



BRIEF



President Ram Nath Kovind pays floral tributes to the former President of India Dr. Zakir Hussain on his birth anniversary, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Ruckus

New Delhi: Ruckus prevailed in the BJP-led EDMC House on Tuesday as members of opposition staged a protest over civic issues during the proceedings. The House was convened to discuss and finalise the annual budget of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation. Some members from the AAP trooped to the Well of the House and raised slogans, while others held placards and protested.

Jail term

Thane: A man was on Tuesday sentenced to seven years in jail by a POCSO court in Thane for raping his 14-year-old daughter repeatedly. The victim's mother, who was accused of abetting the crime, was acquitted for want of evidence by District and Special Judge (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) HM Patwardhan.

Applications

New Delhi: The Delhi government is inviting fresh applications for the Chief Minister Advocates Welfare Scheme under which lawyers, who are residents of the capital, are provided Rs 5 lakh medical insurance and term insurance of Rs 10 lakh. Delhi Law Minister Kailash Gahlot said the last date for applying for the scheme is February 17.

Resignation

Agartala: Tripura assembly Speaker Ratan Chakraborty on Tuesday accepted the resignation of two dissident BJP MLAs - Sudip Roy Barman and Asish Saha. Barman and Saha had on Monday resigned from the House and the primary membership of the BJP, the ruling party in the North-eastern state where assembly election is due next year. "Resignation letters of MLAs Sudip Roy Barman and Asish Saha were accepted after examining all legal options," Chakraborty said at a press conference here.

Weather
High 31 Low 15

MARKET
NIFTY 17,266.75
SENSEX 57,808.58

BULLION
GOLD 48,327
SILVER 62,026

'Omicron spreads faster than previous COVID-19 variants of concern'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI): Multiple studies have been conducted globally to assess the transmission of Omicron and to compare the transmissibility with the previous variants of concern and it was found that the rate of its spread is higher than the previous COVID-19 variants, the Rajya Sabha was told on Tuesday. A comparative study carried out by Translational Health Science and

MAOISTS UNLEASH VIOLENCE

Naxals trigger IED blast

Four CRPF jawans injured

Bijapur, Feb 08:

Four personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured on Tuesday in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by Naxals in Bijapur district, police said.

The incident occurred around 3 pm on the Murkinar road under the Modakpal police station area when a team of CRPF's 153rd battalion was out on an area domination operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

The patrolling team, which had launched the operation from its



Injured jawans in the hospital.

Chinnakodepal camp, was cordoning off the forest along Murkinar road, located around 450 km away from state capital Raipur when ultras detonated the IED in which four personnel sustained injuries, he said. The injured jawans were evacuated from the spot and shifted to Bijapur

district hospital, he said. The injured jawans include Deputy Commandant Palwan Biswas, ASI Sada Shiv Yadav, Head Constable Rajiv Ranjan and constable Om Prakash. Three of these jawans have been airlifted to Raipur for better treatment.

About the incident

The patrolling team, which had launched the operation from its Chinnakodepal camp, was cordoning off the forest along Murkinar road, located around 450 km away from state capital Raipur when ultras detonated the IED in which four personnel sustained injuries.

Maoists torch road construction equipment

Phulbani (Odisha): Suspected Maoists set afire two road construction equipment in Odisha's Kandhamal district in protest against conducting the three-tier panchayat elections in the state, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place at Kiamunda village under the jurisdiction of Phiringia Police station on Monday night. The construction work was being carried out by a private company, said P Shyamsundar Rao, the Inspector-in-Charge of Phiringia Police Station. Police said the ultras, suspected to be members of the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the banned CPI (Maoist), reached the construction site around midnight and torched the equipment. Some hand-written Maoists posters were also spotted at the scene, with an appeal to the villagers to boycott the ensuing panchayat polls, withdrawal of CRPF camps in the area and the district, and adequate payment of wages to labourers, Rao said. Further investigation is underway.

'Zero tolerance towards misuse of govt machinery, money power'

Imphal, Feb 08 (PTI):

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra said here on Tuesday that the poll panel had zero tolerance towards misuse of government machinery and abuse of money power as he reviewed the preparedness for Manipur elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

Chandra, who is here with his team on a two-day visit, also stated that polling officials found to have malafide intention or bias of any kind would be taken to task. Addressing a



CEC Sushil Chandra

press meet, he said that voters could report violations of Model Code of Conduct on the Election Commission's eVIGIL App. Lauding the state's efforts to promote gender parity despite logistics challenges, the CEC said that 16.4 per cent of all polling stations in Manipur would be managed by women.

Four mercy petitions pending with Govt

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Four mercy petitions, including one since 2012, are pending with the government, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said one mercy petition has been pending with the government since 2012, another since 2015 and two more since 2021.

"Under Article 72 of the Constitution of India, there is no limitation of time within which the power conferred may be exercised," he said.

BJP MANIFESTO FOR UP POLLS

Free electricity for irrigation, minimum 10-yr jail for 'love jihad'

Lucknow, Feb 08 (PTI):

The BJP on Tuesday assured free electricity for irrigation, a job for every household and free travel for women over 60 in its Uttar Pradesh election manifesto, which also promised a minimum 10-year sentence in cases of what it describes as "love jihad".

The announcements were made by Union Home

Minister Amit Shah at the release of the 'Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra 2022', just two days before the first phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Reaching out to farmers, the party promised free electricity for irrigation, speedier payment for sugarcane and strengthening the minimum support price (MSP) system for wheat and rice. If farmers are not paid for their sugar-

cane within 14 days, the sugar mills will have to shell out the interest on the amount due, the ruling party's manifesto promised. It also announced that work on the establishment of an anti-terrorist commando centre in Deoband would be completed in the next five years. Similar centres would come up in Meerut, Rampur, Azamgarh, Kanpur and Bahraich.

and other relevant Ministries/Departments, he said.

The Union Ministry of Health keeps a close watch over COVID-19 situation across the country and globally, the written reply said. Through a letter dated June 28, 2021, it has circulated to all states and UTs guiding principles for imposition of restrictions or allowing relaxation based on COVID-19 testing, confirmation rates and hospital bed occupancy rates.

10 Naxals surrender

Sukma, Feb 08:

Ten Naxals, including two carrying cash rewards on their heads, surrendered in Dantewada and Sukma districts in , police said on Tuesday.

Three ultras, identified as DAKMS president Dasrath alias Kotulu Mandvi (29), Mangdu Nuppo (27), both of who carry a bounty of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, and Motu Kuhdami (24), surrendered in Dantewada during the day, an official said. The ultras said they were impressed by the 'Lon Varratu' (homecoming in the local Gondi dialect) initiative of the Dantewada police, the official informed, adding that 515 Naxals, including 127 with cash rewards on their heads, had surrendered in the district so far..

'BJP and NDA always stood with Sikh traditions'

With vision for 'Nawan Punjab'

Chandigarh, Feb 08 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it is only the National Democratic Alliance that has a vision of a 'Nawan' (new) Punjab to develop its agriculture and industry and the state does not need the "hollow promises" of other parties.

Addressing a virtual rally for assembly segments of Ludhiana and Fatehgarh Sahib parliamentary constituencies, Modi said the BJP and NDA allies have always stood with Sikh traditions and can take them forward with the right inten-



tion. Attacking the Congress, he accused the grand old party of indulging in the massacre of Sikhs. But we got the guilty of genocide punished, said Modi, in an apparent reference to the 1984-anti-Sikh riots. Congress could not keep Kartarpur (Sahib) in India. But we opened the way to Kartarpur, he said. The NDA has a vision of 'Nawan' Punjab and a track record of delivering on the ground, he said, adding that Punjab does not need

hollow promises of new parties. Punjab needs modernisation at every level, which is beyond the capability of Congress and least of those who want to convert Delhi into "jhuggi jhopdi" (slum), he said, in a veiled attack on the Aam Aadmi Party. He urged the voters to be cautious of those "who made lofty speeches on the menace of drug addiction, but instead of helping the people, they took the disease to Delhi".

MODI IN PARLIAMENT

'Congress in grip of urban Naxals'

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Dynastic parties are the biggest threat to India's democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he launched an all-out attack on the Congress and held it responsible for a host of issues, including the Emergency, the anti-Sikh riots, caste politics and the exodus of Pandits from Kashmir.

Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the president's address in the Rajya Sabha, the

prime minister, who highlighted his government's achievements in various sectors, said the Congress is creating hurdles in the country's development as an opposition party too.

Modi said urban Naxals are today controlling the Congress' thought and ideology. "The Congress in a way is in the grip of urban Naxals. That is why its thought has become negative." The Rajya Sabha adopted the motion of thanks after negating all amendments moved by opposition members. The

Congress staged a walkout from the House during the prime minister's address, prompting Modi to say that one needs to listen too in a democracy and alleging that the party was used to only preaching to others till now.

Modi suggested that the opposition party change its name from Indian National Congress to 'Federation of Congress' and urged it to not impose its frustration and despair on the people of the country as loss and victory happen in politics.

Leopard killed by poachers

Bilaspur, Feb 08:

A leopard was killed by poachers in Bilaspur forest division, a senior official said on Tuesday. The carcass of the animal, around 8 years old, was found on Monday evening near Bitkula village in Sipat-Sonthi forest range and the claws of its rear legs had been cut off by poachers, Bilaspur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kumar Nishant said. "Two nails of the front legs are missing too. The poachers also made an unsuccessful attempt to extract the big cat's teeth. It does not seem to be the handiwork of trained or habitual hunters," he said.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Fast-unto-death ends on sixth day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: After receiving assurance from the district administration, the Jan Swasthya Karamcharis Union and Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakar Samiti ended the fast-unto-death agitation on the sixth day. However, the dharna would continue uninterrupted at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College, Kachandur. On Monday, administrative officials negotiated with the agitating workers and convinced them to end the fast-unto-death agitation. Around 18:00 hrs on Monday, Tehsildar offered fruit juice to Sumit Parganiha after which he ended the Anshan. Negotiations were held between the district administration and a delegation of agitators in the



Collectorate Office. The agitators were asked to submit the documents of the aggrieved workers within two days. As per the instructions of the Health Secretary, these documents will be examined for the recruitment process. The delegation made it clear that if any positive action is not taken after submission of documents, they will continue the agitation in a democratic manner.

SDM Mukesh Rawate, CCM Medical College in-

charge officer SDM Padmani Bhoi Sahu, ADM Nupur Panna Rashi, Union representatives Devraj, Dhanush, Kaladas Dahariya and Jaiprakash Nair were present in the meeting. A copy of the minutes of meeting signed by all the administrative officers and union delegates has been provided to the agitators. Later in the evening, the Anshan was ended. Mohammad Ali, Dhanush Kumar Sahu, Devraj Sahu, Guharam, Anita, Lokeshwari, Anil,

Neera, Padma, Santosh, Santoshi, Rajkumar and others were present.

Kaladas Dahariya of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha informed that all the aggrieved workers are staying at the pandal round the clock. They cook khichdi at the pandal and are continuing their struggle. It needs to be mentioned here that the retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College, Kachandur are agitating for employment. 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. The experienced employees who were working here for the last 8-9 years are not getting salary since last four-five months.

Youth held for molesting a juvenile

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: Police have arrested a 20-year-old youth on charges of molesting a minor girl. The accused trespassed into the victim's house when she was alone at home. With the intentions of outraging her modesty, the accused used criminal force on the girl. When the girl resisted and started screaming, the accused fled from the spot.

CSP Jitendra Yadav informed that the victim lodged a complaint at City Kotwali on February 07. She was alone at home on February 05 morning. Taking advantage of the situation, the accused trespassed into her house and started molesting her with the intention of outraging her modesty. The victim resisted and started shouting. Sensing trouble, the accused fled from the spot. Police lodged a complaint



under section 452, 354 of IPC and Section 8 of POCSO Act. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena and ASP (city) Sanjay Dhruv directed to trace the accused and put him behind the bars at its earliest. A special team was constituted which

searched the accused and took him custody for interrogation. The accused confessed to have committed the crime after which he was arrested and produced before the court. The accused is identified as Yashwant Nirmalkar alias Lallu (20) son of Shiv

Prasad a resident of Indira Nagar, Baghera, Durg. Inspector Bhusan Ekka, Sub Inspector Saroj Chavre, Head Constable Harish Chaudhary, Constable Geeteshwari Sharma and patrolling staff played vital role in arresting the accused.

