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Adieu Lata! Music legend cremated with state honours



Funeral procession of the late Lata Mangeshkar leaves from her residence, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI):

Singing legend Lata Mangeshkar, who enthralled millions with her divine voice for eight decades, was cremated with full state honours in Mumbai on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the luminaries from politics and entertainment industry present at her funeral at Shivaji Park in Dadar area in the evening.

Modi left the venue

after offering her floral tributes. Floral tributes were also paid to her at Shivaji Park on behalf of President Ram Nath Kovind. Lata's brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar lit the funeral pyre of the singing legend, who died at 92 in a hospital here on Sunday morning after multi-organ failure.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, actors Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, cricketer

Sachin Tendulkar and MNS chief Raj Thackeray were present as Lata's mortal remains were consigned to flames in presence of people from all walks of life.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar was inconsolable as he performed the last rites.

Modi laid a wreath and bowed in front of the mortal remains. He also met the Mangeshkar family members and consoled them. He left the venue before the funeral. Just be-

fore the last rites, the national tricolour in which the mortal remains were draped, was handed over to the family members.

The mortal remains of Lata Mangeshkar, draped in the national flag, were taken in a truck from her residence Prabhu Kunj in south Mumbai to Shivaji Park for the last rites.

A large number of people thronged the roads from where the cortège passed as the melody queen embarked on her final journey.

India in mourning

Mumbai: Lata Mangeshkar, India's national treasure whose voice stirred millions of hearts every day for close to eight decades, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday. As a flower-decked cortège went from Mangeshkar's Peddar Road home to Shivaji Park for the last rites, surging crowds of mourners walked or jogged along, many thousands lined the 10-kilometre route and millions tuned into their screens - to say goodbye to the woman who had been an integral part of their lives and to fuse into memory a moment in contemporary history.

The government announced a two-day "state mourning" for

Mangeshkar, who had a prodigious almost eight-decade career in which she sang an estimated 25,000 songs in as many as 36 Indian languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Kannada, and across classical and other genres.

"I'm just shattered that Didi, who has shaped my life and that of crores of others, is not anymore," said 60-year-old Savita Shah, one of the many who had gathered outside her home to pay their respects to the woman whose voice they woke up to, listened to as they went about their day and as they turned in for the night.

As millions mourned her and said thank you for your music, the tributes came pouring in with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading a heartbroken nation in remembering her.

"Lata-ji's demise is heart-breaking for me, as it is for millions the world over. In her vast range of songs, rendering the essence and beauty of India, generations found expression of their inner-most emotions. A Bharat Ratna, Lata-ji's accomplishments will remain incomparable," the president said.

The prime minister said he was anguished beyond words.

'Lata Didi amar rahe'

Fans bid adieu to singing legend on her final journey

Mumbai: Chanting slogans, singing songs and waiting for hours just to get a final glimpse of their icon -- that's how Lata Mangeshkar's fans bid a tearful adieu to the singing legend as her final journey began from her residence in south Mumbai to Shivaji Park for the last rites.

Hundreds of fans, young and old, flocked Mangeshkar's residence Prabhu Kunj to pay their last respects to the music icon who died due to multi-organ failure following COVID diagnosis. Traffic and city po-

lice were deployed in large numbers to ensure the busy Pedder Road near her residence doesn't turn chock-a-block, as fans gathered on both sides of the road on a humid Mumbai afternoon.

The lane opposite her residence reverberated with admirers' chants, "Jab tak suraj chand raha, Lata didi ka naam raha" and "Lata Didi amar rahe". "I got a bad feeling when I woke up today morning and immediately started praying for her recovery. I'm just shattered that Didi, who has shaped my life and that if crores of others, is not anymore," 60-year-old Savita Shah told PTI.

Two-day state mourning for Lata Mangeshkar

New Delhi: A two-day "state mourning" will be observed on the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, official sources said on Sunday. Citing a wireless message sent out to state chief secretaries by the Union Home Ministry, they said the national flag will fly at half mast from February 6 to February 7 throughout India. The central government has decided that as a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, two-day state mourning will be observed from February 6 to February 7 and there will be no official entertainment in this period, they said. A state funeral will be accorded to her and the date, time and venue will be intimated later.

Channi declared Congress CM face for Punjab polls

Ludhiana, Feb 6 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday declared Charanjit Singh Channi as his party's chief ministerial face for the high-stakes Punjab Assembly polls, a recognition that was also coveted by state party chief Navjot Kaur Sidhu.

Gandhi made this announcement addressing a virtual rally here, after Sidhu in a speech hailed the party's decision to make Channi as the state CM after the unceremonious exit of the Amarinder Singh last year. "People of Punjab said we need a chief minister who is from a 'gareeb ghar' (humble family), who understands poverty and hunger," Gandhi said.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Punjab Congress leaders Charanjit Singh Channi, Navjot Singh Sidhu at an election rally.

"It was a tough decision, you made it easy," said Gandhi declaring Channi as the party's CM face.

Gandhi warmly hugged Channi, Sidhu and party

leader Sunil Jakhar after he made the announcement. Before the announcement, both Channi and Sidhu again assured that whoever is chosen by the party as

the CM face, they will stand by the decision. The Congress had taken feedback from party leaders and workers in this regard. Gandhi said people of Punjab and party workers gave him a tough job. He said a political leader is not made in 10-15 days. "Political leaders are not made in the media and TV debates. A person becomes a leader after years of struggle and the Congress has no dearth of such jewels," said Gandhi at the beginning of his speech.

"Politics is not an event a political leader has to fight. Many political leaders fight their own battles," he said, adding that even Prime Minister Narendra Modi fights his own battle.

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The Centre had, on January 31, extended the work-from-home arrangement for 50 per cent of its employees below the level of under secretary till February 15.

"But after obtaining inputs from the relevant quarters and a review of the situation, a fresh office memorandum has been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), informing that all the employees at all levels, without any exemption, will report to office from tomorrow, that is, February 7," Singh said.

There will be no "work-from-home" option for any employee anymore, he added.

The personnel ministry had, on January 3, issued an order allowing work from home for 50 per cent of the employees below the level of under secretary till January 31 in view of a spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

He said the heads of the departments shall, however, ensure that the employees wear face masks at all times and continue to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

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Full office attendance for all central govt employees from Monday: Minister

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Union minister Jitendra Singh has said full office attendance will be resumed for all central government employees from Monday.

The decision was taken in view of a decline in the number of coronavirus cases, he said on Sunday.

"A review of the pandemic situation was done today and in view of a decline in the number of Covid cases as well as a decline in the positivity rate, it has been decided that full office attendance shall be resumed from tomorrow and employees at all levels, without any exemption, shall attend office from tomorrow, that is, February 7," Singh said.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

India's Melody Queen, a beacon of inspiration, attains immortality

Though anticipated, when it became official that the Melody Queen of India, Lata Mangeshkar, is no longer among us, it hit the collective consciousness of the nation like a sledgehammer. The only consolation was that she may have passed on, but her voice, which moved our hearts and provided succour to our souls for more than seven decades, will forever be with us.

Like all inspirational stories, Lataji's early struggle to establish herself in the 1940s is one that we cannot ever forget. In those days, she would take a BEST bus and travel from her south Mumbai home regularly to meet Naushad Ali at his Khar West bungalow or in the studios, hoping for a 'singing break' under the legendary music maker's baton.

In the vicious Mumbai monsoon, she would

mentor Naushad. With it, she 'arrived' in the film industry.

Thereafter, top music directors of the era wooed her, and they included Sachin Dev Burman, Husan Lal-Bhagat Ram (brothers), Ghulam Haider, Sardar Malik, Ghulam Mohammed, Jaidev, Salil Chowdhary, C. Ramchandra, Shankar-Jaikishan (partners), Roshan, Madan Mohan, M. Zahur Khayyam, Kalyanji-Anandji (brothers), Laxmikant-Pyarelal (partners), Sonik-Omi (uncle-nephew), Ravi Kumar Sharma or 'Ravi', Sudhir Phadke, Sajjad Hussain, Usha Khanna, and even A.R. Rahman, Anu Malik, Rajesh Roshan, Anand-Milind and Jatin-Lalit, among the younger crop of baton wielders.

Producers and directors vied for Lataji's unique voice and style for their top heroines,

she thrived on enduring masterpieces composed by some of the music directors. As Lataji's singing style matured under master music directors, her voice helped heroines who acted or danced to her tunes catapult to stardom, such as Madhubala, Meena Kumari, Nargis, Ameeta, Beena Rai, Waheeda Rehman, Vyjayanthimala Bali, Tanuja, Sharmila Tagore, Asha Parekh, Nutan, Saira Banu, Sadhana Shivdasani, Babita Kapoor, Zeenat Aman, Parveen Babi, Hema Malini, Rekha, Sridevi, Neetu Singh, Madhuri Dixit, and many others in the post-1980s, right down to the youngsters, notably, Kajol, Rani Mukherjee and Karisma Kapoor.

After the exit of Noorjehan from India and the fading away of other stalwart female singers, by the late 1950s/early 1960s, Lataji was firmly perched on the top of the heap and brooked no nonsense from anyone -- producers, directors, composers, siblings or contemporaries -- attempting to clamber anywhere close to her roost. Bollywood is full of stories of how Lataji ring-fenced her position till the very end, often raising the hackles of her female peers, although male singers, such as Mohammed Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Mahendra Kapoor and Manna Dey (all deceased) and others, chose to maintain a professional rapport with her.

Nevertheless, there were tales of how Rafi once bore the brunt of her "other side", or certain composers quivering as she gently declined to sing for them after they allegedly dared to commission some other female singers, for whatever reason. Of course, powerful filmmakers such as Mehboob Khan, Raj Kapoor, Kamal Amrohi, Dev Anand, Shakti Samanta, B.R. Chopra, Yash Chopra and the likes had no time for tantrums.



Lata Mangeshkar
1929-2022

come to Naushad's home, wearing her trademark sari, carrying an umbrella but totally drenched, shivering and barely able to speak, let alone sing. The music director would offer her piping hot tea and cookies to soothe her, but no songs ... yet

"I felt her voice was not yet 'ripe' for my style of music," said Naushad, the perfectionist, in a conversation with this writer. He was trying to justify not giving her an early break. "To improve her diction and control over words, I advised her to learn and practice Urdu, which she did ... and finally, she was ready to record for me." The first choices of Naushad were the reigning stalwarts -- Noorjehan, Suraiya, Shamshad Begum, Zohra Ambalewali, to name a few.

With time, trained by her father, Dinanath Mangeshkar, Lataji grasped the maestro's advice and got her first major hit -- 'Uthaye Ja Unke Sitam' ('Andaz', 1949) -- composed by her

especially because she could 'mould' her voice to suit most heroines. Without doubt, she had become the first among women singers, a position that Mohammed Rafi enjoyed among the men.

Yet, there was a music director who remained aloof from Lataji -- with haughty pride -- and yet rose to the top echelons of the music industry -- the incomparable O.P. Nayyar.

"I found Lata's voice too thin, too shrill, which did not suit my compositions," Nayyar had once said, claiming he was "the only music director who succeeded in Bollywood without Lata's voice".

He added: "I needed a more vivacious, richer, healthier voice of, say, Shamshad Begum, Geeta Ghosh-Dutt, Asha Bhosale." One woman singer, Suman Kalyanpur, was blessed with a voice rivalling that of Lataji's, but she was content being in the shadows, yet

A look at musical legend's numerous awards over the years

In honour of Lata Mangeshkar's memory and rich musical legacy, a quick look at the awards and recognition she gained over the course of her illustrious singing career.

- 1959: Filmfare award for Best Playback Singer (Madhumati)
- 1963: Filmfare award for Best Playback Singer (Bees Saal Bad)
- 1966: Filmfare award for Best Playback Singer (Khandan)
- 1966: Best Music Director for Sadhi Manas (Marathi) under the name 'Anandghan'
- 1966: Best Playback Singer for Sadhi Mansa
- 1969: Padma Bhushan
- 1970: Filmfare award for Best Playback Singer (Jeene Ki raah)
- 1972: National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for songs of the film Parichay.
- 1974: She became the first Indian to perform at the Royal Albert Hall.
- 1974: Lata Mangeshkar holds the distinction of being the most recorded artist in the history of Indian music in Guinness Record in 1974.
- 1974: National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for songs of the film Kora Kagaz
- 1977: Best Playback Singer for Jait Re Jait
- 1989: Lata Mangeshkar was bestowed with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989.
- 1989: Padma Vibhushan
- 1990: Raja-Lakshmi Award by Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation, Chennai
- 1990: National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for songs of the film Lekin.
- 1993: Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1994: Filmfare special award
- 1996: Star screen lifetime achievement award.
- 1996 - Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award
- 1997: Rajiv Gandhi Award
- 1997: Maharashtra Bhushan Award
- 1998 - Lifetime Achievement Award by the South Indian Educational Society
- 1999: Zee Cine Award for Lifetime Achievements
- 1999: NTR National Award
- 2000: IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2001: Best Playback Singer of the Millennium (female) by Hero Honda and file magazine "Stardust"
- 2001: She was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.
- 2001: Maharashtra Ratna (First Recipient)
- 2002: Asha Bhosle Award (First Recipient)
- 2004: Living Legend Award by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 2004: Filmfare special award
- 2007: The government of France conferred on her its highest civilian award (Officer of the Legion of Honour) in 2007.
- 2008: One Time Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 2009: ANR National Award
- 2019: The Indian government honoured her with the Daughter of the Nation award on her 90th birthday in September 2019.

Lata Mangeshkar Forever: 10 Favourite Songs

In the 1940s, a fresh voice took India by storm. It was Lata Mangeshkar who left all music lovers in rapture with each of her songs. The music sensation, who impressed generations with her melodious voice, will forever remain in our hearts. The esteemed singer has gifted us several evergreen songs over the decades. And, we continue to cherish them. The subtlety of emotions in her voice and the clarity of notes won the hearts of thousands of listeners and music maestros alike. Lata Mangeshkar's name is now synonymous with one of the golden eras in Hindi cine-

ma. Here's raising a toast to some of her most memorable solo songs:

1. Ajeeb Dastan Hai Yeh: Lata Mangeshkar effortlessly channelled a sense of charm and melancholy into this classic number. The song was featured in the 1960 film Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai.
2. Aaja Piya Tohe Pyar Du: Lata Mangeshkar won the country over with this song from the film Baharon Ke Sapne. RD Burman composed the music while Majrooh Sultanpuri penned the lyrics for this number.
3. Tune O Rangeeli: Lata Mangeshkar once again

teamed up with music director RD Burman to give us this number that captures the essence of young love.

4. Aaj Kal Paon Zameen Par: Lata Mangeshkar rendered this RD Burman composition



match for this unforgettable tune from Jab Jab Phool Khile.

6. Aa Jane Jaa

We can't thank Lata Mangeshkar enough for this dreamy melody from the film Intaquam.

7. Inhi Logon Ne

The film Pakkeezah featured one of Lata Mangeshkar's most popular solo numbers. This classic was composed by Ghulam Mohammad and Majrooh Sultanpuri penned the lyrics.

8. Lag Ja Gale

Lag Ja Gale is one of the most popular love songs and for good reason. Despite several

modern-day renditions and covers by artists, her original rendition from the film Woh Kaun Thi remains unparalleled.

9. Yeh Galiyan Yeh Chaubara
Lata Mangeshkar won hearts with this classic composed by the duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal for the film Prem Rog.

10. Piya Bina Piya Bina
Abhimaan, the film, was as much a testament to Lata Mangeshkar's singing prowess as it was to the acting abilities of Jaya Bachchan and Amitabh Bachchan. The music for this film was composed by SD Burman.



New Delhi: In this Monday 27, 2014, file image veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar attends a programme with the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi in Mumbai.



New Delhi: In this Sunday March 9, 2014, file image veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar attends a programme with cricketer Sachin Tendulkar in Mumbai.



Mumbai: In this file image dated, Sunday, April 24, 2005, Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar felicitates Bollywood MegaStar Amitabh Bachchan for his outstanding performance as an actor, on the 63rd Birth Anniversary of Master Dinanath Mangeshkar, in Mumbai.



Mumbai: In this file image dated, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2004, The Five Sibblings of Lt. Pt. Dinanath Mangeshkar, (L to R) Usha Mangeshkar, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and Meena Khadikar gather together to celebrate the 68th Birthday of Pt. Hridaynath Mangeshkar, in Mumbai.



New Delhi: In this file image dated, Tuesday, March 30, 2004, then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee welcomes Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar during the release of the music album 'Antar-Naad' sang by melody queen of the Poems of Prime Minister Vajpayee, in New Delhi.

Fast-unto-death: Worker's health deteriorates

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: The fast-unto-death agitation being staged by the retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandra Memorial Medical College, Kachandur continued for the fourth consecutive day. On Sunday, Tehsildar and SHO of Jeora Sirsa Chowki reached the Anshan venue and negotiated with the demonstrators.

They tried to persuade the demonstrators to withdraw their agitation. But the agitating workers refused and remained adamant on their stance. They requested the administration that at-least District Collector should come for negotiations.

Earlier to this, Government Doctor reached the venue and ex-

amined the person who is observing fast. In view of his deteriorating health condition, Doctor suggested to admit the agitator to the hospital. It needs to be mentioned here that 35-year-old Sunit Parganha is observing fast for the last four days. He was working as Store In-charge since 2013 at CCM Medical College.

