



BRIEF



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Shot dead

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man was shot dead by unidentified men in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Mayur Chauhan, a resident of Guru Ramdas Nagar, they said. A caller informed the police that unidentified men fired shots near a Gurudwara in Guru Ramdas Nagar and a man had been injured, officials said.

Arrested

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Busted

Muzaffarnagar: With the arrest of two accused from the New Mandi area here, police on Thursday claimed to have busted an interstate gang involved in ATM theft and seized Rs three lakh in cash, gas cutters and other machine-cutting tools from them.

Hijab row

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday hit out at the Centre alleging its slogan for educating girl child was "hollow" as Muslim girls were denied education for wearing hijab. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was reacting to media reports about a college in Karnataka denying entry to Muslim girl students who were wearing hijab.

Weather
High 30 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 17,560.20
SENSEX 58,788.02

BULLION
GOLD 47,750
SILVER 60,199

RAHUL ATTACKS BJP

'BJP, RSS spread hatred and violence'

Raipur, Feb 03:

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of spreading hatred and making people fight among themselves, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that although the saffron party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) want only one ideology to rule in the country, it can never happen.



LS MP Rahul Gandhi addressing a function at Science College Ground here.

Addressing a function in Science College ground in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, Gandhi attacked the BJP saying the party and its ideology are pushing India towards a dangerous path and added that division of the country is the biggest threat posed by that party. He said the BJP's criticism of what the country has achieved in 70 years under the Congress rule is an insult of farmers, labourers and not of his party. "This country is like a bouquet and people of different ideologies live in it. The ideology, history and culture in one state is dif-

'Battle of ideology'

"Our work and the work of patriotism is to strengthen the country, poor and unite the country, not to spread hatred. So it is a battle of ideology. This is not a fight between one party and the other," Rahul said. "On Wednesday, I said in Lok Sabha that there are 2-3 big challenges in front of India. BJP and its ideology are taking our country towards danger the biggest threat is that today the BJP has been dividing the country into two India," he said.

MP all praise for State Govt

Rahul Gandhi praised the Chhattisgarh government and said it is fulfilling its promises. On the occasion, he launched the state government's 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana', under which landless labourers in rural areas will be given financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year in three installments. Actually after the inauguration of this scheme, Rahul Gandhi asked CM Bhupesh Baghel to hike the honorarium paid to the labourers and after which this declaration was made to hike the amount to Rs 7000.

ferent from that of another. But if we say that there will be only one ideology in the whole country then it will be wrong. This will harm the country," the Congress MP said. "The BJP and RSS want that only one ideology should rule over all states, languages and history in the country, which can never happen. For

'34 states, UTs recording decline in COVID-19 cases'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said 34 states and union territories, including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, are recording a decline in COVID-19 cases and positivity rate, while Kerala and Mizoram are still recording an increase in cases and positivity.

It also said that the pandemic situation has improved and there is contraction in spread of the Covid infection. In 268 districts, the positivity rate is below five per cent, the government said.

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crease in administration of vaccine doses. There has been a consistent decline in daily active COVID-19 cases and daily positivity rate, indicating decreased spread of the infection, the government said. It noted that present data indicates that unlike evidence during the earlier COVID-19 surge, with the current variant, surgery is safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths in coronavirus patients. The government said that the population with average age of 44 years were infected more in this Covid wave as compared to previous waves, and last time, the average was 55 years.

'We have taken up it with China'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

India on Thursday said it has taken up with China the issue of torture of a teenager from Arunachal Pradesh when he was in the custody of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"We have taken up the matter with the Chinese side," Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said at a media briefing.

He was replying to a question on the matter. Miram Taron, 17, was allegedly abducted by the Chinese army on January 18 from Lungta Jor area near the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal

Pradesh when he was on a hunting trip with his friend Johnny Yaying.

Yaying managed to escape from the scene and report the matter to the authorities. The Chinese army handed over Miram to the Indian Army on January 27 at the Wachadamai interaction point at Kibithu in Anjaw district.

Miram's father Opang Taron said his son was tied and blindfolded while in the custody of the PLA and that he was kicked and given mild electric shock.

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations in Parliament on Wednesday that the Modi government brought Pakistan and China to-

gether, Bagchi refused to comment saying External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already reacted to them.

"The external affairs minister's tweets are self-explanatory. He had issued a series of tweets after the discussion in Parliament. I do not have anything to add to them," Bagchi said.

Following Gandhi's comments, Jaishankar said he needs some "history lessons".

"Perhaps, some history lessons are in order: In 1963, Pakistan illegally handed over the Shaksgam valley to China. China built the Karakoram highway through PoK in the 1970s," Jaishankar tweeted.

MEA ON TORTURE OF TEEN

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS



People collect water from a puddle, in Rashel village, Thursday.

Bank loan fraud

ED attaches assets of Trichy firm promoters

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has attached assets worth Rs 9.08 crore of the promoters and family members of a Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) based company as part of a money laundering probe against it linked to an alleged bank loan fraud.

A provisional order for attachment has been issued against the company-- Cethar Ltd-- under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The federal probe agency had attached and seized Rs 5.63 crore worth assets of the accused as part of two similar orders issued last year.

'Cryptocurrency will never be a legal tender'

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Cryptocurrency will never be a legal tender, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Thursday clearing the air on the legality of private digital currencies in the market.

The 2022-23 Budget has given a clarity on taxation of virtual digital assets and proposed to impose a 30 per cent tax on gains made on such trades, besides subjecting crypto transactions, beyond a threshold, to 1 per cent TDS.

In an interview with PTI, Somanathan said just like gold and diamond, despite being valuable, are not a legal tender, private cryptocurren-



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El Salvador, which in September last year adopted Bitcoin as legal tender, no other country has made crypto a legal tender.

India is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet been released publicly.

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Schools are fully open in 11 states, partially opened mainly for higher classes in 16 states and continue to remain closed in nine states, Union Education Ministry officials said on Thursday.

Sharing the status of closure of schools across the country, officials said at least 95 per cent teaching and non-teaching staff in all states has been vaccinated, while some states have even achieved 100 per cent vaccination coverage for the staff in schools. "Taking into account the extensive vacci-

nation coverage, the ministry of education had issued revised guidelines to states in December last year and the decision to ask for parents consent was left with states," Sweete Changsan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education said during a press conference.

"Also, the revised guidelines talked about congregations and gatherings which were earlier banned in schools. As per new advisory, schools may celebrate events and hold gatherings according to the SOPs issued by concerned state," she added.

BMC presents Rs 45,949 cr budget

■ **Allocates Rs 6,934 cr for health; big property tax relief for small flats**

Mumbai, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday unveiled a budget of Rs 45,949.21 crore for 2022-23 and allocated Rs 3,200 crore for the coastal road project and Rs 6,933.75 crore for health, while it provided property tax relief for small flat owners ahead of civic elections.

The budget of India's richest civic body, ruled by the Shiv Sena and set for polls in the new few months, which has no proposal for new taxes, was 17.70 per cent higher than the last fiscal

when the total outlay was Rs 39,038.83 crore. Mumbai municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal presented the budget before the civic standing committee meeting held at the BMC headquarters and said its main focus was on health, infrastructure and education. In the budget, the civic body announced 100 per cent relief from payment of property tax for flats measuring up to 500 square feet of carpet area. "About 16,14,000 citizens will get 100 per cent property tax relief. The amount of exemption to citizens is to the tune of Rs 462 crore per annum," Chahal said in his budget speech.

On January 1, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had announced a decision to waive property tax for residential

units of up to 500 square feet, located within Mumbai municipal limits.

Before presenting the general budget, the BMC also tabled its education budget of Rs 3,370.24 crore for the next fiscal. Education budget estimates were 14.45 per cent more than the last fiscal when the outlay was Rs 2,945.78 crore.

In the budget, the BMC estimated revenue income for FY23 at Rs 30,743.61 crore, of which Rs 11,429.73 crore will come from grant-in-aid as compensation in lieu of octroi, Rs 7,000 crore from property tax, Rs 3,950 crore from the Development Projects Department, Rs 1,128.74 crore interest on investments, and Rs 1,596.93 crore from water and sewerage charges.

Shots fired at Owaisi's car in UP, 1 shooter caught

Ghaziabad, Feb 03 (PTI):

AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday alleged that his car was fired upon by unidentified men while he was returning to Delhi from election-related programmes in western Uttar Pradesh.

Owaisi's vehicle was near the Chhijarso toll plaza on the Hapur-Ghaziabad stretch of the National Highway 24 when the incident took place at around 6 pm, he said.

Some time ago my car was fired at near Chhijarsi toll gate. Four rounds of shots were fired. There were 3-4 people, all of them ran away

and left the weapons there. My car got punctured, but I moved to another car and left. We are all safe. Alhamdu'lillah, Owaisi tweeted.

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP said he had left Delhi in the morning for election-related programmes in Meerut and Kithore, where he held a foot march at 3.30 pm. Owaisi's convoy had four cars, he said.

We were at the toll gate and had slowed down when we suddenly heard three-to-four rounds of gunshots. My car also got some dents and a tyre got punctured, he later told reporters.



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Addressing a function in Science College ground in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, Gandhi attacked the BJP saying the party and its ideology are pushing India towards a dangerous path and added that division of the country is the biggest threat posed by that party. He said the BJP's criticism of what the country has achieved in 70 years under the Congress rule is an insult of farmers, labourers and not of his party. "This country is like a bouquet and people of different ideologies live in it. The ideology, history and culture in one state is dif-



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"Our work and the work of patriotism is to strengthen the country, poor and unite the country, not to spread hatred. So it is a battle of ideology. This is not a fight between one party and the other," Rahul said. "On Wednesday, I said in Lok Sabha that there are 2-3 big challenges in front of India. BJP and its ideology are taking our country towards danger the biggest threat is that today the BJP has been dividing the country into two India," he said.

example, people of other states cannot tell what the culture of Chhattisgarh should be and how people should live here. Everyone has own his or her own rights. This bouquet of our country has feelings of different thinking, different ideologies and language of love. That is what we call Hindustan. The BJP has been attacking this India. We will oppose this attack," he said. **(More news on Pg 03-04)**

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TRADITIONAL WELCOME



LS MP Rahul Gandhi was welcomed with 'Gaur Singh' headgear at main programme venue here on Thursday.

CARE FOR ELDERLY, DISABLED

'Elderly, differently abled vote through postal ballot from their homes'

Gopeshwar, Feb 03 (PTI):

Braving heavy snowfall and rain in Chamoli district, sixty polling parties of the Election Commission on Thursday made voting facilities available to senior citizens, differently abled and voters suffering from COVID-19 at their homes.

Postal ballot facilities have been made available for the first time to voters in these categories in Uttarakhand, a poll official here said.

The exercise was carried out amid heavy snowfall in Joshimath and Pokhri areas of Badrinath constituency. Most of the places located above 3000 metres in Chamoli district received snow on Thursday while the lower areas were lashed by rain. The Election

Commission introduced this initiative in these elections for the convenience of the elderly and the differently abled.

Noted environmentalist 88-year-old Chandni Prasad Bhatt who was among 251 such voters to avail the facility praised the Election Commission for the initiative saying it was especially of great convenience for people of these categories living in difficult terrain. It will also help increase polling percentage in the hills, he said.

Senior citizens above 80 years and 251 differently abled persons from the three assembly constituencies of Badrinath, Karnaprayag and Tharali located in the district had applied for exercising their franchise through postal ballot from their homes, a poll official said.

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cies too will never be a legal tender. "Crypto will never be a legal tender. Legal tender means by law it is accepted in settlement of debts. India will not be making any crypto asset as a legal tender. Only 'Digital Rupee' of the Reserve Bank will be a legal tender in India," Somanathan said. Except

El Salvador, which in September last year adopted Bitcoin as legal tender, no other country has made crypto a legal tender.

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In the meanwhile, a central bank-backed digital currency will start circulating in the next fiscal to usher in cheaper, more efficient currency management.

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Notice served to Deputy Commissioner and 28 others for being late to office

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: The revised office timings were implemented at the Government Offices on Thursday. Accordingly, the officials have to report at 10:00 hrs at the office and work till 17:30 hrs on all days. They will now get holiday on all Saturdays. For implementation of the government orders, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve had issued a notice on Wednesday and had also taken a meeting of various departmental heads to ensure attendance of all staff at 10:00 hrs in the office. Despite this strict instruction, 29 employees including Deputy Commissioner Narendra Kumar Banjare were unable to reach the office on time. They were found absent during the

Commissioner's inspection after which notices have been served to all these employees. BMC Commissioner Prakash Surve started inspecting the departments at the scheduled time at 10:00 am on Thursday. He visited the Steno's room, Revenue Department, Property Tax Department, Building Maintenance, Secretariat, Public Service Guarantee Counter, Tax Recovery Counter, Public Information Department, Health Department, Accounts Department, Stationery Department, Public Relations Department, Data Center, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Building Maintenance, Health Department, Engineer-in-Charge, Pension Branch, Aadhar Card and Census Branch etc. He inspected whether all the employees



reached the office on time. He found that 29 employees did not reach the office on time. The Commissioner has served notices to all of them. Similarly, all zone offices are also being inspected daily for attendance. Commissioner also imposed a penalty of Rs 10000 on Sparrow Softec Pvt Ltd as the tax collection counter was not opened on time and the taxpayers were waiting in the queue. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Deputy Commissioner Sunil

card. Commissioner has also issued notice to Niranjana Gupta and directed the nodal officer to take action. Commissioner has asked the employees to immediately improve the process of verification etc. During the Commissioner's inspection, the departmental employees who entered the office after 10:00 hrs, were stopped at the main gate and the time of their arrival was recorded in the register. Notices have also been issued to these employees. Now the entry timings of all the officials reaching the office after 10:00 hrs will be recorded at the main gate and action will be taken against them for being late to the office. Notice have been served to Chaturbhuj of Establishment Branch, Umesh Sahu, Rajesh, Parvati from Building

Permission Branch, Narendra Kumar Banjare from Planning Branch, Dhruvnarayan Tiwari, Harish Thakur from SBM Covid, Sonu Sonwani, Brijesh, Nageshwar, Urvashi Patel of Public Service Center, Punit Ram of Secretariat, Sharad Chavda of Information Department, Anil Fatima, Babli Thakur of Data Center, Vandana Phule of Census Branch, Nalini Taneja of National Livelihood Mission, Palash Kumar, S Pavani, Pranav, Saroj Thakur, Patiram Bareth of Revenue Department, Punit Ram of MiC Room, Chandra Kumar, Mani Ram from Deputy Commissioner office, Manju Sahu from Project Branch, Balwant Singh from Sanitation Department and Sangeeta of Audit Department.

Retrenched workers continue fast-unto-death for second day



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: The retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College, Kachundur continued their 'fast unto death' agitation for the second day on Thursday as the administration did not initiate to resolve their issue. The aggrieved workers are staying at the pandal round the clock and are continuing their agitation. After about 72 hours of fast-unto-death, a delegation of demonstrators will appraise the Divisional Commissioner and District Collector about the ongoing struggle. Local villagers, various organisations and denizens are extending support to the agitators. Women

workers are also registering their strong presence at the hunger strike venue. It needs to be mentioned here that after the acquisition of this private college by Chhattisgarh Government, a large number of existing employees were laid off. Sumit Parganiha (35), who was working as Store In-charge since 2013, is sitting on fast unto death. Office bearers of various organizations, the trade unions, farmers organisations, etc have given support to the agitators. Dilip Banchhor, Mahendra, Santosh, Laxman, Sheela, Rajkumari, Simchalam, Devraj, Misi, Monika, Geeta, Neera, Kiran, Atul, Ruchi, Leela, Mamta, Kaladas Dahariya and others were present.

Absconding accused of chit - fund fraud arrested from Orissa

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: Police have arrested the director of a chit-fund company on charges of duping the investors. The accused, Arvind Mishra, Director of Sanchay Infra Project Limited, was absconding since 2017. On promise of attractive returns (higher interests), the accused had duped over Rs 25 lakhs from 13 investors of the district. Till now, the accused was hiding at some or the other place to avoid the arrest.



persons here at Police Control Room on Tuesday, SSP Badri Narayan Meena informed that as per the Chief Minister's orders, the District Police is making efforts to arrest the absconding directors of the chit fund companies. For protecting the interests of the investors, police are also seizing the properties of the accused directors. Under the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, the district police teams are working under the supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruva; ASP (Rural) and Nodal Officer Anant Sahu;

CSP 9Durg Jitendra Kumar Yadav and DSP (Crime) Nasar Siddhiqui. Efforts are being made to arrest absconding directors of Chitfund companies and a campaign is being run for the attachment of their movable and immovable property. In this sequence, Mohan Nagar Police Station arrested the prime accused of a case lodged under section 420, 34 of IPC, Section 10, 3, 4, 5 of the Chhattisgarh Protection of Depositors Interests Act, 2005. The directors of Chitfund Company Sanchay Infra Project

Limited had accepted deposits from several investors on the promise of higher interest rate. Earlier one of the directors of this company - Praveen Mohanty was arrested from Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Two more accused of the case were absconding and a special team was sent to Bhubaneswar, Odisha for searching them. On reaching Orissa, the house of absconding director Arvind Mishra was being watched secretly by the police team for three consecutive days. Police received a clue that the accused Arvind Mishra

was roaming in his MG Hector Car, police team swung into action and took him in custody. The accused has been brought to Durg. Police are collecting information about the movable and immovable properties of the arrested director Arvind Mishra and is conducting further proceedings to the properties attached so that the invested amount can be returned to the investors. The arrested accused is identified as Arvind Mishra (34) son of Late Rajnikant Mishra a resident of Plot No 558, Rudrapur, District Khurda, Bhuneshwar (Orissa). Inspector Jitendra Verma, Inspector Gaurav Tiwari, ASI Ashok Sahu, Head Constable Chandrashekar Banjir, Constable Amar Nayak, Alauddin Khan, Shahbaz Khan, Nikhil Sahu, Ravi Bisai played a commendable role in arresting the accused.

National Science Day celebrated with Scientific Sessions & e-competition



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: On the occasion of National Science Day a Scientific Session was organised at Shri Shankaracharya College of Pharmaceuticals Sciences in the presence of Special guest- Dr Shailendra Saraf, ex vice president Pharmacy Council of India & Dr VD Rangari, Dean School of Natural Resources, Guru Ghasidas Central University. A national level e-Conference was organized. The session was conducted

on Hybrid Mode under the guidance of Dr Swarnali Das Paul (principal and professor of SSCPS college), convener of the event. The theme for science day was 'Integrated approach in science & technology for sustainable future'. Chief patron of college IP Mishra informed us that more than 400 participants across India participated in the event and the speakers: Dr VK Maurya, Dr Deependra Singh and Dr Shekhar Verma shared their illuminating views on the topic. Three e-competitions

was organized by on-line mode: oral presentation, model making and e-poster. Aditya Mishra from FPS-SSGI college won the first prize in oral presentation and Samiksha Jain from Sanskar City College won the best prize for e-poster while in model making Kirti Chandravanshi from Govt College, Kabirdham bagged the best prize. The program was supported and catalysed by Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology, Govt of India.

MSMEs may not get benefits from indirect booster budget: KK Jha

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: Reacting on the Union Budget, Industrialist and MSME District Industries Association President KK Jha said that it is an indirect booster budget for MSME industries. MSME industries will not get benefits from this budget. Jha acknowledged that for the first time, the MSME industries got importance in the budget. However, due to the increase in the slab of MSME industries, small industries will not get any benefit. There is a provision of Rs 6000 crore for MSME industries in this budget. Earlier, 3000 crore rupees were kept, but the large in-



KK Jha

fit. The government should pay attention to this fact. Efforts should be made to remove the shortcomings and frame a clear policy to support the small industries. For supporting the small industries, there is a need to give direct instructions to the banks, but any such provision has not been made in the budget. He added that until the criterion is fixed for MSMEs, benefits cannot be provided to them. Describing the budget as a restricted election budget, Jha said that there is no mention about the states where elections are to be held. It was probably done due to the model election code due to which the budget appears incomplete.

Man beaten to death over old rivalry; six arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: Police have arrested six persons on charges of beating a youth to death over an old rivalry. Police have recovered the murder weapons including a baseball stick, knife, sticks, etc. It needs to be mentioned here that a milk vendor Rakesh Yadav was beaten by six others at Shyam nagar, Camp-2 on February 01. The victim has suffered fatal injuries and died on the spot. Later, on complaint of Mahendra Yadav, an FIR was lodged at Chhawani Police Station against the six accused. While addressing media persons here at Police Control Room on Thursday, ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv informed that Senior



Superintendent of Police (Durg) Badrinarayan Meena has instructed to take immediate action against the criminals to create a deterring effect. Accordingly, the team of Chhawani Police Station conducted investigation

under the supervision of CSP Kaushalendra Dev Patel and rounded up all the six accused of this murder case. The accused are Jageshwar Sahu alias Jago son of Benu Sahu, Jitendra Sahu alias Bittu son of Dwarka Sahu; Ben

Kumar Sahu alias Benu son of Dwarka Prasad Sahu; Vikesh Kumar Sahu son of Dwarka Sahu; Rajesh Sahu son of Late Tejram Sahu and P Kunal son of P Shankar Rao. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in Sections 302, 34 of IPC. All the accused were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand. Police have confiscated the sharp knife, baseball stick, etc used in the crime. Sub Inspector Ramendra Yadav, Sub Inspector Naresh Sarva, Head Constable Anand Tiwari, Jaspal Singh, Constables Nitin Singh, Chhatrapal Bisen, Jeetnarayan, Gunit Nirmalkar, Anil Tiwari and Elisa played vital role in arresting the accused.

