



BRIEF



A sadhu on the banks of Ganga river on the occasion of Paush Purnima festival during the ongoing Magh Mela in Prayagraj, Monday.

Watery grave

Coimbatore: Six students drowned in a river while bathing in nearby Tirupur district on Monday, police said. The youth drowned in Amaravathi river in Dharapuram area of the district, they said. A group of eight youngsters from Iduvai in Tirupur district had gone to a temple in Mamparai in Dindigul district and were returning home when they stopped by to bathe in the river, police said.

Landslide

Shimla: Three persons were killed in a landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district on Monday, a senior state Disaster Management Department official said. The victims were identified as Kahan Chand of Utrakhand and Jitender Singh and Ashok of Rajasthan, the official said, adding they were hit by boulders during the landslide near Menus Road on Hatkoti-Paonta Sahib National Highway number 707.

Mishap

Kaushambi: A truck driver was killed and his helper seriously injured when the vehicle overturned on the National Highway-2 here on Monday, police said. Saini police station SHO Tej Bahadur Singh said the truck laden with iron pipes overturned in front of Gurukul Vidyalaya on the National Highway-2, leaving driver Sushil (31) dead on the spot.

Fresh charges

Dehradun: Fresh charges have been slapped on Yati Narsinghanand for abusing a journalist and photographer after being offended by a question they had asked during an interview. The Dasna temple priest has already been sent to 14 days' judicial custody in the Dharma Sansad hate speech case.

Shot dead

Rewari: A delivery boy of online food delivery platform Zomato was shot dead in Rewari when he went to serve an order in Ansal township in Sector 19. His mobile and wallet were also found missing and the police suspected that he was shot with intent to rob. An FIR has been registered at the Model Town police station.

Weather
High 26 Low 11

MARKET
NIFTY 18308.10
SENSEX 61308.91

BULLION
GOLD 47909
SILVER 61865

TOP GOVT EXPERT

'Vaccination for 12-14 age from March'

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

India may begin inoculating children in the 12-14 age group against COVID-19 in March as the 15-18 population is likely to get fully vaccinated by then, Dr N K Arora, chairman of the COVID-19 working group of NTAGI, said on Monday. Of the estimated 7.4 crore (7,40,57,000) population in the 15-18 age bracket, over 3.45 crore have received the first dose of Covaxin so far and

their second dose is due in 28 days, he said. "Adolescents in this age group have been actively participating in the inoculation process, and going by this pace of vaccination, the rest of the beneficiaries in the 15-18 age group are likely to be covered with the first dose by January-end and subsequently their second dose is expected to be done by February-end," said the Chairman of the Covid working group of the

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Once the 15-18 age group is covered, he said, the government is likely to take a policy decision for initiating the vaccination drive for the 12-14 age group in March, he said.

According to him, there is an estimated 7.5 crore population in the 12-14 age group. Provisional vaccination reports till 7 am on Monday showed that with more than 39 lakh doses

being administered in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative number has exceeded 157.20 crore doses.

According to government data, over 3.45 crore first doses have been given to children in the 15-18 years age group so far.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from

February 2, 2021. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

Three Maoists surrender



Konta, Jan 17:

Influenced by the promotion of rehabilitation policy of Chhattisgarh government under the eradication campaign and the 'Puna Narkom Campaign' being run by the Sukma Police, the inhuman, baseless ideology of Naxalites and their exploitation, atrocities and discrimination by outside Naxalites, 03 Naxalites belonging to banned Naxalite organization respectively 01. Dudhi

Sukma, father Hidma (DAKMS President, reward 01 lakh by the Government) age 35 Years Muria, 02. Dudhi Pandu, father Dudhi Hunga (CNM Member) age 30 Years caste Muria and both Sakinan Village Veerapuram, Thana Golapalli, 03. Sodi Deva, father Hadma, father Hadma (Militia member) age 25 years by caste Muria Sakin village Gonderas police station Gadiras district Sukma (Ch.G.) laid down arms on Monday.

Joint efforts only way to fight pandemic: Xi Jinping

Blame game will delay our response

New Delhi/Davos, Jan 17 (PTI): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday said joint efforts are the only way to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and called for fair distribution of vaccines and expedited inoculation drive globally.

He also said that holding each other back or shifting blame would only lead to a needless delay in the response and also distract us from the main objective.

In a special address on 'state of the world' on the first day of the week-long online Davos Agenda summit of the World Economic Forum, he said that humanity will certainly move on but the world needs to jointly defeat the pandemic. "A giant ship is brave enough to brave the storm.



Pandemic is proving to be a protracted one. It impacts health and the economy. Holding each other back and shifting blames, will only shift our objectives," he said.

Favouring further opening up of the world economy and greater cooperation, he said, "We should remove barriers and not erect walls.

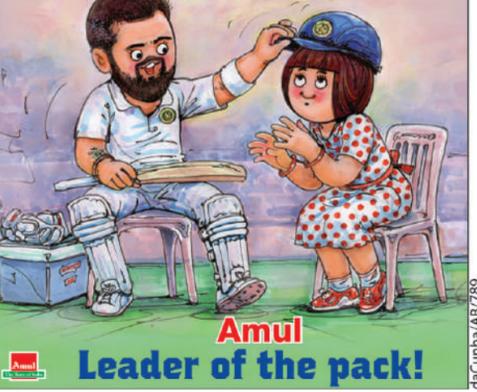
We should open up and integrate further." Jinping warned of serious negative spillovers if major economies slam on the breaks or make U-turns on

their monetary policies. He also said the world needs to discard the cold war mentality and that confrontation will lead to disastrous consequences. We need to explore new drivers of economic growth to promote steady and robust global economic recovery, he added.

The Chinese president said some developing countries have fallen back into poverty due to the pandemic while some developed countries are also facing hard times.

"Developed nations need responsible economic policies, should control spillover effects of policies to avoid impacting developing countries," he said while asserting that China will continue to open up and is committed to economic and market reforms. He also called for global rules on the digital economy and greater information sharing across the world.

Thanks for the Virattacking captaincy!



Amul Leader of the pack!

Legendary Kathak dancer Birju Maharaj passes away



New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Kathak doyen Birju Maharaj, who took the classical Indian dance form to the world and helped make it accessible for generations of students and audiences, died at his home here in the early hours of Monday. He would have been 84 next month.

Maharaj-ji, as he was popularly known, died surrounded by his family and disciples, laughing and smiling till the very end. They were playing antakshari' after dinner when he suddenly took ill,

his granddaughter Ragini Maharaj told PTI. Birju Maharaj, one of India's best known artistes who was also a thumri exponent and even voiced a song for Satyajit Ray's Shatranj Ke Khiladi , was from Lucknow's Kalka-Bindadin Gharana. He is survived by five children, three daughters and two sons, and five grandchildren.

He had been suffering from a kidney ailment and was under dialysis treatment for the last month due to high diabetes. He probably died of a cardiac arrest, his granddaughter said.

"He was with us when this happened. He had his dinner and we were playing antakshari' because he loved old music. He was lying down and suddenly his breathing became uneven.

R-DAY REHEARSAL



BSF Camel contingent soldiers march during the rehearsal for the upcoming Republic Day Parade, on a cold winter morning in New Delhi, Monday.

Jersey cow gives birth to calf with three eyes

Rajnandgaon, Jan 17:

A farmer's jersey cow has given birth to a rare calf with three eyes and four nostril holes in a village in Rajnandgaon. As the word spread, a large number of people are queuing up at the farmer's house to worship the calf calling it an "incarnation of God".

The female calf was born to a cow owned by the farmer, Hemant Chandel, a resident of Nawagaon Lodhi village, on January 13.

The calf has an additional eye in the middle of her forehead and also four holes in the nostril. Its tail looks like a 'jata' (heap of matted hair) and its tongue is also longer than normal calves, Chandel told PTI over the phone. Citing a veterinarian, the farmer said the health condition of the calf is

Villagers call it avatar of God



A rare calf with three eyes and four nostrils in a village in Rajnandgaon.

'Congenital anomalies'

Dr Dinesh Mishra, who heads the Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti, said that such cases happen due to congenital (by birth) anomalies. "People should not link such incidents with faith or superstition. In many incidents, it has been seen that people, particularly from rural areas, worship such animals with deformities due to the lack of awareness. People need to be explained scientifically about such deformities in animals so that they should properly take care of their livestock, he added.

good. "However, due to its long tongue, the calf is facing difficulties in drinking milk from the cow. We are helping in feeding her, he added.

Baghel questions 'selective' FIR against him by UP police

EC seems not acting fairly

Raipur, Jan 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has alleged that the Election Commission doesn't seem to be acting fairly when it is supposed to be transparent, a day after Uttar Pradesh police registered an FIR against him for allegedly flouting COVID-19 norms while campaigning for the assembly polls. The Election Commission should keep its role transparent. The agency is not seen to be acting fairly at the beginning itself, then what will happen later, said Baghel in a video statement shared on his Twitter handle over the FIR registered against him. A UP police spokesperson had said that the FIR was lodged against the Chhattisgarh CM and others for violating COVID-19 rules as set by the Election Commission when they were in the Sector 113 police station area in Noida. Baghel, the senior Congress observer for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh polls, is currently campaigning in the northern state.



"Why action against the BJP candidate and the minister was not taken in Amroha even though they had been engaged in door-to-door campaigning for the last five days?" questioned Baghel. Speaking about the incident in Noida, Baghel said that he was accompanied by 15-20 security personnel along with the UP Police. "At least 30-40 journalists were also present, then why the FIR was registered only against me? What I can do when people come to meet me and how the election campaign will be conducted," Baghel questioned.

SC clears agency for demolishing 'Supertech Twin Towers'

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday directed real estate major Supertech Ltd to execute a contract within a week with a company to demolish its twin 40-storey towers in its Emerald Court project in Noida. The NOIDA authority informed the bench that it has finalised the company Edifice Engineering for demolishing the twin towers in consultation with the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee.



demolishing agency) shall be executed no later within a period of one week from today. The bench noted in its order, Advocate Ravindra Kumar, appearing on behalf of Noida states that the agency which is to carry out the work of demolition has been finalised in consultation with CBRI. Parag Tripathi, senior counsel,

appearing on behalf of Supertech Ltd. states that there are no objections to the agency, which has been finalised and the developer would be applying for all necessary NOCs

within a period of one week. The application for NOCs shall also be marked to NOIDA authorities. The top court refused to give more time to Supertech Ltd for entering into a contract with Edifice despite the repeated insistence of Tripathi saying that the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) can be obtained subsequently

MAJOR FINDINGS

Phytochemicals discovered in Himalayan plant Buransh that inhibit COVID-19 virus

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) have identified phytochemicals in the petals of a Himalayan plant that could potentially be used to treat COVID-19 infection. The research found that phytochemical-rich petals of Rhododendron arboreum found in the Himalayan region, locally called "Buransh" show antiviral activity and fight against the virus. The findings of the research team have been recently published in the journal Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics'. According

to the team, two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the researchers are trying to understand the nature of the virus and discovering new ways to prevent the infection. "While vaccination is one route to providing the body with the fighting power against the virus, there is a worldwide search for non-vaccine medicines that can prevent viral invasion of the human body. These medicines use chemicals that either bind to the receptors in our body cells and prevent the virus from entering them or act on the virus itself and prevent its replication inside our bodies," said Shyam Kumar Masakapalli, Associate Professor, IIT Mandi's School of Basic Science.

Media IDs and Khaki Uniform recovered from looters

RPS acclaimed #1 International Day-Cum-Boarding school in Chh'garh

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Jan 17: Rungta Public School, under the aegis of Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions has once again acclaimed No 1 International Day-cum-Boarding School in Chhattisgarh and Bhilai by the Education World, India which has been ranking Indian Schools since 2012.

It was a proud and happy moment for the management, staff and students that the school has maintained the legacy of receiving accolades and honour from the foremost organization in the world of education. Such recognitions provide the impetus to be even better and well equipped to meet

the demands and challenges of the present day Education System.

RPS is proud to bear the responsibility of contributing significantly to the growth and over-all development of the students through quality education.

We look forward to the immense support entrusted upon us by the students and parents so that we can be instrumental in shaping the future of our

students and guiding them to the right path.

Mr. Arup Mukhopadhyay, CEO said "Even at this unprecedented time of COVID-19 our staff and parents co-operated greatly to maintain our standard"

Mr. Sanjay Rungta, Chairman and Mr. Saket Rungta, Director of the group congratulated all the parents, students and staff for sustaining the achievement year by year.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: Police have arrested four ruffians on charges of loot. Pretending as media persons, the accused intercepted a pickup truck carrying sanitizers at Nehru Nagar Square. The accused threatened and abused the driver and the delivery boy and looted cash and bills from their possession. Police have recovered walkie talkie sets and ID cards of different newspapers from the possession of the accused.

Inspector Suresh Dhruva (SHO, Supela) informed that they received a complaint from the victim Nadeem Khan of Indore regarding a loot incident. Nadeem accompanied with his driver Tabrez Khan had come to Bhilai in their



pickup truck (MP09-GG-2058) for delivering sanitizers in the medical shops.

While delivering goods in Nehru Nagar around 19:30 hrs on January 15, they received a phone call from an unknown person who stated that he was calling from a medical store and wanted his goods to be delivered at Nehru Nagar Square. When Nadeem and Tabrez reached Nehru Nagar Square, they were intercepted by four bike borne ruffians.

The ruffians stated that they were journalists and started misbehaving. They accused Nadeem and Tabrez of supplying sub-standard sanitizers and started abusing them. In the meanwhile, the accused started searching the vehicle and escaped with bills and Rs 48000.

The victims reached Supela Police Station and narrated the entire incident. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, Police lodged an FIR under sections 394, 34 of IPC and investigations were

launched under the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv and CSP (Bhilai Nagar) RK Joshi.

Acting on a tip off, police rounded up four suspects from different places in Durg and recovered the looted cash, three motorcycles and other items from their possession. The accused were identified as Yogeshwar Manikpuri a resident of Azad Chowk, Ramnagar; Tamendra Sinha a resident of

Durg; Kripachand Sonwani a resident of Bhilai -3 and Tameshwar Tiwari a resident of Harinagar, Katulbod, Durg. Yogeshwar Manikpuri is the mastermind of this gang. Police recovered two nos walkie talkie sets, ID cards of various media houses; mic IDs and khaki uniform from his possession. The accused were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Inspector Suresh Dhruva, Sub Inspector Lakhesh Ganges, ASI Rajnikant Diwan, Head Constable Santosh Sharma, Constables Ravi Kumar, Vishal Singh, Kapil Chaudhary, Surendra Giri and Rajneesh Tiwari played vital role in solving the case.

BJP leader and three others arrested for attacking Cops with sharp weapon

Three arrested for committing theft at factory

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: Police have arrested four ruffians on charges of attacking a police constable with a sharp weapon. Two other accused are at large. Condition of the injured constable was reported to be critical. One of the accused is a BJP leader and had contested the recent civic body elections from Sector 4 on party ticket.

Inspector Suresh Dhruva (SHO, Supela) informed that the patrolling party of Smriti Nagar Chowki had reached Surya Treasure Mall after receiving a tip off regarding a violent clash between two groups. The ruffians involved in the clash had escaped after spotting the Police ERV. After a while,



Police received information that the same ruffians are creating nuisance in Surya Residency Colony.

The Police Emergency Response Team reached there and tried to take the ruffians in custody. Some of the ruffians managed to escape again while the cops managed to round up some of them. In the meanwhile, a ruffian took out a sharp knife and at-

tacked a cop with the intention of killing him.

Constable Savinder Singh tried to protect himself and turned around. Unfortunately, he suffered the stab on the lower back. He suffered fatal injury and was immediately shifted to the hospital. On the other hand, police arrested four ruffians from the crime scene.

The accused are identified as Veeru Sonkar (25) son of Banwari Lal Sonkar a resident of Subhash Square, Camp-1; K Hemant (24) son of K Kantarao a resident of Ramnagar; Praveen alias Padu (33) son of Banicharan Biswal a resident of Sector 4; and Deepak Singh (19) son of Devnath Singh a resident of Smriti Nagar.

Two other accused identified as Kalu Khan and Jagdeesh Gaud are at large. The accused have been booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 147, 148, 149, 186, 353, 332, 307 of IPC. They were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand. Police are trying to search for the absconding accused.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: Police have arrested three persons on charges of committing theft at a factory. The stolen booty has been recovered from their possession. One of the accused is an employee of the same factory.

CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that on January 09, they received a complaint from one Rajendra Meshram regarding theft of 135 nos Hichrome Grinding Media Balls from Balaji Industries Product Limited, Engineering Park, Hathkhaj. Police lodged an offence against the unidentified thieves and launched investigations under the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena and ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv.

During investigation, po-



lice came to know that one Jitendra Kumar Banjare was seen moving on a bike near the crime scene on that night. He was taken in custody and during interrogation, he confessed to have committed the crime. He disclosed the names of two accomplices after which they were also taken in custody. Police recovered the stolen booty from

the possession of the accused. The bike used in the crime was also seized.

The accused are identified as Jitendra Kumar Banjare (20) son of Ramlal Banjare a resident of Ganga Nagar, Kumhari; Suraj Pal (19) son of Shatrughan Pal a resident of Bhatagaon, Amleshwar and Rohit Banjare (24) son of Kanhaiyya Banjare a

resident of Bhatagaon, Amleshwar. Police have recovered the stolen booty worth Rs 98475 from their possession.

ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Rakesh Singh, Constable Sandeep Singh, Vijay Singh, Rajesh Chandraul, Ishwar Lal Baradwaj and Deepak Mandavi played vital role in arresting the accused.

Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant visits SLRM Centre set up in Newai

Spirited SMS-II Collective puts up excellent performance



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: The SLRM Centre has been set up to process plastic waste through Granule Machine. Besides processing of plastic waste into granules, wet waste garbage collected from township is also

converted into compost.

Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta expressed keen interest in the entire process of SLRM Centre and gave necessary directions. He also planted a sapling in the SLRM premises.

Acting ED (P & A) and

CGM, Town Services who was present on the occasion along with KC Tripathi, GM, TSD and Sunil Chaurasia, AGM (TSD) explained the process of granulation and making of compost from wet waste.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: Sunday, January 16, 2022 was a red letter day for SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop-II. While people were enjoying their Sundays at home in cold overcast weather, SMS-II collective was quietly scripting history by keeping its converters and casters red hot.

It was not until very recently that Slab Casters of SMS-II were ailing because of multiple problems. SMS-II team under the guidance of Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and Sushil Kumar, CGM (SMS-II) put in concerted efforts to bring the Slab Casters back on track.

Be it preparation of Spare Pinch Roll sets, or enhancing the overall effectiveness of Maintenance, SMS-II collective tightened its belts and worked in teams to ensure that the en-



tire Hot Metal sent to SMS-II is consumed.

By monitoring the various parameters, SMS-II collective started pushing boundaries in all domains - the best example of which is casting 40 heats at a single stretch in one Turkish in Caster # 6 on January 16, 2022 surpassing the record 38 heats made just 10 days

earlier. Longer sequence in Caster # 6 would mean higher productivity of the most modern Caster at SMS-II. Enhanced reliability of Caster # 6 and disciplined operation led SMS-II in scaling this new peak.

In line with ED (Work)'s call for 'Consuming the hot metal' produced by Blast Furnaces, SMS-II also

geared itself up for the challenging duration when CV-I of the Plant's SMS-III was planned for shutdown.

During the entire shutdown period from January 10 to January 17, 2022, SMS-II stood up to the task, clocking an average of 60 heats per day. On January 10, '22, the first day of shutdown of CV 1 of SMS III, as

many as 68 heats were produced by SMS-II and on the next day, SMS II produced 71 heats surpassing a three year old milestone.

Demonstrating its prowess even when enough Hot Metal was not available for Bloom production, SMS-II produced 67 heats - all slab heats on January 16, 2022 surpassing the previous best of 60 slab heats. This quantum leap was only possible because of excellent leadership and focused and synergized team efforts - not only by Team SMS-II, but by the supporting departments as well. With completion of massive Capital Repair of Caster # 1, SMS-II is keeping the scoreboard of BSP ticking. Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant and other senior officers have congratulated the collective of SMS 2 and supporting shops for the record performances.

BJYM demands unemployment allowance on 'Cher Chera'

Google Doodle conveys vaccination message to users

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: On Monday, the activists of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha staged demonstrations at various places and tried to remind the Congress government of its promise of providing Rs 2500 as unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth. In Bhilai, the demonstration was staged at Civic Centre square under the leadership of Nitesh Mishra.

He alleged that Congress had come to power with the promise of providing employment to the youth but the government has stopped the recruitments. He further al-



leged corruption in recruitments which are being conducted. Rahul Parihar stated that there has been a tradition of gifts from elders on the Cher Chera festival.

Accordingly, the youth

are demanding a gift of Rs 2500 unemployment allowance from the state government. Vishal Shahi, Rohan Singh, Kaverpal Singh, Lokesh Pandey, Rishabh Dubey, Jivesh Upadhyaya and others

were present.

At Durg, the demonstration was staged under the leadership of BJYM District President Nitesh Sahu at Indira Market Chowk. Nitesh said that even after three years of rule, the Congress government is yet to fulfill its promise of unemployment allowance.

Dinesh Devangan, Tekhan Sinha, Gaurav Sharma, Nitesh Bafna, Manish Sahu, Amit Patel, Mukesh Sonkar, Chandrakant Sahu, Rahul Bhatt, Himanshu Singh, Anurag Raizada, Deepak Sinha, Piyush Malviya, Dwarka Sahu, Aniket Yadav and others were present.