It needs to be mentioned here that the retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandra Memorial Medical College, Kachandur have launched the 'fast unto death' agitation on February 02. After the acquisition of this private college by Chhattisgarh Government, a large number of existing employees were laid off.

Office bearers of various organizations, the



trade unions, farmers organisations, etc have given support to the agitators. They justified the demand of the employees and appealed to the government to take immediate action. Earlier, the employees had staged a series of agitations, Chakra Jam, Torch Rally, etc but their demand remained unheard.

The demonstrators are

taking care of Covid Protocol at the Anshan venue. Kaladas Dahariya of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha informed that after the acquisition of this medical college by state government, the employees were fired by introducing a black and unconstitutional law.

The experienced employees who were working

here for the last 8-9 years are not getting salary since last four-five months. On the other hand, the government is preparing to remove new vacancies, bypassing the experience of experienced employees.

Kaladas further said that some people are conspiring to defame the agitators by levelling baseless allegations. He said that the cops are present at the venue round the clock. In such a situation, any such activity could not happen at the pandal.

The agitators have submitted a letter to Police Station demanding action against the people who are trying to defame the agitators. Dhananjay Ali, Ajay Kumar Sahu, Dhanush Sahu, Kumar Sahu, Devraj Sahu, Guha Ram, Anita, Lokeshwari, Anil and others were present.

Foundation Day celebrated at Shri Ashtavinayak Ganesha Temple

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: The Foundation Day of Shri Ashtavinayak Ganesha Temple, Nehru Nagar was celebrated with utmost fervour and devotion on the occasion of Basant Panchami. This temple was inaugurated in the year 2001 on Basant Panchami.

Since then, Basant

Panchami is celebrated in a grand manner every year at this temple. Devotees thronged the temple to attend the religious ceremony right from the early morning hours. The ceremony began with Devavahana, Shodashupchar Puja and Swastivivah. A grand bhandara (Mass Meal) was also organised in which hundreds of devotees got Prasad.

Yajmans performed all the rituals in directions of Pandit Bajrang Dwivedi. After performing Abhishekam, all the devotees performed Yajna amidst chanting of Ved Mantras. This was followed by Akshama Yachana and Pushpanjali. A grand bhandara (Mass Meal) was also organised in which hundreds of

devotees got Prasad.



KH Group of Schools celebrates Basant Panchami

Bhilai, Feb 06: KH Group of Schools celebrated Basant Panchami with great enthusiasm. Uma Pandit conducted the religious rituals of Saraswati Puja. Principal Vibha Jha, Director Nishchay Jha; Academic Director Srishti Jha and all the teachers and staff of the school offered prayers and participated in the yajna.

In view of Covid-19 guidelines, the students did not participate in the event. Only the teachers conducted Saraswati Puja at K H Memorial School, Jawahar Nagar and KH World School, Jamul. Saraswati Puja was celebrated in a simple and dignified manner. After worshiping Maa Saraswati, aarti was offered and Saraswati Vandana was recited. Yajna was performed



amidst chanting of ved mantras.

Principal Vibha Jha paid obeisance to Maa Saraswati and sought blessings, happiness and prosperity for all. All the teachers paid their respects by offering flowers at the feet of Mother Saraswati. At the end of the programme, Khichdi, Kheer and fruits were distributed as Prasad.

Teachers including Anjana Sharma, TG Rao,

Rupesh Chaudhary, Jigyasu Kaushal, Lekhram Sahu, Bharatdas Manikpuri, Sheetal Dahariya, Sujata Sahu, Tara Singh, Hardeep Kaur, Anjana Soni, Komal Shukla, Rajni Pandey, Sonal Jaiswal, Preeti Baral and school staff including Sneha Kukreja, Jyoti Mohad, Sadhna Monica, Diksha Verma, Mona Vij, Divya Manikpuri and Poonam Gupta were present.

Vidya Aarambh Sanaskar performed at Nehru Nagar Kalibari



Bhilai, Feb 06: Special rituals were performed at Kalibaris in the city. Devotees made donations and performed special pujas to mark Saraswati Puja. Kalibaris were decorated with flowers and witnessed special pujas to mark the festivity.



Devotees kept fast and ended it after offering "Pushpanjali" to Goddess Saraswati, considered to be auspicious by the Bengali Community. At most of the kalibaris, children over two years began their educational journey "Vidya Aarambh Sanskar". The priests made them write the first ever words

on slate. Nehru Nagar Kalibari priest Paritosh Mishra informed that during this ritual, the children are formally introduced to studies. The first word the children are made to write is "Om". Thereafter the alphabets in Bangla, Hindi and English as well as numbers in Maths are written. On the other side

Construction work of Prayas Residential School in final stages

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: On Sunday, District Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure visited the construction site of Prayas Residential School in the district. He took stock of the status of the ongoing construction works. He inspected all the floors of Prayas Residential School.

During the inspection, Deputy Director (Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department) informed the Collector that classes would be held in the ground floor and there will be arrangement for lodging and food in the upper floors.

Rooms have been constructed in different sizes for the stay of the students. Arrangement has been made for the students in

each room in the ratio of 4, 6 and 8. A hygienic kitchen and dining room is also being established for the students. There will be separate arrangement for boys and girls in view of security and privacy.

Apart from this, the Collector also took information about the library, laboratory etc from the Deputy Director. He asked the officers that it should be the topmost priority to provide all facilities and safety environment to the children. He also inquired about the black board, table, chairs, etc for the classes and asked them to ensure proper quality of



furniture.

He further instructed the officials to complete the construction works as soon as possible. Special attention should be paid to the levelling of the inner road and the levelling of the drain so that there is no water logging inside the school premises during rainy season or untimely rains.

He asked for construction of concrete drains. He asked the engineer to complete the construction work by the end of February so that the residential school could become operational at the earliest.

On this occasion, the Collector said that it is one of the achievement oriented schemes run by the government for the children which is important for building the future of the children.

The children after getting their education from this school will take part in various competitive exams and will register their presence in the country's top educational institutes like NIT, IIT, AIIMS etc and will contribute in building the future of the country.

Elaborate traffic arrangements made for wedding reception of CM's son

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Wedding of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's son Chaitanya Baghel was held on Sunday at Raipur. A grand wedding reception has been organised at Patan on February 08. In view of the large number of people attending the reception, Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements to regulate the traffic.

Movement of heavy traffic from Patan will be prohibited on that day. Further, vehicle parking arrangements have been made in all the directions of the reception venue. DSP (Traffic) Gurjeet Singh informed that the



wedding reception has been organised behind the Rest House in Patan.

The vehicles reaching there from Durg - Bhilai - Newai - Utai - Selud - Funda - Patan will be parked at Indira Nagar

School; in front of Honda Show Room and at the ground near the reception venue. The vehicles reaching there from Janpad Panchayat premises; Girls School and Patan mandi premises. The vehicles coming from Somni - Pachpedi - Tarra - Savni - Bathena - Patan will be parked near Satnam Bhawan.

front of under construction Indoor Stadium; in front of Kala manch in Ward 02 and at College Ground.

The vehicles reaching there from Belhari - Ranitarai - Teligundra - Patan will be parked at Patan Gauthan; Tehsil Office; Ravan Bhatta and near the pond. The vehicles reaching there from Kumhari - Pahanda - Motipur - Jheet - Sikola - Patan will be parked at SDM Office Premises; Janpad Panchayat premises; Girls School and Patan mandi premises. The vehicles coming from Somni - Pachpedi - Tarra - Savni - Bathena - Patan will be parked near Satnam Bhawan.

Basant Panchami celebrated in Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Vasant Panchami was celebrated in the B Ed department of Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya run by Bhilai Education Trust. Under the guidance of the Principal of the college, Dr Sandhya Madanmohan, and the direction of Dr Mohana Sushant Pandit, Head of the Department of Education, the program began with lighting the lamp and worshiping Maa Saraswati.

Vijay Kumar Gupta, the Managing Trustee of Bhilai Education Trust, and Arvind Jain, Chairman of Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya, wishing all the college staff on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, wished them to attain wealth, knowledge, and prosperity



with the blessings of Maa Saraswati. Dr Sandhya Madan Mohan, Principal of the college, while wishing happy Vasant Panchami to the gathering of staff and stu-

dents said that the arrival of Rituraj Vasant brings new life in nature as well as wonderful enthusiasm in human life, which must be used for constructive works.

Heads of various departments of BMM, Dr Sunita Rao, Dr Madhulika Srivastava, Dr Asha Rani Das, Dr Bharti Verma participated in the program including all the teaching

and non-teaching staff of the college.

In making the program a success, the assistant professors of B Ed IIInd and IVth semesters Anjana, Prashitha, Anju, Bhumika, Kavita, Neha Baig, Asha Arya, Preeti Bijehkar, Kakoli Singha, Devyani Sahu, Madhu Yadav, students of B Ed IIInd and IVth semesters Anjana, Prashitha, Anju, Bhumika, Kavita, Neha

Pal, Seema, Varsha, Yamini, Aditi, Sangeeta, Simran, Pinky, Yogita, Renuka contributed significantly in organizing the program.

The principal of Lokbharti school, S Dhanalakshmi, and Alumni of B Ed course Satyam Bhardwaj, Khomeshwari, Seema, Riya, were also present in the program.

It needs a mention that it is believed that Maa Saraswati appeared on the fifth day of Shukla Paksha of Magha month. For this reason, Maa Saraswati is specially worshipped on Vasant Panchami.

Apart from this, it is also believed that starting learning "Vidyarambha" on this day increases knowledge, and on Vasant Panchami, any auspicious work can be done without any Muhurta.

OBITUARY

Geetali Guha



Bhilai: Talpuri A-Block resident Geetali Guha wife of Late Devravat Guha left for heavenly abode at the age of 88 years on February 04. She breathed last at her native place in Kolkata (WB). Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Kolkatta on February 05. She was the mother of Aniruddha Guha (Retired GM - Projects, BSP) and Lipi Bose; mother-in-law of Madhumita Guha (Retired Teacher of DPS) and grand mother of Anahita Guha and Animita Guha.

SECR GM conducts annual inspection of Bilaspur division



Bilaspur, Feb 06:

Massive development works are being carried out keeping in view facilities of the passengers at Korba railway station, claims South East Central Railway (SECR) General Manager Alok Kumar.

The General Manager Kumar, while speaking to media after conducting annual inspection at the railway station, claimed that construction of the under bridge will be undertaken at Sunaliya and Imliduggu soon. A proposal regard-

ing construction of bridge at the four other railway crossings has also been sent to Railway Ministry for approval.

Adding that Korba plays a crucial role in terms of supplying coal to different power plants across the nation, the SECR General Manager indicated that a chain of development works had been planned for the region.

Accompanied by other officials, General Manager Alok Kumar visited Korba Railway station to conduct annual inspection and

take stock of arrangements viz passenger facilities, cleanliness, safety and other essentialities.

Meanwhile, he also lent ears to complaints and demands of local public representatives. He assured that the demands and complaints raised by public representatives will be conveyed to the Ministry concerned.

As per information received, large number of local public representatives reached to meet the SECR GM. They put forward various demands.

Some of the public representatives demanded to restart the trains which were discontinued due to COVID-19. It was also demanded to run Hasdeo Express on all the seven days of the week.

If sources are to be believed Rampur MLA Nankiram Kanwar requested Alok Kumar for providing a copy of the proposal sent by Bilaspur railway. He also drew GM's attention towards need of construction of sheds at various small railway stations.

Bilaspur/Raipur, Feb 06:

The Union Budget-2022 granted Rs.8063.77 crores to South East Central Railway (SECR) for the next fiscal for massive infrastructure development including new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, traffic facilities, yard remodeling, computerization, road safety works at level crossings, construction of Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB), track renewal, bridge works, tunnel works and approaches, signal and telecommunication works, other electrical works, traction distribution works, workshops including production units, staff quarters and staff amenities, passenger amenities, training, HRD (Human Resources Development) and other specified works. SECR facing a stiff freight loading challenge would once again surpass the target ahead of the closing of the current fiscal. SECR is



also the only zone in Indian Railways (IR) which has registered more than 150-million ton (MT) incremental freight load continuingly since last six years. Earlier it may be recalled that SECR has been declared the cleanest Railway Zone in IR after third party survey by Quality Control India (QCI). Besides, contributing 16-percent of the total earning of IR SECR also shares 11.7 percent revenue with highest coal loading followed by cement, fertilizers and other raw materials. SECR spread over more than 2445-kilometers across

Bilaspur with more facilities and train services. Currently most of the trains of the Nagpur-Katni route are diverted via Dadhapara-Uslapur Bypass. Besides, the other side of Bilaspur Railway station is also being developed as second entry in the station. Apart from waiting halls, booking counters and vehicle stands, the FOB is being extended further for entry and exit from the Railway station for people residing on the other side like Loco Colony, Porter Kholi and Sirgitti areas. Safety and security has been accorded top priority in SECR with the Railway sleuths working round the clock to help the travelling passengers. Four stations in SECR including Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg and Gondia with more than 25 thousand footfalls are being developed further with additional escalators, elevators and other basic amenities, sources added.

Chhattisgarh state covers four percent route kilometer in IR. The zone comprises 313 stations, 117 sidings, 66 goods sheds and private terminals which is also highest in IR. SECR registering 188 percent increase in traffic facility has identified all major stations in Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur Divisions for construction of Foot Over Bridges (FOB) for safe trespassing of passengers from one platforms to the other.

SECR sources further informed that in the following days Uslapur will be developed as the second terminal station of

MAJOR MISHAP

Four workers killed, one injured

As power transmission tower collapses

Raigarh, Feb 06:

Goving Bhuiya, Duggal Bhuiya, Suresh Ravidas and Ishwar, all natives of neighbouring Jharkhand.

A case has been registered in this regard and further probe is underway, the official said.

Condoling the deaths, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel directed the district administration to provide assistance to the kin of the deceased and provide the best possible treatment to the injured worker, a government statement said.

About the incident

As per the preliminary information, four workers had climbed the old tower while others were beneath the structure. The tower suddenly gave way and crashed, causing grievous injuries to five of them. The police official said.

The injured were rushed to a hospital in Raigarh town where four of them were declared dead on arrival, he said. The deceased were identified as

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occupied railway land as disconnection of water and electricity at the residences of the encroachers was done. Some local people backed by alleged leaders have been obstructing the railway's action to protect its employees and inhabitants of the railway colony. It is a serious act of crime and vandalism in addition to breach of Railways act and criminal intimidation of railway staff doing their duty. It is sad that a baseless and ridiculous argument against the railway action is being forwarded by the supported of these criminal actions. This has forced the authorities to resort to initiation of law and order action against all the accused who intruded in to the colony and threatened, assaulted and abused the Railway staff. As per the extant instructions received

from the Railway Board, notice has to be served on all persons occupying the railway land and criminal proceedings must follow against the goondas who took law into their hands on Sunday. Notices have also been served to those illegally doing construction in the Railway Colony premises and on Railway land to leave the premises within 15 days time.

All the actions have been initiated as per the norms and according to law for smooth functioning of railway. Hence, all the concerned have been advised to cooperate with the administration and to support, so that railway's interest of safeguarding its premises and employees safety can be attained without any hitch, informs A K Tripathi, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Waltair Division.

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The injured were rushed to a hospital in Raigarh town where four of them were declared dead on arrival.

Mahatma remembered on death anniversary

Bilaspur, Feb 06:

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi was paid homage on his death anniversary under the leadership of State Chief Commissioner of India Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh Vinod Sevan Lal Chandrakar and Secretary of State Kailash Soni, District Education Officer and District Commissioner Scout S. K. Prasad here. District Organization Commissioner Scout Vijay Yadav informed that on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, a sanitation campaign was launched at the Gandhi statue site, thereafter the State Organization Commissioner Scout C. L. Chandrakar, Assistant State



Organization Commissioner Scout Bhupendra Sharma, UNICEF D.M. C. Reema Ganguly, District Organization Commissioner Scout Vijay Yadav, District Organization Guide Bina Yadav laid wreaths at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Masks were also distributed under the Roko Toko campaign. A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organized at Maharani Laxmibai Bai Kanya School, and various other competitions were organized under Amrit Mahotsav in which Principal Dr. Caroline Sato, Pushpa Sharma, Dr. Pradeep Nirnejak, Bharti Dubey, Ragini Chaudhary, Rashmi Tiwari, Parvati Kaushik, R Devangan, D K. Yadav, Mahendra Babu Tandon, Shashank Vishwakarma

, Nikhil Singh, Shiv Sahu, Suryakant Khunte, Dheeraj Kumar Gujar, Nidhi Kashyap, Guide Muskan Maitri, Sneha Yadav, Surabhi Singh, Sanvi Agarwal, Sania Sahu, Payal Rathore, Ragini Yadav, Scouts, guides, rangers, scouts and guides from various schools including Sonal Yadav, Pallavi Tandon, Rishika Sharma, Prachi Sahu, Shreyanshi Manikpuri, Astha Rohra were present.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sonal Agrawal Daughter of Mr. Ravindra Kumar Agrawal and resident of Block No. B, Plot No.2, Patrak Colony, Supela, Bhilai, Tehsil and District Durg, Chhattisgarh, 490023, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that:

- I am a citizen of India by birth.
- I hereby declare that the name of my father in some of my documents are mentioned as Ravindra Agrawal and in some documents, the name of my father is mentioned as Ravindra Kumar Agrawal.
- I hereby declare that both names pertain to the one and same person that is my "father" - Ravindra Kumar Agrawal.
- My father's real and full name is Ravindra Kumar Agrawal
- It is my true and correct statement
- That, this affidavit is being sworn and submitted before the competent authority for the reason as stated above.