Revised timings of Panchkarma medical services

Bhilai, Feb 03: Free medical services by Bhilai Medical Trust are provided for Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medical facilities (including medicines) for employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and their dependants. Panchkarma medical services are provided at subsidised charge of Rs 1000/- per patient. The timings of Panchkarma Kriya have been revised from February 07, 2022. OPD will be operational from Monday to Friday from 9:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs (Lunch break from 13:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs) while OPD will be open on Saturdays from 9:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs. Panchkarma will be held daily from 07:30 hrs to 15:30 hrs (Lunch break from 13:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs) while Panchkarma will be held on Saturdays from 07:30 hrs to 12:30 hrs.

BSP procures New BOBSN Wagons to ease logistic operations

In Plant's internal rail circuit used for transportation of materials

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: Anjani Kumar, Executive Director (Works) SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant formally flagged off 23 BOBSN Wagons inducted for internal circuit of the Plant's Transport & Diesel (T&D) Dept. The flagging off ceremony was held on February 02, 2022 at Wagon Repair Shop (WRS) of T&D department in presence of SN Abidi CGM (Services), AK Tiwary CGM (Traffic), T Dastidar GM (Traffic), Achhut Rao CGM (CO CCD), B



Prasadda Rao CGM (MRD) and other senior officers of the Plant. Conducting the programme, MAR Sharif, Sr Manager (WRS) informed that these BOBSN Wagons were purchased under AMR Scheme. All the wagons were supplied by M/s Braithwaite & Co Ltd, Kolkata after due purchase procedure by MM-IPM. The project headed by AK Tiwary with G Malik as project co-ordinator was completed



on January 15, 2022. The total cost of the Project was around Rs 667 lakhs with each wagon costing approx Rs 29 Lakhs. With the induction of the 23 new wagons, the fleet of BOBSN Wagon in the Plant has increased to 56. These newly procured wagons will be used for transportation of hard coke, nut coke, coke fines, blast furnace fines, slag, ballast and iron ore etc. Induction of these wagons

will ease the logistic operation by replacing pneumatically operated high maintenance dump cars and improve the availability of wagons. These wagons will also contribute to cost control by reducing spillage of raw material flux and coke. Anjani Kumar ED (Works) extended his best wishes & appreciated the overall performance of T&D Department and assured his assistance for achieving future milestones.

PHE Minister inaugurates Handloom Training Centre

Distributes motorised pottery wheels to 80 beneficiaries

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 03: On Tuesday, PHE Minister Guru Rudra Kumar inaugurated a Handloom Training Centre at village Kodia of Dhamdha development block. He also distributed motorised pottery wheels among the beneficiaries. A total of 20 people will receive training in each batch at this handloom center. The duration of the training will be of four months in which each trainee weaver will be provided a monthly scholarship of Rs 500 and a loom worth Rs 15000. An amount of Rs 6.8 lakh will be spent for every batch. During the inauguration function, 80 electric motorised pottery wheels were also dis-



tributed to the beneficiaries. The total cost of pottery wheels is Rs 13.20 lakhs. Potters will be able to easily make terracotta, diyas, piggy banks and other types of clay materials and improve their earnings. While inaugurating the handloom training center, Minister Guru Rudra Kumar said that now the wheel of earning will spin faster. He further said that this training center will not only enhance art and skills but also increase em-

ployment opportunities. After receiving training, youth and girls will be able to weave a better future. Cabinet Minister also distributed motorised pottery wheels to the beneficiaries. He said that this would encourage rural culture and strengthen the potters community. Today, tea is being sold in kulhad at the railway stations and at many tea-stalls. Common citizens are also showing awareness by using

the earthen pots. There will be increased demand of clay products in the coming time. The electric wheels will help the potters to increase the production, he said. Guru Rudra Kumar further said that the unemployment rate in Chhattisgarh is only 2.1 percent. Several positive steps are being taken by the Chhattisgarh government to reduce it further in future. The government will open many more such training centers so that the youth of Chhattisgarh can become self employed and also provide employment to others. Making the women self-reliant is the priority of the government. Accordingly, the government is paying special attention to women empowerment in its policies.

Rahul lays stone of memorial for 'Ch'garh Amar Jawan Jyoti'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 03: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday laid the foundation stone of a memorial here that will house an eternal flame on the lines of the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' as a tribute to soldiers and security personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the memorial that will house the 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti' at a function here, days after the Amar Jawan Jyoti' at India Gate in Delhi was merged with the National War Memorial (NWM), drawing criticism from Opposition leaders, including Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The Chhattisgarh chief minister had said that the "removal" of the Amar Jawan Jyoti from India Gate had pained him.

The eternal flame will be lit on the premises of the 'Chaithi Vahini



Chhattisgarh Armed Forces' at Mana here as a mark of tribute to soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country, state government officials said.

The 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti' complex will have a brown marble wall with names of soldiers inscribed on it, a memorial tower and also a VVIP platform, they said.

The crescent-shaped wall will be about 25-feet high with a length of about 100 feet and a thick-

ness of three feet. In front of the crescent-shaped wall, a memorial tower will be built using sandstone, brown-white marble and granite with a memento on top.

A rifle and helmet in the form of insignia will be placed at the base in front of the memorial tower.

"Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti will be lit in front of this symbol which will remain ignited 24 hours through fuel supply through underground

pipelines," an official said, adding that the two-storey building will be constructed just in front of the memorial tower.

During his day-long visit to Chhattisgarh, Gandhi also launched two state government schemes — the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihreen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' and the 'Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club' at a programme at the Science College, Raipur.

Shop burgled

Raipur: Unidentified burglar entered into the unlocked warehouse of a Pan Masala shop besides Om Provisional store situated in Fafadh lane no.4 and decamped with various tobacco products worth Rs 16,000. The burglar entered into the unlocked warehouse while complainant Santosh Andani was doing business in the shop. The burglary was soon complained in Khamtarai police station where an offence was registered under Section 454, 380 IPC and further investigation is now underway.

Bike lifted

Raipur: Unidentified lifter escaped with Honda Activa bike CG-04-LQ-2866 from near Sinha provisional store in Nav Jeewan Society where it was parked by owner Dooman Sahu. The lifting was later complained in Tikrapara police station where an offence has been registered under Section 379 IPC against unidentified lifter and further investigation is now underway.

FOLK DANCE



The folk artists of state performed variety folk dances of state viz. 'Dadriya', 'Karma', 'Rilo', 'Panthi' and passed on the messages of public welfare schemes of the state government to people at the programme venue.

Cyber fraud dupes elderly man of Rs. 1.98 lakh

Raipur, Jan 03: Unidentified fraud duped an elderly man at Old Pensionbada locality by fraudulently making him follow the payment link on pretext of shutting down his BSNL SIM card.

According to Kotwali police, complainant Shankar Jha received a from number 62909-87529 wherein the caller introduced himself as an executive of BSNL's

Bhopal office and further told him ham that his BSNL SIM card is going to expire shortly. The caller further told him that the SIM card cannot be revived once it is expired and he can escape the hassles by doing it digitally. With the complainant agreeing to get the SIM card activated digitally, the fraud sent him a following the sent payment link. Not suspecting

the fraud, the complainant executed the sent links and this turned out to be major mistake as the fraud siphoned Rs 1.98 lakh from his bank account in two separate transactions.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned phone number and further investigation is now underway.

Rahul likes traditional Ch'garhi cuisine

Sitting along with Ban Singh of Kulhadi Ghat

Ban Singh had earlier shaken hands with former PM late Rajiv Gandhi



Rahul Gandhi about this, he expressed happiness.

Ban Singh informed that tendupatta collectors are getting good amount of collection through Shaheed Shri Mahendra Karma tendupatta collector scheme, due to which they are very happy. Rahul Gandhi also discussed with Bhagwat Sahu, the beneficiary of Rajiv Gandhi Nyaya Yojana, who was also sitting next to him. Beneficiaries of Rajiv Gandhi Nyaya

Yojana, Kisan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumihreen Kisan Mazdoor Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana were included in the campaign.

On this occasion, Rahul Gandhi tasted the traditional Chhattisgarhi cuisine which he enjoyed much. The taste of 'Munga Bhabha Rakhiya Badi ki Sabzi' made from coriander leaves delighted him. He also tasted the taste of Bijori, tradition-

ally kept in Chhattisgarhi thali to enhance the taste. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel informed Rahul about the traditional Chhattisgarhi food. Tomato chutney was also served on Rahul Gandhi's plate.

Dishes made of rice and 'cheela' were also served to him. In this way, the plate of MP Rahul Gandhi was full of delicious Chhattisgarhi delicacies and he ate it with interest. Sweet dish was also served with the meal. Along with Gulab Jamun and Moong Halwa, the traditional Murrha Laddu of Chhattisgarh was also served. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, Speaker of the Assembly Mr. Charandas Mahant, MLA Mr. Mohan Markam along with Mr. Sachin Rao also enjoyed the delicious Chhattisgarhi food along with Rahul Gandhi.

Cancer awareness event organised by Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation

Raipur, Feb 03: Every year on 4th February, World Cancer Day is observed all over the world. The main objective of this day is to spread awareness related to cancer among the people. On this occasion a cancer awareness program was organized by Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation in which many cancer experts and ex-cancer patients participated to spread awareness about cancer.

On this occasion, Dr Yusuf Memon, Founder, Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation shared that Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation is a charitable society which has been registered under the Chhattisgarh Societies Registration Act, 1973 (number 44 of 1973), whose registration number is 122202078100. On the occasion Pt Purushottam Das Sharma, Mrs Shilpa Bawankar and Sushama Naik shared their experi-



ence on how they defeated cancer with their strong will power and treatment of Sanjeevani Cancer hospital Senior Cancer Surgeon Dr. Arpan Chaturmohta explained that people should be aware about the early symptoms of cancer. Some of the common cancer symptoms are sudden weight loss, feeling short of breath or difficulty swallowing, feeling extremely tired, anemia, lumps in the body, changes in the skin, changes in the habits of excretion of the mouth, You should be aware of non-healing blisters, or bleeding from the feces or urine. He further added

that early detection can save your life.

Dr Goyal, a blood disease and blood cancer specialist, explains that leukemia is a cancer of the blood-forming cells that weakens the body's ability to fight infection.

Chemotherapy specialist Dr Aniket Thoke said that chewing tobacco or cigarette smoking, obesity, old age or aging, having a history of cancer in the family, carcinogens in the environment etc. are some of the major cancer factors that you should be aware of. Dr Abhiram said that PET and CT scan are the techniques with the help of which cancer cells in the

body of a person suffering from cancer can be found with accuracy. With the help of PET scan, doctors can know about the current status of the organs and cells of the body and in CT imaging using state-of-the-art X-ray machines, can get the accurate information of cancer by getting the image of the cancerous organs inside the body. Dr. Satish Devangan informed that, in the earlier times, people were hesitant with radiation therapy because it had many side effects.

Dr Ramesh Kothari explains that radiation therapy is the treatment of cancer in which with the help of high-dose radiation, cancer cells are eliminated and the size of the tumor is reduced. The organs inside your body can be seen with the help of X-ray in low-dose radiation, which can be used to get information about the exact location of cancer in the body.

CAIT driven National e-commerce conclave released 14-points Delhi declaration today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 03: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, State Working President Mangal Maloo, State Working President, Vikram Singh Deo, State General Secretary Jitendra Doshi, State Working General Secretary, Parmanand Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal has informed that the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) along with various other eminent organizations of the country's trade organized a "National E-commerce Conclave" today at New Delhi in the context of formulation of an e-commerce policy by the DPIIT Department of the

Ministry of Commerce. At a unanimous resolution adopted at the Conclave 12 big organisations of different sectors of trade have joined hands together to take on the issue of e-commerce policy with the Government and have constituted a special task force. On the other hand, the conclave also released a "Delhi Declaration" containing 14 points related to e-commerce. Beside CAIT, other organisations including India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA), All India Transport Welfare Association (AITWA), All India Consumer Products Distributors

Federation, (AICPDF), National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI), All India Jewelers and Goldsmith Federation (AIJGF), Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA), Computer Media Dealers Association (CMDA), MSME Development Forum, Federation of Indian Small and Micro Enterprises (FISME), are the stakeholders of special task force.

Despite being invited to this conference, other e-commerce companies including Amazon, Flipkart choose not to participate, while top executives from ITC, Hindustan Lever, Coca-Cola, Amway, Udaan, Urban Ladder, Big Basket, Reliance etc. attended the

conference and spoke on the issue of commerce. All the speakers participating in the conference said that instead of competition in e-commerce business, it is necessary to complement each other, while strict rules should be made in the e-commerce policy so that no one can violate the rules and laws.

CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi said that at a time when the priority of digitizing infrastructure on a large scale has been announced to give impetus to the Digital India vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister recently.

Raipur, Feb 03: Vedanta's BALCO Medical Centre, has emerged as one of India's top cancer hospitals, and central India's most preferred cancer care hospital. The BALCO Medical Centre (BMC) is a state-of-the-art 170-bed ultra-modern, multi-modality diagnostic and therapeutic facility hospital in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The hospital is sought-after for its advanced medical care facilities, renowned oncologists, and affordable & compassionate care to the patients.

BALCO Medical Centre has already made a difference to the lives of lakh of people, dedicating itself to the three important pillars of prevention, screening and treatment. It is one of the most preferred facilities in the country for advanced radiation therapy, brachy therapy, nuclear



medicine, surgeries, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, blood-related disorders, plastic and reconstructive surgery and pain & palliative care. The hospital offers many latest technologies in cancer diagnostics and treatment like PSMA & DOTA scan, virtual planning and 3D modelling in head & neck cancer surgeries, CRS & HIPEC, advanced microvascular surgeries, lutetium therapy and allogeneic bone marrow transplant. The hospital has one of

the most modern linear accelerators, the largest daycare unit for chemotherapy, and a full-fledged nuclear medical department equipped with the only SPECT CT machine in Chhattisgarh, enabling it to provide precise diagnostics and the best treatment.

With its substantial and impactful work, the hospital is on a mission to help create a cancer-free society, dedicating its expertise and resources to address the country's massive demand-supply gap in cancer treatment, low aware-

ness, lack of infrastructure and shortage of oncologists. Sharing BALCO Medical Centre's vision, Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal, Chairperson of BMC, said, "While cancer treatment capabilities in India have increased over the past few decades, most facilities are concentrated around urban pockets. Looking at the rising incidence of cancer as a health threat and lack of quality cancer care centres in tier 2 and 3 cities, Vedanta established BALCO Medical Centre at Naya Raipur to provide affordable comprehensive cancer care to all the sections of the society. We are also leveraging partnerships with like-minded philanthropic organisations and influencers to reduce the treatment burden on people belonging to economically weaker sections."

IIM Raipur gears up for its 5th HR Summit

Raipur, Jan 03: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur is organizing the 5th edition of the flagship corporate engagement event, HR Summit" at IIM Raipur on Feb 5 & 6, 2022 in virtual mode. The theme of the summit is "HR Architecture in Digital Landscape". This year the summit will host ten-panel discussions over two days.

In the post pandemic world, it is the people who have been impacted the most. A discussion on how companies are trying to manage their people and leverage the new normal, by the prominent HR practitioners in the country is the need of the

hour. Human Resource Management (HRM) is a dynamic and integrated function in an organisation that encompasses recruiting, training, development, and reward. HRM has been greatly influenced by the Internet and digital technology. On one hand it improves HRM efficiency. On the other hand, as jobs go obsolete because of technology, it is also a growing cause of concern.

The 5th HR Summit at IIM Raipur will build upon its theme and provide cutting-edge insights with panel discussions on topics such as tech-fluent workforce, mental well-being

and thought leadership, competencies and skill intelligence, total reward strategy, a pathway to create a new legal framework (guidelines and policies), workplace transformation in hybrid mode, AI and data-driven HR function, and building structure, process, and digital leaders.

Indrajeet Sengupta, CHRO Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, India's largest commercial enterprise, and the highest-ranking Fortune Global 500 integrating energy major will be gracing the inaugural event as Chief Guest, as informed by Prof. Anubha Dadhich, HR Summit Coordinator. Prof. Bharat

Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur would be giving the opening address for the summit. IIM Raipur is hosting 31 senior industry professionals from globally renowned organizations during the 2 days of the summit.

The panellists would be sharing their learning and experiences to inspire the IIM Raipur fraternity. The event is a confluence of technologists, business leaders, and futurists, and another step IIM Raipur cementing its place as a global centre for learning. The summit is being organized by the Career Development and Placement Office of IIM Raipur.

Police arrest about a dozen BJYM demonstrators

In their attempt to show black-flags to Rahul Gandhi

Raipur, Feb 03: The efforts to show black flag to LS MP Rahul Gandhi during his one-day visit to Raipur was foiled by the Police before they could go out and they were all

arrested from a dozen places from their homes itself. All the BJYM leaders arrested were put in the central jail and this included workers and leaders from ABVP, Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal and others.

BJP District President Srichand Sundrani said that by doing so CM is trying to destroy the demo-

cratic rights putting police in the front. He charged that the Congress government has not fulfilled the promises made and therefore the BJYM and others have made declaration to show black-flags to the Congress leader and added that their struggle against the anti-people and anti-farmer policies

of the state government would continue.

Prior to this at Janjgir Naila station, BJYM party workers were arrested for going to Raipur by the Janjgir police. In addition to these arrested in Raipur included Govinda Gupta, Rahul Rao, Amit Masher, Mukesh Patel and other Mandal Presidents.

Rahul operates 'Charkha' at Sewa Gram dome

● Appeals people to follow on the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi

Raipur, Feb 03: LS MP Rahul Gandhi in the Sewa Gram dome at Science College ground inspected the exhibition based upon the life of Mahatma Gandhi and held talks with Ujala Gram Sanghathan Serikhedi women workers viz. Maheshwari Sahu, Basanti Sahu and Anusuiya Sen. Rahul Gandhi asked them about good health and work. On this occasion LS MP operated the 'Charkha' placed in the exhibition and appealed all present to follow on the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. On meeting LS MP Rahul Gandhi, the women workers of Ujala Sanghathan were very excited.

At the Sewa Gram exhibition at the venue, in this exhibition based upon life



of Mahatma Gandhi, there were rare pics of Mahatma Gandhi put on display including that of 7 yr old Mohan, photo with his better half, with his workers, with 'Satyagrahis', Gandhi's cap, violation of salt act, mention of slogan 'no work is small', service to lepers, Azad Hind Fouz,

Bardoli Satyagrah, along with refugees, in the 'Sewa Gram Kutiya', general meeting of 'Peshwar', prayers, fasting for unity, inauguration of a temple, after the earthquake, final prayer of 29 Jan 1948, first arrival of Babu in Chhattisgarh from Dec 20-22 120 and second ar-

rival from Nov 22-28, 1933 and others.

On this occasion all the cabinet ministers, large number of public representatives, people following Gandhian ideology and others were present. At the exhibition venue, there was information about the Sewa Gram's master plan as well.

Rahul welcomed by Tribal community



Raipur: LS MP Rahul Gandhi met people from tribal community at the programme venue at Science College ground.

The members of tribal community welcomed him in traditional style. On this occasion CM Baghel was also present.

LS MP inquires about SAGEMS



Raipur: LS MP Rahul Gandhi was given special information about the Swamy Aatmanand Government English Medium School

(SAGEMS) at the programme venue and during this he also held talks with the school students about this scheme and about their education as well.

Rahul hold talks with workers of DANEX Co



Central Chronicle News

Raipur: LS MP Rahul Gandhi held talks with women working with the readymade garment manufacturing unit in Naxal infested Dantewada area of Bastar; around 1500 family members are getting employment. Shanti, Preeti, Sanjana of Harram Village and Priyanka of Barsoor. The clothes manufactured here are in the name of DANEX brand. He gave a patient hearing to experi-

ences of the works in manufacturing of these clothes and products and motivated them to move ahead. In this cloth manufacturing unit in Naxal infested Dantewada area of Bastar; around 1500 family members are getting employment.

Many companies have entered into MoU worth Rs 4.50 cr with DANEX for manufacturing of products worth Rs 75 lakhs in next five years.

New education policy will bring about a paradigm shift in the way of teaching: Uikey

● Governor participates in the foundation day celebrations of Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission



Raipur, Feb 03: Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey virtually participated in the foundation day celebrations of Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission. She congratulated the Commission for successfully completing 17 years and said that commendable efforts were made by the Commission to maintain the quality and credibility of education in private universities. She urged to implement the New Education Policy-2020 in private universities soon, implemented by the Prime Minister to groom the future of the youth, so that the youth can develop holistically. Ms. Uikey said

that the New Education Policy-2020 will be implemented in Chhattisgarh from the next session as well. This policy is going to bring about a massive change in the way of education and in the lives of the youth. The new education policy talks about all round development of the students, so that they become academically advanced and can perform all round in life. In the new education policy, special attention has also been given to personality development and vocational education. In the program, the Chancellor of private

universities, including the Chairman of the Private University Regulatory Commission, Dr. Shivaran Shukla, the Vice Chancellors virtually participated.