● Mega campaign in Durg on January 18 and 19

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 17: On Monday, Google Doodle conveyed the message of Covid vaccination to its users. If you click on the Google Doodle, it will show a Google Map with information about the availability of the vaccine nearby. Recently, WHO had issued a statement about the rapid spread of Omicron in the world and had emphasised on accelerating the vaccination drive to get rid of Covid.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure has given instructions to conduct a mega vaccination campaign in Durg district too. In this sequence, a



two-day vaccination campaign has been started in all the bodies and rural areas. On January 18 and January 19, there will be a massive vaccination campaign in Dhamdha tehsil. The facility of vaccination will also be available in rural areas. Officials said that there will be three types of sections in the

campaign. The first category is those who are frontline workers and are above 60 years of age. The second category is those who have taken the first dose and those who have to take the second dose. Along with this, children of 15 years to 18 years of school age are also included. Vaccination facility will also be

available for school dropout children. Officials said that for this campaign, all preparations have been made in collaboration with the Health Department. A team has been set up for conducting the campaign. In the past, mega campaigns were a great success. Due to vaccination, a large population has developed resistance against Covid. It is noteworthy that the WHO has also consistently stated that only the widespread vaccination and awareness can become a great medium to remove corona. Continuous efforts have been made in this direction in Durg district. Special campaign for vaccination in rural areas was conducted in the district in the past. Under this campaign, Munadi was done in rural areas.

COVID treatment on the basis of symptoms now

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: The state government has made a major change in the protocol regarding the treatment of corona infected patients. In the new protocol, now patients will be given medicines only on the basis of symptoms. Medicines given earlier for corona infection (azithromycin, ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, favipiravir, doxycycline and others) will not be used.

It has been seen in the earlier medicines given for corona infection that they did not prove to be beneficial in the treatment of infection. In view of this, a

new guide line has been issued for the treatment of the infected after the instructions of the Union Health Ministry, Dr Subhash Mishra, Nodal Officer of Chhattisgarh State Corona Control Campaign said. Medicines would be given to the patients on the basis of symptoms seen in them, he said.

Meanwhile the administration is giving Paracetamol, Levocetirizine, Vitamin-C, Zinc tablet medicines in packets of medicines for the patients of home isolation. It is being seen that on seeing the symptoms of corona, people are bringing kits from the medical

store and buying medicines on their own which is dangerous. The data of the infected patients is also not reaching the health department. CMHO Dr Meera Baghel has said that tendency of buying medicines from medical stores after self-testing with self-kits is dangerous. She called for availing free arrangements for COVID testing and treatment in government center. According to the health department data, more than 10.55 lakh patients have been found in the state and more than 8.37 patients of them have recovered from home isolation. At the same time, 1.72 lakh patients had to be

hospitalized. Doctors told that at present the corona infection is not making the patients more serious. The good thing is that the infection is not reaching the lungs which was becoming very dangerous earlier. Nevertheless, caution is essential.

According to Pro. Dr. RL Khare, Medicine Specialist, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital earlier there was no information about medicines as Coronavirus was new. Medicines are allowed on time and need basis. Till now there is no medicine for corona. In hospitals, the infected patients are being treated as per the government guide line.

'CHERCHERA'



Young children on occasion of 'Cherchera' festival, sought donation in the form of grains, flowers, food etc as per rituals here on Monday.

One extra team to be deployed for vaccination in each RMC zone

From Jan 18

Raipur, Jan 17: One extra vaccination team will be put on duty in each of 10 zones of Raipur Municipal Corporation for COVID vaccination. This was informed at a virtual meeting of district nodal officers held by the Collector Sourabh Kumar.

Teenagers in the age group of 15-18 years will be given COVID vaccine. Frontline workers will also be given precaution dose of COVID vaccine. Moreover children eligible for second dose of COVID vaccine will be vaccinated. The Collector reviewed works for prevention and control of Corona at the meeting. Emphasis was laid on follow-up with preparation of depart-

ment-wise list for regular administration of precaution dose to front line workers nine months after they received second dose.

The Collector also stressed the need for increasing the number of testing particularly in railway stations and bus stands. It was informed at the meeting that patients are being shifted to hospitals by ambulances when required. Patients in home isolation are being supplied medicines continuously. The Raipur Municipal Corporation officials said that action was being taken against those roaming around public places without wearing masks. A total amount of fine of Rs 30000 was recovered from such people yesterday.

Ch'garh sees 3,963 COVID-19 cases

Raipur, Jan 17: Chhattisgarh's COVID-19 count reached 10,59,716 on Sunday with the addition of 3,963 cases, while seven deaths took the toll to 13,654, an official said. The addition to the tally included 126 students and five teachers of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the state's Kondagaon district, he said. The state's positivity rate, which is cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 12.17 per cent, he added. So far, 10,13,270 people have been discharged, leaving the state with an active tally of 32,792 cases, he said. "Raipur district reported 1,215 new cases, taking the caseload to 1,74,352, including 3,163 deaths. The district has 8,469 active cases. Durg recorded 512 cases, followed by Korba

328, Bilaspur 301, Raigarh 293, Rajnandgaon 200, Jashpur 173 and Janjgir-Champa 166, among other districts," he said.

With 32,563 samples being examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,56,29,289, the official added. "A total of 126 school students and five teachers of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya have tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday. The samples of 182 students and teachers were sent for testing," Kondagaon BMO Dr Suraj Singh Rathore said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 10,59,716, new cases 3,963, death toll 13,654, recovered 10,13,270, active cases 32,792, today tests 32,563, total tests 1,56,29,289.

Police nabs 6 with 3 truckloads of stolen iron scrap worth Rs 14.43 lakh

Raipur, Jan 17: Three truckloads of scrap worth lakhs along with six accused were nabbed by Dharshiwa police near capital city here on Monday. The police got information on Sunday that some persons near JK Video Hall in Gram Sankara are keeping iron products like blades, 'bum sheet' and other and were in search of customer to sell it.

On this the Dharshiwa police reached the site and inquired about the persons in three trucks and documents in support of scrap and materials they were carrying in their trucks. All three drivers and others failed to give any satisfactory answer and tried to mislead the police and were not having any valid documents in support of the

scrap and other iron products loaded in their trucks.

On this the police interrogated them seriously and then they disclose that all this scrap and other iron materials are stolen items and this entire lot is from Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and brought it to Dharshiwa, near Raipur to sell it. On this the Police seized iron scrap and material weighing 46,690 Kg worth Rs 14.45 lakhs and seized all three trucks used in the transportation and a case under section 379 against all three by Dharshiwa Police. The six accused arrested are Tikeswar Prasad Sahu, K Sai Kumar, Sohan Yadav (all three from Durg district) and Ashish Yadav, Ajay Narang and Sukhlal Singh from Gram Sankara, Dharshiwa Raipur.

Trader stabbed on the back by 7-8 bikers

Near Green Lite Dabha in Serikhedhi

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: A glass trader and businessman was reportedly stabbed late on Sunday night near a 'Dabha' located in Serikhedhi area of Telibandha by unknown bike riders and after attack they all managed to escape.

As per information in this regard, it was late at Sunday night near Green Lite Dabha in capital city, 7-8 bikers attacked glass trader Bhavani Nagar Zora resident Saurabh Mishra. They stabbed him on the back. On getting information about the attack, Telibandha police reached

the site of incident and by this time the bikers managed to escape.

The police took the injured trader to nearby hospital and started the search for the accused searching for CCTV camera footage nearby and holding inquiry with those who witnessed the incident from nearby place.

TI Telibandha Thana Sonwal Gwala informed that the glass trader R/o Bhavaninagar, Zora, Saurabh Mishra (27) was stabbed in the back and waist area by the bikers and all 7-8 bikers managed to escape. The trader denied that he is having controversy with anyone and refused to identify the accused. The police has registered a case and taken the matter under investigation.

BJP to stage protest over plight of farmers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: The Kisan Morcha of Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party is going to stage protest across the state on Tuesday on the issue of loss caused to the farmers. A memorandum will be sent to the governor from every city. According to farmer leader Gaurishankar Srivas lakhs of farmers are in trouble due to the policies of the state government, and no one in the government is paying heed to their plight.

According to Gaurishankar the procurement of paddy in the

state would be stopped within 9 days. Many farmers have not been able to sell their paddy, how will they be able to buy it in such a short time. Paddy is not being lifted in many centres. Due to inclement weather, the paddy lying in the farmer's house and many centers got wet.

There is talk of compensation, but this compensation is limited to paper only. For all these reasons, a memorandum will be submitted to the Governor and demand would be raised for extension of the paddy procurement deadline. Apart from this, the mat-

ter of compensation to farmers affected by hail and excessive rain, paddy lifting in paddy procurement centers will also be included in the memorandum.

According to the data released by the state government, till January 15, about 17.16 lakh farmers have sold paddy in the state. So far 65.88 percent paddy has been procured. 35.54 MT of paddy has been lifted for custom milling. 69 lakh 17 thousand 105 metric tonnes of paddy has been purchased from 17 lakh 15 thousand 846 farmers in 2484 paddy procurement centers of the state.

Lokesh Krishna, GM, Bol in city today

Raipur, Jan 17: Lokesh Krishna, General Manager, Bank of India (BoI) National Banking Group (Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) will be on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh on January 18 in Raipur. In his special tour, the



General Manager will execute MoU between NABARD and Bank of India Raipur Zone for various loan schemes sponsored by Central/State and NABARD for the state of

Chhattisgarh. During this visit, on January 19, 2022, the 62nd branch of Bank of India in Chhattisgarh State will be inaugurated by the General Manager at village-Narayanpur (District-Bemetara). Bank of India, Narayanpur branch will offer banking service in rural areas of 5 districts. During this visit, a business review meeting will be conducted by the General Manager through virtual medium with branches.

Recognition will increase on working with commitment: Sahu

By connecting with the public

Trainee IPS officers met the Home Minister



Raipur, Jan 17: Trainee IPS officers of Chhattisgarh had a courtesy call on Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu at his residence office. During this, the Home Minister said that the service of the police is a very important service related to the common citizens. A different identity can be estab-

lished among the common man by honestly discharging duties and responsibilities. He congratulated all the probationary officers and inquired about their home state, educational background from them. The Minister told the IPS officers that along with resolv-

ing the problems of the general public, better policing also creates a positive atmosphere towards the government. He talked about using the guidance received from senior officers during training and providing better service by going to the field.

One nabbed with 60 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 12 lakh

Mahasamund, Jan 17: A car with GoI written on its registration number plate was able to cross Tehtikhol Check-post of Singhoda Thana without any search or inspection, but it was caught in Saraipali. The Police also arrested a smuggler in the car with 60 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 12 lakhs and cost of car is around Rs 2 lakh and a case under NDPS Act was filed against him.

TI Ashish Vashnik informed that in this case of 'Ganja' smuggling, one Rashid Khan (22) R/o ward No. 15, Mamendragarh District Koriya has been arrested. The smuggler in order to cheat and fool the police at check-post had written GoI in the car's registration number plate and with this he was able to cross Rehatikhol check-post. But it was Saraipali police who got tip from an informer and based upon which by gheraoing the vehicle it was seized. The car bearing was caught with fake registration No. JH CE 3494 has also being seized and its actual number is CG 15 B 7404.

Encourage farmers to cultivate horticulture crops in the state: Choubey

Raipur, Jan 17: Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choubey inaugurated the office of Chhattisgarh State Shakambhari Board at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University Campus Labhandi (Jora) on this occasion, Ramkumar Patel, Chairman of Shakambhari Board, members Dukhvaram Patel, Anurag Patel, Hari Patel, Pawan Patel, Director of Horticulture, Matheswaran V., Secretary of the Board, Narayan Singh Lavatre congratulated the people present on Maa Shakambhari Jayanti and extended his best wishes. On this occasion officers-employees of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Horticulture Department and officials of Marar-Patel Samaj and a large number of people were present. Minister Choubey said that people of Chhattisgarh celebrate Chherchera festival and Shakambhari Jayanti



which has special importance in their life. It is a festival of rich charity and social harmony. This festival of giving and receiving charity ends the feeling of discrimination and arrogance of big and small. He said that Maa Shakambhari is worshipped with vegetables. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has declared a holiday in the state on the occasion of Chherchera Shakambhari Jayanti. In Chhattisgarh, Shakambhari Board has been formed to encourage the farmers doing vegetable cultivation and to get the benefits of government schemes. Four members including Chairman Ramkumar Patel have also been appointed. He said

that its objective is to promote the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and spices in the state and to improve the financial condition of the farmers. Earlier, Minister Ravindra Choubey, Chairman of Shakambhari Board, Ramkumar Patel and all the office bearers worshipped Maa Shakambhari and participated in the havan. At the beginning of the program, the guests including Minister Ravinder Choubey were welcomed with a bouquet. The Chairman and members of Shakambhari Board honored the Minister Ravindra Choubey by presenting him a shawl and a picture of Maa Shakambhari on this occasion.

Notice inviting applications for empanelment of advocates

Raipur, Jan 17: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office, Raipur, Chhattisgarh on behalf of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, (a Statutory body of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India) proposes to engage Panel Counsel(s) to represent the Central Board, Employees' Provident Fund and Officers associated with it before the High Court of Chhattisgarh, Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), State Consumer

Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDR) Chhattisgarh, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDR) Chhattisgarh, National, CAT Bilaspur/Jabalpur and District Court and its subordinate Courts of Chhattisgarh.

The practicing advocates who are registered with Bar Council of India /State Bar Council are eligible for empanelment. The qualification, experience, schedule of fees, other terms and conditions and the application format in which the application has to be made, have been prescribed and is available on official website www.epfindia.gov.in

vide circular dated 03.05.2017 (at SN 53 under "for office use" category) The Advocates who are on the existing panel of EPFO shall cease to be on the panel of EPFO after new panel is finalized against this notice. Therefore, they may also apply afresh in response to this notice. Eligible practicing advocate must submit application in the format prescribed in Annexure "A" and Annexure "B" alongwith all supporting documents in a sealed envelope to : The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (Legal), Employees' Provident

Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Raipur Chhattisgarh, Block 'D' Scheme No.32, I.G.V.P Parisar, Raipur. Application for empanelment at EPFO does not confer any right/assurance whatsoever, to an applicant that he/she will be empanelled on the panel of EPFO. Letters to advocates confirming their empanelment will be issued by EPFO separately. The decision of Competent Authority shall be final and no communication in this matter shall be entertained. Last Date of receiving application is January 24, 2022.

Jawahar Bal Manch to help children develop character: Markam

Raipur, Jan 17: PCC Chief Mohan Markam and National President Jawahar Bal Manch GV Hari addressing a press conference gave detailed information about the Congress organisation 'Jawahar Bal Manch' working amidst youth and children. PCC Chief informed that Congress through Jawahar Bal Manch would give information in detail about history, culture to young children and help develop their character. They will also be informed about the 'Nav-Nirman' (new development) of country after the freedom struggle and country gaining Independence. He said that



it is in order to save the future generation about divisive ideology and its ill-effects by BJP ad to infuse 'ganga-jamuna' culture among the children that Jawahar Bal Manch will move across people, especially children. This will help in their overall development, when they will be rightly presented knowledge about good and bad in the Indian history. Jawahar Bal Manch will play an impor-

tant role in preparing future of children and preparing well-educated leadership in the country. National President Jawahar Bal Manch GV Hari said that during the country's freedom struggle, the youngsters contributed in the form of 'Vanar Sena'. The children are the future of this country and they should have correct information about the history and they should have strong cultur-

al base as well, so that their personality is strong and it is to infuse the younger generation with true values of the Indian culture, which is the main objective of Jawahar Bal Manch.

The press conference was attended by PCC general secy. in-Charge Chandrashekhar Shukla, PCC media cell head Susheel Anand Shkta, general secy. Amarjeet Chawla, YC President Purnachand Koko Padhi, spokesman Dhananjay Singh Thakur, State President Jawahar Bal Manch Tulika Mishra, YC in-charge Ekta Thakur and others.

All eligible people to get the benefit of housing scheme: Ravindra Choubey

Minister Choubey distributed the work order of approved housing to 192 beneficiaries

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choubey congratulated 192 beneficiaries in a program organised at Ambedkar Bhawan, Ward No. 12 of Saja Nagar, Panchayat.



Minister Choubey said that all the eligible families would get the benefit of the housing scheme. He said that people whose houses have been approved, they should build houses according to their dreams. Minister Choubey said that so far those whose names have

not appeared in the list of housing approvals, there is no need to be disappointed. Their name will also come in the future and their permanent home will definitely be built. It is the responsibility of all public representatives.

Minister Choubey said that all efforts will be made for the development of Saja Nagar Panchayat. He has opened two colleges and ITI in Saja area. More edu-

cational institutions will open in the coming time to facilitate higher and technical education in this area. In the program, the President of the Nagar Panchayat, Mrs Shalini Manoj Jaiswal informed that this time the approval of housing for 192 beneficiaries has been received in Saja Nagar Panchayat. A total of 582 houses have been approved so far under the housing scheme in Nagar Panchayat Saja. Janpad Panchayat President Dinesh Verma, Manoj Jaiswal, Santosh Verma, former Janpad Panchayat President Om Verma, SDM Dhanraj Markam, Tehsildar Vinod Banjare, CMO RL Sudhakar, corporators, workers, residents and others were present in the program.

More than 145216 lakh beneficiaries got vaccinated

In Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: In view of the possibilities of third wave of corona to the villagers in all the blocks for Covid-19 vaccination campaign which lasted for two days in the district, the first and second doses of vaccine were administered by the vaccination team to the eligible beneficiaries to avoid and prevent corona infection by reaching door to door. Vaccine was administered to 145216 beneficiaries. To make people aware in the Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign, by visiting the streets and localities in all the blocks, the people who have not got the corona vaccine, made door-to-door appeals to get the corona vaccine and motivated them to get the vaccine. Cautionary advice was given to avoid



misleading rumours. Asked family and other eligible beneficiaries and relatives of the village to motivate others to get the vaccine. In view of the possibilities of the third wave of

corona, it was explained not to be careless and to follow the prescribed guidelines of corona, which inspired lakhs of people to get the vaccine to avoid and control corona

infection. District nodal officers, block nodal officers and cluster coordinators were appointed by the district administration for 100% vaccination of eligible beneficiaries. Police personnel were stationed everywhere for security arrangements. For public awareness of vaccination, district administration team, health workers, Mitani, Anganwadi workers, teachers, citizens to make this campaign a success, reach door to door in street, mohalla, remote area, to prevent corona infection. 19 played an important role in motivating people for vaccination, going door to door and applying first and second dose of vaccine.

On 14th, 15th January, the first dose 47117 and the second dose 98099 total 145216 in the great festival of Covid-19 vaccination campaign. Covid vaccination work will continue even further.

IIIT-NR Director awarded Lifetime Achievement Award

By the Society for Data Science

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 17: Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, Director IIIT-NR, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the field of Data Science and Information Technology by the Society for Data Science (S4DS). The award was announced yesterday during the valedictory session of the 'International Conference on Data Management, Analytics & Innovation 2022 (ICDMAI 2022)', held in virtual mode on January 15-16, 2022. Three other academicians and scientists who were conferred this award on the same platform for their ex-



emplary contributions to the field are Dr. C P Ramanarayanan, Vice Chancellor, Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune; Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar, The Chief of the Naval Staff (India); and Professor Valentina E Balas, Aurel Vlaicu University, Arad, Romania. The award is a

recognition of the growing popularity of IIIT-NR nationally and internationally and the support provided by the State Government for its growth, said Dr. Sinha. I attribute this award to the hard work put in by the faculty and staff members of the institute as well as the students. Foreseeing the immense demand arising for experts in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in the near future, Dr. Sinha played a vital role in introducing new B. Tech. and M. Tech. programs in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (DSAI) in IIIT-NR, in the year 2019, making IIIT-NR one of the first institutes in the country to have such a program. Today, this branch of engineering is the most sought after

branch among the students seeking admission in IIIT-NR.

Dr. Sinha has been deeply involved in building IIIT-Naya Raipur as a premier academic institute of the country since 2015. Earlier he was with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), where he had led national programs in the areas of Supercomputing, Grid Computing, and Health Informatics. During his professional career spanning more than thirty-five years, Dr. Sinha has significantly contributed to the advancement of Science & Technology and Technical Education. His technical contributions include premier academic institutes, supercomputing systems and facilities, healthcare

products and solutions, international patents, a number of technical papers, and six books in the area of Computer Science & Engineering.

Society for Data Science (S4DS) is a non-profit professional association to create a collaborative platform for bringing together technical experts across industry, academia, Government labs and professional bodies to promote innovation around Data Science. The association organizes an annual international conference (ICDMAI), online Datathons, monthly challenges, digital meet ups, webinars, workshops, summer schools, and many other events to promote and nurture data science technologies for contributing to the data driven society of the future.

BJYM demands job from state govt to unemployed

Adopting novel form of protest during 'cherchera'

Kondagaon, Jan 17:

The BJYM workers and leaders adopting novel form of protest near Bus Stand demanded employment to unemployed youths through 'Cherchera' from the state government.

On occasion of 'Cherchera' festival, there is tradition of donation in Chhattisgarh and under this BJYM raised demand to the state government to provide employment to the unemployed youths in the state as per the promise made by them in the



party's election manifesto and also pay unemployment allowance of Rs 2500 per month.

During this the BJYM workers went to nearby shops and traders and highlighted the failure of Congress government in the state and charged it of cheating the youths in the name of employment, showing false figures.

The BJYM workers were carrying placards with slogans written on it

and were carrying bags seeking 'Cherchera' from the state government.

On this occasion BJYM district president Dipesh Arora, city Mandal President Jainendra Singh Thakur, Gen. Secy. Nagesh Dewangan, Gama Jaiswal, Manish Sahu, Sheetal Patel, Lalit Dewangan, Raunak Patel, Santosh Singh, Govinda Talwar, Baba Khan and others were present.

Delegation urges to rule out fault in caste's letters and spelling



That of four ST Samaj to avail constitutional benefits

Pithora, Jan 17: A delegation from 'Saura', 'Savar', 'sanvara', Samaj paid courtesy call on President Van Vikas Nigam and MLA Devendra Bahadur Sinha and MLA Saraipali-Kismat Lal Chand. The delegation informed the MLA duo that due to fault in the Hindi letters and spelling of 12 Scheduled Tribes from the above communities, lakhs of people from above samaj

have been deprived of many constitutional rights. The delegation urged MLA duo to put forth government's version in context of reconsideration petition in the High Court by the State government to permit 'Uchcharan Vibhed' (permission for fault in letters).