Dev Sanskriti College holds handicrafts exhibition at Durg University

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: Students of Dev Sanskriti College, Khapri organised an attractive exhibition of handicrafts at Hemchand Yadav University, Durg. The exhibition - cum - sale which continued for five days was dedicated to the Great Nationalist and Legendry Freedom Fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The students had prepared face masks, bouquets, jute bags, crafts items, purse, organic manure, table cloth, etc from waste material. They had also made clay flower pots, dolls and other items from paper, etc.

Vice Chancellor Dr Aruna Palta and Dean Dr



Prashant Srivastava visited the exhibition on all days to encourage the students. Dr Palta said that education is not just meant for acquiring job but it is also a path which leads to self employment. She congratulated all the students and staff of Dev Sanskriti College. College Director Jyoti Sharma,

Principal Dr Kuber Gurupanch, staff members Mamta Dubey, Jyoti Purohit, Reena Manikpuri, Preeti Pandey, Varsha Sharma, Chitra Rekha Raghuvanshi, Sarita Tamrakar, Archana Pandey, Priyanka Pandey also visited the exhibition and encouraged the students.

Blast Furnaces, RMP & OHP create new records

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Blast Furnaces recorded new highs on February 06, 2022 with best ever Coal Dust Injection in a day of 2095 Tonne @123kg per tonne of hot metal, surpassing previous best of 1959 Tonne achieved a day earlier on February 05, 2022.

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's RMP Department recorded best ever daily dispatch of 2306 Tonnes of Lime & Calcined Dolomite to Steel Melting Shops and Sinter Plants on February 06, 2022, surpassing previous best of 2240 T achieved on December 25, 2021. Best ever daily dispatch recorded on February 06, 2022 included 700 T to SMS 2, 1021 T to SMS 3 and 585 T to Sinter Plants.



Senior officers from different shops and departments of the Plant have congratulated the collective of both Blast Furnaces and RMP for their performance. Congratulating the BF Team and associated departments, Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta stated

that the record made in CDI injection is indicative of efforts being made to offset the sharp rise in coking coal rates and as such is critical for performance of the Plant. Congratulating the RMP Team, Director I/c Dasgupta urged them to continue to give their best to increase supplies,



particularly to the Sinter Plants besides the Steel Melting Shops. The Plant's Ore Handling Plant that has recently been setting new records, has made yet another record on February 04, 2022. The OHP team recorded best ever unloading of 677 wagons in a day as

against previous best 627 wagons unloaded on November 20, 2020. Congratulating OHP collective for their consistent efforts and zeal to give their best, Director I/c Dasgupta urged them to keep up the good performance and achieve new heights in the days ahead.

Winners of CTYM 2021-2022 at BSP declared

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: The team of AP Pansari, AGM (T&D), Md Naushad Aalam, AGM (Projects) and Manoj Kumar Shrivastava, AGM (Vigilance) have been declared as the Winners of the Plant level Chairman's Trophy for Young Managers (CTYM) 2021-22. The theme for this year's competition is 'Achieving World class Project Management : Issues and Challenges in SAIL.'

The winning team will represent Bhilai Steel Plant in the SAIL level Chairman's Trophy for Young managers 2021-22. Papers will be presented by finalists at Management Training Institute (MTI) from the Integrated steel plants, Production units representing Service units across SAIL.

The evaluation of the Unit level presentations



were held at Bhilai Management Development Centre (BMDC). The Panel of judges for the Unit level presentations by the BSP teams was done by KK Singh ED (P&A), BK Dey CGM (Projects) and Ajay Bedi CGM (WRM & MM) with Sanjay Dhar CGM (HRD&BE) as the Convenor. The Evaluation of the Plant level CTYM papers was done by Pankaj Puri, GM (RSM), Bonya Mukherjee, GM (EMD) and Aniruddha Bhagwat, AGM (Projects).



It may be recalled that the team of Neeraja Sharma, AGM (INCOS), Shiv Kumar, Deputy Manager (BRM) and SP Rajkumar, Deputy Manager (INCOS) secured the First position in the SAIL Chairman's Trophy for Young Managers (CTYM) 2020-21 which was held on the theme Digital Transformation in SAIL: Challenges and Opportunities.

All Executives of SAIL up to the age of 45 years are eligible to participate in the



competition. The objective of the competition is to encourage young managers and their self-development by reading and management concepts.

Each member of the winning team at SAIL level will get a 3-day visit to a foreign steel plant apart from a cash prize of Rs 25,000 for each member. Each member of the first runners-up team at SAIL level will get a 3-day visit to a foreign steel plant apart from a cash prize of Rs 15,000 for each member.

BSF conducts Civic Action Programme in naxal infested areas

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: With the objectives of winning trust of the tribals, the Border Security Force deployed in insurgency hit areas of Kanker organised Civic Action Programme and Medical camp at Company Operated Bases (COBs) of 157th & 132nd BSF Battalion in Partapur and Chotebetiya on February 07.

At the outset, the programme was formally inaugurated by an elderly local woman Buksi Bai (of village Dordekdar) and Naveen Mohan Sharma (Commandant, 157th Battalion). At village PV-62, the programme was inaugurated by Sarpanch Ritu Bhagat and Dhananjay Mishra (Commandant, 132nd



Battalion). Alkesh Kumar Sinha (2IC, 157th Battalion); Rohit Kumar (Chief Medical Officer); Gurdeep Lal (2IC); Neeraj Kumar (Deputy Commandant, Adjutant); Abhinav Tiwari (Deputy Commandant, Quarter Master); Padamsali (SHO,



Badgaon); Sarpanch Sandel Singh Usendi; Jain Kumar Podu; Deputy Sarpanch and about 450 locals from villages Dordekdar, Chikhli and PV-34 attended the programme. Stationery worth Rs 2.80 lakhs was distributed among the villagers. About 720 vil-

lagers from PV-92, Bori betiya, Kalarkutni, Manjhi Kutni, Jaamkutni, Mehra, PV 94, Juran Mehra and Bechghat attended the programme at COB Chotebetiya. Daily use items worth Rs 2.58 lakhs and medicines worth Rs 41666 were distributed. About 233 locals were benefitted from the medical camp.

Under the directions of Naveen Mohan Sharma (Commandant, 157 Battalion) and Dhananjay Mishra (Commandant, 132nd Battalion), necessary items including agricultural tools, sports items, stationery for students, warm clothes for elderly and other items were distributed. The villagers appreciated the initiatives of BSF.

Country's first AICTE Idea Lab inaugurated in Shankaracharya Raipur

Students Will Get Best Facilities for Research and Innovation

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08:SSIPMT Raipur has become the first college in the country, where AICTE IDEA LAB was inaugurated on February 08. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has selected Shankaracharya College, Raipur to set up the Idea Lab. A number of Engineering Colleges from all over the country had applied, in which 49 colleges have been selected. One among of these is Shankaracharya College Raipur.

Under the IDEA LAB Scheme, grants are given to selected institutions of



the country, from which the institutes purchase state-of-the-art equipment, which helps in providing training to the students in an effective way. It will help give stimulus to innovative and Start-up ideas of students. Under the National Education Policy 2020, this scheme has been designed keeping in view the concept of Idea Development, Evaluation and Application at the core. This will help develop in the students skills like imagination, creativity, critical thinking, design

thinking, problem solving and collaboration. The AICTE IDEA Lab at SSIPMT Raipur will be open 24x7 and will provide all facilities under one roof for conversion of an idea in to a prototype and thus provide the required impetus to modern day education. School Education Minister, Dr Premsai Singh Tekam said that it is a matter of pride, not only for the college but for the entire state that SSIPMT Raipur has been selected by AICTE for the IDEA LAB. Students can make

their future bright by making an effective use of the facilities provided in the IDEA LAB @SSIPMT Raipur. Dr Neeraj Saxena, Advisor, Institutional Development Cell AICTE said that I congratulate the entire team of Shankaracharya College for setting up the Country's First IDEA LAB. He said that the IDEA LAB would prove to be a milestone in making the country technically efficient.

IP Mishra, Chairman (SGES) stated that

Shankaracharya Raipur has made a great accomplishment in a very short span of time. On the other hand, Nishant Tripathi (Secretary-SGES) said that SSIPMT Raipur is the only institute in the state to get UGC Certification, NAAC and AICTE Accreditation and has been ranked in ARIA. He further added, now we also have the title of making the Country's First IDEA LAB. SSIPMT Raipur has been in the news for playing a leading role not only in academics and placements but also in activities related to social concerns. This institute, which is recognized for its quality education, innovative teaching-learning practices, technology and research, has rendered a socially useful work during Covid-19 by making automatic sanitizing tunnels.

Free Dental checkup camp organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: Rungta Dental College under the aegis of Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions organised one day free dental checkup and treatment camp at Durg. The camp was organized to spread awareness among common people regarding common dental disease and how to prevent and treat them. Several patients attended the camp who were screened for dental disease and appropriate treatment was provided to them.

The chief complaints among that patient attending camp was dental cavities, tooth pain, strains on the tooth, maligned and irregu-

larly placed teeth etc. The patients got benefitted by free treatment in the fully equipped mobile dental van of RIDS. A lot of patient were counselled for quitting tobacco and also instructions regarding brushing techniques and oral hygiene maintenance was provided to all.

The patients were provided with free referral card doctor so that they can avail in the future dental treatment at a discounted price in the college hospital RCDSR. A team of doctor lead by Dr Ram Tiwari who extended their services include Dr Ankit, Dr Poonan, Dr Ranjan, Dr Devika, Dr Kushnud, Dr Hrishab, Dr Jashpreet & Dr Samim.

Selection for Inter-Steel Plant Cricket tournament on Feb 11

Bhilai, Feb 08: Inter-steel plant Cricket tournament for Boys is being organised at Bokaro Steel Plant from February 22-28, 2022. A team from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant will also participate in the event. In order to select the team from BSP for the Inter-Steel Plant Cricket tournament, selection will be held in BSP Cricket ground, Sector 10 on February 11, 2022 from 14:00 hrs.

OBITUARY

Chandrashekhar Gupta



Bhilai: Supela resident Chandrashekhar Gupta left for heavenly abode on Tuesday. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the father of Sunil Gupta and nephew of senior Congress leader and former president of Bhilai Nagrik Sahkari Bank - Mohanlal Gupta.

'Congress Govt wants to end fundamental right of Oppn to register protest'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday alleged that the ruling Congress government wants to end the fundamental rights of opposition to register protest on key issues.

