

BRIEF



A Covid-19 infected patient rests on his bed inside a Covid care centre of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) village, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Suicide

Shahjahanpur: A 30-year-old differently abled technical assistant working in agriculture department here allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his official residence, police said on Tuesday. Praveen Kumar Tomar (30) was not coming to office since December 31 and when his colleagues went to his residence in the office campus on Monday, they found the door locked from inside, said Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar.

Bill passed

New Delhi: The Delhi Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill for setting up a world-class teachers' training university that would offer programmes such as BA-Bed and BSc-BEd. The Delhi Teachers' University Bill was introduced in the House on Monday by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who also holds the education portfolio. During a discussion on the Bill, he said the university will set a benchmark in teachers' training and enhance the quality of education.

Mishap

Phulbani: Three people were killed and six others were injured when the car they were travelling in fell into a ditch in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Tuesday, police said. The driver lost control over the SUV and it fell into a ditch at Karada Ghat in Raikia police station area when the group was travelling to Dantlingi in Ganjam district for a picnic, an officer said.

Weather
High 26 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,805.25
SENSEX 59,855.99

BULLION
GOLD 47,884
SILVER 62,152

HIGH POSITIVITY RATE

Public events banned, night clamp-down

Schools, Anganwadi centres closed

Raipur, Jan 04 (PTD):

In view of the rise in coronavirus infections in Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday ordered a ban on rallies, processions and other kind of public events across the state, an official release said here.

Baghel also ordered a "night clamp-down" from 10 pm to 6 am in the districts where the case positivity rate is 4 per cent and above, it added. The directives to district collectors and superintendents of police

RT-PCR test mandatory...

RT-PCR test has been made mandatory for all passengers arriving at airports in Chhattisgarh from other states, while people who have taken both doses of COVID-19 vaccines will have to submit a negative RT-PCR test report no older than 72 hours from the date of travel.

Alert in districts with positivity rate over 4%

In the districts that have a positivity rate of over 4 per cent, gyms, cinema halls, theatres, hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, auditoriums and wedding venues will cease to function.

(SPs) were issued in the light of a sharp spike in COVID-19 cases in the last one week, the release said. The state recorded 1,782 new cases of coronavirus in the last one week. On Monday alone, 688 fresh in-

fections were reported. The chief minister has instructed collectors and SPs to ensure compliance of all possible measures to contain the transmission of coronavirus, stating that the objective is to limit the risk of

35 students of SAGEMS test positive

Koriya: There are reports that 35 students of Swamy Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) have been tested corona positive and this has created panic among the teachers and their parents. The health department has become active and treatment of all has been started.

Four IPS officers and a senior IAS found corona positive

Raipur: Four senior IPS officers (IPS) have been tested positive from the Police headquarters in Raipur and this includes IG Sanjeev Shukla, two DIGs viz. Vineet Khanna and Rajesh Agrawal and one female IPS officer. Corona blast in the state police headquarters has created panic among other IPS officers and employees posted in the police Hq's and more suspects are likely to be discovered as the officials have asked their subordinates who come in their contact to get the testing done. The Police Hq's has recently conducted conventional new year gathering.

spread of the infection and not to slow down economic activities, the statement issued by the Public Relations department said. *(More News on Pg 03)*

Couple injured in elephant attack

Korba, Jan 04:

A couple was seriously injured in an attack by a wild elephant in Korba district on Tuesday, a forest official said.

The incident took place in the wee hours when the victims, identified as Khulsai Uraon (45) and his wife Hirmatiya Bai (40), were sleeping in their hut on the outskirts of Pondikala village under Katghora forest division, he said.

One of the three elephants roaming in the area reached there and before the couple could escape, the tusker caught hold of them by its trunk

About the incident

The incident took place in the wee hours when the victims, identified as Khulsai Uraon (45) and his wife Hirmatiya Bai (40), were sleeping in their hut on the outskirts of Pondikala village under Katghora forest division. One of the three elephants roaming in the area reached there and before the couple could escape, the tusker caught hold of them by its trunk and smashed them on the ground, leaving them seriously injured.

and smashed them on the ground, leaving them seriously injured, the official said. The jumbo then moved away from the spot, he said.

Delhi logs 5,481 fresh Covid cases; positivity rate 8.37%

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD):

Delhi reported 5,481 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, the highest number of such cases since May 16, with a positivity rate of 8.37 per cent, and three more fatalities due to the viral disease, according to data shared by the city health department. The national capital had recorded 6,456 fresh COVID-19 cases and 262 fatalities on May 16, while the case positivity rate stood at 10.4 per cent. Tuesday's positivity rate is the highest since May 17, when it stood at 8.42 per cent.

Mumbai logs 10,860 cases

Mumbai: Mumbai reported 10,860 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, up 34.37 per cent from a day ago and highest daily count since April 7, 2021, while two more patients succumbed to the infection, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. With these additions, Mumbai's tally of coronavirus cases jumped to 8,18,462, while the death toll increased to 16,381, said the BMC in a bulletin. On Monday, the city had recorded 8,082 COVID-19 cases and the latest daily tally showed an increase of 2,778, or 34.37 per cent.

PM inaugurates, lays foundation stones for multiple projects

Imphal, Jan 04 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated 13 developmental projects valued at Rs 1858 crore and laid foundation stones for nine more infrastructure projects worth Rs 2957 crore in Manipur.

The projects deal with road infrastructure, urban development, drinking water supply, health, housing, skill development, Information Technology and art and culture, officials said. Speaking of the Barak Bridge built along



National Highway-37, which was also inaugurated, Modi said the steel bridge will provide better connectivity.

Built at Rs 75 crore, the bridge is set to ease traffic movement between

Manipur capital Imphal and Assam's Silchar.

Foundation stones for five national highway projects to be built at a cost of over Rs 1700 crore was also laid by the prime minister.

Three of the projects inaugurated will provide drinking water to Imphal, Tamenglong and Senapati districts.

Modi said, "Safe and clean drinking water would be made available to the people" through these projects.

Three projects under Imphal Smart Mission were also inaugurated.

FATAL MISHAP

Minor girl dies as part of school's washroom wall falls on her

Bilaspur, Jan 04:

A seven-year-old girl died on Tuesday when a portion of her school's washroom wall collapsed on her in Bilaspur city, police said.

The deceased girl was a student of class 2 of a private school in the Gitanjali City Phase-2 area under the Sarkanda police station limits. A portion of the partition wall collapsed around noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school. Teachers in the school rushed the girl to the CIMS Hospital in the city where doctors declared her dead.

About the incident

The deceased girl was a student of class 2 of a private school in the Gitanjali City Phase-2 area under the Sarkanda police station limits. A portion of the partition wall collapsed around noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school. Teachers in the school rushed the girl to the CIMS Hospital in the city where doctors declared her dead.

noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school, the SHO said.

INDIAN ARMY WITH NAT'L FLAG



Indian Army soldiers pose for a photograph with the national flag on the occasion of New Year 2022, at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, Tuesday.

Gaganyaan Crew Module to have two landing choices Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 04 (PTD):

As the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is going at full throttle for Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned space mission scheduled for launch in 2023, interesting details of the Crew Module (CM), including the landing choices, Crew Escape system, and survival packets for each crew member, have emerged.

The CM would be splashing down near the Indian coast in 2023 after the week-long mission, and the Arabian Sea, which is comparatively calmer, is the primary choice, but Bay of Bengal is also being considered as a backup option, writes Dr Unnikrishnan Nair S, Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), ISRO, Bengaluru, in an article. The article 'Indian Human Space Mission' appears in the Manorama Yearbook 2022. The HSFC was set up by the ISRO in Bengaluru in 2019 for sustained and affordable human space flight activities and Gaganyaan is the first project. The test flight to validate the performance of Crew Escape System and the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan have been scheduled at the beginning of the second half of 2022.

SII CLAIM

'Over 100 cr Covishield doses given in India, abroad testimony of its safety, efficacy'

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD):

Over 100 crore Covishield doses have been given in India and abroad which is a testimony of its safety and efficacy, Serum Institute has informed the DCGI which had sought more data for granting full marketing approval to the Covid vaccine, official sources said on Tuesday. Covishield is currently authorized for emergency use in the country. Serum

Institute of India (SII), on October 25, had applied to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking regular market authorization for the vaccine. The drug regulator in December sought more data and documents for it. Following this, Prakash Kumar Singh, the Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at SII, recently submitted a response along with more data and information.

AIG HOSPITAL STUDY

'Covaxin, Covishield mix and match 4 times more effective'

New Delhi, Jan 04:

Mixing of COVID-19 vaccines Covaxin and Covishield as first and second doses or vice versa was found to be four times effective, a study by city-based AIG Hospitals along with a team of researchers from the Asian Healthcare Foundation has said.

The study was conducted to determine the safety profile of mixing Covishield and Covaxin along with checking the antibody response, a press release from AIG said on Monday. The

most important finding of the study was that the Spike-protein neutralising antibodies found in the mixed vaccine groups were significantly higher than the same-vaccine groups, D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals said. "Spike-protein neutralizing antibodies are the ones which kill the virus and reduce the overall infectivity. We found that when the first and second dose are of different vaccines, the Spike-protein antibody response is four times higher compared to

two-dose of same vaccine," Dr Reddy who is also among the researchers involved in the study said.

The findings are particularly important when considering administering third booster dose aiming to elicit robust antibody response and help in killing the virus, he said. Mixed doses can certainly boost these Spike-protein neutralising antibodies and will enhance the vaccines' effectiveness even against the Omicron variant, Reddy added. The study results show that mixing of

COVID-19 Vaccines (Covishield and Covaxin) provide higher antibody response and is safe as well.

Furthermore, AIG Hospitals has shared the data from the study with the ICMR (Indian Council for Medical Research) to be considered as a reference study while deciding on the 'Prevention' doses starting January 10. A total of 330 healthy volunteers who were not vaccinated and had no history of COVID-19 infection were selected and screened for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies for the study.

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- 2 Open a DEMAT account (if you do not have one)**

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CDSL:
<https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=18>

You must provide the following to the DP to open your DEMAT account:

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- PAN Card
- Address proof
- Cancelled cheque

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Amid surge in Covid case, restrictions re-imposed in Durg

Bhilai, Jan 04:

Amid surge in coronavirus cases, the administration has re-imposed restrictions in Durg District. The number of daily new cases has reached double-digit in the past few days. Considering the situation, the state government has issued orders for imposing restrictions in districts where the positivity rate has touched the figure of four percent. Though the positivity rate in Durg is below this percentage, as a precautionary measure, certain restrictions have been imposed to control the spread of infection.

According to the orders issued by District Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, certain restrictions have been imposed on public activities and travelling of common people. Considering the rising cases of Covid 19 and its new variant Omicron, the District Collector has imposed restrictions under Section



141 (1) of CrPC, Epidemic Act 1897 and Disaster Management Act 2005.

All the public events, rallies, social / cultural / religious and sports events and gathering of people have been banned within the limits of Durg District. All the malls, Wholesale Shops, Gym, Cinema Theatres, Parks, Hotels, Restaurants, Swimming Pools, Auditoriums, Marriage Palaces, halls and other venues will operate with one third capacity. All the travellers arriving at railway stations will have to produce Covid Test / RTPCR negative test reports conducted 72 hours

before arrival. Else, samples of such passengers will be collected at the Railway Stations and they will have to stay in quarantine till arrival of negative report. All the Station Masters have been instructed to allow entry / exit from railway stations from one single gate so that the arrangements of sampling can be made.

Arrangements of random testing will be made at the district borders for testing the passengers arriving from other states. The people arriving from foreign countries will have to inform their nearest Health Centres, District Control Room and Office of Chief Medical and Health Officer as well as strictly follow the covid guidelines. Instructions have been given to promote meetings through video conferencing. All the shopkeepers and customers will have to wear masks during commercial activities. In case of violation, the civic body and police department will take plenary action.

BMC Commissioner takes review meeting for preparedness to prevent Covid-19

Bhilai, Jan 04:

Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve on Tuesday called a meeting to check preparedness for prevention of Covid-19. He said that effective work should be done for the prevention of Covid and to be prepared to deal with it at every level. As soon as the list of positive patients is received, paste stickers in homes with home isolation and provide medicines immediately. Apart from this, Bhilai Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve reviewed the departmental works. He said that all the zone commissioners should inspect their respective areas continuously, the pace of development works should not slow down and if progress is not seen then strict action will be taken, work on mission mode to speed up the development works. Cleanliness system, prevention of water-borne diseases, clean



drinking water, electricity and basic problems should be solved quickly. He discussed in detail with each zone commissioner the major works going on in their zone area. He said that work with a target, fix the deadline for every work, complete the works soon. Regarding the yet to be started works, he said that many works have not

been started yet and those should be started soon. He also queried about the reasons why the work could not be begun. He also reviewed the progress of work related to announcement of Chief Minister, EWS land, Patta distribution works, Jan Choupal, PGN, Jandarshan, 14th and 15th Finance Commission, MP Fund,

MLA Fund, works not receiving NOC from BSP, Gothan, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Pension, Prevention of water-borne diseases and dengue control, Mobile Medical Unit, Shri Dhanwantri Medical Store, Water ATM, Amrit Mission, Encroachment, Health, Revenue, English Medium School, Entry of Poor, Weak Income and

Other Backward Classes and subjects like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana also. In the review meeting, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Superintending Engineer UK Dhulendra, Superintending Engineer-in-Charge Deepak Kumar Joshi, Nehru Nagar Zone Commissioner Manish Gaikwad, Vaishali Nagar Zone Commissioner Pooja Pillay, Mother Teresa Nagar Zone Commissioner Aisa Lehare, BSP Zone Zone Commissioner Preeti Singh and Shivaji Nagar Zone Commissioner Amitabh Sharma, Health Officer Dharmendra Mishra, Building Permission Officer Himanshu Deshmukh, Officer in-charge of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Vinita Verma, Executive Engineer DK Verma, Sanjay Bagde, Sanjay Sharma, Executive Engineer in-charge Sunil Dubey and Kuldeep Gupta and Rita Chaturvedi were present along with others.

Khushi selected for international global conference HPAIR



Bhilai, Jan 04:

Shankaracharya Technical Campus Bhilai has proudly announced about another gem added into their treasure as one of the students Khushi Gupta currently enrolled in 5th semester of B-Tech in computer science department has successfully received a Letter of acceptance from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the 2022 HPAIR Harvard Conference. Harvard University starting from February 18 to 21, 2022 at USA. Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) is biggest global conference of Harvard University addresses global issues. For over 30 years, HPAIR's mission has been to connect the global leaders of today with the leaders of tomorrow in a dynamic forum of exchange. They bring together students and young profes-

sionals from around the world to engage and learn from government leaders, business executives, social sector pioneers, celebrities, and leading academics. HPAIR's team thoroughly reviews each written application and considers every interview with great care, only accepting those delegates who show the greatest promise and potential, and who they think will bring about the greatest contributions at their HPAIR Harvard Conference 2022 (HCONF). Based on Khushi's previous experiences, her merit, talent and passion, they invited her for sharing unique ideas with fellow delegates from around the world at HCONF 2022. Being selected as one of the delegates for this International global conference Khushi will not only be representing her college but proudly representing her country as well. Dr Siddhartha Choubey the mentor behind this success, the HOD Dr Samta Gajabhiye, Chairman of Shri Gangajali Education Society IP Mishra, President Jaya Mishra, Director Dr PB Deshmukh, have extended their best wishes for the event also, they wish her great success for future endeavours.

Shraddha Smriti achieves excellent CAT score from Bhilai

Bhilai, Jan 04:

Shraddha Smriti, daughter of Shaliendra Kumar from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has scored a percentile of 99.61 in CAT 2021. Smriti has made Bhilais proud by proving once again that students from Bhilai score excellent marks in competitive exams and get admitted to prestigious institutes like IIM and IIT every year. She did her schooling from Delhi Public School, Bhilai. An Electrical and Electronics



engineer from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Surathkal, she graduated in May 2021. Smriti is working in an AI based

software company headquartered in Singapore for the last six months. She started her preparation in August 2021. She managed to score so well in CAT 2021 despite her constraint of being able to concentrate on her CAT preparations over weekends as she was working during the remaining days of the week.

Her father Shaliendra Kumar is working as Senior TA in Director I/c Secretariat, Bhilai Steel Plant. Her mother Rakhi Kumar is a homemaker.

SP 3 and BF 8 create individual records in BSP during April-December 2021 period



Bhilai, Jan 04: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant concluded the first three quarters of current fiscal year 2021-22 with Sinter Plant 3 and Blast Furnace 8 creating new

records for the April to December 2021 period with best ever performances. Total sinter production from April to December 2021 at Sinter Plant 3 (SP 3) was

38,18,919 T, surpassing previous best of 35,86,064 T in April to December period of fiscal 2019-20. Blast Furnace 8 (BF 8) recorded its highest hot metal production of 19,02,780 T during the period, surpassing previous best of 18,02,037 T recorded in corresponding period of last fiscal 2020-21. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and other senior officials congratulated both SP 3 and BF 8 and associated departments for putting up an excellent performance in April to December 2021 period.

Chaoji elected President of Jayesth Nagrik Manch



Bhilai, Jan 04:

After the election of the Executive Council of Jayestha Nagrik Manch, Nehru Nagar, the office bearers were nominated on the basis of the number of votes. Girish Chaoji was elected President of the Jayesth Nagrik Manch.

It needs to be mentioned here that on January 02, elections were held in Siyan Sadan Nehru Nagar through secret ballot. For the first time, a large number of industrialists, academicians and senior citizens of the locality exercised their franchise. Renowned industrialists

Arvind Jain, Netram Agarwal and others too waited in queue to cast their votes. Out of a total of 470 voters, 319 cast their votes for electing 14 office bearers. During counting, 14 votes were declared invalid. Voter turnout was 68 percent. Girish Chaoji got 217 votes, RB Gupta got 197, Sunil Mishra got 165, Pradeep Gupta got 160, AK Parti got 159, Yatindra got 156, SN Modi got 147, IM Jain got 144, NK Dheer got 141, RN Agarwal got 137, RC Singh got 126, NG Srivastava got 122, Brijesh Gupta got 121 and Vivek Bhagwat got 119 votes. On the basis of the votes received, the office bearers

were selected on Monday. Girish Chaoji was selected as President, Working President - RC Singh, Vice President-1 Rambabu Gupta, Vice President-2 NK Dheer, Secretary - Yatindra, Treasurer - PK Gupta, Joint Treasurer - Brijesh Gupta, Joint Secretary-1 Vivek V Bhagwat and Joint Secretary-2 RN Agarwal. Sunil Mishra, AK Parti, IM Jain, SN Modi and NG Srivastava have been included in the working committee. SK Gupta has been given the responsibility of ex-officio. All the members have congratulated the newly elected office bearers.

Awaken the youth power and redirect it towards nation building: Dr Chinmay Pandya



Bhilai, Jan 04:

There is a need to recognize the present day problems and awaken the youth power to work in a positive direction. The youth must realise the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the nation and awaken their souls. The enlightened youth can only play a leading role in nation building, said Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Chinmay Pandya while addressing the Yuva Utkarsh programme here at Aditya Nagar on Tuesday. He said that there is a need to revolutionise the thoughts of the youth and redirect them towards positive direction.

Narrating the life stories of Swami Vivekananda, he explained the philosophy of life, religion, spirituality, Indian culture, and Sanatan Dharma. He said that youth should consider Swami Vivekananda as their ideal and try to present the solution instead of raising problems. Gayatri Parivar is constantly striving to redirect the power of youth and engage it in nation building. He also narrated the story of Rishi Dadhichi who donated his bones for the welfare of the world. Dr Chinmay said that with the strength of youth power, our national will again acquire the position of Vishwaguru. He urged the youth for not



wasting the precious human life to addictions and ills. Abandoning laziness, engage yourself in good deeds and awaken the deity within you. Explaining the significance of Gayatri Mantra, he said that it is the only mantra which can transform the entire humanity. It needs to be mentioned here that Dr Chinmay Pandya is grandson of Pt Shriram Sharma Acharya, who was the founder of All World Gayatri Pariwar fraternity, which has 100 million members and thousands of global centers for social reform. Dr Chinmay currently serves as Pro Vice Chancellor of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya

(DSVV). Following medical studies in India, he trained in the United Kingdom, where he gained Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (MRCPsych). In London, he rose through the ranks of the British National Health Service and secured the post of Associate Specialist in Older People Services at the West London Mental Health Trust. He returned to India and DSVV in 2010, heeding an inner calling. He is Editor of the Dev Sanskriti, an interdisciplinary International Journal that addresses a broad range of Indian intellectual interests including Vedic phi-

losophy, culture, psychology, communication, education, Ayurveda, Indian and Eastern studies and religious pedagogies. He is Chairperson of the International Festival of Yoga, Culture and Spirituality. Dr Pandya also serves on the Governing Body of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR); is a member of the Advisory Council of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH); is part of the Syllabus Restructuring Committee of the National Council for Teachers' Education (NCTE); and is one of five



institutional leaders from around world, including those from the University of Cambridge, and the University of Virginia, to be a Director of the Global Covenant of Religions (GCR). He is also invited as an expert in the list of Yoga Experts furnished by the World Health Organization (WHO). He is also a member of the selection committee for the Templeton Award, the most prestigious international honour in the field of spirituality. At the outset, the programme began with offering prayers and lighting lamps at the portraits of Maa Gayatri, Param Pujya Gurudev and

Param Vandaniya Mataji. Youth Utkarsh programme was organised by the All World Gayatri Parivar's Divya Bharat Yuva Sangh (DIYA) to commemorate the 159th birth anniversary year of Swami Vivekananda. Zone Coordinator Sukdev Nirmalkar, Dilip Panigrahi, Deputy Zone Coordinator SP Singh, Chhattisgarh DIYA in-charge Dr PL Sao, Dr Yogendra Kumar Sahu, Saurabh Kant Sahu, Dhiraj Tank, Vasudev Sharma and representatives from Shantikunj Haridwar were present on the dais. Earlier, Prithvipal Sahu, Girdhari Lal Sahu, Mahendra

Verma, BL Verma, Tekram Sahu gave a musical presentation. Later, Dr Pandya honoured the office bearers, members and youth engaged in various constructive works and social services. Dr PL Sao, Dr YK Sahu, Yugal Kishore Sahu, Saurabh Kant, Anita Sao, Preeti Sahu Anjana Sahu, Kantilal Sahu, Ramswaroop Sahu, Mohan Umre, Dharendra Sahu, Girdhari Lal Sahu, Prithvipal Sahu, Mahendra Verma, Bhubendra Meshram, Anandi Sinha, Akhilesh Hirwani and all the members of Gayatri Parivar and DIYA Group were present.

Take all measures to prevent spread of Covid-19 infection: CM

Directs all the Collectors and SPs

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: In view of the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel has directed all the Collectors and Superintendents of Police to take every possible measure to strictly implement the COVID-19 prevention guideline. Chief Minister has said that our main objective is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection and to limit the risk related to the same, not to slow down the economic activities.

As per the guidelines issues in the context, collectors and superintendents of police have been directed to impose night clamp down from 10 pm to 6 am and to strictly prohibit the non-commercial activities in the districts with the positivity rate of 4 percent or more. Likewise, in such districts, actions should be taken as per the provisions of Section 144 and Epidemic Act and all the schools, aanganbadi centers, libraries, swimming pools and similar public places should be closed. In the districts where positivity rate has been consistent-



ly below 4% in last 7 days, Collectors can implement the provisions of other district. Instructions have been given to ban all kinds of processions, rallies, public gatherings, social, cultural, religious and sports events in all the districts. Where necessary, action should be taken under the provisions of Section 144 and Epidemic Act.