Deponent

Shivling and Jalhari made of 24 kg silver ornaments offered in Bhoramdev temple



After special worship

Committee. In his brief remarks, while congratulating Basant Panchami, he described this work as having special importance for religious and public faith. He said that Chhattisgarh's Bhoramdev temple is a place of historical importance and a center of archaeological, religious, public faith and tourism for the entire state.

Chhattisgarh government is making every effort under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for its promotion, he said, adding that tourism facilities are being expanded in the district. Jungle safari is proposed at craters of rupees around Ramchava from Sarodha to Bhoramdev road near Kawardha.

With the development of Jungle Safari, tourism will get a boost in Kabirdham district as well as new employment opportunities will be created for the local youth.

An amount of Rs 9 crore has been approved for the construction of Kawardha to Bhoramdev approach road. New cottages worth about Rs 12 crore were built at Sarodha in Chilai Valley of Kabirdham district. New employment opportunities are being created for the local Baiga youth here.

He further said that efforts would be made to fulfill demands of the devotees.

(P S Elma, District Collector)

Active Covid cases surge to double

Dhamtari, Feb 06:

The region has gradually become an active centre of Covid 19 patients, as according to reports the region is currently harbouring the maximum number of active cases in the state, with a total of 2766 patients still on the road to recovery. The number surpasses, neighbouring districts Covid count number alerting the administration to strictly follow Covid appropriate behaviour among the public.

This week the Covid count number was 2547 in Raipur, 2190 in Bastar, 1029 in Rajnandgaon, and 1470 in Durg respectively. Seeing the growing number of patients, the administration is also cutting challan on people found without mask in public areas. The District, Janpad and Municipal Cooperation is on alert, and people not wearing mask will be fined. (P S Elma, District Collector)

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Kawardha, Feb 06:

On the occasion of Basant Panchami Shivling and Jalhari made of 24 kg silver ornaments were offered at Bhoramdev temple, a place of historical importance and a center of archaeological, religious, public faith and tourism in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh. Pandaria MLA Mrs. Mamta Chandrakar, Municipal Council President Rishi Kumar Sharma, Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Corporators Mohit Maheshwari, Ashok Singh, Sunil Sahu, Alderman Kaushal Kaushik, Devraj Pali, Kirtan Shukla, Rajkumar Tiwari, Rajesh Makhijani, Kawardha Tehsildar Manish Verma and Mausam Verma attended this special prayer.

Purohits in Bhoramdev temple Ashish Pathak and Santosh Pandit traditionally performed the rituals. Made of silver jewelry, this attractive armor has been crafted by special arti-

sans of Rajasthan. This special silver armor, weighing 24 kg, has been prepared from the amount collected by the devotees from the secret donation and donation of gem jewelry given in the temple. On this occasion, Bhoomi Pujan of Bhandar and Puja Griha construction was done near the temple premises. For this Rs 6 lakh has been approved. The facility of online 'Darshan' was also launched to promote Bhoramdev temple in the country and the world.

Cabinet Minister and Kawardha MLA Mohammad Akbar inaugurated this facility by having online darshan from his government residence in Raipur. People will be able to see the special makeup and Maha Aarti of Shiva of Bhoramdev temple through YouTube while sitting in their houses.

This special arrangement has been made by the district administration and Bhoramdev Teerth Karini

RAJPU BRANCH: SAMVET SHIKHAR BUILDING, IN FRONT OF EKATMA PARISAR, RAJBANDHA MAIDAN, RAIPUR (C.G.) -492001	
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) (Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)	
Whereas,	
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Raipur Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being detailed mentioned hereunder, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules as mentioned below.	
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India, Raipur Branch for an amount detail given as below.	
Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Properties
Raipur Main Branch M/s. Shri Industries Prop. Mrs. Archana Mishra W/o. Mr. R.N. Mishra	Equitable Mortgage of immovable property diverted land & factory situated at Kt. No. 349/5, P.H.No. 102/32, Village- Tendu, RNM- Dharhsa, Tehsil/ District Raipur (C.G.) admeasuring 5111 Sq.ft. Standing in the name of M/s. Shree Industries, Boundaries: North : Land of Balkrishna, South-Land of Agrawal & Owners land, East-Road, West-Others land.
Date: 07.02.2022, Place : Raipur	Amount Due ₹ 66,67,582.91/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two and Ninety one Only) and interest + other expenses
Date: 02.02.2022	
Authorized Officer, Bank of India	

BRIEF**Marijuana**

Gangtok: The police have made the largest seizure of marijuana in a single raid in Sikkim's history when they confiscated 22.4 kg of the drug from a South district, an officer said. A 40-year-old man was arrested in this connection. Acting on a tip-off, the police raided his house in Khop village near Ravangla and seized the brown sugar; Superintendent of Police Thakur Thapa said.

Parking

New Delhi: East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has decided to hire an agency for "strict enforcement" of parking policy in a bid to decongest main roads and market areas, officials said. EDMC has prepared a detailed policy in this connection, they said. A tender has been floated to hire an agency for design, development, implementation, operation and maintenance on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode, it said.

Lahan

Ferozepur: In a drive against illicit liquor ahead of the Punjab assembly polls, the police said it has seized four lakh litres of 'lahan', a fermentation agent for brewing liquor. Senior Superintendent of Police Narinder Bhargav said the huge quantity of fermentation agent was seized in a series of raids conducted in several villages across the Sutlej river near the India-Pakistan border.

Surrenders

Gurugram: An assistant commandant of ITBP, Naveen Khatodia, who is accused in the case of fake construction contracts on the NSG campus amounting to Rs 125 crore, has surrendered in a court here which sent him in police custody for five days. The economic offence wing of Gurugram Police took him on remand.

Rescued

New Delhi: A 58-year-old man engrossed in his mobile phone slipped from a Delhi Metro station platform and fell onto the rail tracks, but was rescued by CISF personnel on patrol duty. The incident took place at platform no 2 of the Shahdara metro station, adding that the man sustained minor injuries. Constable Rothash Chandra of CISF's quick reaction team acted swiftly and stepped down on metro track and pulled the passenger.

Suspended

Gurugram: A police inspector was suspended for allegedly demanding a bribe from the relatives of an accused in a murder case. A 21-year-old student was shot dead near the parking area of SGT University in Budhera, allegedly by another college student on October 8, 2021. Bijender Kumar, the former in-charge of the crime branch, was suspended by Gurugram Police Commissioner KK Rao on basis of a special enquiry by STF.

Hijab controversy may persist despite Karnataka Govt ban

On clothes disturbing social harmony



Girls protesting with Hijab in Mangaluru.

Bengaluru, Feb 06 (PTI):

All eyes are now on the Karnataka High Court which will be hearing the petition over the 'hijab' row on Tuesday, as the controversial issue refuses to die down across the state.

A section of Muslim girls are adamant on wearing headscarves to college, while the state government has cracked the whip making uniforms mandatory for students attending

classes in educational institutions. There have been several instances during the last few days, especially in coastal Karnataka, where some Muslim girl students, turning up in hijab, were not being allowed into classes, and Hindu boys responding with saffron shawls, also being barred from classes.

The hijab row has also taken a political colour, as the ruling BJP has stood strongly in support of the hijab.

form-related rules being enforced by educational institutions, calling the headscarf, a religious symbol, while the opposition Congress has come out in support of protesting Muslim girls.

The issue that initially began in January at a Government PU College in Udupi where six students who attended classes wearing headscarves in violation of the stipulated dress code were sent out, has spread to a few other colleges in the city and in nearby Kundapur and Byndoor.

There have also been reports of similar instances of students turning up at educational institutions with either hijab or saffron shawl in Ramdurg PU College in Belagavi and a college in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga, and also a group of girls staging demonstration in Mysuru and Kalaburagi in favour of the hijab.

Odisha teen step away from K-pop dream



Shreya Lenka

Bhubaneswar, Feb 06 (PTI): Just like millions of people across the world, Shreya Lenka was swept by the Korean wave. She dreamt of performing live in a stadium filled with K-pop lovers.

Little did Lenka realise she will also create ripples at being on the cusp of be-

coming a part of the phenomenon.

The 18-year-old from Rourkela, the steel city of Odisha, can put the state on the Korean popular music or K-pop map if she is chosen from among the two finalists of a worldwide audition to select the fifth member of the 'Blackswan' musical group. "It feels surreal," she told PTI from South Korea in an email conversation.

"This is like taking a step towards achieving my dream. Though, I still have a long way to go," she said.

Lenka, who has been a trained dancer since she was 12, was introduced to K-pop by a friend a few years ago.

BJP Uttarakhand noticed over morphed photo of Harish Rawat

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

The Election Commission has issued a notice to the Uttarakhand BJP for alleged violation of the model code and asked it to reply within 24 hours for tweeting a morphed image of former chief minister and Congress leader Harish Rawat, in which he has been shown as a Muslim cleric.

The action comes after the Congress complained to the poll body on Friday, alleging that the BJP Uttarakhand from its official Twitter handle on February 3 at 9:34 PM tweeted a morphed image of Rawat, wherein he has been falsely depicted as be-

longing to a particular community. Congress leader Randeep Surjewala had spoken to the CEC and demanded the registration of an FIR against the BJP, while alleging that it has violated the model code and other provisions of the law, as it seeks to create disharmony on religious grounds between people of diverse faith.

The said tweet has since been removed. "Whereas,

the Commission has carefully considered the matter and is of the considered view that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Uttarakhand has in violation of the clauses (I) & (2) laid down in the part 'General Conduct' of the Model Code of Conduct... of Section-123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and subsection (I)(a) of Section 153(A) of the Indian Penal Code 1860, made statements that are provocative and can seriously incite the emotions and lead to breakdown of law & order situation thereby adversely affecting the election process," the EC said in its notice sent last on February 5.

FLYOVER BEAUTIFICATION



Homeless people sit under an flyover painted with psychedelic colours as a part of beautification in New Delhi on Sunday.

NGT dismisses DSIIDC plea seeking permission to use land

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

to dumping of waste and discharge of untreated sewage and effluents," the bench said.

"As against this acknowledged fact, the stand taken in this application is that there is enough spare land for commercial purposes. Such a stand is removed from realities of the ground situation," the bench said.

The NGT was hearing a plea filed by the Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) to modify or vacate the stay whereby the NGT directed it not to build any commercial building in the land at Ranikhera-Mundka which as been referred to for the site for waste management. The tribunal noted that the same prayer was made on October 27, 2020 which was rejected.

Siblings pitted against each other in Punjab's Majithia seat

Majithia, Feb 06 (PTI):

Two brothers are slugging it out in Punjab's Majithia assembly constituency, with both exuding confidence of their victory. Sukhjinder Raj Singh aka Lalli Majithia is contesting on an AAP ticket, while his younger brother Jagwindopal Singh aka Jagga Majithia is trying his luck on a Congress ticket.

Majithia assembly constituency in Amritsar district is considered as the Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) bastion as sitting MLA Bikram Singh Majithia has been representing this seat since 2007. But this time, Majithia decided against contesting from his home turf and will now contest from



Jaggi and Lalli Majithia

Amritsar East constituency to take on Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu who is seeking re-election from there. The SAD has fielded Majithia's wife Ganieve Kaur from Majithia seat.

Majithia, part of Punjab's Majha region, has been a high profile constituency. It

has witnessed primarily a fight between the Congress and the SAD in the past but this time, the AAP is also posing a challenge to the contenders of both the traditional parties. Sukhjinder Raj Singh, 65, last month quit the Congress and joined the AAP.

Tripura to breed endangered vultures

Population of vultures crashed during 1990s

Agartala, Feb 06 (PTI):

Tripura's forestry department is embarking on a project to breed the endangered vulture species in Khowai district through program for vulture conservation and artificial breeding.

The decision was taken after it was noticed that Khowai had higher concentration of vulture population, said officials who added that vultures would be brought in from other states to help in the artificial breeding.

The project would soon be set up at Padmabil area in Khowai district with money sanctioned by the central government. There would be artificial breeding by bringing vul-



Endangered vulture species of Tripura.

tures from Haryana and then the offspring would be released in wild, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Khowai, Niraj K Chanchal said. Recently

around 30-40 vultures were sighted in the district. About a decade back the scavenger bird was almost extinct in the state, but the population is on the rise now due to improvement of their habitat by the forest department, he said.

The Conservation Breeding Program appears to be the only action, which could save the vultures from extinction, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), D K Sharma said.

If 150 pairs of each of the three species could be held and bred in captivity, it would be possible to get a derived population of 600 pairs of each of the three species, within ten years of the beginning of release programme.

'People getting threat calls after SP's emergence as key contender'

Agra, Feb 06 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that people are being threatened over the phone against voting for his party after it has emerged as a powerful contender in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. He also asked people to record such threatening calls so that based on them FIRs could be lodged after his government comes to power. "Since the SP has emerged as a powerful contender in the elections, people are being threatened over the phone. If anyone gets such a call, record it. I want to say that the recordings will be considered as (the basis of) FIRs, Yadav said with



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav at election rally in Agra on Sunday.

out taking any names. Yadav made the allegations while addressing workers' meet in the Bah assembly constituency of Agra. He said the assembly polls in the state are for the future of Uttar Pradesh and to save the country's

Constitution. This election is for the future of the UP and to save the Constitution. The BJP can do anything and nobody knows till they do it. Did anyone know demonetisation was going to be announced? he asked as proof of his allegation. Yadav also mocked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who in a recent statement had said he would "cool down" after March 10, the day for the announcement of election results, those heightening passions.

The chief minister is talking about cooling down. But we will only talk about announcing recruitments in the police for youngsters of the state, he said. Talking about emergency service Dial 100', he said, We started Dial 100' to protect those who are being harassed by anyone across the state. The chief minister has not been able to change the tyres of the vehicles or the colour of the Dial 100' vehicles.

BRIEF

Sanction

Dhaka: Gregory W Meeks, the chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee backed the Biden administration's targeted sanction on an elite Bangladeshi security agency over alleged human rights issues last year, but said the situation did not warrant any "wholesale" action on the entire country.

Criticism

Seoul: Major South Korean presidential candidates accused China of laying claim to their culture after a performer wore a traditional Korean dress during the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics. A woman in a white and light purple hanbok dress marched along other performers apparently representing China's various ethnic groups as they carried the Chinese national flag.

Protesters

Istanbul: Hundreds of people in Istanbul marched to the Greek consulate to protest the deaths of 19 migrants near Turkey's border with Greece. Turkish authorities said they froze to death earlier this week after being illegally pushed back across the border by Greek guards. Athens has strongly rejected the accusation.

Leak

Honolulu: A giant US government fuel storage installation hidden inside a mountain ridge overlooking Pearl Harbour has provided fuel to military ships and planes crisscrossing the Pacific Ocean since World War II. Its very existence was a secret for years. Even after it was declassified, few people paid attention until late last year, when jet fuel leaked into a drinking water well, showed up in tap water and sickened thousands in military housing.

India's nightingale found admirer in Pak's brutal dictator Zia

Sri Lankan PM mourns

Colombo: Lata Mangeshkar's songs transcended borders and gave life to the phrase 'music is a universal language', Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said on Sunday as he mourned the demise of the singing legend.



Zia ul Haq

that the Indians say that whenever they want to bring some cultural troupe to the neighbouring country, it is not quite welcome in Pakistan. The troupe apparently consisted of some leading female singers, including the legendary Lata Mangeshkar.

Zia, 64, served as the head of state of Pakistan from 1978 until his death in a plane crash in 1988.

Zia, who by that time had launched his project of Islamising Pakistan, said, I am the man responsible. I myself am fond of Lata Mangeshkar but if you want to send her to Pakistan to sing, I'll say not now because it is not compatible with the current

Pakistani spirit. Zia took over the government in a military coup in 1977 after deposing the elected government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whom he got hanged in a murder case through his hand-picked judges. As the country was bursting with protests and in order to control the anger and cure his unpopularity, Zia embarked on implementing several harsh measures in the name of Islam, including banning performances by women artists.

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The Indore-born Mangeshkar's first recorded song was in 1942 in the Marathi film Kiti Hasaal when she was just 13. In October last year, 79 years later, Vishal Bhardwaj released "Theek Nahi Lagta", a song with Mangeshkar's favourite lyricist Gulzar that was believed to have been lost.

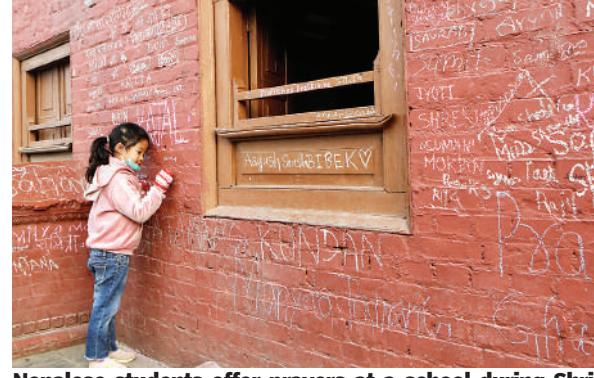
Islamabad, Feb 06 (PTI):

Pakistan's brutal dictator General Muhammad Zia ul Haq, known for banning music and other fine arts featuring women in the Islamic nation, could not remain untouched from the golden voice of Lata Mangeshkar and had once himself confessed that he was an admirer of India's nightingale.