Addressing a press conference at BJP office situated at Ekatma Parishad, the former Minister and BJP MLA from Raipur South Brijmohan Agrawal claimed that the Congress government is desperate to kill the democracy as the opposition is not allowed to register protest on key issues. In support to his statement, the senior BJP leader said that several BJP leaders including former Ministers were de-



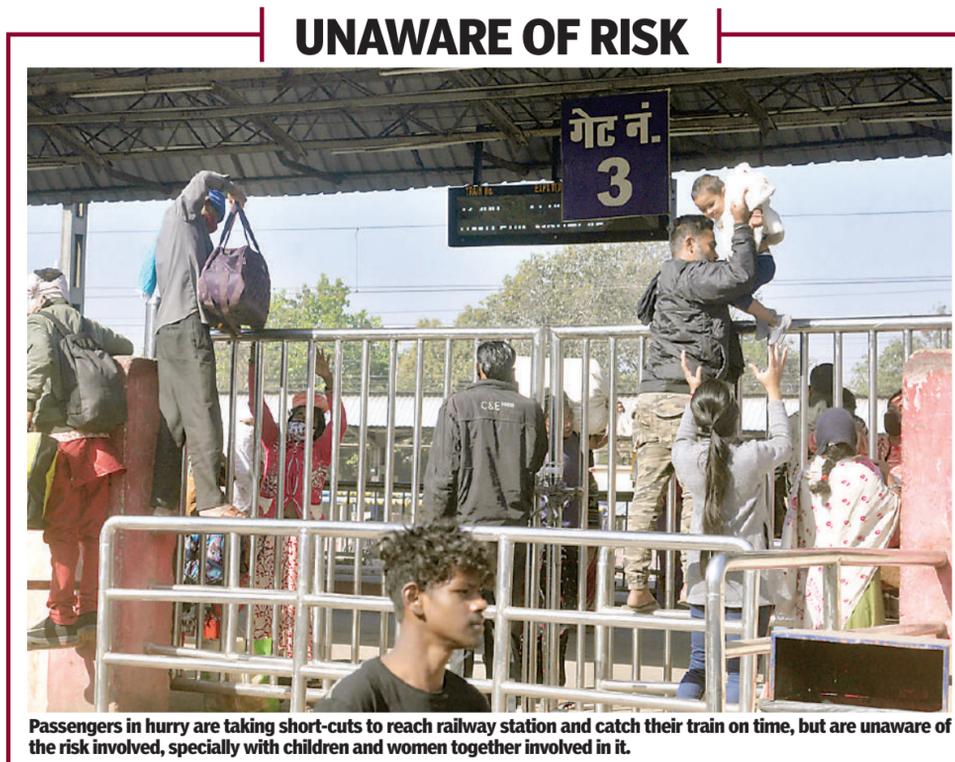
PHE Minister misleading people on Munat's manhandling: Markandeye

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Scheduled Caste Morcha President Navin Markandeye said that the PHE Minister Rudra Kumar is misleading people by ignoring the manhandling of BJP spokesperson Rajesh Munat. In a statement issued here, the former MLA said that the political approach of Congress is against the basic sentiments of the Constitution of India.

tained in Jagdalpur while they were registering protest against illegal recovery from people from weaker section of society by Congress leader in the name of Prime Minister Housing Scheme.

Agrawal further stated that the agitated farmers in Nawa Raipur were also stopped from meeting the Congress MP during his recent visit to Chhattisgarh. BJYM workers were also arrested when they were on the way to gherao the Congress MP Rahul Gandhi during his visit.

Raipur BJP President Shrichand Sundrani and other office-bearers were also present during the press conference.



UNAWARE OF RISK
Passengers in hurry are taking short-cuts to reach railway station and catch their train on time, but are unaware of the risk involved, specially with children and women together involved in it.



Raipur: Governor Anusuiya Uikey attended the reception ceremony of son of CM Bhupesh Baghel viz. Chaitanya Baghel and Khyati in Patan and

showered her blessings to the newly wedded couple wishing them happy married life. On this occasion Mukteshwari Baghel, W/o CM Baghel was also present.

Expert team inspects AIIMS-R for 'Kayakalp Prize'

Took feedback from patients, Asked infection control related questions to support staff

Impressed with different facilities provided under one roof at Trauma, MRD

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: An expert team by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur for the Kayakalp prize on Tuesday. A review report by the team will decide the final prize for AIIMS. The team was impressed by the facilities and best practices adopted at AIIMS.

Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director connected with the team



through online mode from Bhopal and briefed them on major facilities provided to COVID-19 patients and critical patients. 'We are trying to adopt best practices for patients care. We will continue to excel in health care and research,' he added. Dr. Ramesh Chandrakar, Deputy Medical Superintendent, provided insightful information on AIIMS to the team.

The team visited the Bio-medical waste department, registration counters, breastfeeding room, blood sample collection fa-

ility, NICU, and labor room. The team was impressed with the facilities provided at Trauma and praised record-keeping practices at the Medical Record Department. The team also visited Drug Store and Operation Theater, interacted with the patients, and took their feedback on different services. Nodal Officer Dr. Mrithunjay Rathore accompanied the team. The team includes Prof. Pushpanjali Swain, Dr. Ishant Kumar, and Dr. Gaurav Kumar Jha from the Institute of Health and

Family Welfare, New Delhi.

To promote cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control practices in different AIIMS, MoHFW, the Government of India introduced Kayakalp Scheme to incentivize and recognize them. Under the scheme, all newly established AIIMS comes under Category-B and if selected, they will get the first prize of three crores, second prize of one crore, or third prize of 50 Lakh each. In 2021 AIIMS Raipur got third prize in the Category.

IFS Officers Bajaj, Agrawal promoted as PCCF

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: Senior Indian Forest Services (IFS) Officers SS Bajaj and Sudhir Agrawal have been promoted to the post of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF). Similarly, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Sangeeta Gupta has been promoted as Additional PCCF.

Above decision was taken at the meeting of Committee of IFS Officers promotion, held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain. According to the information received, the Committee gave approval to the proposal seeking promotion to the 1988 batch IFS Officer SS Bajaj and Sudhir Agrawal as the

PCCF rank officers. It is notable that presently, the senior IFS Officer SS Bajaj is working as Additional Managing Director at Minor Forest Produce Federation. He would continue to hold the post till further order. Bajaj would attain superannuation in the month of June.

Similarly, the senior IFS Officer Sudhir Agrawal is working at the post of PCF (Budget) and after the above promotion, the senior IFS may be given the charge of Working Plan soon.

According to the information received, the other IFS Officers Rajesh Chande and Naved Sajuddin have also been promoted to the post of Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) post.

State Services Preliminary Exam-2021 in 2 shifts on 13th

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission is going to conduct State Services Preliminary Examination-2021 on February 13. The examination will be held in two shifts- first shift from 10

am to 12 noon and the second shift from 3 pm to 5 pm.

During the examination, it will be mandatory for all the candidates and officers-employees to follow social distancing, use sanitisers, wear masks and all other guidelines for prevention of Covid-19.

NSUI submits memorandum at police station



To register an FIR against Rajesh Munat

Raipur, Feb 08: NSUI state president Neeraj Pandey submitted a memorandum to the Civil Lines police station demanding an FIR against former BJP minister Rajesh Munat. Former BJP minister tried to abuse and beat up the police administration and Congress party workers.

Regarding this, on Tuesday, state president Neeraj Pandey and other

workers demanded to register an FIR and take action against former state minister at Civil Lines police station. In this concern State President, Neeraj Pandey said that the way former BJP minister Rajesh Munat misbehaved with the police administration and Congress party workers and made indecent remarks, it is not proper.

He said that two people from Mungeli district had come to meet Minister Rudra Guru. After meeting the minister, when

they come out, BJP workers clashed with both of them. On the complaint of both the youths, the Ganj police reached the spot to investigate.

Due to which former BJP minister Rajesh Munat, along with other BJP workers, indulged in indecency and also clashed with the police. Neeraj said that if the police administration does not take action against Rajesh Munat, then we will also demand from the state government that immediate action should be taken against such a person who abuses the police and other party workers.

During the handing over of the memorandum, the national convener Honey Bagga, Hemant Pal, Vinod Kashyap, Tushar Guha, Saurabh Sonkar, Aditya Bisen, Sankalp Mishra, Keshav Sinha, Mehtab Hussain, Dev Nirmalkar and Ajay Sahu were present.

COVID-19: Ch'garh records 1,292 new cases, 14 deaths

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: Chhattisgarh on Monday reported 1,292 new COVID-19 cases, up by 316 from a day ago, taking the tally to 11,40,467, while 14 fresh deaths raised the toll to 13,951, an official said.

The daily positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, was 3.46 per cent, down from 4.62 per cent on Sunday, when the state had registered 976 COVID-19 infections on the back of 21,139 tests, he said.

The number of recoveries reached 11,12,810 after 122 people were discharged from hospitals and 4,058 others complet-

ed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an active tally of 13,706, he said.

'Raipur recorded 157 cases, followed by Durg 132, Surajpur 92, Mungeli 83, Narayanpur 76, Rajnandgaon 73, Bilaspur 63 and Raigarh 39, among other districts,' the official said. With 37,372 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,65,24,806,' he said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,40,467, new cases 1,292, death toll 13,951, recovered 11,12,810, active cases 13,706, total tests 1,65,24,806.

Police fires tear gas, throw water canon at Police Parade Ground!



Raipur, Jan 08: The Police force had to use tear gas and water canon in order to control the mob indulging in stone pelting and on hearing about the news all the officers had to reach the Police Parade ground to assess the situation as to what has happened and what are the reasons that the Police were forced to use tear gas and water canon? Apart from this who are all the persons who put the Police into trouble in broad daylight? What all happened at the Police Parade ground left all shocked and surprise, as there was lot of disturbances seen on the ground and they found

Policemen being pelted with stones and even attacked with lathis and sticks. Some of the people present preferred to run away seeing such tensed situation and it was in just short time that people got the news that there is stone pelting and lathicharge on the Police at the Police Parade ground and to protect themselves they have to use tear gas and water canon. When this news spread like a wildfire, people started gathering at this place and on reaching there they came to know that it was not some type of protest or social outbreak, but a mock drill conducted by the district adminis-

tration on law & order situation, so that the Police is on the alert and ready to handle such situations in the near future.

It is notable here that few days back there have been many protests and demonstrations held in capital city and in this the policemen and police officers have to do lot of hard work to handle the crowd. In one such incident, even a female police officer faced humiliation out in public. Apart from this the three days back video of former Minister Rajesh Munat too has gone viral and in this many police officers and employees were reportedly misbehaved with. So it is in order to avoid any such untoward incident in the near future, that the local district and police administration organized this mock drill in order to keep the policemen and others from security up on their heels and on the alert.

Rameshwari Yadav selected for Fellowship of Gol

Raipur, Feb 08: There is a provision of granting fellowship by the Government of India for the collection and research of tribal folk dances.

For this, Chhattisgarh's folk dance instructor and theatre artist - Rameshwari Yadav was selected. Under the fellowship provided by the Department of Culture, Cultural Resources and Training Center, Government of India, Rameshwari went to the tribal-dominated area of Bastar in the first phase to perform the folk dances, songs, traditions and folk dances prevalent there and will collect public opinion.



Has studied the Ghotul practice of tribals

Director of Chhattisgarh Kala Parishad, senior folk artist Vijay Mishra said that she has visited remote forest areas like Ghotul village Madakabera, Tamaran of Dantewada district to study the dance and Ghotul practice prevalent there and will collect public opinion.

and Ranjit Sahu. She told that direct information has been collected from the tribals regarding the missing dances of the tribal community like Paragedana, Kongreng, Dhol Mandri, Gaur, Cherka. Rameshwari, who received higher education in folk music from Indra Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, said that due to the means of communication like radio, TV, mobile, changes have also been reflected in the living habits and customs of the tribal society. At the same time, through such means, the enlightened urban people are getting a great opportunity to know and hear about the rare folk culture of the tribal society.

Domestic Air passenger traffic falls by 18% in Jan



Raipur, Feb 08: Since the beginning of the new year, the effect of increased corona infection across the country has affected air travel. In January this year, the movement of air passengers has decreased by more than 48,000 compared to January last year. According to information received from aviation sources, in comparison to January-2021, in January-2022, the movement of air passengers from Raipur airport has dipped by 18 per cent. In January-2021 last year, a total of one lakh 54 thousand 405 air passengers were transported. At the

same time, in January 2022, a total of one lakh 6402 air passengers were transported.

Aviation officials say that now the movement of air passengers has started increasing gradually as soon as the speed of Corona decreases. The number of flights will also increase in the coming days. Its preparation has also been started by the airlines and their schedule has also been released.

As soon as the rate of Corona infection gone down, now the movement of air passengers from Raipur airport has started increasing. From January 31 to February 6, the number of air passengers going to and from Raipur airport was more than 26,000. According to information received from aviation officials, a total of 26,195 air passengers boarded the flight this week. This is 18 percent more than the previous week. With this, there was a total movement of 254 flights, which is two percent less than the previous week.