The Governor said that due to the Covid epidemic, the methods of study and teaching have changed a lot today and this has affected the quality of education as well as the mental development of the students. We have to pay special attention to this also. Governor said that a mentorship program should be run by the commission in coordination with all the

private universities, in which experts should interact regularly with the students according to their aptitude and ability and motivate them. This will also help in career building of the students. She urged the teachers and parents that because of online studies, students spend most of their time at home with mobiles and laptops. Therefore, parents should pay special attention that the students do not get addicted to it and they follow the right path. Children should be encouraged from time to time and should also be motivated to read motivational books. Along with supporting the successful career of youth, it is the responsibility of both parents and teachers to make them morally responsible.

In the program, the Governor released the souvenir of the Commission 'Vidya Nilayam'. Students of various private universities and their parents also participated in the virtual function.

Baghel and cabinet welcome Rahul Gandhi



Raipur, Feb 03: LS MP Rahul Gandhi was accorded warm welcome by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at the Swamy Vivekanand Airport in Mana on Thursday. The cabinet ministers, of Baghel's govt and other public representatives were also present. Among those present to welcome LS MP Rahul Gandhi included Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant, all the cabinet ministers, parliamentary secretaries and MLAs and other public reps.

Rahul observes operating of processing unit of Kodo, Kutki and Ragi

● Lauded the Millet Mission of Ch'garh



Raipur: MP Rahul Gandhi, while touring the stalls at the exhibition held at Science College Ground today, observed the operation of processing unit for Kodo, Kutki and Ragi. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel informed Gandhi that Millet Mission has been launched in the state to promote the farming of millet crops. Under this mission, Kodo-Kutki and Ragi crops are being procured from the farmers at support price. Moreover, millet producing farmers are also being provided input subsidy of Rs 10000 per acre under Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana.

Millet procured at support price would be utilized under the nutritious meal programme and the mid-day meal programme conducted in aanganbadis, to eradicate malnutrition. He informed that small processing units and packaging units are being established in the villages where millets are being produced. Services of the experts are being taken to provide technical guidance as well as good seeds for millet production. For this purpose, MoU has been signed between India Institute of Millet Research Hyderabad and 14 millet producing districts of the state. MP Mr. Rahul Gandhi appreciated the Millet Mission of Chhattisgarh.

Rahul enquired about scheme of dung procurement



● Also about electricity production from cow dung and the system of paddy procurement

Raipur: MP Rahul Gandhi arrived at Science College Ground from airport in a bus, along with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and his Cabinet Ministers. On his way from airport to Science College Ground, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel informed MP Rahul Gandhi about the various public welfare schemes of Chhattisgarh Government. MP Rahul Gandhi praised state government's initiatives of dung procurement, electricity production from cow dung and the entire paddy procurement system of Chhattisgarh.

Kalagudi is significant in conservation and promotion of Bastar Art : Rahul

Raipur: MP Rahul Gandhi visited 'Kalagudi' at the Development Exhibition today. Kalagudi has been developed in Bastar district for conservation and promotion of the ancient arts such as dhokra (bell metal), wrought iron, tumba, sheeshal, wood and bamboo art, to which Rahul Gandhi referred to as a significant initiative for the development of Bastar art. In response to MP Mr. Gandhi's question, it was informed that more than 500 artisans have been benefitted through Kalagudi. These families are earning an income of more than Rs 2 lakh. In Bijapur district, women engaged in bamboo craft and furniture making are selling their products in the markets of other states. They earn a monthly income of around Rs 2500 to Rs 3000.



Rahul leaves for Delhi after attending all programmes



Raipur: LS MP Rahul Gandhi after taking part in all the important programmes in Raipur left for Delhi and during this CM Bhupesh Baghel and other Ministers and guests were present.

BUDGET REACTIONS

Promoting coal gasification is a big step for the future



Power, has welcomed the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister. Through a tweet, he said that the effort made in the

budget regarding coal gasification is really a big step for a clean-green future. Mr. Jindal said that in this budget, emphasis has been laid on promoting the development and construction of infrastructure in the country. This is a good step and it will yield positive results.

Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power

Excellent budget for India at 75 years



"I am delighted to see this as a futuristic budget. The 9.2% GDP growth is commendable. Coal gasification, coal to liquid initiative, and date of manufacturing for claiming the 15% concessional income tax rate on greenfield projects is extended till 31-03-2024 by the Government are appreciated highly. Trust-based

Governance, single-window clearance & approval, battery swapping, skilling of people, linking of 5 rivers, 400 new Vande Bharat Trains, multi-model logistic parks, housing & construction of roads are appreciated.

Green Bonds, surety bonds instead of BG, funds for Startups are excellent moves. This is an excellent budget for India at 75 years to 100 years way forward.

VR Sharma, MD, Jindal Steel & Power

Budget disappointing for common tax payers



The facility of fund transfer from post office bank to banks is a welcome step. Also, if the business of all Jan Dhan accounts are transferred to the post office bank, then good and time bound facility is available to the customers of general bank trade and industry. Another decision about the facility of real time fund transfer is available 24/7 in the country, then the government's inclination towards launching digital currency is incomprehensible. It can only promote betting. A taxpayer's

ambition is that what is the direct benefit he get from the budget, there is no change in the slab of income tax, it is disappointing for a common taxpayer and by not increasing the deduction of 1.50 lakh, the salary earner taxpayer will also have to bear the tax burden. Virtual digital assets (Cryptocurrency) which have become the neck bone of the government of every country today, an attempt has been made to bring them under the purview of some laws, 30% tax has been proposed on it. In future a legislation would be required.

CA Kishore Bardia, Elected Regional Council member

Budget giving new height to India

On the budget presented by the Union Finance Minister, CA Amit Chimmani, former President of the CA Association, former advisor to the Accountant General, Chhattisgarh and member of the CPE Committee, New Delhi, has described the budget as a budget giving new heights to the country. Amit said that this budget has filled the country with new possibilities. After the corona epidemic, the collapsed economies of the world can learn from this budget, in which there is concern for the poor class, there is also a provision for a golden future for the

youth. Provisions have also been made to increase investment prospects and create new employment opportunities in the country. This budget will prove to be a medicine for the farmers. CA Amit Chimmani said that 80 lakh families i.e. about 4 crore people are going to get houses from the budget.

25 thousand km of highways will give a new impetus to the country, transportation systems will be very easy, farmers will get happiness in their lives by getting 2 lakh 37 thousand crores directly in their accounts on the purchase of MSP.

Budget ignores suggestions of bullion traders

In the general budget presented by the Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, this time not a single demand of Raipur Bullion Association has been fulfilled, no suggestions were also taken into consideration, due to which there is disappointment among the bullion traders. On the other hand, the reduction of customs duty on cut and polished diamond and gem stones to 5 percent is welcome step. Bullion traders association opposed the preparation of a roadmap for export of jewelry through e-commerce. Raipur Bullion Association President Harakh Malu, while reacting on behalf of the



Association on the budget presented by the Union Finance Minister, said that before the budget is presented, Raipur Bullion Association has written a letter to the Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman requesting that at present the import duty is 12.5 percent and GST which is 3 percent, the

total tax which is more than 15.5 percent should be reduced.

And government hall-marking centers should be established in every district so that the bullion traders doing business in rural and remote areas can get better facility for hall-marking.

But in the budget presented today, there was not a single demand of Raipur Bullion Association met, due to which there is disappointment among the bullion traders, they were hopeful that some of their demands would be fulfilled in this budget.

Malu said that the Union Finance Minister has reduced the customs duty on polished dia-

monds and gemstones to 5 per cent only, giving a boost to the gems and jewelry sector. Along with this, Raipur Bullion Association welcomes the decision not to charge any customs duty on the cut diamonds. But they vehemently opposes what the Union Finance Minister has said by preparing a simple regulatory framework to facilitate jewelry export through e-commerce and to implement it by June this year. Traders doing business in remote areas will have to face heavy losses.

Harakh Malu, President, Raipur Bullion Association

Concentration and attention is necessary to achieve goals: Collector



District Collector Kuldip Sharma reviewed the 40-day mission by discussing with the block level education officers and principals through video conferencing here. Addressing the meet he said that with the same concentration and attention with which Arjuna aimed at the fish's eye, the children should be helped to prepare for the examination so that the goal of better examination results in the district could be achieved.

our hard work will be successful. The Collector spoke to the principals of more than a dozen schools in video conferencing and he praised the schools which performed better in the first unit test held on 27th January under the 40-day mission. In this, after talking to the principals of Madisarai, Ghutra, Jharnapara schools, the collector became aware of their action plan. Similarly, expressing displeasure towards the schools whose performance was not satisfactory; he directed them to bring progress. During the video conferencing, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat, District Education Officer Sanjay Gupta, District Mission Coordinators were present.

In the hope of getting gold, they carry dust home

Takhatpur, Feb 03:



Woman sweeping the area to collect dust.

The work of finding life in the dust around the shops of bullion traders and artisans in the region has been going on for generations and women folks have been doing the work of searching for a way to live for themselves by scavenging the dust particles near bullion shops, as their main source of livelihood. Over the years, this family has been doing the work of cleaning the entire dust of the roads around the gold and silver shops by cleaning it completely from the road through a special brush and in a special style. Taking home the dusty soil and by putting it in water in a vessel, these women separate the very fine particles of gold and silver in it and make it the only means of their income. Singara Gond,

who is regularly involved in this work, told that during the work of gold and silver very fine gold and silver particles which are not visible in the air get deposited in the surrounding dust and soil, which we collect and separate. Family members have been doing this for almost 50 years and even girls of age 15-16 do the work without any hesitation. The men of the family also do this work, but only women and girls do the work of cleaning the dust on the roads. Many govts changed but their lives have not changed. Many governments have changed, but generally the means of living and money of this particular family of Gond tribals did not change. Even today, many from their generations are engaged in this work and making it their main means of livelihood and income. Takhatpur Ward No. 13, by the vicinity of big market, some people of this family start this work from early morning to clear the dust from the streets around the bullion shops. People of this particular family also do this work in Dongargarh.

Development oriented budget for all sections

Rajim, Feb 03:

Responding to the Union Budget, Chuni Lal Sahu, MP from Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, said that Rs 140 thousand crore has been collected from GST and this will strengthen the economy of the country during the Corona period. Budget has been made for 60 lakh unemployed people and the central government has also made a provision to increase Anganwadi centers for the empowerment of women. To promote education, the number of TV channels is being increased to 200, so that children will get education through TV. Sahu further said that the Union Budget is a developing budget even during the Corona transition period and this will strengthen the economy as no new tax or tax has been imposed. Former MP of Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, Chandulal Sahu said that for the overall welfare of the country, a budget has been presented to protect the interests of villages, poor, farmers and labourers, in 30 lakh additional jobs have been arranged. A blueprint has been prepared for the next 25 years of development, under which youth, women, poor farmers will be benefited. To combat air pollution, priority has



been given to increasing clean energy and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas is a budget of all round development. State in-charge of Kisan Morcha Sandeep Sharma said that in the current financial year 1208 lakh tonnes of paddy and wheat were purchased in support price. 37 lakh crore rupees are being paid directly into the accounts of farmers and this amount is 4 times

as compared to 2014. A provision of 60 thousand crores has been made for installing taps in 3.8 crore houses and 80 lakh families of cheap housing will be selected. The benefit of including irrigation in the concurrent list is that a provision of 44 thousand crores has been made for irrigation in the budget. BJP leader of Rajim region Shyam Agarwal said that another big step towards self-reliant India has been taken by Finance and the general budget that has been presented is a budget showing possibilities. Agarwal further said that the Emergency Loan Guarantee Scheme has been extended till March 2023 and 68% of capital procurement budget reserved for domestic industry has also been paid to capital investment.

Amujuri Biswanath of AVM honored for excellence works



Dantewada, Feb 03:

Chhattisgarh Government, Commerce, Excise Industries Minister and in-charge of Dantewada district, Kawaii Lakhma hoisted the flag on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebrations at the high school ground of the Dantewada district headquarters. Chief Guest Lakhma felicitated the people of the district for doing excellence responsibilities in the district. These include Corona Warriors, officers, teachers, employees of various departments doing excellent work in various fields. In the presence of Minister, Dantewada MLA Mrs. Devti Mahendra Karma, Dantewada Collector Deepak Soni honored Amujuri Biswanath Teacher Aastha Vidya Mandir Education City Jawanga and presented a citation for his excellent work in the year 2021-22. Amujuri Biswanath has been working as a teacher in Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School of Education City

Javaanga located in Geedam development block since 2014. He took online classes under the guidelines of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the Corona period, conducted door-to-door survey as in-charge of Corona Active Surveillance Team at Geedam on the orders of District Administration Dantewada and made people aware of COVID19 and informed to take vaccination. As a Project Head under the leadership of teacher Amujuri Biswanath, students of Aastha Vidya Mandir were selected by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the project at National and State level INSPIRE Award MANAK. Even during the Corona period, the students showed their talent and participated in more than 200 international, national and state level programs like online literature conference, webinar, science exhibition, painting, essay, quiz competitions, training camps and got awarded from many Governmental and Non-governmental organizations. Amujuri Biswanath performed his duty as a judge in Science, Mathematics Experiments, Models, Best out of Waste Exhibition under the Padhai Tuhar Duar scheme organized by the Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.

Fakir Chandra Agarwal creating employment for thousands

Pendra Marwahi, Feb 03: Fakir Chandra Agarwal, a resident of Gaurela, with his hard work and struggle made the journey from a Mini Rice Mill to Saat Saat Industries today in a journey which span to many decades. Today, his firm provides employment to one thousand people of Gaurela and thousands of people are directly and indirectly connected with the big industrialist of Gaurela. Fakirchand Agrawal, a well known industrialist of Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district, has set up 7 successful industries in a span of 35 years from a small mini rice mill in the district which has provided employment to thousands of people of the district. Born in 1948 in a typical entrepreneurial family, Fakir Chand Agarwal has done B.Tech in Electrical Engineering, who joined the world of business on insistence of his father who said, we need not create bureaucracy, but we need to give job opportunities to the poor unemployed. Following which, the young engineer started his journey from a small mini rice mill and set out to become a well-known entrepreneur of Gaurela



Pendra Marwahi district. In his firm, through himself and his family, he has provided jobs to a large number of needy unemployed in Gaurela, including the district. The successful operation of Rice Mill, Atta Maida, Suji, Flour Mill, Cold Storage, and Ware House is being done by Fakir Chand himself and his family. Here it is to be known that the big industrialist of the district started from the sugar factory in Uttar Pradesh. During that time, due to the very low price of sugar, Fakir Chandra had to go through huge losses and from a mere rice mill today, he set out to become a big entrepreneur of the district. Now his realms is being cared by his two sons Gopal Agrawal and Ashish Agrawal.

Criminal case against patwari and SECL employee

For fraudulently selling land

Surajpur, Feb 03:

In a case of fraudulently selling a piece of land, on the orders of local Court criminal offence has been lodged against patwari, SECL employee and two others under Section 420 and 34. The case is of 2015 on which following the order of court case was lodged against SECL employee Shahid Siddique, then patwari and two others in Kotwali PS. The victim SECL employee posted in Vishrampur Lalbabu Giri was known to the accused Shahid Siddique. To a proposal by the accused of making the victim a land available, a piece of land owned by Manpur Mohalla resident Ramsharan Rajwade was shown to which the victim gave his consent. The accused entered into an unholy alliance with the patwari Vijay Gupta and prepared all necessary papers in connection with this land. The deal was stuck on March 19, 2015 and the registry was done for Rs 6,27,000. The victim when approached for demarcation of his land was surprised to find that no land exists in his name. He understood the plot against him and started asking the accused to give his money back. When the refused did not return the money he lodged a written complaint at Kotwali PS on April 07, 2021 but no action was taken by Kotwali police. He approached SP on August 25, 2021 but failed to get justice and finally lodged a case against the accused in the Court.

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Demand of 50000- Rs 1 lakh for middle school headmaster promotion!



Pandaria, Feb 03: In the region the promotion order of LB cadre teachers to headmasters is on process and according to reports, in Pandaria-Block a demand of 50000 to Rs 1 lakh for middle school headmaster promotion is being asked. In the order of promotion, upper class teachers are being made middle school headmaster

and assistant teacher are being made primary school headmaster. The time for division level middle school promotion has been fixed by the government till 31st January. Meanwhile the union has demanded to consider the proposal from the District Education Officer's Office for promotion in the post. If the proposal is sent from the District Education Officer's Office, all the teachers can be posted systematically. At the divisional level, accurate information of the place will not be available. On the contrary, the District Education Officer's Office is aware of the actual geographical location of all the schools.

CHANGE OF NAME: It is informed to this general public that I, VIRENDRA KUMAR RATREY S/O SHRI AMAR DAS RATREY resident of SADDU RAIPUR (C.G.) have changed my old name VIRENDRA RATREY. S/O SHRI AMAR DAS RATREY, so in Future I should be recognized by my new name that is VIRENDRA KUMAR RATREY S/O SHRI AMAR DAS RATREY in all government and other documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all people that Shri Jayprakash Chawada S/o Shri Rawji Bhai Chawada Raipur who has sold the A Open Nazul Land bearing the Block No. 27, Plot No. 628, Area 4000 Sqft. Situated at Mauza -Dungaji Colony, Tah.- Raipur, Distt. Raipur to Shri Omprakash Agrawal, S/o Late Shri Sohanlal Agrawal, R/o Dangania Raipur by registered Sale deed Dt. 03.08.1999.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all people that Shri Hitendra Chawada S/o Shri Rawji Bhai Chawada Raipur who has sold the A Open Nazul Land bearing the Block No. 27, Plot No. 627, Area 4000 Sqft. Situated at Mauza -Dungaji Colony, Tah.- Raipur, Distt. Raipur to Shri Kundanlal Agrawal, S/o Late Shri Sohanlal Agrawal, R/o Dangania Raipur by registered Sale deed Dt. 05.08.1999.

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED. POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1). WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column (B) below on dates specified in Column (C) to pay the outstanding amount indicated in Column (D) below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

BRIEF

Bribery

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a customs superintendent and a computer operator in Bihar's Motihari in a bribery case. Deepak Kumar Chaudhary, the superintendent, and Anand Kumar, the computer operator, were arrested for demanding a bribe of Rs 90,000 which was 30 per cent of the value of seized goods worth Rs 3 lakh.

Extortion

Pune: A former deputy mayor of the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and four others were arrested in a case of alleged extortion. Keshav Gholve, the former deputy mayor, is currently a corporator. Some shop owners from the Pimpri Chinchwad township near Pune had lodged a complaint against him and others. Some 100 shops have been acquired for the Metro project. They are supposed to get alternative places.

Lifer

Gurugram: A local court sentenced three men to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 7.5 lakh for gunning down a 26-year-old woman in 2020. The accused had shot Pooja Sharma, an MNC executive, on the night of November 4, 2020, when she was on a drive with her fiancé Sagar Manchanda. The accused had intercepted her car and asked her to lower the window pane and shot, she succumbed after two days' treatment.

Birds

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat forest department will conduct a census of birds in Nalsarovar and Thol sanctuaries on February 5 and 6 where a large number of migratory birds come during winter months. The birds sanctuaries will remain closed for tourists during the census exercise. A census of birds will be conducted in Nalsarovar and Thol bird sanctuaries on February 5 and 6, said a release by the state government.

Warn

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Police cautioned social media users against posting or sharing photographs of a woman who suffered severe burn injuries after acid was thrown on her here. It has come to notice that some social media users and page admins are uploading photographs of acid attack victim on social media platforms.

Clash

Sehore: Two persons were killed and 15 others injured after two groups came to blows over the breaking of a marriage engagement in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district. Both the groups belonged to the Banjara community. The incident took place at a village under Siddiqueganj police station limits. Local police station in-charge Kamal Singh told that the son of Sarpanch of Gangaram Ki Samri was to marry a girl from Pital Ki Samri.

Reports on mass exodus of migrant workers false: Govt

States should be wary of rumour mongering

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Media reports about mass exodus of migrant workers amid the third wave of the pandemic were untrue and states have been asked to be wary of rumour mongering on this issue, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

The third wave hit the country last month, forcing states to impose local restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19. Some states have imposed night as well as weekend curfews along with restrictions like on dining in bars and restaurants. "21 monitoring centers



Bhopender Yadav

have been activated across the country by office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The states have also been asked to be wary of rumour mongering on exodus and take quick steps to counter such rumours. They have been advised to reassure migrant workers regarding their safety, security and livelihood," Union Labour Minister Bhopender Yadav said in a written reply to the Rajya

Sabha. The minister told the House that some media reports of mass exodus regarding movement of migrant workers to their home states were found to be untrue and it was also noticed that some of the news items were based on old photographs.

State governments have informed that barring night curfews and weekend curfews at few places in some states/UTs, there were no restrictions on construction activities, business activities, running of shops and industrial activities in the country, he stated.

So far, there is no report of unusual movement of migrant workers owing to the restrictions imposed by state/UT governments, he added.

Employees march to Vijayawada protesting pay revision



State government employees of various departments on the way to BRTS road to participate in 'Chalo Vijayawada' in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Amaravati, Feb 03 (PTI):

Thousands of Andhra Pradesh government employees and teachers marched on the streets of the Vijayawada city in protest against the recent pay revision

on Thursday. The BRTS Road resembled a sea of humanity as the agitating employees and teachers from across Andhra Pradesh undertook the 'Chalo Vijayawada' rally demanding the government

immediately withdraw the "dark orders" related to pay revision. "This is a historic struggle. Lakhs of employees are behind us. Even the police are behind us," the Pay Revision Struggle



Duty personnel of the upcoming UP Assembly election register to receive a booster dose of the Covishield (COVID-19) vaccine at a training center, in Prayagraj.

BOOSTER REGISTRATION



Duty personnel of the upcoming UP Assembly election register to receive a booster dose of the Covishield (COVID-19) vaccine at a training center, in Prayagraj.