All the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police have been directed to organize meetings with private doctors, private hospitals, NGOs, media representatives to discuss the control and prevention of COVID-19 infection in the state. Measures being taken to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection should be ensured publicized through in local media, and the fake negative news should be strictly prohibited. Instructions have been given to randomly conduct

- Ban on all kinds of processions, rallies, public gatherings, social, cultural and sports events should be imposed in every district

- In districts with positivity rate of 4% or more, all the schools, Anganbadi centres, libraries, swimming pools and public places should be closed: night clamp down from 10 pm to 6 am should be implemented*

- Strictly enforce the COVID protocol: use of masks in public places, crowded markets and shops should be ensured to prevent the infection

- RTPCR test should be made mandatory at all airports

- Instructions for random testing for COVID-19 infection in all the railway stations and border areas of the state

COVID test in all the railway stations and border areas of the state. Chief Minister has also

- Create micro and mini containment zones as required

- For patients in home isolation, 24x7 call centers should be operated

- Meetings with private doctors, private hospitals, NGOs, media representatives should be held to discuss the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19

- Instructions for daily reporting of hospital beds, stock of medicines, PSA plants and availability of oxygen

- Instructions given to shut down malls, cinemas, swimming pools, marriage palaces, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums in places with four percent or more positive rate and to operate these places at one-third capacity in other districts

directed the district administration to create micro or mini containment zones and to conduct tracing and

tracking, where necessary, to prevent COVID-19 infection. Call centers should be operated 24x7 for the COVID patients in home isolation. The status of infection should be monitored through Mitran in rural areas. He has also directed the district administration to report the availability of hospital beds, stock of medicines, PSA plants and oxygen everyday. He has also directed the district administration to ensure that the realtime information about the availability of beds in all government and private hospitals is made available online, as it was done during the last two waves of Corona. Chief Minister encouraged NGOs and private organizations to cooperate and donate necessary goods for COVID control measures.

Chief Minister has directed the district administration to strictly implement the use of masks in public places, crowded markets and shops. People found not wearing masks properly should be penalized through police and municipal staff. Chief Minister has asked the government officials, employees not to travel by air or rail unless absolutely necessary, to organize meetings through video conferencing.

ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY



Engagement ceremony of Chaityanya Baghel, S/o CM Bhupesh Baghel, was held in a private hotel amidst presence of close family member and guests here on Tuesday.

Two Containment Zones created in GEC Campus located in Sejbahar

80 people and students found infected with Corona virus

Raipur, Jan 03: Two Containment Zones have been created in GEC Campus at Sejbahar of IIT Bhubaneswar after 80 students and staff were found infected with Corona virus. The affected people are being treated here by the Health Department and other staff and students are also being examined.

Covid vaccination of children in age group of 15-18 in 189 educational institutions

In Raipur district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: Covid-19 vaccination of children in the age group of 15 years to 18 years has been started in Raipur district from January 3. Under this, vaccination session is being organized till January 9 in total 189 educational institutions, schools, colleges and ITIs in urban and rural areas of the district.

Collector Raipur, Sourabh Kumar has given instructions to the concerned departments and officers to put computer operators and teachers of these institutes on duty at the vaccination session site so that counseling of children and parents can be done and vaccination sessions can be conducted in a systematic manner with compliance of Covid protocol. Covaxin is being administered to the children.

Protection is safety: strict adherence to covid friendly behaviour: CM



Chief Minister flagged off two ambulances

Raipur, Jan 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off two number ambulances equipped with all facilities and equipment from his residence of

fice premises in Raipur. Out of the two ambulances provided by Goyal Group of Industries under its social responsibility, one ambulance has been supplied to Upadhyay Hospital Raipur and one ambulance has been supplied to the Community Health Center Bhanupratappur under North Bastar (Kanker) dis-

trict. Ambulances will be used by both the hospitals for the convenience of the people in their vicinity.

Chief Minister Baghel appreciated the cooperation provided by Goyal Group of Industries and said that it is a noble work. With this, other social organizations will also come forward inspired to coop-

erate with the government. He said that protection is security. In view of this, it is necessary for us to strictly follow the covid friendly behaviour to avoid the third wave of corona epidemic in the present era. He said that the corona has once again started spreading rapidly in a new form. If we all together do not prevent it in its early stages, then the spread of this disease will increase manifold. Therefore it is necessary that we immediately start using safety standards, precautions and all other necessary measures. Women and Child Development Minister Mrs. Anila Bhediya, Rajya Sabha MP Mrs. Chhaya Verma and Chairman of Goyal Group of Industries Mr. Suresh Goyal, Managing Director Mr. Narendra Goyal, Director of Upadhyay Hospital Raipur Mr. Shailendra Upadhyay etc. were present on this occasion.

INC's Nandlal Devangan elected BMC Mayor

Kriparam Nishad elected Speaker

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: Nandlal Devangan of Indian National Congress (INC)

Nishad of INC to the post of Speaker in Birgaon Municipal Corporation (BMC). The election was held at a meeting held in Birgaon Municipal Corporation office here today. Prior to this, Collector



Ikram Ahmed's supporters tear INC's flag



On his being denied post of Speaker even after assurance

Raipur: In the political development on administration oath and election of Mayor and Speaker BMC, another development has come to fore and in this the probable candidate for the post of

Speaker Ikram Ahmed created lot of scene at BMC office and during this his supporters and well-wishers torn off and put the Congress flag below their feet and raised slogans in protest against MLA Satyanarayan Sharma and Pankaj Sharma. The entire incident took place as Ikram Ahmed was earlier given assurances to be appointed as Speaker and later was denied at the last moment. During this protest, the supporters of Ikram tear down the poster of Pankaj Sharma in ward No. 28 of BMC.

was elected to the post of Mayor and Kriparam cum Presiding Authority Sourabh Kumar adminis-

DRO administers oath to newly elected corporators of BMC

Raipur: Collector and District Returning Officer, Sourabh Kumar administered the oath to the newly elected corporators of Birgaon Municipal Corporation today in the meeting room of Municipal Corporation. Deputy District Election Officer U S Agrawal and Municipal Commissioner Shrikant Verma were also present.

tered oath to the newly elected corporators and took action for the elec-

tion of Mayor and Speaker. Nandlal Devangan of Indian National Congress got 25 votes and Pati Ram Sahu of Bharatiya Janata Party got 15 votes in the voting for the post of Mayor.

In the voting for the post of Speaker, Kriparam Nishad of Indian National Congress got 26 votes and Awaj Devangan of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) got 14 votes.

Appeal committee was also elected on this occasion. Deputy District Returning Officer U S Agrawal and Municipal Commissioner Shrikant Verma were also present.

Excise department took strict action against illegal liquor sellers

548 bulk liters of illegal liquor seized

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: As per the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, necessary action is being taken continuously to check the sale of illicit liquor in the state.

Under the guidance of Excise Minister Kawasi Lakhma, on 03 January 2022, the State Level Flying Squad of Excise Department, Raipur Divisional Flying Squad Division - Raipur Division, Durg Division and Bilaspur Division and District Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur team of Excise Executive Officers conducted surprise check in 12 hotel bars, 13 dhabas located in Raipur district.

On the instructions of Secretary and Excise Commissioner Mr. Niranjan Das, raids were



conducted on January 03 by the officers and employees of the Excise Department in the country and foreign liquor shops of all the districts of the state. On the basis of information by District Balodabazar Bhatapara staff, on January 04, 2022, 50-50 pieces of 50 cartons in Bolero D.I. vehicle Reg. no. CG05-AJ-1397 a total of 2500 liters of foreign liquor manufactured in the state of Goa, Madhya Pradesh and labeled as valid for sale were seized

and a total quantity of 450 bulk liters illegally confiscated in the rear trolley of the vehicle were seized. Similarly, after conducting surprise checks at some of the clubs, hotel bar no. 3 centers of district Durg, 105 beer bottles, 02 nos of whiskey in Durg were seized. Charge sheets were given after irregularities were found in the bar at Raipur. Similarly, chargesheets have been given for general irregularities found in 04 centers of FL3 Hotel Bar.

698 new COVID-19 cases in Ch'garh, no fatality

Raipur, Jan 04: Chhattisgarh on Monday recorded 698 fresh coronavirus positive cases, taking the overall tally to 10,09,454, an official said. The state has been seeing a steady rise in cases since the last week. The death toll remained unchanged at 13,601 on Monday as no fresh COVID-19 fatality was reported. The cumulative number of recoveries in Chhattisgarh rose to 9,93,911 after 11 people were discharged from hospitals and 18 completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 1,942 active cases, the official said.

"Raipur recorded 222 cases, followed by 133 in Bilaspur, 103 in Raigarh, 43 in Durg and 39 in Korba. No fresh cases were reported in five districts, while 11 districts saw cases between 1 to 10. With 27,646 samples being examined during the day, the number of tests in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,50,03,941," the official said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 10,09,454, New cases 698, Death toll 13,601, Recovered 9,93,911, Active cases 1,942, today tests 27,646, Total tests 1,50,03,941.

Traders meet held regarding awareness for prevention of corona

To stop spread of third wave of corona infection

Joint meeting organised by Chamber and CAIT

Raipur, Jan 04: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, CAIT CG Chapter President Jitendra Kumar Doshi, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golcha, Working President-Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said that a joint meeting Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries and CAIT CG Chapter and other trade unions was organised, on January 4, 2022 at 4 pm regarding awareness for prevention of corona. Keeping in view the increasing corona infection in the state.



While requesting the office bearers of all the trade associations present in the meeting, Chamber State President, Amar Parwani said that if we do not become aware today, we will not be able to escape from the third wave of corona lockdown. First of all, follow the rules of Covid-19 with 100% honesty. If you, your family, your locality, your family members have not been vaccinated, then motivate them to get the vaccine and must get the vaccine. There is a lot of

strength in teamwork, we want the government and the Chamber to work together on a war footing and try to stop the spread of the third wave so that our merchants' shops remain open. Parwani requested all the traders to keep masks in their shops, motivate their own employees and consumers to wear masks and not allow them to enter the shop without masks, as well as keep using social distancing and sanitizers. He said that the campaign for testing and vacci-

nation is being run by the Chamber with the help of the administration, it needs to be accelerated. For Corona awareness, an image sticker will be pasted in all the shops.

Parwani urged the office bearers of the trade unions to take a meeting of their respective union members and make them aware. Chhattisgarh should not be locked down because of us. After the meeting, under the leadership of the Chamber State President, Amar Parwani, the Raipur District Collector was apprised about the preparations of the Chamber and it was told that a massive public awareness campaign would be launched by the Chamber to protect against Corona. The Chamber expressed its commitment to give full cooperation to the government for testing and vaccination and promised to work shoulder to shoulder with the government.

CM launches the Direct Building Permit System

Newly-introduced system would expedite devp of cities and save time-energy of the applicants: Baghel

CM gives another New Year gift to people of the state

Central Chronicle News



cities of the state. This system would offer an effective solution to the existing problems in the permit issuance process. Building permit issuance is an important process for the citizens of the state who want to build their own house, but earlier this process was complicated, time-taking and not easily accessible, required map approval from several officials. But now this entire process will be free from human intervention and will be completed in shorter duration. If the applicant has all the required documents, then getting the permit to build a house would be a matter of second.

Considering the inconvenience faced by the common people, Chief Minister gave instructions to the officers concerned 15 days ago to solve the existing problems. And as per Chief

Minister's instructions, the department has completed the work within 15 days. Chief Minister congratulated the department and everyone involved in the process of developing this system. Chief Minister also congratulated the citizens for this brand new facility which will help them build the house of their dream in a shorter time period. On this occasion, Chief Minister issued the first building permit from the system to the applicant Mrs. Chetan Dev Sahu, a resident of Daldalseoni, Raipur.

On this occasion, Mayor Raipur Ejaz Dhebar, Bilaspur Mayor Ramsharan Yadav and Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for inaugurating this easy-to-access system of issuing building permits. Departmental Minister

- Now building permission will be issued within seconds
- Artificial intelligence based direct building permit system to be installed in every municipal corporation of Ch'garh
- Building permit for construction on residential plots of 500 sqm (5382 sq ft) to be issued immediately
- If the applicant submits all the required documents with the application fee of Re 1, the building permit will be issued within seconds
- The portal was ready in a record time of fifteen days, as per the announcement of Chief Minister
- Chief Minister issued the first building permit from the system to the applicant Mrs. Chetan Dev Sahu, resident of Daldalseoni, Raipur

Dr. Shivkumar Dahria, in his address to the programme, said that all the existing problems have been addressed in this newly implemented online building permit system. Separate dashboards have been made in this

system for the public representatives, commissioners and engineers, on which the applications received on a daily basis are displayed along with the information about approval, permissions and pending cases.

ILLEGAL PARKING



Traffic police fined and lifted the vehicles illegally being parked near Nagar Ghadhi Chowk here on Tuesday.

All 9 passengers safe and gaining health

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 04: In the road accident near Gram Pendri, wherein 9 persons in a Bolero vehicle got injured, all the passengers are safe and undergoing treatment due to timely action and support by the local administration and villagers.

As per information in

this regard in this incident at around 5:00 pm on Rajnandgaon state highway near Gram Pendri, a total of 13 persons in Bolero were travelling and in this 9 got injured and out of which 3 suffered head injuries and 4 others got seriously injured and were referred to District Hospital for better treatment. Two persons who re-

ceived minor injuries were discharged after first-aid. It is notable here that the villagers and passer-bys showed promptness in calling 108 Ambulance and informing local administration and sending those seriously injured to the district hospital and due to which all the 9 passengers are safe and gaining health.

CAIT seeks moratorium on tax hike on footwear as well

After postponement of GST rate hike on clothing

Raipur, Jan 04: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Magelal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi, States Working President, Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed that welcoming the decision of the GST Council to postpone the increase in the rate of GST on textiles, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said that this decision will provide for the time benefit to about

90 lakh textile traders and other textile related entrepreneurs across the country. On the other hand, more than 85 percent of the people of the country have been relieved of the burden of tax increase on textiles till the time actual decision is taken. CAIT has urged the Finance Minister that like textile, footwear is another sector where more than 85% of the country's people wear footwear less than one thousand rupees, therefore the tax increase on footwear should also be deferred.

CAIT has expressed its gratitude to the Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharman and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal for this decision, while appreciating the cooperation of former Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Irani and

presently Union Minister of Women and Child Development Mrs Nirmala Sitharman for their tireless efforts. CAIT has urged the Finance Minister Mrs. Seetharaman that there is no justification for sending the tax committee of GST to look into the deferred issue as the same committee had recommended the imposition of 12% tax rate on textiles. Hence, it will be justified to constitute a joint committee of officials & trade representatives under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes for a time bound logical, fair and impartial discussion assessing the merits and demerits of imposition of 12% tax rate. CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani and State President Mr.

Jitendra Doshi said that since this decision has not been reversed but has been postponed for some time, CAIT has taken up this as its top priority and a national discourse will be held amongst the trading community of the country. They said that till this decision is not reversed, the traders across the country are not going to sit silent. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi informed that for this purpose, CAIT has constituted a National Textile Committee which will be chaired by senior business leader of Delhi Mr. Subhash Goyal and Mr. Suresh Bindal as its President and prominent trade leaders of Surat Mr. Pramod Bhagat and President, Delhi Readymade Garments Traders Association, Satwant Singh as its convenor.

Collector holds meeting of district level nodal officers

For prevention of COVID-19 infection

Instructions given to work responsibly in coordination
More than 4000 tests should be done every day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: Collector Sourabh Kumar held a review meeting of the nodal officers appointed at the district level for the control and prevention of infection of Corona virus and its new variant 'Omicron', at Red Cross meeting hall in Collectorate here today. He asked the officers to per-



form tasks assigned to them with a sense of responsibility. He also instructed to conduct corona test of at least 4 thousand people every day.

The collector emphasized creation of micro-containment zones besides discussing progress of construction of oxygen plants in government hospitals, testing and isolation of people coming from abroad, tracing of persons coming in contact with infected per-

sons, availability of beds and medicines in government hospitals. He directed the Chief Medical Officer to bring speed up COVID vaccination.

He asked to give notice to the operators of those private hospitals who have not made available the information about the availability of beds in the portal. The Collector took information regarding vaccination of students of 15 to 18 years of age starting from January 3.

All SDMs were asked to inspect the hospitals.

The Collector asked the officials of the Municipal Corporation and Police Department to take action against those who roam without wearing masks. The collector also instructed to put stickers outside the houses of positive corona patients.

Municipal Commissioner Prabhakar Malik, Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Mayank Chaturvedi, Additional Managing Director of Raipur Smart City Limited Chandrakant Verma, Additional Collector Sarvshree Gopal Verma, NR Sahu, BC Sahu and all the concerned officers were present.

Textile traders association expressed regards towards Chamber

As Chamber's demand to rollback the levy of 12% GST on textiles in place of 5% with effect from January 1 was accepted

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: After withdrawing the decision to increase the GST rate on clothes on the demand of Chhattisgarh Chamber by the Central Government, The Raipur Wholesale Textile Traders Association Ltd and Raipur Wholesale Hosiery Association Ltd and



Readymade Dealers Association expressed its gratitude to the Chamber State President Mr. Amar Parwani. State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam

Golchha, Working President-Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said that the GST Council meet was held in Delhi, in which accepting the demand of Chhattisgarh Chamber the decision to levy 12%

GST on textiles in place of 5% with effect from January 1, 2022 was withdrawn. This decision of the GST Council will give relief to lakhs of textile traders of the state who were under extreme stress for more than a month. Appreciating this

achievement of Chhattisgarh Chamber, The Raipur Wholesale Textile Traders Association Ltd., Chairman Chander Vidhani, Working President Jaichand Navani, Treasurer Moolchand Khatri, Vice President - Prithvipal Singh Chhabra, Saral Modi, Raipur Wholesale Hosiery and Readymade Dealers Association President, Vijay Mukim, Secretary Vinay Kocheta and Vice President Jaspreet Singh Saluja expressed their regards towards Chamber State President Mr. Amar Parwani and thanked them.

Vaccination to children starts in Balco Hospital

In the age-group of 15-18 yrs

Central Chronicle News

Balconagar, Jan 04: The vaccination to students in the age-group of 15-18 was started at Balco Hospital here on Jan 3. CEO and Director Balco Abhijit Pati inaugurated the vaccination campaign for children in the hospital and after their vaccination few children were distributed certificates at the hands of CEO.

Expressing happiness on starting of vaccination to children in the age-group of 15-18, CEO Abhijit Pati said that the



health and safety of family members and children of Balco family is important for Balco management.

Extending greetings CEO said that with start of vaccination campaign, the children will get help in fighting against this corona virus and its infection and will help them recover speedily. He also said that for preven-

tion and safety from Corona virus, the Balco Management has taken many initiatives and launched many campaigns on large scale. Vaccination to senior members of Balco family is going on, he said, adding that it is adhering to covid-19 appropriate behaviour that prevention from this pandemic is possible and therefore one should adhere to wearing of mask and maintaining of social distance. At the inaugural function, Dy. HR Chief Shubhdeep Khan and Chief Medical officer of Balco Hospital Dr Vivek Sinha and other officers of Balco were present in large number.

Baghel distributes copies to students



students to get their vaccination done and distributed copies to the students present. It is notable here that MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel is distributing copies to students of High

Khairagarh, Jan 04: MLA Dongargarh and Chairman SC Development Authority Bhuneshwar Baghel reached Gram Tolagaon on Jan 3 and conducted inspection of the ongoing vaccination and extended greetings to the health workers for carrying out the good work.

During this MLA Baghel motivated the stu-

Schools in the area coming under his VS, so that the students continue to maintain interest in studies. Along with Tolagaon, he also met students from Gram Devari and Ghumka and motivated them to get vaccination done. During this BMO Dr Vivek Bisen, Mudhipar Block President Komal Sahu and students of the Schools were present in large number.

Take all necessary precautions to avoid virus infection

CCCI State Secy. directs all shop-keepers, traders

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Jan 04: The State Secretary Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce & Industries (CCCI) and District in-Charge Gariyaband Arendra Pahadia has urged all the traders and businessmen to take extra personal precaution and safety in view of increasing cases of corona virus and likely entry of third wave with Omicron virus in the state. One should not wait for warning, restrictions and strictness on part of the local administration and wear mask while



going out and ask the other employees in the office or shop and the customers visiting to wear the mask.

Arendra Pahadia claimed that the virus spreading at present is more dangerous compared to earlier virus and it shows all symptoms that of Omicron virus. Even those with double vaccination are prone to

get infected and it spread speedily from one person to another. So he suggested all the shopkeepers not to allow crowd in their shops and the traders and shopkeepers of the region have made novel efforts and showed lot of patience in the first and second wave of this virus and extended wholehearted support.

But this time, Arendra Pahadia said that one has to take extra precaution and asked to draw a line outside shop restricting entry using a rope as a line and continue to use sanitizer after taking cash and handing over items to the customers and give items only to those wearing mask. If possible they should sanitize the cash currency as well.

The vaccination for children in the age-group of 12-15 is yet to start and those eligible should get their children vaccinated without fail and motivate the elders in the family to get their precautionary dose for those above 60 yrs from Jan 10 onwards. Pahadia said that they should sanitize the materials and items coming to their shops from the godown or garages and motivate the drivers and labourers also to take all precautions. If possible make thermal screening possible in the shops as well. At the entry point of the village, police force should be deployed and ensure necessary security arrangements. This time one should ensure that they do not get the virus.

Free Health camp by Sanjeevani Cancer Care



Raipur, Jan 04: In collaboration with JCI Medicos and Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation, a free health camp was organized in Raipur District on the occasion Devangan Community introductory meet on December 25-26th. JCI medicos President Dr Deepak Agrawal, surgical oncologist Dr. Arpan Chaturmohata, Hematologist and Hemato Oncologist Dr. Vikas Goel, cancer specialist Dr. Satish

Devangan, Dr. Vinita Devangan, dental surgeon Dr. Jitendra Saraf, physiotherapist Dr. Avinash Gupta, and dental surgeon Manish Gupta provided free health consultation to 200 people.

In this program, awareness about cancer was also spread by Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation by making people aware about the symptoms and methods of prevention of cancer.

Illegal plotting in different parts of the city

Balod, Jan 04: Illegal plot traders are in high spirits, from the city to the village without permission, and thousands of crores of cultivated land is being sold without town and country planning. Illegal business of cutting and selling plots by making Murum Road without permission is continuing indiscriminately. But the district administration is not showing seriousness, and this is the reason why the encouragement of illegal plotting people is high.

Within the city itself, more than 200 plots can be seen, which are ready to be sold by plotting without any permission. Plot cutting is being done without any permission by making land deal with the farmers and there is no road fixed



for these plots, due to which the land mafia themselves are engaged in bluffing the buyers by making Murum Roads.

A year ago, the sale and purchase of such plots, which were marked as illegal plotting in the surrounding parts of the city, was banned. But the matter went in cold storage, so far no concrete action has been taken against them. According to the informa-

tion, those who are doing illegal plotting work, they are not even registered in RERA. The farmers are selling the agricultural land by selling them in the form of plots, which are being sold as their own project. Some people associated with such fraudulent business are also operating the office in the name of real estate. By showing firm registration, people are being cheated of

plots on National Highway and State Highway.

At present, illegal plotting is happening at a rapid pace in the areas near Ganjpara Stadium, Kundarupara, Railway Colony, Pararas, Seoni, Devarbath, Pakurbhath, Jagtra, Umradah and Baghmara bypass. The land brokers are accusing the government of crores of rupees by selling it on the basis of square feet by

making agreement of land with the real landowners at the rate of acres. Plots ranging from 2 thousand square feet to 2400 square feet are being sold illegally by deceiving people. The price of the land has been fixed by the brokers from Rs 600 to 1200 sq ft. Those who buy plots are getting cheated. At the same time, the revenue of the government is also being robbed.

What officer says

"We are taking action, on the areas demarcated by illegal plotting and if the municipality is under its jurisdiction, then action will be taken by the joint team of municipality and revenue department."

Gangadhar Wahile
SDM, Subdivision
Balod.