More than 22 thousand passengers boarded the flight in a week

In the last week of the last month i.e. from January 24 to 30, a total of 22,111 air passengers had boarded the flight. Also this week there was movement of 260

flights. **Number of passengers will reach normalcy**

Officials said that the main reason for the less number of air traffic passengers is spread of Corona infection. Corona was controlled in the month of January last year. Cases were coming but the infection was controlled. Whereas in the month of January this year, the corona spread rapidly across the country. This is the reason why people kept avoiding traveling. Now the situation is almost normal. Officials believe that the number of passengers will now reach normalcy.

State Govt instructs to ensure presence of officers and employees

In Govt offices from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

GAD issues instructions; warns of action to be taken as per rules in case of violation of instructions

Raipur, Feb 08: The General Administration Department (GAD) has issued instructions to ensure presence of officers and employees in offices of ministries, head of departments and field offices from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. In the instructions issued today by the General Administration Department from Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan to all the Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors and Magistrates in this regard, it has been stated that the state government has allowed its employees to work for five days a week,

declaring all Saturdays as holidays. In addition, the timings for offices of the state ministries and heads of departments and all field offices have also been revised i.e. from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

It has also been said in the instructions issued that it has been bought to notice that officers and employees are constantly late to work in many government offices-ground offices, which is contrary to the instructions issued by the state government. The instructions further states that it will be the responsibility of head of office to ensure punctuality of their employees. In case of violation of the aforementioned instructions, action can be taken against the officer-employee concerned under the Civil Services Conduct Rules. The General Administration Department has asked the concerned to give these instructions a top priority.

Implementation agency to be decided in cabinet

For systematic devp of unused govt land

Recommendation of empowered cabinet committee to decide policies and implementing agency

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: A meeting of the empowered cabinet committee was held in the state regarding the systematic development and utilization of unused government land owned by various departments, corporations, boards, companies and boards. Recommendations were made by the Cabinet Committee to decide policies and implementing agency for systematic development and utilization of unused government land. Now the policies and the implementing agency



will be decided at the cabinet level.

The meeting was attended by Public Works and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Housing, Environment and Transport Minister Md Akbar, Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, CM's Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Public Works Department Secretary Siddharth

Komal Singh Pardeshi, Cooperative Department Special Secretary Himshikhar Gupta, NRDA Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner Housing Board Dr Aiyaj Tamboli, Town and Country Planning Department Director Jaiprakash Mourya, RDA Chief Executive Officer Abhijit Singh and other senior officers. The state govern-

ment constituted an empowered cabinet committee for systematic development and proper utilisation of unused government land. The committee comprised Public Works Minister, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister, Transport, Housing and Environment Minister and Urban Administration Minister. Plan for development of unused vacant land of government departments, corporations and boards was discussed at the meeting of high level committee.

Better redevelopment of vacant lands of government departments, corporation boards, renovation of dilapidated buildings and transfer of land to the implementing agency on the lines of Madhya Pradesh, were also discussed in detail in the high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee.

'Now govt to offer 40% discount in guideline value of land'

Implementation of decision taken in the cabinet under chairmanship of CM Baghel started

Order issued by the state govt giving people a huge relief

Benefit of exemption can be availed till March 31, 2022

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: In a bid to provide relief to the people of the state, Chhattisgarh Government has issued an order to give a discount of up to 40 per cent in the rates of the market value of the land. The people of the state will be able to take advantage of this special exemption on the purchase of land till March 31, 2022. Earlier, a discount of 30 per cent was being given in the guide-

line value.

It is noteworthy that in the cabinet meeting held on February 1 under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, it was decided to revise the rate of market value guideline from 30 per cent to 40 per cent for the remaining period of the current financial year 2021-22. According to the intention of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, an order was duly issued today by the Commercial Taxes Department of Chhattisgarh, in compliance with this decision of the cabinet to give 40 per cent relaxation in the guideline value. According to the order issued, a discount of 40 per cent instead of 30 per cent has been given on the rates of market value guideline for the remaining period of the financial year 2021-22 for properties falling under municipal corporations and their town and country planning area.

Use of tobacco increases the risk of oral cancer: Dr Meera Baghel

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Meera Baghel informed that many programs are being run in the state under Non-Communicable Disease Control Program, which are playing an important role in prevention and treatment of cancer. Oral cancer is more commonly seen in men due to tobacco consumption, while more cases related to cancer of the uterus and breast cancer are seen in women. Cancer screening and counseling camps will be organized on the occasion of World Cancer Day to create awareness about this. A message to increase awareness about



cancer will also be broadcast at main streets through e-rickshaws. White / red / rash / sores in the mouth. Hardening of the skin at some places. Wounds that do not heal for more than 1 month. Spicy food is not tolerated inside the mouth. Difficulty opening the mouth. Difficulty sticking out tongue. Changes

in voice (nasal speaking). Excessive saliva secretion. Difficulty in chewing/swallowing/speaking are the symptoms of oral cancer. Bleeding after menopause. Bleeding after sex. Irregular menstrual bleeding. Leakage of white water mixed with blood from the vagina. Back pain, lower abdominal pain are symptoms of uterus. Common symptoms of breast cancer are change in size of breast, penetration of the breastbone, a change in position or size. Red rash on or around the breastbone. Any abnormal leakage in the breastbone lumps in the breasts and constant pain in the breast or armpits.

Rashtriya Vidyalyaya has been nursery of patriots: Dr Charandas Mahant

Raipur, Feb 08: Centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Vidyalyaya were held here recently. Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant was present at the function as chief guest. MLA Raipur Rural Satyanarayan Sharma, Ex-MLA Gurumukh Singh Hora, Raipur Development Authority Chairman Subhash Dhupad, Rajeshree Mahant Ram Sunder Das and Swarup Chand Jain were prominently present on the occasion.

The last two years have been very difficult as we have lost many loved ones, Dr Mahant said in his address. He said that it was a matter of pride for him to get an opportunity to participate in the centenary



celebrations of the Rashtriya Vidyalyaya. He told that Mahat Laxmi Narayan Das, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Madhav Rao Sapre, Vaman Rao Lakhe, Bal Kishan Nathani, Thakur Pyare Lal, Shivdas Daga, Nandkumar Dani etc. made special contribution to the establishment of this school.

He said that the school

was set up after formation of a committee from some amount collected in Chherachhera Punni. This site has been the school of the Swadeshi movement. Dr Mahat said that Rashtriya Vidyalyaya has been the nursery of the country's patriots. He told that if any work is started with good intention, then that work definitely proves

to be successful. According to Dr Mahat in today's situation, it is very important to protect the society, because the pollution of thoughts is coming in and to stop the pollution of these thoughts, there is a need to adopt the power of the ideals of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Recently, the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was observed.

The foundation of Sevagram has been laid during recent visit of MP Rahul Gandhi in Raipur. MLA Rural Satyanarayan Sharma and Ajay Tiwari made important contribution in this. Satyanarayan Sharma is the follower of Gandhian thoughts and is working continuously in re-visiting Gandhi's ideals. Also present on the occasion

were committee chairman Ajay Tiwari, Raj Kishor Nathani, Vijay Dani, Gokul Das Daga, Deepak Dubey, Madan Taleda, Prakash Shri Shrimal, Naresh Gupta, Rupchand Shri Shrimal, Goverdhan Daga, Prem Ratan, Shri Shrimal, Shanti Bhai Manik, Rashtriya Vidyalyaya principal Rama Verma, Vaman Rao Lakhe Higher Secondary School principal Manju Sahu, Dr Bharti Yadav, Dr Smriti Agrawal, Ajay Singh Director State Khadi and Gramodyog Commission, Dr Gayatri Sharma, Dr Sangeeta Ghai, Mahant College principal Devashish Mukherjee, Agrasen College principal Yuland Rajput, Dr Padma Sharma, Sanjay Dubey, Umashankar Vyas and Anil Chandrakar.

27 people from Ch'garh became national judges of Chess

8 people got success from women's category too

Mayank Devangan of Raipur and Chandresh Sinha of Bilaspur in merit list

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 08: The scheme of All India Chess Federation, Chess for Everyone, whose main objective is to prepare arbiters from each district of all the states of the country, to overcome the problems being faced by the judges at the district level and to conduct the competition smoothly at low cost.



In this series, online examination was organized for senior national judge and national judge of chess on January 30, in which 27 people from Chhattisgarh have got success in the state. Mayank Devangan of Raipur and Chandresh Sinha of Bilaspur have achieved splendid achievement by passing the examination with A grade and securing 6th and 7th position respectively in the merit list. The National Judge's exam was conducted

in two levels. In which Anjum, Abdul Shamim Qureshi, Raki Devangan, Divyanshu Upadhyay, Gaurav Prithyani, Mithlesh Banjare, Mahima Laddha, Alok Singh Kshatriya, Ritesh Yadav, Bhavna Jaiswal, Ashutosh Sahu, Khilendra Sahu, Rakesh Chandrakar, Ishwar Netam, Omprakash, Chandresh Sinha, Mayank Devangan achieved success as senior national judges.

On the other hand, Yashwant Chaudhary, Pushpanjali Chaudhary, Rajeshwari Dhruvanshi, Sanyogita, Prachi Yadav, Afsa Parveen, Sonia Bhagat, Manoj Jaiswal, Rajesh Jena and Arvindnath Kulguru have

been successful as national judges. Giving information, Chhattisgarh State Chess Association Secretary Hemant Khute said that for the first time in Chhattisgarh such a large number of students appeared as judges of chess and in their very first attempt, all of them achieved great success in their respective districts and states which is proud movement for Chhattisgarh state. Till now there was not a single woman national judge in the state, that too has been compensated through this examination. Prachi Yadav (19 years) of Raipur has registered her name as the youngest National Arbiter in the state.

EPFO employment scheme run by Ministry of Labour and Employment will prove to be a milestone: Parwani

Raipur, Feb 08: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golcha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said that a virtual meeting was organized under the Self-Reliant India Employment Scheme, in which mainly Abhishek Kumar Regional PF Commissioner Grade-1 and in-charge of Chhattisgarh Region, Jai Shankar Prasad, PF Commissioner Grade-2 and Compliance In-charge RO Raipur, Shafiq Ahmed Qureshi Enforcement Officer was present. Various points of the self-reliant India employment scheme were mainly discussed in the meeting



which includes incentives for new employees and employers of eligible establishments registered with EPFO and new employees will get incentive for 2 years from the date of registration. The incentive will be paid as follows
a. Contribution of both the employees and the employer, i.e. 24 per cent of the salary, in respect of new employees employed in establishments employing up to 1000 employees.
b. EPF contribution of employees only i.e. 12 percent of salary

in respect of new employees working in establishments having more than 1000 employees.

Establishment is eligible for incentive if it adds the prescribed minimum number of new employees over and above the reference base. The number of EPF members contributing in September 2020, KECR is considered as the reference base of the employees. New employees joining on monthly salary less than 15000, are eligible to get benefits for 24 pay months from the date of registration. Establishments registered with EPFO after 01-10-2020, will get benefits in respect of all new employees. Chamber State President Amar Parwani said that aware-

ness is needed for this and for this, the suggestion of holding an offline meeting in the Chamber Office in future was also given by Parwani. In this series, Sanjay Choubey, State Working President of Industry Chamber also urged that off-line workshops should be organised in all the districts of the state from next month so that maximum number of people can be benefited. In the virtual meeting, office bearers including Chamber State President Amar Parwani, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Industry Chamber Working President, Sanjay Choubey, Vikram Vyas, Pradeep Pagaria, Amit Agarwal, Vikram Jain, KS Bedi was present.

RERA banned 'The White Symphony' project

For not completing the project on time

Ban on bank accounts transactions by canceling the registration of the project

Raipur, Feb 08: Keeping in mind the interests of potential buyers, Chhattisgarh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has taken action on Parthivi Construction Pvt Ltd's "The White Symphony" project located in Sector-15, Naya Raipur; for not completing the project on time. Order has been given to ban the purchase and sale of his land. Along with this, RERA has canceled the registration order of "The White

Symphony" project with effect from February 02 2022 on the application of Promoter Parthivi Construction Pvt Ltd. With a view to protect the interest of potential allottees by RERA, any withdrawal by Parthivi Construction Pvt Ltd from all bank accounts related to the disputed project is prohibited.