According to an old interview, Zia confessed his admiration for Mangeshkar while talking with late Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar in 1982.

Nayar poked Zia by ask-

Schools in Nepal demand reopening as online access limited



Nepalese students offer prayers at a school during Shri Panchami festival in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday.

Kathmandu, Feb 06 (AP):

Schools in Nepal on Sunday demanded the government open up physical classes that were shut down for weeks as the number of COVID-19 cases began to decline.

Teachers say online education was limited to only a small part of the population living in the urban parts of the Himalayan country can access internet, while a majority of students were being deprived of their

chance to learn.

The number of coronavirus cases fueled by the omicron variant has peaked in the past weeks but was declining in the last few days.

We are ready to open the schools, students are eager to get back, guardians are willing to send their children and

the number of virus cases are on the decline so there is no reason for the government to continue the ban on schools, said Tika Ram Puri, president of the Private and Boarding Schools Organization Nepal. Puri said they want schools to reopen by next week. The standard of education is deteriorating and students are getting the wrong idea about education in the country because of the long and frequent shutdown of schools, said Sangina Gomja, high school science teacher. Students in the villages haven't had much education in the past two years.

Students across Nepal lined up to pray at the temple of a Hindu goddess on Sunday as the country celebrated the annual Basant Panchami festival that marks the arrival of the spring season.

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Students across Nepal lined up to pray at the temple of a Hindu goddess on Sunday as the country celebrated the annual Basant

CENTRAL Chronicle

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Art is eternal

The void left by Lata Mangeshkar cannot be fulfilled in existence of India as a modern independent country. Art is eternal and artists remain immortal. No one defined cultural identity of modern independent India better through singing than 'Bharat Ratna' Lata Mangeshkar. Lata Mangeshkar was an important presence in the lives of generations of Indians. The 1960s were a time before the word soldier was used mockingly on social media and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon' could make the head of state of a new nation cry. The now forgotten romance of national integration in Jawaharlal Nehru's India was summed up perfectly in her devotional classic 'Allah Tero Naam from Hum Dho'. She sang non-stop for 73 years from 1943 to 2015. Mangeshkar had multiple songs for every emotion she will ever feel and every stage of life. Mangeshkar had so many brilliant songs that it's impossible to write down one's top 20 though the internet is full of such lists, all equally unsatisfactory. She never wore shoes when singing. Singing is like praying, she believed. She even took off her shoes at the chilly Royal Albert Hall when she was performing there in 1974 and went on stage in socks. 'You will die of cold,' said late Dilip Kumar, who was introducing Mangeshkar. She laughed and sang for hours. As a personality, Lata Mangeshkar told at an interview 'I am very happy as I am. I have no regrets. As for the music of today, is this music? There is no grief, no pain, no lullaby. I only listen to Pandit Ravi Shankar, Mehdi Hassan and Bade Gulam Ali Khan. And as for the singers, I consider them unlucky. In our time, lyricists and even directors used to guide us. There's no one to guide singers today.' Even though she started her career as a Marathi singer and actress little did people know that this young girl would one day grow up to dominate the music of Hindi filmdom. Incidentally, her first Hindi song was also from a Marathi movie in 1943. The song was "Mata Ek Sapoot Ki Duniya Badal De Tu" from the movie 'Gajabbaau'.

Apart from being 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001, Lata Mangeshkar was conferred France's highest civilian award, the Insignia of 'Officier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Officer of the Legion of Honour) in 2009. 'Vaishnavajana' to was sung at Gandhi's daily prayer meetings. As Gandhi commenced his almost 250-mile march to the sea in 1930, he was handed his walking stick by his close associate Kaka Kalekar, and Narayan Khare sang 'Vaishnavajana' to. The 'bhajan' remained on the lips of Gandhi and his companions throughout the Dandi March. Widely known as Narsi's Vaishnavajana to may have been to Gujaratis, it was Gandhi who popularized it through the length and breadth of India. Later, Lata Mangeshkar ensured its popularity across India. But if there is one song that has stood the test of time and continues to evoke the same sense of love for the country, it is the heart-wrenching 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon'. Coupled with Mangeshkar's mellifluous voice were the powerful, hard-hitting lyrics of Kavi Pradeep that famously moved Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to tears. Very few people know the origin of the song which has remained, to this date, synonymous with Mangeshkar. Poet Pradeep penned the song shortly after the 1962 Indo-China war, as a tribute to the soldiers who had died defending the country. For a country still agonising over a defeat in the war, the song acted as the perfect wake-up call asking the citizens to overcome their anger and rise in solidarity for the fallen. Lata Mangeshkar finally succumbed to virus originated from China and this will keep Indians in solidarity to the threat from China.

Limits of diplomacy

Pakistan said the US government has approved the nomination of Sardar Masood Khan as its Ambassador to Washington, days after a prominent US Congressman urged President Joe Biden to reject his diplomatic credentials and termed him a 'bona fide terrorist sympathiser.' Khan, who has previously served as the 'president' of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) until August last year, was nominated as Pakistan's ambassador to the US in November. This development shows limits of India's diplomatic effort to influence Pakistan's signalling of Kashmir policy internationally. Earlier, a top Indian diaspora group urged US President Joe Biden to reject the appointment of Masood Khan as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, alleging that the diplomat is a sympathizer and supporter of terrorist groups. The Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIDS) had urged Biden to reject the appointment of the 'Jihadi-terrorist-sympathizer' Masood Khan as Pakistani Ambassador to the United States. Masood Khan is also a supporter of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose killing squads helped the Pakistani military carry out acts of genocide against Bangladeshis in 1971 when hundreds of thousands of minorities were raped, killed and millions were displaced. But in international diplomacy, such appointments are granted diplomatic immunity. Pakistan is trying hard to balance relations between China and US. Sardar Masood Khan in 2018 made a threatening statement against India by saying that Indian 'obstinacy on the Kashmir issue' could trigger a nuclear war in South Asia.

The US State Department has clarified that there has been no change in America's Kashmir policy and Washington still considers both Jammu and Kashmir as a territory disputed between India and Pakistan. The US stance were guided purely by larger strategic calculations during the Cold War. However, after the new cold war with combined Russia-China power, the US has been and continues to be guided not only by a fear of a nuclear confrontation but also with an eye on securing American interests in the region as well as winning stakeholders to its side in the battle to preserve their post-World War II rules based global order that faces an uncertain future given China's growing role on the world stage. The modus operandi of the part of the Americans has transitioned to a far more reactive approach. Only irrational fanatics would want to assassinate Owaisi MP. Owaisi is a patriot even if he is not a nationalist. The difference is that Owaisi will defend our country but he does accept Hindu Muslim DNA is the same. We must meet his articulate arguments and not by barbarism.

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

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

PASSING THROUGH BLOOM



Villagers pass through a blooming mustard field in Jhusi, in Prayagraj district, Uttar Pradesh.

STEPHEN WOODING



The sweetness of sugar is one of life's great pleasures. People's love for sweet is so visceral, food companies lure consumers to their products by adding sugar to almost everything they make: yogurt, ketchup, fruit snacks, breakfast cereals and even supposed health foods like granola bars. Schoolchildren learn as early as kindergarten that sweet treats belong in the smallest tip of the food pyramid, and adults learn from the media about sugar's role in unwanted weight gain. It's hard to imagine a greater disconnect between a powerful attraction to something and a rational disdain for it. How did people end up in this predicament? I'm an anthropologist who studies the evolution of taste perception. I believe insights into our species' evolutionary history can provide important clues about why it's so hard to say no to sweet. A fundamental challenge for our ancient ancestors was getting enough to eat. The basic activities of day-to-day life, such as raising the young, finding shelter and securing enough food, all required energy in the form of calories. Individuals more proficient at garnering calories tended to be more successful at all these tasks. They survived longer and had more surviving children, they had greater fitness, in evolutionary terms.

One contributor to success was how good they were at foraging.

Being able to detect sweet things, sugars could give someone a big leg up. In nature, sweetness signals the presence of sugars, an excellent source of calories. So, foragers able to perceive sweetness could detect whether sugar was present in potential foods, especially plants, and how much. This ability allowed them to assess calorie content with a quick taste before investing a lot of effort in gathering, processing and eating the items. Detecting sweetness helped early humans gather plenty of calories with less effort. Rather than browsing randomly, they could target their efforts, improving their evolutionary success. Evidence of sugar detection's vital importance can be found at the most fundamental level of biology, the gene. Your ability to perceive sweetness isn't incidental; it is etched in your body's genetic blueprints. Here's how this sense works. Sweet perception begins in taste buds, clusters of cells nestled barely beneath the surface of the tongue. They're exposed to the inside of the mouth via small openings called taste pores. Different subtypes of cells within taste buds are each responsive to a particular taste quality: sour, salty, savoury, bitter or sweet. The subtypes produce receptor proteins corresponding to their taste qualities, which sense the chemical makeup of foods as they pass by in the mouth.

One subtype produces bitter receptor proteins, which respond to toxic substances. Another produces savoury (also called umami) receptor proteins, which sense amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. Sweet-detecting cells produce a receptor protein called TAS1R2/3, which detects sugars. When it does, it sends a neural signal to the brain for processing. This message is how you perceive the sweetness in a food you've eaten. Genes encode the instructions for

how to make every protein in the body. The sugar-detecting receptor protein TAS1R2/3 is encoded by a pair of genes on chromosome 1 of the human genome, conveniently named TAS1R2 and TAS1R3. Comparisons with other species reveal just how deeply sweet perception is embedded in human beings. The TAS1R2 and TAS1R3 genes aren't only found in humans - most other vertebrates have them, too. They're found in monkeys, cattle, rodents, dogs, bats, lizards, pandas, fish and myriad other animals. The two genes have been in place for hundreds of millions of years of evolution, ready for the first human species to inherit. Geneticists have long known that genes with important functions are kept intact by natural selection, while genes without a vital job tend to decay and sometimes disappear completely as species evolve. Scientists think about this as the use-it-or-lose-it theory of evolutionary genetics. The presence of the TAS1R1 and TAS2R2 genes across so many species testifies to the advantages sweet taste has provided for eons. The use-it-or-lose-it theory also explains the remarkable discovery that animal species that don't encounter sugars in their typical diets have lost their ability to perceive it. For example, many carnivores, who benefit little from perceiving sugars, harbour only broken-down relics of TAS1R2.

The body's sensory systems detect myriad aspects of the environment, from light to heat to smell, but we aren't attracted to all of them the way we are to sweetness. A perfect example is another taste, bitterness. Unlike sweet receptors, which detect desirable substances in foods, bitter receptors detect undesirable ones: toxins. And the brain responds appropriately. While sweet taste tells you to keep eating, bitter taste tells you to spit things out. This makes evolutionary sense.

(Stephen Wooding is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Heritage Studies, University of California, US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New normal

Talking about the new normal, we can't deny the fact that going digital is the only alternative though it is yet to be developed and accessed by most of the people in our society. With changes, we have to accept the need of being digitally independent and educated. Most people don't know how to use a smartphone properly, especially people above forty years. It's maybe because of the generation gap and the lack of awareness. While the world is depending upon websites and other engines, we as the 'educated people' don't have the basic idea of web designing and developing. It is unfortunate to some extent. But students and children nowadays are familiar with the tech world and they are more tech-savvy themselves. As Elon Musk says, "Future of humanity depends on us merging with the machines." That is why their curriculum can't include proper training on the necessary digital courses like basics of coding, how to develop a website, software programming, VFX, graphics etc. We should make them prepare professionally and personally to stand in this tech era. This era of Artificial intelligence has made machines a lot more capable than ever. With this, AI can store, form and solve many technical issues. So, it is really important to learn how to use and manage AI for our prosperity. In this sea of data, it's easier to be misled and misinformed, but proper learning can prevent that. We, humans kind have never stopped evolving. While the first world countries use digital devices like we use our pen, paper or kitchen utensils it's still a fantasy for many countries like us to go fully digital. Because going digital doesn't only apply to the metro-politans or the smart cities. It should reach every corner of the country. But again some problems which curtail the 'go digital' tendency are low GDP, poverty, high population rate etc. But it's the new normal. The first process to adopt the new normal is by the acceptance that it is the primary alternative in this era. The next step would be the application and proper training from a young age on the topic and should be included in the curriculum. Only in this way maybe one day we could also participate in the digital race with the other countries.

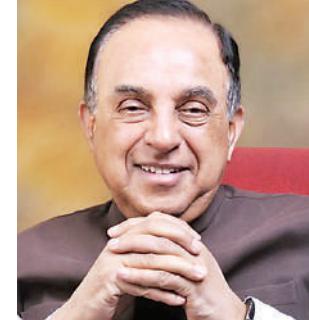
Dipsika, via email

Respect guidelines

To avoid Corona infection, the State health departments have carried out awareness programmes many a time. Though the Omicron virus has not created a lot of trouble in many states, the spread of Corona is still going on. The Health Department asked the public not to gather in a large number, besides avoiding picnics. And all these matters have been discussed by authorities at central and state levels. We should realize from the core of the heart that the situation in the states is still not normal. We see the fun in all picnic spots. In the name of festival celebrations, there was a crowd everywhere. Everywhere Covid protocols were broken. We should respect the guidelines issued by the Department of Health. We should avoid festivals.

Achin, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Subramanian Swamy@Swamy39

Only irrational fanatics would want to assassinate Owaisi MP. Owaisi is a patriot even if he is not a nationalist. The difference is that Owaisi will defend our country but he does accept Hindu Muslim DNA is the same. We must meet his articulate arguments and not by barbarism.



Gaurav Sabnis @gauravsbnis

John F. Kennedy challenged the country to send someone to the moon and bring them back by the end of the 1960s. John F. Kennedy did not challenge the country to build an even bigger and fancier and very expensive new Capitol in Washington than the old one works just fine.



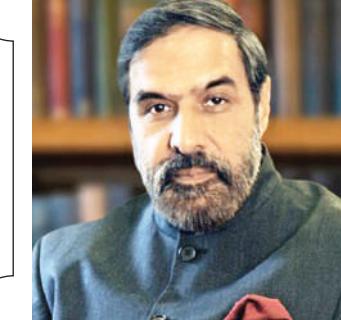
Velina@vtchakarova

Just as the period between WW1 and WW2 was merely an intermission, so the period between the Cold War and the Cold War 2.0 was in intermission. We are in the midst of bifurcation of the Global System in all strategic domains with a systemic rivalry btw US Flag of United States and #Dragonbear ChinaRussia.



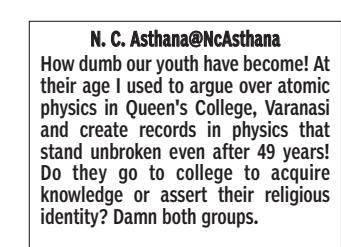
Lokhande@prashantias2001

Pollution? Not even trace of it!!! This is Arunachal !!



Anand Sharma@AnandSharma

Strongly disagreeing with K Chandrashekhar Rao, Chief Minister Telangana on his call for rewriting of constitution, which is unacceptable. This is a trap of those who are plotting to dismantle India's constitutional democracy which guaranteed justiciability rights for all.



N.C. Asthana@NcAsthana

How dumb our youth have become! At their age I used to argue over atomic physics in Queen's College, Varanasi and create records in physics that stand unbroken even after 49 years! Do they go to college to acquire knowledge or assert their religious identity? Damn both groups.

BRIEF

Expects



New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India is expecting production activity to improve in the current quarter with gradual improvement in the supply of critical electronic components. CFO Ajay Seth said it is also looking ways to bolstering its SUV portfolio to get back to market share.

Profit

New Delhi: Bayer Cropscience Ltd has reported a net profit of Rs 84.8 crore in the third quarter ended December 2021, despite unseasonal rains, crop infestations and a challenging corn season. The company had posted a net loss of Rs 45.1 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. Net revenues rose to Rs 999.9 crore during the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22, compared with Rs 936.5 crore in the year-ago period.

Locally



New Delhi: Audi is evaluating the feasibility of producing electric vehicles locally in India while it seeks to reach threshold volumes for such step to be successful. Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon told PTI that it decided by 2033 we will become all-electric company.

Dues

New Delhi: Country's largest lender SBI has lined up six non-performing assets (NPAs) for sale to asset reconstruction companies to recover dues of nearly Rs 406 crore. These are Patna Bakthiyarpur Tollway with outstanding of Rs 230.66 crore, Steelco Gujarat Ltd Rs 68.31 crore, GOL Offshore Ltd Rs 50.75 crore, Andhra Ferro Alloys Ltd Rs 26.73 crore, Guru Ashish Taxfab Rs 17.07 crore and Genix Automations Pvt Ltd Rs 12.23 crore.

Project



New Delhi: NHPC's 2,880-megawatt Dibang hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh is expected to kick off in the first quarter of 2022-23 with in-hand forest and environment clearances, CMD Abhay Kumar Singh told PTI, the company is waiting for financial approval.

India's digital currency to debut by early 2023

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

India's very own official digital currency is likely to debut by early 2023, which will mirror any of the currently available private company-operated electronic wallets, but with a change that it will be a sovereign-backed facility, a top government source said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech last week talked about launching a central bank-backed 'digital rupee' soon.

