Winter toys
  - 53. Nebraska city
  - 58. Serious
  - 61. Radiates
  - 64. Better late \_\_\_\_\_ never
  - 65. Radar's kin
  - 67. Blemishes
  - 68. Assists
  - 69. Legislate
  - 70. Balm
  - 71. Thorny bloom
  - 72. Bargain events
  - 73. Transmitted
- DOWN**
- 1. Fawn's fathers
  - 2. Zodiac sign
  - 3. Director Woody \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Skirt fold
  - 5. Appointment
  - 6. Mined minerals
  - 7. Refined
  - 8. Irrate
  - 9. Declare
  - 10. Shatter
  - 11. Dubuque's state
  - 12. Confederate
  - 13. Jumble
  - 21. Strike lightly
  - 23. Short distances
  - 26. Finally (2 wds.)
  - 28. Deed
  - 29. Rented
  - 30. 43,560 square feet
  - 31. Bride's headpiece
  - 32. Time periods
  - 33. Track event
  - 34. Misfortunes
  - 35. Woodwind
  - 36. Knockout count
  - 39. Broke bread
  - 41. Royal domain
  - 43. Consume
  - 46. Arms depot
  - 50. Contact \_\_\_\_\_
  - 51. \_\_\_\_\_ Quixote
  - 52. Feel
  - 54. Papas' partners
  - 55. \_\_\_\_\_ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
  - 56. Wading bird
  - 57. Plus
  - 58. Big Dipper component
  - 59. Dayton's locale
  - 60. Young fellows
  - 62. Aromatic spice
  - 63. Skills
  - 66. "Snakes \_\_\_\_\_ Plane" (2 wds.)

### SOLUTION 200





ing from knee surgery, the Spanish great is now one major title clear of his 'Big Three' rivals after surviving the 2-6, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 thriller at Rod Laver Arena.

Riding a wave of raucous support from the crowd, a vintage Nadal pulled off one of his finest performances to deny Medvedev again, less than three years after leaving the Russian heartbroken in five sets at the 2019 US Open final. In a match steeped in drama, Nadal was two points from the title but was broken as he served for the match at 5-4. He held firm to break Medvedev again and served out the match to love, rushing in to deliver a backhand volley as a stunning coup de grace. Dropping his rack-

five-set win from a two-set deficit in 15 years -- since overhauling Mikhail Youzhny in the fourth round of Wimbledon in 2007.

Having suffered four final defeats in 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2019, Nadal can now savour a second Melbourne Park crown, 13 years after beating Federer in the 2009 decider.

The long hair and pirate shorts of that decade have fallen by the way-side, but the class and fighting spirit endure in the face of Nadal's titanic battles to recover from injuries.

Having missed Wimbledon due to fatigue and the US Open because of a chronic condition in his left foot, Nadal was on the brink of quitting in late-2021 and felt blessed just to turn up at Melbourne Park this year. His ability to play seven matches felt miraculous for the Spaniard, who joins Djokovic, Rod Laver and Roy Emerson as the only men to win each Grand Slam title twice.

Now more than ever, world number one Djokovic may rue his failed bid to defend his title in Melbourne

## U-19 World Cup: Pacer Ravi wreaks havoc as India oust Bangladesh to enter semifinals

Coolidge, Jan 30 (PTI):

Left-arm pacer Ravi Kumar bowled a sensational opening spell as India's 'class of 2022' exacted a sweet revenge on Bangladesh, knocking out the defending champions by five wickets to enter the semifinals of the U-19 World Cup here.

In the last edition of the tournament, India lost to Bangladesh in the title clash.

Four-time champions India will meet Australia in their semifinal on February 2, having won an unprecedented seven out of their nine U-19 World Cup quarterfinals. Son of a CRPF personnel, the Uttar Pradesh-born Ravi, who has followed in the footsteps of his illustrious state senior Mohammed Shami to ply his trade for Bengal, ended with excellent figures of 7-1-14-3 on a tacky track as Bangladesh were all out for 111 in 37.1 overs on Saturday.

Bangladesh were 56 for seven at one stage before SM Mehrob (30) and Ashiqur Zaman (16) added 50 runs for the eighth wicket to take the team past 100-run mark.

In reply, India chased down the target in 30.5 overs with opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi's



44 being the top score. Skipper Yash Dhull made 20 not out and his deputy Shaik Rasheed contributed 26. The victory was even more satisfying considering the youngsters came back without any training post recovery from COVID-19.

It was a fitting reply from the 'Boys in Blue' to the 'Tiger Cubs' after their predecessors lost an ill-tempered final of the 2020 edition, which was followed by boorish behaviour from both sides, especially the Bangladeshis, whose reactions have always been over the top when it came to beating

India. For the current batch, the win was also necessary after they were beaten twice by this same side last year during a four-nation meet in Kolkata. India won a good toss and Ravi made full use of the moisture underneath, with initial movement in the air helping the team's cause.

Ravi, who has the natural ability to bring the ball back into right-handers, had Mahfijul Islam (2) beaten all ends up with an inswinger in the second over. His opening partner Iftakher Hossain (1) was done in by the slowness of the track as he tried to

square cut and was held at point by vice-captain Shaikh Rasheed.

One drop batter Prantik Nawrose (7) was not at all comfortable during his stay and was late into the drive to a delivery that swung away, offering a catch to Kaushal Tamble in the slips. Reeling at 14 for three in the eighth over, there was no coming back for Bangladesh and they kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal (9-1-25-2) was as consistent as ever, with his flight and dip causing problems for the opposition batters.

## Nadal wins HISTORIC 21st Slam

Melbourne, Jan 30 (AP):

Rafael Nadal edged Daniil Medvedev in a classic Australian Open final on Sunday, roaring back from two sets down to claim a

record 21st Grand Slam title only months after fearing his glorious career might be over due to injury.

With Novak Djokovic forced out by deportation and Roger Federer recover-

et, Nadal shook his head and grinned, then kicked a tennis ball away and pumped his fists in delight.

It was a triumph that defied time and logic, the 35-year-old completing his first

without COVID-19 vaccination. His deportation threw the tournament wide open, leaving a vacuum for Nadal to fill and strike a potentially decisive blow in the Grand Slam race.

## 'Kohli and Root: a tale of two contrasting captains'

Sydney, Jan 30 (PTI):

Australian great Ian Chappell has found Virat Kohli to be an exceptional captain who has carried the Indian team to a higher level and considered England's Joe Root a "fine batter but poor captain".

Kohli, who recently relinquished captaincy after India lost a Test series to the weakest-ever South African team, was sacked as ODI skipper prior to that.

He pointed out the contrasts in Kohli and Root's styles of captaincy and its corresponding efficacy, but few observations made by Chappell could be debated, including the one where he singularly attributed the "development of Rishabh Pant" to the former India captain. "This is a tale of two cricket captains; one very good at his job and the other a failure," Chappell wrote in his column for ESPN Cricinfo.

"There's no doubt Kohli was an exception as captain; he didn't curb his enthusiasm but he was still able to lead the Indian team to a higher level. With



Ian Chappell

the capable assistance of vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, he lifted India to overseas success like no other captain had done," Chappell opined.

In the case of Root, he was as blunt as any Aussie would ever be when it came to judging an English cricketer. "The captaincy failure, despite having led his country more times than any other captain, is Joe Root. It doesn't matter what Root or any other English devotee tells you, Root is a fine batter but a poor captain," his assessment of Root was scathing.

Chappell spoke about how Kohli enhanced the legacy of two successful Indian skipper -- Sourav Ganguly and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

## Top-ranked Krejckikova, Siniakova win women's doubles

Melbourne, Jan 30 (AP):

Top-ranked Barbora Krejckikova and Katerina Siniakova took another major step in a partnership which began in junior ranks when they won the Australian Open women's doubles 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4 Sunday from unseeded Anna Danilina and Beatriz Haddad Maia.

The Czech pair claimed their first Australian Open title to go with one Wimbledon and two French Open titles to move a step closer to a career Grand Slam in doubles. They also are Olympic champions.

They were finalists in Melbourne last year but went down 6-2, 6-3 to Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka. Krejckikova also had been in top form in the singles in Melbourne this year before unexpectedly falling to Madison Keys in the quarterfinals.

The top seeds were fully stretched by Danilina of Kazakhstan and Haddad Maia of Brazil who put to-



gether their partnership less than a month ago and were unbeaten in nine matches before Sunday. They won the Sydney Classic doubles title before tackling their first Grand Slam tournament together. Danilina and Haddad Maia became the first pair to take a set from Krejckikova and Siniakova in Melbourne and kept the final alive for 2 hours and 42 minutes before finally

succumbing. Krejckikova and Siniakova's well-honed partnership was scratchy at times Sunday before experience pulled them through. Siniakova was more active in the first two sets while Krejckikova seemed unusually stuck on the baseline and less mobile than usual at the net.