Maha board firm on offline exam for Classes X, XII

Says number of centres to go up

Pune, Feb 03 (PTI):

Amid demand by students for cancellation of offline examinations due to the COVID-19 situation, the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) on Thursday made it clear that the exams for Class 12 and 10 will be conducted in offline mode. The board made the announcement in the wake of protests held by students in the state earlier this week, who demanded that the offline exams for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC/Class 10) and High Secondary School Certificate



MSBSHSE, Pune

(HSC/Class 12) be cancelled due to the pandemic. In a press conference on Thursday, the MSBSHSE said that there will be no changes in the dates of these examinations as announced earlier. "Considering the large number of students appearing for the examination and other technical issues related to non-avail-

ability of devices, it will be difficult to conduct the examination online. Hence, the board has decided to conduct the board exams offline," Sharad Gosavi, the director of the board said. Class 12 examination will be conducted between March 4 and April 30 and practicals will be held from February 14 to March 3, it was stated.

'UP riot free since 2017, now preferred investment destination'



Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, Feb 03 (PTI): Claiming success in controlling crime in the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday accused his predecessors of failing to undertake police reforms and modification as the latter wanted to use the department as their personal tool. The chief minister also claimed that the state was free of riots and terrorist activities for five years and that Uttar Pradesh had become the preferred destination for

investors. Giving out details on the number of riots in the previous Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) governments, Adityanath said, in BSP regime (2007-2012), there were 364 riots. During the SP tenure (2012-2017), there were over 700 big riots in which hundreds were killed.

Since 2017, no riots have taken place in the state. Yet, the government isn't quiet. We are building an Anti-Terrorism Squad Centre at sensitive places in view of national security. Comparing the SP government in 2016-2017 with his regime in 2020-2021 using the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the chief minister said cases of dacoity came down by 58 per cent, loot by 64 per cent, murder by 23 per cent, kidnapping by 53 per cent and rape by 43 per cent.

'People of Punjab want AAP to form next Govt in state'

Dhuri, Feb 03 (PTI):

People of Punjab are tired of giving chances to the Congress and the SAD for the last 44 years and now want the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to be in the saddle, says the party's chief ministerial face Bhagwant Mann.

The 48-year-old Mann, who is contesting from the Dhuri Assembly segment, also says that mafia raj, unemployment, inflation, drug menace and farm distress are some of the major issues facing the state and his party will work to solve them. Mann has been declared as the chief ministerial candidate of the AAP after the party in Punjab held a first of its kind 'Janta Chunegi



AAP Dhuri candidate Bhagwant Mann addressing supporters during election campaign in Dhuri.

Apna CM' drive last month. In the AAP survey to pick the party's chief ministerial candidate, 93 per cent of those who called or sent messages to a party number chose him. The comedian-turned-politician, who

has a knack for connecting with the people with his repartee, is fighting from the Dhuri seat, which is one of the assembly constituencies of Sangrur Lok Sabha. Mann is a two-time MP from Sangrur parliamentary constituency.

With the AAP's CM candidate Mann being nominated from Dhuri, this assembly seat has shot into limelight. People gave at least 25 years to the Congress and 19 years to the Badal family. These parties could not do anything in the last 44 years and they still want one more chance. People are tired of giving them chances but these parties are not tired of seeking the same, says Mann.

Growfitter App bags Rs 50 lakh deal from Aman Gupta

Mumbai, Feb 03:

Sony Entertainment Television's Indian edition of the globally renowned business reality format - Shark Tank has taken the entire country by storm becoming a household name. With an outstanding display of brilliant minds, inspiring journey and extraordinary business ideas, the show has reached its final leg and the Sharks are all set to bite the bait one last time. Impressing the Sharks with their simple yet innovative product in the Shark Tank India Finale Week is the Mumbai start-up 'Growfitter' private limited. This fitness based app got themselves a startling deal of 50 lakhs for 2% equity from Shark Aman Gupta. Health is wealth, inspired by this thought Sanmati Anilkumar Pande, Harshit Sethy and Satish Damji Bhadra founded Growfitter, with a mission to



motivate the entire nation to adopt a healthy lifestyle by incentivizing them through a robust technology solution. Touted to be India's biggest incentivized wellness platform, Growfitter offers goal based rewards ranging from movie tickets, flight ticket vouchers, shakers, fitness merchandise, headphones, and more if someone does 30 minutes of walking, running, cycling, followed by a health quiz on a daily basis.

Chettinad mansions testament to past glory

Homes need to be restored for future generations

Chennai, Feb 03 (AFP):

Thousands of mansions in a remote corner of India once housed some of the nation's wealthiest bankers and traders but a century later most of them lie abandoned, their desolate remains a mute testament to lost riches.

The tycoons of Chettinad, near the country's southern tip, made their fortunes trading precious gems and spices across sprawling business empires that stretched as far as Malaysia and Singapore during the era of British colonial rule.

Much of their wealth was channelled into the construction of resplendent homes, embellished with stucco figurines,



A man walks through a courtyard at Visalam mansion in Kanadukathan.

colourful glass windows and cornices. Historians say they sourced chandeliers from Venice, giant mahogany-framed mirrors from Belgium and glazed ceramic tiles with intricate patterns from Birmingham. "At that time there was a competition between the Chettiers themselves to create the

most beautiful building — more beautiful than the brother, the cousin, whatever," Bernard Dragon, a French architect working in the region, told AFP.

But time has not been kind to the nearly 11,000 palatial homes built across the region and many now appear dilapidated and overgrown with vegeta-

tion, their current owners either unable to pay for upkeep or mired in property disputes. "We worry about the state of conservation," said Dragon, who has worked to restore one property in the area to its former glory for service as a boutique hotel. "In some villages, the owners are more present and more committed. (But) in some of the villages, you enter... and you realise nobody is taking care of the properties." Chettinad's residents belonged to a caste of Tamil merchants, and the location was an ideal staging post for a maritime merchant empire.

Its residents were able to leverage their networks into sprawling banking operations and landholdings, in a commercial partnership with British traders seeking markets and financing for trade in tea, coffee and rubber.

Why deputation term of TDB vigilance officers restricted: HC

Kochi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court on Thursday sought an explanation from the state for restricting deputation period of officers in the Vigilance Wing of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), saying a system without vigilance cannot be permitted. The high court said there was "absolutely no justification" for restricting the deputation period of three officers of the vigilance wing to January 20, 2022 when even the state's police chief in September last year had recommended extension of their term for one year. Presently, the vigilance wing has been functioning with a Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) and an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector, the court noted



Kerala High Court

and said, "If the state or the Board think they can have a system without any vigilance, that cannot be permitted." It directed the state government and TDB to inform the court on Friday why it was not informed about expiry of the deputation period of the three officers and why their term was restricted to January 20, especially when the vigilance wing has detected various irreg-

ularities, including theft and misappropriation, in the Board. A bench of Justices Anil K Narendran and P G Ajithkumar said it had recently, in another matter, extended the term of the CVO till March 31 and even at that time neither the state nor the TDB informed the court that deputation period of several officers of the vigilance wing was coming to an end.

BRIEF

Unite

Belgrade: Serbia's main opposition alliance presented its candidates for top posts ahead of a general vote in the hope of mounting a serious challenge to the long-ruling populist President Aleksandar Vucic.

Abuses

Dubai: The legions of workers who built Dubai's extravagant Expo 2020 site and keep it running face exploitation, grim conditions and a wide range of labour abuses.

Scrambles

London: Britain's Royal Air Force said that it scrambled fighter jets in response to four Russian military aircraft approaching the United Kingdom.

Using

Paris: France says it will start administering Pfizer's coronavirus antiviral drug this week, the first pill for treating COVID-19 approved in the 27-nation EU.

Peacocks

Miami: Peacocks could be on the outs in some South Florida neighbourhoods after the Miami-Dade commission agreed to loosen a law protecting the birds.

Schools close, fairs on amid omicron surge in Bangladesh

Dhaka, Feb 03 (AP):

Rufsa Hasina Afroze, a teacher and academic supervisor at a leading private school in Bangladesh's capital was relieved to see students return to its campus in September after it was closed for 543 days because of the pandemic.

It was only a brief respite from online learning. With the recent surge in coronavirus cases mostly because of the omicron variant, authorities have ordered the schools to close once



Teacher Lutfun Nahar Milu takes online classes for her students at one of the schools that have been shut down.

more. It was not the same campus, but still we were happy to return, she said.

to the new reality." The closure initially was just for two weeks, until Feb 6. But this week, Education Minister Dipu Moni announced it was to be extended for another two weeks. Many teachers and students are upset.

Again, we have been confined, our children are not able to come to school. Omicron is spreading, so of course there is a valid reason, Afroze said. We have gone back to online classes. It is surely not satisfying. Without students, campus becomes lifeless.

For Uyghur torchbearer, China's Olympic flame has gone dark



Kamalturk Yalqun walks with his wife Tumaris Ahat in Chinatown in Boston.

Taipei, Feb 03 (AP):

At the age of 17, Kamalturk Yalqun was chosen to help carry the Olympic flame ahead of the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, where he later

represented his home region in western China.

He is an activist in the United States calling for a boycott of the 2022 Winter Games, which has seen the Olympic flame returned to Beijing.

'It seems to me that our sense of global citizenship and sportsmanship is not moving forward with these Olympic Games anymore,' he said in a phone interview from Boston, where he lives in exile.

Set to open on Friday in Beijing, the Winter Games are already attracting global controversy as they spotlight the host country's treatment of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. Human rights groups have dubbed it the 'Genocide Games', as the US and other countries have cited rights abuses in leading a diplomatic boycott of the event.

US forces launch raid in Syria, civilians reported dead

Multiple drones were circling city of Sarmada

Atmeh, Feb 03 (AP):

US special forces carried out what the Pentagon said was a successful, large-scale counterterrorism raid in northwestern Syria early Thursday. First responders at the scene reported 13 people had been killed, including six children and four women.

The operation, which residents say lasted about two hours, jolted a sleepy village of Atmeh near the Turkish border an area dotted with camps for internally displaced



A bird takes flight as a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the NROL-87 spy satellite payload launches from the SLC-4E launch pad at Vandenberg US Space Force Base in US.



People check at a destroyed house after an operation by the US military in the Syrian village of Atmeh, in Idlib province, Syria, Thursday.

people from Syria's civil war. The target of the raid was not immediately clear.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said in a brief statement that the mission was a success. 'There were no US casualties. More information

will be provided as it becomes available.'

Several residents told The Associated Press they saw body parts scattered near the site of the raid, a house in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province. They spoke on condition of anonymity

for fear of reprisals, and said the raid involved helicopters, explosions and machine-gun fire.

It was the largest raid in the province since the 2019 US assault targeting the Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Idlib is broadly controlled by Turkey-backed fighters, but is also an Al-Qaida stronghold and home to several of its top operatives. Other militants have also found refuge in the region. Reports on the number of dead varied. A journalist on assignment for the AP saw body parts around the house, whose upper story was almost completely leveled leaving rubble in the surrounding olive grove.

First malaria vaccine making inroads in western Kenya

Vaccine to be administered in four-dose regimen for children

Akala, Feb 03 (AFP):

Lucy Akinyi's three children were infected with malaria so often she would be at their local health clinic in western Kenya every other week getting them treated.

When offered the chance to protect her children with the world's first vaccine against the deadly parasitic disease, Akinyi jumped at the chance.

More than 100,000 children in malaria-endemic western Kenya have received the new vaccine



A health worker prepares a malaria vaccination for a child at Yala Sub-County hospital, in Yala.

against the disease, which kills 260,000 children under five every year in sub-Saharan Africa. A pilot programme has been rolling out the ground-

breaking drug — which was 30 years in the making — in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi since 2019. It was approved for broad use for children in sub-Saharan Africa and other at-risk regions by the World Health Organization (WHO) in October last year. For Akinyi and her extended family, the vaccine has worked wonders.

She would always place mosquito nets over her children while they slept, but despite her best efforts they would still get bitten outside while playing. 'We used to have a lot of malaria in our home. We could be at the hospital three times in a month,' Akinyi said.

UN calls for halt to Myanmar violence, return to democracy

United Nations, Feb 03 (AP):

The UN Security Council called Thursday for an immediate cessation of violence throughout Myanmar as the country's military coup entered a second year, and it reaffirmed support for the country's democratic transition and democratic institutions.

The UN's most powerful body also reiterated its call for the release of all those who remain arbitrarily detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose elected government was ousted by the military on Feb. 1, 2021.

In a statement approved by all 15 members, the council expressed deep concern at the continuing state of emergency imposed by Myanmar's military rulers a year ago and the dramatic increase in humanitarian need, particularly among women, children and vulnerable groups, against the backdrop of the ongoing

COVID-19 pandemic. The first anniversary of the coup on Tuesday was marked by a nationwide strike, protests and sporadic violence across the country. Several pro-military demonstrations, widely believed to have been organized by the authorities, were also held.

Europe lacks voice, power in Ukraine crisis

Brussels, Feb 03 (AP):

Scarred by losing tens of millions of lives on their soil in two world wars, many European Union nations have been wary ever since about military spending.

Now, as Russian pressure builds at the Ukrainian border, they face a painful reality: Europe remains heavily reliant on US might to deter another potentially big conflict on its turf.

Because of a half-hearted attitude to defense and security over decades, the

EU has almost nothing to bring to the table, says Piotr Buras, senior policy fellow at the European Council of Foreign Relations think tank.

So, Russia can simply ignore it. With US President Joe Biden the most authoritative voice challenging Russian President Vladimir Putin on the European continent, some top EU policy makers know what they face.

We have a choice to make. Either we seriously invest in our collective capacity to act, or we accept being an object and not a

subject in foreign policy, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said last week. War, never again, reads the visitors book of the Saint-Symphorien military cemetery south of Brussels, where some of the first and last casualties of World War I lie buried, German soldiers alongside former enemies. Bodies from the 1914-1918 war are dug up to this day in Flanders Fields, 100 kilometers (60 miles) away.

Memorial sites and monuments to war dead are scattered around the continent.

Quick Covid breathalyser test for mass screening developed

Singapore, Feb 03 (PTI):

Scientists have developed a new handheld breathalyser test that can non-invasively and accurately diagnose COVID-19, even in asymptomatic individuals, in less than five minutes. The test, described in the journal ACS Nano, could allow rapid screening of people attending large gatherings, such as conferences and weddings.

South East Central Railway E-Tender Notice for supply of synthesized transceiver set

Table with columns: Sr. No, Tender No., Due Date, Due Time, Tender Cost (Rs), EMD (Rs.).

Description 1 :- Supply of 5 watt hand held synthesized transceiver set (Analog Walkie Talkie set with basic design) with rapid battery charger and Battery 2000 mAh as per RDSO specification No. RDSO/SPNTC/107/2018/Rev.0.0. Inspection by RDSO.

Aussies say James Cook's ship found, US says not so fast

A replica of the ship the Endeavour is at anchor in Botany Bay, Sydney.

shipwrecks in a 2-square-mile area of Newport Harbor, Rhode Island. That's where James Cook's HMS Endeavour was believed to have been deliberately sunk by the British during the American Revolution.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BRIDGE CIRCLE RAIPUR (C.G.) Tender Notice (5th Call) Memo No. /G/J/2021 Raipur Dt. /02/2022

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF SYNTHESIZED TRANSCIVER SET No.A-42018/ 28/ 2021-ESTT Government of India



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Rethinking for NJAC

In the Winter session of Parliament, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju had told Lok Sabha that there is a growing voice in favour of reintroduction of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill. The NJAC Act, 2014 was enacted by the Narendra Modi government to regulate the procedure to be followed the NJAC for recommending names for appointment as Chief Justice of India and other judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justices and judges of High Courts and for their transfers. Rethink is needed for NJAC with full confidence from the Judiciary. The clashes between Indira Gandhi and the judiciary had left deep scars, and a fear of Executive interference in the appointment of judges. The 1970s had seen transfers of judges, supersession of those who were supposed to become CJI, and a breakdown of a previously civil relationship between the two branches, which left the Judiciary and the legal community largely of the view that the Executive should not have a say in judicial appointments. This fear was why the Collegium system, despite its opacity and the lack of diversity it fostered, was considered the best way to ensure judicial independence. The NJAC framework established by the constitutional amendment and the NJAC Act, despite its popularity among politicians and MPs, was viewed by many in the Judiciary as a threat to that independence. However, in October 2015, Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional an amendment to the Constitution establishing the NJAC. Currently, appointments to HCs and SC are done through the collegium system that was introduced by the former Chief Justice of India PN Bhagwati in the Second Judges Case (1993).

This does not find any backing in the Constitution, and India is the only country where judges appoint themselves and also decide on their transfers and promotions. The involvement of other organs of the government such as the executive and the legislature in this process is more cosmetic than real. It is more in the nature of verification of the criminal and other such antecedents of the candidates recommended by the collegium than anything else. There is no role for the governmental organs in the selection process itself. Many people, including several MPs, opined that hiring through the collegium system has turned out to be more about family pedigree, networking, bias, personal likes and dislikes rather than fair selection on merit. The CPM MP from Kerala, John Brittas, cited several instances where candidates recommended by the collegium belonged to a lineage of judges. This cannot be overlooked as mere coincidence. Legal experts and former judges of the Supreme Court agreed that it is time a new appointment system is evolved to bring 'much-needed' transparency in the process, particularly in the wake of recent multiple transfers of High Court judges. But experts are divided in their opinion on the NJAC as an alternative and suggested that those closely associated with the judiciary or who have been a part of the institution should be consulted before any new mechanism is worked out. Adequate representation, inclusivity, merit and due process for selection are all key aspects in the making of a robust judiciary; this is something that the Indian judicial system needs to imbibe at the latest.

Danish 'flexicurity' system

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted major weaknesses of both the US and European models of capitalism. So, besides calling for greater investment in education, some economists advocate two policies that should both stimulate innovation-based growth and make it more inclusive and/or protective: beefed-up competition policy, and a Danish-style 'flexicurity' system in the labour market. Indian policy makers need to emulate aspects from flexicurity system. Competition-policy discussions should start by asking why the economies, which spearheaded the information-technology revolution, has suffered from declining productivity growth over the past two decades. In a nutshell, rapid technological advances have enabled superstar firms, those that have accumulated social capital and know-how that is difficult to imitate, and have developed strong networks to control a larger share of economic sectors. But in the longer term, superstar firms will discourage innovation by non-superstar firms in all the product lines they control. This is because challengers attempting to dethrone a superstar firm must drastically reduce their prices and thus their innovation rents. So, the IT revolution, by enabling superstar firms to grow rapidly and control ever more sectors, ends up reducing market entry, innovation, and growth in the overall economy. Flexicurity schemes, meanwhile, can help to address deep seated labour market problems. Denmark, which introduced a flexicurity system in 1993, may have found the right formula. The Danish system has two pillars. It makes the labour market more flexible by simplifying labour management.

But, to protect workers, the government provides generous unemployment benefits, as well as substantial investment in professional training to give people the skills they need to re-enter the labour market. By establishing its flexicurity system, Denmark achieved two goals simultaneously. First, it fostered innovation-led growth by making creative destruction easier to implement and also more efficient owing to the accompanying public investment in professional training. Second, the scheme made innovation-driven growth more protective and inclusive by providing income support to unemployed people's re-entry into the employment. Workers benefit from flexicurity because the social safety net includes universal health insurance and paid sick leave, and collective-bargaining agreements generally include paid maternity leave and a pension plan, as well as good wages. Workers who pay into an unemployment insurance fund get up to two years of unemployment benefits, and the government runs aggressive training and counselling services. According to the Employment Relations Research Centre at the University of Copenhagen, Danes in general are happy with the Danish model, not only because it makes economic sense but also because it creates a sense of common purpose that ensures the dignity of every citizen. One of the COVID-19 pandemic's many economic lessons is that innovation and inclusion need not be mutually exclusive. By pursuing the right policies, governments can promote both and thereby help to bring about a dynamic and equitable recovery.

BENDING INSTEAD OF FALLING

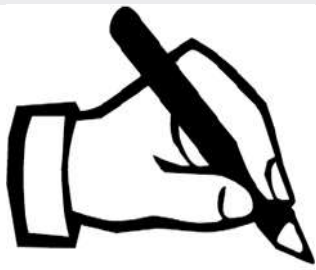


A tree bends and not falls in the wind as strong waves hit the coast in Saint-Benoit, on east of the French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion.

Confrontation over deputation of 'All India Service Officers'



PRAKASH SINGH



The dust arising out of the centre-state controversy over enlargement in the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force in states having international borders has yet to settle down. Meanwhile, we are faced with another controversy over amendment in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954.

The broad objectives of the Constitution-framers in providing for the scheme of All India Services in Article 312 of the Constitution were to facilitate liaison between the Union and the States and to ensure a certain uniformity in the standard of administration. The Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service were, at the time the Constitution was promulgated, deemed to be services created by parliament under this Article. Officers for these services are recruited by the Government of India through the Union Public Service Commission. After selection, the officers are allotted to states and union territory cadres depending upon their vacancies. Every state has a Central Deputation Reserve which is 40% of the senior duty posts in the state. Officers out of this reserve are provided to the central government to run the various organs of Government of India including the central police organizations.

The existing practice is that the Centre every year asks states for an 'offer list' of officers from All India Services who are willing to go on central deputation. Out of this list, the Centre selects officers considered

suitable for its requirements. Unfortunately, the number of officers on 'offer list' has been dwindling. There are also instances where an officer had offered himself for deputation but was not relieved by the state government for some reason. The net result is that the Centre has not been getting its full quota of Central Deputation Reserve for quite some time in the past, leading to huge vacancies in different departments.