A top government source, who wished not to be identified said, the digital currency issued by the RBI would be numbered in units, just like every fiat currency has an unique number.

"The units issued in digital rupee would be included in the currency in circulation. It would not be very different from fiat



currency. It would be more like an electronic form of fiat currency, so in a sense it would be a government-mandated electronic wallet," the source said.

The RBI has indicated that the digital rupee would be ready by the end of next financial year, the source added.

The digital rupee blockchain, being developed by the Reserve Bank, would be able to trace all transactions, unlike the current system of mobile wallet offered by private

companies.

Explaining further, the source said that using electronic wallet offered by private companies, people currently transfer money to the private company who holds the money on his/her behalf and pays to a merchant when there is any transaction.

"In the case of a digital rupee instead of holding a note you will be holding a digital currency in your phone and it would be with the central bank and from there it would be transferred to any merchant. It is fully backed by the sovereign," the source said.

If the money is transferred to the e-wallet of a private company, then credit risk of that company is also attached to the money besides charges levied by such companies.

"Instead of carrying this wallet, I will carry money on the phone," the

source said. In the 2022-23 Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will give a big boost to digital economy.

"Digital currency will also lead to a more efficient and cheaper currency management system. It is, therefore, proposed to introduce Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies, to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23, the minister had said.

The exact regulation governing this Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is yet to be finalised.

CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrencies that have mushroomed over the last decade.

Companies.

Infra projects expected to route through PM GatiShakti's NPG

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):



(EGOS) and NPG are constituted and the TSU (Technical Support Unit) is more or less in place. So the structure is there," he told PTI.

The secretary added that the department has conducted one round of training with the departments of the government of India and held regional conferences across the states, barring the North-East, where it would happen soon.

"So we are on track. We have asked states to put in their layers (on the PM

500 crore and is an infrastructure project will be routed through this (NPG)," Jain said.

The process, he said, would help in making the plan more efficient and effective.

NPG consists of heads of the network planning wing of respective infrastructure ministries and it will assist the EGOS, which is headed by the cabinet secretary. EGOS consists of secretaries of 18 ministries as members and Head of Logistics Division, under the DPIIT, as member convenor.

NPG will clear the projects as all infrastructure projects would have to come here.

"Instead of departments making the DPR (detailed project reports) directly, at the planning stage, they will approach the NPG," he said after its clearance, the project would follow the normal procedure of approval by the finance ministry of the Cabinet, depending upon the projects.

IPO-bound LIC ropes in 6 independent directors on its board

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Ahead of initial public offering (IPO), Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has last month appointed six independent directors on its board to meet regulatory norms of corporate governance.

LIC appointed former financial services secretary Anjuly Chib Duggal, ex-Sebi member G Mahalingam, former SBI Life managing director Sanjeev Nautiyal, sources said.

Besides, chartered accountant MP Vijay Kumar, Raj Kamal, and V S Parthasarathy are roped in as independent directors on LIC's board.

With the appointment, the total number of inde-



pendent directors goes up to 9 and all vacancies are filled.

Fulfilling corporate governance norms is an important element for filing Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The central government is expected to file draft papers for the mega initial public offering of LIC with market regulator Sebi by this week, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey had

Till now, the Centre has raised around Rs 12,000 crore from privatisation of Air India and stake sale in other PSUs.

The embedded value of LIC has been arrived at and it is over Rs 5 lakh crore. The size of the issue would be mentioned in the DRHP.

The issue, after approval of Sebi, is likely to hit the market in March, Pandey said.

Up to 10 per cent of the LIC IPO issue size would be reserved for policyholders.

LIC's listing is crucial for the government to meet the lowered revenue estimates of Rs 78,000 crore for the current financial year.

The spending on building multimodal logistics parks, metro systems, high-

Massive capex outlay to crowd in Pvt investment by creating demand

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):



TV Somanathan

The government's massive capital spending programme outlined in the Budget 2022 will help crowd-in private investment by reinvigorating economic activities and creating demand, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raised capital expenditure (capex) by 35.4 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 to Rs 7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investment-led recovery of the pandemic-battered economy.

The capex this year is pegged at Rs 5.5 lakh crore.

The spending on building multimodal logistics parks, metro systems, high-

ways, and trains is expected to create demand for the private sector as all the projects are to be implemented through contractors.

In an interview to PTI, Somanathan said over the last two years physical restrictions due to Covid pandemic has dented demand

and delayed private investment.

The hope is that because of the heavy capital expenditure programme by the end of this financial year, hopefully, private capital investments will begin to come in a big way. That is our hope, Somanathan said.. Low private investment is a non-economic problem, which can't be solved by economic remedies, he said, adding it would be solved when activities start and demand picks up. The Economic Survey has pegged India's economic growth between 8.8-5 per cent in the current fiscal, while Budget has estimated nominal GDP growth of 11.1 per cent. In her post Budget interaction

with industry leaders, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had exhorted India Inc to take advantage of announcements made in Budget and "quickly" step up spending. Stating that government capex was increased in the Budget with twin objectives of supporting sustained growth and crowd in private investment, the minister asserted that this is the right time for investment and industry should not lose this opportunity. Explaining the rationale for a conservative nominal GDP growth, Somanathan said the weighted average of wholesale and retail prices has been taken into account to arrive at the 11-12 per cent range.

FPIs net sellers at Rs 6,834 cr in Feb so far

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Research, Morningstar India

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out as much as Rs 6,834 crore from Indian markets in the first four trading sessions of February.

As per depositories data, FPIs took out Rs 3,627 crore from equities, Rs 3,173 crore from debt segment and Rs 34 crore from hybrid instruments.

Previously, FPIs have been net sellers for fourth consecutive months.

"FPIs have sharply increased the pace of selling after the US Fed announcement last week in which it indicated an end of the ultra-loose monetary policy regime," said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager

out to the markets which have rich valuations and investing in the ones offering relatively attractive valuation and better risk-reward, as per Srivastava.

"FPIs sold heavily in banks and IT and were buyers in metals," noted V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

For the future of FPI investment, Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities said "equity markets is expected to remain volatile, given the high inflation and Fed's expected to increase the interest rate in the coming month... With higher inflation and rising bond yields, FPI flows in India are likely to remain volatile."

DGTR for imposing countervailing duty on copper tubes, pipes



Duties are trade remedies to protect domestic industry

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

The commerce ministry has recommended the imposition of countervailing duty on copper tubes and pipes from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam for five years, a move aimed at guarding domestic players against imports that are subsidised by these countries.

Remedies (DGTR) in its findings after a probe has stated that the investigation was initiated on a suo-moto basis and was notified to all interested parties.

The DGTR added that adequate opportunity was given to the domestic industry, embassies of these

countries, importers, exporters, importers and other interested parties to provide positive information on the aspect of subsidisation, injury and causal link.

"Having initiated and conducted an investigation into subsidisation, injury and causal link...the authority is of the view that imposition of countervailing duty is necessary," the DGTR has said in a notification.

The recommended duty ranges between 2.3 per cent of CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value to 14.76 per cent of CIF value.

"The authority recommends imposition of de-

finitive countervailing duty...for a period of five years," it added.

Now, the finance ministry would take the final call on the imposition of the duty.

The DGTR has concluded that the volume of imports has increased in absolute terms as well in relation to consumption in India. The Directorate in July/August 2020 received representations from the Bombay Metal Exchange expressing concern over the vanishing domestic production of copper tubes and pipes and a steep decline in production in India.

The Secretary said that the target of construction of 25,000 km of national highways in the next fiscal.

In the ongoing fiscal so far, he said, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) have so far constructed 7,500 km of national highways, and in the remaining two months, at least 2,500 km of highway construction is expected.

In an interview with PTI, Aramane said, "The Budget

for 2022-23 is development oriented. The large focus on infrastructure development is going to help the country reap the dividends in the coming decades."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget for 2022-23 had said national highways will be expanded by 25,000 kilometres (km) during 2022-23.

The Secretary said the target of construction of 25,000 km of national highways in the next fiscal year will be met under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, under which the government will have to provide connectivity to all the economic nodes in the country.

"We will increase the pace of highway construction. Existing ones will be made into bigger ones, and for improvement of the transport sector," the Secretary noted.

"So that will take off some debt servicing burden from NHAI," Aramane added. In addition, he pointed out that the roads, which NHAI is constructing, will give the toll revenue in the years to come.

"Expressways, economic corridors will definitely result in higher toll revenue inflow to the Government of India, which will ensure that the NHAI's status as premier infrastructure building agency in the country will remain intact," Aramane emphasised.

The Finance Minister has proposed to allocate Rs 1.99 lakh crore for the road transport and highways ministry. Of this, Rs 1.34 lakh crore will be allocated to NHAI.

Volatility to rule stock markets, domestic factors to drive sentiment

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Research, Religare Broking.

Stock markets are expected to witness volatility this week with domestic factors such as RBI policy decision and quarterly earnings by big players driving the investor sentiment, analysts said.

Also, movement of the rupee, Brent crude and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) would be keenly watched by investors, they added.

"Among important events, participants will be closely eyeing the MPC's monetary policy review meet this week and its outcome is scheduled on February 9. Besides, on the macro front, IIP data will be released on February 11," said Ajit Mishra, VP

Terming the recent budget a "development oriented" exercise, Union Road Transport and Highways Secretary Giridhar Aramane on Sunday said the pace of road construction will be further increased to achieve the target of expansion of national highways in the next fiscal.

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After dedicating more than 40 years to the Indian entertainment industry, veteran actor Tej Sapru will now be seen portraying the role of Prajapati Daksh in &TV's Baal Shiv. The character will bring high voltage drama to the track for the viewers. We spoke to him about his role, faith in Lord Shiva, and more.

Excerpts of interview:

Tell us about your character, Daksh, in &TV's Baal Shiv? And what interested you the most about the character?

I am an ardent believer of Lord Shiva, and any role that makes me feel

his presence will always be a role that interests me. Prajapati Daksh is a very powerful character, and this is not the first time I am portraying him on screen. I had done a movie years back in which I played the same role. The film is still played at the Maa Ambe temple for the devotees who want to understand the whole story behind Lord Shiva's life, and it is one of the most blessed feelings for me.

How did you bag this role?

I am always inclined towards powerful characters, and when the production house, Zee

'Lord Shiva is constant motivator in my life'

Studios, reached out to me for Daksh's character, I could not say no, and after doing a look test for them, I was finalized for the character.

We heard that you are an ardent Shiv Bhakt in real life. However, your character is anti-Shiv, so does that make you nervous?

Right from childhood, I have been a worshipper of Lord Shiva. I remember going to a Shiv temple in Jammu and observing fast on Mondays. Even

today, my day starts and ends by saying the Shiv Kawach because the power I feel with it is unexplainable. I believe Lord Shiva is the director of my life and connects me to the larger universe. I would do any role that helps portray Lord Shiva's life, even if it is against him on screen. Lord Shiva is the constant motivator and a guide in my life. So, I am not nervous because Lord Shiva is with me throughout my journey.

Actress Richa Chadha, whose latest OTT release is 'The Great Indian Murder', has talked about what makes the genre of thrillers so popular universally. Talking to IANS about the show, Richa said: "This is like a deep dive investigation. This is like a team cracking a case. Within that team there are different things."

"But 100 per cent I feel these things are interesting because there is a lot of crime around us and I think crime by and large is an interesting topic. If you see one of the most watched shows is 'Savdaan India'."

Ever since she stepped into the world of acting, Richa has always impressed the audience and critics with her powerful performances.

Are taking on strong-headed characters a conscious choice?

"No, not really. What happens is when people perceive you as strong headed then those are the parts that tend to come to you. It's not something that's conscious at all."

"I would love to play a variety of characters but obviously I am not going to turn down super interesting characters like in this one it is a no brainer I will not turn down a character like Sudha," she added.

'The Great Indian Murder' helmed by Tigmanshu Dhulia is a

screen adaptation of Vikas Swarup's second novel 'Six Suspects'. It revolves around murder of the son of a high-profile minister and promises an intriguing mystery with a talented cast that includes Pratik Gandhi and Richa in the lead, along with Raghbir Yadav, Ashutosh Rana, Paoli Dam, Jatin Goswami and Shashank Arora.

It is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Bengali.



Two shows depict marital dynamics and bond of friendship

The Indian society warmly embraces various interpersonal and familial relationships that are strengthened over a period of time. While these relationships come with their own form of urgency and priority, they also have their share of ups and downs. The phrases 'sacrifice for your loved ones', 'adjustments save relationships', and 'distance owing to generation gap' are heard a little too often in the course of these relationships. Women chasing their dreams as freely as men and bonds formed between two individuals from different generations, are conversational topics... but how long would it take for us to unflinchingly accept the concept of self-love and unconventional friendships? With this core thought, Sony Entertainment Television gears up to launch two new shows - Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye and Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi starting February 7, every Monday to Friday at 9.00pm and 9.30 pm respectively. Both the shows will trace the journeys of everyday individuals, as they forge relationships, and go through the twists and turns of human emotions. Set against the backdrop of Mumbai, Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye produced by Shashi Mittal & Sumeet Mittal, will chart the journey of a couple - Soumya Verma portrayed by Vidhi Pandya and her husband Armaan Oberoi portrayed by Vijayendra Kumar. Soumya is an ambitious & struggling TV writer and Armaan Oberoi, a charming and successful TV producer. On the surface, their relationship seems perfect. For Soumya, her marriage with Armaan feels that of equals, with her husband supporting her ambitions but he has a deceitful side to him that no one knows of. Will Soumya realize she's being manipulated by Armaan?

Tune into Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye at 9:00 pm and Dosti Anokhi at 9.30pm, starting 7th February, every Mon-Fri on Sony Entertainment Television!

Actress Sara Ali Khan, who is currently riding high on the success of her latest release 'Atrangi Re', has been hopping from one set to another, from one city to another, since the last few months. Sara will be next seen in 'Gaslight' and Laxman Utekar yet-untitled next. A source said: "After returning from Laxman Utekar's film from Indore, Sara has been running on a crazy work schedule. She's finishing all her brand commitments before going on the next film's set. Her day is filled with brand shoots, dubbing for them and daily workouts." The source shared that the actress has begun prepping for her upcoming films, "which are scheduled to go on floors soon". "She wants to be fully prepared once she gets on sets."



Sara Ali Khan juggles between multiple shoots

HOROSCOPE MONDAY FEBRUARY 07

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Things barely move today. But just like the proverbial tortoise, you seem to be winning the race, for many opportunities will come your way. There won't be any cash crunch, so you needn't lose sleep over that, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Today, it's time to meet those who are close to you, and maybe even those who were close to you at some point of time. Also, it's time to review old friendships. Old memories and sink into nostalgia. You may want to buy a valuable historic artefact, says Ganesha.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

Nothing comes for free â€” keep this in mind as you may have to pay your dues for the success you desire today, especially if it is a new project that you have undertaken. Be prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and effort in your endeavours. Spare money can be used to purchase new assets that may pay dividends in the future.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

The focus will be on children today, says Ganesha. While they will be the cause of an unfair share of your headache, you will be surprised at their ability to step up to the occasion, with just a little amount of coaching.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Your strange and unconventional behaviour doesn't always go down well with many people. If you think you are different, and maybe even better than others, it is advisable that you keep it under the wraps. The reason being that most people may not be able to understand you. Some may even feel intimidated by you. It would be a good idea for you to share your uniqueness only with 'liberal' friends, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Positive thinking can change the world, and you could do with some today. No matter how tough the going gets, take it in your stride, says Ganesha. If you think you can do it, you will. You have the magic touch today to initiate a new business strategy.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Some people have the world at their feet. And today, you are one of them, says Ganesha. With your gorgeous appearance and gregarious attitude, it is easy for you to open all doors with just a touch. So, you have the luxury to choose â€” either you entertain yourself through multiple avenues such as movies, theatre and music, or you be the entertainer with your superior performing skills.

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

The time you previously spent on certain activities may not yield results as expected, predicts Ganesha. You will be reluctant to travel today. You may find yourself wanting more space and freedom of expression. A stroll with your sweetheart, hand in hand, may be the highlight of your day, says Ganesha.

Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

A shadow grows large in your mind today. Your unknown fear will haunt your day, warns Ganesha. But be ready to take a hike. You are most likely to end up spending on your foreign associates. Be careful of those expenses, says Ganesha.

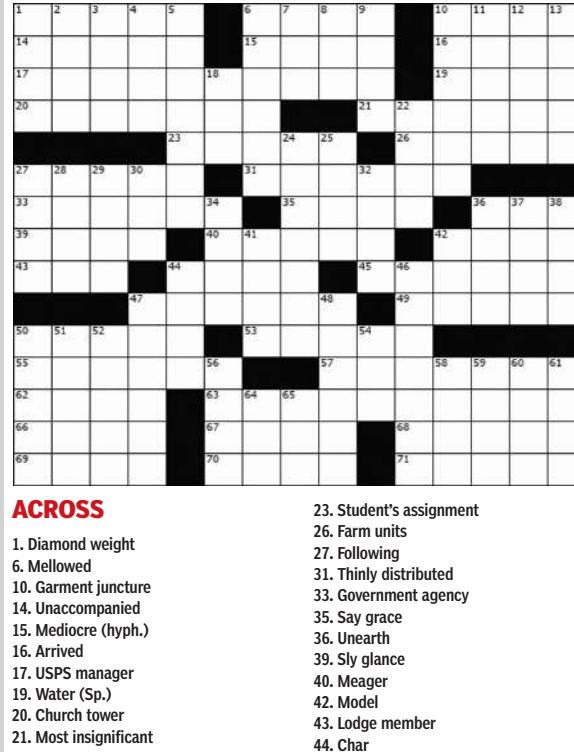
Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Lady luck is all smiles for you today, predicts Ganesha. Suddenly, you feel like multi-tasking and becoming a jack of all. This is likely to keep you busy, almost throughout the day. If need be, your colleagues and peers will lend a helping hand.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Patience is tested when one is in trouble; your patience could be tried today. The trick is in keeping your composure, says Ganesha. Avoid getting into an argument or scuffle with those around you, as luck may not be on your side.