It is noteworthy that the project "The White Symphony" of Parthivi Construction Pvt Ltd was registered with RERA. Due to non-informing to RERA about the quarterly progress of the project, action was initiated by the authority by registering a case against the promoter. Promoter was asked to start the project again by changing the layout on the grounds of non-compliance of work in the

disputed project and non-availability of the project in the current market business conditions. On this basis, the promoter also requested RERA to terminate the registration of the project. The Authority, on scrutiny of documents, found that the promoter has urged the allottees to close the project and terminate the registration without receiving the amount. Therefore, keeping in mind the interests of the allottees, RERA banned the transactions in the respective bank accounts by issuing orders against the promoters, prohibiting buying and selling in the above project. Along with this, RERA also canceled its registration due to the promoter not doing development work in the project.

BJP leaders taken into arrest on call for 'City Bandh'

Terms it as undeclared emergency in state and state govt resorting to anarchy

Jagdalpur, Feb 08: BJP leaders and party workers under leadership of former Minister and ex-MLA Kedar Kashyap took to streets against Congress and charged the state government of taking the state to its worse with development coming to standstill and open loot from government coffers. The farmers are left in devastated condition and have not fulfilled its promises so far, they charged. After Raipur the BJP leaders in Jagdalpur put the Congress behind witness box and BJP party workers and leaders in large number went out in their call for 'city bandh' and it was foiled by police



and they were all taken into arrest. More than 50 BJP party workers and leaders from Jagdalpur region were taken into arrest on Tuesday. This included Leader of Opposition Nagar Nigam Sanjay Pandey, BJP Nagar Mandal President Suresh Gupta, Yuwa Morcha District President Avinash Shrivastava, many office bearers of BJP Jagdalpur unit, corporators and other

were present. The Police sent the former Minister Kedar Kashyap and few others far away from city to Nagarnar Thana. After arrest of BJP leaders, the former Minister and State's spokesman of BJP Kedar Kashyap, general secy. Kiran Dev, Ex-MLA Santosh Bafna, and other leaders reached BJP office. The BJP charged the Congress corporator of Sanjay Nagar ward Komal Sena of charging bribe for



houses under PMAY from families who have encroached upon Railway's government land. For not filing an FIR on this factual complaint, the BJP leaders called for 'Shahar Bandh' and in view of this the Police nabbed many such leaders from different parts of city on Tuesday. It is learnt that in view of the bandh, the BJP leaders and corporators were active in city since morning and from many places the police

managed to arrest them well in advance. Police force in large number was deployed in view of this bandh by BJP today. BJP in its press charged the local and police administration of arrested the BJP workers and leaders staging peaceful protest and they charged that in crave for power the Congress led state government is resorting to anarchy and called for undeclared emergency in the state.

BRIEF

Duping

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has registered a case against unidentified people for allegedly impersonating Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh and sending e-mails, WhatsApp messages and making phone calls to several people, including government officials, on his behalf to dupe them. The matter came to the fore last month after the private secretary of the minister lodged a complaint at the Cyber Cell of New Delhi district police, they said.

Throws

Rajgarh: A tehsildar in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district had to run for his life after a former BJP Yuva Morcha leader allegedly sprinkled petrol on him and threatened to set him on fire during anti encroachment drive in Pachore area. A video showed Bhagwan Singh Rajput, the ex-general secretary of BJYM's Rajgarh unit, purportedly sprinkling petrol from bottle on tehsildar, Rajesh Sorte, during anti encroachment drive on Shivlaya road.

Bribery

New Delhi: The CBI arrested a branch manager of Equitas Small Finance Bank in Visakhapatnam while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.30 lakh from a businessman who has sought a loan of Rs 20 lakh, officials said. Branch Manager Akella Srinivas Arudra has allegedly demanded 10 per cent for the total loan amount.

Bans

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government asked the authorities of all districts to ban the sale of liquor and declare the polling days for the upcoming three-tier panchayat elections as Dry Day. In a letter to all district collectors, state Excise Commissioner Ashish Singh said the order seeks to check allurements of voters through alcohol.

Smart

New Delhi: The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has invited proposals from firms to convert 50 public conveniences into 'smart toilets'. The project will be based on a public-private-partnership (PPP) mode, they said. To strengthen and upgrade civic services, the EDMC has planned to outsource work for conversion of 50 public conveniences at specified locations in its area into smart toilets, with advertisement rights and commercial space.

Kills

Mumbai: An 89-year-old man allegedly slit the throats of his wife and mentally unwell daughter while they were asleep and then spent time with the corpses in his home in Andheri in Mumbai. Purushottam Singh Gandhok killed his wife Kamaljeet Singh (81) and daughter Kamaljeet Kaur (55) in their home in Sher-E-Punjab colony, locked the flat from inside and spent time there before calling another daughter to inform about killings.

Unemployed youths detained during protest in Jammu



Police detain aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir police border battalion, during a protest march, in Jammu, Tuesday.

Jammu, Feb 08 (PTI):

Over 50 youths were detained Tuesday after they blocked the vital Tawi bridge in the heart of the city, demanding the early conduct of written examination for the posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police Border Battalion advertised in 2019, officials said. The protesters were also angry over the recent re-advertisement of the

posts by the police recruitment board and demanded its withdrawal, they said.

Hundreds of aspirants including women seeking recruitment in police border battalion appeared at Dogra chowk and later blocked the Tawi bridge on Jammu-Airport road for nearly two hours, causing massive traffic jam in the city, the officials said, adding police rushed to the scene and used mild baton

charge before detaining over 50 protesters.

Earlier on January 27, the border battalion aspirants submitted a memorandum to the divisional commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langer and apprised him that they had applied for the post of head constable advertised by J-K Police recruitment Board in 2019 and appeared in physical and medical tests. They expressed concern over the re-advertisement notice issued by the board for recruitment of head constables in the border battalion and demanded withdrawal of the same, besides seeking early conduct of the written examination of already qualified candidates as per 2019 advertisement notice. The protesting unemployed youth said they have been waiting for the last three years for the conduct of written tests but were surprised by the fresh advertisement notice.

Kerala Govt can accept or reject Lok Ayukta declaration

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022, signed by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, has stated that the state government can now either accept or reject the declaration by the anti-corruption agency in the cases, finding those holding public office as guilty.

The Governor, Chief Minister or the state government would be the competent authority and he or it may either accept or reject the declaration, after giving an opportunity of being heard, according to the ordinance notified in the gazette.

Where the competent authority is the Governor, or the Chief Minister or the Government of Kerala, he or it may either accept or reject the declaration, after



Kerala Lok Ayukta

giving an opportunity of being heard," the Ordinance said.

In other cases, the competent authority shall send a copy of such report to the Government which may either accept or reject the declaration after giving an opportunity of being heard, it said.

"If it is not rejected within a period of three months from the date of receipt of the report or the copy of the

report, as the case may be, it shall be deemed to have been accepted on the date of expiry of the said period of three months," it said.

If a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a chief justice of High Court had been appointed as Lok Ayukta in the state so far, the Ordinance made it clear that a judge of high court can be nominated in the top post now on wards.

"When the Lok Ayukta is

AGAINST BUDGET



Supporters of Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI (M) stage a protest over the union budget, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament, in Agartala, Tripura on Tuesday.

SAD patriarch fights his thirteenth poll battle

Bhagwant Mann appeared to suggest retirement for patriarch

Lambi, Feb 08 (PTI):

At 94, Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal can be forgiven for skipping rallies and not going door to door for votes. His people are there to handle the electioneering in his Lambi constituency.

It had been the practice earlier too that the party's local leadership takes care of the electioneering in Lambi while Badal Sahib remained busy in campaigning in the state, his close aide and party leader Tejinder Singh Middukhera said. Badal Sahib is in regular touch with us, he said. In the run-up to the February



SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal with his son Sukhbir Singh Badal.

20 assembly polls in Punjab, there has been help from others as well in Lambi, which falls in Punjab's Muktsar district. SAD leader and daughter-in-law Harsimrat Kaur Badal campaigned for him in the constituency. So did Indian National Lok Dal president Om Prakash Chautala, asking voters to return the SAD veteran to the assembly yet again.

Seeking votes for his long-time friend, the 87-year-old leader said his and Badal Senior's politics always revolved around the welfare of common people. According to the SAD, Badal stepped into the fray again when party leaders pleaded with him not to retire — even if it meant defying age and a recent bout of Covid. His son Sukhbir Singh Badal is the party president.

Retired judge moves Delhi HC for contempt action against lawyer

Chaos had erupted at Tis Hazari court on Nov 30 last year

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

A retired district court judge on Tuesday urged the Delhi High Court to initiate contempt proceedings against a lawyer for interfering with the administration of justice after he was convicted of assaulting her when she was a lawyer and argued that no convict should be allowed to browbeat and bully the court.

A bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul asked the former judge, Sujata Kohli, to place on record the relevant CCTV footage of the alleged

incident within a week in order to enable the court to form a prima facie opinion in the contempt case.

We are as concerned as anybody else with respect to how court proceedings have to be conducted and how decorum has to be maintained. If you place the CCTV footage on record, it will go a long way. We view contempt very seriously, said the bench, also comprising Justice Anup J Bhamhani. On October 29 last year, a trial court had convicted Delhi High Court Bar Association's (DHCBA) ex-president Rajiv Khosla in the assault case for offences punishable under Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the India Penal Code (IPC).

Congress cites BJP-JD(U) spat, predicts fall of Govt in Bihar

Patna, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Congress on Tuesday saw irreconcilable differences between the BJP and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), and predicted a major upheaval in the state after the all-important assembly elections in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh were over.

AICC media panellist and MLC Prem Chandra Mishra made the claim, citing recent attacks on Kumar by some leaders of the BJP, which was mortified over not having its own chief minister despite being numerically stronger.

Just look at the statement of Chhedi Paswan,



Prem Chandra Mishra

who calls the chief minister so hungry for power that he would not hesitate from joining hands with Dawood Ibrahim if the need arose, said Mishra, referring to the controversial statement of the BJP MP from Sasaram.

Paswan, who is serving his second term as BJP MP, had made the remarks

in the national capital in reply to questions from journalists about the spat between the party's state president Sanjay Jaiswal and the JD(U).

The Sasaram MP, a veteran party-hopper who had joined BJP just ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, had also said his party had committed a bhooh (mistake) by helping Kumar, his former boss, return as chief minister despite the JD(U)'s dismal show in the assembly polls.

Paswan was formerly with the JD(U) and a minister in Nitish Kumar's cabinet before resigning in protest against not being considered for a party ticket in the Lok Sabha polls.

26 percent Goa election candidates booked in criminal cases

Panaji, Feb 08 (PTI):

At least 26 per cent of candidates contesting the Goa legislative Assembly elections have criminal cases registered against them and eight per cent have been booked for serious crimes, a report released by an election watchdog revealed on Tuesday.

The highest number of candidates with criminal cases are with the Congress, followed by the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) and BJP, it was stated.

The details are part of a report released by the Goa Election Watch and Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Tuesday. Of the total 301

candidates contesting the polls, 26 per cent (77) have declared in their affidavits criminal cases pending against them in various courts, of which eight per cent are facing serious criminal offences, the report stated. At least 35 per cent of Congress candidates have criminal cases against them, followed by the MGP with 23 per cent, BJP with 18 per cent, NCP and TMC with 15 per cent each and AAP with 10 per cent, the ADR said.

The election watchdog has noted that 12 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women, of which one has a case related to rape. Eight candidates have cases of attempt to murder to their name.