To give a few examples, at the level of joint secretary, the number of IAS officers on central deputation dropped from 309 in 2011 to 223 in 2021, showing a fall in the utilization rate from 25% to 18% during the last decade. At the deputy secretary and director level, the number of officers in the country increased from 621 in 2014 to 1,130 at present, and yet the number of officers on deputation have gone down from 117 to 114. The position is equally bad, if not worse, in regard to IPS officers. There are a total of 4,984 posts of IPS officers sanctioned in the country; out of these 4074 are in position. The total senior duty posts (SP to DG) are 2720 out of which the central deputation reserve works out to 1075. As against that, only 442 officers are on central deputation, leaving behind a vacancy of 633 officers who have not been made available by the state governments to the Centre. The worst defaulters are West Bengal with 16% utilization of CDR, Haryana 16.13%, Telangana 20% and Karnataka

21.74%. As a result, the central police organizations are facing acute shortage of officers. In the BSF, as against 26 posts of the DIGs, there are 24 vacancies; in the CRPF, as against 38 posts of DIGs, there are 36 vacancies; in CBI, as against 63 posts of Superintendents of Police, there are 40 vacancies; in IB, as against 63 posts of DIGs, there are 45 vacancies, and so on.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) wrote to the state governments on December 20, 2021, expressing its difficulties and seeking their views on the proposed amendment which read as follows: 'Each state government shall make available for deputation to the central government, such number of eligible officers of various levels to the extent of the Central Deputation Reserve prescribed under Regulations referred to in Rule 4(i), adjusted proportionately by the number of officers available with the state government concerned vis-à-vis the total authorized strength of the state cadre at a given point of time. The actual number of officers to be deputed to the central government shall be decided by the central government in consultation with state government concerned.'

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee, seems to have decided to oppose any and every move which the Government of India initiates even if it is to strengthen national security or run the government machinery itself at the Centre. She alleged that the amendment is 'against the spirit of cooperative federalism' and that it 'upsets the time-tested harmonious arrangement which has existed between the Centre and the states in the matter of posting of IAS/IPS officers'.

The amendment is however necessary for the smooth functioning of Government of India and its various formations which are run by officers of the IAS cadre. In fact, a similar amendment in the IPS Cadre Rules must also be carried out. A large

number of All India Service officers never go on central deputation with the result that they develop frog in a well mentality. A stint at the Centre broadens the horizons of officers and competition with officers from other cadres brings the best out of them.

The Department of Personnel issued another letter on January 12, 2022, expanding the scope of amendment to 'specific situations where services of cadre officer(s) are required by the central government in public interest'. This has caused genuine concern among IAS officers who feel that this may be a ruse to victimise officers who, for some reasons, incurred the wrath of the central government. Government of India would be well advised to withdraw this clause.

The Sarkaria Commission's views on cadre management are very relevant in this context. 'A pool of resources meant for a number of users ceases to be a 'common' pool if individual users get the power to veto the decisions of the authority which manages the pool. We are, therefore, unable to visualise any arrangement as workable if it gives over-riding authority to the state governments on matters concerning officers of the All India Services and yet expects the Union Government to be responsible for their training, career management and other crucial aspects of personnel administration relating to All India Services. The Union Government, therefore, should have the final say in these matters.'

The All India Services are in urgent need of reforms in several areas and at different levels. Deputation to the Centre is one such measure which must be strictly enforced. The central government cannot be hamstrung for lack of cooperation from the states. All India Services officers must move out of what they begin to look upon as their zamindari in the states.

(Prakash Singh is Chairman, Indian Police Foundation)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media portals

The haphazardly growing number of news portals every day is actually devaluing the standard of media. Social media sites that allow anyone to create networks of acquaintances and friends and to share their writings and audiovisual materials with no ethics are harming society in a real sense. Critics also raise broader concerns about the agenda grabbing power of huge media conglomerates. We can find many news portals which are not even authentic. Many news portals or digital news channels try to threaten people and demand money from them. Also, today, we can see that most of the mainstream media channels are biased. They either advocate the ruling party wholeheartedly or they oppose them without any logic. So, individual web portals or news portals have much more responsibility to show the truth to the public. They need to realize this. For the sake of democracy, they should present news sensibly. It has come to the notice of the Government that most of the time, some news web portals have been involved in disseminating fake, false, and fabricated news which has misled the general public. Besides, there is a huge possibility of these having an adverse effect, particularly on the upcoming generation. False information and fake news circulated in news web portals and social media may always cause harm to our society. Due to these kinds of practices, the scenario of the media domain is deteriorating. Moreover, news of no sense and false news is dangerous to our community. It makes the world less informed and it erodes our trust. Some basic qualifications with media ethics must be imposed on someone who wants to open a news portal. Opening a news portal simply, shouldn't be as easy. Media is the fourth pillar of a nation, and we, especially our new generation must be properly aware of the power of media. The standard of media should be maintained necessarily. Therefore, strict laws for news portals are in demand.

Hiyanjalee, via email

Stray animals

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to bring to the attention of the authorities the death of stray dogs due to road accidents in our area along the national highway. In winters due to fog, there is low visibility due to which a lot of dogs are victimized by road accidents. Keeping this thing in mind there is a need for awareness among the public and ensuring safety of the stray animals. The authorities can ensure the safety of the animals by working with animal welfare organizations. This can be done by installing road signs, by tying radium (glow in the dark) collars on the stray dogs and stray cattle. This will help in reducing road accidents caused by stray animals and saving animal lives along with human lives.

Jugal Kishor, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Raja Mukherjee@rajamukherjee4
One has a sneaky suspicion that it is the big US corporates who are deeply intertwined with the Chinese economy that is forcing the Biden administration to rake up the Ukraine issue & force a diversion away from the Senkaku islands, Taiwan strait & Ladakh! This will cost dearly!

Amrullah Saleh @AmrullahSaleh2
REMEMBER: IS-K is a Pakistani scheme to rent its airspace to the US led Over The Horizon (OTH) operations in Afg, remain a partner with the West and monetize, sustain the Taliban junta rule in Afg. Families of key IS-K operatives including 600 freed by the Taliban are in Pak today.



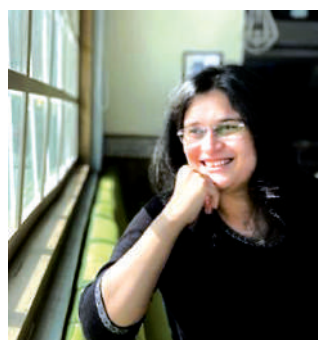
Anil Swarup @swarup58
Gradually obliteration of distinction between bureaucracy & politics, evidenced by officers resigning after holding sensitive posts in organizations like Enforcement Directorate and Police to contest elections, is distressing. It doesn't augur well for governance in the country.



Manu Joseph@manujosephsan
Everyone is conservative at home. When the stakes are high people demonstrate "right-wing" behaviour. It's when the stakes are low we're all noble, like Trudeau who backed the North Indian farmers' movement against reforms.



IFS-Parveen@ParveenKaswan
Life revolves around love!! Agree.



Sukhada@appadappajappa
TIL when the Nobel Prize was awarded for the discovery of radioactivity, it was initially given only to Pierre. Pierre knew his wife was the greater scientist and convinced the Nobel Committee to divide the award - making Marie Curie the first female laureate.

Vidya Nagaraj@vee22n
I had a conversation with an auto driver today 'Millers Road hogthira?' 'Hogalla' (Q: will you go to Millers rd? A: No) Who are these people who have profound conversations with auto and cab drivers? All I get is went go, 1.5 fare, double fare, 50 over meter etc. I want answers.



BRIEF
Ties-up


New Delhi: Hero Electric on Thursday said it has tied up with Axis Bank to offer retail financing solutions for its entire product portfolio. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said, we are expanding personalized funding options, thus facilitating convenient purchase decisions.

Raises

New Delhi: IT firm Scrut Automation on Thursday said it has raised USD 3 million in seed funding from Lightspeed and Endiya Partners. The company plans to use the fund to expand operations in the US, EU and Asia, enhance automation capabilities and create the largest marketplace for information security resources like auditors, subject matter experts and penetration testers.

Launches


New Delhi: EKI Energy Services Ltd (EKIESL) on Thursday announced the launch of its new arm for sustainability services. CMD-CEO Manish Dabkara said we aim to first educate companies on importance of being climate conscious and then onboard them.

Agent

Mumbai: InterGlobe Air Transport has been appointed as the General Sales Agent for Bedsonline, which is a booking engine and online supplier of global accommodation to travel agencies, the airline and travel management firm said on Thursday. Under the partnership, InterGlobe Air Transport (IGAT) will distribute Bedsonline product range in India.

Fall

New India: Telecom gear maker Nokia on Thursday reported a 15 per cent decline in India sales to 250 million euro (about Rs 2,113 crore) in the December 2021 quarter. The company had recorded net sales of 294 million euro a year ago. Net sales in North America decreased 12 per cent on a constant currency basis, primarily due to Mobile Networks.

Stake

New Delhi: Digital maps company CE Infosystem, which operates under the MapmyIndia brand, said it will acquire 9.9 per cent stake in geospatial company Pupilmesh Private Limited for about Rs 49 lakh. MapmyIndia expects the acquisition to support its business opportunity in the area of navigation. The company requires no government approval for the acquisition and expects the transaction to be completed in a month.

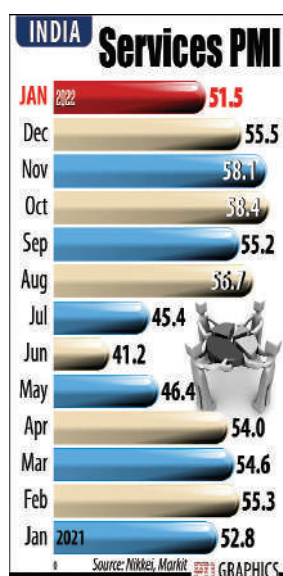
Services sector activity slips further in Jan

■ Biz confidence hits 6-month low

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

India's services sector activity moderated further in January as new business rose at a noticeably slower rate amid the escalation of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell to 51.5 in January, down from 55.5 in December, pointing to the slowest rate of expansion in the current six-month sequence of growth. For the sixth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means ex-



pansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. According to survey participants, demand was restricted by the fast spread of the Omicron variant and the reinstatement of curfews in parts

of the country. "The escalation and reintroduction of curfews had a detrimental impact on growth across the service sector. Both new business and output rose at slight rates that were the weakest in six months," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said.

Companies became increasingly worried that growth would be harmed by the intensification of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures. Business sentiment remained positive but slipped to a six-month low. "Concerns about how long the current wave of COVID-19 will last dampened business confidence and caused job shedding. Firms were also alarmed about price pressures," Lima noted.

Ind-Ra maintains 'neutral' outlook for power sector

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has maintained a 'neutral' outlook for the power sector for FY23, and expects the demand growth to come back to a normal level of 6 to 7 per cent in the next fiscal year.

"India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has maintained a neutral outlook for the power sector for FY23, as it believes the overall plant load factor (PLF) of thermal power plants will continue to improve and reach closer to 60 per cent in FY23," an Ind-Ra statement said.

The improvement in PLF is largely due to the consistent growth in power demand and continued dependence on coal-based generation in the absence of any major increase in the capacity additions in any other sector except renewables, it added. Further, Ind-Ra

expects the demand growth to come back to a normal level of 6 to 7 per cent in FY23, given a higher base. The impact of third COVID wave remains lower on power demand, given the less stringent curbs imposed by local/state governments, although any stringent lockdowns in case of the emergence of any strong COVID wave could derail the growth in power demand, it noted.

The domestic coal availability to the power sector will remain dependent on an improvement in the domestic coal production and its allocation to the power sector, both of which improved in 9M FY22 (April to December 2021).

Furthermore, the weak financial profile of distribution companies (discoms), reflected in increasing overdues even after liquidity injections by the government of India, it said.

Moj launches 'Kitchen Ministers of India'

Mumbai, Feb 03:

Moj, India's number one short video app, is all set to launch its first-ever cooking competition, Kitchen Ministers of India, across 21 states in India. This unique digital hunt gives Moj users a chance to present traditional delicacies from their states and bag the title of 'Kitchen Minister' of that state. The month-long campaign, starting January 25, will give foodies an opportunity to showcase their talent not only on Moj but also to a panel of celebrated chefs - Sanjeev Kapoor and Ajay Chopra. Each participant will be required to prepare one traditional dish that truly represents the heart of their state. Through the one-month competition, Chef Ajay Chopra will also

Rupee slips 5 paise at 74.88 against USD, gold gains Rs 37

Mumbai, Feb 03 (PTI):

The rupee declined 5 paise to close at 74.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency and muted domestic equities. Forex traders said elevated crude oil prices also dragged down the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.84 against the American dollar, and later witnessed an intra-day high of 74.75 and a low of 74.92 against the greenback. The local unit finally ended the day at 74.88, down 5 paise from the previous close of 74.83. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.22 per cent higher at 96.14. Gold price in the national capital on Thursday gained Rs 37 to Rs 47,902 per 10 grams supported by rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 47,865 per 10 grams.

Sensex tumbles 770 pts, Nifty tests 17,500

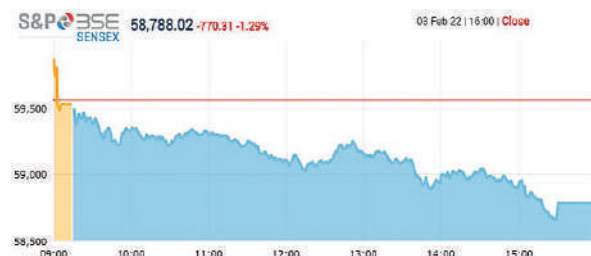
Mumbai, Feb 03 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex slumped 770 points to close below the 59,000-mark on Thursday as selling pressure intensified towards the fag-end amid profit-booking in IT and finance counters.

Relentless foreign capital outflows also weighed on sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE index ended 770.31 points or 1.29 per cent lower at 58,788.02. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 219.80 points or 1.24 per cent to 17,560.20.

HDFC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding over 3 per cent, followed by Infosys, L&T, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Tech Mahindra.

On the other hand, ITC, Maruti, Titan, SBI, and Asian Paints were the gainers. Of the Sensex constituents, 25 shares closed lower while 5 were in the green. In other Asian markets, Tokyo



closed in the red, while Seoul was positive. Several Asian markets, including China and Hong Kong, were shut for the Lunar New Year holidays.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. Germany's DAX lost 0.5% to 15,531.97, while the CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.4% to 7,099.12. Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.1% lower, to 7,574.69. In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 1.1% to 27,241.31 while the S&P/ASX 200 gave up 0.1% to 7,078.00. Seoul's Kospi climbed 1.7% to 2,707.82. International oil benchmark Brent crude slipped

0.65 per cent to USD 88.89 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, offloading shares worth Rs 183.60 crore on Wednesday, according to stock exchange data. Markets are facing various threats including rising inflation, the prospect of higher interest rates, potential conflict in Ukraine and COVID-19's continued drag on economic recoveries.

With inflation at a 40-year high, rising costs are threatening profit margins and putting pressure on consumer spending.

RBI may hike reverse repo rate by 0.25% in next week's policy



Mumbai, Feb 03 (PTI): The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may go for a hike of up to 0.25 per cent in the reverse repo rate at which the RBI absorbs excess liquidity and leave the repo rate at which it lends, to narrow the policy rate corridor, a British brokerage said on Thursday. "Growth concerns amid spread of the Omicron variant and relatively benign inflation out-turns provide the RBI with enough room to maintain its growth-support-

ive monetary policies," analysts at Barclays said, ahead of the resolution announcement next week. The RBI will hike the reverse repo rate by 0.20-0.25 per cent, given its liquidity management actions, it said.

The brokerage joins a growing list of watchers expecting a reverse repo hike. Other analysts also blame the surprising hike in the government borrowing announced in the budget for the RBI's likely call for policy normalisation.

Shipping Corp, BEML, BPCL among CPSEs to be privatised

LIC's IPO to be biggest ever in India

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The government will move ahead with strategic sale of Shipping Corporation, BEML and BPCL in the next financial year, besides initial public offering of three public sector companies, including ECGC, a top government official said.

The 2022-23 Budget has projected a disinvestment target of Rs 65,000 crore for next financial year. This is significantly lower than the estimated Rs 1.75 lakh crore budgeted for 2021-22. In the revised estimates, the target for 2021-22 has been cut to Rs 78,000 crore. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the next year's target would be



met by a mix of minority stake sale in CPSEs, listing of CPSEs and strategic sale.

"We have got multiple financial bids for Pawan Hans, we have to go fur-

ther on that process. Shipping Corp, BEML and BPCL are in financial bids stage. HLL Lifecare and PDIL are in EoI stage. Besides, next fiscal we will go for listing of ECGC,

WAPCOS and National Seeds Corporation and some minority stake sale, but there we might have less bandwidth," Pandey told PTI.

Asked if Pawan Hans sale would conclude by March-end, he said "we have to see if we can manage. We are yet to open the bids and then some time would be required for getting approvals".

The Secretary said the process of demerger of core and non-core assets of Shipping Corporation and BEML are going on, post which financial bids would be invited for their strategic sale.

Asked where BPCL privatisation process stands, he said "We are stuck with the bidders and are trying to fast-track it, so that they are ready for bidding."

IEX power trade volume rises 16% to Rs 8,652 MU in Jan

New Delhi, Feb 03

(PTI):

Power trade volume increased 16 per cent year-on-year to 8,652 million units (MU) at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) in January.

"The Indian Energy Exchange achieved 8,652 MU volume on January 22 comprising 7,245 MU in the conventional power market, 280 MU in the green power market and 1,126 MU (1.26 lakh certificates) in the REC market. Overall, the Exchange achieved 16 per cent YoY (year-on-year) volume growth in across all its market segments during the month (January)," an IEX statement said. The day-ahead



market volume at 5,280 MU saw a 5 per cent year-on-year decline, whereas the average market clearing price at Rs 3.39 per unit in January 2022 witnessed a 6.7 per cent y-o-y increase and 4.1 per cent month-on-month decline.

The term-ahead market comprising intra-day, contingency, daily, and weekly contracts traded 390 MU during the month and saw 11.6 per cent month-on-month growth. The real-time electricity market (RTM) achieved 1,575

MU volume and witnessed a significant 28 per cent y-o-y growth, with the average monthly price at Rs 3.44 per unit.

The highest single-day volume of 75 MU was achieved on January 7.

In January 2022, 543 participants transacted in the RTM market at IEX. A total of 11.26 lakh renewable energy certificates were cleared in the trading session held on January 27, 2022, on the IEX.

Sebi overhauls advisory committee on settlement orders

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Capital markets regulator Sebi has restructured its four member high-power advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.

The committee will now be chaired by Jai Narayan Patel, former chief justice of Calcutta High Court, according to a latest update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The panel was earlier headed by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.

Rejigging its committee, Sebi has listed M S Sahoo, former chairperson at Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and Pournima Advani, ex-chairperson of National Commission for



Women as new inductees. P K Malhotra, former law secretary in Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, will continue as a member of the committee.

The panel will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, specified by the regulator. Under the settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending case with the regulator without admission

or denial of guilt by paying a settlement fee. The settlement mechanism is a tool for ensuring speedy and efficient resolution of disputes.

In January, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) amended Settlement Proceedings norms. Under the new rules, the timeline for filing settlement applications has been cut to just 60 days from the current 180 days, a move aimed at making the system more efficient.

Earlier, settlement application can be filed within 60 days of the date receipt of the show-cause notice. However, an additional 120 days can be availed by the applicants in case they pay additional 25 per cent over the settlement charges.

India's Oct-Jan sugar output jumps 5.64%

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The country's sugar production is estimated to have increased by 5.64 per cent to 18.70 million tonnes during the October-January period of the ongoing marketing year 2021-22 from over the year-ago period, industry body ISMA said on Thursday.

Sugar mills had manufactured 17.70 million tonnes of sugar in the corresponding period of the previous 2020-21 marketing year (October-September), it said.

According to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), sugar production in Uttar Pradesh (the country's top sugar producing state) remained lower at 5.03 million tonnes dur-



ing the October-January period of this marketing year, compared with 5.44 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

However, sugar production in Maharashtra, the country's second-largest producing state, rose to 7.29 million tonnes from 6.38 million tonnes. That

of Karnataka, the country's third-largest producing state, rose to 3.87 million tonnes in the said period.

Sugar production reached 5,75,000 tonnes in Gujarat and 2,88,000 tonnes in Tamil Nadu till January of the ongoing

marketing year. The remaining states collectively produced 1.64 million tonnes in the said period, ISMA said in a statement.

The industry body hailed an increase in the revised budgetary allocation for the current fiscal to Rs 6,844 crore from Rs 4,337 crore in earlier Budget Estimates for the sugar industry, saying that this is positive towards clearing cane payment.

ISMA also said the increase in Budget allocation for the next fiscal at Rs 300 crore (for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for enhancement and augmentation of ethanol capacity) will boost supplies for ethanol blending and reduce the country's oil import bills.

Skipper Dhull leads India to fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final

Oshburn, Feb 03 (PTI):

Skipper Yash Dhull gave a glimpse of his rare talent with a well-paced hundred which guided powerhouse India into its fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final with an emphatic 96-run win over Australia here.