CROSSWORD



45. Regard highly

47. Talked back

49. Desert springs

50. Lucifer

53. UFO pilot

55. Program

57. Harbor

62. Nasty

63. Alamo locale (2 wds.)

66. Building wings

67. Bakery employee

68. Singing voices

69. Coffee break

70. Energy source

71. Narrow openings

DOWN

1. Lids

2. Much (2 wds.)

3. Thorny bloom

4. Initial stake

5. Type of paint

6. Appraise

7. Procured

8. Opposite of WNW

9. Student's residence

10. Not abundant

11. Enthusiastic

12. Entertain

13. Vegetarians' taboo

18. Capone and Gore

22. Not difficult

24. Attire

25. Knitter's purchase

27. Competent

28. Gasoline, e.g.

29. "Star ____"

206

30. Always, in verse

32. At any ____

34. Employ

36. Achieves

37. Got it! (2 wds.)

38. Jewels

41. Juan's house

42. School op.

44. Beach particles

46. Musical compositions

47. Least daffy

48. Confiscate weapons

50. Piggy bank user

51. Limber

52. Narrates

54. Yet, poetically

56. China's continent

58. Survey

59. Aware of

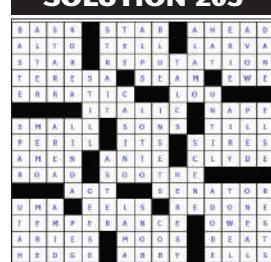
60. Ruckus

61. Fling

64. Play section

65. New (prefix)

SOLUTION 205





India beat England for record fifth Under-19 WC Title

North Sound, Feb 05 (PTD):

An utterly dominant India won a record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title here on Saturday, beating England by four wickets in the final of an extraordinary campaign that was almost derailed by a COVID-19 outbreak. The triumph bore resemblance to the exploits of world-class Indian U-19 teams of the past. Earlier, India had won Under-19 World Cup titles in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.

Intrepid and industrious in their approach, the starry-eyed Indian players' success stories also gave a glimpse into the world's most perfectly calibrated

youth structure, which is capable of consistently producing world-class cricketers who are ever ready to take on the biggest of challenges. In a reflection of India's dominance, wicketkeeper Dinesh Bana finished the chase of 190 with two sixes and 14 balls to spare.

On winning the toss in the big final, England captain Tom Prest righteously chose to bat first to avoid the "scoreboard pressure" during the chase. India did the next best thing: bowl out the opposition for a total - 189 in this case, in 44.5 overs - that failed to put them under pressure.

India were all over England before a gritty 95

BCCI announces Rs 40 lakh for U-19 team members, Rs 25 lakh each for support staff

New Delhi: The BCCI on Sunday announced cash reward of Rs 40 lakh for each member of the victorious Indian U-19 team. The support staff will be paid Rs 25 lakh each. India beat England in the U-19 World cup final in Antigua on Saturday for a record extending fifth title. "They were impressive across departments and sealed India's fifth World Cup. While their on-field performances were fantastic, the team also showed grit, determination and courage to bounce back strongly despite the Covid-19 cases in the camp," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly in a statement.

by James Rew saved his team the blushes.

Bowling his medium pacers to deadly effect, Raj Bawa (5/31) ran through the English middle-order after the in-form left-arm seamer Ravi Kumar (4/34) laid the opposition low

with two early blows.

India kept taking wickets at regular intervals but not for once did the intensity of the team dropped.

For close to 19 overs, Rew and James Sales (34 not out) defied India with their 93-run eight-wicket

PM hails U-19 cricket team's WC win

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated the Indian U-19 cricket team for winning a record fifth World Cup title, saying the "stellar performance" of the side proves that the future of the game in the country is in "safe and able hands". An utterly dominant India beat England by four wickets in the final of an extraordinary campaign that was almost derailed by a COVID-19 outbreak. "Extremely proud of our young cricketers. Congratulations to the Indian team for winning the ICC U19 World Cup. They have shown great fortitude through the tournament. Their stellar performance at the highest level shows that the future of Indian cricket is in safe and able hands," Modi tweeted.

over as Thomas Aspinwall dismissed Harnoor (21), reducing India to 49 for 2.

Skipper Yash Dhull next joined Rasheed in the middle and both batters stitched together a partnership of 46 runs which saw Rasheed scoring a half ton. However, as soon as he reached the milestone, he ended up giving his wicket away to James Sales.

In his next over, Sales picked up Dhull (17), and India were reduced to 97 for 4, still needing 93 runs for victory. Raj Bawa (35) and Nishant Sindhu (50*) then ensured that India did not lose wickets in a cluster.

However, despite the huge setback that almost derailed their campaign, India came back a stronger unit focussed on correctly doing the things that were within its control.

Indian team in this edition of the tournament as multiple players from the side were infected by the coronavirus and at one stage even struggled to field eleven fit personnel.

However, despite the huge setback that almost derailed their campaign, India came back a stronger unit focussed on correctly doing the things that were within its control.

Their clinical on-field performance told a very different story, a story far removed from all the troubles that the team went through off it, when as many as seven players were infected with the virus.

Bopanna-Ramkumar pair lift Tata Open trophy



Pune, Feb 06 (PTD):

6-3 10-6 in one hour and 44 minutes. Bopanna and Ramkumar combined as a team on the ATP Tour for the first time at the Adelaide event last month in the run-up to the Australian Open and won the trophy. For Bopanna, it was his 21st ATP doubles title while for Ramkumar it was second trophy at this level and it will push him inside doubles top-100 for the first time in his career.

handed batter, received the accolade of Player of the Tournament after crashing 506 runs across six matches to become only the second player to hit over 500 runs in tournament history.

In doing so, the 18-year-old passed Indian legend Shikhar Dhawan's total for the most runs in a single tournament, hitting one more run than Dhawan managed in 2004.

Brevis also took seven wickets in the competition.

Raj Bawa is another all-rounder who has impressed throughout the World Cup,

hitting a tournament-high

162 not out against Uganda,

on his way to 252 runs for the competition.

Bawa was Player of the

Match in the final against England as he grabbed five for 31 to put India in a strong position and took his

wicket tally to nine.

Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard. Chahal was on a rampage as he then removed Shamarr Brooks (12), who edged to stumper Rishabh Pant, as West Indies was teetering at 78/6.

However, Jason Holder (57) and Fabian Allen (29) tried to take the game deep. While Holder struck four sixes, Allen hit two boundaries, before Sundar lobbed a return catch off his bowling to send Allen back. The team eventually was bundled out in 43.5 overs with Chahal removing last man Alzarri Joseph, to take his fourth.

India started the chase on a dominating note with a 84-run stand between Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan. The Indian skipper was the aggressor in the partnership as he scored 60 runs off 51 balls before getting dismissed by Azarri Joseph who trapped him in front of the wicket.

Former captain Virat Kohli started his innings on a positive note with a couple of boundaries but he failed to get going and was dismissed on 8 in the same over by Joseph. He attempted the pull shot but failed to get the best connection on that and was caught by Kemar Roach.

Kishan, who looked very cautious during his stay in the middle, failed to capitalize on the good start and departed on 28.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant was involved in a bizarre run-out as Suryakumar drove the ball straight to Joseph who managed to get the foot onto it and before the ball hit the stumps at non-strikers end where the batsman was short of the crease.

Suryakumar then shared a 62-run stand with Hooda to take India to victory in the historic game.

Dhull named skipper of ICC's 'Most Valuable Team' of U-19 World Cup

North Sound, Feb 06 (PTD):

India's Yash Dhull has been chosen as the captain of ICC's 'Most Valuable Team' of the U-19 World Cup.

Overall, eight nations are represented in the 12-strong line up with champions India leading the way with three players included.

Pace is provided by the likes of Josh Boyden, Awais Ali and Ripon Mondal with all-rounders Tom Prest and Dunith Wellalage being the spin options alongside Vicky Ostwal.

South Africa's Dewald Brevis was announced as the Player of the Tournament in West Indies for his record-breaking run haul.

The side was pulled together by a selection panel including commentators Samuel Badree, Natalie



Germanos, ICC Match Referee Graeme Labrooy and journalist Sandipan Banerjee.

Dhull takes up his place at number four having hit 229 runs in the competition, including one century, and his deployment of his bowlers was crucial in lead-

ing his side to overall victory in the tournament.

His opposite number in the final, England's Tom Prest, sits one place below them in the batting order having hit 292 runs in six games, the third most of the competition.

Dewald Brevis, a right-

handed batter, received the accolade of Player of the Tournament after crashing 506 runs across six matches to become only the second player to hit over 500 runs in tournament history.

In doing so, the 18-year-old passed Indian legend Shikhar Dhawan's total for the most runs in a single tournament, hitting one more run than Dhawan managed in 2004.

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Foreign missions, envoys condole Lata's demise, hail her as 'Nightingale Of India'

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Ambassadors and missions of various countries on Sunday condoled the demise of singing legend Lata Mangeshkar and said her melodies will forever remain with music lovers across generations.

Mangeshkar, whose voice struck an instant chord of recognition with generations of South Asians and is considered one of India's greats, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday due to multiple organ failure. She was 92.

In a tweet, the US Embassy in India said, "We join India in paying tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed today at the age of 92. History will mark her contribution to India's music in golden words."

The British High Commission said it joins India and Indians worldwide to pay tribute to the 'Nightingale Of India' Lata Mangeshkar.



People light candles to pay tribute to veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar, in Agartala, Sunday.

Her legacy will live forever, the British mission here said on Twitter.

German envoy to India Walter Lindner hailed Mangeshkar as the 'Nightingale of India' and a musical genius.

"A legend, an irreplaceable voice and an

institution of music for seven decades! Very sad news... her legacy will live forever," he tweeted.

In a tweet, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain said, "Deeply saddened by the demise of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. An institution in herself, she

was conferred Officer de la Legion d'Honneur in recognition of her incomparable singing career." "Our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and fans across the world," he said.

Regarded as one of Indian cinema's greatest playback singers,

Private museum boasts of 7,600 gramophone records of Lata songs

Indore, Feb 06 (PTI): A museum in Indore in Madhya Pradesh has a collection of 7,600 rare gramophone records of songs of melody queen Lata Mangeshkar, who died in Mumbai on Sunday. Suman Chourasia, who set up this 1600 square feet museum in Pidgambhar area in 2008, told PTI that his grief was beyond words. "Lata Didi's demise, a day after Vasant Panchami, has left millions of music lovers like me deeply shocked. I met Lata Didi in 2019 for the last time and could not meet her after that due to the (COVID-19) pandemic," he said. Chourasia said he started saving gramophone records of Mangeshkar's songs from 1965, which has now turned into a collection of 7,600 gramophone records, occupying pride of place in the 'Lata Deenathan Mangeshkar Gramophone Record Museum'. "Lata Didi has sung in 32 Indian and foreign languages as well as dialects. Many of her rare songs are among them, he said. Besides songs, the museum also has photographs and books associated with the icon, who was born in Indore on September 28, 1929.

Mangeshkar started her career at the age of 13 in 1942 and has sung over 25,000 songs in various Indian languages.

In her over seven-decade-long career, she has sung a host of memorable tracks, including "Ajeeb dastan hai ye", "Pyaar kiya to darna kya" and "Neela asman so gaya".

The singer -- known as Melody Queen of India -- was awarded Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, as well as the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

overnment's vision to provide an opportunity for students throughout the country to move in tune with National Education Policy along with following the Sainik School curriculum," the ministry said.

"This automated system for e-Counselling will ensure complete transparency in the admission process," it added. The ministry said the students will be asked to register through a link provided at the web portal "http://www.sainikschoo

l ncog.gov.in" www.sainik school.ncog.gov.in and verify their details.

"The students will have the option to select up to 10 schools as the choice of allocation.

Subsequently, the allocation of schools to the students will be carried out by the system based on their rank and choice of the schools and result will be declared through e-Counselling portal," the ministry said.

"It will be applicable to the new schools being set up as part of the gov-

ernment's vision to provide an opportunity for students throughout the country to move in tune with National Education Policy along with following the Sainik School curriculum," the ministry said.

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Adieu Lata! Music legend cremated with state honours



Funeral procession of the late Lata Mangeshkar leaves from her residence, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI):

Singing legend Lata Mangeshkar, who enthralled millions with her divine voice for eight decades, was cremated with full state honours in Mumbai on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the luminaries from politics and entertainment industry present at her funeral at Shivaji Park in Dadar area in the evening.

Modi left the venue

after offering her floral tributes. Floral tributes were also paid to her at Shivaji Park on behalf of President Ram Nath Kovind. Lata's brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar lit the funeral pyre of the singing legend, who died at 92 in a hospital here on Sunday morning after multi-organ failure.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, actors Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, cricketer

Sachin Tendulkar and MNS chief Raj Thackeray were present as Lata's mortal remains were consigned to flames in presence of people from all walks of life.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar was inconsolable as he performed the last rites.

Modi laid a wreath and bowed in front of the mortal remains. He also met the Mangeshkar family members and consoled them. He left the venue before the funeral. Just be-

fore the last rites, the national tricolour in which the mortal remains were draped, was handed over to the family members.

The mortal remains of Lata Mangeshkar, draped in the national flag, were taken in a truck from her residence Prabhu Kunj in south Mumbai to Shivaji Park for the last rites.

A large number of people thronged the roads from where the cortège passed as the melody queen embarked on her final journey.

India in mourning

Mumbai: Lata Mangeshkar, India's national treasure whose voice stirred millions of hearts every day for close to eight decades, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday. As a flower-decked cortège went from Mangeshkar's Peddar Road home to Shivaji Park for the last rites, surging crowds of mourners walked or jogged along, many thousands lined the 10-kilometre route and millions tuned into their screens - to say goodbye to the woman who had been an integral part of their lives and to fuse into memory a moment in contemporary history.

The government announced a two-day "state mourning" for

Mangeshkar, who had a prodigious almost eight-decade career in which she sang an estimated 25,000 songs in as many as 36 Indian languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Kannada, and across classical and other genres.

"I'm just shattered that Didi, who has shaped my life and that of crores of others, is not anymore," said 60-year-old Savita Shah, one of the many who had gathered outside her home to pay their respects to the woman whose voice they woke up to, listened to as they went about their day and as they turned in for the night.

As millions mourned her and said thank you for your music, the tributes came pouring in with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading a heartbroken nation in remembering her.

"Lata-ji's demise is heart-breaking for me, as it is for millions the world over. In her vast range of songs, rendering the essence and beauty of India, generations found expression of their inner-most emotions. A Bharat Ratna, Lata-ji's accomplishments will remain incomparable," the president said.

The prime minister said he was anguished beyond words.

'Lata Didi amar rahe'

Fans bid adieu to singing legend on her final journey

Mumbai: Chanting slogans, singing songs and waiting for hours just to get a final glimpse of their icon -- that's how

Lata Mangeshkar's fans bid a tearful adieu to the singing legend as her final journey began from her residence in south Mumbai to Shivaji Park for the last rites.

Hundreds of fans, young and old, flocked Mangeshkar's residence Prabhu Kunj to pay their last respects to the music icon who died due to multi-organ failure following COVID diagnosis. Traffic and city po-

lice were deployed in large numbers to ensure the busy Pedder Road near her residence doesn't turn chock-a-block, as fans gathered on both sides of the road on a humid Mumbai afternoon.

The lane opposite her residence reverberated with admirers' chants, "Jab tak suraj chand raha, Lata didi ka naam raha" and "Lata Didi amar rahe". "I got a bad feeling when I woke up today morning and immediately started praying for her recovery. I'm just shattered that Didi, who has shaped my life and that if crores of others, is not anymore," 60-year-old Savita Shah told PTI.

Two-day state mourning for Lata Mangeshkar

New Delhi: A two-day "state mourning" will be observed on the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, official sources said on Sunday. Citing a wireless message sent out to state chief secretaries by the Union Home Ministry, they said the national flag will fly at half mast from February 6 to February 7 throughout India. The central government has decided that as a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, two-day state mourning will be observed from February 6 to February 7 and there will be no official entertainment in this period, they said. A state funeral will be accorded to her and the date, time and venue will be intimated later.

Channi declared Congress CM face for Punjab polls

Ludhiana, Feb 6 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday declared Charanjit Singh Channi as his party's chief ministerial face for the high-stakes Punjab Assembly polls, a recognition that was also coveted by state party chief Navjot Kaur Sidhu.

Gandhi made this announcement addressing a virtual rally here, after Sidhu in a speech hailed the party's decision to make Channi as the state CM after the unceremonious exit of the Amarinder Singh last year. "People of Punjab said we need a chief minister who is from a 'gareeb ghar' (humble family), who understands poverty and hunger," Gandhi said.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Punjab Congress leaders Charanjit Singh Channi, Navjot Singh Sidhu at an election rally.