Krejckikova stepped up in the final set and produced many of the key

points, hitting strongly through the middle of the court while Siniakova crossed over at the net for clutch volleys.

Siniakova had served for the match at 5-2 in the third set but Danilina and Haddad Maia, not to be denied, broke her serve.

Haddad Maia held serve in front of cheering fans waving Brazil flags before Krejckikova clinched the win on serve.

## Ali leads England to 34-run win over West Indies in 4th T20

Bridgetown, Jan 30 (AP):

Stand-in captain Moeen Ali smashed seven sixes and took two wickets as England beat West Indies by 34 runs in their fourth Twenty20 game to level the series at 2-2 with one match left.

Ali, who was again leading England with Eoin Morgan out of the series with a quad injury, hit 63 off 28 balls on Saturday as the tourists added 59 in the last three overs to post 193-6. Opener Jason Roy contributed 52 off 42 deliveries at the Kensington Oval.

Spinner Ali went on to take 2-28 from four overs as West Indies was held to 159-5. Opener Kyle Mayers top-scored with 40 off 23 and Jason Holder smashed 36 off 24 with two fours and three sixes.

The fifth and final game is on Sunday in Bridgetown. It was an explosive finish to England's innings, with Holder (3-44) clubbed for four successive sixes by Ali in the 18th over.

The hosts required 61



from the final 24 balls but Chris Jordan (0-30), brought back alongside Sam Billings after missing Wednesday's loss, and Reece Topley (1-21) held their nerve at the death to ensure the five-match series goes to the wire. Roy, dropped on three by Holder in the second over, shared an 85-run stand for the second wicket with James Vince (34) after England lost the toss and was asked to bat first.

## Japan thrash Thailand 7-0 to book Asian Cup semifinal spot, FIFA World Cup ticket

Navi Mumbai, Jan 30 (PTI):

Japan on Sunday qualified for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in style as they reached the semifinals of the ongoing AFC Asian Cup with a 7-0 thrashing of Thailand here.

Striker Yuika Sugawara scored four goals for the two-time defending champions who will face the winners of the other quarterfinal match between China and Vietnam in the semifinals on Thursday.

Thailand, the 1983 champions, are still in the running for a place in the FIFA World Cup in Australia and New Zealand through the playoffs to be played on February 2 and 4.

With Thailand missing several players due to a COVID-19 outbreak in their squad, Japan started as favourites and Futoshi Ikeda's side took an immediate grip on the match. Mana Iwabuchi, after



Japans Fuka Nagano along with Rin Sumida in action with Thailand's Wilaiporn Boothduang during the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 quarter final football match between Japan and Thailand, at D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Sunday.

two attempts in the early stages, had a chance to put Japan ahead in the 14th minute after Wilaiporn Boothduang

fouled Rin Sumida in the penalty box. Goalkeeper Waraporn Boonsing, however, judged correctly to deny Iwabuchi.

## Whenever someone is down, we all come together to lift them up: Dhull

Coolidge, Jan 30 (PTI):

India skipper Yash Dhull says the team stuck together to tide over a tumultuous phase and reach the semifinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup, following multiple COVID positive cases in the squad.

India barely managed to field a playing XI for their group match against Ireland after as many six players, the captain included, returned positive for the highly contagious virus.

"Our team combination has been very good and the boys are gelling well. Whenever someone is down, we all get together to bring them up. It is a lifetime experience here," Dhull said at the end of the match.

The team showed resilience in the face of adversity and kept winning



their matches, the latest being the five-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

The return of five players after they had tested negative for the virus was a big boost for the team ahead of the last-eight clash. The four-time winners will face Australia in the semifinals on Wednesday.

## England, Australia settle for thrilling draw in women's Ashes Test

Canberra, Jan 30 (PTI):

In a fantastic advertisement for women's Test cricket, England hung on for a dramatic draw as their Ashes contest against Australia came to a thrilling finish on the last session of the fourth and final day here.

The visiting England finished at 245 for nine after a sporting declaration from Australia captain Meg Lanning set the tourists a target of 257 runs from 48 overs at the Manuka Oval.

England looked on course to pull off the biggest fourth-innings chase in the history of women's Test cricket before escaping with a tense draw after an inexplicable batting collapse.

Captained by the inspirational Heather Knight, England needed 43 runs in the last 48 balls with seven wickets in hand, but ended up drawing the match with just a wicket left. The Australian bowlers made a terrific comeback to put



Rachael Haynes is mobbed after a sensational catch.

their team on the verge of victory after struggling against the English top-order. However, England slipped from 218 for three to 244 for nine to end all hopes of scripting a memorable come-from-behind win after playing catch-up for three days. Hosts Australia entered the final day at 12 for two after a major part of the third day was washed out due to rain. Beth Mooney and Ellyse Perry propped up Australia with a 91-run partnership and guided the team past the

100-run mark. Sophie Ecclestone produced the breakthrough to end the stand while Charlotte Dean had Mooney trapped in front of the wicket.

After that Tahlia McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner scored quickly during a 49-run stand for the sixth wicket as Australia managed to stretch their lead over 200. After the dismissal of McGrath and Gardner, Jess Jonassen smashed 14 off 6 as Lanning declared with the scorecard reading 216 for seven.

## 'Hope PoK will become part of India by 2024'

Thane, Jan 30 (PTI):

Union minister Kapil Patil has said that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will probably come back to India by 2024 and hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for taking many "bold" decisions for the country. Speaking at an event in Kalyan city in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday night, the Minister of State for Panchayati Raj also said that Modi has not become the prime minister for



Kapil Patil

bringing down the prices of onions and potatoes and suggested that people complain about the rise in the prices of the kitchen staple like onions but buy

pizza and mutton.

Patil, the BJP MP from the Bhiwandi constituency in the Thane district, quickly added that nobody will support inflation and a rise in prices of essential commodities.

"Only prime minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah can achieve certain things for the country. PM Modi should continue to lead this country as he has taken bold decisions like (bringing) CAA, abrogating sections 370 and 35 A etc. I feel, possibly, Pak Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will come

back to India by 2024," he said while delivering a memorial lecture.

Patil said that people can afford to buy mutton for Rs 700, pizza for Rs 500-600, "but buying onions for Rs 10 and tomatoes for Rs 40 is costly for us".

"Nobody will support rice in prices. But Narendra Modi has not become the prime minister to bring down the prices of onions and potatoes. If you understand the reason behind the rise in prices of these commodities you will not blame him (Modi)," he said.

### MAUNI AMAVASYA

## Authorities expect 1 crore devotees to take holy dip

Prayagraj, Jan 30 (PTI): Amid the coronavirus pandemic, authorities in Uttar Pradesh expect one crore devotees to take a holy dip in the Ganga and the Sangam here on Mauni Amavasya Monday. Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, who reviewed the preparation for the event, said Mauni Amavasya is a very important festival of Magh Mela and people from across the country come here to take a holy dip in the river.

"On Monday one crore people are expected to take bath," Mishra said, adding he was satisfied with the arrangements made there for devotees. The chief secretary said he himself took a bath on Sunday in the Ganga and found that the river flow and the water is "good".

### TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA



Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais and CM Hemant Soren pay tribute to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 74th death anniversary at Tiril Ashram, in Ranchi, Sunday.

## 'Farmers to observe 'Betrayal Day' today'

Rakesh Tikait slams govt

Noida, Jan 30 (PTI):

Alleging betrayal by the Centre, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday announced a country-wide observance of "Betrayal Day" on Monday over farm issues.

The national spokesperson of the influential north Indian farmers' union claimed the over-a-year-long protest at Delhi's borders was withdrawn on the basis of a letter of promises by the government on December 9 but those remain unfulfilled.

"A nation-wide 'Betrayal Day' will be observed on January 31 because of government's betrayal to farmers. The movement was suspended on the basis of a letter given by the government on December 9 but those promises have not been fulfilled, Tikait, whose BKU is a part of the SKM, said in a tweet in Hindi.

The protest on Delhi's borders had started under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, a farmers' collective, in November 2020 over the main demands of withdrawal of three contentious farm laws that were introduced by the BJP-led Centre.

## Hindu Mahasabha pays tribute to Nathuram Godse

Confers 'Bharat Ratna' on Kalicharan held for remarks against Mahatma

Bhopal/Gwalior, Jan 30 (PTI):

On a day the nation observed Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, the Hindu Mahasabha on Sunday paid tribute to his assassin Nathuram Godse and a co-accused in the Gandhi murder trial, Narayan Apte, in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior by observing "Godse-Apte Smriti Diwas".

The right-wing organisation also bestowed Godse-Apte Bharat Ratna in Gwalior upon jailed religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj, who was arrested

last December for allegedly making derogatory remarks against the Mahatma during a Dharma Sansad held in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, and four leaders of the Mahasabha.