Dhull struck a sublime 110 in as many balls and shared a game-changing 204-run stand with his deputy Shaik Rasheed (94 off 108 balls) to fire India to a formidable 290 for five after opting to bat on Wednesday.

Indian bowlers then performed their roles to perfection to bowl Australia out for 194 in 41.5 overs. Lachlan Shaw's fine 51 came too late in the day for Australia.

Pacers Rajvardhan Hangargekar (0/26) and Ravi Kumar (2/37) were impressive in the first powerplay before spinners Nishant Sindhu (2/25), Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Kaushal Tambe (1/32) dominated the opposition in the middle overs.

Record four-time champions India face England in the final on Saturday and will be aiming to extend their dominance in the competition.

Dhull became the third Indian captain to hit a hundred in the tourna-

ment history after the illustrious Virat Kohli (2008) and the prodigious Unmukt Chand (2012), who also hails from Delhi.

"The plan from me and Rasheed was to bat till the end, and it worked. It's a proud moment (to be the third Indian captain to score a U19 WC ton)," Dhull said after the match.

"The idea was to bat steadily, not to try too many shots, and to bat past the 40th over. Myself and Rasheed bat well together, we combine well and it showed."

India, the most successful team in tournament history, were hit by COVID-19 at the start of the competition, losing the likes of Dhull and Rasheed for two games but the depth in the squad ensured that they sailed to the knock-outs.

Chasing a record target, Australia lost their in-form opener Teague Wyllie cheaply with Ravi Kumar trapping him in front off his first legitimate ball with a late inswinger into the right-hander.

Campbell Kellaway (30) and Corey Miller (38) forged a fluent 68-run stand before perishing in a space of six balls, leaving Australia at 73 for three. Left-arm spinner

Ostwal took a return catch for his second wicket to make it 119 for six in 30 overs, shutting the door on the opposition. Dhull was not just impressive with the bat but also his captaincy. He introduced part-time offie Raghuvanshi ahead of left-arm spinners. Raghuvanshi delivered the breakthrough by trapping Miller.

Earlier, India opted to put runs on the board after winning the toss, knowing it wasn't the easiest of pitches to bat on. Australian pacers bowled well in the opening powerplay and the fact that Indian openers Angkrish Raghuvanshi (6 off 30) and Harnoor Singh (16 off 30) were also overtly cautious, helped them build pressure.

William Salzmann rocked Raghuvanshi's off-stump with a beauty that straightened after pitching. Harnoor, who has not met the high expectations he set for himself, tried to pull a rising ball on leg stump from Tobia Snell only to glove it back to the wicketkeeper, leaving India at 37 for two in the 13th over.

India's two best batters, Dhull and Rasheed, then got together to lift the team out of a spot of bother.



Giles steps down from England role after Ashes series



London, Feb 03 (AP):

One of the leaders of English cricket has stepped down following the humiliating Ashes series in Australia. Ashley Giles, managing director of the England men's team, is leaving after three years in the role. Former test captain Andrew Strauss will take over on an interim basis. England lost 4-0 in the Ashes series.

Off the back of a disappointing men's Ashes this winter, we must ensure we put in place the conditions across our game to enable our test team to succeed, said Tom Harrison, the England and Wales Cricket Board's chief executive. Under Giles, England won the 50-over Cricket World Cup for the first time but has had a turbulent time in the test format, with the ECB's focus seemingly having been on white-ball cricket. The past couple of years have been incredibly challenging and I'm proud of what we've been able to deliver in the toughest of circumstances, said Giles, a former England test spinner. This has undoubtedly protected the future of the game in England and Wales. Giles said he was looking forward to spending some time with his family before looking at the next challenge.

Skipped IPL to spend time at home and work on my game, says Jamieson

Auckland, Feb 03 (PTI):

New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson has decided to skip the IPL this season to stay at home, away from managed isolation and quarantines, saying he wants to improve his game so that he can compete in all formats for the Black Caps.

Jamieson was the second-most-expensive buy at the IPL auction last year with Royal Challengers Bangalore shelling out a massive Rs 15 crore for him.

"Yeah, look, there were a couple of things for me (for opting out), Jamieson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo'.

"Firstly, after the last 12 months, it's had its challenges with MIQs (managed isolation and quarantine) and bubbles and spending a fair amount of time in that sort of set-up.

"It was important for me, when I look at the schedule coming up over the next 12 months to try and find six weeks or eight weeks where I can spend some time at home," he added.

The tall bowling all-rounder made his international debut in February 2020 against India and his since featured in 12 Tests, five ODIs and eight T20Is.

"The second thing for me was, reflecting over the last 12-24 months and understanding that I'm very

young in my [international] career and only two years in, that I wanted to have time to work on my game. "I didn't really feel like I was where I wanted to be and if I want to compete for spots in the New Zealand sides moving forward across all three formats, I actually need to spend time working on my game and not just trying to play the whole time.



Australia retains women's Ashes with 2 ODIs to spare



Megan Schutt celebrates her 100th ODI wicket.

Canberra, Feb 03 (AP):

Australia retained the women's Ashes after beating England in the first one-day international of the multi-format series on Thursday.

England required victories in all three ODIs to win the Ashes but lost by 27 runs in Canberra after getting dismissed for 178, needing 206 to win.

Australia took an 8-4 points lead in the series

and cannot be beaten, with each of the remaining two ODIs earning two points for the winner. The Australians have held the Ashes since the 2013-14 winter. Australia won the only match to be completed of the scheduled three Twenty20s. The one-off test was drawn.

England can still draw the series with two wins in the remaining ODIs.

Australia also won the men's Ashes last month.

Korea beat Philippines 2-0, enter maiden final of AFC Women's Asian Cup

Pune, Feb 03 (PTI):

A clinical Korea dominated proceedings to beat Philippines 2-0 in the semi-finals to advance to their maiden AFC Women's Asian Cup summit clash here on Thursday.

Cho So-hyun and Son Hwa-yeon scored first half goals for Korea to end the brilliant run of the Philippines who were making their first semifinal appearance at the continental showpiece at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex.

Korea face the winner of the second semifinal between holders Japan and former champions China in the final on Sunday.

Philippines can be proud of their efforts though as they gave the match their all and can look forward to an inaugural appearance in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. All the semi-finalists of the Asian Cup directly qualified for the World Cup. Korea, who have beaten pre-tourna-



ment favourites Australia in the quarterfinals, wasted no time in applying pressure from the get-go and opened scoring in the fourth minute when Cho headed in Kim Hye-ri's corner kick past Philippines goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel.

Eager to impress in their first-ever semi-final appearance, the Philippines were undeterred by the

early setback and Sofia Harrison's attempt from distance six minutes later showed they meant business.

The Taeguk Ladies, however, continued to hold the lion's share of possession and came close through Son Hwa-yeon's efforts in the 15th and 19th minutes, but McDaniel's safe hands kept the Philippines in the game. Despite having to

play on counter-attacks, Philippines had their moments with Katrina Guillou giving the Koreans a scare in the 24th minute when her long-range strike missed by mere inches.

Korea, however, looked dangerous every time they surged forward and doubled their lead in the 34th minute when an unmarked Son tapped in Choo Hyoo-joo's cross.

I think it's fair: Cummins on CA's evaluation process before deciding on coach Langer's contract extension

Melbourne, Feb 03 (PTI):

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins feels his country's cricket board is doing the right thing by evaluating head coach Justin Langer's performance before deciding on his contract extension as players too go through the same process at regular intervals.

Langer, under whose tutelage Australia hammered England in the Ashes and also won the T20 World Cup for the first time last year, has been in service for the past four years. Cricket Australia will be considering a contract extension for him on Friday.

Cummins insisted that he enjoyed working with Langer but it was only "fair" that the coach goes



through an "evaluation process". "It's in Cricket Australia's hands," Cummins was quoted as saying by the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

Cummins said speculation surrounding Langer's job was not healthy and he did not want to add to it.

"JL's been doing a fantastic job, he's been there for four years, his contract

is obviously up soon, they're just going through an evaluation process at the moment, which I think is fair, the right thing to do. "We all get evaluated all the time as cricketers. It's part of a high-performance environment. That process is happening, it's a decision for Cricket Australia and we just have to wait.

Lanka pacer Lakmal to retire from international cricket after India tour

Colombo, Feb 03 (PTI):

Senior Sri Lanka pacer Suranga Lakmal will retire from all forms of international cricket after the tour of India which begins later this month.

The 34-year-old Lakmal, a former Test captain, has played 68 Tests, 86 ODIs and 11 T20s.

"Former Sri Lanka Test Captain Suranga Lakmal has informed Sri Lanka Cricket that he will retire from all forms of International Cricket following the completion of the upcoming Sri Lanka Tour of India 2022," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement.

Lakmal thanked SLC for its support. "I'm indebted to SLC for giving me this astonishing opportunity and having faith in me to bring



back my mother land honour as it has been absolute pleasure to be associated with the board that shaped my professional life and also enriched my personal development, said Lakmal in his retirement letter submitted to SLC.

India eves happy with quarantine facilities in NZ

Christchurch, Feb 03:

Members of the Indian women's cricket team are able to exercise and "breathe" during the mandatory Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) in New Zealand.

The team members, who had to undergo a punishing 14-day hard quarantine in Australia back in September-October, are finding the MIQ in Christchurch much more comfortable. The quarantine facility has rooms big enough to accommodate fitness equipment and some of them also have balconies. The players were put up in tiny rooms of a quarantine hotel in Australia. The team had undergone a week of hard quarantine in Mumbai before its departure for New Zealand on January 24.



"The players are comfortable in MIQ. The team will start training in the nets after the completion of quarantine on Saturday. The fact there are balconies attached with the rooms make a huge difference," said a BCCI official. "The

food served in rooms is also good but the players are not allowed to meet each other," the official added. To reduce the COVID-19 risk, one off T20 and five ODIs between India and New Zealand have been moved to Queenstown.

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- कोरोना के गाईडलाईन का पालन करें
- कोरोना का किसी भी प्रकार का अफवाह ना फैलाएं व बचें

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HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY



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DEMOLITION DRIVE



Heavy Police bandobast as NMMC and CIDCO jointly conducts a demolition drive of illegal slums near Kopar Khairane railway station, in Navi Mumbai, Thursday.

HATE SPEECHES

'Speakers must be punished, U'khand Dharma Sansad no exception'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar has condemned the alleged hate speeches against minorities at a recent Dharma Sansad in Haridwar and said all those who make provocative and divisive remarks should be punished as per law without any exception. He also trained guns on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his recent remarks that a 'Hindutawadi' had shot Mahatma Gandhi dead and said it is also a 'hate speech'.

In an interview with PTI, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) national executive member termed the "politics of hate" as "corruption" and called all political parties and their lead-

ers to refrain from indulging in hate-mongering and pitting one section of the society against the other. Instead of making provocative and divisive remarks against any community, caste or group, they should practice "politics of brotherhood and development" in the best interest of the country and its people, he said.

"Any kind of hate speech is condemnable. All hate speeches must be condemned and punished as per law. Nobody should be treated as an exception," the RSS leader said when asked about his view on the alleged hate speeches



Indresh Kumar

delivered at a Dharma Sansad in Uttarakhand's Haridwar and a similar event in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur recently. Kumar said there are multiple examples of "cruel" hate speeches and insisted that it is the need of the hour to take legal action against all such divisive acts as they vitiate the atmosphere of the country.

"Aaj desh aisi jagah hai, jaise lagta hai ki har samay bas lado aur toot... Ye toh thik nahin hain. (The country has reached such a point where its always seems like fight-and-divide atmosphere... This is not right)," he said. He

slammed the Congress and other opposition parties for blaming the RSS and its ideology for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, saying they were levelling baseless allegations "even as they do not have any proof" to substantiate their charge.

"For more than 60 years, we have been hearing that the RSS and its ideology were behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. A ban was also imposed on the Sangh. But the Congress and other parties could not prove it (the allegation) even after they remained in power for so many years, he said. Their "baseless and unfounded" allegations against the RSS also amount to "a cruel" hate speech, he charged and asked why no action had been taken against them so far.

MISLEADING REPORTS

'50L unused Covishield doses may go waste by month end'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Union health ministry on Thursday refuted as misleading media reports which claimed that 50 lakh unused Covishield doses may go waste by the end of this month.

It said the Centre had proactively advised all state governments to review the availability of vaccines, right from the start of the vaccination drive against COVID-19, to ensure that the wastage of doses is reduced to a minimum.

The health ministry had in November last year communicated to the states that they should regularly review the status of the vaccines that were expected to cross their shelf life in the coming months, but were available with private hos-

pitals.

The states were also advised to ensure that no vaccine dose gets expired - both in government and private facilities - the ministry said in a statement.

It said the states were advised to have a quick video-conference at the level of additional chief secretary (health)/ principal secretary (health) with the private hospitals to look into the utilisation of vaccine doses.

States were also advised that they could try interventions such as administration of vaccine under Corporate Social Responsibility or vaccination at subsidized rates in private hospitals, the ministry stated.

Furthermore, on the request of specific states, the Union health ministry

had clarified that it had no objection to the proposed arrangement of transfer of vaccine, on an exceptional basis, from private sector health facilities to state government health facilities to avoid vaccine expiry and to ensure that no vaccine dose goes waste, the statement read.

Also, the provision of vaccine exchange has been made available on Co-WIN, the government's web portal for vaccination-related information, it noted.

Additionally, discussions have also been held with states, namely West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Delhi to ensure that the vaccines available at private COVID vaccination centres are used, the statement mentioned.

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The gap between the rich and the poor has increased under the current government at the Centre, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday, while asking it to impose a "super rich tax" on those whose income has grown even during the Covid pandemic.

Taking part in a debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, he also alleged that the social fabric and unity in diversity of the country has been disturbed with fanaticism being encouraged.

Singh said when the BJP came to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that black money would be brought back, price rise would be curtailed and employment would be improved, but nothing has

happened. Claiming that in seven years of this government the gap between the rich and the poor has widened, he said the rich has become richer and the poor has become poorer. Citing tax collection data, Singh said under the UPA regime, the rich were taxed more and the common people less.

However, he said after the "suit-boot" government came, in 2021-22, the direct tax collected from individuals has fallen as a proportion to the total tax collected, while the contribution of indirect tax collected from common people has risen. This, Singh said, implied that the BJP-led government has collected less tax from rich people

and more from poor people. Alleging that some people have become richer even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he asked why a "super rich tax" was not imposed on them.

He accused the government of continuously hiking fuel prices while reducing subsidies, thus burdening the common people, and said in the Budget 2022-23, there was a reduction of 27 per cent in subsidy. The government is burdening the common people with its policies, Singh said.

He said in the top five global economies, the biggest gap between the rich and the poor is in India. During the UPA regime around 23 crore

people were lifted above the below poverty line (BPL) but during the tenure of the current government around 20 crore people have gone back to the BPL category, he claimed. Also, the MP said, the unemployment rate in 2014 stood at 5.6 per cent, which had risen to 6.3 per cent even before the Covid pandemic and now, it has risen to 7.5 per cent.

The policies of the government are anti-poor, anti-backward classes, anti-farmer and anti-labour, he said, adding that the BJP has encouraged fanaticism and divide the society on religious lines. Taking part in the debate, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa (BJP) refuted the allegations of the Opposition and the policies of the government have led to the growth and development of the country.

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REPLIES IN HINDI IN LS

Scindia objects to Tharoor's remarks

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday took issue with Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks on giving replies in Hindi in Lok Sabha. While responding to supplementary questions asked by members from Tamil Nadu in English, Scindia replied in Hindi. Soon after, Tharoor, who is a member from Kerala, commented that it was an "apman (insult)" that the minister was responding in Hindi. The minister speaks English and let him reply in English, Tharoor said. "Zara jawab Hindi mein mat dijiye... ye apman hai logon ka (Please don't give replies in Hindi... it is an insult to people)," Tharoor said during Question Hour.

'Concerned about freedom of speech, we're not in Emergency'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said it was concerned about the freedom of speech and expression and that the country was not in the times of 1975 or the Emergency. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan told the Rajya Sabha that the government has initiated action against 160 TV channels and blocked 60 channels on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages as their content was against the integrity and safety of the nation.

"Our government is concerned about the freedom of speech and expression... We are not in 1975. We are

not in Emergency..." he said in the House during the Question Hour.

Murugan was responding to a question by an opposition member who alleged that the government was misusing penal provisions to curb the freedom of speech and expression.

Replying to supplementaries on action against news channels for anti-national content, he said the Press Council of India and a three-tier mechanism is place to check the content.

This, he said, includes self-regulatory mechanism and self-regulatory bodies and if the grievances are not sorted out, only then does the inter-departmental committee takes up and sorts out the



L Murugan

issues. "We wish to inform you that we have initiated 160 cases against TV channels," the minister told the House. Asked about the action against MediaOne channel, he said, "We are not doing anything on MediaOne. Whatever permissions to channels are

being given (are) after the Home Ministry gives security clearance. MediaOne matter is sub-judice also."

"Within two months, our government initiated action against 60 channels whose content was against the nation and against the integrity and safety of the nation. We cannot tolerate it. "We blocked 60 channels, including Youtube and Facebook and Twitter accounts as they disturbed the nation's peace and security. We are concerned about the freedom of speech and freedom of expression," the minister of state told the Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said all programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the programme code laid down in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

The rules inter-alia provide that no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes. "The government takes action against private satellite TV channels in cases where programme code is found to be violated, by way of issuing advisories, warnings, apology scroll orders, off-air orders, etc.

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'State can't be party to misuse of police machinery'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Observing that the state cannot be a party to misuse of police machinery, the Supreme Court Thursday stayed the criminal proceedings against a woman and took strong note of the filing of four FIRs against her after she accused Lok Insaf Party MLA of Punjab, Simarjeet Singh Bains, of rape. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli was hearing two separate pleas filed by the lawmaker and the woman who had accused the MLA of raping her.

The top court, which stayed the judicial proceedings in four cases lodged against the woman, also extended by a week the pro-



tection against arrest to the Lok Insaf Party MLA. The bench, during the hearing, was critical of filing criminal cases against the woman after she had moved the trial court alleging rape by the MLA. What is happening in your state? How many cases have been filed against the lady? Now he wants anticipatory bail and the lady should go to jail. You (state) can't be a party to such kind of misuse of police machinery," the bench said. Advocate

General D S Patewalia, appearing for the Punjab government, said the state does not have much role in the dispute which seems to be between two parties, but he will seek instruction and file a response in the case.

The state's law officer, however, said that as the guardian of the law, the state has a duty to protect it. At the outset, the bench referred to the allegations against the MLA and asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the lawmaker, about them. Have you seen your client's activity? How your man is harassing people, he is a public representative, MLA for two times, is this the way to behave. I want the advocate general of Punjab to appear in this matter; the bench said.

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BRIEF



Students undergo thermal screening before entering a school to attend class after authorities allowed schools to reopen for classes eighth and above, in Kolkata, Thursday.

Reopen

Kolkata: Several schools in the city resumed physical classes for senior students on Thursday, in accordance with the directions of West Bengal government, while some others have decided to open their campuses later this month only after ensuring that all COVID-related safety measures are in place. South Point High School, one of the reputed institutes here, commenced classes for students of 9 and 11, while those of 10 and 12 have been told to register their attendance starting Monday, its spokesperson Krishna Damani told PTI.

Shot dead

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man was shot dead by unidentified men in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Mayur Chauhan, a resident of Guru Ramdas Nagar, they said. A caller informed the police that unidentified men fired shots near a Gurudwara in Guru Ramdas Nagar and a man had been injured, officials said.

Arrested

Latur: Six persons were arrested in Maharashtra's Latur district in a case of robbery on Thursday and goods worth Rs 46.5 lakh were seized from their possession, police said. The main accused, Balaji Koyle of Shivganeappa, has been absconding, police said. As many as 548 sacks of soybean worth Rs 16.7 lakh had been stolen from a godown at New MIDC, Latur, on February 1, a police official said.

Busted

Muzaffarnagar: With the arrest of two accused from the New Mandi area here, police on Thursday claimed to have busted an interstate gang involved in ATM theft and seized Rs three lakh in cash, gas cutters and other machine-cutting tools from them.

Hijab row

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday hit out at the Centre alleging its slogan for educating girl child was "hollow" as Muslim girls were denied education for wearing hijab. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was reacting to media reports about a college in Karnataka denying entry to Muslim girl students who were wearing hijab.

Weather
High 30 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 17,560.20
SENSEX 58,788.02

BULLION
GOLD 47,750
SILVER 60,199

RAHUL ATTACKS BJP

'BJP, RSS spread hatred and violence'

Raipur, Feb 03:

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of spreading hatred and making people fight among themselves, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that although the saffron party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) want only one ideology to rule in the country, it can never happen.

Addressing a function in Science College ground in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, Gandhi attacked the BJP saying the party and its ideology are pushing India towards a dangerous path and added that division of the country is the biggest threat posed by that party. He said the BJP's criticism of what the country has achieved in 70 years under the Congress rule is an insult of farmers, labourers and not of his party. "This country is like a bouquet and people of different ideologies live in it. The ideology, history and culture in one state is dif-



LS MP Rahul Gandhi addressing a function at Science College Ground here.