Full office attendance for all central govt employees from Monday: Minister

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

Union minister Jitendra Singh has said full office attendance will be resumed for all central government employees from Monday.

The decision was taken in view of a decline in the number of coronavirus cases, he said on Sunday.

"A review of the pandemic situation was done today and in view of a decline in the number of Covid cases as well as a decline in the positivity rate, it has been decided that full office attendance shall be resumed from tomorrow and employees at all levels, without any exemption, will report to office from tomorrow, that is, February 7," Singh said.

There will be no "work-from-home" option for any employee on a regular basis with effect from February 7, 2022," the minister of state for personnel said.

He said the heads of the departments shall, however, ensure that the employees wear face masks at all times and continue to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The Centre had, on January 31, extended the work-from-home arrangement for 50 per cent of its employees below the level of under secretary till February 15.

"But after obtaining inputs from the relevant quarters and a review of the situation, a fresh office memorandum has been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), informing that all the employees at all levels, without any exemption, will report to office from tomorrow, that is, February 7," Singh said.

There will be no "work-from-home" option for any employee on a regular basis with effect from February 7, 2022," the minister of state for personnel said.

The personnel ministry had, on January 3, issued an order allowing work from home for 50 per cent of the employees below the level of under secretary till January 31 in view of a spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

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SECR GM conducts annual inspection of Bilaspur division



Bilaspur, Feb 06:

Massive development works are being carried out keeping in view facilities of the passengers at Korba railway station, claims South East Central Railway (SECR) General Manager Alok Kumar.

The General Manager Kumar, while speaking to media after conducting annual inspection at the railway station, claimed that construction of the under bridge will be undertaken at Sunaliya and Imliduggu soon. A proposal regard-



Bilaspur, Feb 06:

ing construction of bridge at the four other railway crossings has also been sent to Railway Ministry for approval.

Adding that Korba plays a crucial role in terms of supplying coal to different power plants across the nation, the SECR General Manager indicated that a chain of development works had been planned for the region.

Accompanied by other officials, General Manager Alok Kumar visited Korba Railway station to conduct annual inspection and

take stock of arrangements viz passenger facilities, cleanliness, safety and other essentialities.

Meanwhile, he also lent ears to complaints and demands of local public representatives. He assured that the demands and complaints raised by public representatives will be conveyed to the Ministry concerned.

As per information received, large number of local public representatives reached to meet the SECR GM. They put forward various demands.

Some of the public representatives demanded to restart the trains which were discontinued due to COVID-19. It was also demanded to run Hasdeo Express on all the seven days of the week.

If sources are to be believed Rampur MLA Nankiram Kanwar requested Alok Kumar for providing a copy of the proposal sent by Bilaspur railway. He also drew GM's attention towards need of construction of sheds at various small railway stations.

Bilaspur/Raipur, Feb 06:

The Union Budget-2022 granted Rs.8063.77 crores to South East Central Railway (SECR) for the next fiscal for massive infrastructure development including new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, traffic facilities, yard remodeling, computerization, road safety works at level crossings, construction of Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB), track renewal, bridge works, tunnel works and approaches, signal and telecommunication works, other electrical works, traction distribution works, workshops including production units, staff quarters and staff amenities, passenger amenities, training, HRD (Human Resources Development) and other specified works. SECR facing a stiff freight loading challenge would once again surpass the target ahead of the closing of the current fiscal. SECR is



also the only zone in Indian Railways (IR) which has registered more than 150-million ton (MT) incremental freight load continuingly since last six years. Earlier it may be recalled that SECR has been declared the cleanest Railway Zone in IR after third party survey by Quality Control India (QCI). Besides, contributing 16-percent of the total earning of IR SECR also shares 11.7 percent revenue with highest coal loading followed by cement, fertilizers and other raw materials. SECR spread over more than 2445-kilometers across

Bilaspur with more facilities and train services. Currently most of the trains of the Nagpur-Katni route are diverted via Dadhapara-Uslapur Bypass. Besides, the other side of Bilaspur Railway station is also being developed as second entry in the station. Apart from waiting halls, booking counters and vehicle stands, the FOB is being extended further for entry and exit from the Railway station for people residing on the other side like Loco Colony, Porter Kholi and Sirgitti areas. Safety and security has been accorded top priority in SECR with the Railway sleuths working round the clock to help the travelling passengers. Four stations in SECR including Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg and Gondia with more than 25 thousand footfalls are being developed further with additional escalators, elevators and other basic amenities, sources added.

SECR sources further informed that in the following days Uslapur will be developed as the second terminal station of

MAJOR MISHAP

Four workers killed, one injured

As power transmission tower collapses

Raigarh, Feb 06:

Goving Bhuiya, Duggal Bhuiya, Suresh Ravidas and Ishwar, all natives of neighbouring Jharkhand.

A case has been registered in this regard and further probe is underway, the official said.

Condoling the deaths, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel directed the district administration to provide assistance to the kin of the deceased and provide the best possible treatment to the injured worker, a government statement said.

About the incident

As per the preliminary information, four workers had climbed the old tower while others were beneath the structure. The tower suddenly gave way and crashed, causing grievous injuries to five of them. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Raigarh town where four of them were declared dead on arrival.

The injured were rushed to a hospital in Raigarh town where four of them were declared dead on arrival.



Inspection of railway colonies by DRM Anup Satpathy.

During this intensive inspection of DRM at Jagdalpur it was also found that illegal subletting and forcible occupation of railway land by some locals has been rampant going on for years. It was also noticed that water and electricity connection from railway quarters have been forcibly taken by these illegal occupants for years. Therefore, orders have been served to the concerned officials for immediate stoppage of such activities and to disconnect the supply and also stringent action against the concerned staff who indulged in slack supervision or who colluded with these outsiders and stress passers. No work of development at Jagdalpur area will be possible without removing such blatant trespassing, encroachment, misuse and crime on railway land particu-

larly as reports of theft and crime have gone up in the area. Even prostitution and liquor manufacturing has been alleged in these illegal huts.

Strict instructions were served for vacation of illegally occupied railway land by the intruders for which the local administration has also been in-

formed and requested for necessary support for which great deal of positive response has been received. Mean while, it is seen that petty politics has been going on for the last few days in the Railway Colony at Jagdalpur regarding this removal of connections to those who have illegally

occupied railway land as disconnection of water and electricity at the residences of the encroachers was done. Some local people backed by alleged leaders have been obstructing the railway's action to protect its employees and inhabitants of the railway colony. It is a serious act of crime and vandalism in addition to breach of Railways act and criminal intimidation of railway staff doing their duty. It is sad that a baseless and ridiculous argument against the railway action is being forwarded by the supported of these criminal actions. This has forced the authorities to resort to initiation of law and order action against all the accused who intruded in to the colony and threatened, assaulted and abused the Railway staff. As per the extant instructions received

from the Railway Board, notice has to be served on all persons occupying the railway land and criminal proceedings must follow against the goondas who took law into their hands on Sunday. Notices have also been served to those illegally doing construction in the Railway Colony premises and on Railway land to leave the premises within 15 days.

All the actions have been initiated as per the norms and according to law for smooth functioning of railway. Hence, all the concerned have been advised to cooperate with the administration and to support, so that railway's interest of safeguarding its premises and employees safety can be attained without any hitch, informs A K Tripathi, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Waltair Division.

As per the preliminary information, four workers had climbed the old tower while others were beneath the structure. The tower suddenly gave way and crashed, causing grievous injuries to five of them. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Raigarh town where four of them were declared dead on arrival.

Mahatma remembered on death anniversary

Bilaspur, Feb 06:

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi was paid homage on his death anniversary under the leadership of State Chief Commissioner of India Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh Vinod Sevan Lal Chandrakar and Secretary of State Kailash Soni, District Education Officer and District Commissioner Scout S. K. Prasad here. District Organization Commissioner Scout Vijay Yadav informed that on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, a sanitation campaign was launched at the Gandhi statue site, thereafter the State Organization Commissioner Scout C.



L. Chandrakar, Assistant State Organization Commissioner Scout Bhupendra Sharma, UNICEF D.M. C. Reema Ganguly, District Organization Commissioner Scout Vijay Yadav, District Organization Commissioner Guide Bina Yadav laid wreaths at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Masks were also distributed under the Roko Toko campaign. A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organized at Maharan Laxmibai Bai Kanya School, and various other competitions were organized under Amrit Mahotsav in which Principal Dr. Caroline Satoor, Pushpa Sharma, Dr. Pradeep

Nirnejak, Bharti Dubey, Ragini Chaudhary, Rashmi Tiwari, Parvati Kaushik, R. Devangan, D. K. Yadav, Mahendra Babu Tandon, Shashank Vishwakarma, Nikhil Singh, Shiv Sahu, Suryakant Khunte, Deheraj Kumar Gujar, Nidhi Kashyap, Guide Muskan Maitri, Sneha Yadav, Surabhi Singh, Sanvi Agarwal, Sania Sahu, Payal Rathore, Ragini Yadav, Scouts, guides, rovers, rangers, scouts and guides from various schools including Sona Yadv, Pallavi Tandon, Rishika Sharma, Prachi Sah, Shreyans Manikpuri, Astha Rohra were present.

ILLEGAL PADDY TRANSPORTATION

600 sacks of paddy seized from 5 tractors

Kondagaon, Feb 06:

The team of Revenue Department carried out action on five tractors transporting illegal paddy in Makri region and 600 sacks of illegal paddy being transported were seized. SDM Gautam Chand Patil had instructed the Revenue Department team to take action, after which Deputy Collector and CEO Janpad Makri Shankarlal Sinha, seized



the paddy under the leadership of Tehsildar Virendra Shyam and TI Devendra Darro. All the 05 tractors including 600

sacks of paddy were confiscated by the team. Punchama of this case has been prepared and all the tractors including

Shivling and Jalhari made of 24 kg silver ornaments offered in Bhoramdev temple



Kawardha, Feb 06:

On the occasion of Basant Panchami Shivling and Jalhari made of 24 kg silver ornaments were offered at Bhoramdev temple, a place of historical importance and a center of archaeological, religious, public faith and tourism in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh. Pandaria MLA Mrs. Mamta Chandrakar, Municipal Council President Rishi Kumar Sharma, Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Corporators Mohit Maheshwari, Ashok Singh, Sunil Sahu, Alderman Kaushal Kaushik, Devraj Pali, Kirtan Shukla, Rajkumar Tiwari, Rajesh Makhijani, Kawardha Tehsildar Manish Verma and Mausam Verma attended this special prayer.

Purohits in Bhoramdev temple Ashish Pathak and Santosh Pandit traditionally performed the rituals. Made of silver jewelry, this attractive armor has been crafted by special arti-

Active Covid cases surge to double

Dhamtari, Feb 06:

The region has gradually become an active centre of Covid 19 patients, as according to reports the region is currently harbouring the maximum number of active cases in the state, with a total of 2766 patients still on the road to recovery. The number surpasses, neighbouring district Covid count number alerting the administration to strictly follow Covid appropriate behaviour among the public.

This week the Covid count number was 2547 in Raipur, 2190 in Bastar, 1029 in Rajnandgaon, and 1470 in Durg respectively. Seeing the growing number of patients, the administration is also cutting challan on people found without mask in public areas. The District, Janpad and Municipal Cooperation is on alert, and people not wearing mask will be fined. (P S Elma, District Collector)

CENTRAL Chronicle

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Art is eternal

The void left by Lata Mangeshkar cannot be fulfilled in existence of India as a modern independent country. Art is eternal and artists remain immortal. No one defined cultural identity of modern independent India better through singing than 'Bharat Ratna' Lata Mangeshkar. Lata Mangeshkar was an important presence in the lives of generations of Indians. The 1960s were a time before the word soldier was used mockingly on social media and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon' could make the head of state of a new nation cry. The now forgotten romance of national integration in Jawaharlal Nehru's India was summed up perfectly in her devotional classic 'Allah Tero Naam from Hum Dho'. She sang non-stop for 73 years from 1943 to 2015. Mangeshkar had multiple songs for every emotion she will ever feel and every stage of life. Mangeshkar had so many brilliant songs that it's impossible to write down one's top 20 though the internet is full of such lists, all equally unsatisfactory. She never wore shoes when singing. Singing is like praying, she believed. She even took off her shoes at the chilly Royal Albert Hall when she was performing there in 1974 and went on stage in socks. 'You will die of cold,' said late Dilip Kumar, who was introducing Mangeshkar. She laughed and sang for hours. As a personality, Lata Mangeshkar told at an interview 'I am very happy as I am. I have no regrets. As for the music of today, is this music? There is no grief, no pain, no lullaby. I only listen to Pandit Ravi Shankar, Mehdi Hassan and Bade Gulam Ali Khan. And as for the singers, I consider them unlucky. In our time, lyricists and even directors used to guide us. There's no one to guide singers today.' Even though she started her career as a Marathi singer and actress little did people know that this young girl would one day grow up to dominate the music of Hindi filmdom. Incidentally, her first Hindi song was also from a Marathi movie in 1943. The song was "Mata Ek Sapoot Ki Duniya Badal De Tu" from the movie 'Gajabbaau'.

Apart from being 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001, Lata Mangeshkar was conferred France's highest civilian award, the Insignia of 'Officier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Officer of the Legion of Honour) in 2009. 'Vaishnavajana' to was sung at Gandhi's daily prayer meetings. As Gandhi commenced his almost 250-mile march to the sea in 1930, he was handed his walking stick by his close associate Kaka Kalekar, and Narayan Khare sang 'Vaishnavajana' to. The 'bhajan' remained on the lips of Gandhi and his companions throughout the Dandi March. Widely known as Narsi's Vaishnavajana to may have been to Gujaratis. It was Gandhi who popularized it through the length and breadth of India. Later, Lata Mangeshkar ensured its popularity across India. But if there is one song that has stood the test of time and continues to evoke the same sense of love for the country, it is the heart-wrenching 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon'. Coupled with Mangeshkar's mellifluous voice were the powerful, hard-hitting lyrics of Kavi Pradeep that famously moved Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to tears. Very few people know the origin of the song which has remained, to this date, synonymous with Mangeshkar. Poet Pradeep penned the song shortly after the 1962 Indo-China war, as a tribute to the soldiers who had died defending the country. For a country still agonising over a defeat in the war, the song acted as the perfect wake-up call asking the citizens to overcome their anger and rise in solidarity for the fallen. Lata Mangeshkar finally succumbed to virus originated from China and this will keep Indians in solidarity to the threat from China.

Limits of diplomacy

Pakistan said the US government has approved the nomination of Sardar Masood Khan as its Ambassador to Washington, days after a prominent US Congressman urged President Joe Biden to reject his diplomatic credentials and termed him a 'bona fide terrorist sympathiser.' Khan, who has previously served as the 'president' of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) until August last year, was nominated as Pakistan's ambassador to the US in November. This development shows limits of India's diplomatic effort to influence Pakistan's signalling of Kashmir policy internationally. Earlier, a top Indian diaspora group urged US President Joe Biden to reject the appointment of Masood Khan as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, alleging that the diplomat is a sympathizer and supporter of terrorist groups. The Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIDS) had urged Biden to reject the appointment of the 'Jihadi-terrorist-sympathizer' Masood Khan as Pakistani Ambassador to the United States. Masood Khan is also a supporter of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose killing squads helped the Pakistani military carry out acts of genocide against Bangladeshis in 1971 when hundreds of thousands of minorities were raped, killed and millions were displaced. But in international diplomacy, such appointments are granted diplomatic immunity. Pakistan is trying hard to balance relations between China and US. Sardar Masood Khan in 2018 made a threatening statement against India by saying that Indian 'obstinacy on the Kashmir issue' could trigger a nuclear war in South Asia.

The US State Department has clarified that there has been no change in America's Kashmir policy and Washington still considers both Jammu and Kashmir as a territory disputed between India and Pakistan. The US stance were guided purely by larger strategic calculations during the Cold War. However, after the new cold war with combined Russia-China power, the US has been and continues to be guided not only by a fear of a nuclear confrontation but also with an eye on securing American interests in the region as well as winning stakeholders to its side in the battle to preserve their post-World War II rules based global order that faces an uncertain future given China's growing role on the world stage. The modus operandi of the part of the Americans has transitioned to a far more reactive approach. Only irrational fanatics would want to assassinate Owaisi MP. Owaisi is a patriot even if he is not a nationalist. The difference is that Owaisi will defend our country but he does accept Hindu Muslim DNA is the same. We must meet his articulate arguments and not by barbarism.

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

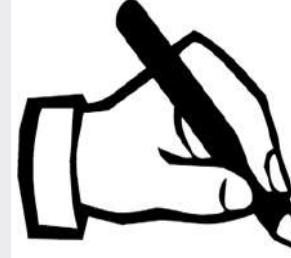
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

PASSING THROUGH BLOOM



Villagers pass through a blooming mustard field in Jhusi, in Prayagraj district, Uttar Pradesh.