We performed 'aarti' of Bharat Mata with a resolve to integrate India with Pakistan to make it 'Akhand Bharat'. We are observing January 30 as the 'Godse Apte Smriti Diwas' day to express our anger over their arrest on January 30, 1948, Hindu Mahasabha's national vice president Jaiveer

Bharadwaj told PTI over the phone from Gwalior.

The country on Sunday paid tribute to the Father of the Nation on his 74th death anniversary.

Bharadwaj said the Mahasabha has honoured Kalicharan Maharaj and four leaders of Hindu Mahasabha with the Godse-Apte Bharat Ratna in Gwalior. "Since Kalicharan Maharaj is in jail, the honour was received by Pramod Lohpatre on his behalf," Bharadwaj said.

He blamed Mahatma Gandhi for the partition of

India in 1947, which he said led to the killing and displacement of lakhs of Hindus. Talking to reporters after attending the programme in Mahasabha's office in the Daulatganj area of Gwalior, Bharadwaj claimed the Hindu Mahasabha had made a huge contribution to the freedom struggle.

People should not be misled into believing that India got independence due to charkha (spinning wheel popularised by Mahatma Gandhi), he said.

## Will Gangotri constituency maintain its bellwether status?

Dehradun, Jan 30 (PTI):

The Ganga originates in Gangotri, and so does the road to government formation in Uttarakhand, it seems. According to a widely held notion associated with successive assembly polls, whichever party wins the Gangotri constituency in Uttarakhand forms the government in the hill state.

As Uttarakhand prepares to go to the polls on February 14, the constituency is once again in focus, but this time it is witnessing a triangular contest with the fledgling AAP is in the fray, which, according to analysts, could put to test Gangotri's status as a bellwether seat.

BJP's Suresh Chauhan is

pitted against the Congress's Vijaypal Singh Sajwan in Gangotri and AAP's chief ministerial candidate Col Ajay Kothiyal.

During the counting of votes in the 2017 assembly polls also, there was immense interest in the result of Gangotri seat and after the victory of BJP candidate Gopal Singh Rawat, the party came to power under the leadership of Trivendra Singh Rawat with a huge mandate of 57 seats out of 70.

Gopal Singh Rawat died after a prolonged illness last year and the seat was vacant since then. Chauhan exuded confidence that people will once again give their blessings to the BJP not only in Gangotri but throughout the state.

LOVED IN

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE INDIAN

# POWER INTO THE NEW YEAR

## ATTRACTIVE DOWN PAYMENT

### ₹14,306/-\*

150 Twin Disc

NS160

Offer also available on Pulsar NS200, 150 Single Disc and 150 Neon.

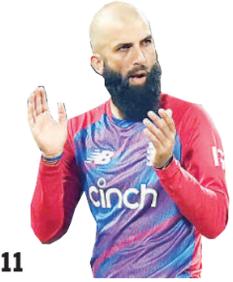
Scan the code.  
Visit: [www.bajajauto.com/PulsarLDPScheme](http://www.bajajauto.com/PulsarLDPScheme)

Cashback up to ₹5,000/#

72198 21111

#Terms and conditions apply. Offer available on select models in select regions. \*Down payment for Pulsar 150 Neon variant. DP is excluding DCC charges, processing fees & other charges. Finance at sole discretion of the financier. Bajaj Auto reserves the right to withdraw any or all offers without prior notice. Bank of Baroda and Federal Bank offers are valid till 31st January 2022 and 31st March 2022 respectively. Stunts have been performed by experts, under professional supervision, in a controlled and enclosed environment, in isolation from general public or public roads. Please do not attempt to replicate these stunts and follow traffic and safety rules at all times.

Printed and Published by Sameer Maheshwari on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, Navbharat Bhawan, Press Complex, Raipur. Editor in Chief - Sameer Maheshwari. Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.). Phone: (0771) 4257700 Fax: (0771) 4257703, Postal Regn. No. C.G./RYPDN./62/2019-21, Regd. No. 26172/74/RNI



### BRIEF



A worker sanitises a cinema hall ahead of its reopening for visitors, in Gurugram, Sunday.

### Watery grave

■ **Shahdol:** Two children drowned on Sunday in a water-filled pit near their house in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, police said. The incident took place in Singhpur village, some 15 kilometres from the district headquarters, when Prince Choudhary and his cousin Dipak Choudhary, both two years old, ventured into the pit while playing, Inspector Rameshwar Uike said.

### Terrorists killed

■ **Srinagar:** In a major success for the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, a top self-styled commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was among five terrorists killed in two separate overnight encounters in Pulwama and Budgam districts of the valley, officials said on Sunday.

### Fire

■ **Muzaffarnagar:** A farmer was charred to death after a fire broke out at a sugarcane field here on Sunday, police said. They identified the deceased as Rajpal (65) from Rajpur Kalan village under Jansath police station limits. Police said Rajpal was working in the field when the fire broke out. His crops, too, were burnt. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, they said.

### Mishap

■ **Hyderabad:** Three women and a girl died when a car allegedly driven by a 16-year old hit a group of labourers sitting on a pavement in Karimnagar town on Sunday morning, police said. The incident happened at around 6.50 AM when the teenager lost control over the steering while rubbing his eyes due to thick smog in the area and rammed into a divider and hit those sitting on the pavement, they said.

### Geo park

■ **Jabalpur:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of the country's first geo park at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada river in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, local MP Rakesh Singh said on Sunday. He said the GSI has sanctioned Rs 1.30 crore to prepare a detailed project report of the geological rock formations in five acres in the Lamheta village, located 20 km away from the Jabalpur district headquarter, where the park will come up.

### IEDs

■ **Hazaribag:** Two powerful IEDs, weighing 15 kg each, were found in a forest in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Sunday, police said. The improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found near Kharki village in Balakmakka jungle in the Bishnugarh police station area, they said.

**Weather**  
High 30 Low 13

### MANN KI BAAT

# India fighting new wave of Covid with 'great success'

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is fighting the new wave of Covid with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength".

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, Modi said, "Now the cases of corona infection have also started decreasing, this is a very positive sign."

It is a matter of pride that till now about four-and-a-half crore children have been administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine, he said.

"This means that about 60 per cent of youth in the age group of 15 to 18 years have got their vaccines within three to four weeks. This will not only protect

our youth but will also help them to continue with their studies," he said.

Another good thing is that within 20 days, one crore people have taken the precaution dose as well, Modi said.

"This trust of our people on the indigenous vaccines is our great strength," the prime minister said. He asserted that India is fighting the new wave of coronavirus with "great suc-

### Corruption hollows country like 'termite'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said corruption hollows the country "like a termite" and all have to work together to rid the nation of it as soon as possible. In his Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi also said India is fighting the new wave of COVID-19 with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength". He said more than one crore children have sent him "their Mann Ki Baat" via postcards which have come from many parts of the country and even from abroad. These postcards give a glimpse of the broad and comprehensive outlook of the new generation for the country's future, Modi said.

"People should be safe, the pace of economic activities of the country should be maintained -- this is the wish of every person in the country," Modi said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi congratulated fellow citizens for this "momentous feat" of full vaccination of 75 per cent of all adults and said he is proud of all those who are making the inocu-

lation drive a success. Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat."

## 2 yrs on, vaccines, following protocols most effective weapons

### Against COVID-19

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

As India completed two years since the outbreak of COVID-19, vaccines and following COVID Appropriate Behaviour remain the most effective weapons against the deadly virus.

Though a number of drugs and other methods have been tried, no definitive treatment has emerged as yet.

The country saw its first case of COVID-19 on January 30, 2020, when a third-year medical student from Wuhan University tested positive. She had returned home following semester holidays.

Since then, India has

witnessed three waves of COVID-19, though the line of treatment has remained the same throughout. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said irrespective of the COVID-19 variants, "Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and Adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour" continue to remain the tested strategy for COVID-19 management.

Several medical treatments were also tried to tackle COVID-19 but no widely accepted treatment has been seen till now.

Recently, at a press briefing, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul expressed concern over the "overuse and misuse" of drugs.

### Rs 2300 CR CHEATING CASE

## Former Religare CMD Sunil Godhwani denied bail

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

A Delhi court has denied bail to Sunil Godhwani, former chairman and managing director of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), in a case related to alleged misappropriation of funds, noting the seriousness of allegations, loan amount involved and his role in the transactions.

The court said that economic offences are considered to be grave, especially when public money is involved and courts have to be careful in granting bail in such cases. According to prosecution, Godhwani and others had put Religare

Finvest Limited (RFL), a group firm of REL, in poor financial condition by disbursing loans to entities having no financial standing. Those entities then allegedly willfully defaulted in repayments and caused wrongful loss to RFL to the tune of Rs 2,397 crores.