On this occasion district President Suresh Malik, Treasurer Roshan Bhoi, Yuvraj Rwal, Alekh Bhoi, Narad Bhoi, Deepak Bagh, Gurusharan Vishal, Naveen Bagh, Meghnath Bhoi and others from different Samajs of ST's were present.

'Social media now a powerful medium for everyone'

Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Jan 17: Sukma District Panchayat President Kawasi Harish said that no one can deny the role of social media whether it is politics or any other field or medium. Congress IT cell is also now fulfilling its responsibility very well. Organization expansion is just the beginning. Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party, Kawasi Harish said that in 2014, Narendra Modi's government was formed only by propagating false things in social media. Lakhma further said in the taking over program of IT Cell at Rajiv Bhawan in Sukma district that we all work hard but do not promote it properly, whereas in today's time everyone has Android and Smartphone through which Congress party and The public welfare schemes of the Bhupesh Baghel government have to reach the



people and expose the BJP's jumlas.

State General Secretary and Bastar in-charge IT Cell and Social Media Yogesh Panigrahi said that the purpose of the new appointments is to take the work of power and organization to the people, in which this work has to be done in collaboration with all the affiliated organizations of the Congress Party.

ITCell Bastar Lok Sabha Speaker Ashish Mishra expressed hope that the newly appointed office bearer would expose the lies of BJP and opponents,

Lok Sabha Speaker Mishra kept many things with facts. In a dignified program on Sunday, the appointment letter was given to the newly appointed officer Nitesh Das and Ashish Potla to the District President and Ashish Potla from the hands of District Panchayat President Kawasi Harish and the oath of the Congress Party's policy was also taken. During this, Municipality President and Lok Sabha General Secretary IT Cell Jagannath Sahu (Raju Sahu) conducted the pro-

gram. The guests were welcomed by the Congress party office bearers by presenting them with bouquets.

During this, members of the Yoga Commission Rajesh Nara, Suresh Singh Chauhan, Dornapal Nagar Panchayat President Smt. Babita Mandavi, Youth Congress District President Madvi Laxman, Municipal Vice President Ayesha Hussain, Councilor Smt. Padma Jaiswal, Councilor Sheikh Ghulam, District Member Smt. Geeta Kawasi, Alderman Mohd. Hussain, Deputy Sarpanch of Gadiras Dharmendra Singh Chauhan, District President of Sports Cell Rohit Pandey, Sheikh Sadiq, Kamlesh Patel, Nitesh Sahu, Billu Sagar, Anish Suna, Tarun Barath, Ravi Samuel, Raja Chaudhary, Dilip Gupta and Congress workers were present.

Fourth accused in ATM fraud arrested



Police seized 1 Honda car and other costly gadgets

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Jan 17: The fourth accused Mohammed Manzor involved in foregry of not depositing cash in the ATM and embezzling funds worth lakh has been arrested by Jagdalpur police. Three accused in this case were already arrested earlier. It was on guidance of IG and SSP Jitendra Singh Meena and direction of Addl.SP Om Prakash Sharma and under leadership of City (SP) Hemsagar Sidar and TI Kotwali MN Sahu, the

search for the four accused absconding was going on. Finally the Kotwali police managed to arrest the fourth accused and when interrogated he informed that it is by depositing less of an amount than actually mentioned in different ATMs with help of custodians of CMS Company viz. Yogesh Yadav, Kailash Yadav and Auditor Lalit Narayan Sahu, they used to purchase costly items and fulfill all their aspirations. Out of this majority of amount they used to put in online betting and used to show as if they have lost it.

The Police has also seized 1 Honda city Car bearing No. CG 03 NL 4499, one laptop, one mobile, smartwatch and other items from possession of accused Manjoor Raza. In this another accused Raja Firoz Khan is still absconding and more interrogation with the accused arrested is still going on. For this the police has taken into Police Remand.

11 children of SSS selected for Bharat Mata Abhinandan award

To be presented on occasion of R-Day virtually

For doing remarkable works in different fields

Pithora/Mahasamund, Jan 17:



A total of 11 children from Sanskar Shikshan Sansthan (SSS) located in Pithora will be felicitated with Akhil Bharti Bharat Mata Abhinanda Samman on occasion of Republic Day i.e 26, Jan 2022. This honour is being presented to them for remarkable works in different fields. This programme is being

organised with courtesy Prabhat Gaur under the aegis of Bharat Mata Abhinandan Sangathan Bhiwani Haryana in all the districts of different states. Under this the children doing remarkable works in different social activities like literature, education,

environment, science, Navachar, water conservation, music, painting patriotism, dance, for protection and conservation of Indian culture are being presented with Bharat Mata Abhinandan Samman.

Director SSS Pithora Seema Gaurav Chandrakar informed that their institute the children of their institute are taught about personality development and they are made to do variety of remarkable works in different fields. For session 2021-22, 11 children from the institute have been selected for Bharat Mata Abhinandan Award at national level. In this the children by giving remark-

able performance in the field of 'Navachar', Science, patriotism, painting, dance and other fields are honoured with this award.

Among the students of the institute who are to be presented with this award in student's category are Aditya Sharma, Asman Nayak, Sambhav Mohanti, Raunak Sinha, Mayank Raj Naidu; in girl's category Aditya Sinha, Tiksha Chandrakar, Yukti Mahanand, Aavya Agrawal, Swaecha Sinha, Vidushi, Patel. These children will be presented Bharat Mata Samman award digitally on occasion of Republic Day, she added.

Cong launches membership campaign to strengthen booths: Sahu

Anwari, Jan 17:

Under the 'mera booth, majboot campaign' by PCC, it is as per instructions from Block President BCC Bhakhara Mukesh Kosare to make new members, Block YC President Raju Sahu got new membership of new members in his booth from Gram Koliyari. Under this the new members are being added as primary members of Congress and will work as members and party workers of Congress in taking party's ideology and works to masses from booth to village level in the coming elections in their



booths. They will also promote the public welfare policies and schemes of the state government under leadership of CM Bhupesh Baghel.

For this separate booth committees have been formed and along with this Block V-P Gaidlal Sahu also formed news members in his booth and handed it over the mem-

bership book to Madeli Block President Mahendra Sahu, in-charge Hemendra Sahu.

On this occasion Sarpanch Joratarai Khilawan Pal, former Gramin President Koliyari Hari Ram Sahu, Rakesh Nishad, Tikes Sahu, Nandkumar Sahu, Kuber Tarak and Vedprakash Sahu.

Villagers construct school building with own resources

Girwar Janghel inspects PPC Thakurtola

After MLA, MP and Govt turn nelson's eye

Sheikh Hasan Khan/Ramkrishna Dhruv

Mainpur, Jan 17: At a time when the state government is making efforts to ensure education for all and crores are spent in this regard, a totally opposite picture can be seen in the tribal block Mainpur area of Gariabandh district. Here the tribal children want to visit school themselves for receiving education but the education department has not been able to make education available to them.

When this correspondent visited Sornamal village, about 38 km from tehsil



headquarter Mainpur it came to fore that villagers for the last 10 years are knocking the doors of MP, MLA and state government for opening of school and school building but all their requests have been turned

down.

Keeping in mind the future of their children, villagers collected paddy, rice and Rs 50 donation from the villagers and with voluntary labour they constructed a school building made out of soil.

The villagers performed worship after the completion of building and is running the school. Five classes from

What official says

"Village Sornamal is a dependent village of Gram Panchayat Koyba and the villagers have constructed a school building out of their resources and are running it. This school is not in the government record but has been associated with Khasarpani school and mid-day meal is provided to the students. Higher officials has been sent letter for opening a school here as students cannot travel 8 km through forest for attending the school. In the general meeting of Janpad a proposal has been prepared for opening the school in village and sent to the government for approval."

- R R Singh, BEO Mainpur

Class I to V are running in this 8 feet long and 8 feet wide school building. The efforts by the villagers earned praise from the inhabitants of the region.

30 students study in this primary school

The villagers said, there is no primary school in the village and 8 km from the village primary school runs in Koyba and Kahsarpani. They do not know that how their children will travel 8 km through forest to study in these schools. All their requests to start a school in

the village have fallen to deaf ears.

Earlier the school ran in a thatched hut made out of grass and later they collected donations, rice and paddy or constructing a class room made out of mud. At present 30 students study in this school of which 07 are in Class I, 08 in Class II, 05 in Class III, 06 in Class IV and 04 in Class V. The villagers collected donations to arrange for teacher but administration has not given these children facilities of uniform and textbooks.



Central Chronicle News

problems being faced by the farmers and those in

paddy purchase by the Society.

It is notable here that former MLA Girwar Janghel during his term as MLA had fought with the insurance company and authorities about the problems faced by farmers and even raised it in Vidhan Sabha.

In the same way he is also solving problems of farmers getting familiar to them. During this other supporters and workers of Girwar Janghel were present.

Khairagarh, Jan 17:

Former MLA and farmer leader Girwar Janghel conducted inspection of Paddy Procurement Centre (PPC) in Thakurtola here on Sunday. During the inspection he directed the officers over telephone to speed-up lifting of paddy from PPCs and solve the

NAME CHANGE

it is informed to the general public that I, SWETA D/O VIPIN KUMAR UPADHYAYA resident of Ganga Canal Near Cheetal Park Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar Uttar Pradesh-251201 have changed my old name SWETA D/O VIPIN KUMAR UPADHYAYA, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is SWETA UPADHYAYA GAUR, W/O NEERAJ GAUR in all Government and other documents.

SWETA UPADHYAYA GAUR B Block F-6 Judges Colony, Civil Lines Raipur (C.G.)

Stone laid for community dairy unit



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 17: Under 'Rurban Mission' in Gram Panchayat Chodebanjoda and Bolbala, foundation for community dairy unit was laid at the hands of local MLA and PCC Chief Mohan Markam and District Panchayat President Devchad Matlam last on Jan 14. In addition to this under department's beneficiary oriented scheme, the beneficiaries were issued cheques of the grants. Under this a total of five

beneficiaries were issued Rs 45000 at the rate of Rs 9000 each under 'Sukar Trayi Yojana' from Livestock Department; under 'Nar Bakra Vitran Yojana', a cheque of Rs 3500 was given. Addressing the villagers, MLA said that in order to make the villages self-sufficient and strong, the state government is running schemes like 'Narwa, Ghurwa, Gharuwa, Bari Yojana' and through which the government plans to make each individual of the village self-confident and financially strong.

For this it is necessary that each villager should come forward to get associated with government's schemes and avail benefit of those schemes and make efforts to increase their source of income. The farmers of villages, under mix-farming, can take up the work of animal husbandry in their farms and double their income. This should be adopted by villagers every year. On this occasion Veterinary in-charge Dr Neena Mishra, Varish Nand, Consultant Rurban Mission Sunil Ranjan, Hirdu Thakur, Budhran Netam, and sarpanch, panch, 'gayata', 'pujari' and public reps and villagers were present in large number.

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MOTILAL OSWAL HOME LOANS

Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opp. Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025. Tel: (022) 47189999 Website: www.motilaloswal.com. Email: hqquery@motilaloswal.com

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited

Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opp. Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025. Tel: (022) 47189999 Website: www.motilaloswal.com. Email: hqquery@motilaloswal.com

DEMAND NOTICE

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

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

Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant Name / Guarantor Name	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (Immovable property/ies)
LXRAI04319-200075467 Bhupendra Kumar Sahu/ Shatrughan Lal So Sansay Sahu / Devnarayan . Thakur	20-Jul-21/ Rs. 1006742/- (Rupees Ten Lac Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two Only)	Kh. No. - 1085/69, Ph. No. - 02, Village - Julum, Near Agerawal Haler Mill, Abhanpur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 493661

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

Date: 18.01.2022
Place: Chhattisgarh
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited

Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited

Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. Email :- info@ahfc.com. CIN :- U65923MH2013PLC248741

DEMAND NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant Name / Guarantor Name	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (Immovable Property/ies)
1	LXRAI00417-180069672 / Gautam Vasant Rai Chawra / Preety Chawra	20-Dec-21 / Rs. 1812828/- Rupees Eighteen Lac Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight Only	Plot No. - 95, Sector - 06, L H No. - 329 / 12(Part), Vip City P.H.No.- 96/23, R.N.M. Dhariwas-1, Near Cgcb Colony, Parsulidih, Tehsil Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492007
2	LXDUR00217-180057096/ Kamal Dev Ramteke / Kalpana Ramteke	24-Jun-19 / Rs. 899194/- Rupees Eight Lac Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four Only	Kh No 132/1, Ph No 35/1, Madhaw Mukti Bodh, Ward No 7, Infront Of Santoshi Temple, Shankarpur, Village Chikli, Tah & Dist Rjnagaon, Chhattisgarh - 491441
3	LXRAI00318-190070674 / Abdul . Aziz / Farha Naz	22-May-20 / Rs. 330611/- Rupees Three Lac Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Only	Plot No 92, 112/114 Janta House, 80 Plot Yojna, R.D.A Colony, Garm Tikrapara, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
4	LXDUR00217-180056273 / Tasin Raja Anwar Raja Khan/ Shahin Anjum Tasin Raza Khan	07-Dec-20 / Rs. 454513/- Rupees Four Lac Fifty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Only	Plot No - 48, Kh No - 647/2, Ph.No - 14/19, Kurud, Bhlilai, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 490011
5	LXRAI00117-180063102 / Nilu Soni / Devchand Durgal/ Kalpana Durgal / Jugal Kishor	28-Jan-21 / Rs. 1641054/- Rupees Sixteen Lac Forty One Thousand Fifty Four Only	Plot Kh No - 99/277 Part, Khat No - 1732 Part -2, Ph No - 105, Ward No - 52, Chandra Sekhar Azad Ward, Mouja -Mathpurna, Peehu General Store, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
6	LXDUR00318-190070370 / Utsav Mitra / Monika Utsav Mitra	20-Apr-21 / Rs. 933814/- Rupees Nine Lac Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Only	Ward No - 10, Ph No- 19 /14, Rnm Durg - 1, Kh No- 5357, Shati Nagar Kohka Ward, Vill Kohka, Near Mgm, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491881
7	LXDUR00218-190072430 / Ghanshyam . Thakur / Durga . Thakur	23-Jun-21 / Rs. 500716/- Rupees Five Lac Seven Hundred Sixteen Only	Plot No - 08, Kh No - 1003/2, Ph No - 14, Rnm Durg - 1, Village - Kurud, Near Gukul Nagar, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 490024
8	LXRAI00417-180058367 / Ravindra Ram Nakhet / Nisha Nakhet	20-Jul-21 / Rs. 388600/- Rupees Three Lac Eighty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Only	Flat No - 519, 5Th Floor, Block - D, Indraparatha Raipura Yojna, Phase - II, Nagar Vikas Yojana No - 01, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
9	LXDUR00217-180056326 / Parvez Gulam Rasad Alam/ Nargis Mohammad Parvej/ Alam Khatoon	20-Jul-21 / Rs. 697791/- Rupees Six Lac Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety One Only	House No - Ews 1522, Khasara No - 583, World Bank Colony, Ward No - 16, Near Nalanda School, Kurud, Bhlilai, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 490023
10	LXDUR02519-200073893/ Manjeet . Shriwas / Purushottam . Shriwas / Shyama . Shriwas	22-Nov-21 / Rs. 560494/- Rupees Five Lac Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Four Only	Khasra No. - 6669, Plot No. - 13, Ph No. - 14, Rnm Durg - 1, Ward No - 07, Kripal Nagar, Kohka, Near St Xavier School, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 490023

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

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 18.01.2022
Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
(Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.)

Notice U/s 72 of Partnership Act, 1932

Notice is hereby given that the firm M/s Real & Sons, Raipur (C.G.) constituted as per Original Partnership Deed Dated 25th June 2017 & Amendment deed dated 01st June 2019 & 01 Aug. 20 respectively.

Now 3rd Amendment of Partnership deed executed on dated 26th June 2021. Where in that M/s Real Power Pvt. Ltd. has retired from Partnership firm & M/S API Ipsat & Powertech Pvt. Ltd. has joined the firm as partner W.E.F. 26th June 2021.

M/s. Real & Sons
(Partner)



Regional Office: Netaji Marg,
Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads,
Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6.
Phone: +91-79-26421671-75

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued demand notice on the date mentioned against the account stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s), having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules 2002 on the date mentioned against the loan account. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for the amounts, interest, costs and charges thereon. The borrowers' /borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of borrower(s) & Loan Account No.	Description of property mortgaged (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on Date of Demand Notice
Mr. Azad Hussain Mr. Saiyed Ajaz Hussain Mrs. Sanjidavegam Mr. Mairaj Hussain 851/2649 & 851/2623	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated Part of House No. J-110, Janta Colony, Tilak Nagar, Chhattisgarh, Grih Nirman Mandal, Gudhiyari, Raipur (C.G.)-492001 Rakba 116.63 Sq. Mt. and bounded by: North: Janta-145, East: Janta-111, West: Janta-109, South: Road	01.11.2021	11.01.2022	Rs. 14,17,065.63
Mr. Prakash Singh Chouhan Mrs. Geetanjali Chouhan 851/3473	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Part of Khasra No. 133/46 and 134/29 Part, PHN 105/47, RNM Raipur-1, Block-2, Ward No. 67, Dr. Khub Chand Baghel Ward, Tehsil and District- Raipur, Rakba 980 Sq. Ft. and bounded by: North: Land of Dinesh Patel, East: Land Buying by Geetanjali, West: Land by Rajendra Sahu, South: Road	27.10.2021	11.01.2022	Rs. 15,98,106.92
Mr. Prakash Singh Chouhan Mrs. Geetanjali Chouhan 851/3474	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Part of Khasra No. 133/46 and 134/29 Part, PHN 105/47, RNM Raipur-1, Block-3, Ward No. 67, Dr. Khub Chand Baghel Ward, Tehsil and District- Raipur, Rakba 980 Sq. Ft. and bounded by: North: Land of Dinesh Patel, East: Land of Ratan Lal, West: Land buying by Prakash Singh, South: Road	27.10.2021	11.01.2022	Rs. 14,51,780.21

Place: Raipur
Date: 18/01/2022
Authorized Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

BRIEF

Potato

Kolkata: Sowing of potato in West Bengal got delayed by around 25 days due to unseasonal rain, while farmers are keeping their fingers crossed about the harvest of the crop worth Rs 7,000-8,000-crore at current prices. Despite delay, production could be satisfactory if the average minimum night temperature remains at 16-17 degrees Celsius till February. The potato production in state was around 110 lakh tonne in 2021.

Mephedrone

Mumbai: Mephedrone worth Rs 35 lakh was seized from a man in a raid carried out by Mumbai Crime Branch in a shanty in Bharat Nagar locality of Bandra. The man has been identified as Sameer Salim Sheikh (37). "We recovered 350 grams of MD worth Rs 35 lakh and Rs 1.15 lakh cash. He has been charged under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act," an official said.

Cheating

New Delhi: Two people were arrested for allegedly cheating the owner of a printing press here of almost Rs 13.5 lakh on the pretext of providing a business loan of Rs 45 lakh. The accused, Jitendra Singh (28) and Geeta Chauhan (27), who hail from Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahar district, along with other gang member, have cheated a large number of people in Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, MP, Odisha, TN and Kerala.

Liquor

Bijnor: Over 18,000 litres of spurious liquor was seized and 714 people were arrested in the last two days in nine districts of Uttar Pradesh under a special drive in view of the assembly polls. The drive is being conducted in nine districts which fall under the Bareilly Zone. Police busted 120 illegal distilleries, seized 18,589 litres of spurious liquor and arrested 714 people in districts of Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Amroha and Bareilly.

Stealing

Mumbai: A man was arrested while trying to flee to his native Bihar after allegedly stealing cash and jewellery from his employer's home in Malabar Hill in Mumbai. Madan Chowdhary, a resident of Wadala here and a native of Madhubani in the eastern state, had robbed the house where he worked and was held by the Property Cell of the Crime Branch.

Snatched

Hoshiarpur: Two unidentified men alleged snatched away Rs 4 lakh from a currency exchange shop owner near the Clock Tower here, police said. The money was snatched from shop owner Akash Ohri by the suspects who were carrying some sharp-edged weapons, they said. After committing the crime, they fled, police said, adding that an investigation was underway.

Adityanath second UP CM to contest from Gorakhpur district



BJP organising luncheon events with different castes in Gorakhpur district.

Lucknow, Jan 17 (PTD):

Yogi Adityanath, who has been declared BJP candidate from Gorakhpur will be the second leader to contest from the district as a Chief Minister after Tribhuvan Narayan Singh, who lost in 1971. Singh had contested from Maniram assembly seat of the Gorakhpur district while being a Chief Minister. There was a mixed reaction from political parties after Yogi Adityanath was made the BJP candidate from Gorakhpur Sadar seat on Saturday.

Main opposition Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday took a jibe at the BJP's decision to field Yogi Adityanath from the Gorakhpur constituency, saying the saffron party has already sent him home. Gorakhpur is the hometown of Adityanath. He had been the MP from

Gorakhpur Lok Sabha seat since 1998 until he became the chief minister in 2017.

The SP chief had said, "As far as contesting elections is concerned, earlier it was said that he (Adityanath) will contest from Mathura, Prayagraj, Ayodhya or Deoband. I am happy that the BJP has already sent him home (Gorakhpur). "Actually he did not get a ticket, he was sent back home", he had added. "Yogi is not a member of the BJP. Imagine the CM who was demanding a ticket and did not get the seat of his choice. Saints of Ayodhya had said that they bid farewell to him (Yogi Adityanath) if he was given ticket from there after which the BJP has given him farewell and sent him to Gorakhpur," Akhilesh also said on Sunday.

'Congress disrupting Mekedatu project with its agitation'

Karnataka has submitted project to Central Water Commission

Bengaluru, Jan 17 (PTD):

Accusing the Congress of disrupting the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the Cauvery river with its recent 'walk for water' campaign, Karnataka Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Monday said the Congress drive only helped spread the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

The minister said the opposition Congress party's agitation could be used by the Tamil Nadu government, which was opposed to the project, to stall it.