Police come to rescue of sick girl

Konta Jan 04:

Under the guidance of Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma, today on 04/01/2022, village Kolai Guda's villager Madvi Shushma, father Madvi Deva, 16 years old, was seriously suffering from malaria at New Camp Kolaiguda was taken to the hospital. On receiving the information, the Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhukar contacted Konta police station and arranged for 108 ambulance. After the road was built for the first time, the ambulance car reached village Kolaiguda and took the sick girl to Konta Hospital. During this, Inspector Shailendra Nag, Ghuna Ram Ogre, DRG



Commander SI Uttam jawans made special contribution in this drive.

Collector inspects Sanjay Kanan Udyan



Gadkaleva at breakfast available at concessional rates

Mahasamund, Jan 04: District Collector Doman Singh here inspected the Sanjay Kanan Udyan adjoining the district headquarters, and instructed officials to facilitate better facilities for children, students and citizens visiting the park, by making an action plan in a phased manner.

Apart from this, along with starting the toy train soon for the entertainment of the children, arrangements should also be made for various types of slips, hammocks and other sports materials for the children, he instructed. Considering the possibility of boating here, he asked to make a tax proposal under MGN-REGA to develop a pond and a small waterway. Along with this, instructions were given to the

concerned officers to send a proposal for construction of water tank and toilet for the arrangement of drinking water. A branch of Gadkaleva to be started here was also opined by the Collector to ease the availability of Chhattisgarhi cuisines in a concessional rate.

The Collector closely inspected all the areas of the park and instructed the Department of Horticulture to upgrade the garrison and develop the grass lawn, to increase the education and knowledge of the children, and present a plan to develop a Botanical Garden. During this, SDM Bhagwat Jaiswal and CMO Municipality Ashish Tiwari and employees were also with him.

Children give wonderful dance performance on eve of New Year



Dongargarh, Jan 04:

In the Recording Dance prog held in ward No. 2

Dongre, Shivani Vakde, Shruti Sahare, Sonam Nandeshwar, Aishwarya Sharma, Sapna Gadam and others took part in large number and gave dance performance on Hindi film songs. All the participants were motivated and presented with consolation prizes. In this programme, women, men and youths from the ward took part in large number.

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
"Khanji Bhavan", 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
CIN No. - L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No: HO/Contracts/NISPO&M/PDS/254 Dated: 05/01/2022

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for "Operation & Maintenance Contract for Power Distribution System of NISP for a period of two years at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh state".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from - NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>

Central Public Procurement portal (CPP PORTAL) <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> and MSTC portal <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/> from 05/01/2022 to 27/01/2022.

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/79/21-22/ET/381.

The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:
Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. +91-040-23534746, Tel. No. +91-040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

हर एक काम देश के नाम इयाती इरादा

Regional Office : First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai- (Chhattisgarh) - 490006
Ph. : 0788-2261056
Website : www.bankoffbaroda.com

Notice for Name Change

I, Simrath Singh Ghai S/o Shri Harpreet Singh Ghai, inform the general public that I have changed my name from Simrath Singh, S/o Shri Harpreet Singh Ghai to Simrath Singh Ghai, S/o Shri Harpreet Singh Ghai. Hereby, from now I will be identified by my new name Simrath Singh Ghai S/o Shri Harpreet Singh Ghai and this will be recorded in all my Government and semi-Government documents.

SIMRATH SINGH GHAI
1926, College Lane Ward, Amanaka, Near Harshit Corporate, Raipur

NAME CHANGE AFFIDAVIT

I, AJAY KUMAR AGRAWAL, Age- 53 Years, Son of LATE SHRI RAM BIHARI AGRAWAL, Residing at - D-8, SHRISTI PALAZZO, AVANTI VIHAR COLONY, RAIPUR, TEHSIL & DISTRICT - RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH 492001 do hereby solemnly affirm & declare on oath as under:-

1. That, my Daughter DIVYA AGRAWAL who passed 10th Class Examination in the year - 2020 and studying in 12th Class at - RAJKUMAR COLLEGE, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH in this session 2021-22, affiliated from COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS, NEW DELHI Student's Unique ID 7163092 and in her market-sheet certificate being father my name has been mentioned and spelt as AJAY AGRAWAL which is incomplete name of myself.

2. That, in my Aadhaar vide no. 4255 8145 8996 my name has been mentioned and spelt as AJAY KUMAR AGRAWAL which is my true, correct and complete name.

3. That, both the above names i.e. AJAY AGRAWAL & AJAY KUMAR AGRAWAL are of my names and am single person of this names.

4. That, I am executing this declaration to be submitted to the concerned authorities for the change of my name and hereby state that whatever is stated herein above are true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

VERIFICATION

I the above named deponent hereby verified that the contents of my above Affidavit from paras 1 to 4 are true and correct in my knowledge and belief. Hence, I signed at RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH) on this 22nd day of December, 2021.

DATE : 22/12/2021 **DEPONENT**
RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH

आम सूचना

एलट द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि, मैं अपने पञ्चकरण से अधिकृत होकर उनसे प्राप्त निर्देश अनुसार वह आम सूचना प्रकाशित करता हूँ कि श्री अशोक, मनीष, राजीव सभी पिता स्व. एच. के. मुखर्जी के स्वयं स्वीकृत एवं अधिपत्य की भूमि प्राप्त जूनवानी, प.ह.नं. 15/21, तह. एवं जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में खसरा नं. 572/41, रकबा 0.020 हे. /2400 वर्गफीट, भूमिगत मकान स्थित है, जिसे उनके पिता श्री एच.के. मुखर्जी पिता स्व. ए. के. मुखर्जी के द्वारा स्मृति मुह निर्माण सहकारी समिति 20.06.1986 को पंजीवन कराया गया था, जो मेरे पञ्चकरण के पिता की मृत्यु के बाद वारिसनामग के रूप में नाम दर्ज किया गया है जिसके बाद मेरे पञ्चकरण द्वारा भूविकास उन्नत पंजीवन विकल्प को लेमोनेशन करा लिया गया है। जिसकी सत्यापित प्रतिलिपि उप पंजीयक कार्यालय दुर्ग से प्राप्त किया गया है। उक्त मकान से संबंधित किसी भी आम जन, व्यक्ति विशेष, बैंक या संस्थान को कोई भी उन्नत या दावा आगति हो तो सूचना प्रकाशन दिवस के 7 दिवस के भीतर मेरे ऑफिस में संबंधित दस्तावेजों सहित दावा आगति प्रस्तुत करें। समयावधि परमाप्त आपकी किसी भी प्रकार की दावा आगति सूची न्यूनता जावेगी। अतः सूचित हो।

स्थान: दुर्ग
दिनांक: 04/01/2022

राकेश यादव (अधिवक्ता)
पता- सड़क नं. 6एफ, जौन 02 न्यू आदर्स नगर दुर्ग तह. व जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
मो. - 9827471339

On occasion of eve of the New Year, recording dance performance of young children was held at ward No. 2 Danteshwari para. In this children in the age-group of 3-15 yrs gave wonderful dance performance based upon film songs. In the above programme, President Yuva Boudh Samiti Manoj Sahare, Ashish Dongre, Ashok Sahu, Sumesh Sahare, Rakesh Dewangan, Dinesh Sakhre, Mahesh Sahare, Prakash Kontagale, Sachin Teburkar, Siddharth Meshram, Ujjawal Banjari, handresh Landage, Ratandeep Chandrika Pure, Anil Landage, Baskar sir and others were present. In the above programme the first place was won by

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles

1) TATA LPT-3718
CG07AX6665
YOM 2015
Minimum Reserve Price 875000

UNDER HYPOTHEGATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 20.01.2022

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

BRANCH ADDRESS :
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD
Block B 1 Third Floor Pujari Complex, Near Pachpedi Naka Chowk Raipur Chhattisgarh-492001 or
Contact : Gurjinder Singh
Mob. 8962424548
E-MAIL: Gurjinder.Singh2@kotak.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitization of financial asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No 54 of 2002) and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the said rules on the date mentioned in respective columns. Descriptions are as under:

Branch Name	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Possession date
Padmanabhpur Branch	Shri Shyam Katiyar & Shri Rajkumar Ghotekar Ward 55, Bantaji Vihar, Ramnagar, Urala Road, Gaura, Durg	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building constructed thereon at Plot No 66, Kharsa No 176/71 (part 176/4) area 0.016 hect. or 1740 sq ft situated at Ramnagar, Mouja Baghera, PV NOF, Tah & Dist Durg (within the limits of NPN Durg). Boundaries of the property are North : Plot no 67, South : 25 ft road East : 25 ft road, West : Plot No 65	12/10/2021, Rs. 19,61,294/- + unapplied interest and other charges 30/12/2021
Rajnandgaon Kamptee line Branch	M/S Shriram Minerals Prop-Shri Daulat Singh Chandel s/o Late Shri Amar Singh Chandel Ward No-16 Tulsiapur, Rajnandgaon, C/G Smt Upasana Singh Chandel s/o Daulat Singh Chandel (Guarantor) Ward no-16 Tulsiapur, Rajnandgaon 491441	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of in Survey No: 343/4, 344/4, P.C. NO. 28, Ward No. 16, Tulsiapur, Rajnandgaon within the Registration Sub-District Rajnandgaon and District Rajnandgaon, Belonging to Smt Upasana Singh W/o Daulat Singh Chandel. Bounded: On the North by: Road On the South by: Property of Shri Nimje On the East by: House of Shri Kanhaiya On the West by: House Of Shri Pawar	18/09/2021 Rs. 12,19,013.66/- + unapplied interest and other charges 30/12/2021
Somni Branch	1. Smt Sudha Nishad Add: Vill- Sankara, Post-Somni Dist-Rajnandgaon C.G-491441 2. Mr. Shambhu Nishad S/O Piliuram Nishad (Guarantor) Vill- Sankara, Post-Somni Dist-Rajnandgaon C.G-491441	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of: Equitable Mortgage on Diverted Land and building area 1.50 acre (0.607 Hect) at KH.No- 359, PH.No- 29 Village : Sankara - Tehsil & District :Rajnandgaon(In the name of Mr. Shambhu Nishad S/O Piliuram Nishad (Guarantor) Bounded: On the North by: Land of Somnath On the South by: Land of Trilochan On the East by: Govt Land On the West by: Land of Mehadrin	03/09/2021 Rs. 15,13,014.48/- + unapplied interest and other charges 30/12/2021
Amleshwar	Mrs Swati Tiwari Asthana w/o late Shri Rajni Asthana Kh No-219/61, P.H No-04 Village Bothli Patan Durg C.G	All that part and parcel of the property consisting Equitable Mortgage of land 600 sqft situated at Village Bothli Patan P.C.No 04, R.I.C Bhilali 3, Tahsil Patan Dist Durg CG belonging to Smt.Swati Tiwari Asthana W/o Late Tiwari Mr.Rajive Asthana. Bounded: On the North by: House of Rita Soni On the South by: House Of Uday Pratap On the East by: House Of Bharti Jha On the West by: Kaccha Road	04/10/2021 Rs.16,99,093.10/- + unapplied interest and other charges 31/12/2021

The borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned properties. Any dealing with the properties will subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda

Date: 05/01/2022 Place : Bhilai

YES BANK
Registered & Corporate Office:
YES BANK House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai-400055. CIN: L65190MH2003PLC143249. E-mail: communications@yesbank.in, Website: www.yesbank.in

Possession Notice for immovable property

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of YES Bank Limited (herein under referred as the "Bank") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein referred as "the Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a demand notice dated 06.12.2021, calling upon 1.Yusufi Steel Trunk Factory, A Partnership Firm, Mehboba Mansion, City Kotwali Road, Budhapara, Raipur-Pin 492001. 2. Malla Ali Ahsan Yusufi, Partner Yusufi Steel Factory, 3.Toozar Ali Yusufi, Partner Yusufi Steel Factory, 4. Bano Yusufi, Partner Yusufi Steel Factory All having address at : Mehboba Mansion, City Kotwali Road, Budhapara, Raipur, Pin 492001. to repay a sum aggregating to Rs.71,19,939.75 (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine And Paise Seventy Five Only) as on September 30, 2021 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice being under section 13(2) of the Act.

The Borrower / security providers having failed to repay the amount within the stipulated time period hence this notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ security providers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 3rd January, 2022.

The Borrower / security providers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for an amount a sum aggregating to Rs.71,19,939.75 (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine And Paise Seventy Five Only) as on September 30, 2021 Only together with all the other amounts outstanding including the costs, charges, expenses and interest thereon.

Please note that under Section 13 (8) of the aforesaid Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Details of the security/security interest details of the mortgaged property
The mortgagor has mortgaged below detailed property for securing the credit facility ALL THAT piece and parcel of immovable property situated at Block No.22, Plot No. 7/22/2, Flat No.304 on the 3rd Floor, at Dhabar Orchid, Civil Station (Raipur Khans) Near Kundan Palace, Bairon Bazar, Pt. Bhagwati Charan Shukla Ward No.48, Tehsil & District Raipur, (C.G.) and registered before Sub-registrar Raipur and recorded in Book No.A/1 Volume No.4484, Sl. No.2983, Pages 0 to 71 .

Sd/-
Place : Raipur (Authorized Officer)
Date: 03.01.2022 YES Bank Limited

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013
CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), the amount indicated herein below from their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

S. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice & Date of NPA
1	9293939	KUTTIKOT SUMY MEJI (Borrower), K J DAVID (Co-Borrowers)	Rs.37,01,841/- as on 13-12-2021	15-12-2021 07-11-2021

Property Address As Per Schedule : All Piece And Parcel Of The Property In Respect Of The Property Residence Cum Commercial Plot No.01, Area 7.5 X 12 = 90 Sq. Mt Situated At Mouza - Moti Lal Nehru Nagar Resi Cum Commercial Plot No.2, Bhilai, Taluk And District, Durg Chhattisgarh.

"with further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/ Immoveable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immoveable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
Date: 05.01.2022 Authorized Officer
Place : Raipur For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

Bank of Baroda
Main Branch Bhatapara - Gandhi Mandir Ward, Bhatapara, Dist. - Baloda Bazar - Bhatapara (C.G.) Pin-493118, PH: 07726-223322, 9752410737, E-mail: bhatap@bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

S. N.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Borrower - M/s Baba Gurdas Ram Dall Mill (Prop. Mr. Om Prakash Thourani) Guarantor- 1. Mrs. Palak Thourani W/o Mr. Omprakash Thourani 2.M/s Baba Garibdas Poha Udyog (Prop. Mr. Omprakash Thourani) S/o Mr. Jaipal Das Thourani	1. Equitable mortgage of factory land & building at Land bearing Kh. No. - 296/1 P. H. No. - 7/14, Gram Khokhali, Bhatapara admeasuring 0.233 hect. standing in the name of M/s Baba Gurdas Ram Dall Mill (Prop. - Mr. Om Prakash Thourani). 2. Equitable mortgage Open Plot at Kh. No. - 296/3, P.H. No. - 07/14, area - 27878 sqft. Plot at Vill.: Khokhali, Bhatapara standing in the name of M/s Baba Garibdas Poha Udyog (Prop. Mr. Omprakash Thourani). 3. Equitable mortgage Open Plot at Kh. No. - 155/1, 156/1, P. H. No. - 07/26, area - 1800 sqft. Plot at VIP colony, Patpar, Standing in the name of Mrs. Palak Thourani W/o. Omprakash Thourani. 4. Equitable mortgage of Residential House at Kh. No. - 120/54, area - 1012 sqft. P. H. No. - 11 at Sant Kanwar Ram Ward, Bhatapara standing in the name of Mr. Om Prakash Thourani S/o Mr. Jaipal Das Thourani.	13.09.2021 Rs. 3,79,72,109.17 (Rs. Three Crore Seventy Nine Lac Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred Nine & Seventeen Paise Only) + interest + other charges 30.12.2021 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda
Date: 04.01.2022, Place: Bhatapara (C.G.)

BRIEF

Fake abduction

Gurugram: A bartender here faked his abduction and demanded a ransom of Rs 2 lakh from his wife to pay off his debt. Police said now action will be taken against Anup Yadav for misleading them and giving false information. Anup Yadav's wife filed an abduction case on Sunday night after she received messages for the ransom on her mobile phone.

Four held

Ghaziabad: Four people were arrested here for allegedly robbing people after offering them rides in an auto-rickshaw. The accused, identified as Ashwani, Rameshwar, alias Ankit, Suraj and Sanjay, were arrested near the Yoganchal Ashram, City Superintendent of Police (Second) Gyanendra Singh said. The police said they would drive around in the auto-rickshaw posing as passengers, offer people rides and rob whoever walked.

Four suspended

Fatehpur: A police sub-inspector and three constables were suspended for negligence here after a retired teacher was murdered and valuables worth Rs 15 lakh stolen from his house. The incident had taken place on Saturday in Radha Nagar locality of UP city. Taking the matter seriously, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Kumar Singh suspended Sub-Inspector Rajesh Singh and three constables Pankaj, Sachin Kumar and Sunil Yadav.

Agitation plan

Guwahati: The opposition Congress announced a series of agitational programmes demanding a judicial probe into the alleged illegal acquiring of around 18 acres of Assam government land by a company co-founded by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife. Party workers will hold protests from January 10 to February 6 in all districts to press for the demand of a judicial probe, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee told.

Case registered

Hyderabad: A case of ragging of a junior student at a medical college at Suryapet in Telangana has been registered. The victim, in a complaint, stated that he was called to a room in the college hostel and subjected to ragging by some seniors on the night of January 1. He told his father over the phone about the incident and the latter informed the police.

Distributes blankets

New Delhi: Police Families Welfare Society's (PFWS) president Anu Asthana sent 100 blankets to the police post at the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital to be distributed amongst the needy people, officials said. According to the officials, the blankets were distributed to needy people and caretakers of patients admitted at the RML hospital.

Odisha reports highest COVID-19 cases in over three months

Hotel declared micro-containment zone

Puri: A hotel in Odisha's Puri was declared a micro-containment zone after three people were found to be positive for the omicron variant of coronavirus. One of the patients is a tourist from West Bengal, while the other two are staff members of the hotel.



Preparation at district hospital for COVID-19 cases in Keonjhar.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 04 (PTI):

Odisha recorded the highest single-day jump in COVID-19 cases in over three months on Tuesday as 680 more people tested positive, the Health Department said. The daily positivity rate surged to 1.31 per cent from 0.77 per cent a day ago, while 119 children, or 17.5 per cent of

the fresh cases, were infected in the past 24 hours, a bulletin stated. Khurda district, where Bhubaneswar is located, reported most of the new cases at 263, followed by 69 in Sundargarh and 59 in Cuttack. The infection tally rose to 10,56,660, it said. The state had logged 424 COVID-19 cases. On September 22, there were 734 infections. The toll mounted to 8,464 as a 50-year-old man from Balasore district died. These are confirmed as deaths due to COVID-19 after an audit, the department said. Fifty-three other COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to the data. There are 2,888 active cases, including 1,153 (39.92 per cent) in Khurda — which re-entered the yellow zone where active cases are between 1,001-2,500. More than 10.45 lakh people have recovered so far, with 146 patients recuperating in the last 24

Maharashtra resident doctors call off strike

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

Resident doctors in Maharashtra, who were on strike to seek a resolution of the NEET-PG counselling delay and other issues, called off their protest on Tuesday after a fruitful meeting with the state medical education and research director, a representative of the resident doctors said. Thousands of resident doctors in the state had gone on their strike on Friday, demanding recruitment of non-academic junior resident doctors equal

to the number of residents in colleges. In some of the medical colleges in Mumbai, they were on strike since last Thursday. In a statement issued, Central Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) president Avinash Dahiphale said the recruitment of house officers/medical officers in all government/corporation medical colleges and hospitals as per requirement in the view of delay in NEET-PG counselling has been addressed. The runanubandh bhatta (allowance) will be released soon for the remaining medical colleges, he said. Irregularities pertaining to stipend at few medical medical colleges will also be addressed soon, he said, after a virtual meeting with the state medical education and research director. The demand of NEET-PG state counselling is not under power of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER), hence it will be addressed after directions from the national medical counselling committee, he said.

Kerala Govt convenes explanatory meeting over Silver Line project

● Compensation announced

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 04 (PTI):



Pinarayi Vijayan

Amid intense criticism by opposition parties against the implementation of its flagship Silver Line rail project, the Kerala government on Tuesday convened a meeting of stakeholders, dignitaries and representatives of various organisations to explain various aspects of the venture and announced a rehabilitation package for those to be affected by it. Addressing the meeting held at the Jimmy George stadium here, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan continued to rubish the concerns by the opposition regarding the project and said it is en-

visaged as a complete green initiative and would implement with lesser social impact. A compensation and relief package worth Rs 13,265 crore would be implemented for the affected persons who would lose their buildings, property and other belongings. Making it clear that the mammoth project is inevitable for the development of the state and the government would go

ahead with its implementation, he said certain people were putting up stiff resistance when they were coming ahead with such pro-initiatives for the state. He also alleged that certain "vested interests" were behind such opposition. Detailing about the 'green' aspect of the multi-crore project, connecting the south and north ends of the state, Vijayan said it would be a complete eco-friendly project and was designed taking into consideration the recent floods and other natural calamities that ravaged the state. Assuring that no reserve forest or water bodies would be adversely impacted by the Silver Line project, he claimed that it would result in reducing

J&K Police to get American weapons for anti-terror operations

Jammu, Jan 04 (PTI):



US made assault rifle and pistol.

Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel will soon get American Sig Sauer assault rifles and pistols to carry out anti-terror operations, officials said. The Army has already equipped its personnel guarding the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China with the state-of-the-art rifles. The Jammu and Kashmir Police is proba-

group (SoG) and personnel deployed for the security of protected people will be equipped with the weapons, they said. According to officials, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had recently floated global bids on the government buying portal GeM (Government e-Market) for purchasing the assault weapons. The Sig Sauer-716 assault rifle has a more powerful 7.62x51mm cartridge as compared to the 5.56x45mm intermediate cartridge of the INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) rifles used by police, officials said. The rifle, which weighs 3.82 kilograms without magazine, fires at a cyclic rate of 650-850 rounds per minute and can prove to be an effective weapon in anti-terror operations due to its 500 metres range, they said. Moreover, the rifles are compact, robust, modern and simple to maintain in field conditions, they added.

Maha police won't take coercive action against Nitesh Rane till Jan 7

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

The Maharashtra Police on Tuesday assured the Bombay High Court that they would not take any coercive action against BJP MLA Nitesh Rane till January 7 in an attempt to murder case registered against him in the state's Sindhudurg district.

tion. He appeared at the police station concerned on December 24, 2021 and his statement was recorded. Later, he was intimated that he might be arrested following which he sought pre-arrest bail, Pradhan told the court. Pasbola argued that when Rane was questioned on December 24, the police had just begun their probe into the case. However, on December 26, one of his (Rane) associates was arrested who revealed his role in the case. Our investigation has revealed that he (Rane) is the mastermind in the case, Pasbola claimed.

A single bench of CV Bhadang posted the anticipatory bail application filed by Rane for hearing on January 7 and directed the police to file their affidavit in response to the plea. Special public prosecutor Sudeep Pasbola told the court that a preliminary probe has revealed that Rane was allegedly the "mastermind" in the case and that he was evading interrogation. Pasbola sought time to file an affidavit following which Rane's advocate Niteen Pradhan sought interim protection from arrest for the legislator. He (Rane) is being prosecuted only for humilia-

The high court then said it would hear both the applicant (Rane) and the police on January 7. Pasbola then gave an oral assurance to the court that till the next date of hearing (January 7), the police would not take any coercive action against Rane. The court also directed the police to produce before it the case diary.