In 2019, police registered an FIR against Godhwani, Malvinder Mohan Singh, Shivinder Mohan Singh, and others on a complaint from RFL's authorised representative (AR) for allegedly diverting the company's money and investing in other companies. REL was earlier promoted by the Singh brothers.

### MOMENTOUS FEAT

75% adults in India fully vaccinated against Covid

New Delhi, Jan 30:

With 75 per cent of all adults fully vaccinated, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated fellow citizens for this "momentous feat" and said he is proud of all those who are making the vaccination drive a success. Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat."

### BUDGET EXPECTATIONS

## Clarity on crypto taxation, hike in 80C limit, duty rationalisation on EVs

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents her fourth Union Budget on February 1 all eyes would be on how the government balances out populist measures while walking the tightrope of fiscal consolidation.

While Indian corporates are expecting some key announcements which will enable them to reset their growth agenda, individual taxpayers are expecting some more disposable income in their hands to invest and consume more.

As India works towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, and with just 2 days to go for 2022-23

Budget, here are the top five market expectations on direct and indirect taxes.

**DIRECT TAXES:** 1. 80C deduction available up to Rs 1.5 lakh a year be revised upwards significantly; 2. To make the optional concessionary tax regime, which came into effect from April 2021, more acceptable, raise the threshold Rs 15 lakh income for laying peak 30% tax rate; 3. As Web 3.0 unfolds, crypto assets encompassing a wide array of digital assets like non fungible tokens, wrapped asset token etc, will gain tremendous traction. It is being expected that a specialised regime for taxation of

### 'Resume long-stalled promotions in CSS immediately'

#### Officers' body to DoPT

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

Citing a recent Supreme Court judgment, an organisation of government officers urged the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Sunday to immediately resume the long-stalled promotions in the Central Secretariat Service (CSS).

In a letter to DoPT Secretary P K Tripathi, the organisation urged him to direct the wing concerned to update its records so that the promotion orders of the CSS officers are issued without further delay as many of them are retiring every month without getting their due career benefits. The letter assumes significance as there are over 1,800 vacant posts at the levels of section officer, undersecretary, deputy secretary, director and joint secretary against their sanctioned strength of 6,210, a member of the CSS Forum -- an association of all CSS officers -- said.

## Naxal killed in encounter with security forces

Sukma/Konta, Jan 30:



A Naxal was killed in an encounter with security forces in Sukma district on Sunday morning, an official said.

The gunfight took place around 6.45 am in a forest near Thimmapuram village under Chintalnagar police station limits when a joint team of different security forces was out on patrolling duty, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard and the 201st battalion of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), an elite unit of the CRPF, were involved in the operation to ensure security for the ongoing road construction works in interior areas, he said. A group of armed ultras opened fire on the patrolling team near Thimmapuram, located over 450 km from the state capital Raipur, leading the gun-battle, he said. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a male Naxal clad in 'uniform' and

firearms were recovered from the spot, he said.

When the patrolling team was withdrawing from the forest, an exchange of fire broke out again, the official said, adding that intermittent firing was still underway in the area. The encounter lasted for about 40-45 minutes, after the firing stopped, the body of an unidentified male Naxalite was searched closely and from the site of the incident, 01 nos.

Contrimed 12 bore rifle, 01 nos. Pitwu, Contrimed light hand granite, codex wire 05 meters, detonator 03 nos., power wire about 15 meters, 02 nos. Gelatin rod, 01 iron rod, 02 nos. nut bolt tightener pan, 02 nos. Chargeable torch, 05 nos. Batteries, medicines and other daily useful items were recovered.

## EC to review ban on physical rallies

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTD):

### Decision on Jan 22

The Election Commission will meet on Monday to assess the COVID-19 situation in the five poll-going states and decide on whether to continue the ban on physical rallies.

The Commission may also decide on whether fresh relaxations can be extended to political parties and candidates in holding physical campaigning events.

Citing the rise in COVID-19 cases, the poll panel had imposed a ban on physical rallies and roadshows when it announced the poll schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur on January 8. During its last meeting on

January 22, it had extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31 in the five states but had allowed public meetings with a maximum of 500 people in the constituencies going to polls in the first two phases and relaxed door-to-door campaign rules.

January 22, it had extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31 in the five states but had allowed public meetings with a maximum of 500 people in the constituencies going to polls in the first two phases and relaxed door-to-door campaign rules.

## Kerala's daily spike continues to remain over 50k

### TPR nears 50%

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 30 (PTD):

COVID-19 cases in Kerala continued to rise with the southern state reporting 51,570 new infections on Sunday taking the total number of affected people to 59,83,515.

The state has reported 14 coronavirus-related deaths in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 53,666, the state health department said. The state has tested 1,03,366 samples in the last 24 hours, a release issued by the health department said. On Saturday, Kerala had re-

ported 50,812 cases. On January 25, Kerala had registered 55,475 cases, the highest ever single-day spike in the infection count since the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020. Among the districts, Ernakulam reported 9,704 cases, the highest in the state on Sunday, followed by Thrissur with 7,289 and Thiruvananthapuram with 5,746 cases.

"Currently, there are 3,54,595 active COVID-19 cases in the state out of which only 3.4 per cent are admitted to hospitals," the health department said in a release. There are 5,27,362 people under observation in

the state out of whom 12,628 are in isolation wards of various hospitals across Kerala, it said. Out of those who were found infected on Sunday, 177 reached the state from outside while 47,778 contracted the disease from their contacts. The sources of infection of 3,178 are yet to be traced. 439 health workers are also among the infected. Among the latest fatalities, 87 were recorded over the last few days, while 374 were designated as COVID-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of the Supreme Court.

### PAK PM TO VISIT CHINA

## Cash-strapped Pak looks to secure USD 3-billion loan from China

Islamabad, Jan 30 (PTD):

Cash-trapped Pakistan is looking to secure a USD 3-billion (PKR 529 billion) loan from China and investments in half a dozen sectors during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing next week, according to a media report on Sunday.

Khan will visit the Chinese capital on February 3 to attend the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics and to also meet the top Chinese leadership on the sidelines for bilateral talks.

The Express Tribune reported quoting government sources that a final meeting to shape the agenda of the visit would take place on

Tuesday. A senior finance ministry official said the government was considering requesting China to approve another loan to the tune of USD 3 billion in China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, known as SAFE deposits, so as to boost its foreign exchange reserves.

China has already placed around USD 11 billion (PKR 1,940 trillion) with Pakistan in the shape of commercial loans and foreign exchange reserves support initiatives, including USD 4 billion (PKR 705 billion) in SAFE deposits. The Chinese money is part of the country's current official foreign exchange reserves recorded at USD 16.1 billion (PKR 2.8 trillion).

### MARTYRDOM DAY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage at the Gandhi Smriti, on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, in New Delhi, Sunday.

## 7 tractors, 1 matador seized illegally transporting minerals

Combined action by Fingeshwar Police and Mineral deptt



Gariyaband, Jan 30:

The Fingeshwar Police took strict action against illegal excavation and transportation of mineral by sand and mineral mafia and seized 7 tractors and 1 Matador transporting minerals illegally. It was as per instructions from the SP Gariyaband that regular actions are being taken against such illegal operations and the action on

Sunday created sensation among such illegal transporters and excavators in the region.

It is notable here that news about illegal excavation of sand and other minerals from the region was being published for last few months and still no action was taken, despite knowing the fact that many an elites having strong political connections are involved in it. All

the more it raised questions on the unbiased working of the local administration and those from the mineral department and the Police to put an effective check on such activities. On Sunday the Fingeshwar Police got tip from an informer about illegal transportation of sand and stone. On this TI Fingeshwar Rajesh Jagat informed about it to senior officers in the district and

holding coordination with mineral department formed a combined team. In the temporary checkpoint created near Gram Khuteri near Sargi nullah, 7 tractors with illegal sand and 1 matador near Puren turn was seized illegally transporting 'stone' (frashi patthar). The Mineral department took action as per the act and kept the material and vehicle safe at Fingeshwar Thana.

In the above action, TI Fingeshwar Rajesh Jagat, Himanchal Dhruv, head constable Nemichand Patel, Puran Sahu, R Kritesh Prajapati, Manoj Nishad, Kuleshwar Sahu, Ravi Sonwani, and Mineral Inspector Faguram Nagesh and his team played an important role.

## Tricolor hoisted in various places in Takhatpur

Takhatpur, Jan 30:

Republic Day was celebrated at the Mahatma Gandhi statue site under the aegis of Congress Seva Dal, in which the flag was hoisted by Congress State Secretary Ashish Singh Thakur, who was present as the chief guest.

Ashish Singh Thakur while singing Vande Mataram said that the importance of Mahatma Gandhi is so much that even today our country honors him as the Father of the Nation, irrespective of all. Congress Seva Dal state general secretary Pradeep Tamrakar conducted the program.