TN couple become first to host Metaverse marriage reception

Chennai, Feb 08 (PTI):

The pandemic induced apprehension, ingenuity and his flair for technological innovation, drove the 25-year-old Dinesh SP, project associate in IIT Madras, and his bride Janaganandhini Ramasamy, to host their wedding reception on Metaverse platform, earning the spontaneous appreciation of relatives, friends and gaining a world-wide audience.

The reception held at Sivalingapuram village of Anchetti taluk in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district, shot the newly wedded couple to fame. Dinesh, who is into Blockchain, NFTs and Crypto, says his is the first



Digital avatars of Dinesh and Janaganandhini during virtual marriage reception.

Metaverse marriage in Asia. I got married in February 2022. I had planned to conduct my reception on Metaverse platform on February 6, due to the pandemic which had restricted the guests, he says. Hogwarts theme from Harry Potter was the choice the couple made for their reception. A musical concert

was held on Metaverse from Chennai and the event saw about 200 guests who attended the reception receive food at their homes. The unique Metaverse marriage reception was the first to be held in Asia and it was an instant hit among the people, claims Vinesh Selvaraj, CEO of TardiVerse, the Sriperumbudur based Information Technology firm, which designed the virtual platform for Dinesh and Janaganandhini. It took our 12-member team nearly a month from January 3 to complete the project, Vignesh told PTI. He says the Metaverse will be the 3.0 technology wielding tremendous influence on people.

Casteism, communal appeal at core of UP political strategies

Common crying for livelihood issues amid election

Lucknow, Feb 08 (PTI):

The BJP has developed its poll narratives around Hindutva and development in the battle for Uttar Pradesh and the Samajwadi Party on welfare schemes based on socialism, but the core of their poll strategies appears to be caste arithmetic and communal faultlines.

Be it the BJP, the SP or the BSP, a look at their list of candidates makes it



Politicians have to campaign with different message for different communities.

clear that caste affiliation and religious affiliation are the prime considerations in the selection of the nominees for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh elections.

The Congress under its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is banking on the women voters to capture the power in the Hindi heart-

land. Sticking to its promise of reserving 40 percent tickets to women, the grand old party is experimenting with greenhorns, like an aganwadi worker, the mother of the Unnao rape victim besides glamorous faces like Bikni girl' Archana Gautam from Hasinapur in Meerut district, and actor-activist Sadar Jafar. "No matter how much you talk about vikas (development), the victory in polls hinges on which caste and community is supporting you," Pitardeen Shukla, an elderly homemaker in Amethi said.

BRIEF

Increase

San Juan: Puerto Rico's governor announced that all public school teachers will receive a 1,000 monthly salary increase starting in July. The move comes just days after 70 percent of teachers left their classrooms and joined a protest to demand higher wages, better pensions and improved working conditions. Another protest is scheduled. The association and others had rejected a smaller increase recently approved by a federal control.

Asks

Washington: A Temple University physicist in US who was charged with sharing scientific technology with China only for the case to collapse before trial and be dismissed by the Justice Department asked a federal appeals court to reinstate his lawsuit against the US government. Lawyers for Xiaoxing Xi and his wife say in a brief filed with appeals court that a judge erred when he dismissed their claims for damages, asserting false statements.

Laughing

Athens: Greece's prime minister sacked the country's agriculture minister after video surfaced of him laughing approvingly as a local party official expounded on how compensation payments for natural disasters can help win elections. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis spoke to the minister, Spiros Livanos, to demand an explanation over his reaction to the unacceptable reference. Livanos should have reacted differently.

Sorcery

Phnom Penh: Police in Cambodia say they have arrested six men who admitted killing five members of a family they believed were using sorcery to kill other people in their village. The victims in the Feb 1 killings in the remote eastern province of Mondulakiri were a 45 year old man, a 41 year old woman, two 15 year old boys and a 5 year old boy. It said an 11 year old boy survived the attack but was in critical condition at a hospital.

Propose

Jerusalem: Israeli and Palestinian public figures have drawn up a new proposal for a two-state confederation that they hope will offer a way forward after a decade-long stalemate in Mideast peace efforts. Plan includes several controversial proposals, and it's unclear if it has any support among leaders on either side. But it could help shape the debate over the conflict and will be presented to a senior US official and UN secretary general.

Election

Kathmandu: The Nepal government announced that the local level elections would be held on May 13 this year in a single phase. Cabinet meeting has decided to hold the local level election on May 13 in a single phase. A formal announcement will be made by the government soon.

No gas pipeline if Russia invades Ukraine: Biden

Washington, Feb 08 (AP):

In a flurry of diplomacy across two continents, President Joe Biden met with Germany's new leader and vowed the crucial Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline will be blocked if Russia further invades Ukraine. Russia's Vladimir Putin retorted that the US and its allies are the only ones talking invasion.

Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron met for more than five hours in Moscow at the same time Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke at the White House in efforts to defuse the crisis before armed conflict breaks out. Russia has massed thousands of troops at the Ukraine border, adding military might almost daily.

The White House has expressed increasing alarm about the prospects of war, and Biden has been looking to solidify support among European allies for economy-jarring sanctions against Russia if it attacks. 'If Russia invades, that means tanks and troops crossing the border of Ukraine again, then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2,' Biden said. 'We will bring an end to it.' That would hurt Russia economically but also cause supply problems for Germany. Construction of the pipeline has been completed, but it is not yet operating. 'We are jointly ready, and all of NATO is ready,' Biden said, referring to the powerful Western alliance, though Ukraine is not a member.



US President Joe Biden (R) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz after joint news conference in White House, Washington, DC.

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While Biden reiterated with certitude that the pipeline would not move forward, Scholz stressed the need to keep some ambiguity about sanctions in order to press Russia to de-escalate the crisis. 'It's necessary for Russia to understand that a lot more could happen than they've perhaps calculated with themselves,' Scholz said.

The buildup of over 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine has fueled Western worries of a possible offensive. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan warned Sunday that Russia could invade Ukraine 'any day,' triggering a conflict that would come at an 'enormous human cost.'

Some terrorist groups have made a mockery of the UN Security Council's sanction regimes by taking full advantage of carve-outs given for humanitarian purposes, India said as it made a veiled reference to Pakistan, saying proscribed terrorist groups in the neighbourhood have re-branded themselves as humanitarian organisations to evade sanctions. It is imperative that

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ACTIVISM



Led by founder Oceane Gaïet (C), activists of "And if it was you" group march for helping homeless people in Bordeaux, France.

Hong Kongers picnic to avoid Covid-tracing app

Authorities have shown little tolerance for dissent

Hong Kong, Feb 08 (AFP):

When Hong Kong made a Covid check-in app mandatory at restaurants, friends Birdy and Bu — wary of government tracking — decided to avoid eateries entirely and go for picnics instead. The idea caught fire: their private social media picnic group has swelled from 50 in December to more than 6,000 members, as many look to avoid sharing data in a city where distrust of the Beijing-backed authorities runs deep. Instead of scanning QR



Creators of a social media picnicking group, having a picnic in Hong Kong.

codes at restaurants with the government's "Leave Home Safe" app, they simply order takeaway and find spots to eat with friends.

"I just don't like being forced," Birdy told AFP over a weekend picnic with Bu and another friend

Dominic at a small park, their food and drinks neatly arranged on a blanket next to a playground. Birdy and Bu — who declined to share their full names over safety concerns — named their picnic group "Leave Home Wild".

'Some terror groups making mockery of sanction regimes'

Re-brand themselves as humanitarian organisations

United Nations, Feb 08 (PTI):

Some terrorist groups have made a mockery of the UN Security Council's sanction regimes by taking full advantage of carve-outs given for humanitarian purposes, India said as it made a veiled reference to Pakistan, saying proscribed terrorist groups in the neighbourhood have re-branded themselves as humanitarian organisations to evade sanctions. It is imperative that



TS Tirumurti

sanctions do not impede legitimate humanitarian requirements. However, it is important to exercise due diligence while providing humanitarian carve-outs, especially in cases where terrorism finds safe-havens, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS

Tirumurti said. Speaking at the UN Security Council Open Debate hosted by Council President Russia on General issues relating to Sanctions: Preventing their humanitarian and unintended consequences', Tirumurti said there have been examples of terrorist groups taking full advantage of humanitarian carve-outs, making a mockery of sanction regimes, including that of 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee.

There have also been several cases of terrorist groups in our neighbourhood, including those listed by this Council, re-branding themselves as

humanitarian organisations to evade these sanctions, he said, making a reference to terror organisations based in Pakistan.

These terrorist organisations use the umbrella of the humanitarian space to raise funds, recruit fighters and even use human shields. Under the garb of the humanitarian cover provided by such exemptions, these terrorist groups continue to expand their terror activities in the region and beyond. Due diligence, therefore, is an absolute must, he said.

Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa has a charity wing Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation.

Philippine presidency hopefuls open campaigns



Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, center, greets his supporters in Manila, Philippines, Tuesday.

Manila, Feb 08 (AP):

Campaigning in the Philippines' presidential election started Tuesday with a cast of candidates led by a late dictator's son and the pro-democracy current vice president, with all vowing to bail out a country driven deeper

into poverty by the pandemic and plagued by gaping inequalities and decades-long insurgencies. The official three-month election campaign for national posts, including the president and separately elected vice president and half of the 24-seat Senate, opened under

tough anti-virus restrictions including a ban on handshakes, kissing, hugging and tightly packed crowds aimed at dampening the carnival-like rallies that have been the hallmark of Philippine elections. Social media has become a key battleground in the May 9 elections given the restrictions with many fearing disinformation could worsen in an intense race.

Candidates for more than 18,000 local positions, including provincial governors, town mayors and House of Representatives seats open their campaigns on March 25 under tight police watch due to a history of violent rivalries. More than 67 million Filipinos have registered to cast their votes, including nearly 1.7 million who work abroad.

Ex-Honduran leader placed on US list of corrupt officials

Miami, Feb 08 (AP):

The Biden administration last year quietly placed former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez on a classified list of officials suspected of corruption or undermining democracy in Central America, according to the State Department, which made the designation public. The list was provided last summer to the US Congress in compliance with legislation pushed by former Congressman Eliot

Engel, who chaired the House Foreign Affairs Committee before being defeated in a Democratic primary in 2020. The publication of the so-called Engel List fell like a bombshell in Central America, containing the names of another former Honduran president, Porfirio Pepe Lobo Sosa, among more than 50 active lawmakers, top politicians and former officials in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras the so-called Northern Triangle countries.

North Korea increases virus budget after partial border opening

Seoul, Feb 08 (AP):

North Korea plans to increase its government spending on pandemic anti-virus measures by one-third this year to carry out leader Kim Jong Un's calls for a more 'advanced and people-oriented' virus response, state media said Tuesday.

The budget plans were passed during a session of Pyongyang's rubber-stamp parliament, which came weeks after the North tentatively restarted its railroad freight traffic with China following two years of extreme border closures and economic decay.

Kim had hinted at broader changes to the country's pandemic response during a political

conference in December, when he called for a transition toward advanced anti-virus measures based on a 'scientific foundation.'

The Korean Central News Agency said North

Korea's Supreme People's Assembly passed plans to increase spending on anti-virus measures by 33.3% compared to last year. The report didn't describe those spending plans in monetary terms.