Maharashtra minister Wadettiwar plans separate OBC front

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):



Vijay Wadettiwar

Amid a row over OBC reservation in local body elections, senior Congress leader and Maharashtra minister Vijay Wadettiwar is planning to launch a separate front to raise effectively issues related to the other backward classes. Maharashtra politics is currently in a state of ferment after the Supreme Court ordered the cancellation of the local body elections to OBC seats, prompting political parties to rush into damage control mode. "Several leaders from the OBC community have approached me to lead a separate front to effectively raise issues of the backward classes who have to get their rightful due in the society," Wadettiwar, the Minister of Disaster Management & OBC Welfare, Relief & Rehabilitation in the Maharashtra government told PTI. Wadettiwar, a for-

mer Leader of the Congress Legislature Party, had planned a meeting of the proposed front on Wednesday in Mumbai followed by a show of strength in Aurangabad, but both the events have been postponed against the backdrop of the resurgence in COVID-19 cases in the state. He said there were plans to invite Rahul Gandhi for the Aurangabad rally. Sources close to the minister said that the Congress ranked fourth in the state when it came to the support of the domi-

nant Maratha community which has held sway over politics in Maharashtra since the formation of the state in 1960. Currently, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP is considered to enjoy the support of the majority of the Maratha community that constitutes 32 per cent of the state's population, followed by the Shiv Sena, BJP and the Congress. The BJP carved a niche for itself by aggressively pursuing the OBC communities that saw the rise of leaders such as Gopinath Munde, N S Farande and Anna Dange who laid the foundation of the party in the state. Prominent OBC leaders in the state include Chhagan Bhujujal, Jitendra Avhad, Dhananjay Munde (NCP), Nana Patole, Wadettiwar (Congress) and Pankaja Munde, Bhagwat Karad, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Ramesh Karad, Gopichand Padalkar (BJP).

Gujarat HC restricts entry of people in its premises

Ahmedabad, Jan 04 (PTI):



Gujarat High Court

The Gujarat High Court has restricted the entry of people in its premises in the wake of a rise in coronavirus cases in the state, and barred the entry of litigants while making it mandatory for those required to appear in person to carry COVID-19 negative report. The curbs will come into effect from Wednesday, as per a circular issued by the HC's registrar general. According to the circular, the Chief Justice has also ordered for the closure of all the canteens located in the high court premises from Wednesday. Screening has been made mandatory for all those entering the court premises, with strict adherence to social distancing norm and cooperation with the medical screening team, it said. "In the matter of habeas corpus petitions, the corpus shall be produced by the jurisdictional police

authorities before the jurisdictional district court to enable the judges presiding the bench to interact in virtual mode with the persons so produced," said the circular. The HC has also asked the advocates' association president to ensure that the bar library, reference library and all bar rooms are closed by 1 pm every day, and requested advocates to not sit in large numbers in any of the court premises. Other precautionary measures like downloading the Aarogya App and avoiding handshakes are also required to be taken, apart from following the government advisory issued from time-to-time, said the circular.

BRIEF

Upholds order

Honolulu: Hawaii's Department of Health in US upheld the governor's order requiring the Navy to drain massive World War II-era fuel tanks after oil leaking from the aging facility contaminated Pearl Harbor's tap water. Marian Tsuji, the department's deputy director said she agreed with the conclusions of an official appointed by the department to review the facts of the case. She would adopt official's proposed findings as final.

Cruises suspended

Brasilia: Cruise ship activity has been temporarily suspended along Brazil's shores until Jan 21 by government order due to the spread of the coronavirus' omicron variant. The decision came after a recommendation from the nation's health regulator, which said that it took into account the spiralling increase of COVID-19 cases on board ships in recent days, which indicates a radical change in the epidemiological scenario.

Helicopter crash

Jerusalem: Two Israeli pilots were killed when a navy helicopter crashed off Israel's Mediterranean coast near the northern city of Haifa, the Israeli military announced. The helicopter was conducting a training flight when it crashed. A third crew member, an aerial observer, was moderately injured and evacuated to a hospital. After resuscitation efforts, the two pilots were declared dead. The cause was under investigation now.

Exploding meteor

Pittsburgh: A meteor that caused earth-shaking boom over suburban Pittsburgh, US on New Year's Day exploded in the atmosphere with an energy blast equivalent to an estimated 30 tons (27,216 kg) of TNT, officials said. NASA's Meteor Watch social media site said a reasonable assumption of the speed of the meteor at about 45,000 mph (72,420 kph) would allow a ballpark estimate of its size as about a yard in diameter.

Conditions hard for 13 million under Chinese lockdown

Beijing, Jan 04 (AP):

Authorities in the northern Chinese city of Xi'an say they can provide food, health care and other necessities for the 13 million residents under a now almost two-week-old lockdown.

But in social media posts and over the telephone, some citizens describe difficulties obtaining supplies and frustration with the economic impact on the giant city that is home to the famed ancient Terracotta Army, along with major industries. Can't leave the building and it's getting more and more difficult to buy food online, said one Xi'an resident, who posted on the social media platform Weibo under the name Mu Qingyuani Sayno.

Officials defend the measures as appropriate and necessary, and with the Beijing Winter



Residents queue to undergo nucleic acid tests for the Covid-19 in Xi'an on Tuesday.

Olympics just a month away, are under intense pressure to stem the outbreak. The Xi'an restrictions imposed Dec. 23 are some of the harshest since China in 2020 imposed a strict lockdown on more than 11 million people in and around the central city of Wuhan, after the coronavirus was first detected there in late 2019. The measures are an outgrowth of China's zero

COVID-19" policy that includes widespread testing and mask mandates, credited by the government with preventing major outbreaks. Xi'an has seen more than 1,600 cases in its latest surge of the delta variant that is less infectious than the newer omicron strain. China has reported a total of 102,841 cases and 4,636 deaths since the pandemic began. While those numbers

are relatively small compared to the U.S. and other countries, they do show the persistence of the virus despite the sometimes draconian measures taken by China.

The country's Commerce Ministry last week said it had contacted nearby provinces to help ensure adequate supplies of everyday necessities for Xi'an. State media reports say at least some residents are receiving free grocery packages, including eggs, rice, green vegetables and either chicken or pork. Residents can also order online. That came after city authorities tightened restrictions that had allowed people to leave their homes every other day to buy necessities. Travel to and from the city has been suspended, although there are some exceptions and rules have been relaxed slightly in some districts that have few or no cases.

Lesson for Silicon Valley to learn from Holmes' conviction

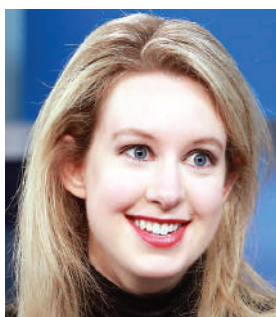
Audit of Theranos uncovered potential dangerous flaws

San Jose, Jan 04 (AP):

The fraud conviction of former Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes could offer Silicon Valley's culture of hubris in US and hype some valuable lessons. Will anyone in the tech industry actually take this moment to heart? Don't count on it.

Holmes was found guilty of duping investors into believing that Theranos had developed a revolutionary medical device that could detect a multitude of diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood.

She could face up to 20 years in prison for each charge, although legal experts say she is unlikely to receive the maximum sentence. Federal prosecutors depicted Holmes as a charlatan obsessed with fame and fortune. In seven days on the witness stand, she



Elizabeth Holmes

cast herself as a visionary trailblazer in male-dominated Silicon Valley who was emotionally and sexually abused by her former lover and business partner, Sunny Balwani.

The trial also laid bare the pitfalls of one of the go-to moves of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs conveying a boundless optimism regardless of whether it's warranted, known as fake it til you make it.

That ethos helped hatch groundbreaking companies such as Google, Netflix, Facebook, and Apple the latter co-founded by one of Holmes' heroes, Steve Jobs.

But few expect her conviction to lower the wattage on the brash promises and bold exaggerations that have become a routine part of the tech industry's innovation hustle.

Holmes' conviction will send a message to CEOs that there are consequences in overstepping the bounds, suggested Ellen Kreitzberg, a Santa Clara University law professor who attended the trial. On the other hand, she said, investors are still going to want to make more money on a promising idea. They will always go in for the golden ring.

Holmes remained seated and expressed no visible emotion as the verdicts were read. She bowed her head several times before the jury was polled by US District Judge Edward Davila. After the judge left the courtroom to meet with jurors individually, Holmes got up to hug her partner, Billy Evans, and her parents before leaving with her lawyers.

Israeli agency may have threatened firms aiding Pak nuclear programme



A Pakistani nuclear missile meant to be used against India.

Swiss and German companies made huge gains

Jerusalem, Jan 04 (PTD):

Israel's espionage agency Mossad is suspected

of having bombed and issued threats to German and Swiss companies that "energetically worked" to aid Pakistan in its nascent nuclear weapons programme in the 1980s as the Jewish state saw Islamabad acquiring nuclear capabilities as an

"existential threat", a leading daily said here.

The Jerusalem Post quoted a prominent Swiss daily report that "the suspicion that Mossad carried out the attacks and issued threats soon arose" after the three bombings in 1981 on three of these companies following an unsuccessful intervention by the United States to stop the activities. "For Israel, the prospect that Pakistan, for the first time, could become an Islamic State with an atomic bomb posed an existential threat," Swiss daily Neue Zurcher Zeitung (NZZ) reported.

Cambodia activist briefly detained after protest in shackles

Phnom Penh, Jan 04 (AP):

Cambodian security forces on Tuesday briefly detained a Cambodian-American lawyer who is a prominent rights activist as she walked barefoot near the prime minister's residence in Phnom Penh, wearing a prison-style orange outfit and Khmer Rouge-era ankle shackles.

Theary Seng was on her way to a court hearing and was livestreaming her progress via social media when a number of uniformed men surrounded her and blocked her way.



Theary Seng in a prison-style orange outfit, talks with court securities as she arrived at Phnom Penh Municipal Court in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday.

Journalists at the scene put her into a car and say security forces then took her away.

DRIVEWAY CLEARING



A groundskeeper clears the driveway in front of the West Wing of the White House in Washington, US as a winter storm blows into the Mid-Atlantic area.

Japanese PM promises boosters, new measures against omicron

Tokyo, Jan 04 (AP):

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed Tuesday to speed up coronavirus vaccine booster shots, secure imported supplies of drugs to treat COVID-19 and reorganise medical facilities to respond to the fast-spreading omicron variant.

Kishida, who took office in October, said he had ordered strict border controls from November to buy time for such preparations. Japan has basically shut

out incoming travel except for returning residents and Japanese nationals. The response to the contagious omicron variant will now shift to domestic measures, such as making free coronavirus tests more readily available, while border controls will continue, he said. I just offered prayers so that we may overcome the coronavirus pandemic and this year will be a fantastic year for all of you, he told reporters after praying at the Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture, southwest of

Tokyo. Japanese leaders visit the picturesque shrine complex at the start of every year, although Kishida's predecessor Yoshihide Suga cancelled it last year because of the pandemic. Kishida said the oral drug from Merck has been distributed to thousands of hospitals, and efforts were underway to procure the Pfizer oral drug as well, for use starting next month in treating symptomatic coronavirus cases. I want to make this

year one of dramatic challenges to forge ahead with a new era. But in areas where we need to exercise caution, we must not forget the humility to proceed with caution, Kishida added, noting care was needed for a proper pandemic response. He said everyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and needs hospitalisation will be speedily admitted for treatment, while those who can recover at home should do so, monitored by medical professionals.

Fighting intensifies in eastern Colombia

Bogota, Jan 04 (AP):

At least 23 people were killed in Colombia this weekend and 20 had to flee their homes as fighting between rebel groups intensified in the eastern state of Arauca, Colombia's Defense Minister said.

The killings mark a setback for Colombia's government, which was able to bring down homicide rates in much of the country following a 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

But it is now struggling to control violence in rural pockets of the country where smaller rebel groups and drug trafficking organisations are fighting over smuggling routes, coca fields, illegal mines and other assets.

Arauca is home to some of Colombia's largest oil wells and is

also crossed by a pipeline that is regularly attacked by rebel groups that steal its oil. The state borders Venezuela and drug trafficking groups have been fighting over its smuggling routes for decades.

In a statement, Colombia's army said the latest outbreak of violence was caused by fighting between the National Liberation Army, or ELN, guerrilla group and former members of the FARC who refused to join the peace deal. The army said that both groups are currently fighting for dominance over the area's drug trade.

Juan Carlos Villate, a human rights officer in the town of Tame, told Colombia's Blu Radio that he received reports of civilians who were dragged out of their homes and executed on Sunday by members of armed groups.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (छ.ग.) द्वितीय ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना. क. 19/न.पा.नि./जल विभाग/2021-22 दिनांक 04/01/2022. एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु फार्म-ए पर ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड बलरामपुर जिला बलरामपुर (छ.ग.) निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना. एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:- कार्य का नाम RETROFITTING/SVS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME under Jal Jeevan Mission as per NIT निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 15-01-2022

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) E-mail Id :- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone :- 07723-223731. क्र. 11195/व.ले.सि./जि.स्व.नि./का.अ./2021/महासमुन्द दिनांक 29/12/21. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना. एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.) e-Procurement Tender Notice. Online tenders are invited for Construction Of Road work, up to Date 20/01/2022. Sr NIT System No. Tender No. Name of work. Probable Amount of Contract. Tender Downloaded upto



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 93

Revisiting lab leak allegations

Yet another strain of the COVID-19 virus has emerged in France, after the case was discovered in a person returning from travel in the West African nation of Cameroon. The new strain has now been identified in 12 people who may have had contact with the person, who lives in a small town in southeastern France. That's according to French scientists from IHU Mediterranee Infection. A lot of people haven't yet been able to come to terms with the notion that the original COVID-19 outbreak, much less omicron, was related to a lab leak. The governments of world must seriously revisit lab leak allegations and investigate so as to prevent future pandemics due to human mistakes or intentional low intensity bio warfare. Human H1N1 influenza virus appeared with the 1918 global pandemic, and persisted, slowly accumulating small genetic changes, until 1957, when it appeared to go extinct. It reappeared in 1977, in the former Soviet Union and China. Virologists, using serologic and early genetic tests soon began to suggest the cause of the reappearance was a laboratory escape of a 1949-1950 virus, and as genomic techniques advanced, it became clear that this was true. By 2010, researchers published it as fact: 'The most famous case of a released laboratory strain is the re-emergent H1N1 influenza-A virus which was first observed in China in May of 1977 and in Russia shortly thereafter.' It continued to circulate until 2009, when the pH1N1 virus replaced it. There has been virtually no public awareness of the 1977 H1N1 pandemic and its laboratory origins. Why is there virtually no public awareness of a lab leak that caused suffering and disease for 32 years? Perhaps because when the World Health Organization looked into it in 1978, the scientists involved denied they were working with H1N1, and so the WHO concluded that it wasn't a lab leak. Does that sound familiar? It should. The WHO conducted a similar 'investigation' in Wuhan and said a lab leak was unlikely, despite evidence to the contrary. Virus gain-of-function (GoF) research was a hot topic in certain scientific circles, because of the dangers it poses to all of us. GoF is research that attempts to take existing pathogens, such as viruses, and make them more dangerous to humans. Researchers say they are trying to predict which viruses might mutate. The fact that these research programs exist is not in dispute. Many reputable scientists consider GoF programs unacceptably dangerous and have been raising the alarm for many years. We know lab accidents are common. If we think about all the lab leaks that occurred in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and so on. In other words, in earlier times, lab accidents were bad, but not quite as high stakes as they are now. By 2019, we had COVID-19, and the world has been struggling ever since. COVID-19 and its variants likely won't mean the end of humankind, but lakhs of people are dead, no one is being held accountable, and unless something is done to end this research, something worse will escape and potentially will mark the end of humankind. There is nothing more important we can do than to play our small part to end this.

Luring with empty promises

Advancing the race to lure voters with promises of freebies ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu promised Rs 2,000 per month for women homemakers if his party is voted to power. Earlier at a rally he said that we need to pursue the roadmap, keeping in mind the welfare of future generations as false promises will not help the state which has a debt of around Rs 3 lakh crore. This puts Sidhu's promise in contradiction of spending on people despite mounting debt on government of Punjab. Whether it is the resurgent AAP, the ruling Congress, the marginalised BJP, the fragmented SAD or the 'martyred' Captain Amarinder Singh, the rhetoric is the same. The trend is to declare empty promises to lure voters, despite knowing that promises cannot be fulfilled due to economic situation. The inconvenient truths of a state on the brink have no place in electoral grandstanding. As the head of the sixth state finance commission recently observed, Punjab has the highest per capita expenditure on salaries and pensions, the highest per capita debt and debt servicing charges, and the lowest capital expenditure. And no amount of moustache-twirling or chest-thumping by politicians can obscure these harsh facts. Earlier this year, the state government was severely jolted by a NITI Aayog report that said Punjab's per capita income had fallen below the national average, and indignantly contested the figures. Whether Punjab is below or marginally above the national average, there's no getting around the unpleasant truth that it trails behind Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, states that were carved out of its territory. Punjab's free fall from the top of the per capita income and growth rate table to the middle has impacted the state's psyche in ways that outsiders cannot grasp. The showy lifestyles of the uber-rich few obscure the distress of the indebted many. The desperation to export unemployed, under-educated youth to Canada or Australia, or any part of the western El Dorado that will accept them, is just one symptom of the malaise. The deindustrialisation of Punjab was a tragedy foretold. At a time when other states were wooing industry with incentives like tax holidays, cheap power, low-cost land, capital subsidy and ease of doing business reforms, Punjab was going in the opposite direction. High power tariffs and rates of taxation escalated the costs of business. Add to that the onslaught of cheap Chinese goods. A direct fallout of deindustrialisation is an unemployment rate higher than the national average. Sociologists link joblessness to the high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse among the youth. The trouble is that the political discourse in Punjab revolves around agriculture, because politics is dominated by the land owning community. The politicians have just promises not solutions.

POOL NEAR BURJ KHALIFA



A flamboyance of flamingos gather in a pool of rainwater near the Dubai towers of Burj Khalifa in the Gulf emirate of Dubai, UAE.

Futile exercise of trade between India and China



SATISH SINGH



During January 2021 to November 2021, a total business of Rs 8.57 lakh crore was done between India and China, which is the highest level ever. This is an increase of 46.4 percent over the same period last year. During this period, India imported various products worth Rs 6.59 lakh crore from China, which is 49 percent more than the corresponding period last year. However, China also imported records from India during this period. During this period, China imported a total of Rs 1.98 lakh crore worth of products from India, an increase of 38.5 percent over the same period last year. Despite this, India's trade deficit with China widened to 4.61 lakh crore, the highest ever. Trade between India and China is increasing when there is tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. Even now, more than 50 thousand soldiers are deployed on the LAC from both the countries, which is more than the war with China in the year 1962. Twelve commander-level talks to resolve the border dispute have failed and now talks are being held by the foreign ministries of both the countries to maintain normalcy. The current situation testifies to the importance of bilateral trade between the two countries. Today business has become more important than war. If business relations

with other countries are not good, then the country can also be ruined. There is no need for any war for this. Therefore, the changed circumstances should not be viewed with surprise. India is still not self-sufficient and it is dependent on China for the supply of many products. Boycotting Chinese products may be an emotional step taken by India and the general public, but in reality today the Indian market is occupied by Chinese products. Every villager in the countryside of India is using products made in China. Sheets used by barbers for cutting, scissors, razors, toys for children, diyas sold in Diwali, our deities, decorations, mobiles, TVs, laptops, in village grocery stores Most of the items sold are made in China. Indian market is full of Chinese goods. So can we boycott Chinese products? By the way, according to the latest data released by the Chinese government, in the year 2021, China imported more goods from India than before and the Chinese rulers have agreed to further strengthen the trade relationship with India in the coming days. In the year 2020, India's total trade with China was USD 87.6 billion, in which India had imported about USD 50.28 billion from China. Prior to this, in the year 2019, India imported USD 20.17 billion from China, in which the number of products like electric machinery,

parts etc. was more. Apart from this, India also imported organic chemicals worth USD 8.39 billion, fertilizers worth USD 1.67 billion, etc. from China. Trade data between India and China for the period from FY 2014-15 to FY 2019-20 shows that India exported more low-value crude products to China, while it exported manufacturing-related products from China. During this period, China was mainly importing iron ore, petroleum-based fuels, organic chemicals, refined copper, cotton yarn etc. from India. In food items, fish and seafood, black pepper, vegetable oil, fat etc. India was also exporting to China. Also, India was exporting granite blocks and stones used in real estate and raw cotton to China. In the last few years, the major items imported from China into India are automatic data processing machines, telephone equipment and video phones, electronic circuits, transistors and semiconductor devices, antibiotics, fertilizers, sound recording, devices and TV cameras, auto components and accessories, project goods etc. India largely imports finished products from China to meet its domestic needs. In the case of electronic hardware market, China also dominates the Indian market. If the amount earned from exports of any country is more than the amount spent in imports, then it is called trade profit, whereas, when the amount spent on imports is more than the amount earned from exports, then it is called trade deficit. Huh. India's trade deficit with China is constantly increasing, that is, India imports more diverse products from China, while exports less. India's trade deficit with China in the year 2014 was Rs 3.36 lakh crore, then in the year 2015, the year 2016, the year 2017, the year 2018, the year 2019, the year 2020 and the

year 2021, respectively, Rs 3.91 lakh crore, Rs 3.87 lakh crore, 4.45 Lakh crores, Rs 4.30 crores, Rs 3.83 crores, Rs 3.30 crores and Rs 4.61 crores. It is clear from these figures that even if we make lakhs of claims to boycott Chinese products, but in reality it is not possible for us to do so. We will continue to depend on Chinese products to meet our domestic needs even today and in the years to come. Not only this, even today we import raw materials from China for the manufacture of many products and our dependence will continue in the years to come. China is the king of the computer, automobile and electronics industries. It exports its parts to various countries globally. Automobiles, mobiles and computer parts are manufactured in large quantities in China. Electronics accounted for 20.6 percent, machinery 13.4 percent, organic chemicals 8.6 percent and plastic products 2.7 percent of the products imported from China, while organic chemicals and cotton accounted for 3.2 percent of the products exported from India to China. Clothing contributed 1.8 percent. India today is the largest importer of electrical machinery, mechanical equipment, organic chemicals, plastics and optical surgical instruments, accounting for 28 percent of India's total imports. India imports the largest number of organic chemicals, ie 40 percent, from China and also exports products made from it to China. Even though there is talk of boycotting the goods made in China in India, but many industries of India are dependent on China for raw materials and parts. Also, India is also dependent on China for many finished products. In such a situation, instead of pretending to boycott Chinese products, we should emphasize on increasing the number of "Made in India" goods.

(Satish Singh is senior columnist and editor of in-house Journal of SBI 'Aarthik Darpan'.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Territorial aggression

Bellucose China has been forcefully pursuing a state policy of territorial aggression, both on land and water, against its neighbours; and who knows it better than India, the close neighbour facing her unceasing cavalier posture along the long borders stretching from Arunachal Pradesh to Ladakh UT for decades since the 1950s. India has been already confronting the military face-off with China on the Ladakh borders for more than one and a half years. China had unilaterally occupied the disputed areas in east Ladakh in April 2020. Beijing is yet to fully vacate the neutral areas despite holding many military-level meetings; and this typical posture betrays its brazenness. Given China's repeated border incursions on Indian territory and other countries, Beijing has been deliberately engaged in willful hostilities with its neighbours disregarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other nations. Such unilateral despotic acts have exposed China as an international bully and also an expansionist. In India's exigencies, China deserves to be named and shamed globally through diplomatic counter-attacks. It is also incumbent on India to earn the confidence of many countries including the affected ones like Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and other countries bordering China. This will unite the other affected countries against the Dragon. Scaling down trade and commerce activities with China will not only economically squeeze the belligerent Asian country but also checkmate her.