MP all praise for State Govt

Rahul Gandhi praised the Chhattisgarh government and said it is fulfilling its promises. On the occasion, he launched the state government's 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana', under which landless labourers in rural areas will be given financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year in three installments. Actually after the inauguration of this scheme, Rahul Gandhi asked CM Bhupesh Baghel to hike the honorarium paid to the labourers and after which this declaration was made to hike the amount to Rs 7000.

ferent from that of another. But if we say that there will be only one ideology in the whole country then it will be wrong. This will harm the country," the Congress MP said. "The BJP and RSS want that only one ideology should rule over all states, languages and history in the country, which can never happen. For

'Battle of ideology'

"Our work and the work of patriotism is to strengthen the country, poor and unite the country, not to spread hatred. So it is a battle of ideology. This is not a fight between one party and the other," Rahul said. "On Wednesday, I said in Lok Sabha that there are 2-3 big challenges in front of India. BJP and its ideology are taking our country towards danger the biggest threat is that today the BJP has been dividing the country into two India," he said.

example, people of other states cannot tell what the culture of Chhattisgarh should be and how people should live here. Everyone has own his or her own rights. This bouquet of our country has feelings of different thinking, different ideologies and language of love. That is what we call Hindustan. The BJP has been attacking this India. We will oppose this attack," he said. *(More news on Pg 03-04)*

'34 states, UTs recording decline in COVID-19 cases'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said 34 states and union territories, including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, are recording a decline in COVID-19 cases and positivity rate, while Kerala and Mizoram are still recording an increase in cases and positivity.

It also said that the pandemic situation has improved and there is contraction in spread of the Covid infection. In 268 districts, the positivity rate is below five per cent, the government said.

It said that a decline in COVID-19 case fatality rate has been noted with an in-

crease in administration of vaccine doses. There has been a consistent decline in daily active COVID-19 cases and daily positivity rate, indicating decreased spread of the infection, the government said. It noted that present data indicates that unlike evidence during the earlier COVID-19 surge, with the current variant, surgery is safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths in coronavirus patients. The government said that the population with average age of 44 years were infected more in this Covid wave as compared to previous waves, and last time, the average was 55 years.

'We have taken up it with China'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

India on Thursday said it has taken up with China the issue of torture of a teenager from Arunachal Pradesh when he was in the custody of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"We have taken up the matter with the Chinese side," Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said at a media briefing.

He was replying to a question on the matter. Miram Taron, 17, was allegedly abducted by the Chinese army on January 18 from Lungta Jor area near the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal

Pradesh when he was on a hunting trip with his friend Johnny Yaying.

Yaying managed to escape from the scene and report the matter to the authorities. The Chinese army handed over Miram to the Indian Army on January 27 at the Wachadamai interaction point at Kibithu in Anjaw district.

Miram's father Opang Taron said his son was tied and blindfolded while in the custody of the PLA and that he was kicked and given mild electric shock.

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations in Parliament on Wednesday that the Modi government brought Pakistan and China to-

gether, Bagchi refused to comment saying External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already reacted to them.

"The external affairs minister's tweets are self-explanatory. He had issued a series of tweets after the discussion in Parliament. I do not have anything to add to them," Bagchi said.

Following Gandhi's comments, Jaishankar said he needs some "history lessons".

"Perhaps, some history lessons are in order: In 1963, Pakistan illegally handed over the Shaksgam valley to China. China built the Karakoram highway through PoK in the 1970s," Jaishankar tweeted.

MEA ON TORTURE OF TEEN

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS



People collect water from a puddle, in Rashed village, Thursday.

Bank loan fraud

ED attaches assets of Trichy firm promoters

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has attached assets worth Rs 9.08 crore of the promoters and family members of a Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) based company as part of a money laundering probe against it linked to an alleged bank loan fraud.

A provisional order for attachment has been issued against the company-- Cethar Ltd-- under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The federal probe agency had attached and seized Rs 5.63 crore worth assets of the accused as part of two similar orders issued last year.

'Cryptocurrency will never be a legal tender'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Cryptocurrency will never be a legal tender, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Thursday clearing the air on the legality of private digital currencies in the market.

The 2022-23 Budget has given a clarity on taxation of virtual digital assets and proposed to impose a 30 per cent tax on gains made on such trades, besides subjecting crypto transactions, beyond a threshold, to 1 per cent TDS.

In an interview with PTI, Somanathan said just like gold and diamond, despite being valuable, are not a legal tender, private cryptocurren-



T V Somanathan

cies too will never be a legal tender. "Crypto will never be a legal tender. Legal tender means by law it is accepted in settlement of debts. India will not be making any crypto asset as a legal tender. Only 'Digital Rupee' of the Reserve Bank will be a legal tender in India," Somanathan said. Except

El Salvador, which in September last year adopted Bitcoin as legal tender, no other country has made crypto a legal tender.

India is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet been released publicly.

In the meanwhile, a central bank-backed digital currency will start circulating in the next fiscal to usher in cheaper, more efficient currency management.

From April 1, 30 per cent tax will have to be paid on income from cryptocurrencies. Income tax return form from next year will have a separate column to declare gains from crypto.

'Schools fully open in 11 states, closed in nine'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Schools are fully open in 11 states, partially opened mainly for higher classes in 16 states and continue to remain closed in nine states, Union Education Ministry officials said on Thursday.

Sharing the status of closure of schools across the country, officials said at least 95 per cent teaching and non-teaching staff in all states has been vaccinated, while some states have even achieved 100 percent vaccination coverage for the staff in schools. "Taking into account the extensive vacci-

nation coverage, the ministry of education had issued revised guidelines to states in December last year and the decision to ask for parents consent was left with states," Sweete Changsan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education said during a press conference.

"Also, the revised guidelines talked about congregations and gatherings which were earlier banned in schools. As per new advisory, schools may celebrate events and hold gatherings according to the SOPs issued by concerned state," she added.

BMC presents Rs 45,949 cr budget

■ Allocates Rs 6,934 cr for health; big property tax relief for small flats

Mumbai, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday unveiled a budget of Rs 45,949.21 crore for 2022-23 and allocated Rs 3,200 crore for the coastal road project and Rs 6,933.75 crore for health, while it provided property tax relief for small flat owners ahead of civic elections.

The budget of India's richest civic body, ruled by the Shiv Sena and set for polls in the new few months, which has no proposal for new taxes, was 17.70 per cent higher than the last fiscal

when the total outlay was Rs 39,038.83 crore. Mumbai municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal presented the budget before the civic standing committee meeting held at the BMC headquarters and said its main focus was on health, infrastructure and education. In the budget, the civic body announced 100 per cent relief from payment of property tax for flats measuring up to 500 square feet of carpet area. "About 16,14,000 citizens will get 100 per cent property tax relief. The amount of exemption to citizens is to the tune of Rs 462 crore per annum," Chahal said in his budget speech.

On January 1, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had announced a decision to waive property tax for residential

units of up to 500 square feet, located within Mumbai municipal limits.

Before presenting the general budget, the BMC also tabled its education budget of Rs 3,370.24 crore for the next fiscal. Education budget estimates were 14.45 per cent more than the last fiscal when the outlay was Rs 2945.78 crore.

In the budget, the BMC estimated revenue income for FY23 at Rs 30,743.61 crore, of which Rs 11,429.73 crore will come from grant-in-aid as compensation in lieu of octroi, Rs 7,000 crore from property tax, Rs 3,950 crore from the Development Projects Department, Rs 1,128.74 crore interest on investments, and Rs 1,596.93 crore from water and sewerage charges.

Shots fired at Owaisi's car in UP, 1 shooter caught

Ghaziabad, Feb 03 (PTI):

AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday alleged that his car was fired upon by unidentified men while he was returning to Delhi from election-related programmes in western Uttar Pradesh.

Owaisi's vehicle was near the Chhijarso toll plaza on the Hapur-Ghaziabad stretch of the National Highway 24 when the incident took place at around 6 pm, he said.

Some time ago my car was fired at near Chhijarsi toll gate. Four rounds of shots were fired. There were 3-4 people, all of them ran away

and left the weapons there. My car got punctured, but I moved to another car and left. We are all safe. Alhamdu'lillah, Owaisi tweeted.

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP said he had left Delhi in the morning for election-related programmes in Meerut and Kithore, where he held a foot march at 3.30 pm. Owaisi's convoy had four cars, he said.

We were at the toll gate and had slowed down when we suddenly heard three-to-four rounds of gunshots. My car also got some dents and a tyre got punctured, he later told reporters.

Concentration and attention is necessary to achieve goals: Collector



Koriya, Feb 03: District Collector Kuldip Sharma reviewed the 40-day mission by discussing with the block level education officers and principals through video conferencing here. Addressing the meet he said that with the same concentration and attention with which Arjuna aimed at the fish's eye, the children should be helped to prepare for the exami-

nation so that the goal of better examination results in the district could be achieved. He inquired from the BEO about his planning and supervision in making effective preparation of the children and as per information given teams have also been formed at the block level, which will solve all the problems of the children regarding the subject and exam. Special guidance will be given to

the children in the course material and teaching. Collector Sharma instructed all the BEOs, Principals and teachers to help the children and advised to take more and more tests of children through offline classes to help children improve their writing style, answer writing method and time management. He said that 100% children pass the board examination with better results, only then

our hard work will be successful. The Collector spoke to the principals of more than a dozen schools in video conferencing and he praised the schools which performed better in the first unit test held on 27th January under the 40th mission. In this, after talking to the principals of Madisarai, Ghutra, Jharnapara schools, the collector became aware of their action plan. Similarly, expressing displeasure towards the schools whose performance was not satisfactory, he directed them to bring progress. During the video conferencing, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat, District Education Officer Sanjay Gupta, District Mission Coordinators were present.

In the hope of getting gold, they carry dust home

Takhatpur, Feb 03: The work of finding life in the dust around the shops of bullion traders and artisans in the region has been going on for generations and women folks have been doing the work of searching for a way to live for themselves by scavenging the dust particles near bullion shops, as their main source of livelihood. Over the years, this family has been doing the work of cleaning the entire dust of the roads around the gold and silver shops by cleaning it completely from the road through a special brush and in a special style. Taking home the dusty soil and by putting it in water in a vessel, these women separate the very fine particles of gold and silver in it and make it the only means of their income. Singara Gond,



Woman sweeping the area to collect dust.

who is regularly involved in this work, told that during the work of gold and silver very fine gold and silver particles which are not visible in the air get deposited in the surrounding dust and soil, which we collect and separate. Family members have been doing this for almost 50 years and even girls of age 15-16 do the work without any hesitation. The men of the family also do this work, but only women and girls do the work of cleaning the dust on the roads. Many govts changed but their lives have not changed. Many governments have changed, but generally the means of living and money of this particular family of Gond tribals did not change. Even today, many from their generations are engaged in this work and making it their main means of livelihood and income. Takhatpur Ward No. 13, by the vicinity of big market, some people of this family start this work from early morning to clear the dust from the streets around the bullion shops. People of this particular family also do this work in Dongargarh.

Development oriented budget for all sections Amujuri Biswanath of AVM honored for excellence works

Rajim, Feb 03: Responding to the Union Budget, Chunilal Sahu, MP from Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, said that Rs 140 thousand crore has been collected from GST and this will strengthen the economy of the country during the Corona period. Budget has been made for 60 lakh unemployed people and the central government has also made a provision to increase Anganwadi centers for the empowerment of women. To promote education, the number of TV channels is being increased to 200, so that children will get education through TV. Sahu further said that the Union Budget is a developing budget even during the Corona transition period and this will strengthen the economy



as compared to 2014. A provision of 60 thousand crores has been made for installing taps in 3.8 crore houses and 80 lakh families of cheap housing will be selected. The benefit of including irrigation in the concurrent list is that a provision of 44 thousand crores has been made for irrigation in the budget. BJP leader of Rajim region Shyam Agarwal said that another big step towards self-reliant India has been taken by Finance and the general budget that has been presented is a budget showing possibilities. Agarwal further said that the Emergency Loan Guarantee Scheme has been extended till March 2023 and 68% of capital procurement budget reserved for domestic industry has also been paid to capital investment.



Dantewada, Feb 03:

Chhattisgarh Government, Commerce, Excise Industries Minister and in-charge of Dantewada district, Kawai Lakhma hoisted the flag on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebrations at the high school ground of the Dantewada district headquarters. Chief Guest Lakhma felicitated the people of the district for doing excellence responsibilities in the district. These include Corona Warriors, officers, teachers, employees of various departments doing excellent work in various fields. In the presence of Minister, Dantewada Mrs. Devti Mahendra Karma, Dantewada Collector Deepak Soni honored Amujuri Biswanath Teacher Aastha Vidya Mandir Education City Jawaanga and presented a citation for his excellent work in the year 2021-22. Amujuri Biswanath has been working as a teacher in Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School of Education City Jawaanga located in Geedam development block since 2014. He took online classes under the guidelines of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the Corona period, conducted door-to-door survey as in-charge of Corona Active Surveillance Team at Geedam on the orders of District Administration Dantewada and made people aware of COVID19 and informed to take vaccination. As a Project Head under the leadership of teacher Amujuri Biswanath, students of Aastha Vidya Mandir were selected by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the project at National and State level INSPIRE Award MANAK. Even during the Corona period, the students showed their talent and participated in more than 200 international, national and state level programs like online literature conference, webinar, science exhibition, painting, essay, quiz competitions, training camps and got awarded from many Governmental and Non-governmental organizations. Amujuri Biswanath performed his duty as a judge in Science, Mathematics Experiments, Models, Best out of Waste Exhibition under the Padhai Tuhar Duar scheme organized by the Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.

Fakir Chandra Agarwal creating employment for thousands

Gaurela, Feb 03: Fakir Chandra Agarwal, a resident of Gaurela, with his hard work and struggle made the journey from a Mini Rice Mill to Saat Saat Industries today in a journey which span to many decades. Today, his firm provides employment to one thousand people of Gaurela and thousands of people are directly and indirectly connected with the big industrialist of Gaurela. Fakirchand Agrawal, a well known industrialist of Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district, has set up 7 successful industries in a span of 35 years from a small mini rice mill in the district which has provided employment to thousands of people of the district. Born in 1948 in a typical entrepreneurial family,



Pendra Marwahi district. In his firm, through himself and his family, he has provided jobs to a large number of needy unemployed in Gaurela, including the district. The successful operation of Rice Mill, Atta Maida, Suji, Flour Mill, Cold Storage, and Ware House is being done by Fakir Chand himself and his family. Here it is to be known that the big industrialist of the district started from the sugar factory in Uttar Pradesh. During that time, due to the very low price of sugar, Fakir Chandra had to go through huge losses and from a mere rice mill today, he set out to become a big entrepreneur of the district. Now his realms is being cared by his two sons Gopal Agrawal and Ashish Agrawal.

Criminal case against patwari and SECL employee

For fraudulently selling land
Surajpur, Feb 03: In a case of fraudulently selling a piece of land, on the orders of local Court criminal offence has been lodged against patwari, SECL employee and two others under Section 420 and 34. The case is of 2015 on which following the order of court case was lodged against SECL employee Shahid Siddique, then patwari and two others in Kotwali PS. The victim SECL employee posted in Vishrampur Lalbabu Giri was known to the accused Shahid Siddique. To a proposal by the accused of making the victim a land available, a piece of land owned by Manpur Mohalla resident Ramsharan Rajwade was shown to which the victim gave his consent. The accused entered into an unholy alliance with the patwari Vijay Gupta and prepared all necessary papers in connection with this land. The deal was stuck on March 19, 2015 and the registry was done for Rs 6,27,000. The victim when approached for demarcation of his land was surprised to find that no land exists in his name. He understood the plot against him and started asking the accused to give his money back. When the refused did not return the money he lodged a written complaint at Kotwali PS on April 07, 2021 but no action was taken by Kotwali police. He approached SP on August 25, 2021 but failed to get justice and finally lodged a case against the accused in the Court.

Demand of 50000- Rs 1 lakh for middle school headmaster promotion!



Pandaria, Feb 03: In the region the promotion order of LB cadre teachers to headmasters is on process and according to reports, in Pandaria-Block a demand of 50000 to Rs 1 lakh for middle school headmaster promotion is being asked. In the order of promotion, upper class teachers are being made middle school headmaster

and assistant teacher are being made primary school headmaster. The time for division level middle school promotion has been fixed by the government till 31st January. Meanwhile the union has demanded to consider the proposal from the District Education Officer's Office for promotion in the post. If the proposal is sent from the District Education Officer's Office, all the teachers can be posted systematically. At the divisional level, accurate information of the place will not be available. On the contrary, the District Education Officer's Office is aware of the actual geographical location of all the schools.

'Trees are the best friends'

Dhamtari, Feb 03: Having carved his identity as environment lover, the SI Shatrughan Pandey of city has the credit of planting around 1.86 lakh saplings in Dhamtari district so far. By doing so, he has made the Thanas of Kurud, Dugali, Bhakhara and Keregaon much greener and full of plants and trees. Known as Green Man of the Police Department, SI Shatrughan Pandey achieved superannuation after rendering valuable 41 yrs of services to the Police Department in the state. On his retirement, Shatrughan said that behind this uniform also there is a humble heart with sentiments of public service and doing something good for the society as well. Spreading greenery all around the place and making places much healthier and greener is one of my biggest assets and way of extending love for other people, he added. As such people generally carry wrong impressions about the police officers, but Shatrughan

Pandey is just an exception. Having shared his close proximity with people of Dhamtari and taking part in good and bad times of the people, Shatrughan has always come forward to help the people and needy. He even submits fees of many a poor children and if some new to the city lost the path or address, then he helps them reach upto their destination as well. At times he takes out time to go to the hospital and inquire about health of people admitted and become part of their support in whichever way it is possible is indeed a work of benevolence, without asking for anything in return and by doing so he has given a new face of those in the Police department and for the humanity. Set aside this Shatrughan is also concerned about various issues surrounding the city and prominent among them is the rising pollution level and in order to provide healthier and green environment to the

people of city he has planted many saplings during his posting in different thanas. He says that there cannot be any better sacred work than planting saplings and there cannot be any better friend than 'trees'. **Two SI become Inspectors:** Two SIs in District Police Force have been promoted as Inspectors. On Thursday, SP Prashant Thakur and ASP Nivedita Paul pinned stars on the shoulders of two SIs promoted viz. Hriday Kumar Verma and Bhankar Lal Navratna. On this occasion DSP Traffic Manishankar Chandra, Rakshit Inspector K Dev Raju, Steno Akhilesh Shukla, Laxmi Dhruv, Sanat Verma and others were present. It is notable here that in last one year many police jawans in the district have been promoted and in this many a constables have been promoted as Head Constables and Sub-Inspectors (SIs) as Inspectors.

YC leader Ashok Rajwal campaigns for Cong in UP polls

Masturi, Feb 03:



In the ongoing Vidhan Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, youth Congress leader, District Vice President Ashok Rajwal, as the National Convener of Youth Congress, was closely associated with youth colleagues in Bhatparrani Deoria district, former National President of Youth Congress, Keshav Chand Yadav. He has got this responsibility on the recommendation of State Youth Congress President Purnachandra Koko Padhi, state in-charge Santosh Kolkunda and co-in-charge Ekta Thakur. The enthusiasm of the voters is being seen during the public relations due to the youth entering the electoral fray. Ashok Rajwal, who works as a loyal soldier of Youth Congress, has always been given some responsibility by the high officials of the party, which he has performed well. There is joy among the Congress

workers and villagers of the area regarding the responsibility given in the assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh.

NAME CHANGE

I HEREBY WANT TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY OLD NAME - AJAY ROY FATHERS NAME - SHRI N.K. ROY HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME TO NEW NAME - AJAY KUMAR ROY FATHERS NAME - SHRI N.K. ROY ADDRESS - KRANTI NAGAR LANE - NO. 4, NEAR SULTANIA NIWAS BILASPUR - C.G. 495001 THEREFORE I NOW SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME MR. AJAY KUMAR ROY FATHERS NAME - SHRI N.K. ROY IN ALL OFFICIAL, SEMI OFFICIAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN FUTURE.

punjab national bank Circle Office - Plot No. A-48, Ring Road, No. 2 Gaurav Path, Bilaspur (C.G.) Ph.: (07752) 432710/729

CORRIGENDUM - SALE NOTICE

The General information that in Central Chronicle Raipur Edition Dated 02-02-2022 Publication for Sale of Immovable Property/ies Mortgaged to Bank Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 Appendix IV-A Rule 8(6) at Serial No. 19 Mentioned account to be Read as Mortgager/Guarantor- **Radeshyam Agarwal S/o Gangadhar Agarwal**, Ward No. 10 Nagar Panchayat Lormi District Mungeli (CG) 495115. (2) Serial No. 21 Name of Guarantor/Mortgager which is Published as **Shri Mohammad Kalimudeen S/o Babudin Sheikh** Now Read Correctly as **Shri Mohammad Karimudeen S/o Babudin Sheikh**. (3) Serial No. 22 & 23 Account of **Akash Pipes** Date of 13(2) which is Published as 21-11-2018 Now Read Correctly as 30-04-2017. **Sd/-**
Date: 03.02.2022 **Authorised Officer**



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Rethinking for NJAC

In the Winter session of Parliament, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju had told Lok Sabha that there is a growing voice in favour of reintroduction of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill. The NJAC Act, 2014 was enacted by the Narendra Modi government to regulate the procedure to be followed the NJAC for recommending names for appointment as Chief Justice of India and other judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justices and judges of High Courts and for their transfers. Rethink is needed for NJAC with full confidence from the Judiciary. The clashes between Indira Gandhi and the judiciary had left deep scars, and a fear of Executive interference in the appointment of judges. The 1970s had seen transfers of judges, supersession of those who were supposed to become CJI, and a breakdown of a previously civil relationship between the two branches, which left the Judiciary and the legal community largely of the view that the Executive should not have a say in judicial appointments. This fear was why the Collegium system, despite its opacity and the lack of diversity it fostered, was considered the best way to ensure judicial independence. The NJAC framework established by the constitutional amendment and the NJAC Act, despite its popularity among politicians and MPs, was viewed by many in the Judiciary as a threat to that independence. However, in October 2015, Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional an amendment to the Constitution establishing the NJAC. Currently, appointments to HCs and SC are done through the collegium system that was introduced by the former Chief Justice of India PN Bhagwati in the Second Judges Case (1993).