"For the past 15-20 years we had been convincing



Ashoka

people that the Mekedatu project in Ramanagara district is restricted to drinking and power generation purposes but the Congress publicised it in a way that it will give water from the project to the farmers as well. Now the statements of Congress leaders here will be used by the Tamil Nadu government to stall the project," he added.

water dispute has ever been resolved by rally or a 'padayatra.'

"All such disputes were sorted out by the court orders. That much common sense Congress leader should have had," Ashoka added.

Accusing the Congress of spreading the coronavirus pandemic in the state, the minister challenged the leader of opposition, Siddaramaiah to get all those who had taken part in the 'padayatra' for five days from January 9, when the march began, tested.

The test will make it clear as to whether or not the Congress leaders' march has led to the fast spread of the virus, the minister alleged.

Ashoka charged that the Congress leaders did not pay heed to the notices serviced to them by the

Ticket denial to Channi's brother proves Congress used him

To get SC votes: Chadha

Chandigarh, Jan 17 (PTD):

By denying tickets to the brother and another relative of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, the Congress has proved that it had made him CM merely for using him as a tool" to get the Scheduled Caste votes, AAP leader Raghav Chadha alleged on Monday.

In its first list of 86 candidates, the Congress on Saturday had given the ticket to sitting legislator Gurpreet Singh GP from Bassi Pathana (SC) seat which was being eyed by Channi's brother Manohar Singh.

Singh had announced to fight as an independent from this seat. Channi's



Raghav Chadha

brother had been demanding the Congress ticket for contesting from the Bassi Pathana seat, Chadha told reporters here, and added, But he was denied the ticket. Similarly, Channi's relative Mohinder Singh Kaypee, who wanted the ticket from the Adampur seat in Jalandhar, was also denied it, said Chadha, alleging Kaypee was denied the ticket because he was Channi's relative. Chadha, however, said the ruling

party gave tickets to the sons of Fatehgarh Sahib MP Amar Singh and minister Brahm Mohindra.

Manohar Singh was not given the ticket because he was Channi's brother. The Congress party has proved that the party used Channi Saab. We could say that Channi Saab was made the chief minister only for using him to take votes of the Dalit community, he said. Channi Saab does not have any say in the party that he could take two tickets for his family, he said in a dig at the ruling party. It appears Channi was used as a tool by the Congress to appease people of a particular community, he alleged.

The Congress appointed Channi as the Punjab chief minister last year after Amarinder Singh was made to resign. Channi is Punjab's first Dalit CM.

Part-time counselling centre planned for drug addicts in Reasi

Jammu, Jan 17 (PTD):

Jammu and Kashmir Police is planning to open part-time counselling centres for drug addicts in Reasi district, a senior officer said on Monday, warning stern action including booking of narcotics peddlers under Public Safety Act to counter the menace.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Shailender Singh sought cooperation of the parents whose children have become drug addicts and said anyone willing to give up the drug abuse would be recommended to drug de-addiction centres for their rehabilitation in to the mainstream.

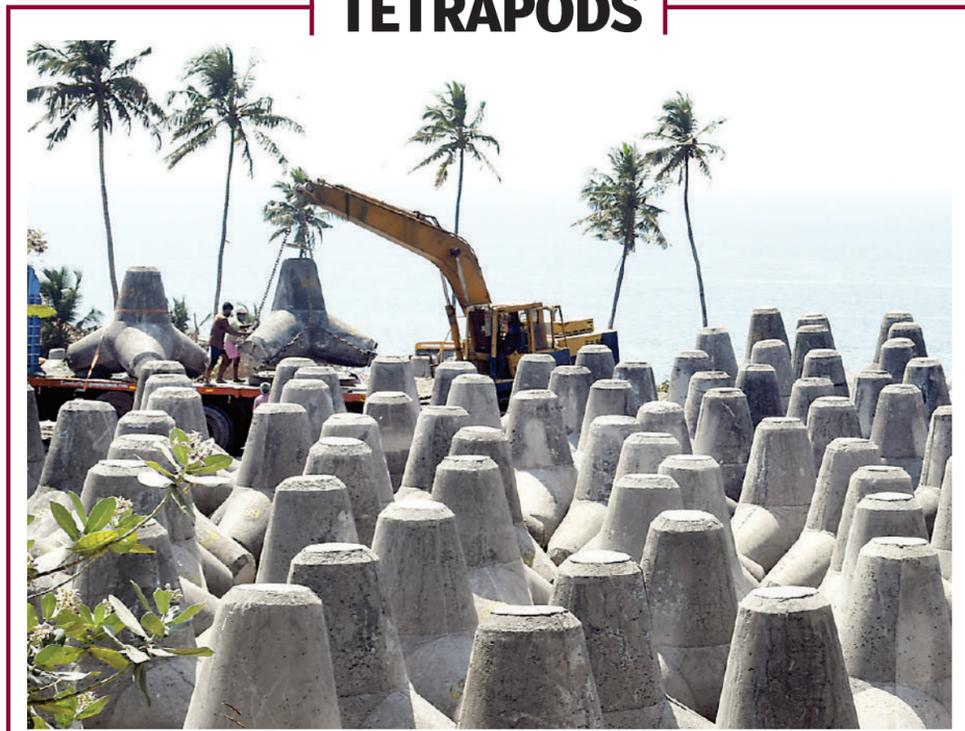


Reasi district police interacts with parents of drug addict children.

Police are working on a multi-pronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse among the youth. On the one hand 250 drug peddlers and abusers have been booked in 206 cases registered in the last nine months, on

the other hand, police are working on rehabilitation of the addicts so that they successfully shun the path of drug abuse, the officer said.

Singh was chairing an interaction between police officers and parents



Tetrapods meant for sea wall construction being loaded on a truck off the Vizhinjam coast, in Thiruvananthapuram, Monday.

TETRAPODS

HC dismisses plea challenging ordinance increasing BMC ward strength

Mumbai, Jan 17 (PTD):

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed a plea by two BJP councillors challenging a November 30 ordinance of the Maharashtra government increasing the ward strength of the B r i h a n m u m b a i Municipal Corporation (BMC) by nine from 227 to 236.

A bench of Justices AA Sayed and Abhay Ahuja was hearing the plea by BJP councillors Abhijit Samant and Rajeshree Shirwadkar challenging the notification issued by the Maharashtra urban development department. The petitioners, through senior advocate Veerendra Tulzapurkar, argued the ordinance was illegal and arbitrary,



BMC new wards map.

and was issued ahead of the BMC elections to benefit a certain political party. The Maharashtra government, through Advocate General

Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, maintained the said change had been brought about to ensure the total number of seats in various municipal corporations and municipal councils was commensurate with the population increase in the respective areas.

The petitioners, however, told HC the state government had used 2011 Census data to increase the number of municipal wards in the city. The 2011 Census showed the city's population rose by 3.87 percent.

The plea said the state government did not increase the number of corporators in 2011 and the current composition of the civic body has been unchanged since 2001.

Gujarat Govt focussing on 'outcome' and not 'output': Patel

Gandhinagar, Jan 17 (PTD):

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday said that the focus of his government is on "outcome" and not "output," as he outlined various projects undertaken and completed after he took charge as CM last September.

Speaking at the launch of the booklet "Sushashan na 121 divas" (121 days of good governance) marking the completion of 121 days in office, Patel stressed the formula of the "minimum government, maximum governance".

He said all the flagship schemes of the Central government are being taken to the beneficiaries in Gujarat in a time-bound manner.

"The government is moving ahead with sustainable development goals to ensure that the benefits of development reach to the last man standing and nobody is



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel releases booklet at a function in Gandhinagar on Monday.

left out," Patel said. He said Gujarat is the only state in the country where districts have prepared reports of sustainable goals and action plans. "Focus is given to outcome and not output," the CM added. Patel said his government is going ahead with full "resolve, confidence and passion". Gujarat is committed to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' through 'Aatmanirbhar Gujarat' and work tirelessly in this direction, he added. Patel said the state

government will allocate funds to promote 'natural farming' to take forward the prime minister's pledge for a shift in the traditional agricultural practice. Funds will be provided for the development of natural farming, as well as for holding training camps and mega seminars, and for laboratories, he added.

Patel said Gujarat is all set to connect every household with a drinking water supply by September this year.

"The state has achieved 100 per cent target across

seven districts, and will add six more districts by the end of January," he said.

Around 1 crore PMJAY (Jan Aarogya Yojana) cards have been distributed among the poor and middle-class beneficiaries, and Gujarat has become the first state to launch the "Gati Shakti" project, he said.

A relief package of Rs 1,000 crore to farmers for crop losses caused due to the unseasonal rainfall, covering 5.06 lakh farmers across 1,530 villages, has been given.

Package to fishermen, and the hike in the compensation for farmers for setting up transmission lines, are some of the achievements Patel referred to during his speech. He said that a total of 4.97 crore first doses and 4.36 crore second doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the last 121 days in Gujarat.

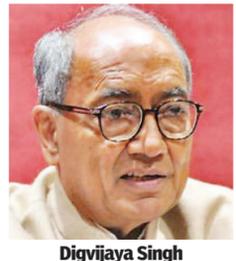
Digvijaya says MP CM not giving him appointment

Threatens to launch sit-in protest for cause of farmers

Bhopal, Jan 17 (PTI):

Congress MP Digvijaya Singh has threatened to stage a sit-in protest outside the official residence of Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan here if the latter doesn't meet him by January 20 to discuss the problems faced by the people affected by Tem and Suthalia irrigation projects.

In a letter addressed to Chouhan, Singh claimed that the CM had not been giving him an appoint-



Digvijaya Singh

meet him by January 20. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said that he had written many letters highlighting the plight of the people affected by two dams, but the CM has not replied.

Singh claimed that thousands of acres of land will be submerged while many villages will partially or totally go underwater due to the Tem and Suthalia projects. He said very little compensation was being given to the affected people in Bhopal, Rajgarh, and Vidisha districts.

I will bring 15 farmers each affected by the two projects during a meeting with you by following all COVID-19 protocols, Singh stated in the letter.

BRIEF

Clash

Amman: Jordan's military said that an army officer was killed in a shootout with smugglers on the country's northern border with Syria. A Jordanian military website said Capt. Muhammad Yassin Musa al-Khudayrat was killed and three others were injured when a group of smugglers opened fire on border guards. It said the attackers fled into neighboring Syria and large quantities of narcotics were seized and transferred to the authorities.

Raids

Barcelona: Spanish police have arrested the leading smuggler of heroin into the European country in a bust that took a total of 10 people into custody and confiscated 55 kilograms of the drug. Police said that the ring based in the central province of Toledo bought large quantities of heroin from sources in the Netherlands and then distributed the drug to dealers in parts of central and western Spain. Officers raided eight properties.

Donates

Kathmandu: Nepal donated over 14 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to the UN representatives based in Afghanistan which is now under the Taliban rule, the first aid to a foreign country in the Himalayan nation's modern history. A team led by Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sewa Lamsal flew to Kabul to deliver the in-kind assistance which weighed over 14 tonnes, excluding food items as a goodwill gesture, the ministry said.

Revised

Berlin: The Austrian government presented revised plans for its proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate, which it said will now apply to all residents age 18 and over, rather than 14 as originally intended. Officials said that a phased introduction will give people plenty of opportunity to comply. It announced two months ago that it would implement general vaccine mandate early this year, becoming first European country to do so.

Confirms

Tehran: Iran confirmed that it has again imprisoned a French-Iranian researcher and anthropologist who had been furloughed with electronic monitoring bracelet. The judiciary news website Mizan.news quoted deputy head of the judiciary Kazem Gharibabadi as saying the prisoner, Fariba Adelkhah, dozens of times violated judicial restrictions during her furlough.

Denies

Lahore: A Pakistani court has denied bail to three persons belonging to the minority Ahmadi community who were arrested under blasphemy charges for sharing alleged objectionable religious content in a WhatsApp group.

Beijing single omicron case draws national attention

Beijing, Jan 17 (AP):

A 26 year old woman in China's capital Beijing who contracted the omicron strain of COVID-19 has drawn national attention on social media for her shopping trips.

The woman, who has not been identified by name, reportedly visited high-end shops in the city before showing symptoms of having the virus. It wasn't known where or how she became infected and her present condition hasn't been made public.

The woman's case was widely discussed online and reflects the government's painstaking efforts to track down and isolate every virus case, along with identifying and testing anyone an infected person may have been in contact with. The first re-



A vegetable vendor waits for customers at a market in Beijing on Monday.

ported case of the omicron variant has prompted stepped-up measures in Beijing, just weeks before it hosts the Winter Olympic Games.

More than 13,000 people and all places visited by the 26-year-old woman have been tested and her apartment complex and workplace sealed off. Officials on Saturday said the woman

lives and works in the city's northwestern district of Haidian, home to some of the country's top universities, and had no travel history outside of Beijing for the past two weeks. No new cases were reported in Beijing on Monday, although the nearby city of Tianjin saw another 80 cases. State media on Monday reported the capital, with its 20 mil-

lion residents, was considering stronger restrictions on travel. All transit links with Tianjin have already been severed. International flights have been sharply reduced and domestic travelers have been barred if they transferred to a second location before arriving in Beijing. The Olympics open on February 4, just days after the start of Lunar New Year celebrations. Athletes, officials, staff and journalists are required to enter a closed-loop bubble without outside contact and undergo daily testing. As an additional precaution, Beijing will require travellers to take nucleic acid tests within 72 hours of entry starting January 22. Some schools in Beijing have also closed early and moved classes online ahead of the winter holidays.

Vaccination mandated for commuters on Manila



Signage that reads "No Vaccine No Ride" (L) is seen on the windshield of a passenger jeepney in Quezon City.

Manila, Jan 17 (AP):

People who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 were banned from riding public transport in the Philippine capital region Monday in a desperate move that has sparked protests from labor and human rights groups.

The Philippines' vaccination campaign has been dogged by public hesitancy and delays, while the highly contagious omicron variant has fueled a recent spike in

infections. From less than a thousand new cases daily during the Christmas holidays, the Department of Health counted a record of more than 39,000 on Saturday. Under the Department of Transportation's no vax, no ride policy, commuters who are not fully vaccinated will not be allowed to ride public jeepneys, taxis, buses, sea ferries and commercial planes to and from and within Metropolitan Manila unless they show proof that

they are on urgent errands or cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. The restriction will last at least to the end of January and was an offshoot of President Rodrigo Duterte's warning that unvaccinated Filipinos who defy orders to stay at home to ease community infections could face arrest.

There are indeed legitimate reasons for aiming to vaccinate as many people as possible. However, these reasons should not prevent people from freedom of movement, said Butch Olan of Amnesty International in the Philippines. Experts say the policy's legality could be questioned before the Supreme Court. There were concerns how poor drivers of jeepneys, Manila's popular public transport icon, could efficiently enforce the restriction and check vaccination certificates while driving with passengers constantly getting on and off at the back exit away from his view.

Trailblazing Arab lawmaker shakes up Israeli politics

Tel Aviv, Jan 17 (AP):



Leader of the United Arab List Mansour Abbas attends a Knesset session in Jerusalem.

Mansour Abbas broke a longstanding taboo when he led his Arab party into Israel's governing coalition last year. The bold move appears to be paying dividends.

Abbas, a once obscure politician, is the linchpin of the shaky union, securing hefty budgets and favorable policies for his constituents and even winning an audience with the king of Jordan.

'We are equal partners the whole way, part of the coalition, for the first time in the state of Israel,' Abbas recently told the Israeli news site Ynet. 'We are compromising to solve the Arab society's problems. Abbas' pragmatic approach has secured funding for housing, electricity and crime-fighting in Israel's traditionally neglected Arab sector. He also

has not been afraid to confront his partners to get what he needs.

But he also is being forced to perform a delicate balancing act between the desires of his Arab voters and his Jewish coalition partners. His every move is being watched by his constituents, whose stake in the country's democracy could falter if he fails to bring long-term changes.

'The fact that Arabs are sitting around the table in government is no small matter,' said Nasreen Haddad Haj-Yahya, director of the Arab Society in Israel program at the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank. 'The question is will this political power translate to actions that citizens feel in their day-to-day lives?'

Abbas made history last June when his small Islam party became the first Arab faction to join an Israeli coalition. Through Israel's 73-year history, Arab parties have remained in the opposition, slamming the government and wanting no part in policies against their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Their Jewish counterparts have often viewed them as potential security

Tokyo, Jan 17 (AP):

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday said fighting the pandemic was a top priority in his speech opening this year's parliamentary session, as the Tokyo region was hit by surging infections.

Kishida also named stepping up defense measures against rising regional threats as a priority, hours after North Korea test-fired two possible ballistic missiles its fourth this year.

I will devote my body and soul to win this fight against the coronavirus, Kishida said in his speech before the lower house, which marked the start of its new 150-day session. He called on people to help each other to overcome the national crisis of the pandemic.

The Japanese capital reported 4,172 new cases, raising the hospital bed oc-



A snow plow clears Main Street in Greenville, South Carolina, US after a snow storm.

Kishida called US alliance lynchpin of policies



Japanese PM Fumio Kishida delivers his policy speech at the lower house, Monday.

cupancy rate to 19.3%. Tokyo authorities have said that when that rate breaches 20%, they will request the government place the area under pre-emergency status and move toward restrictions like working from home and shorter hours for

eateries. Kishida reiterated his plans to keep Japan's stringent border controls in place, banning most foreign entrants until the end of February, while the country tries to speed up booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines and reinforce medical systems to

support an increasing number of patients being treated at home.

The highly transmissible omicron variant has driven infections higher and started to paralyze medical and public services in some areas, as more people are forced to self-isolate. Japan last week trimmed the 14-day quarantine period to 10 days.

Kishida urged companies to promote remote work, and called on schools to use online classes flexibly. Booster shots only started last month with medical workers and so far less than 1% of the population has had their third jab. Japan recently cut the wait between a second and third shot for elderly people to six months from eight. In part because of a shortage of imported vaccines, most younger Japanese are not expected to get their turn until March.

Two teens arrested in UK in connection to US hostage standoff

London, Jan 17 (PTI):

Two teenagers have been arrested in the UK after a British man flew to the US, bought a weapon, and held people hostage during a 10-hour stand-off at a synagogue in Texas.

British citizen Malik Faisal Akram, 44, from Blackburn, was shot dead after a standoff with police in Colleyville, Texas. Greater Manchester Police said it was liaising with local communities and continuing to assist in the US inquiry, the BBC reported on Monday.

The force said the two teenagers were arrested "as part of the ongoing investigation into the attack" and were being held in custody for questioning, the report added.

According to US police

sources, Akram arrived in New York's JFK International Airport two weeks ago.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
ADVERTISEMENT FOR OUTSOURCING OF INVESTIGATION FOR AUDIO-VESTIBULAR DISORDERS FOR CENTRAL HOSPITAL, SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY, BILASPUR.

Medical Director /Central Hospital/South East Central Railway, Bilaspur is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from Authorized/Registered Audio-Vestibular Disorders investigation Centre of Bilaspur City for extending investigation facility to Railway Beneficiaries on CGHS rate 2014 (NABL/Non-NABL) of Jabalpur City and revised time to time, as applicable. After receipt of EOI Railway will short list the offers as per laid down criteria. The Centers fulfilling the pre-laid criteria will be empanelled accordingly. All willing Authorized/Registered Audio - Vestibular Disorders investigation Centre of Bilaspur are requested to submit EOI in the prescribed proforma within 21 days of publication of this advertisement in the office of Medical Director, Central Hospital, South East Central Railway, Bilaspur on all working days between 11.00 hours to 17.00 hours by Either in person or by Registered Post. The qualifying criteria, prescribed proforma for application and list of Audio-Vestibular Disorders investigations for which EOI is being invited are available in the office of Medical Director, Central Hospital, Bilaspur and these can also be downloaded from website of South East Central Railway in i.e. www.secr.indianrailways.gov.in from 17.01.2022 to 07.02.2022. Medical Director, Central Hospital South East Central Railway, Bilaspur CPRI/10/313 @secrail f South East Central Railway

Grandstanding fears as Norwegian mass killer seeks parole

Stavanger, Jan 17 (AP):

Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik goes to court, Tuesday, after 10 years behind bars, claiming he is no longer a danger to society and attempting to get an early release from his 21-year sentence.

The far right terrorist has shown no remorse since slaying 77 people in a bomb and gun massacre in 2011, and families of victims and survivors fear he will grandstand his ex-

treme views during the hearing, which experts say is unlikely to deliver him an early release.

Randi Rosenqvist, the psychiatrist who has followed up Breivik since his 2012 jailing, says 'I can say that I do not detect great changes in Breivik's functioning,' since his criminal trial when he bragged about the scale of his slaughter, or his 2016 human rights case, when he raised his hand in a Nazi salute. 'In principle and prac-

tice someone seeking parole would have to show remorse, and to show that they understand why such acts cannot be repeated,' she said. She will give evidence at his hearing and submit the psychiatric report, which is typically crucial if criminals are to demonstrate they are no longer dangerous.

'That is unlikely to happen,' said Berit Johnsen, research professor at University College of Norwegian Correctional Service.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612 E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

(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.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Gudriari Branch Raipur 9752099535	Mr. Shubham Bhale	EM of shop situated at Kh. No. A part of 763/2, New Kh. No. - 763/14, Rakba - 1070 Sq Ft situated at Mouja-Patan, Rajiv Chowk, Ward No. 2, Patan, P.H.No. 38, R.I.C. - Patan, Dist. - Durg (C.G.)	08.11.2021 Rs. 30,99,767.47 + interest + other charges 12.01.2022 Symbolic
02	Gudriari Branch Raipur 9752099535	Mr. Shubham Bhale and Mrs. Durgesh Nandini Bhale	Diverted Land Kh. No. A part of 763/2, 763/3, rakba - 2405 + 734 = 3139 Sq. Feet situated at Mouja- Patan, Rajiv Chowk ward No. - 02, Patan, P.H.No. - 38 RIC - patan - Tah. - Patan, Dist. - Durg (C.G.)	08.11.2021 Rs. 19,83,695.00 + interest + other charges 12.01.2022 Symbolic

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees 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.