Pannalal, via email

Small town roads

With immense discomfort, I am writing this letter. As a citizen of a small town in India, I travel a lot using two-wheelers. Riding a two-wheeler has its benefits but the problems faced by motorcyclists are greater, the potholes and pollution are a few to name. With the increase in the number of vehicles in the streets, levels of pollution and dust particles in the air have also been rising significantly. The increase in vehicles has also led to terrible traffic jams and congestion on the roads. And adding to all these difficulties citizens also use the roads as a personal storage facility for their construction items. The nuisance created by such storage facilities of construction goods is very dangerous, not only does it affect the environment but also leads to serious road accidents. The sand contributes to an increase in air pollution and the debris deteriorates the road quality. The tiny particles of rocks found within the sand causes people to lose control over their vehicles which leads to road accidents. These tiny particles on the roads also reduce the durability of tyres which adds up to the expenses of a citizen. The other day while travelling through middle of the town, I witnessed a minor road accident because of debris and sand heaped at the side of the road. The citizens must act responsibly and the authorities should also look into such matters. They should take strict actions against anyone misusing public roads as storage facilities.

Jeet, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!

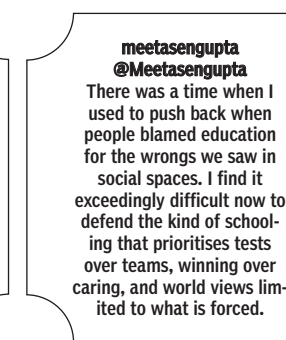


Prabhansh Ranjan@pranjan12781
Bureaucrats on Twitter displaying their service as part of their name (X, IAS/Y, IPS) appears as a brazen attempt to stamp their so-called superior status in a deeply feudal, unequal & hierarchical society. Why not write your service and what you do as part of your bio, not name?

Swapneil Parikh@swapneilparikh
When the hospitals in India are overwhelmed, when the doctors & nurses are themselves too sick to look after anyone else, when people can't get the care they need for COVID-19 & non-COVID-19 illnesses, remember all those who said this was mild.



Navin Kabra @NGKabra
I knew that most active stock market traders deceive themselves and would be better off investing in FDs or MFs, but I hadn't realized that the number would be 99%! (Also impressive that Nitin is publicly saying this)



meetasengupta @Meetasengupta
There was a time when I used to push back when people blamed education for the wrongs we saw in social spaces. I find it exceedingly difficult now to defend the kind of schooling that prioritises tests over teams, winning over caring, and world views limited to what is forced.



Arvind Mayaram@MayaramArvind
Strines Inn on stunning Strines road which runs from Penistone into Derbyshire



Bharati Chaturvedi@Bharati09
A doc of Indian origin in North America messages me. He's horrified at how lightly we are treating #Omicron in India. 8 percent of infected patients in his hospital are on ventilators. 8 percent is huge!! Let's take this seriously. Can't fight this without public participation.

Manan SHARMA@MananSH
very true sir, psychological pressure makes people depressed, that's why one should find time for oneself to give a better start, in todays world we dont find time to take care of ourselves which should be, because daily wear and tear needs healing from inside and outside

BRIEF

Innoviti raises



Mumbai: Innoviti Payment Solutions has raised Rs 80 crore in the first close of a series-D funding round led by Trifecta Debt Fund. CEO Rajeev Agrawal said new fund will be used for working capital needs, marketing, to strengthen technology platforms.

Charging stations

New Delhi: Electric mobility solutions and services firm ETO Motors on Tuesday said it has partnered BSES and Tata Power DDL to set up around 3,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the next 2-3 years in Delhi-NCR. The company was appointed and empanelled by Delhi's distribution companies (DISCOMs) - BSES Rajdhani, BSES Yamuna and Tata Power DDL - for the installation of subsidised EV charging stations.

Takes charge



Mumbai: Toyota's luxury car arm, Lexus, on Tuesday announced the appointment of auto industry veteran Naveen Soni as the President of Lexus India with effect from January 1. Soni succeeds PB Venugopal, who will be moving to a new leadership role at TKM, India.

Hits valuation

New Delhi: Climate change advisory company EKI Energy Services on Tuesday said it has become India's first BSE SME listed company to achieve USD one billion valuation. It has achieved this milestone within nine months of its debut on the BSE on April 7, 2021 with a market capitalization of Rs 96.23 crore. Shares of EKI Energy Services hit an all-time high of Rs 10,946 on BSE.

LML appoints



Mumbai: Two-wheeler maker LML said on Tuesday it has appointed Yamaha former executive Partha Choudhary as its chief operating officer (COO) as it looks to enter the fast-growing electric vehicle space. Partha will be responsible for leading operations functions.

Curefoods acquires

New Delhi: Curefoods, a delivery-only restaurant chain operator, on Tuesday said it has acquired five direct-to-consumer brands for undisclosed sums as part of its plans to significantly enhance its footprint in India this year.

Rising Omicron cases can impact growth by 0.3%

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

Growth might be impacted by up to 0.30 per cent in the March quarter as normal economic activities come under pressure due to restrictions being imposed by more states to curb rising Omicron cases, economists at the country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank said on Tuesday.

The economists said they were earlier estimating Q4 growth to come at 6.1 per cent, which can get impacted by 0.2-0.3 per cent because of the Omicron threat.

"With states imposing COVID-related restrictions (night curfew on movement of people, restaurants allowed at 50 per cent capacity, offices to operate at 50 per cent capacity in various states),



economic activity is likely to get impacted in Q4FY22," they said.

The downside risks at the current juncture emanate from more states imposing restrictions, the restrictions extending beyond January 2022 and also a slowdown in global recovery which will weigh on the exports, they said in a note. Experience from

previous waves during the COVID pandemic suggests that restrictions are imposed on mobility as COVID cases rise, which in turn has an impact on economic activity, they said. It said the Omicron cases are spreading at a faster pace in India and about 60 per cent of the overall infections are reported to be that of the

new variant.

The overall Omicron tally stood at 1,700 but the actual number could be higher as India has very few testing facilities to check genome sequencing, it said, adding that some media reports peg the total Omicron cases at 18,000 in the country.

The note also said that despite the threat of the Omicron, the rupee will stay range bound between Rs 74.76 to the greenback, and added that the RBI will intervene if the need arises.

Rate hike expectations will moderate as the growth gets impacted and the reverse repo hike expected in February is also uncertain now, it said, adding that the central bank will continue with its focus on liquidity normalisation and capping yields.

Lower coal allocation, non-availability of railway rakes impacting paper mills

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Operations of Indian paper mills are getting severely impacted by lower coal allocation and non-availability of adequate railway rakes for transportation of coal to the mills, an industry body said on Tuesday.

Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) said that for the last several months, Coal India and its subsidiaries have prioritised coal supplies the thermal power plants on priority at the cost of non-power sectors.

"The problems have been compounded by even priority allocation of railway rakes to the power sector/thermal power plants," it said in a statement. In a communication to Union Ministers of Coal & Mines and Railways, IPMA has urged the government to consider priority



allocation of both coal and railway rakes to captive power plants of the pulp and paper industry at par with thermal power plants/power sector. "If supplies of coal from allocated/ designated mines to paper mills as prior to June 2021 are not restored on priority, a large number of paper mills may need to have prolonged shutdowns resulting in a shortage of writing and printing paper and packaging paper in the market and this may have cascading impact on all FMCG, food and pharma sectors," IPMA President A S Mehta said.

Rupee falls 29 paise at 74.57 against USD, gold plunges Rs 302

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

The rupee on Tuesday slumped 29 paise to close at 74.57 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said growing concerns over the Omicron variant of coronavirus and its impact on economic recovery as well as firm crude oil prices weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.49 and witnessed an intraday high of 74.46 and a low of 74.61 against the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled at 74.57, down 29 paise over its previous close of 74.28.

The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent up at 96.23.

Gold price in the national capital on Tuesday plunged by Rs 302 to Rs 46,814 per 10 grams, reflecting an overnight decline in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 47,116 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined by Rs 597 to Rs 60,625 per kg from Rs 61,222 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat at Delhi plunged by Rs 302 reflecting overnight decline in COMEX gold prices," HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel said. In the interna-

Strong demand for Indian apparels to further push exports

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Strong demand and healthy order books will further help in boosting the country's exports in the coming months, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman A Sakthivel said on Tuesday.

"We have a fast-growing order book from brands and buyers across the world...With the help of strong demand conditions, Indian apparel exports will see historic highs soon in the next coming months," he said in a statement.

Export of readymade garments saw an increase of 22 per cent to USD 1.46 billion in December 2021 from USD 1.20 billion in the same month of 2020. Total apparel exports stood at USD 11.13 billion during April-December 2021.

"Indian apparels have also bounced back. This is despite the fact that local restrictions impacted operations in the first quarter during the second wave of the pandemic. Apparel exporters have done exceedingly well in spite of challenges," Sakthivel said.

Sensex zooms 673 pts, Nifty above 17,800



Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

The BSE Sensex surged by 673 points and the Nifty breached the 17,800-level on Tuesday on account of hectic buying across sectors.

Continuing its winning momentum for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark opened with significant gains and saw further consolidation as the trade progressed. It finally closed at 59,855.93, clocking a gain of 672.71 points or 1.14 per cent. Likewise, the NSE Nifty rose 179.55 points or 1.02 per cent to end at 17,805.25. On the Sensex chart, major gainers were NTPC, PowerGrid, SBI,

Titan, Reliance, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank, rising as much as 5.48 per cent. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Ultratech Cement, IndusInd Bank and Dr Reddy's closed in the red.

"US markets setting record highs on the first trading day of 2022 is auspicious for global stock markets," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

If the FIIs' buying of Monday is an indication of their renewed interest in India, financials particularly the leading banks, are likely to continue the momentum witnessed in the previous session, he added.

Solar open access installation rises nearly two folds to 307 MW

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Solar open access installations in India jumped 85 per cent to 307 megawatt (MW) in October-December period of 2021, Mercom India Research said in a report.

The installations stood at 166 MW during the same quarter in 2020, the research firm said in its report titled "India Solar Open Access Market Report Q3 2021" on Tuesday.

According to the report, the country installed 935 MW of open access solar capacity during April-December 2021, registering a rise of 143 per cent compared to 385 MW installed during the same nine-month period of 2020.

The pipeline of solar open access projects under



development and pre-construction is estimated to be over 1.1 GW (gigawatt), the report added.

It has also expanded coverage to include two new markets, Uttarakhand and Punjab. Uttar Pradesh had the most installations, constituting about 35 per cent of the projects installed during the quarter.

Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka accounted for 11 per cent, 10 per cent, and 7 per cent of the installations, respectively during the quarter.

Amway India launches Healthy Body Healthy Mind campaign

Mumbai, Jan 04:

In line with its vision of helping people live better, healthier lives, Amway India, an entrepreneur-led health and wellness company, promotes healthy living, nutrition, and hygiene practices among underprivileged children in collaboration with its nine partner NGOs across India. As a part of its commitment under its CSR program, Project Sunrise, the new campaign "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" focuses on engaging young minds with fun-filled activities centered on health and wellness. Through Project Sunrise, Amway India has been supporting the upliftment and overall well-being of



underprivileged children by providing them access to education, health, and hygiene. The campaign "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" is aligned to this objective. As a part of the campaign, Amway India organized a learning workshop, which included yoga and a session on nutrition and personal hygiene habits. Further adding the

fun element to the workshop, children were engaged with the quiz and making nutritious food platters using clay and dough. These activities are designed to spread awareness, encouraging children to lead a healthy lifestyle. Talking about the initiative, Chandra Bhushan Chakraborty, Sr. Vice President, East & West

Region, Amway India, said, "Children are the future of our nation and the citizens of tomorrow. It is important to nurture them with care. Over the years, Amway India has significantly enriched the lives of underprivileged children across India by assisting them in their holistic development. Our objective is to provide a platform for the children to develop and enable their overall growth and well-being. As a part of our Project Sunrise, every year, we organize multiple initiatives centered on health and wellness for underprivileged children in association with our NGO partners to enable them to face the ever-changing world in these unprecedented times."

Icra maintains stable outlook for Indian road logistic sector

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Domestic rating agency Icra on Tuesday said the Indian road logistic sector is likely to witness healthy growth in FY2022 on the back of demand recovery and improved business activities.

The optimism stems from the favourable scenario wherein most players reported strong growth in freight volumes on a sequential basis in the second quarter of FY22, and the momentum is likely to continue in the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal.

Domestic rating agency maintained a 'stable' outlook for the Indian road logistic sector. After a subdued Q1 FY22 on account of second wave of COVID-19, demand recovery and im-



proved business activities from Q2 FY22 onwards, led to better asset utilisation, which, along with cost-rationalisation measures, supported the operating margins in the current fiscal, Icra in a statement.

Growth over the medium-term would continue to be driven by demand from varied segments like e-commerce, FMCG, retail, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and industrial goods coupled with industry paradigm shift towards organised logistics players, post the

GST and E-way bill implementation. The sector is also expected to witness some consolidation on account of pandemic-related stress.

However, the threat of a new variant, has the potential to derail the momentum of recovery, if it becomes a source of fresh round of lockdowns/restrictions in the near-term.

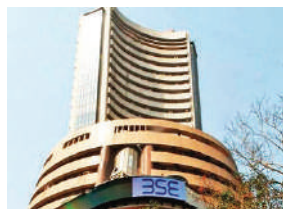
"With an accelerated pace of vaccine roll-outs, pent up demand and firm freight rates, driven by high fuel prices, the sector is likely to grow at 13 per cent-16 per cent in FY2022 over FY2021." "Nevertheless, the propagation of the new Omicron variant is a key monitorable, given the sector's vulnerability to economic activity on an aggregate basis.

BSE receives 362 investor complaints against cos in Dec

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Leading stock exchange BSE on Tuesday said it received 362 investor complaints pertaining to non-receipt of shares and debt securities against 207 companies in December 2021.

During the period, the stock exchange resolved 473 grievances against 262 listed companies. The resolved complaints include those brought forward from the previous period, BSE said in a statement. Complaints made against the firms included that of non-receipt of money, shares, demat as well as physical, non-receipt of debt securities, corporate benefits, entitlements and interest, the exchange said. Of the total complaints received, 348 were against active companies while 14 were against suspend-



ed firms during the month. Out of the total complaints resolved, 461 were against active companies whereas 12 were against suspended firms. The companies with pending investor complaints include JK Pharmachem Ltd, Gujarat Perstorp Electronics, Gujarat Narmada Flyash Co. Ltd, Teem Laboratories, Blazon Marbles, Saptak Chem And Business Ltd, Gujarat Meditech Ltd, Global Securities, Willard India Ltd and Softrac Venture Investments Ltd.

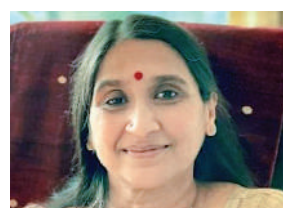
Alka Mittal is interim ONGC head, first woman to head it

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Alka Mittal has been appointed an interim chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.

Mittal replaces Subhash Kumar; another interim head who retired after reaching superannuation age on December 31.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for entrustment of



Alka Mittal

the additional charge of the post of chairman and managing director (CMD), ONGC to Alka Mittal, director (HR), ONGC for a period of six months with effect from January 1, 2022, or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further order, whichever is the earliest," the Department of

Personnel and Training (DoPT) said in an order dated January 3, 2022. Mittal, 59, is the first woman to head an oil and gas exploration and production company. Nishi Vasudeva was the first woman to head an oil company, when in 2014 she took over the reins of oil refiner and fuel marketing company Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

A post-graduate in economics and a doctorate in commerce, Mittal had broken the glass ceiling in ONGC by becoming the first woman to join the company's board on November 27, 2018.

Net office space leasing up 2% in 2021, still down from pre-COVID levels

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Net leasing of office space across top seven cities grew marginally by 2 per cent last year at 26.17 million square feet, but absorption was 45 per cent lower than record 2019 pre-COVID levels, according to JLL India.

The net absorption of office space stood at 25.66 million square feet in 2020 and record 47.8 million square feet in 2019.

Releasing its quarterly and annual data of India's office market, JLL India said that the net leasing or absorption for October-December 2021 rose 37 per cent at 11.56 million square feet, the highest in the last eight quarters.

According to JLL, the net absorption is calculated as the new floor space occupied less floor space vacated. Floor space that is pre-committed is not considered to be absorbed until it is physically occupied. During the full-year 2021, IT/ITes remained the leading occupier category with a 38.9 per cent share of leasing activity, followed by manufacturing/industrial 15.4 per cent and flexible space operators with 11 per cent share.

According to the annual data, the net leasing of office space rose 14 per cent in Bengaluru to 7.82 million square feet in 2021 from 6.83 million square feet in the previous year.

&TV welcomes 2022 with new spirit

&TV welcomes 2022 with fascinating, entertaining tracks and dhamakedar episodes in the first week of January with popular shows like 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 Anusuya tyaag degi apni mamta?

In the first week of 2022, Mahasati Anusuya (Mouli Ganguly) agrees to send Tridev back to save the universe. By reminding Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari) of his real existence, Mahasati Anusuya and Nandi (Danish Akhtar) remind him of the gems that came out of the 'Samudra Manthan' and how Mahadev saved the whole world by drinking the poison. Seeing the destruction of all the gems, Devi Parvati (Shivya Pathania) is extremely concerned, and Baal Shiv, with his mother's blessings, goes out to drink poison to stop the holocaust. Parvati runs towards Baal Shiv and puts her hand on Baal Shiv's throat, which causes the poison to stop, but Baal Shiv faints.



Mahasati Anusuya (Mouli Ganguly) says, "Baal Shiv has consumed the poison to save the universe. In this course, Anusuya realises that her decision to have the Tridevs as sons was wrong after her childhood friend Maina tries to convince her that she can't keep the Tridevs in the bondage motherhood for a lifetime. So, it will be interesting to see if Anusuya would give up on her motherhood?"

Kya Genda ki ho jaayegi mau? In &TV's Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki, Genda (Shreenu Parikh) goes an extra mile to safeguard her loved ones and gets hit by a bullet! Kundan Agarwal (Sai Ballal), Varun (Akshay Mhatre) and Shivam (Vivaan Shah) put in a collective effort and successfully got their hands on the evidence, which proves Siddhant's ill-doing. While Siddhant Sinha (Ankit Bathla) invites the Agarwals to his party and humiliates them in every possible way, Genda hatches a plan to unveil Siddhant's reality. Siddhant pulls out a gun and fires on the family as the hot-headed man he is. Genda does not think twice and jumps in front of the bullet. Genda will fight for life. Talking about the interesting sequence, "Genda Agarwal (Shreenu Parikh) shares, "For Genda, family comes first. No matter the situation, she is always there to protect her loved ones. But this time, while protecting them, she has put her life in danger and gets hit by a bullet."

Noor Begum (Arhana Shukla) get into a heated argument, and Noor decides to leave the house. On hearing this, Brijish Mishra convinces Noor to stay at their place. However, this becomes a huge problem for Shanti (Farhana Fatema) as Noor behaves like her mother-in-law and disrupts her work. Shanti and Mishra (Amrisha Bobby) hatch a plan to send Noor back to the Mirza's and tell Sakina that Noor will give her property and ornaments to them. Sakina (Akansha Sharma) says, "The Mishras were always helping Noor only because they wanted her property. But will Noor fall in their trap and give it away or keep it for her children?"

Do not miss out on the dhamakedar episodes in the New Year of your favourite shows Baal Shiv at 8:00 pm, Ghar Ek Mandir- Agrasen Maharaj 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 only on &TV!

'I don't have set acting patterns to fall back on'

Actor Shefali Shah says she has never walked in on a film set with confidence in her craft despite her 20 years in front of the camera.

Shah, known for her acclaimed performances in films like "Monsoon Wedding", "Dil Dhadakne Do" and the International Emmy Award winning series "Delhi Crime", said she consciously avoids using her past work as a ground to extract new performances.

"I am never assured of my craft when I walk into a set. I am terrified to go in front of the camera, every time. I fear that when the director is going to say action, I will just stand there, like he is talking to me in French and I can't understand."

"But I am glad, because this works for me. It might not sound believable but I don't have a set pattern or a system to fall back on. I follow my instincts," the actor told PTI. Shah has followed a similar working style for her latest series

"Human", where she plays the role of Dr Gauri



Nath, who she describes as one of the most complex characters she has essayed. "With Gauri, I don't know whether it is going to work. There was a way of playing her and I knew it was a sure shot way of going about it, but, how does this excite me? So you take a chance, play her differently. This never lets me be complacent. Never do I go on a set like 'Hey, I have got this.' I don't."

filmmaker husband Vipul Amrutlal Shah and Moze Singh, the medical thriller series explores the twisted world of unethical human trials.

Shah said she had heard about human trials but when she read the script-penned by Singh and Ishani Banerjee-the details left her "shocked and horrified". The actor said she prepared for the role by doing a thorough homework.

"Gauri was written in a certain way, but the more I read the script and thought about it, I decided to play it differently. I am glad my directors agreed and gave me the freedom. "Gauri is unlike anyone I have ever known. It pushed me out of my comfort zone because she is completely opposite to me. She is like a Pandora's box. I studied the script every single day but she kept surprising me because the character is unpredictable," she added.

Also starring Kirti Kulhari, "Human" is set to premiere on Disney+ Hotstar on January 14.

Sarwar Ahuja all set to enter 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main'



Actor Sarwar Ahuja is all set to enter the show 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main'. He will be seen as Daljeet's ex-husband Ravinder Bagga. Sarwar opens up on how his entry will bring certain important changes in the story line. He said: "This is my third association with Shashi Sumeet Productions, so this feels like homecoming for me. I feel blessed to have bagged this opportunity in a show like 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main' with a very loyal audience who loves and follows the show so diligently." "The cast gave me a very warm welcome on my first day, and I am looking forward to connecting with each of them to add on to the magic they have created so far. Couldn't be more excited to play a pivotal and an interesting character on the show and I'm sure the audience is going to enjoy the upcoming track, he

added. Sharing details about his character, Sarwar said: "My character Ravinder loves Daljeet unconditionally. He is a fun-filled, larger than life Punjabi character, just like Daljeet. The viewers can expect an explosion of emotions with his entry to the show as it will unfold an old chapter of Daljeet's life. The equation and chemistry between Daljeet and Rajeev (played by Sudeep Sahir) will be put to the test because Daljeet still loves her ex-husband and fondly remembers her past." "So, I can assure you that the upcoming episodes will keep the viewers on their toes, and they will keep guessing about what will happen next. I am coming back to the small screen after a break, so I hope my fans like me in my new role and show their love and support to Ravinder," he concluded. "Tera Yaar Hoon Main" airs on Sony SAB.

Indore-based Carragreen secures an investment of 50 lakhs on Shark Tank India

With an evolved mindset where Indians were looking for avenues like - financial security, self-dependence, and space for innovation, it was the most opportunistic time for SHARK TANK INDIA to hit the screens. A clutter breaker in true sense, Shark Tank India truly reflects how Badalte Bharat ki nayi soch ko mil raha hain ek naya manch, jahan ubharte businessmen ke sapne honge sach! Within weeks of its launch, Shark Tank India has managed to garner enough and more attention from the viewers. This week will see a unique business idea from Ecopreneurs - Surabhi Shah and Chetna Shah, a daughter in law and mother-in-law jodi from Indore, MP. Their business Carragreen that provides cost-effective and eco-friendly products received a deal of 50 Lakhs for a 20% from Peyush Bansal and Anupam Mittal.

In a world that's 'plastic' Carragreen aims to provide a 'green' solution. With a mission to fight against deforestation & plastic pollution and pledging to reduce plastic use, reuse, and recycle paper, Carragreen provides biodegradable and compostable products at affordable rates. The mother-in-law daughter-in-law duo through Carragreen provide innovative products that are a substitute for disposable plastic at affordable rates. Carragreen Founder Surabhi Shah says, "Since the beginning, both my mother-in-law and I have felt strongly about biodegradable products and minimizing the use of plastic. Most of us are habituated to using plastic products without even realizing - be it straws, spoons, plates, etc. Unfortunately, these are treated as single use products and therefore disposed off immediately which in turn has a hazardous effect on the environment. Our company Carragreen is a small step towards changing this 'plastic-dependent' mindset and opting for eco-friendly solutions."