This does not find any backing in the Constitution, and India is the only country where judges appoint themselves and also decide on their transfers and promotions. The involvement of other organs of the government such as the executive and the legislature in this process is more cosmetic than real. It is more in the nature of verification of the criminal and other such antecedents of the candidates recommended by the collegium than anything else. There is no role for the governmental organs in the selection process itself. Many people, including several MPs, opined that hiring through the collegium system has turned out to be more about family pedigree, networking, bias, personal likes and dislikes rather than fair selection on merit. The CPM MP from Kerala, John Brittas, cited several instances where candidates recommended by the collegium belonged to a lineage of judges. This cannot be overlooked as mere coincidence. Legal experts and former judges of the Supreme Court agreed that it is time a new appointment system is evolved to bring 'much-needed' transparency in the process, particularly in the wake of recent multiple transfers of High Court judges. But experts are divided in their opinion on the NJAC as an alternative and suggested that those closely associated with the judiciary or who have been a part of the institution should be consulted before any new mechanism is worked out. Adequate representation, inclusivity, merit and due process for selection are all key aspects in the making of a robust judiciary; this is something that the Indian judicial system needs to imbibe at the latest.

Danish 'flexicurity' system

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted major weaknesses of both the US and European models of capitalism. So, besides calling for greater investment in education, some economists advocate two policies that should both stimulate innovation-based growth and make it more inclusive and/or protective: beefed-up competition policy, and a Danish-style 'flexicurity' system in the labour market. Indian policy makers need to emulate aspects from flexicurity system. Competition-policy discussions should start by asking why the economies, which spearheaded the information-technology revolution, has suffered from declining productivity growth over the past two decades. In a nutshell, rapid technological advances have enabled superstar firms, those that have accumulated social capital and know-how that is difficult to imitate, and have developed strong networks to control a larger share of economic sectors. But in the longer term, superstar firms will discourage innovation by non-superstar firms in all the product lines they control. This is because challengers attempting to dethrone a superstar firm must drastically reduce their prices and thus their innovation rents. So, the IT revolution, by enabling superstar firms to grow rapidly and control ever more sectors, ends up reducing market entry, innovation, and growth in the overall economy. Flexicurity schemes, meanwhile, can help to address deep seated labour market problems. Denmark, which introduced a flexicurity system in 1993, may have found the right formula. The Danish system has two pillars. It makes the labour market more flexible by simplifying labour management.

But, to protect workers, the government provides generous unemployment benefits, as well as substantial investment in professional training to give people the skills they need to re-enter the labour market. By establishing its flexicurity system, Denmark achieved two goals simultaneously. First, it fostered innovation-led growth by making creative destruction easier to implement and also more efficient owing to the accompanying public investment in professional training. Second, the scheme made innovation-driven growth more protective and inclusive by providing income support to unemployed people's re-entry into the employment. Workers benefit from flexicurity because the social safety net includes universal health insurance and paid sick leave, and collective-bargaining agreements generally include paid maternity leave and a pension plan, as well as good wages. Workers who pay into an unemployment insurance fund get up to two years of unemployment benefits, and the government runs aggressive training and counselling services. According to the Employment Relations Research Centre at the University of Copenhagen, Danes in general are happy with the Danish model, not only because it makes economic sense but also because it creates a sense of common purpose that ensures the dignity of every citizen. One of the COVID-19 pandemic's many economic lessons is that innovation and inclusion need not be mutually exclusive. By pursuing the right policies, governments can promote both and thereby help to bring about a dynamic and equitable recovery.

BENDING INSTEAD OF FALLING



A tree bends and not falls in the wind as strong waves hit the coast in Saint-Benoit, on east of the French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion.

Confrontation over deputation of 'All India Service Officers'



PRAKASH SINGH



The dust arising out of the centre-state controversy over enlargement in the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force in states having international borders has yet to settle down. Meanwhile, we are faced with another controversy over amendment in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954.

The broad objectives of the Constitution-framers in providing for the scheme of All India Services in Article 312 of the Constitution were to facilitate liaison between the Union and the States and to ensure a certain uniformity in the standard of administration. The Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service were, at the time the Constitution was promulgated, deemed to be services created by parliament under this Article. Officers for these services are recruited by the Government of India through the Union Public Service Commission. After selection, the officers are allotted to states and union territory cadres depending upon their vacancies. Every state has a Central Deputation Reserve which is 40% of the senior duty posts in the state. Officers out of this reserve are provided to the central government to run the various organs of Government of India including the central police organizations.

The existing practice is that the Centre every year asks states for an 'offer list' of officers from All India Services who are willing to go on central deputation. Out of this list, the Centre selects officers considered

suitable for its requirements. Unfortunately, the number of officers on 'offer list' has been dwindling. There are also instances where an officer had offered himself for deputation but was not relieved by the state government for some reason. The net result is that the Centre has not been getting its full quota of Central Deputation Reserve for quite some time in the past, leading to huge vacancies in different departments.

To give a few examples, at the level of joint secretary, the number of IAS officers on central deputation dropped from 309 in 2011 to 223 in 2021, showing a fall in the utilization rate from 25% to 18% during the last decade. At the deputy secretary and director level, the number of officers in the country increased from 621 in 2014 to 1,130 at present, and yet the number of officers on deputation have gone down from 117 to 114. The position is equally bad, if not worse, in regard to IPS officers. There are a total of 4,984 posts of IPS officers sanctioned in the country; out of these 4074 are in position. The total senior duty posts (SP to DG) are 2720 out of which the central deputation reserve works out to 1075. As against that, only 442 officers are on central deputation, leaving behind a vacancy of 633 officers who have not been made available by the state governments to the Centre. The worst defaulters are West Bengal with 16% utilization of CDR, Haryana 16.13%, Telangana 20% and Karnataka

21.74%. As a result, the central police organizations are facing acute shortage of officers. In the BSF, as against 26 posts of the DIGs, there are 24 vacancies; in the CRPF, as against 38 posts of DIGs, there are 36 vacancies; in CBI, as against 63 posts of Superintendents of Police, there are 40 vacancies; in IB, as against 63 posts of DIGs, there are 45 vacancies, and so on.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) wrote to the state governments on December 20, 2021, expressing its difficulties and seeking their views on the proposed amendment which read as follows: 'Each state government shall make available for deputation to the central government, such number of eligible officers of various levels to the extent of the Central Deputation Reserve prescribed under Regulations referred to in Rule 4(i), adjusted proportionately by the number of officers available with the state government concerned vis-à-vis the total authorized strength of the state cadre at a given point of time. The actual number of officers to be deputed to the central government shall be decided by the central government in consultation with state government concerned'.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee, seems to have decided to oppose any and every move which the Government of India initiates even if it is to strengthen national security or run the government machinery itself at the Centre. She alleged that the amendment is 'against the spirit of cooperative federalism' and that it 'upsets the time-tested harmonious arrangement which has existed between the Centre and the states in the matter of posting of IAS/IPS officers'.

The amendment is however necessary for the smooth functioning of Government of India and its various formations which are run by officers of the IAS cadre. In fact, a similar amendment in the IPS Cadre Rules must also be carried out. A large

number of All India Service officers never go on central deputation with the result that they develop frog in a well mentality. A stint at the Centre broadens the horizons of officers and competition with officers from other cadres brings the best out of them.

The Department of Personnel issued another letter on January 12, 2022, expanding the scope of amendment to 'specific situations where services of cadre officer(s) are required by the central government in public interest'. This has caused genuine concern among IAS officers who feel that this may be a ruse to victimise officers who, for some reasons, incurred the wrath of the central government. Government of India would be well advised to withdraw this clause.

The Sarkaria Commission's views on cadre management are very relevant in this context. 'A pool of resources meant for a number of users ceases to be a 'common' pool if individual users get the power to veto the decisions of the authority which manages the pool. We are, therefore, unable to visualise any arrangement as workable if it gives over-riding authority to the state governments on matters concerning officers of the All India Services and yet expects the Union Government to be responsible for their training, career management and other crucial aspects of personnel administration relating to All India Services. The Union Government, therefore, should have the final say in these matters.'

The All India Services are in urgent need of reforms in several areas and at different levels. Deputation to the Centre is one such measure which must be strictly enforced. The central government cannot be hamstrung for lack of cooperation from the states. All India Services officers must move out of what they begin to look upon as their zamindari in the states.

(Prakash Singh is Chairman, Indian Police Foundation)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media portals

The haphazardly growing number of news portals every day is actually devaluing the standard of media. Social media sites that allow anyone to create networks of acquaintances and friends and to share their writings and audiovisual materials with no ethics are harming society in a real sense. Critics also raise broader concerns about the agenda grabbing power of huge media conglomerates. We can find many news portals which are not even authentic. Many news portals or digital news channels try to threaten people and demand money from them. Also, today, we can see that most of the mainstream media channels are biased. They either advocate the ruling party wholeheartedly or they oppose them without any logic. So, individual web portals or news portals have much more responsibility to show the truth to the public. They need to realize this. For the sake of democracy, they should present news sensibly. It has come to the notice of the Government that most of the time, some news web portals have been involved in disseminating fake, false, and fabricated news which has misled the general public. Besides, there is a huge possibility of these having an adverse effect, particularly on the upcoming generation. False information and fake news circulated in news web portals and social media may always cause harm to our society. Due to these kinds of practices, the scenario of the media domain is deteriorating. Moreover, news of no sense and false news is dangerous to our community. It makes the world less informed and it erodes our trust. Some basic qualifications with media ethics must be imposed on someone who wants to open a news portal. Opening a news portal simply, shouldn't be as easy. Media is the fourth pillar of a nation, and we, especially our new generation must be properly aware of the power of media. The standard of media should be maintained necessarily. Therefore, strict laws for news portals are in demand.

Hiyanjalee, via email

Stray animals

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to bring to the attention of the authorities the death of stray dogs due to road accidents in our area along the national highway. In winters due to fog, there is low visibility due to which a lot of dogs are victimized by road accidents. Keeping this thing in mind there is a need for awareness among the public and ensuring safety of the stray animals. The authorities can ensure the safety of the animals by working with animal welfare organizations. This can be done by installing road signs, by tying radium (glow in the dark) collars on the stray dogs and stray cattle. This will help in reducing road accidents caused by stray animals and saving animal lives along with human lives.

Jugal Kishor, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Raja Mukherjee@rajamukherjee4
One has a sneaky suspicion that it is the big US corporates who are deeply intertwined with the Chinese economy that is forcing the Biden administration to rake up the Ukraine issue & force a diversion away from the Senkaku islands, Taiwan strait & Ladakh! This will cost dearly!

Amrullah Saleh @AmrullahSaleh2
REMEMBER: IS-K is a Pakistani scheme to rent its airspace to the US led Over The Horizon (OTH) operations in Afg, remain a partner with the West and monetize, sustain the Taliban junta rule in Afg. Families of key IS-K operatives including 600 freed by the Taliban are in Pak today.



Anil Swarup @swarup58
Gradually obliteration of distinction between bureaucracy & politics, evidenced by officers resigning after holding sensitive posts in organizations like Enforcement Directorate and Police to contest elections, is distressing. It doesn't augur well for governance in the country.



Manu Joseph@manujosephsan
Everyone is conservative at home. When the stakes are high people demonstrate "right-wing" behaviour. It's when the stakes are low we're all noble, like Trudeau who backed the North Indian farmers' movement against reforms.



IFS-Parveen@ParveenKaswan
Life revolves around love!! Agree.



Sukhada@appadappajappa
TIL when the Nobel Prize was awarded for the discovery of radioactivity, it was initially given only to Pierre. Pierre knew his wife was the greater scientist and convinced the Nobel Committee to divide the award - making Marie Curie the first female laureate.

Vidya Nagaraj@vee22n
I had a conversation with an auto driver today 'Millers Road hogthira?' 'Hogalla' (Q: will you go to Millers rd? A: No) Who are these people who have profound conversations with auto and cab drivers? All I get is went go, 1.5 fare, double fare, 50 over meter etc. I want answers.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Heavy Police bandobast as NMMC and CIDCO jointly conducts a demolition drive of illegal slums near Kopar Khairane railway station, in Navi Mumbai, Thursday.

MISLEADING REPORTS

'50L unused Covishield doses may go waste by month end'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The Union health ministry on Thursday refuted as misleading media reports which claimed that 50 lakh unused Covishield doses may go waste by the end of this month.

It said the Centre had proactively advised all state governments to review the availability of vaccines, right from the start of the vaccination drive against COVID-19, to ensure that the wastage of doses is reduced to a minimum.

The health ministry had in November last year communicated to the states that they should regularly review the status of the vaccines that were expected to cross their shelf life in the coming months, but were available with private hos-

pitals.

The states were also advised to ensure that no vaccine dose gets expired - both in government and private facilities - the ministry said in a statement.

It said the states were advised to have a quick video-conference at the level of additional chief secretary (health)/ principal secretary (health) with the private hospitals to look into the utilisation of vaccine doses.

States were also advised that they could try interventions such as administration of vaccine under Corporate Social Responsibility or vaccination at subsidized rates in private hospitals, the ministry stated.

Furthermore, on the request of specific states, the Union health ministry

had clarified that it had no objection to the proposed arrangement of transfer of vaccine, on an exceptional basis, from private sector health facilities to state government health facilities to avoid vaccine expiry and to ensure that no vaccine dose goes waste, the statement read.

Also, the provision of vaccine exchange has been made available on Co-WIN, the government's web portal for vaccination-related information, it noted.

Additionally, discussions have also been held with states, namely West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Delhi to ensure that the vaccines available at private COVID vaccination centres are used, the statement mentioned.

'Gap between rich and poor has widened under Modi govt'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The gap between the rich and the poor has increased under the current government at the Centre, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday, while asking it to impose a "super rich tax" on those whose income has grown even during the Covid pandemic.

Taking part in a debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, he also alleged that the social fabric and unity in diversity of the country has been disturbed with fanaticism being encouraged.

Singh said when the BJP came to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that black money would be brought back, price rise would be curtailed and employment would be improved, but nothing has

happened. Claiming that in seven years of this government the gap between the rich and the poor has widened, he said the rich has become richer and the poor has become poorer. Citing tax collection data, Singh said under the UPA regime, the rich were taxed more and the common people less.

However, he said after the "suit-boot" government came, in 2021-22, the direct tax collected from individuals has fallen as a proportion to the total tax collected, while the contribution of indirect tax collected from common people has risen. This, Singh said, implied that the BJP-led government has collected less tax from rich people

and more from poor people. Allying that some people have become richer even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he asked why a "super rich tax" was not imposed on them.

He accused the government of continuously hiking fuel prices while reducing subsidies, thus burdening the common people, and said in the Budget 2022-23, there was a reduction of 27 per cent in subsidy. The government is burdening the common people with its policies, Singh said.

He said in the top five global economies, the biggest gap between the rich and the poor is in India. During the UPA regime around 23 crore

people were lifted above the below poverty line (BPL) but during the tenure of the current government around 20 crore people have gone back to the BPL category, he claimed. Also, the MP said, the unemployment rate in 2014 stood at 5.6 per cent, which had risen to 6.3 per cent even before the Covid pandemic and now, it has risen to 7.5 per cent.

The policies of the government are anti-poor, anti-backward classes, anti-farmer and anti-labour, he said, adding that the BJP has encouraged fanaticism and divide the society on religious lines. Taking part in the debate, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa (BJP) refuted the allegations of the Opposition and the policies of the government have led to the growth and development of the country.

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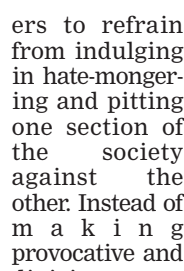
HATE SPEECHES

'Speakers must be punished, U'khand Dharma Sansad no exception'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar has condemned the alleged hate speeches against minorities at a recent Dharma Sansad in Haridwar and said all those who make provocative and divisive remarks should be punished as per law without any exception. He also trained guns on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his recent remarks that a 'Hindutawadi' had shot Mahatma Gandhi dead and said it is also a 'hate speech'.

In an interview with PTI, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) national executive member termed the "politics of hate" as "corruption" and called all political parties and their lead-



Indresh Kumar

ers to refrain from indulging in hate-mongering and pitting one section of the society against the other. Instead of making provocative and divisive remarks against any community, caste or group, they should practice "politics of brotherhood and development" in the best interest of the country and its people, he said.

"Any kind of hate speech is condemnable. All hate speeches must be condemned and punished as per law. Nobody should be treated as an exception," the RSS leader said when asked about his view on the alleged hate speeches

delivered at a Dharma Sansad in Uttarakhand's Haridwar and a similar event in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur recently. Kumar said there are multiple examples of "cruel" hate speeches and insisted that it is the need of the hour to take legal action against all such divisive acts as they vitiate the atmosphere of the country.

"Aaj desh aisi jagah hai, jaise lagta hai ki har samay bas lado aur toot... Ye toh thik nahin hain. (The country has reached such a point where its always seems like fight-and-divide atmosphere.... This is not right)," he said. He

slammed the Congress and other opposition parties for blaming the RSS and its ideology for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, saying they were levelling baseless allegations "even as they do not have any proof" to substantiate their charge.

"For more than 60 years, we have been hearing that the RSS and its ideology were behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. A ban was also imposed on the Sangh. But the Congress and other parties could not prove it (the allegation) even after they remained in power for so many years, he said. Their "baseless and unfounded" allegations against the RSS also amount to "a cruel" hate speech, he charged and asked why no action had been taken against them so far.

REPLIES IN HINDI IN LS

Scindia objects to Tharoor's remarks

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday took issue with Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks on giving replies in Hindi in Lok Sabha. While responding to supplementary questions asked by members from Tamil Nadu in English, Scindia replied in Hindi. Soon after, Tharoor, who is a member from Kerala, commented that it was an "apman (insult)" that the minister was responding in Hindi. The minister speaks English and let him reply in English, Tharoor said. "Zara jawab Hindi mein mat dijiye... ye apman hai logon ka (Please don't give replies in Hindi... it is an insult to people)," Tharoor said during Question Hour.

'Concerned about freedom of speech, we're not in Emergency'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said it was concerned about the freedom of speech and expression and that the country was not in the times of 1975 or the Emergency. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan told the Rajya Sabha that the government has initiated action against 160 TV channels and blocked 60 channels on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages as their content was against the integrity and safety of the nation.

"Our government is concerned about the freedom of speech and expression... We are not in 1975. We are

not in Emergency..." he said in the House during the Question Hour.

Murugan was responding to a question by an opposition member who alleged that the government was misusing penal provisions to curb the freedom of speech and expression.

Replying to supplementaries on action against news channels for anti-national content, he said the Press Council of India and a three-tier mechanism is place to check the content.

This, he said, includes self-regulatory mechanism and self-regulatory bodies and if the grievances are not sorted out, only then does the inter-departmental committee takes up and sorts out the



L Murugan

issues. "We wish to inform you that we have initiated 160 cases against TV channels," the minister told the House. Asked about the action against MediaOne channel, he said, "We are not doing anything on MediaOne. Whatever permissions to channels are

being given (are) after the Home Ministry gives security clearance. MediaOne matter is sub-judice also."

"Within two months, our government initiated action against 60 channels whose content was against the nation and against the integrity and safety of the nation. We cannot tolerate it. "We blocked 60 channels, including Youtube and Facebook and Twitter accounts as they disturbed the nation's peace and security. We are concerned about the freedom of speech and freedom of expression," the minister of state told the Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said all programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the programme code laid down in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

The rules inter-alia provide that no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes. "The government takes action against private satellite TV channels in cases where programme code is found to be violated, by way of issuing advisories, warnings, apology scroll orders, off-air orders, etc.

'State can't be party to misuse of police machinery'

New Delhi, Feb 03 (PTI):

Observing that the state cannot be a party to misuse of police machinery, the Supreme Court Thursday stayed the criminal proceedings against a woman and took strong note of the filing of four FIRs against her after she accused Lok Insaaf Party MLA of Punjab, Simarjeet Singh Bains, of rape. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli was hearing two separate pleas filed by the lawmaker and the woman who had accused the MLA of raping her.

The top court, which stayed the judicial proceedings in four cases lodged against the woman, also extended by a week the pro-



tection against arrest to the Lok Insaaf Party MLA. The bench, during the hearing, was critical of filing criminal cases against the woman after she had moved the trial court alleging rape by the MLA. What is happening in your state? How many cases have been filed against the lady? Now he wants anticipatory bail and the lady should go to jail. You (state) can't be a party to such kind of misuse of police machinery," the bench said. Advocate

General D S Patwalia, appearing for the Punjab government, said the state does not have much role in the dispute which seems to be between two parties, but he will seek instruction and file a response in the case.

The state's law officer, however, said that as the guardian of the law, the state has a duty to protect it. At the outset, the bench referred to the allegations against the MLA and asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the lawmaker, about them. Have you seen your client's activity? How your man is harassing people, he is a public representative, MLA for two times, is this the way to behave. I want the advocate general of Punjab to appear in this matter; the bench said.

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