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, महानदी परियोजना, जल संसाधन विभाग रायपुर

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उपरोक्त विषयवस्तु कार्य का निविदा निरस्तीकरण क्रमांक 88943 निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 09/च.ले.नि./201-22 दिनांक 22.12.2021 को निविदा आमंत्रण की गई थी, का बिड दिनांक 09.01.2022 को केन्द्रीय निविदा प्रकोष्ठ द्वारा ऑनलाईन खोला गया। उक्त निविदा के प्रथम आमंत्रण में कोई निविदाकार ने भाग नहीं लिया जाने के कारण निविदा निरस्ती की जाती है।
जिसका प्रकाशन जी. नं. 66144 दिनांक 24.12.2021 है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग काफ़ेरे कूते, मुख्य अभियंता महानदी परियोजना, जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
G-67550/1

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 83 से 75 मिमी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप एवं 20 मिमी व्यास के कोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मि.मी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6810 kg/cm², स्पेल्ट सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टैरिफिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत शैड्यूल अनुसूच।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./दिनांक	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु.)	अमानत राशि (लाख रु. में)
1	287/02.02.2022 91693	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम कुकरीचौली के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 127 नग	68.08	51100/-
2	288/02.02.2022 91894	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम डुमरबहार, लोकेर (कुलेरा) एवं हरीप्रिया के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 130 नग	95.34	71550/-
3	289/02.02.2022 91837	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम बुढाहाड़ एवं कुलडीह के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 316 नग	205.68	150000/-
4	290/02.02.2022 91879	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम घुघरी एवं डुमरघानी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 124 नग	126.44	94850/-
5	291/02.02.2022 91880	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम डोडराही, करमा एवं रनपुर के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 163 नग	92.71	69550/-
6	292/02.02.2022 91878	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम रंगले के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 192 नग	106.50	79900/-
7	293/02.02.2022 91881	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ओडका के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 298 नग	179.37	134550/-
8	294/02.02.2022 91888	विकासखण्ड कुनकुची के ग्राम बोडोकचर, बथानकांड, जोडीकांड एवं कोटिया के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 394 नग	219.49	150000/-
9	295/02.02.2022 91892	विकासखण्ड फरसाबहार के ग्राम मेलावा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 400 नग	226.30	150000/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 18.02.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

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जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
G-67574/7

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER THE MoHFW, GoI)
No.03/02/2022/Recruit/Reg/53 Date: 04.02.2022

SR RECRUITMENT NOTICE

AIIMS Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Senior Resident (Non-Acad.) [Total: 132 (UR-39, EWS-12, OBC-44, SC-24, ST-13)] including 05 posts for PwBD under Govt. of India Reservation Scheme for various departments. The pay scale is of Rs. 67,700/- (Level-11, Cell No. 01 As per 7th CPC) plus applicable allowances including NPA (if applicable). Candidates can apply for the post of Senior Resident by clicking the link: <https://forms.gle/KCQwVSiB7p1zSPi6>. The link will be available in the website till 15.02.2022. For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, please visit www.aiimsraipur.edu.in. All the notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only in the website.

-Director

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो 0 नि 0 वि 0 या संभाग रायपुर छ.ग.

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

क्रमांक-666/NIT-40/2021-2022/ व ले ति दिनांक : 04 / 02 / 2022

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित मैन्युअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

एनआईटी क्र. निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम / NoOfCalls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
40 T0369	वि. / या. उपसंभाग विधानसभा रायपुर के अंतर्गत रोड साइड यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग के तहत प्रस्तावित 33 के.वी. डी.पी. एवं अन्य शिफ्टिंग कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	19.02
40 T0370	वि. / या. उपसंभाग विधानसभा रायपुर के अंतर्गत रोड साइड यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग के तहत प्रस्तावित 11/04 के.वी. डी.पी. एवं अन्य शिफ्टिंग कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	17.54
40 T0371	वि. / या. उपसंभाग विधानसभा रायपुर के अंतर्गत रोड साइड यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग के तहत प्रस्तावित 11 के.वी. डी.पी. एवं अन्य शिफ्टिंग कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	16.99
40 T0372	वि.नि.वि. (म/स) उपसंभाग गरियाबंद के अंतर्गत रोड चौड़ीकरण के तहत 33 के.वी. लाइन शिफ्टिंग कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	19.50
40 T0373	वि.नि.वि. (म/स) उपसंभाग गरियाबंद के अंतर्गत रोड चौड़ीकरण के तहत ट्रांसफार्मर शिफ्टिंग कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	17.50
40 T0374	E/F work under Deposit/SR/Om work at Distt. Hospital Section under DKS (M) Subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	17.00
40 T0375	Providing E/F work for OWM/MOW/Deposit/Utility Shifting work under PWD (E/M) Vidhansabha Subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	19.50
40 T0376	Providing E/F work for OWM/MOW/Deposit work at Minister Bungalow section under PWD (E/M) Vidhansabha Subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	19.50
40 T0377	E/F work OW/Deposit/SR/Om work to Govt. NRB, RB, Rest House & Circuit House Building at Mahasamund section under PWD (E/M) Subdivision, Mahasamund (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	15.00
40 T0378	E/F work OW/Deposit/SR/Om work to Govt. NRB, RB, Rest House Building at Bagbahara section under PWD (E/M) Subdivision, Mahasamund (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
40 T0379	E/F work OW/Deposit/SR/Om work to Govt. NRB, RB, Rest House Building at Pithora section under PWD (E/M) Subdivision, Mahasamund (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00

नोट :- निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 24 / 02 / 2022 अपराह्न 5:30 बजे तक।
निविदा संबंधी सर्व विभागीय वेबसाइट www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संभाग कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।
शर्तें - 1) उपरोक्त कार्य के आबंटन प्राप्त होने पर ही नियमानुसार युगतान की कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
G-67554/2



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Cultural context of hijab

The Karnataka hijab row has evolved into a full blown controversy. The controversy over hijab (headscarf) in Karnataka began on January 1 when Muslim schoolgirls at Udupi Women's Pre-University college attended classes wearing hijab. The controversy is mired in politics, so it is imperative to look at cultural context of hijab. The concept of hijab is not unique to Islam, but embraced by other religions, such as Judaism where the concept of modesty is called 'Tzuniut' and Christianity. The Islamic concept of hijab is most often expressed in women's clothing. Hijab garments range from simple head scarves called khimaar or simply hijab to head-to-toe cloaks such as abayas and burqas. Although firmly rooted in Islamic tradition, hijab is not strictly defined in the Muslim holy book, the Quran. It is often a personal and cultural concept, not a religious one. Expression of hijab varies within the Muslim world and beyond. Public expression of hijab is a very controversial issue. It is, first and foremost, an act of worship among Muslim women. However, hijab clothing has also become a potent indicator of identity, with many non-Muslims viewing it as a political statement. Some people interpret hijab as a sign of Islamic fundamentalism. Women in Arabia use 'abaya', Persian women use 'chador', Afghani women use burqa, Malaysian and Indonesian Muslim women use kerudung, East African Muslim women use buibui and now in the West, some women use mainstream clothes worn with a bigger scarf over the head and a loose outfit.

The hijab is not simply about religion as women wear it for a variety of reasons that can change, depending on the time and social context. Certainly, the headscarf is tied to religion. Many women who cover talk about it as a way demonstrating their submission to God and a constant reminder to hold fast to beliefs such as being honest and generous to those in need. French and British colonizers encouraged Muslim women to remove the veil and emulate European women. Consequently, in North African and Middle Eastern countries, the veil became a symbol of national identity and opposition to the West during independence and nationalist movements. Some women wear the hijab to signal pride in their ethnic identity. For many other women, the headscarf has become a means of resistance to standards of feminine beauty which includes fashion trends. For some women, the headscarf is a convenience. It can reduce comments from others about women being out in public and lessen incidents of harassment on the street and at work. Despite the multiple, complicated reasons behind wearing a hijab, there are those who routinely assert that women who wear a headscarf are necessarily oppressed. The act of wearing one's faith 'on their sleeve' plays an important role in affirming a Muslim's self identity. Compared to other nations, personal attire has not faced such controversy before in India. But with radicalisation using social media, every issue is bound to be mired in politics.

Comparing agendas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Congress in Parliament calling the grand old party the leader of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang, a catchphrase used by the ruling camp against those it alleges to be supporting secession and anti-national activities. Modi said that the US is facing the worst inflation in 40 years. The UK is facing worst inflation in 30 years. Similar is the condition in many European nations. In India, inflation is kept between 4-5 percent. During UPA's regime, inflation touched double digits. India is only large nation that has high growth and low inflation. Earlier, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of leaving farmers on roads for a year amid the COVID-19 pandemic and said his party will never do that. Rahul's speech in parliament managed to force a response from the BJP leadership. Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a '21st century king' adding that the Congress would provide pro-people governance to the people of Uttarakhand and would never shut its doors on the masses. If social media buzz is any indication, the Congress leader's speech was watched over 1.6 million times in just five hours, pointed out a user on Twitter. In many ways, Rahul Gandhi spoke not much like a politician, and yet he did, treading a fine line juxtaposing the old version of nationalism that his party stands for against the one that has a proponent in the BJP. These speeches by both the governing side and opposition should be viewed in context of agendas and manifestos discussed before assembly election in five states.

Analysis of party manifestos published by BJP and Congress exhibits patterns. These shed a light on a variety of insights, especially in their field of priorities, representation and target vote base. BJP that emerged victorious in elections, had a greater frequency of occurrence for words like 'defence', 'terrorism', 'development', 'digital' and 'dalits', while its biggest contender, Congress, used words like 'education', 'employment', 'reforms', 'safety', 'women', 'rural' and 'urban' more. The frequency of occurrence of keywords such as 'farmers', 'youth', and 'agriculture' was greater in the Congress manifesto albeit with a small margin. The key takeaway from the chart is how development, education and women's issues have been the three key areas for both Congress and BJP, at least in their manifestos. This insight might be surprising to many who hold the popular belief that youth, rural India and terrorism has been the dominant discourse that swayed political winds. It is possible, however, that this speaks to a larger issue of the difference between an official declaration and ground-level chatter. The BJP released its manifesto for the UP elections in Lucknow. It has promised free electricity to all farmers in 5 years. Congress released the party manifesto for the upcoming Uttarakhand assembly elections, promising to reserve 40 percent jobs for women in the police department, jobs to 400,000. Political parties present grand visions in manifestos and make speeches during election season, but societies function with undercurrents.

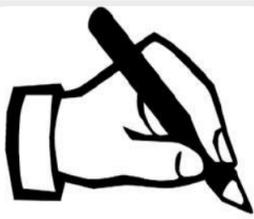
Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

TULIPS IN DELHI



Tulips are pictured along a roadside in New Delhi.

Budget provisions will strengthen India's banking sector

**SATISH SINGH**

The Union Budget for the financial year 2022-23, presented on February 1, will bring many direct and indirect benefits to the banking sector. The extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 2023 will extend benefits to banks & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) both, as this would not increase the non-performing assets (NPA) of banks. Along with this, MSMEs will also keep their business continue by the help of this scheme. The ECLGS will be extended to cover the next fiscal with expanded guarantee cover of Rs 5 lakh crore. An additional guarantee amount of Rs 50,000 crore has been announced for the hospitality sector. It is noteworthy that this scheme was started in the year 2020 due to Covid 19, which has benefited the MSMEs in a big way.

The budget has announced the introduction of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Rupeya in the year 2022. CBDCs will operate somewhat on the lines of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin or ether, as these transactions take place without an intermediary or bank. In view of the growing trend of virtual currency globally, the government wants India to have a digital currency of its own. Currently, RBI prints notes as per the requirement, which reaches the market through banks, which takes a lot of time, while the digital currency Rupeya will be sent

directly to the user through mobile, laptop or desktop. And again, the user will be able to transfer the same to any other person on real time basis. The sent digital currency Rupeya will neither be deposited in any wallet nor in any bank account.

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed the formation of 'Bad Bank' in the budget for the financial year 2021-22 to get rid of the banks from NPAs. Now in the budget of the financial year 2022-23, the finance minister has announced that the 'Bad Bank' will start functioning by March 31, 2022. Initially, a total of 15 NPA accounts totalling Rs.50,335 crore will be transferred to the 'Bad Bank'. Banks are the backbone of the Indian economy. Therefore, it is important for the banks to remain healthy, but for a long time, banks especially the public sector banks are facing the problem of NPAs. The Corona pandemic has added to the problems of banks even more. Due to this, many people have lost their jobs and businesses have also collapsed. This has increased the chances of banks increasing their NPAs in the coming months.

The cash which will come back to the bank by selling the NPA, can be given again in the form of loan to the needy, as the banks have already made provision for NPA. Therefore, whatever NPA banks sell to the 'Bad Bank', that amount will be directly added to the profits of the banks.