Date: 17.01.2022, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh
 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



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Scope of data protection

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) submitted its report on India's draft Data Protection Bill. The Bill is now likely to be passed by Parliament in the budget session. Many of the proposed changes to the Bill in the revised draft relate to the powers of the government and issues to be considered by the Data Protection Authority (DPA) in making its decisions. One key change relates to notification to the DPA within 72 hours of discovery of a data breach, which the Bill makes mandatory for every breach affecting Indian data subjects. Following notification, the DPA would decide whether data subjects would need to be notified of the data breach. In its report, the JPC also expanded the scope of the Bill to cover non-personal data, though in a limited way. Most provisions of the Bill still apply only to personal data. A provision in an earlier proposed version of the Bill allowing the government to regulate the sharing of non-personal data remains intact. The purpose of this provision is to enable the government to better deliver services and formulate evidence-based policies. The Bill directly impacts every business which operates on internet with registered users and users who share information with online businesses. Notably, certain enabling powers may allow the government to expand the scope of the regulation of non-personal data in the future. Data fiduciaries can no longer deny data portability, even if it reveals trade secrets, and must enable it where feasible. Data fiduciaries will also be required to demonstrate fairness of algorithms or methods of processing. This raises the spectre of algorithmic disclosure.

If social media companies that do not act as intermediaries are treated as content publishers, according to the recommendations made by the JPC, they will become liable for the content they host. This could potentially mean that they would be stripped of the protection that Section 79 in the Information Technology Act, 2000. In accordance with Section 79, intermediaries (what social media platforms are all considered currently) would not be liable for any third party information, data or communication link made available by them. The JPC also suggested a 24-month transition period from the date of notification of the Act, which would allow all data aggregators enough time to comply with the new rules under the bill. This could mean that data fiduciaries would only be required to comply with new regulations by 2023. Of key relevance to international business are the changes in the 2021 Bill which propose stringent conditions for cross-border transfers of sensitive personal data. This will include all financial, health and biometric data, official identifiers, religious or political beliefs or affiliations. Transfers of sensitive data are not permissible if they violate public or state policy. This requirement may create a need for case-by-case approval from the DPA and may result in delays and significant business disruption. The restriction on sharing transferred data with foreign governments or agencies may result in hard localisation of all sensitive personal data. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union is the toughest privacy and security law in the world. India, too, might be on its way to a similar law, subject to amendments and revisions.

Credibility of multilateral institutions

In the aftermath of World War II, the victor nations established a set of institutions that have underpinned the world order ever since. While those institutions have often been contested, they have proved to be highly resilient. But this does not mean they are invulnerable. On the contrary, their effectiveness may be gradually eroded especially when they are used as geopolitical pawns. Credibility of multilateral institutions is eroding. COVID-19 became a crisis due to stance of World Health Organisation with pressure from China. Academic research offers abundant analysis of the factors that boost institutional hardness, and those that tend to hasten institutional failure. One key message is that institutions thrive when there is trust. Small wonder, then, that the international order's institutional arrangements are at risk. According to the Edelman Trust Barometer, global trust in institutions has continued to decline. Some have already written off the post-WWII institutions, arguing that they have outlived their usefulness. For these critics, talk of reforming bodies like the UN Security Council or the International Monetary Fund merely distracts from the more important task of figuring out what a new order should look like. Should it, for example, rely more on ad hoc formations. But while post-WWII international institutions are far from perfect, their collective record suggests that they remain the world's best hope for coping with the complex challenges ahead.

Of course, the mere existence of institutions is not enough to deliver solutions to the world's problems. From health, to food and agriculture, from education to internet, from environment to public services and human rights, the research shows that decisions made in these multistakeholder mechanisms as well as in captured multilateral institutions, have direct impact on on people's health, children's education, digital rights, access to basic public services and human rights in the territories, including the right to a healthy environment. By dislocating the locus of key policy decisions from the multilateral system into mixed mechanisms where the private sector rules with the support of some countries, international institutions, and big philanthropists, the phenomenon of 'multistakeholderization' of the global governance has become systemic. This trend has emerged in the nexus of relationships between the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Davos Class and the United Nations (UN) more noticeably since the establishment of the Global Compact, a non-binding agreement giving corporations access to the UN. There have been several critiques and 'pushbacks' raised by social movements and affected sectors on this dislocation of the multilateral institutions including strategic partnership signed between the WEF and the UN. It is clear that instead of being a solution, multistakeholder mechanisms accelerate the route towards a more undemocratic, unsustainable and unequal world. It is urgent to mobilize in building a stronger democratic multilateral system accountable to the public interest and committed to a sustainable planet.

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

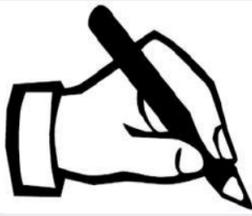
PRAYER AT BALI ISLAND



A Balinese man prays while sitting on a rock jetty at Sanur beach near Denpasar on the eastern coast of Bali island, Indonesia.

UP to show if it is end of road for 'elephant'

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The election schedule for the five states is out and out of those five the Uttar Pradesh (UP) is most keenly watched one for obvious reasons. The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) trying to rewrite the history by winning a second term which no party ever did since mid-eighties. The Samajwadi Party (SP) is in high spirited campaign mode making all the right noises and right political moves. Akhilesh Yadav has hit the road with his 'Vijaya Rath Yatra' crisscrossing the state for over a month and buoyed by the response he is claiming March 10 as the day of his party government formation day. Even Congress, despite it being not an important player is conducting spirited campaign with Priyanka Vadra leading from the front with the slogan 'ladki hoon and lad sakti hoon' slogan. The only party which is missing in action in the campaign arena is Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and that surprises everyone.

Seeing the lethargy of the 'Elephant', the party symbol of BSP, the opponents are drawing their own conclusions. The BJP is taunting her with barbs like 'Elephant' is afraid of the 'heat' and is enjoying the 'cool' at home. Home Minister Amit Shah provoked Mayawati by stating that 'Behenji is already afraid'. Mayawati is known to have powerful acerbic tongue capable of giving fitting and hit-

ting replies to the political opponents. But surprisingly this time around the 'Elephant' Chief Mayawati is low on retort, especially to the BJP barbs. Even Yogi Adityanadh is not taking on BSP but only focusing all his campaign against Akhilesh Yadav and his party. Whether it is because of BJP's assessment of SP being the main rival or that party has already had an understanding with BSP? Either way SP thinks that it is advantage Akhilesh. By targeting him 'the BJP is giving publicity and projection of their leader as main rival' feels the SP cadre. However the SP suspects behind screen moves of BSP joining hands with BJP in the last moment to thwart Akhilesh Yadav's ascendancy. Such a prospect is worrisome for SP and Akhilesh as the committed vote of BSP is easily transferable to any candidate or party through the word of Mayawati. The SP is suspecting of the motives of Mayawati not being in active campaign and they fear sabotage from her side to their prospects.

Whatever may be the comments of others and their assessment of BSP in UP the fact is that the Elephant is starved of electoral victories since 2007. That year was the high point in the existence of BSP when it captured power on its own with 206 seats and 30% vote share. Prior to that BSP tasted power in coalition with SP under

Mulayam Singh Yadav. BSP represents SC/ST and SP represents the BC and Muslim interests. Numerically that is an unbeatable combination. However the personal ambitions of the two party heads lead to the collapse of coalition in 1995 and since then they are the bitter rivals. Since then it is all downhill for BSP and Mayawati. In 2012 elections it lost power as it could secure 80 seats and 25.91% of votes. By 2017 elections it declined further as BSP could win only 19 seats and lost another 3.6% votes. In the Lok Sabha elections BSP never got 7% vote share but it could win 21 seats, its highest, in 2004 elections then became a party without win in a single constituency in 2014 elections as Modi wave swept BSP away. In 2019 it could win 10 seats to Lok Sabha all from Uttar Pradesh.

The social engineering which BSP undertook by giving more representation to Brahmins brought it to power in 2007 but that combination was short lived and again for 2022 the same formula being revived. But still the buzz which is naturally associated with BSP and Mayawati is missing. Mayawati is not seen to organize rallies nor conducting the press conferences to take on opponents. Hardly a month away from polling the 'Elephant' is yet to stretch its legs to walk, leave alone running. What issues are fettering the 'elephant'? Since there is no official explanation there are only speculations. Some say it is lack of confidence on the part of BSP chief and others quote her health age the reason. Mayawati reportedly suffers from some skin issues which is preventing her to come into sunlight. As the party was built around Mayawati's personality there is no second line of leadership to the party. Her past strategy of centralized leadership prevented the organization-

al build up and growth in the party was assured only by exhibiting the cult of Mayawati. Those moves made the lower level leaders to move to other parties to grow politically. Mayawati's over-dependence on Mishra, the Brahmin face of BSP, was not liked by the SC community leaders, the core vote group of BSP. Her preference in the party to her own SC community and treating other SC castes as secondary has also resulted in resentment. Non-Jatavs were earlier wooed successfully by BJP and now SP is attempting to woo them. The UP is caste centric state and almost all BC castes floated their own parties and most of those castes which resent the dominance of Yadavas see in Mayawati, a SC caste leader, who in her earlier stint not pampered them. Those communities are not ready accept BSP and may have to vote for SP or BSP.

The personality cult encouraged around Mayawati, building parks, statues of herself erected everywhere, over projection of 'Elephant' physically and blue colour ideologically is not forgotten by the UP electorate and she knows that. The corruption of her regime is under probe and she is afraid of that. Seeing the lethargy of the 'Elephant' and its mahout Mayawati's declining popularity many leaders of BSP have already joined other parties. Now with Mayawati's prolonged silence the other leaders are also getting suspicious of her next move. Some reports say that she is focusing only on reserved constituencies and by winning them in substantial number Mayawati thinks that she can increase the bargaining power in the post poll scenario. Time is running out for 'Elephant' to make its 'trumpet' but as of now it seems the 'elephant' is politically fatigued.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kohli on top

Whenever the talk of Indian cricket captains will arise in test cricket, Virat Kohli's name will be up there, not only for results but the kind of impact he had as a captain. But just one day short of four months, Virat having announced his decision of stepping down for the second time, this time from the mother of cricket Test format. In between, he was removed as ODI captain by the BCCI. Kohli's announcement came not only a day after India suffered an embarrassing Test series defeat against South Africa, but also at a time when his relation with the BCCI is so strained that he preferred to announce his decision on social media. For seven years, especially for the last five years with Ravi Shastri by his side, Kohli's power had grown immeasurably in Indian cricket. He did what he wished, almost. Talk of the town, if Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo in politics, then Ravi Shastri-Virat Kohli duo in cricket. Definitely both pairs (politicians and cricketers) are India's most aggressive and successful. For many cricket lovers, Kohli has been an excellent batsman but not an ideal leader. Moreover, Kohli's present form is nowhere close to his peak. As the premier batsman of the team, he has not scored a century for almost 3 years now and failed in the crucial moment just like the second innings of this Test, hence if he doesn't focus on his batting and rediscover his form there will be questions on the continuity of Virat the batsman also. We wish him a long journey ahead as an accomplished batsman. Even all these ifs and buts BCCI secretary Shah very correctly said "Virat turned the team into a ruthless fit unit that performed admirably both in India and away. The Test wins in Australia and England have been special." How one forgets that this controversial Kohli led India to the top of world rankings and during his tenure, the team recorded a memorable series win in Australia.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

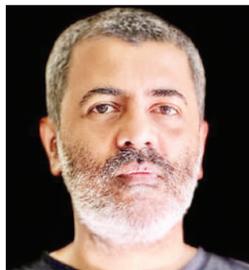
Blockchain use

Cryptocurrencies have been infamous for being used as a medium of transaction in the Dark Web. However, what has been realized by most countries, including India, is the potential of the technology behind cryptocurrencies i.e., Blockchain Technology. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is already exploring options to issue a digital rupee using Blockchain Technology. The application of Blockchain Technology, however, is not just confined to issuing money or banking or being a platform for the development of cryptocurrencies. It has a multitude of applications, ranging from the Healthcare industry to Smart Contracts to Logistics to many more. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) using this emerging technology, recently introduced a blockchain-based system Academic Blockchain Documents (ABCD) to go paperless and issue secure and tamper-proof certificates. The higher education institutes and employers would be able to verify the authenticity of documents submitted by the candidates in an efficient manner without taking much processing time. There would also be no need to depend on a third party for any verification. The authenticity of the certificates could be verified even after several years and a timeline of any changes made would be available. Integrating it with blockchain would not only make it efficient but also secure. Assam would become one of the first states to employ such a technology in the education sector and thus, not only contributing to our honourable Prime Minister's vision of Digital India but, going a step further and setting an example in making a Secure Digital India.

Arunav, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



M D@mdmadhusudan

So, what are the ISFRs counting as forest cover to generate their flattering figures? Besides technical changes made to satellite imagery analysis, in 2001, the FSI completely rewrote the definition of a forest: so long as a mere 10% of a hectare of land had trees, it was forest.

Anoop kumar@anoop1907

I think it's because of lack of well paying jobs specially in tier 2 and 3 cities unlike the major business hubs like NCR, bangalore where it's easier to find another job easily. And that explain obsession of, rightly so, govt jobs in india.



Katyusha@Indian1000000

GST hike from 5% to 12% on footwear below Rs 1,000 has hit many MSMEs in Agra & left labourers without work. Agra, a shoe-making hub since Mughal times, is India's leading producer, accounting for 65% of the footwear worn in the country & 28% of exports.

Yogesh Dahiya@dahiyyayogesh81

Morning in village



Pukhraj Singh@RungRage

Ever since the #TekFog infrastructure has been brought down, no communal or hate-filled hashtags are trending on India Twitter. Such was the scale of manipulation, possibly radicalising swathes of people. Bad on Twitter for not acting on it.



Vindhya@vindytalks

Just had a call with a product manager who was able to get the team agree on every decision he made. He shared how he did this. 1. Studying the market well. 2. Analytics. 3. A strong writer 4. He was the CEO of this unicorn startup.

Omar Ahmad@OmarTAMhad

Truth is sometimes bitter, sometimes harsh, but only a child believes saying something bitter and harsh automatically makes you a teller of truths. Speaking gently takes away nothing from the gravity of what needs to be said.

BRIEF
CFO


New Delhi: Auto components major Bosch Ltd on Monday said it has appointed Karin Gilges as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) effective May 1, 2022. Board of directors at its meeting held on January 17, 2022, based on the recommendations of committees.

ECB

New Delhi: NTPC has invited a request for proposal (RFP) for raising up to USD 750 million (around Rs 5,570 crore) via ECB to fund its power projects, including renewable energy. According to document, the proceeds of the loan shall be utilised towards capital expenditure for ongoing, new capacity addition programme including renewable energy projects, coal mining and washeries, refinancing of existing ECBs/rupee loans.

Raises


New Delhi: Chingari on Monday said it has raised USD 15 million (about Rs 111.4 crore) in funding led by Republic Capital. CEO Sumit Ghosh said it will further strengthen our position and help us deliver an immersive user experience for our community in India.

Bookings

New Delhi: Automaker Kia India on Monday said it has received 7,738 bookings of its upcoming model Carens on the first day of commencing the order process. The company had opened the pre-bookings for the new model on January 14 at an initial booking amount of Rs 25,000. The model features three powertrain options — 1.5 petrol, 1.4 petrol and 1.5 diesel.

Acquires


New Delhi: DeHaat on Monday said it has acquired agri-input marketplace startup Helicrofter to expand its presence in Maharashtra and other parts of West India. DeHaat CEO Shashank Kumar said it added another major agriculture belt to its geographical footprint.

Training

New Delhi: Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) and Hero MotoCorp on Monday said they have joined hands for a comprehensive two-wheeler short term training course. Utilising the content provided by Hero MotoCorp, ASDC will deliver a variety of learning modules and certifications in automotive servicing, ASDC said.

Sebi overhauls preferential allotment rules

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Capital markets regulator Sebi has relaxed pricing norms and lock-in requirements to make it easier for companies to raise funds through preferential allotment of shares.

Also, the regulator has allowed pledging of shares allotted to promoter or promoter group under preferential issue during the lock-in period, according to a notification.

In addition, Sebi has said any preferential issue resulting in a change in control or allotment of more than a 5 per cent stake will require a valuation report from a registered valuer.

Moreover, any preferential issue allotment resulting in a change in control will be required to provide a reasoned recommendation from a committee of independent directors along with their comments on all aspects of



preferential issuance, including pricing.

Further, the voting pattern of the committee needs to be disclosed to shareholders or the public.

This comes against the backdrop of PNB Housing Finance's proposed allotment of preference shares to US-based Carlyle Group and a clutch of other investors hitting a roadblock.

Sebi had questioned PNB Housing Finance's rationale behind the fixing of the issue price, among other aspects, in that deal that was later shelved.

To this effect, the regulator has amended ICDR (Issue of Capital Disclosure Requirements)

rules. To determine the floor price for frequently traded security, Sebi said the floor price for the preferential issue should be higher of 90/10 trading days' volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of the scrip preceding the relevant date.

For infrequently traded security, Sebi said a valuation report by a registered independent valuer will be required.

At present, the pricing formula in a preferential allotment is the VWAP of the last two weeks or the last 26 weeks, whichever is higher. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, a temporary relaxation for pricing was allowed to make preferential allotment by using 12 weeks' VWAP.

Such a relaxation was applicable for the preferential issues made between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Rupee slips 9 paise at 74.24 against USD, gold rallies Rs 176

Mumbai, Jan 17 (PTI):

Declining for the second straight session, the rupee on Monday fell 9 paise to close at 74.24 (provisional) against the US dollar as muted domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.18 against the American currency and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.16 and a low of 74.36 during the session. The rupee finally settled at 74.24, down 9 paise over its previous close of 74.15 against the greenback. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent down at 95.11. "Weaker economic data, higher bond yields, a surge in crude oil prices and state-run banks dollar buying on behalf of importers weighed on rupee for the second day in a row," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Sensex, Nifty edge higher on gains in auto, energy stocks

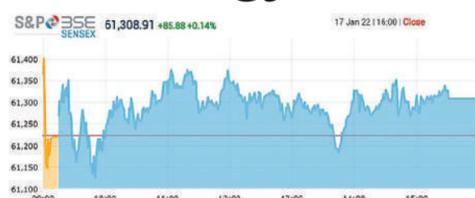
Mumbai, Jan 17 (PTI):

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 85 points on Monday following gains in auto, IT, energy and FMCG stocks amid a firm trend in European markets.

In a largely range-bound session, the 30-share index ended 85.88 points or 0.14 per cent higher at 61,308.91. Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 52.35 points or 0.29 per cent to 18,308.10.

Ultratech Cement was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging nearly 3 per cent, followed by M&M, Maruti, Tata Steel, TCS, L&T, SBI and HUL.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid, and Sun Pharma were among the laggards, falling up to 5.89 per cent. Indian markets opened marginally positive tracking mixed Asian market peers as data showed Chinese economy grew at 8.1 per cent in 2021,



marginally lower than expectations of 8.4 per cent.

"During the afternoon session, markets showed some strength and traded in positive territory as traders were getting relief, as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) reversed the three-month selling streak in January by investing a net Rs 3,117 crore in Indian markets. However, the gains were capped during the day due to subdued performance by financials, IT and healthcare, Narendra Solanki, Head-Equity (Fundamental), Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers, said. The rupee slipped by 9 paise to close at 74.24 (provisional)

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Tokyo ended up, while Hong Kong and Seoul closed in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading with gains in mid-session deals. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 1,598.20 crore on Friday, according to stock exchange data.

Germany's DAX gained 0.2% to 15,910.54 and the CAC 40 in Paris also was up 0.2%, at 7,156.53. Britain's FTSE 100 jumped 0.7% to 7,592.79. In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.7% to 28,333.52.

Amazon.in announces Great Republic Day Sale

Mumbai, Jan 17:

Amazon India's much awaited 'Great Republic Day Sale' is back offering big savings for everyone from January 17 to 20, 2022. Prime members will get 24 hours early access starting 12:00 AM on January 16th, 2022. Customers can shop from millions of products offered by sellers including artisans & weavers, women entrepreneurs, start-ups, brands, and local neighborhood stores across hundreds of categories including Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, Fashion & Beauty essentials, Home & Kitchen, Large Appliances, TVs, Daily Essentials and more.

Customers shopping during the Great Republic Day Sale can save more by getting an extra 10% instant discount with SBI Credit Cards and EMI transactions; No-cost EMI using Bajaj Finserv EMI card, Amazon Pay ICICI Credit card, Amazon Pay Later and select Debit & Credit Cards. Customers can also get attractive exchange offers - up to INR 16,000 off on exchange. Customers can enjoy Amazon.in shopping experience in 8 regional languages including Marathi, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam in addition to English. Customers can also use their voice to shop in English and in Hindi.

Land Rover opens bookings for new Range Rover in India

Mumbai, Jan 17:

The elegant New Range Rover defines modern luxury, providing more refinement, customer choice and scope for personalisation than ever before.

Range Rover is the original luxury SUV and has led by example for 50 years, combining serene comfort and composure with all-conquering capability. The New Range Rover is the most desirable yet, mixing breathtaking modernity and aesthetic grace with technological sophistication and seamless connectivity.

Rohit Suri, President and Managing Director, Jaguar Land Rover India, said: "The Range Rover



sits at the pinnacle of luxury SUVs in India and the new fifth generation Range Rover ups the desirability quotient significantly higher."

Land Rover's new flexible Modular Longitudinal Architecture underpins every aspect of this luxury SUV, from its unmatched

capability and agile handling to its peerless refinement. By combining state-of-the-art engineering techniques with new levels of virtual development and Land Rover's punishing development programme, the New Range Rover will deliver new levels of quality.