'Receiving praise from Naseeruddin is gratifying'

Soha Ali Khan, who is making her debut on OTT with web series 'Kaun Banegi Shikharwati', says she had more than one reason to be part of the show and that an emotional scene with veteran star Naseeruddin Shah made her feel content as a performer.

In conversation with IANS Soha said, "Firstly the story of the show is very interesting and since it is an ensemble cast, every character is so very important. I am playing Rajkumari Gayatri one of the princesses. There are a lot of conflicts going on between my character and Raja Mrityunjay that Naseer Sahab is playing. "There was one emotional scene where I broke down in tears before him. We did the scene and the day went by. In the evening, when all of us sat down for dinner, Naseer sahab told me, I was looking for you, where were you? I want to tell you, your performance was so on point! Your crying was natural and you felt those lines before saying it...you are good!"

She went on adding, "Such words from an iconic actor like him was so gratifying. I am happy!" "Also it was interesting for me to work with Naseer Sahab because he is quite interested in teaching in a very easy way by sharing tips. Since he is constantly doing theatre and surrounded by the young minds he is very easy going with our gang, our generation, you know...so being



an attentive person it is interesting to work with him," added Soha. The show 'Kaun Banegi Shikharwati' revolves around a dysfunctional royal family where the old king of the family stays in the palace and due to the overdue of heavy wealth tax of Rs 32 crore, he calls up all his daughters to the palace who otherwise stay in different places separately.

Interestingly, Soha herself comes from a royal family of the Nawab of Pataudi. Asked about how she looks at the liability of maintaining royal properties she said, "Listen, when you are born and brought up in a royal family, as children you are not supposed to talk about money because it is considered as bad manners. So as a child, I did not know how rich we were. But when it comes to our lifestyle, a part of it has gone out of practice because of the modernity."

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY JANUARY 05

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

It is your lucky day today! Whatever you wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will dampen your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool and return to your charismatic self.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

A wistful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesha. This day, just like 'on the summer day that we flew kites', may be the standard when it comes to wanting to have a better future. Ganesha expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you must just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

There is nothing extraordinary about today. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill and adventure doesn't mean that you'll be free for most part of the day. By evening, you may get indications that tomorrow may not be this boring.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Dear friends and soul mates will bring you much relief and calm today, says Ganesha. Spend as much time as possible with them. Romantic escapades with your beloved will be heaven in itself. Blood relations will stand true and strong in matters of importance, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Ganesha sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesha, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You may not have a halo around your head, but that most certainly does not deter you from playing the spiritual card today, says Ganesha. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Temper will fly today, warns Ganesha. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesha.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

There will be a positive surge in your career prospects today. However, this progress may not be in the direction that you expected. Financial opportunities and success will knock at your door, a rare combination of guests. You will also achieve material progress, predicts Ganesha.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

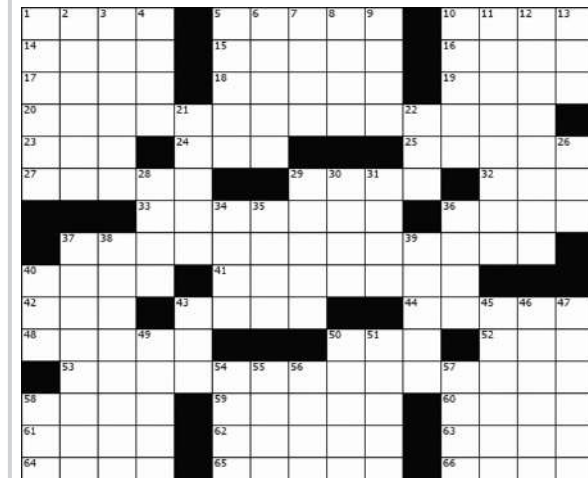
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesha. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesha advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesha. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about. You will deal with each one of them with ease.

CROSSWORD

178



ACROSS

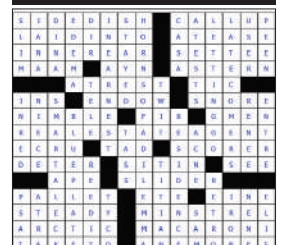
- Oceanfront room feature
- Pitch
- Perfumer Chanel
- Prefix with European or Chinese
- Contest
- Atop
- Wednesday's namesake
- Rude rubes
- Surrealist Magritte
- What RFK and Jeb Bush are in history

DOWN

- It may be shrinking
- Ellington song mood
- Writer's best friend, one would think
- Refuses to
- Cavalry sword
- Investigation with much digging
- Aviator Sikorsky
- Money in Milan
- For fear that
- Doctor, one would hope
- Ernestine, in a Lily Tomlin skit
- Unwavering
- Number of Es in this puzzle?
- Sierra
- Weeding implement
- Drop the curtain on

- Pitching credit
- Bargain-hunter draws
- Bullet point
- Retro art style
- Eagerly studying
- Morass
- Commotion
- Scads
- City dweller
- Bay window
- Percussive dance
- Wildebeest
- Source for the press
- Making mistakes
- Like instantly
- Was not in gear?
- "Exactly!"
- Like a beaver
- Cries uncontrollably
- Place for a fort
- "-- Man" (Hoffman film)
- Thing to do before the picture starts?
- Athenian T

SOLUTION 177



Thakur's seven wickets help India bowl out SA for 229

Johannesburg, Jan 04 (PTI):

Shardul Thakur picked up a maiden five-wicket haul as India bowled out South Africa for 229 in their first innings on the second day of the second Test here on Tuesday.

Thakur ran through the hosts' batting line-up with figures of 7 for 61 after Keegan Petersen struck a fine half-century before lunch.

Resuming at the overnight score of 35 for one, South Africa added 53 runs before losing skipper Dean Elgar for 28 but Petersen held the other end, scoring 62 off 118 balls. The visitors were all out for 202 in their first innings. South Africa took a first innings lead of 27 runs over India.

Thakur with his happy knack of breaking partnerships more than compensated for Mohammed Siraj's hamstring injury as



Shardul Thakur, middle, celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket of Dean Elgar, during the second day of the 2nd Test Cricket match between South Africa and India at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg Tuesday.

Keegan Petersen (62 off 118 balls) and the in-form Temba Bavuma (51 off 60 balls) laid the platform only

to fritter away a promising start.

In fact, just like skipper Dean Elgar (28 off 120 balls)

and Petersen had a 74-run stand broken in the first session, Bavuma and keeper Kyle Verreynne (21) had

added 58 runs in a fifth wicket stand before Thakur once again got to the act.

If outswingers worked well in the first session, it was the scrambled seam off-cutters that did the trick in the post-lunch dismissals.

In case of Verreynne, the ball cut back from 'fifth' off-stump to beat his bat while Bavuma just like first Test, lost his concentration trying to whip one that was drifting down but had enough bounce to take his gloves and Rishabh Pant completed a fine leg-side catch. Pant had three catches and one of which off Rassie van der Dussen looked like having hit the ground before he picked up. While South Africa might still get ahead but to be where they are after being 88 for 1 in the first 90 minutes of the second certainly means a lost opportunity on a track where it's difficult to feel set.

Djokovic given medical exemption to play at Australian Open

Brisbane, Jan 04 (AP):

Novak Djokovic will get a chance to defend his Australian Open title after receiving a medical exemption to travel to Melbourne, ending months of uncertainty about his participation because of the strict COVID-19 vaccination requirements in place for the tournament.

The top-ranked Djokovic wrote on Instagram on Tuesday he has an exemption permission to travel to Australia.

Djokovic, who is seeking a record 21st Grand Slam singles title, has continually refused to reveal if he is vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The Victoria state government has mandated that all players, staff and fans attending the Australian Open must be fully vaccinated unless there is a genuine reason why an exemption should be granted. Australian Open organizers issued a



statement later Tuesday to confirm Djokovic will be allowed to compete at the tournament, which starts on Jan. 17, and is on his way to Australia. He earlier withdrew from Serbia's team for the ATP Cup, which started last weekend in Sydney.

"Djokovic applied for a medical exemption which was granted following a rigorous review process

involving two separate independent panels of medical experts, the statement said. "One of those was the Independent Medical Exemption Review Panel appointed by the Victorian Department of Health. They assessed all applications to see if they met the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation guidelines."

Osaka opens her season with a win over Cornet

Melbourne, Jan 04 (AP):

Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka opened her 2022 season with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Alize Cornet on Tuesday in one of the so-called Summer Set of tournaments in Melbourne.

Osaka returned to Rod Laver Arena for the first time since winning the Australian title last February. It was her first tour-level match since a third-round loss to Leylah Fernandez at the U.S. Open in September.

Osaka was up a set and a break before Cornet went on a five-game roll to force the match into a third set. The former No. 1-ranked Osaka got just over 38% of her first serves into play,



had eight double-faults and 57 unforced errors, but countered that with 51 winners. She faced only three break points in a match that lasted just over two hours.

I feel like I made a lot of unforced errors today," top-seeded Osaka said, but I expected that because it is the first match and I was really nervous.

Travel restrictions dur-

ing the COVID-19 pandemic mean there's a crammed schedule of events Down Under before the Australian Open starts Jan. 17.

There are three events being played this week in Melbourne as part of Tennis Australia's Summer Set of tournaments two WTA tournaments and one ATP. In Adelaide there is a joint ATP and WTA tournament this week. The ATP Cup is being played in Sydney.

Jessica Pegula, the top seed in the other women's Summer Set tournament in Melbourne, lost 7-6 (6), 6-3 to Irina-Camelia Begu in her first-round match.

Pegula, who reached the quarterfinals at last year's

Australian Open, led 5-3 and had set points before Begu rallied for victory.

In Adelaide, 2020 French Open champion Iga Swiatek opened her Adelaide International title defense with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Daria Saville, who was known as Daria Gavrilova before her recent marriage.

In earlier matches, American teenager Coco Gauff beat Ulrikke Eikeri of Norway 6-2, 6-1 to set up a second-round match against top-ranked Ash Barty, 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin beat Lucia Bronzetti 7-5, 7-5 and Anastasia Gasanova beat eighth-seeded Elina Svitolina 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 in a match lasting 2 hours and 34 minutes.

Zverev clinches Germany's win over American team at ATP Cup

Sydney, Jan 04 (AP):

Alexander Zverev beat Taylor Fritz in straight sets Tuesday to clinch a victory over the U.S. team and get Germany's ATP Cup campaign back on track.

Jan-Lennard Struff withstood 34 aces in a 7-6 (7), 4-6, 7-5 win over John Isner to give Germany the lead and Zverev sealed it, on his fifth match point, with a 6-4, 6-4 win in the second of the singles matches.

Isner and Fritz combined for a 6-0, 6-3 win over Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz in the doubles. Both teams are now 1-1 in Group C. The



Andy Murray of Britain serves during his singles match against Facundo Bagnis of Argentina at Summer Set tennis tournament ahead of the Australian Open in Melbourne Tuesday.

U.S. opened with a 3-0 win over Canada and Germany

was coming off a 2-1 loss to Britain. Great effort by Jan

to beat John in these conditions ... we needed that win, we needed to get on the board, No. 3-ranked Zverev said. It's the second match of the season. I'm still getting into it. I'm still trying to adjust, but I'm happy with how things are.

Italy rebounded from its opening upset loss to Australia to beat France in Group B.

Runners-up last year to Russia, Italy took the lead when Jannik Sinner beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-3, 7-6 (3) and secured its victory over France when Matteo Berrettini beat Ugo Humbert 6-4, 7-6 (6).

Boland retains spot in Australia lineup for 4th Ashes test

Sydney, Jan 04 (AP):

Scott Boland has retained his spot in Australia's bowling attack for the fourth Ashes test after his starring role on debut in the series-deciding victory over England last week.

Boland took six wickets for seven runs as England collapsed in the second innings to be all out for 68 in Melbourne, allowing Australia to retain the Ashes with two matches to spare.

Any debate about Boland's spot in the starting XI ended when veteran pace bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out for a third consecutive match because of a side strain. Australia made one injury enforced change for the fourth test starting Wednesday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with

Usman Khawaja replacing middle-order batter Travis Head. Khawaja's return for the first time since 2019 comes after Head was ruled out following a positive COVID-19 test.

England's coronavirus concerns have mainly been off the field, with head coach Chris Silverwood among the support staff in isolation in Melbourne and missing the Sydney match.

Assistant coach Graham Thorpe, who will guide the squad in Silverwood's absence, recalled 35-year-old paceman Stuart Broad in the only change to England's lineup. Broad missed selection for the first and third tests but returned to replace Ollie Robinson, who leads the team with nine wickets in this series but has been sidelined with a shoulder problem.

'Strength and conditioning coach has helped team'

Kochi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Training under new strength and conditioning coach Jane Tornqvist of Sweden for the past two months has paid rich dividends to the Indian women's football team ahead of the upcoming AFC Asian Cup, feels goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan.

Tornqvist is a former Sweden international and she has played under current India head coach Thomas Dennerby at the club level as well as in the national team. After retirement she became a strength and conditioning coach.

Chauhan believes that morning sessions in the gym with Tornqvist have helped her become a lot more agile on the pitch.

"Ever since Jane has joined, it's made a huge difference. As a goalkeeper, I can see the change in my



movements on the pitch. I feel stronger, my jumps are higher, and my kicks are longer," said Chauhan.

"It's all about knowing which parts of your body to work on to gain the extra yard on the pitch, and she really brings in that knowledge," she was quoted as saying in a release issued by the All India Football Federation.

"And these things really matter in tournaments where you have back-to-back matches with little time for recovery," Tornqvist, on her part,

said the Indian players have become stronger and more agile.

"I think the players have started to understand the importance of strength and conditioning, once they started seeing the results on the pitch," she said.

"In two months, they feel the difference on the field they are stronger, faster, and more agile," said the Swede, who has started liking eating 'dosa' in the two months she has been in India.

The 46-year-old Tornqvist was herself a defender back in her playing days. She won Damallsvenskan (Swedish Women's League) in back-to-back seasons at Djurgardens IF.

"The most important thing is that they have started to get to know their own bodies," said the Yoga enthusiast.

'Good outing in Asia Cup key for success in 2022'

Bangalore: Defending the title at the women's Asia Cup and sealing a direct berth in the FIH World Cup later will be the key focus for India as it will set the tone for the side ahead of a busy season, said team's vice captain Savita.

The Indian women will begin the new year with a trip to Oman in January where they will defend their Asia Cup title to be held from January 21 to 28. Top eight teams of the continent -- India, China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore -- will vie for the top honours in the Asia Cup. From where top four sides will qualify for the FIH Women's World Cup 2022 to be held in Spain and the Netherlands in July.

Mbappe hat trick as PSG beats Vannes 4-0 in French Cup

Paris, Jan 04 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe scored a second-half hat trick as French Cup holder Paris Saint-Germain won at fourth-tier Vannes 4-0 to reach the last 16.

Goalkeeper Clement Petrel made a couple of smart saves before PSG central defender Presnel Kimpembe stooped to score a powerful header from a Nuno Mendes corner in the 28th minute.

Mbappe was kept quiet by the Vannes defense in the first half on a rainy night in the Brittany region of northwestern France.

But he made it 2-0 in the 59th when he latched onto Kimpembe's long pass from defense to sprint clear and finish with a low shot that looped in.

His next goal was far more emphatic as he ar-



rowed a shot high into the net from 20 meters, after good work from midfielder Marco Verratti allowed 18-year-old Dutch midfielder Xavi Simons to send Mbappe through in the 71st.

His third goal was from close range after swapping passes with substitute Eric Ebimbe in the 77th. It marked his 18th goal in 25 games overall.

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino also picked 18-year-old French midfielder Edouard Michut, who impressed with his technical ability albeit against modest opposition.

Sehwag, Yuvraj, Harbhajan to play for India Maharaja in Legends League Cricket

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh will be among a host of former stars in the India Maharaja team which will take part in the inaugural edition of the Legends League Cricket (LLC), starting on January 20 in Oman.

The first season of LLC, which is a professional cricket league for retired international cricketers, will be played at the Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Oman among three power-packed teams. The other two teams would be representing Asia and rest of the world.

Apart from the above trio, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Badrinath, RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha, Naman Ojha, Manpreet Gony, Hemang Badani, Venugopal Rao, Munaf Patel, Sanjay Bangar, Nayyan Mongia and Amit Bhandari will also be



part of the India Maharaja team. Like true Kings, they will come, they would see and they would conquer. The Cricket Maharajas from India are coming together to take on the battle against the other two top teams from Asia and rest of the World, former India coach and Commissioner of Legends League Cricket Ravi Shastri was quoted as saying in a media release. It would be the mother of all rivalries when Sehwag, Yuvraj, Bhajji play against Afridi, Murali, Chaminda, Shoaib, this will be a blast from the past for the fans, he added.

Ebadot puts Bangladesh on top in 1st test

Mount Maunganui, Jan 4 (AP):

Ebadot Hossain bowled Bangladesh to the brink of a famous victory over World Test Champion New Zealand in a fiery spell Tuesday on the fourth day of the first cricket test.

On a pitch on which Bangladesh and New Zealand collectively amassed 786 runs in their first innings with the tourists taking a 130-run lead Ebadot reduced New Zealand to 147-5 at stumps, a lead of only 17 runs.

After dismissing first innings century-maker Devon Conway for 13, Ebadot removed Will Young (69), Henry Nicholls (0) and Tom Blundell (0) in the space of six balls to for-



Ebadot Hossain, back, celebrates bowling New Zealand's Henry Nicholls with teammate Mehidy Hasan on day four of the first cricket test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui Tuesday.

tify the strong position the Bangladesh batters had

created. "The first thing to know about Ebadot as a

person is that he only came to cricket about five years

ago, Bangladesh's West Indies-born bowling coach Ottis Gibson said. He won a fast-bowling competition somewhere and two years later he was playing international cricket.

He's a joy to work with because he's enthusiastic and he wants to learn so much. When his confidence is high he can bowl spells like this.

New Zealand was just hanging on at stumps in the face of Ebadot's aggressive swing bowling. Veteran Ross Taylor, in his penultimate test match before retirement, was 37 and allrounder Rachin Ravindra was 6. Bangladesh hasn't won any of its previous 43 matches in New Zealand across all

three formats and wasn't expected to test New Zealand in this match in the absence of veteran players such as Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah. But the tourists have steadily got on top of New Zealand, and Ebadot rammed home their advantage on Tuesday, finishing the day with figures of 4-39. Bangladesh first dismissed New Zealand for 328, claiming the last five wickets for 70 runs to leave it short of a par score on a docile pitch at the Bay Oval. Bangladesh replied with 458, lifted by the contributions of captain Mominul Haque (88), Liton Das (86), Mahmudul Hasan Joy (78) and Najmul Hossain Shanto (64).

'Vehicle of corruption never stopped in Tripura'

State now a trade corridor

Agartala, Jan 04 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday attacked the previous governments in Tripura, alleging the "vehicle of corruption" was once unstoppable in the state.

He said, the Northeastern state, once considered laggard, was now marching towards development under a BJP dispensation.

"The vehicle of corruption that moved untrammelled in Tripura before has been stopped. Backwardness had once become Tripura's fate, but the state has now turned into an important trade corridor," he told a public meeting after he inaugurated the second terminal building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport here and launched several welfare schemes.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiradiya Scindia, Tripura Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya and Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, on his arrival at the Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) airport, in Agartala, Tuesday.

The new terminal building, constructed at a cost of Rs 3,400 crore will have 20 check-in counters, six parking bays, four passenger boarding bridges, and other passenger-friendly facilities. With a built-up area of 30,000 sq

metres, the building has been designed to handle three million passengers in a year.

Agartala airport was built in 1942 by the then maharaja of Tripura Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarman.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiradiya Scindia was also present.

Modi also launched Mukhya Mantri Gram Samridhhi Yojana (MMGSY) under which funds will be allocated to panchayats for development of villages, besides reaching the benefits of central schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala Yojana and, other basic facilities to the common people.

He also launched the Mission Vidya Jyoti Schools, under which institutions will be set up to impart holistic education.

"Double engine growth means united effort towards prosperity of which Tripura is an example," the prime minister said, highlighting the benefits of having the same party ruling at the Centre and in the state.

CJI hails contribution of Justice R Subhash Reddy

Says he upheld people's liberties

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana hailed the contribution of Justice R Subhash Reddy, who demitted office on Tuesday after serving for over four years in the Supreme Court, saying he upheld and protected people's liberties and has compassion and consciousness about social realities. Justice Reddy, who was elevated to the apex court on November 2, 2018, has the distinction of being the first judge from Telangana, and after his retirement, the total strength of apex court judges would come down to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34. The CJI, who sat with justices Reddy, Surya Kant and Hima Kohli for the ceremonial hear-

ing at noon, was effusive in his praise. I have always cherished his strong support and friendship in all 30 years of our association. I give him my best wishes. Justice Subhash Reddy is the first judge from Telangana to become a Supreme Court judge after the new state was carved out, the CJI said. Justice Ramana said that Justice Reddy, like him, also belonged to an agricultural family and achieved many milestones in his journey as a legal professional. Throughout his tenure as a Judge for 20 years in different high courts and the Supreme Court of India, he always upheld and protected the people's liberties. "Justice Reddy, during his tenure as a Supreme Court judge, dealt with several sensitive questions

of law and penned down more than 100 judgments. I have also shared a bench with him and have benefited from his opinions and acumen, he said. Justice Reddy is known for his compassion and consciousness about social realities, the CJI said, adding that the outgoing judge will be remembered for his dedicated commitment to the administrative side of the apex court. The CJI recalled his association with Justice Reddy from his days as a lawyer and said he practiced for 22 years at tribunals, civil courts, the Andhra Pradesh High Court and also before the Supreme Court in civil, criminal, constitutional, revenue, taxation, labour, company and service matters on both original and appellate side.

'Lockdown in Mumbai if daily COVID-19 cases go past 20,000'

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar on Tuesday said if the daily COVID-19 cases here cross the 20,000-mark, a lockdown will be imposed in the city as per the Union government's rules.

Talking to reporters at her office in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters, Pednekar suggested that citizens wear triple-layer masks while travelling in public buses and local trains.

She also appealed to them to get vaccinated at the earliest and follow all COVID-19-related standard operating procedures (SOPs). Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray might address

the citizens in a couple of days, she said.

To a query, Pednekar said the BMC will carry out RT-PCR tests of people returning from Goa by a cruise ship and quarantine them at civic centres, or in hotels if they are ready to pay for it.

Notably, the cruise ship, where 66 of over 2,000 people on board tested positive for coronavirus, was sent back to Mumbai from Goa late Monday night with all the passengers after some of the infected persons refused to get admitted to a medical facility there, an official from a shipping agency said.

The mayor said BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal has been keeping a close watch on the situation, and he has already



Kishori Pednekar

hinted about the lockdown if the COVID-19 cases in the city rise over 20,000.

"Today, no one wants a lockdown and it certainly shouldn't be imposed, as just now everyone is recovering from it. If the lockdown is enforced again, it

will badly affect everyone. But, if the daily COVID-19 cases cross the 20,000 mark, a lockdown will be implemented by the civic body and the state government as per the Union government's rules," Pednekar said.

She appealed to citizens to follow COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, avoid overcrowding in markets, malls and marriage functions, and wear masks properly.

The mayor also appealed to people to hold marriage functions as per the rules and ensure such events do not prove to be COVID-19 super-spreaders.

She said currently, only six Omicron patients are admitted in Mumbai hospitals and all other per-

sons infected by the new COVID-19 variant have been discharged.

To check the spread of COVID-19 cases, the Mumbai civic body is conducting RT-PCR tests and distributing masks to those who don't have them. The BMC is also focusing on vaccinating a maximum number of people, she added.

"The civic body procured for free the vaccines sold to hospitals here by the Union government under the 25 per cent quota and administered them to citizens without taking charges. The vaccine doses are administered in societies, buildings and chawls and to groups of youths, senior citizens and women," the mayor said.