The flag hoisting at Janpad Panchayat Middle School, Sadar Ba Jar was done under the joint aegis of Ashish Singh Thakur and District Panchayat Chairman Jitendra Pandey. Flag was also hoisted in the agricultural produce market with

regional MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh as Chief Guest.

After offering flowers on the photo of Mahatma Gandhi, the flag was hoisted and the tricolor was saluted along with the national anthem. Rashmi Singh said that till date no government in Chhattisgarh has done even 10 percent of the work done for the farmers, as done by the present government. She also appreciated the contribution of the government on the transformation of the agricultural produce market.

Flag hoisting was also done in the Municipality Office premises under the chairmanship of Regional MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh and the President of the Municipality, Pushpa Munna Shrivastava. Municipality President

Pushpa Munna Shrivastava mentioned in detail the ongoing development works in the city.

Rashmi Ashish Singh read out the message of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel after mentioning in detail the establishment of the constitution. Mohit Singh Rajput conducted the program.

Flag hoisting was done in the district panchayat office premises under the chairmanship of Janpad District President Rajeshwari Kaushik, MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh. Rashmi Ashish Singh said that the schemes of the government are implemented in rural areas from the Janpad Panchayat itself.

In this direction, the work of Takhatpur Janpad Panchayat is also getting better because after 25 years, Congress President and Vice President have been made here, she mentioned in her address. On these oc-

casions, prominently former MLA Jagjit Singh Makkar, District Panchayat President Jitendra Pandey, Congress Seva Dal State General Secretary Pradeep Tamrakar, former Municipality President Ajay Devangan, Municipality President Pushpa Munna Shrivastava, Vice President Vandana Bala Singh, District Congress General Secretary Munna Shrivastava, Abhishek Pandey, Basant Gupta, Councilor Tekchand Karda, Mukim Ansari, Paramjit Lovely Hura, Kailash Devangan, Laxmi Yadav, Sunil Ahuja, City Congress President Bihari Devangan, A l d e r m a n C h a n d r a p r a k a s h Devangan, Sunil Jangde, Mohit Thakur, Dinesh Devangan, Omprakash Devangan, Shailendra Nirmalkar, Jitendra Raj and others were present in large numbers.

## MLA Chandan Kashyap hoists the flag in Sukma



**Sukma, Jan 30:** The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated in a dignified atmosphere in Sukma district, with President of Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board and Narayanpur MLA Chandan Kashyap as Chief Guest. He hoisted the flag and took the salute at the district level Republic Day function organized at the mini-stadium of Sukma and also released white doves symbolizing peace and love and colored balloons symbolizing joy and gaiety in the sky. On this occasion, he read out the message of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to the people of the

state. In the ceremony, Shri Kashyap honored the families of the soldiers who were martyred in the Naxalite violence by giving them shawls and shripal and presented citations to Corona Warriors.

On this occasion, District Panchayat President Harish Kawasi, Municipal Council President Jagannath Sahu, public representatives, Collector Vineet Nandanwar, Police Superintendent Sunil Sharma, all administrative officers- employees and officers of Police Department, employees and dignitaries were present.

## Republic Day celebrated with gaiety

■ Assembly Speaker Dr. Mahant hoisted the flag at Baikunthpur

**Korea, Jan 30:** National festival, the 73rd Republic Day was celebrated in a dignified manner with gaiety in Korea district. In the main function of Republic Day organized at Mini Stadium of Government Adarsh Ramanuj Higher Secondary School, District Headquarter Baikunthpur, Speaker of the Assembly Dr. Charandas Mahant took the salute of the parade by hoisting the flag.

The chief guest of the main function of Republic Day, Dr. Mahant sent warm greetings to all the people of the district on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day. He asked the public to continue with the vaccination campaign by following all the guidelines to avoid Covid 19 and appealed to be aware of their own safety. Paying humble tributes to



the brave sons of the soil of the district, he bowed down to the personalities who raised the pride of the region on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day. He said that efforts should be made to fulfill the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and for the overall development of the people of the country. At the same time, he said that be aware of your rights and fulfillment of national obligations. Thereafter, Collector Kuldeep Sharma read out the message sent by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to the people of the state.

The chief guest honored the families of the mar-

tyrs and those who did excellent work during the Corona period apart from teachers of development block Baikunthpur, Shambhu Singh, Rehana Sultana, Sushil Shukla, Neetu Kushwaha, K. Sunita Kujur, Dev Sharan Ravi, Jitendra Sahu, Priyanka Tigga, Manisha Sonwani, Teacher of Block Sonhat Umesh Kumar Pandey, Uday Lakra, Kaushilya Singh, Bhawan Rajwade, Vijay Sonpakar, Savita Rajwade, teachers of block Khadgawan, Sumant Bhattacharya, Gangaram Yadav, Shamshad Ansari, Sujit Kumar Sahu, Renuka Ajgale, teachers of

block Manendragarh, Rajiv Singh, Kevali Singh, Nabhag Singh, Sita Armo, Rajkumar Verma and others. Similarly, constable of police station Khadgawan Suresh Tigga, constable of police station Podi Nirbhay Narayan Singh, constable of police station Manendragarh Istaq Khan, constable of police station Baikunthpur Ilyas Kujur, head constable of police station Chirmiri, Sandeep Bagis, constable of police station Kelhari Pradeep Sahu, Police Station Patna constable Rajeshwar Sahu, Thana Charcha constable Narmada Srivastava, Superintendent of Police office constable Vijay Kujur, District Senani Nagar Army's Lance Naik Mahesh Kumar Mishra, District Fire Office driver cum operators Rajaram and Rajesh Khatik, President of Aarti Women's Self Help Group Januva Sembai, Jai Prakash Kurre, President of Gothan Samiti Ghughra Lalman Rajwade were also felicitated.

## Collector RK Sharma hoists flag in Collectorate premises

Kawardha, Jan 30:

District Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma hoisted the flag at the district office on the occasion of Republic Day. Earlier, he paid homage to the statue of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, installed in the campus, by garlanding and offering prayers.

Collector RK Sharma, after hoisting the flag, congratulated the district officers-employees on Republic Day and wished them well. In his address, he said that the spirit of patriotism should be in everyone's heart. As a government servant, what are the expectations of the country, for this everyone, being an Indian citizen, should discharge their duties and responsibilities with utmost seriousness and honesty, he said.

On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Sandeep Agarwal, Additional Collector B.S. Uike, Joint Collector Dipti Gote, Deputy Collector Rekha Chandra, SDM



Vinay Soni and officers and employees of all departments were present.

## R-Day celebrated following Covid protocol

Dr Tekam hoisted the flag at CSEB Football Ground



**Korba, Jan 30:** Due to Covid 19 infection, the festival of Republic Day was celebrated here in district with simplicity, with Minister for Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development, Backward Classes and Minorities Development, School Education and Cooperation Department and Minister in charge of the district, Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam hoisting the flag in a brief program organized at CSEB Football Ground lo-

quince. In the program, 73 Corona Warriors doctors, police personnel, health workers and sanitation friends were honored. Government officials and employees who did excellent work in the program were also rewarded. Mayor Rajkishore P. Rasad, Chairman of Municipal Corporation Shyam Sundar Soni, Collector Ranu Sahu, Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel, District Panchayat CEO Nutan Kanwar, Municipal Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey, ADM Sunil Nayak, DFO Korba Priyanka Pandey along with other officials, public representatives and dignitaries were present.

ated at Korba district headquarters. Congratulating the people of Korba on Republic Day, Dr. Tekam appealed for co-operation in building a prosperous Chhattisgarh by following the provisions of the Constitution. On this occasion balloons are released in the sky symbolizing unity in diversity. In-charge Minister Dr. Tekam also honored the families of the martyrs by presenting them with shawls and

## Vikas Upadhyay hoisted the national flag



■ In Bilaspur as the Chief Guest

Bilaspur, Jan 30:

The 73rd Republic Festival was celebrated enthusiastically following the protocol of Covid-19 in a dignified atmosphere in the district. The main function was held at Police Ground and Parliamentary Secretary of Public Works, Home, Jail, Religious Trust, Endowment and Tourism Vikas Upadhyay presided as Chief Guest. The national flag was hoisted and the chief guest flew white doves symbolizing peace and tricolor balloons were released in the sky symbolizing joy and gaiety. Upadhyay read out Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's message to the people of the state. On this occasion, the chief guest honored the families of 26 jawans of the

district who were martyred in the Naxal violence. The Chief Guest Upadhyay felicitated the Corona Warriors for doing excellent work during the Corona transition period and 58 officers and employees who showed their integrity in various departments by giving them citations. The program was attended by Vice President Shailesh Pandey, President of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Atal Shrivastava, District Panchayat President Arun Singh Chauhan, Mayor Ramsharan Yadav, Inspector General of Police Ratanlal Dangi, Collector Dr. Saransh Mittar, Superintendent of Police Parul Mathur, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Harish S. including other public representatives and officials, employees, media and dignitaries were present.