IDP launches 23 new offices in India in a single day

Mumbai, Jan 17:

IDP, a global leader in international education services, celebrates a proud moment by launching 23 new offices today simultaneously across India. The new offices are set up in Gandhinagar, Anand, Raipur, Shimla, Kurukshetra, Jammu, Trichy, Thrissur, Patna, Guwahati, Calicut, Agra, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut, Hubli, Warangal, Tirupati, Kakinada, Goa, and Nashik. With this development, IDP will now have 67 offices spanning across 60 cities in India. Apart from this, IDP India also has 24 virtual offices through which students from any part of the country can connect with



IDP experts. With aggressive expansion plans in place, IDP is committed to fulfilling the study abroad dreams of every student in India. And to realise their ambition, IDP has taken the first step by extending its expertise to students residing in tier-2 and tier-3 cities that are a mix of state capitals and upcoming education hubs in the country.

Reliance Jewels embraces the New Year with exquisite collection

Mumbai, Jan 17:



Reliance Jewels, India's most trusted jewellery brand launches an elegant line of designs to mark the arrival of festivities, Lohri and Makar Sankranti. With the theme '#UtsavSunherePalonKa', Reliance Jewels will present a line of Diamond

Earrings and Rings inspired by the magnificent rays of the sun. Like every day the shining sun brings with it the spirit of new hope, this festive season Reliance Jewels brings you designs that embody the spirit of hope and best wishes. Each piece in this diamond collection is carefully designed as a glistening

reminder of beautiful sun rays ushering in happiness and hope for new beginnings. With an array of tasteful, unique designs, the collection will prove to be a brilliant addition to personal jewellery collections or as gifts to loved ones on auspicious days.

In addition to introducing a new collection of diamond earrings and rings, Reliance Jewels has announced a special offer called the 'Dream Diamond Sale' till 14th February which includes up to 25% off on invoice value of Diamond Products at Reliance Jewels. Patrons can also avail of up to 25% off on making charges of gold jewellery.

Banks pitch for reduction of tax-free FD tenure to 3 years

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Banks have made a case for lowering fixed deposit (FD) tenure to three years for availing tax benefits, in line with mutual fund products like equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS).

Currently, the tax break is available on 5-year tax-saving FD schemes. One can claim an income tax deduction by investing money in a five-year FD scheme under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Section 80C is a wide bracket with a ceiling of Rs 1.50 lakh.

"As compared to other financial products (such as ELSS) available in the market, the tax-saver fixed deposit (FD) has become less attractive and if the lock-in period is reduced,



this would make the product more attractive and provide more funds to the banks," IBA said in a pre-Budget proposal submitted to the government.

The lock-in period should be reduced to three years from the existing five years, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) said in its proposal.

Banks have also sought special rebates or additional depreciation for expenditure made on financial inclusion activities

and promoting digital banking, among other activities. IBA further said banks do a lot of activities for promoting the weaker sector, promoting digital banking and for implementing various schemes of the government under financial inclusion.

"By making expenditure of IT, banks give benefits to masses i.e. ease of doing business, digital banking, etc. Therefore, some special incentives in the form of the special tax

rebate or deduction or additional depreciation (say 125 per cent) over and above the actual capital expenditure made on such activities may be provided," it said.

Banks also want a special dispute resolution mechanism for faster disposal of cases related to taxation.

Banks' appeals involve substantial amounts but these are treated on a parity with appeals involving small amounts, it said.

Tata Motors drives in Safari Dark edition at Rs 19.05 lakh

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Tata Motors on Monday said it has launched the Dark edition of premium SUV Safari with price starting at Rs 19.05 lakh (ex-show-room Delhi).

The Safari #DARK Edition is now open for bookings and available at the company's dealerships across the country, the auto major said in a statement.

Available on the XT+/XTA+ & XZ+/XZA+ trims, the Safari #DARK will get other exclusive features such as ventilated seats on both first and second row, air purifier and Android auto and Apple Car Play over Wi-Fi, it added.



"The #DARK range has, in a very short span of time, become a mainstay of our New Forever range of passenger vehicles. This will be even truer now with the addition of Safari #DARK to the lineup, with the exciting &

unique proposition that it has to offer to the customers," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Vice President (Sales, Marketing and Customer Service) Rajan Amba noted.

come a popular choice for customers, he added.

"The Harrier #DARK, which was launched as a limited edition product initially, did extremely well and on popular customer demand, became an integral part of the Harrier portfolio.

"It offered an exciting & unique package to the customers, which further extended with the introduction of the #DARK range. We are confident that this stylish #DARK Edition will prove to be yet another reason for car-buyers to upgrade to the magnificent Safari," Amba stated.

The company said it has sold over 16,000 units of the SUV, which is built on the OMEGARC architecture, which in turn is derived from Land Rover's legendary D8 platform.

Oilmeals export down 67% to 1.7 lakh tonne last month

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Oilmeals export fell 67 per cent to 1.7 lakh tonne in December with Indian products being uncompetitive in the global market, according to industry body SEA.

In a statement, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said 1,70,338 tonne of oilmeals were exported in December 2021 compared to 5,16,006 tonne in the year-ago period.

The fall in exports is mainly due to decline in export of soybean and rapeseed meal, it added.

The overall export of oilmeals during April-December 2021 fell 28 per cent at 17,66,687 tonne as



compared to 24,67,564 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Soybean crush margins in India are currently squeezed by pres-

sure on meal prices and relatively high price expectation of farmers for soybean seed which is currently quoted over Rs 6,300 per quintal," SEA said.



'Goodnight India' will help viewers de-stress

Stand-up comedian Amit Tandon will debut on small screen as the host of the non-fiction show, 'Goodnight India', along with TV actor Jiya Shankar. The show will feature different acts pegged on relatable and contemporary topics. Commenting on hosting the show, Amit said: "It's my first stint with television, and I can't put to words my excitement. Even today, I feel television is the most prominent medium around, and this opportunity allows me to reach a different set of audiences that I had never catered to previously. With 'Goodnight India', I would be talking mainly to an audience sitting at home and watching the show." He further shared that he is thrilled to learn this whole process of not just talking to the live audience but millions of people through camera who are watching him at their comfort in their living rooms. "It is a great learning experience, and our sole purpose with 'Goodnight India' is to help viewers de-stress through some light-hearted entertainment and make their last half an hour of the day a happy one. I can already feel the nervousness and excitement at the same time, so keeping my fingers crossed and hoping that the audience loves the show." 'Goodnight India' will air on Sony SAB from January 31, Monday to Saturday at 10.30 p.m.



'Atrangi Re' was never about mental illness for me'

Only love can be the panacea of all problems, believes filmmaker Aanand L Rai, whose latest movie Atrangi Re was at the centre of controversy for its portrayal of mental health. The romantic-musical-drama -- written by Rai's long-time collaborator Himanshu Sharma, starring Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush. With Akshay Kumar in a special appearance, the film was described as a twisted and complex love triangle. Released on December 24 on streaming platform Disney+ Hotstar, Atrangi Re received polarised reviews with some criticising how the film deals insensitively with mental health. In the movie, the 26-year-old Khan plays Rinku Sooryavanshi, a child born out of an interfaith marriage who lives with the trauma of losing her parents at a young age. After another failed attempt at running away from her maternal family home in Bihar, Rinku is forcefully married to a Tamil man Vishu (Dhanush) but they plan part ways once they reach Delhi where she hopes to meet her lover called Sajjad (Kumar). In an interview with PTI, the 50-year-old director said the sole purpose of the movie was to explore a mad world of love. It is actually only love. When we talk about Rinku there was a big section of people who were talking about mental illness. It was never that for me.

That was not the only thing I was trying to come up with. What I was trying to come up with was that only love can bring you out of a lot of complications... We have become very smart and intelligent. We want to analyse everything. These are tough times and we want to give logic to falling in love. It is so unfortunate. The only thing that can defy logic is love. Rai, who has been applauded for churning out interesting characters from hinterland India in films like Tanu Weds Manu series and Raanjhanaa, said like his previous work love is the driving force for both lead characters Rinku and Vishu. There is a reason why Rinku belongs to Siwan, a city in Bihar, the director pointed out. We wanted to create that world, we wanted to have those things which were or are there. We dealt with the problems that the region is going through or was going through, he said. The filmmaker, whose last release was 2018's Zero, said what the critics are calling trauma can be someone's entire life. Rinku was living a life the way she wanted to. From our perspective, she was going through something. But from her perspective, she was beautifully living her own life with her father around. There was no problem for her but it was a problem for us to see her like this, he added. When asked about negative reviews

stating how the film doesn't take mental health issues seriously, Rai said he was prepared for the brickbats. I was deep down ready for this, he said, recalling a previous discourse around 2013's Raanjhanaa, which was criticised for its take on stalking. The director, however, agreed that when he narrates a story about mental illness in future he will deal with it differently. The day I make a film on the issue itself, then it is something else. But here the character is very casual about that. She believes in it. Asked whether the team discussed the idea about Atrangi Re with someone from the medical fraternity, Rai claimed they did. We had that session. The story to tell was what love is all about. But how much to use that (mental health) perspective was our call, he said. The director said he wanted to celebrate the magic of love. We have been so calculative about our emotions. Let's keep other things on the calculator and not love, he added. All in all, Rai is happy with the response to Atrangi Re as he believes it has managed to touch the hearts of the viewers. I am happy with the reaction of the audience, they like and dislike. I am liking every bit of it and I am making a note of it. It is overwhelming, he said.

There are very few actors who seamlessly blend with the universe of a story and deliver performances so real that get etched on the hearts of the audience. Shefali Shah is one such actor. Shefali is known for infusing believability, realism and charm in her characters. Be it her character of Pyari Mhatre from 'Satya', Sumitra Thakur from 'Waqt: The Race Against Time' where she played the role of Amitabh Bachchan's wife with utter conviction or her recent release 'Human' the medical thriller series, where she portrays the character of a doctor, Shefali has mastered the art of projection and the trick to that, in her own words is that she doesn't act rather she feels what her character would feel at a certain point in the story. In a recent conversation, the actress spoke about her character of doctor Gauri Nath from 'Human', how she lets her characters drive her emotions and her approach to the craft. The character of Gauri Nath was a tricky one because "there was no reference point for her (the character)". Shefali says that the character "came with no instruction manual". She mentions that in order to sketch a good performance, an actor has to completely surrender to the character, "Your character has to drive you as an actor right at the beginning of the project once you start reading and studying the script. The character of Gauri surprised me because she is a difficult character to hold onto as an actor even though I was living her." "But eventually, as a part of the process, you reach at some point on paper with regards to the character and on set it grows from that point. In that sense, this character went beyond what I had thought of", she adds. While other actors may rely on physical stimuli of taste, smell or vision, for her it's the character and script that act as stimuli. "As an actor physical stimuli like food or smell are never a part of my process, that doesn't work for me." "What works for me is the script, the language and the tone that my character speaks with me and of course, the inputs of the director and the spontaneity of other actors on set, is what drives me or my performance", she explains. Art being subjective has no place for perfection, something that she as an actor lives by, "Every art form is subjective."

'A character has to drive you as an actor'



Misunderstandings continue in &TV

After yet another week of interesting twists and turns, &TV shows Baal Shiv, Ghar Ek Mandir- Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabhi ji Ghar Par Hai are set to entertain the viewers with more masaledar episodes and keep the viewers hooked on to television screens. Mahadev ki kis baat se Sati hui naaraz? In the upcoming episodes of Baal Shiv, Parvati (Shivya Pathania) continues to narrate the story of Sati (Shivya Pathania) and Mahadev (Siddharth Arora) wherein Sati goes in search of Mahadev in Kailash. Dantak, who wants to seek revenge from Sati for his brother, attacks her. However, Mahadev rescues her. Sati is mesmerised by his aura, but Mahadev warns her that she should not travel alone in jungles. Talking about the track

Sati (Shivya Pathania) shares, "Shiv tries to give Sati a hint of her arrogance, but Sati is not able to understand, and she screams in pain. She moves towards her palace leaving Shiv behind. Will, she understands Shiv's concern?" Genda aur Varun ke pyaar ke beech Sandhya ban jaayegideewar? In the coming week on &TV's Ghar Ek Mandir- Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki, Genda (Shreenu Parikh) tells Varun (Akshay Mhatre) that they can run their shop online to boost sales and ask Sandhya's (Ishita Ganguly) help to set up the website. Sandhya agrees to it but asks to check the shop before starting to work on the website. Varun does not want to be alone near Sandhya, so he tells her to come to the shop with Genda. But, while Sandhya and Genda are supposed to leave the house to go to the shop, Nisha (Kenisha Bhardwaj)

gets sick and Genda tells Sandhya to go to the shop while she takes Nisha to the hospital. There Sandhya observes customers asking for Genda and telling Varun they will only give their orders to her, which makes her feel Genda does not give Varun a lot of credit for the shop. Genda Agarwal aka Shreenu Parikh shares, "After the shop incident, Sandhya sees instances of Varun being angry at Genda time and again and starts to believe he is not happy with the marriage. It will be interesting to watch how Sandhya's interference in Genda and Varun's marriage will affect them." Tune in to watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 PM, Ghar Ek Mandir- Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki at 9:00 PM, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 PM, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM and Bhabhi ji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY JANUARY 18

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You know how to examine the nuts and bolts of every assignment or project, and it consumes your resources to a great extent. But, like a stitch in time saves nine, your meticulous planning minimises the chances of a loss or a failure, feels Ganesh. Not many are good at this, and such efficient planning gives you an upper hand over others when the competition is tight.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

There is a likelihood of some household disturbance cropping up today. Your family members could make a lot of demands from you. You may feel angry because of your inability to meet all their needs and wants. Unexpected expenses are also indicated. You need to control your spending, says Ganesh.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesh says you will give more importance to your family and there may be concerns about the health of a family member. There may be news from abroad regarding the health of a close family member, which may disturb you today. Do maintain your mental balance today and remember that this too shall pass.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings. Long term personal or business relationships will likely be established today, says Ganesh.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Watch out for winds of change and accordingly. Ganesh warns you of drowning in a strong current. Your task will be easier if you adjust to circumstances. Fun and entertainment are today's password. In the social sector business, you will have success. This is the right time to enhance social prestige.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be difference of opinions with friends over trivial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You are advised to be more attentive to your work today. You will try to do the best work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out to be lower than your expectations. You need to be wary of excessive expenses or financial loss today. You need to escape losses today by keeping your wits above you, says Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

You are in a mood to spend money of home décor, paintings or artefacts. Go ahead, and decorate your home. Ganesh foresees success on your cards today. Workplace has never been such an interesting place before. Planning and implementation will make your day easier.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Ganesh sees you taking a day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A lot of time will be spent blissfully with your family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors redone and give your house a new look will surely occur to you. Instead of doing things on your own, it is very likely you will engage a professional for the job.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

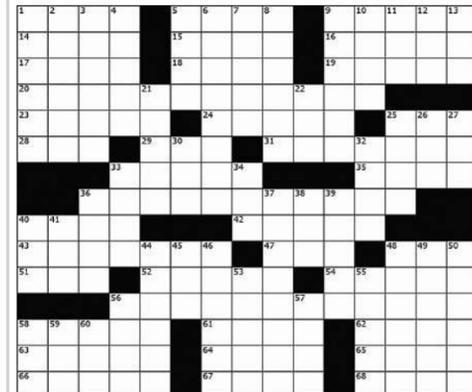
The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse shall run through you today. Yet, by the mid-day, expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you. Government officials and other professionals will have an inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through, and you may be in for some serious praise from the superiors. Smile and accept the positive feedback graciously.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

The day will be a maze of complex problems and situations, but you will find your way out in no time, says Ganesh. At work, you may love to play the leader, but that makes you accountable, for both the good as well as the poor performance of your subordinates. In all likelihood, you may be held responsible for the poor performance of your team members. But all said and done, you will set high standards for yourself, and a perfect example for others to follow.

CROSSWORD

190



ACROSS

- Dungeness, for one
- Vigoda and Lincoln
- Mountain cottage
- Junior, often
- Fishing aid
- Mrs. Kramden
- 43,560 square feet
- Instrument of ancient Greece
- Took out
- Yankees-Mets match-up
- Bind
- That is
- Grp. for Love and Couples
- Slalom curve
- Hoosegow resident
- File
- Claim to fame
- Vogue competitor
- 21st century popinjay
- Prep for publication
- Be
- Tallest land quadruped

- Railroad beam
- "The Bachelorette" network
- Self starter
- The Tygart, e.g.
- Document amendment
- Ten-speed feature
- Word with smoke or fire
- Alaskan outpost
- Wet septet
- Clinch, as a victory
- Fencing sword
- Jeff's partner
- Term of endearment
- Escritoire, for one
- Nicole and Mimi, to Tom
- Cheese type
- Wind dir.
- Bog
- Opposite poles
- Noon, in Old Rome
- Manipulative people
- Vanity
- Noisy clamor
- Primly out of date
- Stretching of the truth
- Made smooth (with "out")
- French farewells
- Scold
- Hill tops
- Skip the wedding
- Knocker's announcement
- Test answer, sometimes
- Search for
- Louisville Slugger wood
- Zodiac beast
- Barley bristle

DOWN

- Pure as the driven snow
- Happens again
- Shuttle plane
- Makes tea
- Party to a defense treaty
- Goes along with the program
- Blew it
- Become enraged
- West Point students
- "Woe is me!"
- Stand-up shtick
- Water one can walk on
- "Waking ___ Devine"
- Site of an English horse race
- Prefix with metric
- Medicine dose, perhaps
- Mousse alternative
- Remain extant
- Former Bruin great Bobby
- Place of power

SOLUTION 189



Osaka, Nadal advance in Australia after Djokovic flies home

Melbourne, Jan 17 (AP):

The first test of Naomi Osaka's new approach to tennis might have been when she completely whiffed an overhead to give her opponent a break point on Day 1 of the No. 4 Osaka-Djokovic Australian Open.

Osaka didn't chuck her racket. She didn't roll her eyes. She smiled.

There are situations where I previously would get upset. But at this point in my life, like, I'm here because I want to be here and because I find that it's fun for me, Osaka said.

Might as well enjoy it while I still can.

In Osaka's mind, the drama involving nine-time champion Djokovic's deportation on the eve of the Australian Open was something for the players in the men's draw to worry about. Her title defense began smoothly enough: She won the first five games on the way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Camila Osorio on the main court. With so much attention on the 11-day saga of Djokovic's attempt to participate in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, and bid for a fourth consecutive title at Melbourne Park, the returns of Osaka and Rafael Nadal have been overshadowed. Osaka wasn't



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a backhand return to Marcos Giron of the U.S. during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Monday.

Ex-champion Sofia Kenin out in 1st round of Australian Open

Melbourne: Sofia Kenin was the Australian Open champion in 2020, and made it to the final of the French Open, too, that year, when she climbed to a career-high ranking of No. 4. She's going to drop a lot closer to No. 100 after a first-round exit at Melbourne Park on Monday. The 11th-seeded Kenin was beaten by 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys 7-6 (2), 7-5 in an all-American matchup.

Australian Open: Coco Gauff loses to Wang

Melbourne: Wang Qiang has her first win over a top 20 player since beating Serena Williams at Melbourne Park in 2020 after upsetting 18th-seeded Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-2. It was Wang's first win on tour since last year's French Open, where she beat Hsieh Su-wei in the first round before losing to Gauff in the second. Gauff saved four match points from 5-0 down on Monday but that was the only good news in a match where the American made 38 unforced errors.

bothered by that. Nadal didn't seem to be put off by it, either, renewing his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam singles title with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Marcos Giron. Growing up, I've looked up to him, said Giron, a 28-year-old from the U.S. He's one of the ab-

solute legends of the game. Nadal is tied with Djokovic and Roger Federer with 20 major singles titles each, the most in the history of men's tennis. With Djokovic unable to defend his crown in Melbourne because he didn't meet Australia's

strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria, the door is slightly more ajar to Nadal. Osaka's main concern, meanwhile, is winning a fifth major title, and her third at the Australian Open. To be completely honest, it didn't really affect me, Osaka

said about what went on with Djokovic. My goal, like even before this whole situation, is to just focus on myself more, what I need to do to become better. Me, I'm a tennis player. I'll focus on my matches. You as, I guess, an audience, focus on whatever is in the news, no?

A potential fourth-round meeting with top-ranked Ash Barty could be waiting. Barty, aiming to be the first Australian woman to win the title here since 1978, started with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Lesia Tsurenko.

After winning here last year, capturing her second Australian Open title in three years, Osaka pulled out of the 2021 French Open before the second round, then sat out Wimbledon. She played at the Tokyo Olympics, where she lit the cauldron, but ended her 2021 season early after a third-round loss and a teary news conference at the U.S. Open.

Two of her goals for 2022, she said last week, were to stay completely composed on the court and off, and to enjoy the game. And, yes, finally, the focus was on tennis in Australia. And it got started in a big way, with a combined 64 matches scheduled on Day 1 in the men's and women's singles.

Sen now needs to work on tactical acumen and endurance for consistent run: Vimal

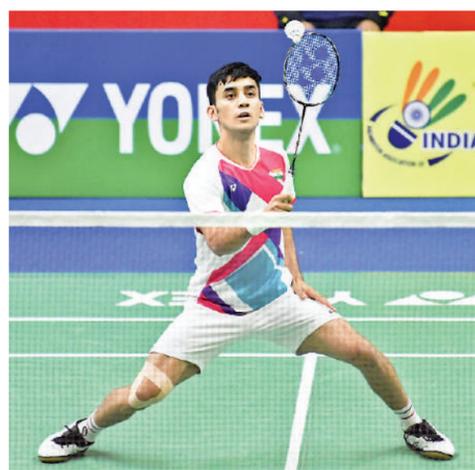
New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Former India coach Vimal Kumar is impressed with the title-winning performance of Lakshya Sen at the India Open but said the young shuttler still needs to work on his endurance and tactical acumen to have a consistent run in the international circuit.

The 20-year-old from Uttarakhand stunned world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 24-22 21-17 in men's singles final to clinch his maiden Super 500 crown at the season-opening India Open here on Sunday.

"Lakshya was tactically much better, he was in control of the match, never allowed Loh to attack. His counter attack was very good. His net dribbles were excellent and with the same action he was flicking the shuttle to the back of the court. Overall, he played a very mature game," Vimal told PTI. "He is at par with anybody, but he still needs to work on his tactical side, strength and conditioning. He can work on stability around the net areas, his endurance can be better. So, technically there are all the areas where he can work on."