Three girls hurt in stampede-like situation in Cong-organised run

Party blames local admin

Bareilly (UP), Jan 04 (PTI): A stampede-like situation occurred during a marathon organised by the Congress as part of its election campaign here, leaving three girls injured on Tuesday, with officials saying the turnout for the event was much higher than permitted.

While the Congress alleged that the incident was a fallout of laxity on part of the district administration and a conspiracy, the BJP said the opposition party was making girls "pawns" for its "petty politics". "Permission was given for 200 children. However, the number of those who actually turned up for the event was much



Officials help girls who fell down during a stampede-like situation at Congress Ladhki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon marathon in Bareilly, Tuesday.

higher," City Magistrate Rajiv Pandey said, adding that the incident will be thoroughly probed and ac-

tion will be initiated against the guilty. Three girls, who participated in the marathon, were in-

jured and they have been sent to the district hospital, he said. "What led to the near stampede-like sit-

uation? What was the laxity? How a large number of children gathered there, and the permission given by the higher education department are some of the aspects that will be probed," Pandey said.

The Congress has been organising marathons in different parts of Uttar Pradesh under its 'Ladhki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' (I am a girl, and can fight) campaign that further its party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's women-centric agenda for the upcoming assembly polls. A large number of participants of the long-distance run had gathered around 9 am at a school ground and video clips showed that in a rush to race ahead, participants stumbled and fell on each other.

'Policy of varsities should not change with VCs'

Allahabad, Jan 04 (PTI):

The policy of a university should not change every time there is a new vice-chancellor, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel said here on Tuesday, suggesting universities should constitute committees which formulate their long-term policy in sync with the changes in the country and across the globe.

In her address at the fourth convocation ceremony of Professor Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University here, Patel said it is the responsibility of every university to prepare students keeping in mind the global realities so that students from Uttar Pradesh can go anywhere in the



Anandiben Patel

country or the world and perform. She said priorities of a university

change with the change of vice-chancellors. She advocated continuity.

"It is necessary that such a committee be formed in universities which makes a long-term policy keeping in mind the changes happening in the country and the world. The policy of a university should not change with the change of vice-chancellor, she said.

BUSY TIME



Farmers prepare an agricultural field for paddy cultivation, in Nadia district, Tuesday.

DOGS ATTACKING GIRL

HC issues notices to MP govt, others

Jabalpur, Jan 04 (PTI):

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of an incident of stray dogs attacking a minor girl in Bhopal over the weekend and on Tuesday issued notices to the state government, the local civic body and others, seeking their replies.

The girl, aged around three, was injured after some stray dogs attacked her. She was later rescued by a man and admitted to a hospital, officials said.

Deputy Advocate General Swapnil Ganguly said on Tuesday the High Court served notices on the state government, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation,

Home and Urban Administration departments after preliminary hearing on Monday.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ravi Malimath and Justice PK Kaurav took suo motu cognisance of the matter after coming across newspaper reports of the incident, he said.

The court has sought replies from the government and others about action taken in such incidents, Ganguly said.

Citing news reports, he said the incident, which took place on January 1 in an area under the Bag Sewania police station, was captured on CCTV which showed five dogs chasing and biting the girl.

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BRIEF



A Covid-19 infected patient rests on his bed inside a Covid care centre of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) village, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Suicide

Shahjahanpur: A 30-year-old differently abled technical assistant working in agriculture department here allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his official residence, police said on Tuesday. Praveen Kumar Tomar (30) was not coming to office since December 31 and when his colleagues went to his residence in the office campus on Monday, they found the door locked from inside, said Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar.

Bill passed

New Delhi: The Delhi Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill for setting up a world-class teachers' training university that would offer programmes such as BA-Bed and BSc-BEd. The Delhi Teachers' University Bill was introduced in the House on Monday by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who also holds the education portfolio. During a discussion on the Bill, he said the university will set a benchmark in teachers' training and enhance the quality of education.

Mishap

Phulbani: Three people were killed and six others were injured when the car they were travelling in fell into a ditch in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Tuesday, police said. The driver lost control over the SUV and it fell into a ditch at Karada Ghat in Raikia police station area when the group was travelling to Dantlingi in Ganjam district for a picnic, an officer said.

Weather
High 26 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,805.25
SENSEX 59,855.99

BULLION
GOLD 47,884
SILVER 62,152

HIGH POSITIVITY RATE

Public events banned, night clamp-down

Schools, Anganwadi centres closed

Raipur, Jan 04 (PTD):

In view of the rise in coronavirus infections in Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday ordered a ban on rallies, processions and other kind of public events across the state, an official release said here.

Baghel also ordered a "night clamp-down" from 10 pm to 6 am in the districts where the case positivity rate is 4 per cent and above, it added. The directives to district collectors and superintendents of police

RT-PCR test mandatory...

RT-PCR test has been made mandatory for all passengers arriving at airports in Chhattisgarh from other states, while people who have taken both doses of COVID-19 vaccines will have to submit a negative RT-PCR test report no older than 72 hours from the date of travel.

Alert in districts with positivity rate over 4%

In the districts that have a positivity rate of over 4 per cent, gyms, cinema halls, theatres, hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, auditoriums and wedding venues will cease to function.

(SPs) were issued in the light of a sharp spike in COVID-19 cases in the last one week, the release said. The state recorded 1,782 new cases of coronavirus in the last one week. On Monday alone, 688 fresh in-

fections were reported. The chief minister has instructed collectors and SPs to ensure compliance of all possible measures to contain the transmission of coronavirus, stating that the objective is to limit the risk of

35 students of SAGEMS test positive

Koriya: There are reports that 35 students of Swamy Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) have been tested corona positive and this has created panic among the teachers and their parents. The health department has become active and treatment of all has been started.

Four IPS officers and a senior IAS found corona positive

Raipur: Four senior IPS officers (IPS) have been tested positive from the Police headquarters in Raipur and this includes IG Sanjeev Shukla, two DIGs viz. Vineet Khanna and Rajesh Agrawal and one female IPS officer. Corona blast in the state police headquarters has created panic among other IPS officers and employees posted in the police Hq's and more suspects are likely to be discovered as the officials have asked their subordinates who come in their contact to get the testing done. The Police Hq's has recently conducted conventional new year gathering.

spread of the infection and not to slow down economic activities, the statement is-

sued by the Public Relations department said. **(More News on Pg 03)**

Couple injured in elephant attack

Korba, Jan 04:

A couple was seriously injured in an attack by a wild elephant in Korba district on Tuesday, a forest official said.

The incident took place in the wee hours when the victims, identified as Khulsai Uraon (45) and his wife Hirmatiya Bai (40), were sleeping in their hut on the outskirts of Pondikala village under Katghora forest division, he said.

One of the three elephants roaming in the area reached there and before the couple could escape, the tusker caught hold of them by its trunk

About the incident

The incident took place in the wee hours when the victims, identified as Khulsai Uraon (45) and his wife Hirmatiya Bai (40), were sleeping in their hut on the outskirts of Pondikala village under Katghora forest division. One of the three elephants roaming in the area reached there and before the couple could escape, the tusker caught hold of them by its trunk and smashed them on the ground, leaving them seriously injured.

and smashed them on the ground, leaving them seriously injured, the official said. The jumbo then moved away from the spot, he said.

Delhi logs 5,481 fresh Covid cases; positivity rate 8.37 %

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD):

Delhi reported 5,481 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, the highest number of such cases since May 16, with a positivity rate of 8.37 per cent, and three more fatalities due to the viral disease, according to data shared by the city health department. The national capital had recorded 6,456 fresh COVID-19 cases and 262 fatalities on May 16, while the case positivity rate stood at 10.4 per cent. Tuesday's positivity rate is the highest since May 17, when it stood at 8.42 per cent.

Mumbai logs 10,860 cases

Mumbai: Mumbai reported 10,860 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, up 34.37 per cent from a day ago and highest daily count since April 7, 2021, while two more patients succumbed to the infection, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. With these additions, Mumbai's tally of coronavirus cases jumped to 8,18,462, while the death toll increased to 16,381, said the BMC in a bulletin. On Monday, the city had recorded 8,082 COVID-19 cases and the latest daily tally showed an increase of 2,778, or 34.37 per cent.

PM inaugurates, lays foundation stones for multiple projects

Imphal, Jan 04 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated 13 developmental projects valued at Rs 1858 crore and laid foundation stones for nine more infrastructure projects worth Rs 2957 crore in Manipur.

The projects deal with road infrastructure, urban development, drinking water supply, health, housing, skill development, Information Technology and art and culture, officials said. Speaking of the Barak Bridge built along



National Highway-37, which was also inaugurated, Modi said the steel bridge will provide better connectivity.

Built at Rs 75 crore, the bridge is set to ease traffic movement between

Manipur capital Imphal and Assam's Silchar.

Foundation stones for five national highway projects to be built at a cost of over Rs 1700 crore was also laid by the prime minister.

Three of the projects inaugurated will provide drinking water to Imphal, Tamenglong and Senapati districts.

Modi said, "Safe and clean drinking water would be made available to the people" through these projects.

Three projects under Imphal Smart Mission were also inaugurated.

FATAL MISHAP

Minor girl dies as part of school's washroom wall falls on her

Bilaspur, Jan 04:

A seven-year-old girl died on Tuesday when a portion of her school's washroom wall collapsed on her in Bilaspur city, police said.

The deceased girl was a student of class 2 of a private school in the Gitanjali City Phase-2 area under the Sarkanda police station limits. A portion of the partition wall collapsed around noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school. Teachers in the school rushed the girl to the CIMS Hospital in the city where doctors declared her dead.

About the incident

The deceased girl was a student of class 2 of a private school in the Gitanjali City Phase-2 area under the Sarkanda police station limits. A portion of the partition wall collapsed around noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school. Teachers in the school rushed the girl to the CIMS Hospital in the city where doctors declared her dead.

noon soon after the girl entered the washroom in her school, the SHO said.

INDIAN ARMY WITH NAT'L FLAG



Indian Army soldiers pose for a photograph with the national flag on the occasion of New Year 2022, at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, Tuesday.

Gaganyaan Crew Module to have two landing choices Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 04 (PTD):

As the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is going at full throttle for Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned space mission scheduled for launch in 2023, interesting details of the Crew Module (CM), including the landing choices, Crew Escape system, and survival packets for each crew member, have emerged.

The CM would be splashing down near the Indian coast in 2023 after the week-long mission, and the Arabian Sea, which is comparatively calmer, is the primary choice, but Bay of Bengal is also being considered as a backup option, writes Dr Unnikrishnan Nair S, Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), ISRO, Bengaluru, in an article. The article 'Indian Human Space Mission' appears in the Manorama Yearbook 2022. The HSFC was set up by the ISRO in Bengaluru in 2019 for sustained and affordable human space flight activities and Gaganyaan is the first project. The test flight to validate the performance of Crew Escape System and the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan have been scheduled at the beginning of the second half of 2022.

SII CLAIM

'Over 100 cr Covishield doses given in India, abroad testimony of its safety, efficacy'

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD):

Over 100 crore Covishield doses have been given in India and abroad which is a testimony of its safety and efficacy, Serum Institute has informed the DCGI which had sought more data for granting full marketing approval to the Covid vaccine, official sources said on Tuesday. Covishield is currently authorized for emergency use in the country. Serum

Institute of India (SII), on October 25, had applied to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking regular market authorization for the vaccine. The drug regulator in December sought more data and documents for it. Following this, Prakash Kumar Singh, the Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at SII, recently submitted a response along with more data and information.

AIG HOSPITAL STUDY

'Covaxin, Covishield mix and match 4 times more effective'

New Delhi, Jan 04:

Mixing of COVID-19 vaccines Covaxin and Covishield as first and second doses or vice versa was found to be four times effective, a study by city-based AIG Hospitals along with a team of researchers from the Asian Healthcare Foundation has said.

The study was conducted to determine the safety profile of mixing Covishield and Covaxin along with checking the antibody response, a press release from AIG said on Monday. The

most important finding of the study was that the Spike-protein neutralising antibodies found in the mixed vaccine groups were significantly higher than the same-vaccine groups, D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals said. "Spike-protein neutralizing antibodies are the ones which kill the virus and reduce the overall infectivity. We found that when the first and second dose are of different vaccines, the Spike-protein antibody response is four times higher compared to

two-dose of same vaccine," Dr Reddy who is also among the researchers involved in the study said.

The findings are particularly important when considering administering third booster dose aiming to elicit robust antibody response and help in killing the virus, he said. Mixed doses can certainly boost these Spike-protein neutralising antibodies and will enhance the vaccines' effectiveness even against the Omicron variant, Reddy added. The study results show that mixing of

COVID-19 Vaccines (Covishield and Covaxin) provide higher antibody response and is safe as well.

Furthermore, AIG Hospitals has shared the data from the study with the ICMR (Indian Council for Medical Research) to be considered as a reference study while deciding on the 'Prevention' doses starting January 10. A total of 330 healthy volunteers who were not vaccinated and had no history of COVID-19 infection were selected and screened for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies for the study.

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You must provide the following to the DP to open your DEMAT account:

- Recent photograph
- PAN Card
- Address proof
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Contact your LIC Agent for any assistance.

Contact your banker or broker for any assistance.

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Illegal plotting in different parts of the city

Balod, Jan 04: Illegal plot traders are in high spirits, from the city to the village without permission, and thousands of crores of cultivated land is being sold without town and country planning. Illegal business of cutting and selling plots by making Murum Road without permission is continuing indiscriminately. But the district administration is not showing seriousness, and this is the reason why the encouragement of illegal plotting people is high. A year ago, the sale and purchase of such plots, which were marked as illegal plotting in the surrounding parts of the city, was banned. But the matting is being done without any permission by making land deal with the farmers and there is no road fixed



for these plots, due to which the land mafia themselves are engaged in bluffing the buyers by making Murum Roads. Within the city itself, more than 200 plots can be seen, which are ready to be sold by plotting without any permission. Plot cutting is being done without any permission by making land deal with the farmers and there is no road fixed

tion, those who are doing illegal plotting work, they are not even registered in RERA. The farmers are selling the agricultural land by selling them in the form of plots, which are being sold as their own project. Some people associated with such fraudulent business are also operating the office in the name of real estate. By showing firm registration, people are being cheated of

plots on National Highway and State Highway. At present, illegal plotting is happening at a rapid pace in the areas near Ganjpara Stadium, Kundarupara, Railway Colony, Pararas, Seoni, Devarbath, Pakurbhath, Jagra, Umradah and Baghmara bypass. The land brokers are accusing the government of crores of rupees by selling it on the basis of square feet by

making agreement of land with the real landowners at the rate of acres. Plots ranging from 2 thousand square feet to 2400 square feet are being sold illegally by deceiving people. The price of the land has been fixed by the brokers from Rs 600 to 1200 sq ft. Those who buy plots are getting cheated. At the same time, the revenue of the government is also being robbed.

What officer says

“We are taking action, on the areas demarcated by illegal plotting and if the municipality is under its jurisdiction, then action will be taken by the joint team of municipality and revenue department.”

Gangadhar Wahile
SDM, Subdivision
Balod.

Police come to rescue of sick girl

Konta Jan 04:

Under the guidance of Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma, today on 04/01/2022, village Kola Guda's villager Madvi Shushma, father Madvi Deva, 16 years old, was seriously suffering from malaria at New Camp Kolaiguda was taken to the hospital. On receiving the information, the Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhukar contacted Konta police station and arranged for 108 ambulance. After the road was built for the first time, the ambulance car reached village Kolaiguda and took the sick girl to Konta Hospital. During this, Inspector Shailendra Nag, Ghuna Ram Ogre, DRG



Commander SI Uttam jawans made special contribution in this drive. Shori and DRG and STF

Collector inspects Sanjay Kanan Udyan



Gadkaleva at breakfast available at concessional rates

Mahasamund, Jan 04: District Collector Doman Singh here inspected the Sanjay Kanan Udyan adjoining the district headquarters, and instructed officials to facilitate better facilities for children, students and citizens visiting the park, by making an action plan in a phased manner. Apart from this,

along with starting the toy train soon for the entertainment of the children, arrangements should also be made for various types of slings, hammocks and other sports materials for the children, he instructed. Considering the possibility of boating here, he asked to make a tax proposal under MGNREGA to develop a pond and a small waterway. Along with this, instructions were given to the concerned officers to send a

proposal for construction of water tank and toilet for the arrangement of drinking water. A branch of Gadkaleva to be started here was also opined by the Collector to ease the availability of Chhattisgarhi cuisines in a single place at a concessional rate. The Collector closely inspected all the areas of the park and instructed the Department of Horticulture to upgrade the garrison and develop the grass lawn, to increase the education and knowledge of the children, and present a plan to develop a Botanical Garden. During this, SDM Bhagwat Jaiswal and CMO Municipality Ashish Tiwari and employees were also with him.

Focus on random sampling testing and masking: Collector

Koriya, Dec 04:

District Collector Shyam Dawade instructed officials to increase random sampling, testing and identification of COVID 19 susceptible patients, and make masking compulsory to all. He was reviewing key preparedness steps for COVID 19 management here in the Collectorate.

District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat said that Severe Respiratory illness and patients of COVID 19 should be tested before and after on a mandatory routine. He also opined the isolation wards and micro containment zones to be strin-

gently coordinated and surveillance of the patients to be done routinely.

The Collector also instructed COVID 19 guidelines to be followed strictly, which includes masking sanitization and isolation of patients. The officials were instructed to routinely check cross border migrants and travelers with antigen test and evade crowd formation.

The Collector also asked officials to penalize offenders of masking after warning. In the meeting in SECL general manager; SDM's, CEO of District Panchayat and Health Department officials were present.

02 Naxalite accused arrested with explosive material

Konta, Dec 04:

Under the Naxal eradication campaign on December 03, 150th Corps CRPF left from Camp Burkapal for Burkopal T-Point for area domination, during the operation the forest area near T-Point, 02 suspicious persons while trying to escape and hide under the cover of bushes after seeing the police party coming, were caught under siege. On inquiry names were revealed as Hemla Hadma father Hemla Masa age 24 years Sakin Gogunda police station Keralapal and Hemla Nanda father Hemla



Bojja age 25 years Sakin Gogunda police station Kerlapal and as a militia member in banned Maoist organization from the year 2016. Both the accused told in the interrogation that in the year 2020, IEDs were installed near Burkopal with the intention of killing the security forces, which was detonated by the security forces after recovering the said IED.

Children give wonderful dance performance on eve of New Year



Dongargarh, Jan 04:

On occasion of eve of the New Year, recording dance performance of young children was held at ward No. 2 Danteshwari para. In this children in the age-group of 3-15 yrs gave wonderful dance performance based upon film songs. In the above pro-

gramme, President Yuva Boudh Samiti Manoj Sahare, Ashish Dongre, Ashok Sahu, Sumesh Sahare, Rakesh Dewangan, Dinesh Sakhre, Mahesh Sahare, Prakash Kontagale, Sachin Teburkar, Siddharth Meshram, Ujjawal Banjari, handresh Landage, Ratandeep Chandrika Pure, Anil Landage, Baskar sir and

others were present. In the above programme the first place was won by Sikha Dongre, second by Anjali Nandeshwar, and third place by Gunjan Lautare and all three were felicitated with cash prize and memento. In addition to this children viz. Samridhi Meshram, Purvi Dongre, Shristi Kochi, Khushi Tendulkar, Kashish Sahare, Pihu Bagde, Palak Sahare, Nisha Bedekar, Tamanna Dongre, Shivani Vakde, Shruti Sahare, Sonam Nandeshwar, Aishwarya Sharma, Sapna Gedam and others took part in large number and gave dance performance on Hindi film songs. All the participants were motivated and presented with consolation prizes. In this programme, women, men and youths from the ward took part in large number.

Gariyaband, Jan 04:

Gariyaband police has got a major breakthrough and arrested a diamond smuggler and seized precious 71 diamond pieces worth Rs 10 lakh from his possession. He was searching for a customer to sell these diamond pieces, when TI Amlipadar Naveen Rajput informed about it to the senior officer and after which the Police gheraoed the youth and arrested him.

The accused when arrested claimed that he has dug out the diamond pieces from Payalikhand diamond mine in Mainpur block of Gariyaband district and this clearly shows as to how easily the smuggling of diamond from Payalikhand mines is going on.

It was as per instructions from IG Gariyaband J Thakur and other senior officers to put



a check on illegal diamond smuggling, 'ganja', illicit liquor and others that TI Amlipadar took this action. A 40 yr old Jagmohan Nagesh R/o Dhurvagudi thana Amlipadar as per tip from an informer that a person is looking for selling diamond pieces on Jan 2. On this as per instructions from SP CS Thakur, SDOP Rupesh Dande, SDM Pushpendra Nayak, a person was stopped near Dhurvagudi Nullah, as per details given by the informer.

On searching the accused, 71 pieces of 24 ct. diamond pieces were seized packed in

small paper bags in colour of white, brown of both small and big size and it was weighing 24 cts and costing around Rs 10 lakh. Apart from this one piece mobile phone worth Rs 5000 and total items worth Rs 1.05 lakh was seized.

The accused accepted that he has excavated from prohibited area of Payalikhand diamond mine of Mainpur block of Gariyaband. A case under 4, 21 of Mining Act and under section 379 of IPC was filed against the accused and he was sent to judicial custody.

In the above action, TI Amlipadar Naveen Rajput, Santram Sahu, head constable Nukul Sori, Special team head constable Angad Rao, Mudamani Devta, Diptnath Head Constable Susheel Pathak, Yadram Dhruv, JP Mishra, Ravi Sinha and others gave valuable cooperation.

Visitors throng temples to celebrate New Year



People queue for darshan from morning till night

Birkoni, Dec 04:

Devotees reached in large numbers to have darshan at Chandi Temple here on New Year's Day on Saturday. Maa Chandi Mandir, Mauli Mandir, Ram Janaki Mandir, witnessed huge crowd swell who sought divine intervention for a blessed New Year ahead. People also visited places of entertainment and leisure to start

the New Year, and children enthusiastically participated in merry making. Dams, parks, markets, and places of worship had people welcoming the New Year, shopping and paying obeisance to mark a New Year ahead. Parks too witnessed huge crowds, littering with children, playing in the temple. People also met their old friends to share the bygone year, and there was great enthusiasm among the family members including children.

Number of people getting regular treatment from MMU increasing continuously

People wait for the arrival of the medical mobile unit in the ward

Raigarh, Jan 04: Ahead of the medical vehicle, the song composed of the words 'Tuhar Duari' is getting meaningful. As a result of this, the number of people getting regular treatment from Medical Mobile Unit in Raigarh city is increasing continuously. So far more than 82000 people have availed the facility of free check-up and treatment through Medical Mobile Unit.



ment facilities through the Medical Mobile Unit. For the last 6 months, he is getting treatment from the Medical Mobile Unit. He said that in the medical van, treatment and medicines are available free of cost along with various types of tests, the behavior of the doctors including the medical staff here is also very good, so they are now continuously availing the facility of free treatment from the medical mobile unit. Here, on the one hand, their routine blood and urine tests are done free of cost, while their regular medicines are also available free of cost. Similarly Dushyant Kumar Chandra, a resident of the city, had come to the Medical Mobile Unit for treatment regarding the

problem of joint pain. He said that the scheme from testing to treatment and distribution of free medicines is definitely an important step towards the right to better treatment facilities for all. It is the step of the state government to be the responsible head towards providing free treatment facilities to everyone. Due to this, people from the lower class to the upper class are sure to get free health facilities in the minds of the people and this paves the way for the services being provided by the Medical Mobile Unit. In routine, the service of four medical mobile units in all the wards of the corporation is running in the city, in which more than 82000 people have been given free treatment through medical

mobile units so far. Out of these, more than 74000 patients have been freed of various types of blood, urine and other tests. Due to the better behavior of the medical staff and doctors working in the Medical Mobile Unit towards the patients, the number of people getting treatment in the Medical Mobile Unit on a regular basis is increasing continuously in the city.