## R-Day celebrated with fervour in SSHSS

**Dongargarh, Jan 30:** The Republic Day (R-Day) was celebrated with patriotic fervour in Sarswati Shishu HS School (SSHSS) Dongargarh. On this occasion former MLA Sarojini Banjare, Sunil Jain Vidyalay Shiksha samiti President, Neelam Chopda Secretary, Prakash Girdhar Treasurer, Laxmi Narayan Agrawal, Naryan Lal Agrawal, Suresh Soni, Rajendra Jain V-P; and Principal of School Prakash Yadav and head mistress Vaishanli Desh were present on the dais. The introduction of guests was done by senior teacher of School Thaillesh Sahu and group song was presented by Bodhan Bharadwaj. The guests were welcomed by applying 'tilak' by Acharya Suresh Vaishnav and senior 'didi' Triveni Mandal. Former MLA Sarojini Banjare in her address made an appeal to all the students to make India strong and vibrant. In the same way Principal Prakash Yadav instilled feeling of patriotism among students and expressed gratitude to all for being present. In making this programme successful and in its conduct Preeti Bala Vaishnav and Thaillesh Sahu made remarkable contribution.

## Industry Minister lays stone for devp work



■ In Gram Geerampal for road and bridge on Malger river

Sukma, Jan 30:

The Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma gave gift to villagers of Gram Geerampal and laying stone for the new works, he said that completing the demands of villagers of Sukma District tops his priority. The villagers welcomed the Industry Minister amidst bursting of fire crackers and playing the local folk instruments and for which he expressed gratitude towards the villagers.

Lakhma laid stone for 2 km long road from Geerampal to Mutodi at the cost of Rs 108.74 lakh; another 6.51 km road from Geerampal to Dabbaram at the cost of Rs 436.36 lakh and 3.25 km road from Kondare to Padpipara at the cost of Rs 198.86 lakh and another 4 km road upto Palia at the cost of Rs 193.26 lakh. Addressing the general public meeting

at Gram Geerampal Lakhma said that the pace of development work in state has increased after CM Baghel took over as CM. The works in favour of tribals and farmers have gained momentum and this has reposed faith of tribals towards jungle, land lease. The government and local administration are sensitive towards the villagers and are making all efforts to fulfill their demands. The Congress led state government acted in favour of farmers right after its formation in the state and with this the farmers are being provided MSP on paddy at the rate of Rs 2500 per quintal under Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana. Earlier due to less number of paddy purchase centres in the district, the farmers had to travel long distances and this led to lot of time and expenditure of money. But with opening of new paddy purchase centre, it has provided lot of convenience to farmers.

## PHE refutes reports of closure of 'Neer' water ATM machines

**Koriya, Jan 30:** Sixty water ATMs have been installed in Korea district by Public Health Engineering Department, of which 10 water ATMs have been provided to SECL from CSR aid. Lately taking quick cognizance of the news published regarding the closure of water ATMs District Collector Kuldeep Sharma had directed the concerned department to investigate and clarify the situation. Meanwhile refuting the news after investigating in detail, the Executive Engineer of PHE Department said that all the water ATMs are in

working condition and improvement is being done continuously. The EE also informed that for the maintenance of Korea Neer established in rural areas, B.B.S. Water Technology Baikunthpur has been entrusted with the work of improvement, and maintenance work.

The closure of water ATMs of College Baikunthpur, District Hospital Baikunthpur, Kenapara, Kudeli, Sarbhoka, Katgodi, Udhnapur has been mentioned. Giving further information on which the department said that in

the present situation all the sites were inspected by the firm, in which all water ATMs are found in working condition. He has also described the complaint of typhoid among people due to contaminated water as misleading. He said that at present no complaint of typhoid patient from drinking water has been received at any place. In the event of deterioration of Koriya Neer in the concerned Gram Panchayat, maintenance work can be done by informing the Public Health Engineering Department or the concerned firm.



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 300

## Relevance of assets

The BJP accounted for almost 70 percent of the total assets declared to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by seven national parties in 2019-2020, a report by the Association for Democratic Reform (ADR). The BJP's share of the total assets of the seven parties increased from 54.29 percent in 2018-2019, according to ADR's analysis in 2021, while the Congress remained as the party with the most liabilities. The report said that 44 regional parties declared assets worth Rs 2,129.38 crore, with the Samajwadi Party being at the top of the list with Rs 563.47 crore, followed by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi with Rs 301.47 crore and the AIADMK with Rs 267.61 crore. Among the top 10, the Shiv Sena had assets worth Rs 185.90 crore, the DMK declared Rs 184.24 crore in assets and the Janata Dal (United) had Rs 45.094 crore. Regional Parties declared Rs 30.29 crore under Borrowings and Rs 30.37 cr under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, TDP declared the highest total liabilities of Rs 30.342 crore (50.02 per cent) followed by DMK that declared Rs 8.05 crore (13.27 per cent). The interesting data is not just about dominance of BJP but that regional parties can politically dominate their states with little amount of assets. Every political party has their own dream of expansion. Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress are the biggest political parties of India but now the time has come when the regional parties are making it clear that they want to expand. The void in Indian politics is no more a secret. It is not just the size of assets used by political parties but how little amount of assets can be utilised for expansion outside traditional areas of influence. Relevance of monetary assets has limits, which is not observed in ADR data.

The regional parties of India have realised that this is the golden opportunity to expand. Starting from Trinamool Congress led by Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to Aam Aadmi Party led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Shiva Sena led by Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray are showing that there is more to offer than just Hindutva and hyper-nationalism. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is one of the most experienced politicians of India right now. She has a glorious career as MP, cabinet minister and chief minister. She does not have an all India image but she has political connections, willpower and the hunger to expand. For expansion, Mamata Banerjee is targeting the rebels of the Congress party in several states and directly poaching them. Her next target is Tripura and Goa. In the last few years, Kejriwal has established a different model of governance in Delhi. His work in strengthening the education system of Delhi has been a success. On the other hand, a political party like Shiv Sena is pitching for a different political idea. They are taking it slow but making it clear that they want to expand beyond Maharashtra. Recently they have won a Lok Sabha seat in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The party wants to expand in Goa too. They are pitching coalition politics. Regional parties are not governed from Delhi though most of these parties are supreme centric. However, these parties are trying to expand by offering alternative welfare ideas.

## Hacking for political coercion

A group of Belarusian politically motivated hackers known as the Belarusian Cyber Partisans (CPs) announced on social media that they had breached the computer systems of Belarusian Railways, the country's national train system, as part of a hacktivist effort the attackers call Scorching Heat. The hackers have since posted screenshots that appeared to show their access to the railway's backend systems and claimed to have encrypted its network with malware, for which they would only provide decryption keys if the Belarus government met a list of demands. The hackers appear to have successfully made at least some of Belarusian Railways' databases inaccessible. Ransomware and destructive malware purporting to be ransomware has certainly been used for political coercion in the past. North Korean hackers, for instance, planted destructive malware on machines across the network of Sony Pictures in 2014. Posing as hacktivists going by the name Guardians of Peace, they appear to have sent an email demanding payment prior to the attack, then pressured the company not to release the Kim Jong-un assassination comedy The Interview. In 2016 and 2017 the Russian hackers known as Sandworm, part of the country's GRU military intelligence agency, used fake ransomware as a means to destroy computers across Ukraine and ultimately hundreds of other networks around the world while posing as profit-seeking cybercriminals.

Unidentified hackers appear to have targeted systems in Ukraine with the same tricks, on a much smaller scale, earlier this month. Even if the Cyber Partisans' ransomware turns out to be a thin disguise for irreversibly destructive malware, as in those earlier cases, the incident still seems to represent a new phenomenon. The group appears to be actual, bona fide hacktivists rather than state-sponsored hackers posing as such. Whether the Cyber Partisans' ransomware attack on Belarusian Railways will be a tactical success remains far from clear. The goals that Cyber Partisans set are hard to achieve, but it created a very serious pressure on the regime, disrupted the system, and showed that the dictator is not in control. It's too early to say if Russia troops were affected, but we hope that it will indirectly make an impact on their movements. In the larger view of hacktivism and ransomware, however Cyber Partisans' tactics could soon bleed out to other groups who see the power of ransomware to achieve political coercion for good and for ill and raise the stakes of Belarus' own political conflicts. The looming horror of ransomware is precisely just how many systems are out there about whose criticality we don't understand until they're unavailable, so if this is a continued tactic of theirs, the world will definitely see a ratcheting up of the pressure on both sides.

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](mailto:editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S DISCOVERY



French underwater photographer Alexis Rosenfeld poses with one of his pictures of corals, in Marseille. He discovered massive reef of giant rose-shaped corals hidden off the coast of Tahiti in Pacific Ocean.