"There are many youngsters from Europe, Thailand and Japan, who will be gunning for him now. It will be tough ahead. I don't want to put pressure on him by talking



Lakshya withdraws from Syed Modi International citing exhaustion

New Delhi: Newly-crowned India Open champion Lakshya Sen on Monday pulled out of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament after feeling "exhausted" following his participation in back-to-back tournaments since October last year. "Since completing the India Open 2022 tournament in Delhi last night, I am feeling very exhausted and suffering from tiredness. In these circumstances, I am afraid I will not be able to do justice to my participation in the event," Sen said in his letter to the organisers.

about the 2024 Olympics, it's all about how best he can play, how best he can take care of his body," he added. Sen was not selected to represent India at the Sudirman Cup mixed team competition in Finland and Thomas Cup Finals in Aarhus, Denmark after he lost his first match to Sai Charan Koya at the round-robin group stage during the se-

lection trials. But a training stint with Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Loh Kean Yew in Dubai rejuvenated him.

"He was shattered after missing the Sudirman Cup and Thomas cup," said Vimal, who has guided Sen since his young age as part of the Padukone Dravid Centre for Excellence (PDCE) in Bengaluru.

Rohit likely to be available against West Indies



New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

India's white ball captain Rohit Sharma is recovering well from his left hamstring injury and has a bright chance of making a comeback for the six-match home white-ball series against the West Indies next month.

Rohit, who was also the designated Test vice-captain for the tour of South Africa, sustained a left-hamstring strain during a net session just prior to the team's departure for the tour and had to pull out. He was subsequently also forced to skip the ODIs in South Africa,

starting this Wednesday, as he couldn't attain full fitness before the selection committee announced the team.

"Rohit's rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy is going pretty well. He is expected to be okay for the West Indies series. It's still close to three weeks from now before the first ODI is played in Ahmedabad from February 6," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The series against the West Indies comprises three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals.

If given an opportunity, it will be an honour to captain India: Bumrah

Paarl (South Africa), Jan 17 (PTI): India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Monday said he is not averse to leading the national team if an opportunity comes knocking at his door in the near future.

With Virat Kohli's captaincy tenure in all formats coming to an end following his resignation from Test leadership, there are questions about who could be his long-term successor considering that Rohit Sharma will be 35 next year.

"If given an opportunity, it will be an honour and I don't see any player (who) would say no and I am no different," Bumrah, who is KL Rahul's deputy for the ODI series against South Africa, replied to a query from PTI in a press conference ahead of the three-match rubber starting Wednesday. "Be it any leadership group, I



always look to contribute however I can, to the best of my abilities," he added.

Bumrah said taking responsibility and helping teammates comes naturally to him.

"I look at this situation in the same manner...taking responsibility and talking to players and

helping them out has always been my approach and it will always be my approach going further keeping any situation in mind."

The India pace spearhead believes that there would be no tangible change in his role although he is the vice-captain now. "Having post or

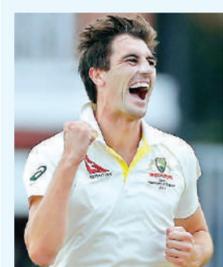
not doesn't matter. I always focus on how I can contribute," he said.

"For me, the role doesn't change at all. I have to do my job first, isn't it? Trying to contribute as much as I can and then helping KL if he needs any assistance on the field and sharing a bowler's mindset on what kind of fields you can keep that I always look to do," Bumrah said. In fact, he has done all this and more even when he wasn't anointed the vice-captain.

"Even when I am not vice-captain, I try to talk to some of the younger guys, have a lot of discussions on what kind of fields that need to be set and the same role I will try to do that again as well."

"No specific role or added pressure I am going to take. Yes, helping KL in any way possible and trying to keep a calm head."

Bowling, captaincy no worries for Pat Cummins in Ashes



Hobart, Jan 17 (AP):

Pat Cummins has left little doubt that he can captain Australia while tending to his fast bowling duties.

The 28-year-old Cummins was handed the captaincy on the eve of the Ashes series after Tim Paine stepped away from cricket when a sexting scandal became public. Six weeks later, Cummins finished as a 4-0 Ashes winner with a 146-run victory Sunday over England in Hobart and led the wicket tally with 21. That was despite

missing one test at Adelaide for being a close contact of a person who had COVID-19.

Proof, at least in the short-term, that the extra responsibility as captain hasn't taken away from his bowling.

That was probably my biggest worry in accepting the role as captain, Cummins said.

"I'm in the team as a bowler. I want to make sure that's protected and I'm able to perform as well as I'd like. I think with each game, I felt better at managing that."

Cummins received help from former skipper and vice captain Steve Smith to set fields and said he was able to switch off as captain when bowling.

I could really... take off the captain's hat and just be a bowler for my overs, he said. Even little things around bowling changes, setting fields in between overs.

Real Madrid tops Athletic 2-0 to win Spanish Super Cup



Luka Modric celebrates scoring the first goal for Real Madrid.

Madrid, Jan 17 (AP): Real Madrid won't be going a second consecutive season without a title. After failing to lift a trophy under Zinedine Zidane last season, Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid secured the Spanish Super Cup with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday in Saudi Arabia.

Luka Modric and Karim Benzema scored a goal in each half of the final as Madrid comfortably defeated the defending champions to

reinforce its status as the top team in Spain this season. Madrid has already beaten Barcelona twice including in the Super Cup semifinals and Atl tico Madrid once, and is more than 15 points ahead of both rivals halfway through the Spanish league season. Ancelotti has also led Madrid to the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Madrid went without a trophy for the first time in more than a decade last season

under Zidane. This is motivation for us to keep going, Ancelotti said.

We have to keep competing like this.

Madrid's 12th Super Cup title moves the club only one behind Barcelona, the competition's most successful team. Athletic was seeking its fourth Super Cup trophy.

It was Madrid's second Super Cup title since the competition was moved to Saudi Arabia in 2020. It had won the first edition of the tournament in the Middle East country by beating Atl tico in the final.

The Super Cup returned to Spain in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Spanish soccer federation has had to defend itself from criticism from human rights groups for its decision to play in Saudi Arabia in a deal reportedly worth 30 million euros (34 million) a year through 2029. Athletic was seeking its second consecutive title after defeating Barcelona in last year's final.

ODI series win against India would give us lot of confidence going ahead: Bavuma



Cape Town, Jan 17 (PTI): South Africa's white-ball skipper Temba Bavuma believes that a series win over India in the upcoming three-match ODI rubber will give the home team a "hell lot of confidence" going ahead.

The last time India came to South Africa in 2018, they won the six-match series 5-1. It was also their first-ever ODI series win in the Rainbow Nation.

"We will have to get things right in the next ODI series against India. I'm not too worried about what happened in

that 2018 series. I'm more concerned about establishing our own style of play and implementing our strategy to good effect. "An ODI series win against India would give us a helluva lot of confidence, and some momentum ahead of the games to follow," Bavuma was quoted as saying by 'Daily Maverick'.

Bavuma, who was a part of the Proteas' triumphant campaign in the just-concluded three-match Test series, feels their campaign in the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup helped change perception about South Africa's white-ball squads.

In the mega event in the UAE, South Africa had won four out of their five group matches, only to miss the semi-finals on the basis of net run-rate due to their loss in the tournament opener against Australia.

Marseille held 1-1 by 10-man Lille, Rennes wins 6-0

Paris, Jan 17 (AP):

Marseille had an extra player for an hour but drew 1-1 at home in the French league to defending champion Lille and moved two points behind second-place Nice. Turkey winger Cengiz Under equalized for Marseille with a brilliant curling strike into the right corner after a quick corner from Dimitri Payet in the 75th. Third-place Marseille has played a game less than Nice. After Marseille goalkeeper Pau Lopez made a fine save from veteran Turkey striker Burak Yilmaz's shot, Dutch defender Sven Botman headed firmly in from the ensuing corner in the 15th minute. It could have got worse as the alert Lopez kept out Yilmaz's point-blank header from Renato Sanches' cross moments later. Despite having midfielder Benjamin Andre sent off for a second yellow card in the 32nd, Lille pushed forward and



Marseilles Cengiz Under, left, runs with the ball next to Lilles Amadou Onana during a French League One soccer match between Marseille and Lille at the Velodrome stadium.

winger Jonathan Bamba drew a fine save from Lopez with a powerful shot. Yilmaz thought he'd set up Bamba in the 70th for a 2-0 lead, but the goal was ruled out for a narrow offside following a video review. The impressive Under almost won it dur-

ing stoppage time with a brilliant dipping shot that led to an equally fine save from goalkeeper Ivo Grbic. Earlier, Rennes bounced back in style from three straight defeats by routing struggling Bordeaux 6-0 at home to reclaim fourth place.

'Netaji's legacy partly exploited for political reasons'

Kolkata, Jan 17 (PTI):

Amid a controversy over the rejection of West Bengal's tableau for the Republic Day parade themed on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army, his daughter Anita Bose Pfaff said on Monday the legendary freedom fighter's legacy has often been "partly exploited" for political reasons.

"She minced no words while acknowledging the fanfare that marked the start of the 125th birth anniversary year celebrations of Bose in 2021 in Kolkata had something to do with the elections in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to



Anita Bose-Pfaff

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, voicing her "shock" at the rejection of the tableau, which also featured other Bengal icons like Rabindranath Tagore, Ishwarachandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and others. "I have heard about it. I don't know under what circumstances it happened and

why the tableau was not included. There might be some reasons. We can't imagine that the Republic Day function in the year when my father would have turned 125 is being held and his tableau was not included, it seems very strange," Bose-Pfaff told PTI in a telephonic interview from Germany where she lives. "And last year, the opening of the anniversary year was celebrated in a bigger way, of all places in Kolkata, had something to do with election and election prospects in Bengal. The fact that nothing happened this year...certainly the issue is not as important as last year," she said.

R-DAY PREPARATIONS



Women tailors prepare the national flags ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, at Assam Khadi & Village Industries Board office at Chandmari, in Guwahati, Monday.

Udupi Paryaya to be held without fanfare

Mangaluru, Jan 17 (PTI):

The paryaya mahotsava, marking the biennial transfer of the right to worship the Lord and manage the Udupi Sri Krishna temple to a new seer of the Ashta mutts', will be held Tuesday morning. The event will be celebrated without fanfare in the context of the sudden surge in the spread of Covid-19. The new paryaya' seer Swami Vidyasagar Teertha of

Krishnapur mutt will ascend the Sarvajna Peetha' at 5.55 am on Tuesday. He is to hold the seat for the fourth time on a rotational basis from among the 'ashta (eight) mutts' of Udupi. Admar mutt junior seer Ishapriya Teertha will hand over charge of the Udupi Sri Krishna temple and mutt to the Krishnapur seer for the next two years, after a series of religious rituals beginning at 2.15 am Tuesday.

ASSEMBLY POLLS IN 5 STATES

'Goal of CPM to keep BJP away from power'

Bhopal, Jan 17 (PTI):

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday said his party will support those outfits that have the ability to defeat the BJP in polls scheduled for February-March in five states.

The goal of the CPI(M) is to keep BJP away from power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur, Yechury, who is on a visit to Bhopal to partici-

pate in a state level CPI(M) convention, told reporters. He said his party was also discussing this issue with other Leftist groups as the aim was to stop the division of anti-BJP votes by forging alliances. Claiming there was an anti-BJP atmosphere in UP, he said the CPI(M) will talk to the Samajwadi Party (SP), which is the main contender for power there. The BJP has to be defeated politically and kept away from power in order to make a better India, he said.



Sitaram Yechury

Delhi govt's Yoga classes boosting immunity of COVID-19 patients

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): The Delhi government's initiative of free online yoga classes under "Dilli Ki Yogshala" is assisting COVID-19 patients in boosting their immunity while bound at home, according to officials. It not only boosts immunity, but it also helps people de-stress. Patients are quickly recovering from coronavirus infection. Efforts have been made to alleviate patients' loneliness and to support their mental health through online yoga classes, they said. "Professionally trained yoga teachers provide free online yoga classes on a regular basis. The Health Department of the Government of Delhi sends a link to those who are corona positive under this initiative. Affected patients can register for online yoga classes by clicking on this link. Covid patients can select a time slot for 8 one-hour classes from 6 to 11 am and 4 to 7 pm, as needed," a government official said.

COPS TO COURT

'Bulli Bai' case accused used Sikh names in accounts to create animosity

Mumbai, Jan 17 (PTI):

Three students arrested in connection with a case pertaining to the 'Bulli Bai' app, which targeted Muslim women, deceptively used names belonging to the Sikh community for their social media accounts with an intention to breach peace in the society and create animosity among religious groups, the Mumbai police told a local court on Monday. The city police's cyber cell submitted its affidavit before the metropolitan magistrate in suburban Bandra opposing the bail

pleas filed by the three accused in the case - Vishal Kumar Jha, Shweta Singh and Mayank Rawat. Singh (18) and Rawat (21) were arrested by the Mumbai police's cyber cell from Uttarakhand on January 5, while Jha was nabbed from Bengaluru on January 4. All three are currently in judicial custody with Jha and Rawat quarantined in a BMC-run facility after they tested positive for coronavirus. The court heard the arguments put forth by the accused's advocates and posted the bail applications for further hearing on Tuesday. The police on Monday sought the court to reject their bail pleas, arguing the accused could flee or tamper with evidence in the case. The cyber cell added that a police team has been sent to the national capital to seek custody of two more persons Niraj Bishnoi, arrested in another Bulli Bai app case lodged by the Delhi police, and one Omkareshwar Thakur, apprehended in the 'Sulli' deals app case. According to the police's affidavit, Jha, Singh and Rawat were part of several social media groups operating with a specific mindset.

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BRIEF



A sadhu on the banks of Ganga river on the occasion of Paush Purnima festival during the ongoing Magh Mela in Prayagraj, Monday.

Watery grave

■ **Coimbatore:** Six students drowned in a river while bathing in nearby Tirupur district on Monday, police said. The youth drowned in Amaravathi river in Dharapuram area of the district, they said. A group of eight youngsters from Iduvai in Tirupur district had gone to a temple in Mamparai in Dindigul district and were returning home when they stopped by to bathe in the river, police said.

Landslide

■ **Shimla:** Three persons were killed in a landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district on Monday, a senior state Disaster Management Department official said. The victims were identified as Kahan Chand of Utrakhand and Jitender Singh and Ashok of Rajasthan, the official said, adding they were hit by boulders during the landslide near Menus Road on Hatkoti-Paonta Sahib National Highway number 707.

Mishap

■ **Kaushambi:** A truck driver was killed and his helper seriously injured when the vehicle overturned on the National Highway-2 here on Monday, police said. Saini police station SHO Tej Bahadur Singh said the truck laden with iron pipes overturned in front of Gurukul Vidyalaya on the National Highway-2, leaving driver Sushil (31) dead on the spot.

Fresh charges

■ **Dehradun:** Fresh charges have been slapped on Yati Narsinghanand for abusing a journalist and photographer after being offended by a question they had asked during an interview. The Dasna temple priest has already been sent to 14 days' judicial custody in the Dharma Sansad hate speech case.

Shot dead

■ **Rewari:** A delivery boy of online food delivery platform Zomato was shot dead in Rewari when he went to serve an order in Ansal township in Sector 19. His mobile and wallet were also found missing and the police suspected that he was shot with intent to rob. An FIR has been registered at the Model Town police station.

Weather
High 26 Low 11

MARKET
NIFTY 18308.10
SENSEX 61308.91

BULLION
GOLD 47909
SILVER 61865

TOP GOVT EXPERT

'Vaccination for 12-14 age from March'

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

India may begin inoculating children in the 12-14 age group against COVID-19 in March as the 15-18 population is likely to get fully vaccinated by then, Dr N K Arora, chairman of the COVID-19 working group of NTAGI, said on Monday. Of the estimated 7.4 crore (7,40,57,000) population in the 15-18 age bracket, over 3.45 crore have received the first dose of Covaxin so far and

their second dose is due in 28 days, he said. "Adolescents in this age group have been actively participating in the inoculation process, and going by this pace of vaccination, the rest of the beneficiaries in the 15-18 age group are likely to be covered with the first dose by January-end and subsequently their second dose is expected to be done by February-end," said the Chairman of the Covid working group of the

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Once the 15-18 age group is covered, he said, the government is likely to take a policy decision for initiating the vaccination drive for the 12-14 age group in March, he said.

According to him, there is an estimated 7.5 crore population in the 12-14 age group. Provisional vaccination reports till 7 am on Monday showed that with more than 39 lakh doses

being administered in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative number has exceeded 157.20 crore doses.

According to government data, over 3.45 crore first doses have been given to children in the 15-18 years age group so far.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from

February 2, 2021. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

Three Maoists surrender



Konta, Jan 17:

Influenced by the promotion of rehabilitation policy of Chhattisgarh government under the eradication campaign and the 'Puna Narkom Campaign' being run by the Sukma Police, the inhuman, baseless ideology of Naxalites and their exploitation, atrocities and discrimination by outside Naxalites, 03 Naxalites belonging to banned Naxalite organization respectively 01. Dudhi

Sukma, father Hidma (DAKMS President, reward 01 lakh by the Government) age 35 Years Muria, 02. Dudhi Pandu, father Dudhi Hunga (CNM Member) age 30 Years caste Muria and both Sakinan Village Veerapuram, Thana Golapalli, 03. Sodi Deva, father Hadma, father Hadma (Militia member) age 25 years by caste Muria Sakin village Gonderas police station Gadiras district Sukma (Ch.G.) laid down arms on Monday.

Joint efforts only way to fight pandemic: Xi Jinping

■ **Blame game will delay our response**

New Delhi/Davos, Jan 17 (PTI): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday said joint efforts are the only way to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and called for fair distribution of vaccines and expedited inoculation drive globally.

He also said that holding each other back or shifting blame would only lead to a needless delay in the response and also distract us from the main objective.

In a special address on 'state of the world' on the first day of the week-long online Davos Agenda summit of the World Economic Forum, he said that humanity will certainly move on but the world needs to jointly defeat the pandemic. "A giant ship is brave enough to brave the storm.



Pandemic is proving to be a protracted one. It impacts health and the economy. Holding each other back and shifting blames, will only shift our objectives," he said.

Favouring further opening up of the world economy and greater cooperation, he said, "We should remove barriers and not erect walls.

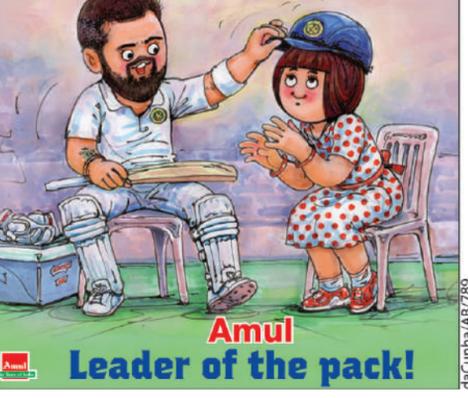
We should open up and integrate further." Jinping warned of serious negative spillovers if major economies slam on the breaks or make U-turns on

their monetary policies. He also said the world needs to discard the cold war mentality and that confrontation will lead to disastrous consequences. We need to explore new drivers of economic growth to promote steady and robust global economic recovery, he added.

The Chinese president said some developing countries have fallen back into poverty due to the pandemic while some developed countries are also facing hard times.

"Developed nations need responsible economic policies, should control spillover effects of policies to avoid impacting developing countries," he said while asserting that China will continue to open up and is committed to economic and market reforms. He also called for global rules on the digital economy and greater information sharing across the world.

Thanks for the Virattacking captaincy!



Legendary Kathak dancer Birju Maharaj passes away



New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Kathak doyen Birju Maharaj, who took the classical Indian dance form to the world and helped make it accessible for generations of students and audiences, died at his home here in the early hours of Monday. He would have been 84 next month.

Maharaj-ji, as he was popularly known, died surrounded by his family and disciples, laughing and smiling till the very end. They were playing antakshari' after dinner when he suddenly took ill,

his granddaughter Ragini Maharaj told PTI. Birju Maharaj, one of India's best known artistes who was also a thumri exponent and even voiced a song for Satyajit Ray's Shatranj Ke Khiladi , was from Lucknow's Kalka-Bindadin Gharana. He is survived by five children, three daughters and two sons, and five grandchildren.

He had been suffering from a kidney ailment and was under dialysis treatment for the last month due to high diabetes. He probably died of a cardiac arrest, his granddaughter said.

"He was with us when this happened. He had his dinner and we were playing antakshari' because he loved old music. He was lying down and suddenly his breathing became uneven.

R-DAY REHEARSAL



BSF Camel contingent soldiers march during the rehearsal for the upcoming Republic Day Parade, on a cold winter morning in New Delhi, Monday.

Baghel questions 'selective' FIR against him by UP police

EC seems not acting fairly

Raipur, Jan 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has alleged that the Election Commission doesn't seem to be acting fairly when it is supposed to be transparent, a day after Uttar Pradesh police registered an FIR against him for allegedly flouting COVID-19 norms while campaigning for the assembly polls. The Election Commission should keep its role transparent. The agency is not seen to be acting fairly at the beginning itself, then what will happen later, said Baghel in a video statement shared on his Twitter handle over the FIR registered against him. A UP police spokesperson had said that the FIR was lodged against the Chhattisgarh CM and others for violating COVID-19 rules as set by the Election Commission when they were in the Sector 113 police station area in Noida. Baghel, the senior Congress observer for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh polls, is currently campaigning in the northern state.



"Why action against the BJP candidate and the minister was not taken in Amroha even though they had been engaged in door-to-door campaigning for the last five days?" questioned Baghel. Speaking about the incident in Noida, Baghel said that he was accompanied by 15-20 security personnel along with the UP Police. "At least 30-40 journalists were also present, then why the FIR was registered only against me? What I can do when people come to meet me and how the election campaign will be conducted," Baghel questioned.