BP and sugar patients benefit the most

Most of the BP and sugar patients across the city are getting benefitted from MMU. In this, along with other tests including blood-urine of patients in routine, medicines taken by them regularly are also being distributed free of cost from MMU. Most of the BP-sugar patients of the city are now availing treatment from MMU itself. In this regard, work is also being done by the corporation administration to enlist those who get regular treatment, so that they can be made aware of their health by giving them timely routine checkups and reminders to take medicines.

Dr. Vishwanath, Prof. Suraiya honored

Dantewada, Jan 04:

Life Foundation India honoured national and international eminent personalities who are working in the society, human and environment welfare. Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi, President Green Care Society India Bagbahra., Amujuri Biswanath, Director Green Care Society India & Educationist from Dantewada and Professor Suraiya Bano from Bhilai Chhattisgarh were honoured 2021 Global Excellence Award for environment, education, social and humanitarian services. Dr. VJE Caroline, Chairman Life Foundation India, Dr. Rajarao Pagidipalli, Chairman World Humanity United International Royal Council presented the awards to 75 great personalities across the world from 15 countries including 45 from India and 3 from Chhattisgarh. The Chief Guest Empress Prof. Dr. Elham Madani, Head of Madani Empire Canada and Queen Nadia Harihiri, Head Success World Org France, Dr. Parin Somani, academician United Kingdom expressed their ideas and values in welfare of the society. Eminent personalities serving in different regions of India, America, Philippines, Bangladesh, Georgia, Canada, France, United Kingdom,



Macedonia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Mauritius, Greece, Nigeria, South Africa, Palestine have witnessed the world class event. Noor Ahmed Bangladesh and Deepa Choudhary India hold successfully the first and second sessions respectively. Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi, President Green Care Society India said that human service is God service, world welfare works should be done following global equality. Amujuri Biswanath, Director & Educationist, Green Care Society India, while expressing his views said that due to Corona epidemic, the whole world is facing problems and had to be adopted various methods to solve its challenges. Through his knowledge and skills, he did excellent work towards welfare of the society, environment, human and he resolved to do better work in the coming days as well. In this

dignified international felicitation ceremony, awardee IDYM Foundation Founder Er Ravi Shankar, International Internship University SDG Head Kalyani Rao, Global Educators Fraternity President Dr. Rachna Bhimrajka, Wittii Gossip Director Dr Supriya Pathak, Yes We Can UK Director Queen Elizabeth Lucas and other national & international personalities graced the occasion.

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Revisiting lab leak allegations

Yet another strain of the COVID-19 virus has emerged in France, after the case was discovered in a person returning from travel in the West African nation of Cameroon. The new strain has now been identified in 12 people who may have had contact with the person, who lives in a small town in southeastern France. That's according to French scientists from IHU Mediterranee Infection. A lot of people haven't yet been able to come to terms with the notion that the original COVID-19 outbreak, much less omicron, was related to a lab leak. The governments of world must seriously revisit lab leak allegations and investigate so as to prevent future pandemics due to human mistakes or intentional low intensity bio warfare. Human H1N1 influenza virus appeared with the 1918 global pandemic, and persisted, slowly accumulating small genetic changes, until 1957, when it appeared to go extinct. It reappeared in 1977, in the former Soviet Union and China. Virologists, using serologic and early genetic tests soon began to suggest the cause of the reappearance was a laboratory escape of a 1949-1950 virus, and as genomic techniques advanced, it became clear that this was true. By 2010, researchers published it as fact: 'The most famous case of a released laboratory strain is the re-emergent H1N1 influenza-A virus which was first observed in China in May of 1977 and in Russia shortly thereafter.' It continued to circulate until 2009, when the pH1N1 virus replaced it. There has been virtually no public awareness of the 1977 H1N1 pandemic and its laboratory origins. Why is there virtually no public awareness of a lab leak that caused suffering and disease for 32 years? Perhaps because when the World Health Organization looked into it in 1978, the scientists involved denied they were working with H1N1, and so the WHO concluded that it wasn't a lab leak. Does that sound familiar? It should. The WHO conducted a similar 'investigation' in Wuhan and said a lab leak was unlikely, despite evidence to the contrary. Virus gain-of-function (GoF) research was a hot topic in certain scientific circles, because of the dangers it poses to all of us. GoF is research that attempts to take existing pathogens, such as viruses, and make them more dangerous to humans. Researchers say they are trying to predict which viruses might mutate. The fact that these research programs exist is not in dispute. Many reputable scientists consider GoF programs unacceptably dangerous and have been raising the alarm for many years. We know lab accidents are common. If we think about all the lab leaks that occurred in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and so on. In other words, in earlier times, lab accidents were bad, but not quite as high stakes as they are now. By 2019, we had COVID-19, and the world has been struggling ever since. COVID-19 and its variants likely won't mean the end of humankind, but lakhs of people are dead, no one is being held accountable, and unless something is done to end this research, something worse will escape and potentially will mark the end of humankind. There is nothing more important we can do than to play our small part to end this.

Luring with empty promises

Advancing the race to lure voters with promises of freebies ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu promised Rs 2,000 per month for women homemakers if his party is voted to power. Earlier at a rally he said that we need to pursue the roadmap, keeping in mind the welfare of future generations as false promises will not help the state which has a debt of around Rs 3 lakh crore. This puts Sidhu's promise in contradiction of spending on people despite mounting debt on government of Punjab. Whether it is the resurgent AAP, the ruling Congress, the marginalised BJP, the fragmented SAD or the 'martyred' Captain Amarinder Singh, the rhetoric is the same. The trend is to declare empty promises to lure voters, despite knowing that promises cannot be fulfilled due to economic situation. The inconvenient truths of a state on the brink have no place in electoral grandstanding. As the head of the sixth state finance commission recently observed, Punjab has the highest per capita expenditure on salaries and pensions, the highest per capita debt and debt servicing charges, and the lowest capital expenditure. And no amount of moustache-twirling or chest-thumping by politicians can obscure these harsh facts. Earlier this year, the state government was severely jolted by a NITI Aayog report that said Punjab's per capita income had fallen below the national average, and indignantly contested the figures. Whether Punjab is below or marginally above the national average, there's no getting around the unpleasant truth that it trails behind Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, states that were carved out of its territory. Punjab's free fall from the top of the per capita income and growth rate table to the middle has impacted the state's psyche in ways that outsiders cannot grasp. The showy lifestyles of the uber-rich few obscure the distress of the indebted many. The desperation to export unemployed, under-educated youth to Canada or Australia, or any part of the western El Dorado that will accept them, is just one symptom of the malaise. The deindustrialisation of Punjab was a tragedy foretold. At a time when other states were wooing industry with incentives like tax holidays, cheap power, low-cost land, capital subsidy and ease of doing business reforms, Punjab was going in the opposite direction. High power tariffs and rates of taxation escalated the costs of business. Add to that the onslaught of cheap Chinese goods. A direct fallout of deindustrialisation is an unemployment rate higher than the national average. Sociologists link joblessness to the high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse among the youth. The trouble is that the political discourse in Punjab revolves around agriculture, because politics is dominated by the land owning community. The politicians have just promises not solutions.

POOL NEAR BURJ KHALIFA



A flamboyance of flamingos gather in a pool of rainwater near the Dubai towers of Burj Khalifa in the Gulf emirate of Dubai, UAE.

Futile exercise of trade between India and China



SATISH SINGH



During January 2021 to November 2021, a total business of Rs 8.57 lakh crore was done between India and China, which is the highest level ever. This is an increase of 46.4 percent over the same period last year. During this period, India imported various products worth Rs 6.59 lakh crore from China, which is 49 percent more than the corresponding period last year. However, China also imported records from India during this period. During this period, China imported a total of Rs 1.98 lakh crore worth of products from India, an increase of 38.5 percent over the same period last year. Despite this, India's trade deficit with China widened to 4.61 lakh crore, the highest ever. Trade between India and China is increasing when there is tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. Even now, more than 50 thousand soldiers are deployed on the LAC from both the countries, which is more than the war with China in the year 1962. Twelve commander-level talks to resolve the border dispute have failed and now talks are being held by the foreign ministries of both the countries to maintain normalcy.

with other countries are not good, then the country can also be ruined. There is no need for any war for this. Therefore, the changed circumstances should not be viewed with surprise. India is still not self-sufficient and it is dependent on China for the supply of many products. Boycotting Chinese products may be an emotional step taken by India and the general public, but in reality today the Indian market is occupied by Chinese products. Every villager in the countryside of India is using products made in China. Sheets used by barbers for cutting, scissors, razors, toys for children, diyas sold in Diwali, our deities, decorations, mobiles, TVs, laptops, in village grocery stores Most of the items sold are made in China. Indian market is full of Chinese goods. So can we boycott Chinese products? By the way, according to the latest data released by the Chinese government, in the year 2021, China imported more goods from India than before and the Chinese rulers have agreed to further strengthen the trade relationship with India in the coming days. In the year 2020, India's total trade with China was USD 87.6 billion, in which India had imported about USD 50.28 billion from China. Prior to this, in the year 2019, India imported USD 20.17 billion from China, in which the number of products like electric machinery,

parts etc. was more. Apart from this, India also imported organic chemicals worth USD 8.39 billion, fertilizers worth USD 1.67 billion, etc. from China. Trade data between India and China for the period from FY 2014-15 to FY 2019-20 shows that India exported more low-value crude products to China, while it exported manufacturing-related products from China. During this period, China was mainly importing iron ore, petroleum-based fuels, organic chemicals, refined copper, cotton yarn etc. from India. In food items, fish and seafood, black pepper, vegetable oil, fat etc. India was also exporting to China. Also, India was exporting granite blocks and stones used in real estate and raw cotton to China. In the last few years, the major items imported from China into India are automatic data processing machines, telephone equipment and video phones, electronic circuits, transistors and semiconductor devices, antibiotics, fertilizers, sound recording, devices and TV cameras, auto components and accessories, project goods etc. India largely imports finished products from China to meet its domestic needs. In the case of electronic hardware market, China also dominates the Indian market. If the amount earned from exports of any country is more than the amount spent in imports, then it is called trade profit, whereas, when the amount spent on imports is more than the amount earned from exports, then it is called trade deficit. Huh. India's trade deficit with China is constantly increasing, that is, India imports more diverse products from China, while exports less. India's trade deficit with China in the year 2014 was Rs 3.36 lakh crore, then in the year 2015, the year 2016, the year 2017, the year 2018, the year 2019, the year 2020 and the

year 2021, respectively, Rs 3.91 lakh crore, Rs 3.87 lakh crore, 4.45 Lakh crores, Rs 4.30 crores, Rs 3.83 crores, Rs 3.30 crores and Rs 4.61 crores. It is clear from these figures that even if we make lakhs of claims to boycott Chinese products, but in reality it is not possible for us to do so. We will continue to depend on Chinese products to meet our domestic needs even today and in the years to come. Not only this, even today we import raw materials from China for the manufacture of many products and our dependence will continue in the years to come. China is the king of the computer, automobile and electronics industries. It exports its parts to various countries globally. Automobiles, mobiles and computer parts are manufactured in large quantities in China. Electronics accounted for 20.6 percent, machinery 13.4 percent, organic chemicals 8.6 percent and plastic products 2.7 percent of the products imported from China, while organic chemicals and cotton accounted for 3.2 percent of the products exported from India to China. Clothing contributed 1.8 percent. India today is the largest importer of electrical machinery, mechanical equipment, organic chemicals, plastics and optical surgical instruments, accounting for 28 percent of India's total imports. India imports the largest number of organic chemicals, ie 40 percent, from China and also exports products made from it to China. Even though there is talk of boycotting the goods made in China in India, but many industries of India are dependent on China for raw materials and parts. Also, India is also dependent on China for many finished products. In such a situation, instead of pretending to boycott Chinese products, we should emphasize on increasing the number of "Made in India" goods.

(Satish Singh is senior columnist and editor of in-house Journal of SBI 'Aarthik Darpan'.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Territorial aggression

Belligerent China has been forcefully pursuing a state policy of territorial aggression, both on land and water, against its neighbours; and who knows it better than India, the close neighbour facing her unceasing cavalier posture along the long borders stretching from Arunachal Pradesh to Ladakh UT for decades since the 1950s. India has been already confronting the military face-off with China on the Ladakh borders for more than one and a half years. China had unilaterally occupied the disputed areas in east Ladakh in April 2020. Beijing is yet to fully vacate the neutral areas despite holding many military-level meetings; and this typical posture betrays its brazenness. Given China's repeated border incursions on Indian territory and other countries, Beijing has been deliberately engaged in willful hostilities with its neighbours disregarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other nations. Such unilateral despotic acts have exposed China as an international bully and also an expansionist. In India's exigencies, China deserves to be named and shamed globally through diplomatic counter-attacks. It is also incumbent on India to earn the confidence of many countries including the affected ones like Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and other countries bordering China. This will unite the other affected countries against the Dragon. Scaling down trade and commerce activities with China will not only economically squeeze the belligerent Asian country but also checkmate her.

Pannalal, via email

Small town roads

With immense discomfort, I am writing this letter. As a citizen of a small town in India, I travel a lot using two-wheelers. Riding a two-wheeler has its benefits but the problems faced by motorcyclists are greater, the potholes and pollution are a few to name. With the increase in the number of vehicles in the streets, levels of pollution and dust particles in the air have also been rising significantly. The increase in vehicles has also led to terrible traffic jams and congestion on the roads. And adding to all these difficulties citizens also use the roads as a personal storage facility for their construction items. The nuisance created by such storage facilities of construction goods is very dangerous, not only does it affect the environment but also leads to serious road accidents. The sand contributes to an increase in air pollution and the debris deteriorates the road quality. The tiny particles of rocks found within the sand causes people to lose control over their vehicles which leads to road accidents. These tiny particles on the roads also reduce the durability of tyres which adds up to the expenses of a citizen. The other day while travelling through middle of the town, I witnessed a minor road accident because of debris and sand heaped at the side of the road. The citizens must act responsibly and the authorities should also look into such matters. They should take strict actions against anyone misusing public roads as storage facilities.

Jeet, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



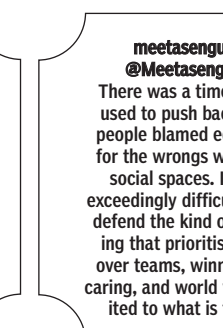
Prabhansh Ranjan@pranjan12781
Bureaucrats on Twitter displaying their service as part of their name (X, IAS/Y, IPS) appears as a brazen attempt to stamp their so-called superior status in a deeply feudal, unequal & hierarchical society. Why not write your service and what you do as part of your bio, not name?

Swapneil Parikh@swapneilparikh
When the hospitals in India are overwhelmed, when the doctors & nurses are themselves too sick to look after anyone else, when people can't get the care they need for COVID-19 & non-COVID-19 illnesses, remember all those who said this was mild.



Navin Kabra @NGKabra
I knew that most active stock market traders deceive themselves and would be better off investing in FDs or MFs, but I hadn't realized that the number would be 99%! (Also impressive that Nitin is publicly saying this)

Arvind Mayaram@MayaramArvind
Strines Inn on stunning Strines road which runs from Penistone into Derbyshire



meetasengupta @Meetasengupta
There was a time when I used to push back when people blamed education for the wrongs we saw in social spaces. I find it exceedingly difficult now to defend the kind of schooling that prioritises tests over teams, winning over caring, and world views limited to what is forced.



Bharati Chaturvedi@Bharati09
A doc of Indian origin in North America messages me. He's horrified at how lightly we are treating #Omicron in India. 8 percent of infected patients in his hospital are on ventilators. 8 percent is huge!! Let's take this seriously. Can't fight this without public participation.



Manan SHARMA@MananSH
very true sir, psychological pressure makes people depressed, that's why one should find time for oneself to give a better start, in todays world we dont find time to take care of ourselves which should be, because daily wear and tear needs healing from inside and outside

'Vehicle of corruption never stopped in Tripura'

State now a trade corridor

Agartala, Jan 04 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday attacked the previous governments in Tripura, alleging the "vehicle of corruption" was once unstoppable in the state.

He said, the Northeastern state, once considered laggard, was now marching towards development under a BJP dispensation.

"The vehicle of corruption that moved untrammelled in Tripura before has been stopped. Backwardness had once become Tripura's fate, but the state has now turned into an important trade corridor," he told a public meeting after he inaugurated the second terminal building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport here and launched several welfare schemes.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiradiya Scindia, Tripura Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya and Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, on his arrival at the Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) airport, in Agartala, Tuesday.

The new terminal building, constructed at a cost of Rs 3,400 crore will have 20 check-in counters, six parking bays, four passenger boarding bridges, and other passenger-friendly facilities. With a built-up area of 30,000 sq

metres, the building has been designed to handle three million passengers in a year.

Agartala airport was built in 1942 by the then maharaja of Tripura Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarman.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiradiya Scindia was also present. Modi also launched Mukhya Mantri Gram Samridhi Yojana (MMGSY) under which funds will be allocated to panchayats for development of villages, besides reaching the benefits of central schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala Yojana and, other basic facilities to the common people.

He also launched the Mission Vidya Jyoti Schools, under which institutions will be set up to impart holistic education. "Double engine growth means united effort towards prosperity of which Tripura is an example," the prime minister said, highlighting the benefits of having the same party ruling at the Centre and in the state.

CJI hails contribution of Justice R Subhash Reddy

Says he upheld people's liberties

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana hailed the contribution of Justice R Subhash Reddy, who demitted office on Tuesday after serving for over four years in the Supreme Court, saying he upheld and protected people's liberties and has compassion and consciousness about social realities. Justice Reddy, who was elevated to the apex court on November 2, 2018, has the distinction of being the first judge from Telangana, and after his retirement, the total strength of apex court judges would come down to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34. The CJ, who sat with justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli for the ceremonial hear-

ing at noon, was effusive in his praise. I have always cherished his strong support and friendship in all 30 years of our association. I give him my best wishes. Justice Subhash Reddy is the first judge from Telangana to become a Supreme Court judge after the new state was carved out, the CJ said. Justice Ramana said that Justice Reddy, like him, also belonged to an agricultural family and achieved many milestones in his journey as a legal professional. Throughout his tenure as a Judge for 20 years in different high courts and the Supreme Court of India, he always upheld and protected the people's liberties. "Justice Reddy, during his tenure as a Supreme Court judge, dealt with several sensitive questions

of law and penned down more than 100 judgments. I have also shared a bench with him and have benefited from his opinions and acumen, he said. Justice Reddy is known for his compassion and consciousness about social realities, the CJ said, adding that the outgoing judge will be remembered for his dedicated commitment to the administrative side of the apex court. The CJ recalled his association with Justice Reddy from his days as a lawyer and said he practiced for 22 years at tribunals, civil courts, the Andhra Pradesh High Court and also before the Supreme Court in civil, criminal, constitutional, revenue, taxation, labour, company and service matters on both original and appellate side.

'Lockdown in Mumbai if daily COVID-19 cases go past 20,000'

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar on Tuesday said if the daily COVID-19 cases here cross the 20,000-mark, a lockdown will be imposed in the city as per the Union government's rules.

Talking to reporters at her office in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters, Pednekar suggested that citizens wear triple-layer masks while travelling in public buses and local trains.

She also appealed to them to get vaccinated at the earliest and follow all COVID-19-related standard operating procedures (SOPs). Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray might address

the citizens in a couple of days, she said.

To a query, Pednekar said the BMC will carry out RT-PCR tests of people returning from Goa by a cruise ship and quarantine them at civic centres, or in hotels if they are ready to pay for it.

Notably, the cruise ship, where 66 of over 2,000 people on board tested positive for coronavirus, was sent back to Mumbai from Goa late Monday night with all the passengers after some of the infected persons refused to get admitted to a medical facility there, an official from a shipping agency said.

The mayor said BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal has been keeping a close watch on the situation, and he has already



Kishori Pednekar

hinted about the lockdown if the COVID-19 cases in the city rise over 20,000.

"Today, no one wants a lockdown and it certainly shouldn't be imposed, as just now everyone is recovering from it. If the lockdown is enforced again, it

will badly affect everyone. But, if the daily COVID-19 cases cross the 20,000 mark, a lockdown will be implemented by the civic body and the state government as per the Union government's rules," Pednekar said.

She appealed to citizens to follow COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, avoid overcrowding in markets, malls and marriage functions, and wear masks properly.

The mayor also appealed to people to hold marriage functions as per the rules and ensure such events do not prove to be COVID-19 super-spreaders.

She said currently, only six Omicron patients are admitted in Mumbai hospitals and all other per-

sons infected by the new COVID-19 variant have been discharged.

To check the spread of COVID-19 cases, the Mumbai civic body is conducting RT-PCR tests and distributing masks to those who don't have them. The BMC is also focusing on vaccinating a maximum number of people, she added.

"The civic body procured for free the vaccines sold to hospitals here by the Union government under the 25 per cent quota and administered them to citizens without taking charges. The vaccine doses are administered in societies, buildings and chawls and to groups of youths, senior citizens and women," the mayor said.

Three girls hurt in stampede-like situation in Cong-organised run

Party blames local admin

Bareilly (UP), Jan 04 (PTI): A stampede-like situation occurred during a marathon organised by the Congress as part of its election campaign here, leaving three girls injured on Tuesday, with officials saying the turnout for the event was much higher than permitted.

While the Congress alleged that the incident was a fallout of laxity on part of the district administration and a conspiracy, the BJP said the opposition party was making girls "pawns" for its "petty politics". "Permission was given for 200 children. However, the number of those who actually turned up for the event was much



Officials help girls who fell down during a stampede-like situation at Congress Ladhki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon marathon in Bareilly, Tuesday.

higher," City Magistrate Rajiv Pandey said, adding that the incident will be thoroughly probed and ac-

tion will be initiated against the guilty. Three girls, who participated in the marathon, were in-

jured and they have been sent to the district hospital, he said. "What led to the near stampede-like sit-

uation? What was the laxity? How a large number of children gathered there, and the permission given by the higher education department are some of the aspects that will be probed," Pandey said.

The Congress has been organising marathons in different parts of Uttar Pradesh under its 'Ladhki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' (I am a girl, and can fight) campaign that further party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's women-centric agenda for the upcoming assembly polls. A large number of participants of the long-distance run had gathered around 9 am at a school ground and video clips showed that in a rush to race ahead, participants stumbled and fell on each other.

'Policy of varsities should not change with VCs'

Allahabad, Jan 04 (PTI):

The policy of a university should not change every time there is a new vice-chancellor, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel said here on Tuesday, suggesting universities should constitute committees which formulate their long-term policy in sync with the changes in the country and across the globe.

In her address at the fourth convocation ceremony of Professor Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhैया) University here, Patel said it is the responsibility of every university to prepare students keeping in mind the global realities so that students from Uttar Pradesh can go anywhere in the



Anandiben Patel

country or the world and perform. She said priorities of a university

change with the change of vice-chancellors. She advocated continuity.

"It is necessary that such a committee be formed in universities which makes a long-term policy keeping in mind the changes happening in the country and the world. The policy of a university should not change with the change of vice-chancellor, she said.

BUSY TIME



Farmers prepare an agricultural field for paddy cultivation, in Nadia district, Tuesday.

DOGS ATTACKING GIRL

HC issues notices to MP govt, others

Jabalpur, Jan 04 (PTI):

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of an incident of stray dogs attacking a minor girl in Bhopal over the weekend and on Tuesday issued notices to the state government, the local civic body and others, seeking their replies.

The girl, aged around three, was injured after some stray dogs attacked her. She was later rescued by a man and admitted to a hospital, officials said.

Deputy Advocate General Swapnil Ganguly said on Tuesday the High Court served notices on the state government, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation,

Home and Urban Administration departments after preliminary hearing on Monday.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ravi Malimath and Justice PK Kaurav took suo motu cognisance of the matter after coming across newspaper reports of the incident, he said.

The court has sought replies from the government and others about action taken in such incidents, Ganguly said.

Citing news reports, he said the incident, which took place on January 1 in an area under the Bag Sewania police station, was captured on CCTV which showed five dogs chasing and biting the girl.

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