## Prism for reforming 'Indian Administrative Service'

**RAGHAV CHANDRA**

Through what prism should we see reforms in the IAS cadre rules? Should primacy be given to localism or their all-India character? Should States be permitted to exercise overwhelming rights over the careers of IAS officers assigned to them? Should individual officers be allowed to exclusively determine where they want to serve? These questions become pertinent in the context of the sharp reaction of some states to the amendments proposed in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 whereby the officers to be deputed to the Central Government shall be decided by the Central Government in consultation with the respective State Governments and in case of any disagreement, the decision of the Central Government will be final.

At a broader level, the best answer to this conundrum is found in the words, spoken seventy years ago, of Sardar Patel, the statesman-administrator, regarded as the patron saint of the civil services, when he spoke about the expectations from the newly created steel frame: 'Successors to the ICS and IP, which, apart from filling the existing wide gaps in these services, would contribute to the unity of the country and the strength of the administrative structure, and make for a high standard of efficiency and uniformity' IAS officers are recruited by the

Central Government through the meticulous UPSC, but their services are placed under various State Governments. Although it is part of the service conditions that they would be obliged to serve both under the State and the Centre, no minimum period for central deputation is stipulated. Currently, 40 percent of the sanctioned strength of officers in a state is the central deputation reserve or CDR against which IAS officers in a state can come on central deputation. In the past, in some cadres, such as those in the troubled Northeast, there was a preponderant attraction towards working in Delhi and the CDR was breached. However, with time, the ground level atmospherics and conditions in the states have changed significantly - officers have multiple charges and so the operational spread of resources and canvas of work is significantly richer - making a posting in the state attractive.

Besides, Delhi postings at the Deputy Secretary and Director level are perceived as desk bound grunt jobs, with hardly any contact with the public and with limited scope for experimentation and innovation. Thus, we have the troubling phenomenon of young officers managing to stay in the state without experiencing working in the central government until they reach the rank of Joint Secretary. Given that the CDR utilization has dropped from 25 percent in 2011 to 18 percent as on date, Government of India's initiative to get states to commit adequate number of officers for central posting is entirely justified. IAS officers are the backbone of the government at all levels and every Ministry needs a few Deputy Secretaries and Directors who have had the experience of the field as Collectors

and Administrators of various development projects to help formulate policies that are grounded and beneficiary-oriented. The contention of some states that this will prevent officers from giving their best to the state because of the uncertainty of where they could be assigned next, they forget that it is in the best interest of IAS officers to work alternatively in the central government and the state so that they enrich their own experience with a suitable mix of both nation-wide and state-specific planning. Such knowledge and experience sharing is also crucial to the states to ensure that their interest is protected in central policy-planning.

Officers cannot but be aware of the higher level of uncertainty in the states than in the government of India, thanks to a faster turnover of political regimes and the spoils of power. As a result, we witness the frequent and whimsical transfers of officers, of some being punished senselessly for opposing those close to the party in power, even refused permission to go on deputation to the Centre. On the other hand, there are officers who wallow in the incessant patronage bestowed on them for their localized loyalty - making them perennially indispensable to the state. Some end their entire careers without even once budding out of the state for a posting elsewhere.

Precisely for this reason it is important to create a regime whereby the IAS officers should spend at least a third of their careers in the central government out of which at least 7 years should be at the Deputy Secretary/Director level. It is also necessary to shape the IAS like a central elite corps, with ultimate commitment to the nation, without any parochial loyalty to the State cadre they are

borne to. It is only when officers spend time out of their comfort zone in the state - even a posting to another state should be acceptable if an officer is not happy to work in Delhi - that IAS officers will be able to shed their provincial mindset. Only then will the all-India character of the IAS be preserved - with direct benefits for the unity of the country and uniformity in governance standards as espoused by Sardar Patel.

At another level, at the time of recruitment it should be made abundantly clear that officers would have to serve for defined periods both in the central government and in the states. To foster an inclusive and modern mindset, training in the very best universities of the world on government account has to be mandated as part of the career planning equation. An online system should be devised to facilitate officers to apply for government jobs in consonance with their sectoral specializations and choices. Even if officers want to go to the private sector for limited periods of their career, they should be permitted to step out to absorb the best practices of the corporate world to create an ecosystem in which the private sector and the public sector can work collaboratively.

IAS officers will be best utilized when they are groomed and positioned as an elite corps with skill sets and experience to work efficiently in the global arena, in the central government and in the states. To ensure that the States utilize them effectively and provide them a conducive working climate to elicit their best effort, it is important for the Centre to adopt an approach with the states which is consultative, tolerant and paternalistic. (Raghav Chandra is a former IAS, ex-Secretary to the Government of India.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bitter experience

Online shopping has acquired a new sense of urgency in the post-Covid-19 pandemic scenario primarily due to its contactless characteristic. The ease of the mobile apps developed by the various online players has accelerated its adoption among the young and also the not-so-young folks. However, my experience with this medium of purchase, particularly of groceries and other necessities, is bitter, to say the least. During the peak of the ongoing pandemic, I had ordered groceries online. On three occasions, either the order was cancelled or partially delivered, apart from delayed delivery in respect of orders which were delivered. I then switched to another big name expecting a better and smooth experience considering their aggressive promotions on online shopping. Here too, my experience was no different. This is due to their vehicles being not equipped with the GPS (Global Positioning System) devices unlike the Ola, Uber, Pe India etc. The common masses depended on these virtual markets during these difficult times when venturing out was a risky affair. But these two retail giants failed to deliver literally. Ironically, many of the misses happened during their sale-campaign periods when discounts are doled out to woo the customers. Therefore, the government must launch a site/portal where aggrieved consumers can seek redress for their grievances against the online shopping marketplaces. As citizens are embracing virtual markets - either out of compulsion or convenience or cost reasons - there should be adequate safeguards and checks and balances to curb the whimsical functioning of the online market players.

Rajiv, via email

### Pandemic pollution

Air pollution has been a widespread and visible concern that has increased significantly over the last decade across many parts of India with several consequences for human health and well being. The novel Coronavirus termed COVID-19 by World Health Organization (WHO) first emerged in late December 2019 in Wuhan, China. In early March 2020, due to its rapid spread, the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Recent studies have reported improvement in air quality due to restrictions placed upon industrial activities during the lockdown. Climate scientists have indicated that greenhouse gases (GHGs) concentrations could drop to levels not seen since World War II. Highly industrialized cities located in cold climate zones observed a higher reduction in air pollution. Gujarat, which is the industrial state in Western India, observed a significant reduction in major air pollutants during the lockdown period, mainly due to restrictions on traffic and slowdown of production in factories. The COVID-19 has affected people's lives in many ways. However, it has a good impact on the environment.

Parilina, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Annie Thomas**  
@AnnieThomas

These jobs don't have growth opportunities too. What a waste of our demographic dividend. This is what tech-enabled startups have done to us in the name of providing convenience. Destroyed real job opportunities and offered up dead-end ones.

**Shefali Merchant**  
@MercShefali

I selected Science neither for job, nor for education. I followed my friends. Was absolutely clueless on what I would do after I finish graduation. Parents were also clueless. Luckily could not complete graduation. Later, ended up in Finance/Investments - most of my career so far.

**NSamarjeet@samarjeet**  
Our veggie garden, today evening.

**Patralekha@patralekha2011**  
I thought only my apartment looked like a construction site. Went out today. The city looks like a construction site...and most labourers are from outside Delhi. Which means Delhi continues to be a magnet, offers a better deal than some neighbouring states. The minus - inconvenience.

**chandana@chandanas**  
I know what silence tastes like. It has pinch of love, a spoonful of fear, a few grams of hope, and generous helping of angst. Seasoned with wait, it is embellished with fine anticipation. I know how silence tastes, I am well versed.

**Thejesh GN@thej**

My father poor kid from Magadi failed in Hindi (10th std). Went to Ramanagara to write supplementary exam but didn't have a place to stay (exam was next morning). So went to police station and showed them hall ticket. They allowed him to stay there, got him breakfast. True story.

**Harsh Goenka@hvgoenka**

One Delhiite to another, 'Let's go to Taj hotel for dinner. Five star ambience with great pizza, dosa, burger.' At Taj hotel, when the waiter arrives they study the menu for a long time and place the order, 'Ek dal makhni, ek paneer butter masala aur do butter naan le ana ji.'

## 'Hope PoK will become part of India by 2024'

Thane, Jan 30 (PTI):

Union minister Kapil Patil has said that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will probably come back to India by 2024 and hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for taking many "bold" decisions for the country. Speaking at an event in Kalyan city in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday night, the Minister of State for Panchayati Raj also said that Modi has not become the prime minister for



Kapil Patil

bringing down the prices of onions and potatoes and suggested that people complain about the rise in the prices of the kitchen staple like onions but buy

pizza and mutton.