SC clears agency for demolishing 'Supertech Twin Towers'

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday directed real estate major Supertech Ltd to execute a contract within a week with a company to demolish its twin 40-storey towers in its Emerald Court project in Noida. The NOIDA authority informed the bench that it has finalised the company Edifice Engineering for demolishing the twin towers in consultation with the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee.



The top court also directed Supertech Ltd to make the refund payments to the home buyers without prejudice to their rights and contentions. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant told senior advocate Parag Tripathi, appearing for Supertech Ltd., The contract (with a

demolishing agency) shall be executed no later within a period of one week from today. The bench noted in its order, Advocate Ravindra Kumar, appearing on behalf of Noida states that the agency which is to carry out the work of demolition has been finalised in consultation with CBRI. Parag Tripathi, senior counsel,

appearing on behalf of Supertech Ltd. states that there are no objections to the agency, which has been finalised and the developer would be applying for all necessary NOCs within a period of one week. The application for NOCs shall also be marked to NOIDA authorities. The top court refused to give more time to Supertech Ltd for entering into a contract with Edifice despite the repeated insistence of Tripathi saying that the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) can be obtained subsequently

Jersey cow gives birth to calf with three eyes

Rajnandgaon, Jan 17:

A farmer's jersey cow has given birth to a rare calf with three eyes and four nostril holes in a village in Rajnandgaon. As the word spread, a large number of people are queuing up at the farmer's house to worship the calf calling it an "incarnation of God".

The female calf was born to a cow owned by the farmer, Hemant Chandel, a resident of Nawagaon Lodhi village, on January 13.

The calf has an additional eye in the middle of her forehead and also four holes in the nostril. Its tail looks like a 'jata' (heap of matted hair) and its tongue is also longer than normal calves, Chandel told PTI over the phone. Citing a veterinarian, the farmer said the health condition of the calf is

Villagers call it avatar of God



A rare calf with three eyes and four nostrils in a village in Rajnandgaon.

'Congenital anomalies'

Dr Dinesh Mishra, who heads the Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti, said that such cases happen due to congenital (by birth) anomalies. "People should not link such incidents with faith or superstition. In many incidents, it has been seen that people, particularly from rural areas, worship such animals with deformities due to the lack of awareness. People need to be explained scientifically about such deformities in animals so that they should properly take care of their livestock, he added.

good. "However, due to its long tongue, the calf is facing difficulties in drinking milk from the cow. We are helping in feeding her, he added.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Phytochemicals discovered in Himalayan plant Buransh that inhibit COVID-19 virus

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) have identified phytochemicals in the petals of a Himalayan plant that could potentially be used to treat COVID-19 infection. The research found that phytochemical-rich petals of Rhododendron arboreum found in the Himalayan region, locally called "Buransh" show antiviral activity and fight against the virus. The findings of the research team have been recently published in the journal Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics'. According

to the team, two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the researchers are trying to understand the nature of the virus and discovering new ways to prevent the infection. "While vaccination is one route to providing the body with the fighting power against the virus, there is a worldwide search for non-vaccine medicines that can prevent viral invasion of the human body. These medicines use chemicals that either bind to the receptors in our body cells and prevent the virus from entering them or act on the virus itself and prevent its replication inside our bodies," said Shyam Kumar Masakapalli, Associate Professor, IIT Mandi's School of Basic Science.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Scope of data protection

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) submitted its report on India's draft Data Protection Bill. The Bill is now likely to be passed by Parliament in the budget session. Many of the proposed changes to the Bill in the revised draft relate to the powers of the government and issues to be considered by the Data Protection Authority (DPA) in making its decisions. One key change relates to notification to the DPA within 72 hours of discovery of a data breach, which the Bill makes mandatory for every breach affecting Indian data subjects. Following notification, the DPA would decide whether data subjects would need to be notified of the data breach. In its report, the JPC also expanded the scope of the Bill to cover non-personal data, though in a limited way. Most provisions of the Bill still apply only to personal data. A provision in an earlier proposed version of the Bill allowing the government to regulate the sharing of non-personal data remains intact. The purpose of this provision is to enable the government to better deliver services and formulate evidence-based policies. The Bill directly impacts every business which operates on internet with registered users and users who share information with online businesses. Notably, certain enabling powers may allow the government to expand the scope of the regulation of non-personal data in the future. Data fiduciaries can no longer deny data portability, even if it reveals trade secrets, and must enable it where feasible. Data fiduciaries will also be required to demonstrate fairness of algorithms or methods of processing. This raises the spectre of algorithmic disclosure.

If social media companies that do not act as intermediaries are treated as content publishers, according to the recommendations made by the JPC, they will become liable for the content they host. This could potentially mean that they would be stripped of the protection that Section 79 in the Information Technology Act, 2000. In accordance with Section 79, intermediaries (what social media platforms are all considered currently) would not be liable for any third party information, data or communication link made available by them. The JPC also suggested a 24-month transition period from the date of notification of the Act, which would allow all data aggregators enough time to comply with the new rules under the bill. This could mean that data fiduciaries would only be required to comply with new regulations by 2023. Of key relevance to international business are the changes in the 2021 Bill which propose stringent conditions for cross-border transfers of sensitive personal data. This will include all financial, health and biometric data, official identifiers, religious or political beliefs or affiliations. Transfers of sensitive data are not permissible if they violate public or state policy. This requirement may create a need for case-by-case approval from the DPA and may result in delays and significant business disruption. The restriction on sharing transferred data with foreign governments or agencies may result in hard localisation of all sensitive personal data. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union is the toughest privacy and security law in the world. India, too, might be on its way to a similar law, subject to amendments and revisions.

Credibility of multilateral institutions

In the aftermath of World War II, the victor nations established a set of institutions that have underpinned the world order ever since. While those institutions have often been contested, they have proved to be highly resilient. But this does not mean they are invulnerable. On the contrary, their effectiveness may be gradually eroded especially when they are used as geopolitical pawns. Credibility of multilateral institutions is eroding. COVID-19 became a crisis due to stance of World Health Organisation with pressure from China. Academic research offers abundant analysis of the factors that boost institutional hardness, and those that tend to hasten institutional failure. One key message is that institutions thrive when there is trust. Small wonder, then, that the international order's institutional arrangements are at risk. According to the Edelman Trust Barometer, global trust in institutions has continued to decline. Some have already written off the post-WWII institutions, arguing that they have outlived their usefulness. For these critics, talk of reforming bodies like the UN Security Council or the International Monetary Fund merely distracts from the more important task of figuring out what a new order should look like. Should it, for example, rely more on ad hoc formations. But while post-WWII international institutions are far from perfect, their collective record suggests that they remain the world's best hope for coping with the complex challenges ahead.

Of course, the mere existence of institutions is not enough to deliver solutions to the world's problems. From health, to food and agriculture, from education to internet, from environment to public services and human rights, the research shows that decisions made in these multistakeholder mechanisms as well as in captured multilateral institutions, have direct impact on on people's health, children's education, digital rights, access to basic public services and human rights in the territories, including the right to a healthy environment. By dislocating the locus of key policy decisions from the multilateral system into mixed mechanisms where the private sector rules with the support of some countries, international institutions, and big philanthropists, the phenomenon of 'multistakeholderization' of the global governance has become systemic. This trend has emerged in the nexus of relationships between the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Davos Class and the United Nations (UN) more noticeably since the establishment of the Global Compact, a non-binding agreement giving corporations access to the UN. There have been several critiques and 'pushbacks' raised by social movements and affected sectors on this dislocation of the multilateral institutions including strategic partnership signed between the WEF and the UN. It is clear that instead of being a solution, multistakeholder mechanisms accelerate the route towards a more undemocratic, unsustainable and unequal world. It is urgent to mobilize in building a stronger democratic multilateral system accountable to the public interest and committed to a sustainable planet.

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

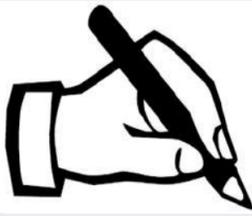
PRAYER AT BALI ISLAND



A Balinese man prays while sitting on a rock jetty at Sanur beach near Denpasar on the eastern coast of Bali island, Indonesia.

UP to show if it is end of road for 'elephant'

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The election schedule for the five states is out and out of those five the Uttar Pradesh (UP) is most keenly watched one for obvious reasons. The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) trying to rewrite the history by winning a second term which no party ever did since mid-eighties. The Samajwadi Party (SP) is in high spirited campaign mode making all the right noises and right political moves. Akhilesh Yadav has hit the road with his 'Vijaya Rath Yatra' crisscrossing the state for over a month and buoyed by the response he is claiming March 10 as the day of his party government formation day. Even Congress, despite it being not an important player is conducting spirited campaign with Priyanka Vadra leading from the front with the slogan 'ladki hoon and lad sakti hoon' slogan. The only party which is missing in action in the campaign arena is Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and that surprises everyone.

Seeing the lethargy of the 'Elephant', the party symbol of BSP, the opponents are drawing their own conclusions. The BJP is taunting her with barbs like 'Elephant' is afraid of the 'heat' and is enjoying the 'cool' at home. Home Minister Amit Shah provoked Mayawati by stating that 'Behenji is already afraid'. Mayawati is known to have powerful acerbic tongue capable of giving fitting and hit-

ting replies to the political opponents. But surprisingly this time around the 'Elephant' Chief Mayawati is low on retort, especially to the BJP barbs. Even Yogi Adityanadh is not taking on BSP but only focusing all his campaign against Akhilesh Yadav and his party. Whether it is because of BJP's assessment of SP being the main rival or that party has already had an understanding with BSP? Either way SP thinks that it is advantage Akhilesh. By targeting him 'the BJP is giving publicity and projection of their leader as main rival' feels the SP cadre. However the SP suspects behind screen moves of BSP joining hands with BJP in the last moment to thwart Akhilesh Yadav's ascendancy. Such a prospect is worrisome for SP and Akhilesh as the committed vote of BSP is easily transferable to any candidate or party through the word of Mayawati. The SP is suspecting of the motives of Mayawati not being in active campaign and they fear sabotage from her side to their prospects.

Whatever may be the comments of others and their assessment of BSP in UP the fact is that the Elephant is starved of electoral victories since 2007. That year was the high point in the existence of BSP when it captured power on its own with 206 seats and 30% vote share. Prior to that BSP tasted power in coalition with SP under

Mulayam Singh Yadav. BSP represents SC/ST and SP represents the BC and Muslim interests. Numerically that is an unbeatable combination. However the personal ambitions of the two party heads lead to the collapse of coalition in 1995 and since then they are the bitter rivals. Since then it is all downhill for BSP and Mayawati. In 2012 elections it lost power as it could secure 80 seats and 25.91% of votes. By 2017 elections it declined further as BSP could win only 19 seats and lost another 3.6% votes. In the Lok Sabha elections BSP never got 7% vote share but it could win 21 seats, its highest, in 2004 elections then became a party without win in a single constituency in 2014 elections as Modi wave swept BSP away. In 2019 it could win 10 seats to Lok Sabha all from Uttar Pradesh.

The social engineering which BSP undertook by giving more representation to Brahmins brought it to power in 2007 but that combination was short lived and again for 2022 the same formula being revived. But still the buzz which is naturally associated with BSP and Mayawati is missing. Mayawati is not seen to organize rallies nor conducting the press conferences to take on opponents. Hardly a month away from polling the 'Elephant' is yet to stretch its legs to walk, leave alone running. What issues are fettering the 'elephant'? Since there is no official explanation there are only speculations. Some say it is lack of confidence on the part of BSP chief and others quote her health age the reason. Mayawati reportedly suffers from some skin issues which is preventing her to come into sunlight. As the party was built around Mayawati's personality there is no second line of leadership to the party. Her past strategy of centralized leadership prevented the organization-

al build up and growth in the party was assured only by exhibiting the cult of Mayawati. Those moves made the lower level leaders to move to other parties to grow politically. Mayawati's over-dependence on Mishra, the Brahmin face of BSP, was not liked by the SC community leaders, the core vote group of BSP. Her preference in the party to her own SC community and treating other SC castes as secondary has also resulted in resentment. Non-Jatavs were earlier wooed successfully by BJP and now SP is attempting to woo them. The UP is caste centric state and almost all BC castes floated their own parties and most of those castes which resent the dominance of Yadavas see in Mayawati, a SC caste leader, who in her earlier stint not pampered them. Those communities are not ready accept BSP and may have to vote for SP or BSP.

The personality cult encouraged around Mayawati, building parks, statues of herself erected everywhere, over projection of 'Elephant' physically and blue colour ideologically is not forgotten by the UP electorate and she knows that. The corruption of her regime is under probe and she is afraid of that. Seeing the lethargy of the 'Elephant' and its mahout Mayawati's declining popularity many leaders of BSP have already joined other parties. Now with Mayawati's prolonged silence the other leaders are also getting suspicious of her next move. Some reports say that she is focusing only on reserved constituencies and by winning them in substantial number Mayawati thinks that she can increase the bargaining power in the post poll scenario. Time is running out for 'Elephant' to make its 'trumpet' but as of now it seems the 'Elephant' is politically fatigued.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kohli on top

Whenever the talk of Indian cricket captains will arise in test cricket, Virat Kohli's name will be up there, not only for results but the kind of impact he had as a captain. But just one day short of four months, Virat having announced his decision of stepping down for the second time, this time from the mother of cricket Test format. In between, he was removed as ODI captain by the BCCI. Kohli's announcement came not only a day after India suffered an embarrassing Test series defeat against South Africa, but also at a time when his relation with the BCCI is so strained that he preferred to announce his decision on social media. For seven years, especially for the last five years with Ravi Shastri by his side, Kohli's power had grown immeasurably in Indian cricket. He did what he wished, almost. Talk of the town, if Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo in politics, then Ravi Shastri-Virat Kohli duo in cricket. Definitely both pairs (politicians and cricketers) are India's most aggressive and successful. For many cricket lovers, Kohli has been an excellent batsman but not an ideal leader. Moreover, Kohli's present form is nowhere close to his peak. As the premier batsman of the team, he has not scored a century for almost 3 years now and failed in the crucial moment just like the second innings of this Test, hence if he doesn't focus on his batting and rediscover his form there will be questions on the continuity of Virat the batsman also. We wish him a long journey ahead as an accomplished batsman. Even all these ifs and buts BCCI secretary Shah very correctly said "Virat turned the team into a ruthless fit unit that performed admirably both in India and away. The Test wins in Australia and England have been special." How one forgets that this controversial Kohli led India to the top of world rankings and during his tenure, the team recorded a memorable series win in Australia.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Blockchain use

Cryptocurrencies have been infamous for being used as a medium of transaction in the Dark Web. However, what has been realized by most countries, including India, is the potential of the technology behind cryptocurrencies i.e., Blockchain Technology. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is already exploring options to issue a digital rupee using Blockchain Technology. The application of Blockchain Technology, however, is not just confined to issuing money or banking or being a platform for the development of cryptocurrencies. It has a multitude of applications, ranging from the Healthcare industry to Smart Contracts to Logistics to many more. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) using this emerging technology, recently introduced a blockchain-based system Academic Blockchain Documents (ABCD) to go paperless and issue secure and tamper-proof certificates. The higher education institutes and employers would be able to verify the authenticity of documents submitted by the candidates in an efficient manner without taking much processing time. There would also be no need to depend on a third party for any verification. The authenticity of the certificates could be verified even after several years and a timeline of any changes made would be available. Integrating it with blockchain would not only make it efficient but also secure. Assam would become one of the first states to employ such a technology in the education sector and thus, not only contributing to our honourable Prime Minister's vision of Digital India but, going a step further and setting an example in making a Secure Digital India.

Arunav, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



M D@mdmadhusudan

So, what are the ISFRs counting as forest cover to generate their flattering figures? Besides technical changes made to satellite imagery analysis, in 2001, the FSI completely rewrote the definition of a forest: so long as a mere 10% of a hectare of land had trees, it was forest.

Anoop kumar@anoop1907

I think it's because of lack of well paying jobs specially in tier 2 and 3 cities unlike the major business hubs like NCR, bangalore where it's easier to find another job easily. And that explain obsession of, rightly so, govt jobs in india.



Katyusha@Indian10000000

GST hike from 5% to 12% on footwear below Rs 1,000 has hit many MSMEs in Agra & left labourers without work. Agra, a shoe-making hub since Mughal times, is India's leading producer, accounting for 65% of the footwear worn in the country & 28% of exports.

Pukhraj Singh @RungRage

Ever since the #TekFog infrastructure has been brought down, no communal or hate-filled hashtags are trending on India Twitter. Such was the scale of manipulation, possibly radicalising swathes of people. Bad on Twitter for not acting on it.



Yogesh Dahiya@dahiyyayogesh81

Morning in village



Vindhya@vindytalks

Just had a call with a product manager who was able to get the team agree on every decision he made. He shared how he did this. 1. Studying the market well. 2. Analytics. 3. A strong writer 4. He was the CEO of this unicorn startup.

Omar Ahmad@OmarTAhmad

Truth is sometimes bitter, sometimes harsh, but only a child believes saying something bitter and harsh automatically makes you a teller of truths. Speaking gently takes away nothing from the gravity of what needs to be said.

'Netaji's legacy partly exploited for political reasons'

Kolkata, Jan 17 (PTI):

Amid a controversy over the rejection of West Bengal's tableau for the Republic Day parade themed on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army, his daughter Anita Bose Pfaff said on Monday the legendary freedom fighter's legacy has often been "partly exploited" for political reasons.

"She minced no words while acknowledging the fanfare that marked the start of the 125th birth anniversary year celebrations of Bose in 2021 in Kolkata had something to do with the elections in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to



Anita Bose-Pfaff

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, voicing her "shock" at the rejection of the tableau, which also featured other Bengal icons like Rabindranath Tagore, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and others. "I have heard about it. I don't know under what circumstances it happened and

why the tableau was not included. There might be some reasons. We can't imagine that the Republic Day function in the year when my father would have turned 125 is being held and his tableau was not included, it seems very strange," Bose-Pfaff told PTI in a telephonic interview from Germany where she lives. "And last year, the opening of the anniversary year was celebrated in a bigger way, of all places in Kolkata, had something to do with election and election prospects in Bengal. The fact that nothing happened this year...certainly the issue is not as important as last year," she said.

R-DAY PREPARATIONS



Women tailors prepare the national flags ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, at Assam Khadi & Village Industries Board office at Chandmari, in Guwahati, Monday.

Udupi Paryaya to be held without fanfare

Mangaluru, Jan 17 (PTI):

The paryaya mahotsava, marking the biennial transfer of the right to worship the Lord and manage the Udupi Sri Krishna temple to a new seer of the Ashta mutts', will be held Tuesday morning. The event will be celebrated without fanfare in the context of the sudden surge in the spread of Covid-19. The new paryaya' seer Swami Vidyasagar Teertha of

Krishnapur mutt will ascend the Sarvajna Peetha' at 5.55 am on Tuesday.

He is to hold the seat for the fourth time on a rotational basis from among the 'ashta (eight) mutts' of Udupi. Admar mutt junior seer Ishapriya Teertha will hand over charge of the Udupi Sri Krishna temple and mutt to the Krishnapur seer for the next two years, after a series of religious rituals beginning at 2.15 am Tuesday.

ASSEMBLY POLLS IN 5 STATES

'Goal of CPM to keep BJP away from power'

Bhopal, Jan 17 (PTI):

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday said his party will support those outfits that have the ability to defeat the BJP in polls scheduled for February-March in five states.

The goal of the CPI(M) is to keep BJP away from power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur, Yechury, who is on a visit to Bhopal to partici-

pate in a state level CPI(M) convention, told reporters.

He said his party was also discussing this issue with other Leftist groups as the aim was to stop the division of anti-BJP votes by forging alliances.

Claiming there was an anti-BJP atmosphere in UP, he said the CPI(M) will talk to the Samajwadi Party (SP), which is the main contender for power there. The BJP has to be defeated politically and kept away from power in order to make a better India, he said.



Sitaram Yechury

Delhi govt's Yoga classes boosting immunity of COVID-19 patients

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI): The Delhi government's initiative of free online yoga classes under "Dilli Ki Yogshala" is assisting COVID-19 patients in boosting their immunity while bound at home, according to officials. It not only boosts immunity, but it also helps people de-stress. Patients are quickly recovering from coronavirus infection. Efforts have been made to alleviate patients' loneliness and to support their mental health through online yoga classes, they said. "Professionally trained yoga teachers provide free online yoga classes on a regular basis. The Health Department of the Government of Delhi sends a link to those who are corona positive under this initiative. Affected patients can register for online yoga classes by clicking on this link. Covid patients can select a time slot for 8 one-hour classes from 6 to 11 am and 4 to 7 pm, as needed," a government official said.

COPS TO COURT

'Bulli Bai' case accused used Sikh names in accounts to create animosity

Mumbai, Jan 17 (PTI):

Three students arrested in connection with a case pertaining to the 'Bulli Bai' app, which targeted Muslim women, deceptively used names belonging to the Sikh community for their social media accounts with an intention to breach peace in the society and create animosity among religious groups, the Mumbai police told a local court on Monday.

The city police's cyber cell submitted its affidavit before the metropolitan magistrate in suburban Bandra opposing the bail

pleas filed by the three accused in the case - Vishal Kumar Jha, Shweta Singh and Mayank Rawat. Singh (18) and Rawat (21) were arrested by the Mumbai police's cyber cell from Uttarakhand on January 5, while Jha was nabbed from Bengaluru on January 4. All three are currently in judicial custody with Jha and Rawat quarantined in a BMC-run facility after they tested positive for coronavirus. The court heard the arguments put forth by the accused's advocates and posted the bail hearing on Tuesday. The

police on Monday sought the court to reject their bail pleas, arguing the accused could flee or tamper with evidence in the case.

The cyber cell added that a police team has been sent to the national capital to seek custody of two more persons Niraj Bishnoi, arrested in another Bulli Bai app case lodged by the Delhi police, and one Omkareshwar Thakur, apprehended in the 'Sulli' deals app case. According to the police's affidavit, Jha, Singh and Rawat were part of several social media groups operating with a specific mindset.

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