STEPHEN WOODING



The sweetness of sugar is one of life's great pleasures. People's love for sweet is so visceral, food companies lure consumers to their products by adding sugar to almost everything they make: yogurt, ketchup, fruit snacks, breakfast cereals and even supposed health foods like granola bars. Schoolchildren learn as early as kindergarten that sweet treats belong in the smallest tip of the food pyramid, and adults learn from the media about sugar's role in unwanted weight gain. It's hard to imagine a greater disconnect between a powerful attraction to something and a rational disdain for it. How did people end up in this predicament? I'm an anthropologist who studies the evolution of taste perception. I believe insights into our species' evolutionary history can provide important clues about why it's so hard to say no to sweet. A fundamental challenge for our ancient ancestors was getting enough to eat. The basic activities of day-to-day life, such as raising the young, finding shelter and securing enough food, all required energy in the form of calories. Individuals more proficient at garnering calories tended to be more successful at all these tasks. They survived longer and had more surviving children, they had greater fitness, in evolutionary terms.

One contributor to success was how good they were at foraging.

Being able to detect sweet things, sugars could give someone a big leg up. In nature, sweetness signals the presence of sugars, an excellent source of calories. So, foragers able to perceive sweetness could detect whether sugar was present in potential foods, especially plants, and how much. This ability allowed them to assess calorie content with a quick taste before investing a lot of effort in gathering, processing and eating the items. Detecting sweetness helped early humans gather plenty of calories with less effort. Rather than browsing randomly, they could target their efforts, improving their evolutionary success. Evidence of sugar detection's vital importance can be found at the most fundamental level of biology, the gene. Your ability to perceive sweetness isn't incidental; it is etched in your body's genetic blueprints. Here's how this sense works. Sweet perception begins in taste buds, clusters of cells nestled barely beneath the surface of the tongue. They're exposed to the inside of the mouth via small openings called taste pores. Different subtypes of cells within taste buds are each responsive to a particular taste quality: sour, salty, savoury, bitter or sweet. The subtypes produce receptor proteins corresponding to their taste qualities, which sense the chemical makeup of foods as they pass by in the mouth.

One subtype produces bitter receptor proteins, which respond to toxic substances. Another produces savoury (also called umami) receptor proteins, which sense amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. Sweet-detecting cells produce a receptor protein called TAS1R2/3, which detects sugars. When it does, it sends a neural signal to the brain for processing. This message is how you perceive the sweetness in a food you've eaten. Genes encode the instructions for

how to make every protein in the body. The sugar-detecting receptor protein TAS1R2/3 is encoded by a pair of genes on chromosome 1 of the human genome, conveniently named TAS1R2 and TAS1R3. Comparisons with other species reveal just how deeply sweet perception is embedded in human beings. The TAS1R2 and TAS1R3 genes aren't only found in humans - most other vertebrates have them, too. They're found in monkeys, cattle, rodents, dogs, bats, lizards, pandas, fish and myriad other animals. The two genes have been in place for hundreds of millions of years of evolution, ready for the first human species to inherit. Geneticists have long known that genes with important functions are kept intact by natural selection, while genes without a vital job tend to decay and sometimes disappear completely as species evolve. Scientists think about this as the use-it-or-lose-it theory of evolutionary genetics. The presence of the TAS1R1 and TAS2R2 genes across so many species testifies to the advantages sweet taste has provided for eons. The use-it-or-lose-it theory also explains the remarkable discovery that animal species that don't encounter sugars in their typical diets have lost their ability to perceive it. For example, many carnivores, who benefit little from perceiving sugars, harbour only broken-down relics of TAS1R2.

The body's sensory systems detect myriad aspects of the environment, from light to heat to smell, but we aren't attracted to all of them the way we are to sweetness. A perfect example is another taste, bitterness. Unlike sweet receptors, which detect desirable substances in foods, bitter receptors detect undesirable ones: toxins. And the brain responds appropriately. While sweet taste tells you to keep eating, bitter taste tells you to spit things out. This makes evolutionary sense.

So while your tongue detects tastes, it is your brain that decides how you should respond. If responses to a particular sensation are consistently advantageous across generations, natural selection fixes them in place and they become instincts. Such is the case with bitter taste. Newborns don't need to be taught to dislike bitterness, they reject it instinctively. The opposite holds for sugars. Experiment after experiment finds the same thing: People are attracted to sugar from the moment they're born. These responses can be shaped by later learning, but they remain at the core of human behaviour. Anyone who decides they want to reduce their sugar consumption is up against millions of years of evolutionary pressure to find and consume it. People in the developed world now live in an environment where society produces more sweet, refined sugars than can possibly be eaten. There is a destructive mismatch between the evolved drive to consume sugar, current access to it and the human body's responses to it. In a way, we are victims of our own success. The attraction to sweetness is so relentless that it has been called an addiction comparable to nicotine dependence - itself notoriously difficult to overcome. I believe it is worse than that. From a physiological standpoint, nicotine is an unwanted outsider to our bodies. People desire it because it plays tricks on the brain. In contrast, the desire for sugar has been in place and genetically encoded for eons because it provided fundamental fitness advantages, the ultimate evolutionary currency. Sugar isn't tricking you, you are responding precisely as programmed by natural selection.

(Stephen Wooding is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Heritage Studies, University of California, US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New normal

Talking about the new normal, we can't deny the fact that going digital is the only alternative though it is yet to be developed and accessed by most of the people in our society. With changes, we have to accept the need of being digitally independent and educated. Most people don't know how to use a smartphone properly, especially people above forty years. It's maybe because of the generation gap and the lack of awareness. While the world is depending upon websites and other engines, we as the 'educated people' don't have the basic idea of web designing and developing. It is unfortunate to some extent. But students and children nowadays are familiar with the tech world and they are more tech-savvy themselves. As Elon Musk says, "Future of humanity depends on us merging with the machines." That is why their curriculum can't include proper training on the necessary digital courses like basics of coding, how to develop a website, software programming, VFX, graphics etc. We should make them prepare professionally and personally to stand in this tech era. This era of Artificial intelligence has made machines a lot more capable than ever. With this, AI can store, form and solve many technical issues. So, it is really important to learn how to use and manage AI for our prosperity. In this sea of data, it's easier to be misled and misinformed, but proper learning can prevent that. We, humans kind have never stopped evolving. While the first world countries use digital devices like we use our pen, paper or kitchen utensils it's still a fantasy for many countries like us to go fully digital. Because going digital doesn't only apply to the metro-politans or the smart cities. It should reach every corner of the country. But again some problems which curtail the 'go digital' tendency are low GDP, poverty, high population rate etc. But it's the new normal. The first process to adopt the new normal is by the acceptance that it is the primary alternative in this era. The next step would be the application and proper training from a young age on the topic and should be included in the curriculum. Only in this way maybe one day we could also participate in the digital race with the other countries.

Dipsika, via email

Respect guidelines

To avoid Corona infection, the State health departments have carried out awareness programmes many a time. Though the Omicron virus has not created a lot of trouble in many states, the spread of Corona is still going on. The Health Department asked the public not to gather in a large number, besides avoiding picnics. And all these matters have been discussed by authorities at central and state levels. We should realize from the core of the heart that the situation in the states is still not normal. We see the fun in all picnic spots. In the name of festival celebrations, there was a crowd everywhere. Everywhere Covid protocols were broken. We should respect the guidelines issued by the Department of Health. We should avoid festivals.

Achin, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Subramanian Swamy@Swamy39

Only irrational fanatics would want to assassinate Owaisi MP. Owaisi is a patriot even if he is not a nationalist. The difference is that Owaisi will defend our country but he does accept Hindu Muslim DNA is the same. We must meet his articulate arguments and not by barbarism.



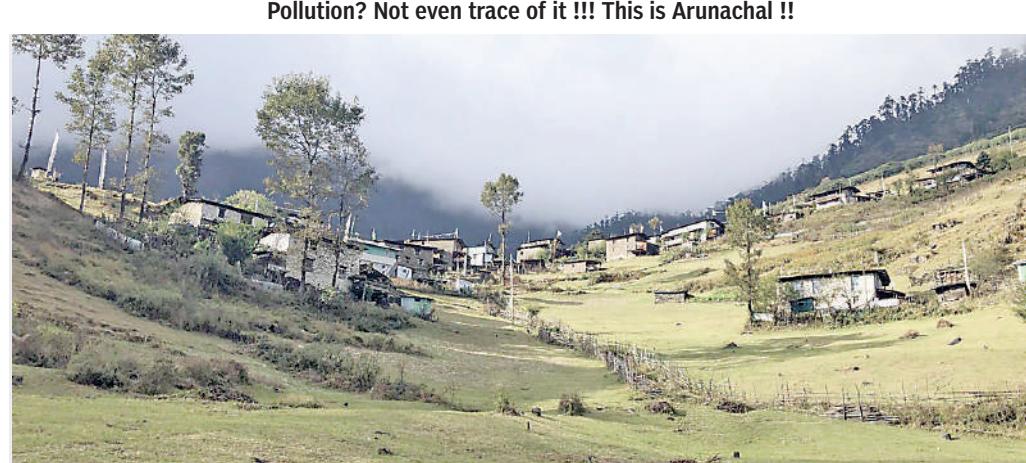
Gaurav Sabnis @gauravsbnis

John F. Kennedy challenged the country to send someone to the moon and bring them back by the end of the 1960s. John F. Kennedy did not challenge the country to build an even bigger and fancier and very expensive new Capitol in Washington than the old one works just fine.



Velina@vtchakarova

Just as the period between WW1 and WW2 was merely an intermission, so the period between the Cold War and the Cold War 2.0 was in intermission. We are in the midst of bifurcation of the Global System in all strategic domains with a systemic rivalry b/w US Flag of United States and #Dragonbear ChinaRussia.



Lokhande@prashantias2001

Pollution? Not even trace of it!!! This is Arunachal !!

Anand Sharma@AnandSharma

Strongly disagreeing with K Chandrashekhar Rao, Chief Minister Telangana on his call for rewriting of constitution, which is unacceptable. This is a trap of those who are plotting to dismantle India's constitutional democracy which guaranteed justiciability rights for all.

N. C. Asthana@NcAsthana

How dumb our youth have become! At their age I used to argue over atomic physics in Queen's College, Varanasi and create records in physics that stand unbroken even after 49 years! Do they go to college to acquire knowledge or assert their religious identity? Damn both groups.

Foreign missions, envoys condole Lata's demise, hail her as 'Nightingale Of India'

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Ambassadors and missions of various countries on Sunday condoled the demise of singing legend Lata Mangeshkar and said her melodies will forever remain with music lovers across generations.

Mangeshkar, whose voice struck an instant chord of recognition with generations of South Asians and is considered one of India's greats, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday due to multiple organ failure. She was 92.

In a tweet, the US Embassy in India said, "We join India in paying tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed today at the age of 92. History will mark her contribution to India's music in golden words."

The British High Commission said it joins India and Indians worldwide to pay tribute to the 'Nightingale Of India' Lata Mangeshkar.



People light candles to pay tribute to veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar, in Agartala, Sunday.

Her legacy will live forever, the British mission here said on Twitter.

German envoy to India Walter Lindner hailed Mangeshkar as the 'Nightingale of India' and a musical genius.

"A legend, an irreplaceable voice and an

institution of music for seven decades! Very sad news... her legacy will live forever," he tweeted.

In a tweet, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain said, "Deeply saddened by the demise of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. An institution in herself, she

was conferred Officer de la Legion d'Honneur in recognition of her incomparable singing career." "Our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and fans across the world," he said.

Regarded as one of Indian cinema's greatest playback singers,

Private museum boasts of 7,600 gramophone records of Lata songs

Indore, Feb 06 (PTI): A museum in Indore in Madhya Pradesh has a collection of 7,600 rare gramophone records of songs of melody queen Lata Mangeshkar, who died in Mumbai on Sunday. Suman Chourasia, who set up this 1600 square feet museum in Pidgambhar area in 2008, told PTI that his grief was beyond words. "Lata Didi's demise, a day after Vasant Panchami, has left millions of music lovers like me deeply shocked. I met Lata Didi in 2019 for the last time and could not meet her after that due to the (COVID-19) pandemic," he said. Chourasia said he started saving gramophone records of Mangeshkar's songs from 1965, which has now turned into a collection of 7,600 gramophone records, occupying pride of place in the 'Lata Deenathan Mangeshkar Gramophone Record Museum'. "Lata Didi has sung in 32 Indian and foreign languages as well as dialects. Many of her rare songs are among them, he said. Besides songs, the museum also has photographs and books associated with the icon, who was born in Indore on September 28, 1929.

Mangeshkar started her career at the age of 13 in 1942 and has sung over 25,000 songs in various Indian languages.

In her over seven-decade-long career, she has sung a host of memorable tracks, including "Ajeeb dastan hai ye", "Pyaar kiya to darna kya" and "Neela asman so gaya".

The singer -- known as Melody Queen of India -- was awarded Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, as well as the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

overnment's vision to provide an opportunity for students throughout the country to move in tune with National Education Policy along with following the Sainik School curriculum," the ministry said.

"This automated system for e-Counselling will ensure complete transparency in the admission process," it added. The ministry said the students will be asked to register through a link provided at the web portal "http://www.sainikschoo

l ncog.gov.in" www.sainik school.ncog.gov.in and verify their details.

"The students will have the option to select up to 10 schools as the choice of allocation.

Subsequently, the allocation of schools to the students will be carried out by the system based on their rank and choice of the schools and result will be declared through e-Counselling portal," the ministry said.

"It will be applicable to the new schools being set up as part of the gov-

e-Counselling for students seeking admission into 100 new Sainik Schools: Def Ministry

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

The Sainik School Society (SSS) is in the process of developing an automated system for providing online counselling to students seeking admission into 100 new Sainik Schools, the defence ministry said on Sunday.

It said an automated system for e-Counselling will ensure complete transparency in the admission process.

"Marching ahead with the government's aim of setting up 100 new Sainik Schools throughout the country, the Sainik School Society (SSS) is in the process of developing an automated system for the conduct of e-counselling," the ministry said in a statement.

It said the e-counselling will be less expensive and user-friendly for all the stakeholders -- schools and students.

"It will be applicable to the new schools being set up as part of the gov-

development will be the biggest issue in the upcoming elections. Hitting out at the previous governments, the PM said, Those who were in power earlier were not concerned with faith or your needs. Their only agenda was to loot UP."

"The people of UP have bluntly said that no matter how much politics some people do on the basis of money, muscle power, casteism or communalism, they will not get the love of the public," he said. Taking a swipe at Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav over his recent remark that he sees Lord Krishna in his dream, the prime minister said, "Witnessing the immense support for the BJP, these people are now seeing Lord Krishna in their dreams.

Sonia Gandhi not among Cong's star campaigners for Rae Bareli poll phase

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who represents the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha seat, does not figure among the party's star campaigners for the fourth phase of assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The fourth phase on February 23 will see assembly election in the five constituencies of B a c h r a w a n - S C , Harchandpur, Rae Bareli, Sareni and Unchahar, that come under the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency.

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and former party chief Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are among the 30 star campaigners

that the party has named for the fourth phase of Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. Azad, the former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, is a prominent leader of the 'Group of 23' who have sought organisational overhaul and have been critical of the party leadership.

The Congress released on Sunday its list of star campaigners for the fourth phase of assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. Among the other star campaigners include Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, who had re-

belled against the Congress government in the state, is also among the star campaigners for the fourth phase of Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

Party leaders from Uttar Pradesh Salman Khurshid, Pramod Tiwari, P L Punia, Rajiv Shukla, Ajay Kumar Lallu and Aradhna Misra 'Monia' have also been named as star campaigners by the party.

Besides, former cricketer Mohd Azharuddin, Maharashtra cabinet minister Varsha Gaekwad, Gujarat PCC working president Hardik Patel and Rajya Sabha MP Deepinder Singh Hooda are also in the list of party's star campaigners.

He lashed out at the

Lucknow, Feb 06 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday indicated that Yogi Adityanath is the BJP's choice as the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, saying if his government is formed again he would make up for the time lost by the state due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The PM remarks at a virtual poll rally went beyond praise for Adityanath for the work done by the state's BJP government during his term and appeared to settle the debate over a central scheme.

The virtual rally, his third recently for UP, comes just days before the first phase of polling in the state on February 10.

He lashed out at the

main opposition, the Samajwadi Party, criticising it over the law and order when it was in power just before Adityanath's government was sworn in. The PM hailed what the BJP government has accomplished in the state and said if there hadn't been the pandemic over the past two years, Adityanath would have done even better at the job of providing homes for the poor under a central scheme.

The PM said he believed that the people of Uttar Pradesh will give such an overwhelming majority to the BJP for the coming five years that Adityanath will get strength to accomplish such tasks. He also projected Adityanath as the next chief minister while mentioning the Centre's

minister again (Bhajpa ko jitana jai, Yogi ji ko phir mukhya mantra banana hai), he said. Months back, there was speculation that Bharatiya Janata Party was contemplating a new chief minister if it comes to power in the state.

In October, Union Home Minister Amit Shah dispelled the impression, saying if people of Uttar Pradesh wanted to see Narendra Modi as prime minister in 2024 they must elect Adityanath as chief minister in 2022.

Sunday's remarks could be interpreted as the PM's view that Adityanath is best suited for the post, if the party wins the assembly polls. Addressing voters in Mathura, Agra and Bulandshahr, Modi said the people of Uttar Pradesh have decided that

Ujjwala scheme that gives free cooking gas connections. The women of UP have decided that they have to make the BJP win and make Yogi ji chief

minister again (Bhajpa ko jitana jai, Yogi ji ko phir mukhya mantra banana hai), he said. Months back, there was speculation that Bharatiya Janata Party was contemplating a new chief minister if it comes to power in the state.

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