Patil, the BJP MP from the Bhiwandi constituency in the Thane district, quickly added that nobody will support inflation and a rise in prices of essential commodities.

"Only prime minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah can achieve certain things for the country. PM Modi should continue to lead this country as he has taken bold decisions like (bringing) CAA, abrogating sections 370 and 35 A etc. I feel, possibly, Pak Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will come

back to India by 2024," he said while delivering a memorial lecture.

Patil said that people can afford to buy mutton for Rs 700, pizza for Rs 500-600, "but buying onions for Rs 10 and tomatoes for Rs 40 is costly for us".

"Nobody will support rice in prices. But Narendra Modi has not become the prime minister to bring down the prices of onions and potatoes. If you understand the reason behind the rise in prices of these commodities you will not blame him (Modi)," he said.

### MAUNI AMAVASYA

## Authorities expect 1 crore devotees to take holy dip

Prayagraj, Jan 30 (PTI): Amid the coronavirus pandemic, authorities in Uttar Pradesh expect one crore devotees to take a holy dip in the Ganga and the Sangam here on Mauni Amavasya Monday. Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, who reviewed the preparation for the event, said Mauni Amavasya is a very important festival of Magh Mela and people from across the country come here to take a holy dip in the river.

"On Monday one crore people are expected to take bath," Mishra said, adding he was satisfied with the arrangements made there for devotees. The chief secretary said he himself took a bath on Sunday in the Ganga and found that the river flow and the water is "good".

### TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA



Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais and CM Hemant Soren pay tribute to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 74th death anniversary at Tiril Ashram, in Ranchi, Sunday.

## 'Farmers to observe 'Betrayal Day' today'

Rakesh Tikait slams govt

Noida, Jan 30 (PTI):

Alleging betrayal by the Centre, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday announced a country-wide observance of "Betrayal Day" on Monday over farm issues.

The national spokesperson of the influential north Indian farmers' union claimed the over-a-year-long protest at Delhi's borders was withdrawn on the basis of a letter of promises by the government on December 9 but those promises have not been fulfilled, Tikait, whose BKU is a part of the SKM, said in a tweet in Hindi.

"A nation-wide 'Betrayal Day' will be observed on January 31 because of government's betrayal to farmers. The movement was suspended on the basis of a letter given by the government on December 9 but those promises have not been fulfilled, Tikait, whose BKU is a part of the SKM, said in a tweet in Hindi.

The protest on Delhi's borders had started under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, a farmers' collective, in November 2020 over the main demands of withdrawal of three contentious farm laws that were introduced by the BJP-led Centre.

## Hindu Mahasabha pays tribute to Nathuram Godse

Confers 'Bharat Ratna' on Kalicharan held for remarks against Mahatma

Bhopal/Gwalior, Jan 30 (PTI):

On a day the nation observed Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, the Hindu Mahasabha on Sunday paid tribute to his assassin Nathuram Godse and a co-accused in the Gandhi murder trial, Narayan Apte, in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior by observing "Godse-Apte Smriti Diwas".

The right-wing organisation also bestowed Godse-Apte Bharat Ratna in Gwalior upon jailed religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj, who was arrested

last December for allegedly making derogatory remarks against the Mahatma during a Dharma Sansad held in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, and four leaders of the Mahasabha.

We performed 'aarti' of Bharat Mata with a resolve to integrate India with Pakistan to make it 'Akhand Bharat'. We are observing January 30 as the 'Godse Apte Smriti Diwas' day to express our anger over their arrest on January 30, 1948, Hindu Mahasabha's national vice president Jaiveer

Bharadwaj told PTI over the phone from Gwalior.

The country on Sunday paid tribute to the Father of the Nation on his 74th death anniversary.

Bharadwaj said the Mahasabha has honoured Kalicharan Maharaj and four leaders of Hindu Mahasabha with the Godse-Apte Bharat Ratna in Gwalior. "Since Kalicharan Maharaj is in jail, the honour was received by Pramod Lohpatre on his behalf," Bharadwaj said.

He blamed Mahatma Gandhi for the partition of

India in 1947, which he said led to the killing and displacement of lakhs of Hindus. Talking to reporters after attending the programme in Mahasabha's office in the Daulatganj area of Gwalior, Bharadwaj claimed the Hindu Mahasabha had made a huge contribution to the freedom struggle.

People should not be misled into believing that India got independence due to charkha (spinning wheel popularised by Mahatma Gandhi), he said.

## Will Gangotri constituency maintain its bellwether status?

Dehradun, Jan 30 (PTI):

The Ganga originates in Gangotri, and so does the road to government formation in Uttarakhand, it seems. According to a widely held notion associated with successive assembly polls, whichever party wins the Gangotri constituency in Uttarakhand forms the government in the hill state.

As Uttarakhand prepares to go to the polls on February 14, the constituency is once again in focus, but this time it is witnessing a triangular contest with the fledgling AAP is in the fray, which, according to analysts, could put to test Gangotri's status as a bellwether seat.

BJP's Suresh Chauhan is

pitted against the Congress's Vijaypal Singh Sajwan in Gangotri and AAP's chief ministerial candidate Col Ajay Kothiyal.

During the counting of votes in the 2017 assembly polls also, there was immense interest in the result of Gangotri seat and after the victory of BJP candidate Gopal Singh Rawat, the party came to power under the leadership of Trivendra Singh Rawat with a huge mandate of 57 seats out of 70.

Gopal Singh Rawat died after a prolonged illness last year and the seat was vacant since then. Chauhan exuded confidence that people will once again give their blessings to the BJP not only in Gangotri but throughout the state.

LOVED IN

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE INDIAN

## POWER INTO THE NEW YEAR

ATTRACTIVE DOWN PAYMENT

# ₹14,306/-\*

150 Twin Disc

NS160

Offer also available on Pulsar NS200, 150 Single Disc and 150 Neon.

Scan the code. Visit: [www.bajajauto.com/PulsarLDPScheme](http://www.bajajauto.com/PulsarLDPScheme)

Cashback up to ₹5,000/#

#Terms and conditions apply. Offer available on select models in select regions. \*Down payment for Pulsar 150 Neon variant. DP is excluding DCC charges, processing fees & other charges. Finance at sole discretion of the financier. Bajaj Auto reserves the right to withdraw any or all offers without prior notice. Bank of Baroda and Federal Bank offers are valid till 31st January 2022 and 31st March 2022 respectively. Stunts have been performed by experts, under professional supervision, in a controlled and enclosed environment, in isolation from general public or public roads. Please do not attempt to replicate these stunts and follow traffic and safety rules at all times.

72198 21111 | BAJAJ FINANCE LTD - AF | Pine Labs PAY LATER | Bank of Baroda Credit Card | FEDERAL BANK YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

Authorised Dealers For Bajaj Auto Ltd.: Bilaspur: Naya Sarkanda KHANDELWAL BAJAJ 255222, 916555222 • Tifra Over bridge TRIPUR BAJAJ 400444, 9752133444 • Mungeli : KHANDELWAL BAJAJ 9399021705 • Ambikapur LAXMI BAJAJ 231501,9074816511 • Janjgir SHREE SALASAR BAJAJ 222031 • Korba TIRUPATI BAJAJ 6232103042, 247358 • Dipka TIRUPATI BAJAJ 8817028335 • Raigarh JINDAL BAJAJ 9589905646,7067109202 • Jashpur JINDAL BAJAJ 8817775566, Baikunthpur KOREA BAJAJ 7089904408. Authorised Service Centre: Akaltara 9300672917, Bagicha 8889105139, Bagbahara 9340462499, Baloda 9926165736, Baramkela 9329337258, Balrampur 9165822400, Baradwar 9131988365, Batouli 8817294969, Bilaspur 07752-419333, Bhaiyathan 8717818700, Bishrampur 9753433607, Chakarbhata 7694008680, Chirimiri 9425584019, Churcha 7828109004, Jaijapur9098505388, Jarhi 8959616468, Kansabel 9993641010, Katghora 9981527526, Kharsia 7771078078, Kota 9424158177, Kusmunda 8516960508, Lailunga 9424187790, Lormi 9399021708, Manendragarh 9893808250, Nawagarh 9981550386, Pali 7489606177, 9575370010, Patna 9993909123, Pathalgaon 9424180227, Pendra 8109692873, Pratappur 7509007575, Pussore 9993222334, Pathariya 7987188192, Rahod 9926909427, Rajpur 9977088236, Ramanujganj 9977907755, Ratanpur 939998235, Sakri 9770897261, Salar 9406353103, Sargaon 8462900208, Shakti 9300373738, Saranggarh 9300566800, Seepat 07752-265056, Surajpur 9926817087, Takhatpur 741555388, Urga 7773000774, Seorinarayan-9926907321, Sitapur 7987424880, Wadrafanagar 750900664.