'Bad Banks' have been successful in selling bad loans in many countries of the world. After the 2008 financial crisis, the US launched a distressed asset relief program, which improved the health of the US economy. According to an estimate, 'Bad Banks' can be effective in resolving bad loans of more than 5 lakh crore. It has other benefits as well, for example, after selling NPAs to 'Bad Banks', banks will be able to focus on strengthening their business activities, because banks suffer financial loss in recovery of bad loans. Keeping the balance sheet clean will increase the confidence of domestic and foreign investors and depositors in the banks, which will increase the rating of the bank and will also make the path of investment easier.

In the budget, in the year 2022, the work of connecting 1.5 lakh post offices of the country with the core banking system will be completed, which will make it possible to operate savings and current accounts through internet banking, mobile banking, ATMs. They will also be able to transfer their money to the any corner of the country. Today the country has the largest network of post offices. Therefore, this will also promote financial inclusion. At present, the post office is also providing the facilities of deposit and payment to the customers through India Post Payments Bank. To promote digital payments, the finance minister has also announced setting up of 75 digital banks in 75 districts by scheduled commercial banks in the budget, so that digitization can be given a further boost in the country.

In the budget, the government has announced to increase the amount of capital investment from Rs 5.54 lakh crore to Rs 7.55 lakh crore. MSMEs will benefit the most from this. To increase their business, they will also take loans from banks, which will accelerate the credit flow of banks. This will also accelerate the demand and supply and will also

give impetus to employment generation. The budget also talked about reducing the corporate surcharge from 12 percent to 7 percent. This will give additional capital to the corporates, which they can use to increase the business. To strengthen the business, they can also take loans from banks, because at present, capital is available with the banks at a cheap rate.

In the budget, the finance minister has announced to give 6 thousand crore rupees to MSMEs in 5 years, which will help MSMEs to deal with capital problems. It has also been said in the budget to link Udayam, E-Shram, NCS and Aseem Portal. This will make it easier for the entrepreneurs to take loan from the bank and boost the possibilities of entrepreneurship. More than 60,000 new start-ups have been started in the country since the year 2016. To further strengthen this concept, the tax benefit period for start-ups has been extended by 1 year to March 31, 2023, in the Budget. There is a proposal to build 80 lakh houses for the poor in the budget, for which a provision of Rs 48000 crore has been made. An announcement was made in the budget to promote organic farming on the land falling within 5 km radius of the banks of the Ganges. To make these announcements material, it would be necessary to take loans from banks. At present, the credit growth rate of banks was 9.2 percent on a year-on-year basis in December 2021, while it increased by 6.6 percent on a year-on-year basis in the month of December last year. The budget is likely to increase the credit growth rate of banks and reduce the level of NPAs, as well as this will also lead to a significant increase in the profits of banks in the coming months.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AFSPA clarity

The Nagaland Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to withdraw the crucial law, AFSPA. This is shocking. If tomorrow the law in that area is repealed and the insurgents take over, the soldiers will stand as a shield to protect the civilians. At that time there will be political leaders who will demand that 'we need more security because our lives are in danger'. At that time they will not remember the safety of the people. A committee constituted by the Centre to study the withdrawal of AFSPA will give its recommendations within 45 days. Although this incident is from Nagaland, let's hope it does not contain recommendations that negatively impact the morale of soldiers everywhere. Unlike Kashmir, the language of bombs and bullets is not spoken in this region. That's why the soldiers here do not need weapons. Instead, they can be given sticks like police, there should be no such ideology. The repeal of AFSPA means taking out the teeth and nails of a tiger and sending it on a hunt. Why is it happening that the idea of taking away the rights of our soldiers by taking back the law is being insisted upon? Whether it is the Parliament House or the Rajya Sabha or the Legislative assemblies of the country, there is a ruckus in the Legislative Council over many topics. To date, it has not been taken seriously. Loss of life is valuable, financial loss is priceless. While considering the AFSPA Act on Nagaland, it should be noted that the soldiers deployed in the most sensitive border areas of the country, especially in Kashmir, should not be bothered by the recommendations of the committee constituted. The soldiers posted in Kashmir should not feel that the soldiers who are caught in the interrogation because of what happened in Nagaland, can happen to them tomorrow. AFSPA is also applicable in Kashmir. If there is a demand to repeal that law like Nagaland in Kashmir and there are fierce demonstrations against that law, then how should the soldier protect the borders of the country? This should also be clear.

Jayesh, via email

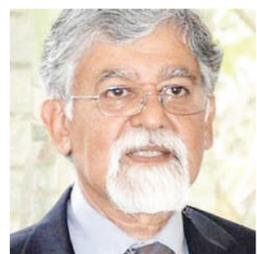
Curb violence

We all know that India unlike other democratic countries is a multi-party democratic nation and all the parties are eligible to participate in the election after fulfilling ECI's guidelines. Till the sixties and early seventies, it was so far and so good with no political violence. But with the advent of the CPI(M) in West Bengal in particular, political violence has almost become an order of the day. Killing in broad daylight, looting, burning of houses of the opposition etc., became very usual happenings. From West Bengal a state, then ruled by CPI(M) the political violence started spreading to other states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala etc., making a mockery of the democratic rights of the voters. By the grace of God, fortunately, so far, our Assam is not infected by that deadly virus. A proper vaccine to prevent the spread of that deadly virus is urgently needed.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Arvind Virmani@dravirmani**

Putin is a geopolitical player, pushing his own interests and that of his country as he sees them. Don't be under the delusion that mutual interest in arms sales/purchase & to some extent in Afghanistan, is a sign of 'Jigri dosti' or eternal 'Bhai-Bhai'

Kaushik Basu@kaushikbasu

Taxi from LaGuardia. Smart young Bangladeshi driver. As always I got talking. He was very critical of Bangladesh & corruption & all recent South Asian leaders. Then added, 'with one exception, Manmohan Singh. He was a world class leader.' Then asked me, 'Have you ever seen him?'

**Narendra@perfectly_pixel**

I have a different perspective. Unless one is a fake expert, an expert can actually be good but still use a lot of jargon. It suggests they have not mastered the way of communicating their expertise to everyday people who are not in their field.

HarshVivek@HVSBanwait

It may be my crude observation but the maximum fight or struggle within each party for the tickets was for the assembly constituencies with or near the River Beds. And those denied chose to fight independently. Ropar to Nawanshahr to Sultanpur Lodhi to.....

**Bilaseng@chowbilaseng**

For perhaps the first time, snow has fallen on the mountains of Itanagar Capital Region.

**Vir Das@theviridas**

55%. Disaster. But got 10% for debating, dramatics and basketball respectively and 85% got me into DU on the extra curricular quota. But between dyslexia and not studying the right stream, was never academically inclined.

Sridhar Vembu@svembu

I was visiting friends and family in Chennai. What struck me coming from a village with plenty of kids is how older apartment complexes in affluent areas are strikingly devoid of children. Reason? Young families cannot afford to live in these neighborhoods ...

BRIEF

Partners



Mumbai: Drone delivery logistics firm Skye Air Mobility has entered into a pact with Redcliffe Labs for faster sample collection, especially from semi-urban and remote locations. Skye Air Mobility Co-Founder Swapnik Jakkampudi said we are set to operate regular flights.

Tie-up

Mumbai: Arya.ag on Tuesday announced a tie-up with MAS Financial Services to offer agri-finance to farmers, with a specific focus on small farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Arya will offer this service through its lending services arm - Aryadhan Financial Services. Initially, the tie-up will offer digital lending services delivered over Arya.ag's platform, to farmers in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

JV



New Delhi: Cosmea Financial Holdings (CFH) on Tuesday announced its joint venture with OroWealth, as part of its plan to setup and launch a digital-first mutual fund. Nitin Agrawal, one of founding members of OroWealth, will be the CEO of Torus Oro AMC.

Wins

New Delhi: Godrej & Boyce on Tuesday said it has bagged orders worth over Rs 550 crore in the domestic T&D (transmission and distribution) market for its power transmission business. Orders comprise 400kV new AIS substations, 220kV new GIS substations, 220kV transmission lines and 220kV underground cables in the domestic T&D market.

Unicorn



New Delhi: Home interior and renovation platform Livspace has turned unicorn after raising USD 180 million in a funding round. CEO Anuj Srivastava said the company will roll out fresh services and products to more markets, and invest further in technology and people.

IGESL

New Delhi: Inox Wind on Tuesday said its arm Inox Green Energy Services Ltd (IGESL) has filed a draft paper with market regulator Sebi to raise up to Rs 740 crore through an initial public offer (IPO). IGESL has filed a draft herring prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India on February 7, 2022.

Pitch for deployment of products designed, made in India

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTD):

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday made an aggressive pitch for adoption of products that are designed and made in India, citing better quality and costs, as he affirmed the government's firm resolve to improve ease of doing business and reducing regulations in the sector.

The minister also urged global players to consider developing more partnerships with Indian entrepreneurs, companies, manufacturers, startups and developers.

Speaking at the inaugural session of 'India - Telecom 2022', the minister noted that the comprehensive semiconductor programme, launched recently, has got a "good response".



Listing out India's rapid strides in ushering in new-age technologies, he said the 5G network is in its final stages of development.

The country has also indigenously developed 4G core network and radio network, even as it is participating in development of 6G standards.

"...from the government's side, we are committed to reduce regula-

tion, to make sure that the regulation is in tune with times, that the industry feels committed towards investments...the industry finds interacting with the government as a very seamless experience," he said addressing the virtual event.

He exhorted the industry, academia, organisations and global players to "take a serious look" at products that are designed and made in India.

"These will bring better quality, (are) more economic, and also they would be at a level of technology which is very contemporary... which is going to meet the expectations of the customers of telecom networks," he said, terming it a "great opportunity".

India has emerged as a

major hub for electronics manufacturing. Electronics manufacturing in the country is pegged at about USD 75 billion, he noted.

"It is growing at more than 20 per cent CAGR...Now we have launched a major semiconductor programme, a very comprehensive one...right from silicon chip to compound semiconductors and design-led manufacturing, to creating a series of entrepreneurs and also finally, to develop 85,000 semiconductor engineers," Vaishnaw said, adding that the response to the scheme has been "very good".

He appealed to global players to seriously consider teaming up with Indian entrepreneurs, companies, manufacturers, startups and developers.

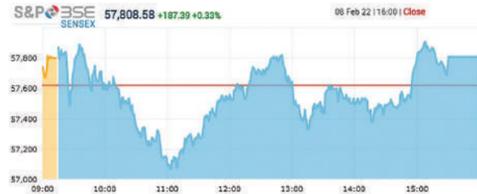
TECNO steps into the 5G segment

New Delhi, Feb 08:

TECNO Mobile, the global premium smartphone brand from TRANSSION India, today enters the 5G segment by launching its latest smartphone POVA 5G. A special edition in Aether Black color, Tecno POVA 5G flaunts the proud logo of leading football club Manchester City FC (Man City) on its back. TECNO is the Official Tablet and Handset Partner of Manchester City and the association shares and synergizes the ethos of Speed, Power and Performance.

TECNO POVA 5G mirrors these ethos in its best-in-class features. Power packed with eye-catching design, Super-Fast 5G Dimensity 900 processor, Ultra-fast LPDDR5 8GB + 3GB Virtual RAM and 6.9 FHD+ Dot-in display with 120Hz refresh rate, TECNO POVA 5G is a first in its category. POVA series is a performance-oriented product line of TECNO that offers more powerful smartphone experience.

Sensex recovers on fag-end buying, rises 187 pts



Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTD):

Equity benchmark Sensex rebounded 187 points on Tuesday on fag-end buying in index majors RIL, Bajaj Finance and Titan amid a firm trend in global markets.

Besides, covering-up of short positions by bears supported the late recovery in stocks, helping wipe off losses, traders said.

After a see-saw session, the 30-share BSE benchmark ended 187.39 points or 0.33 per cent higher at 57,808.58. Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 53.15 points or 0.31 per cent to 17,266.75.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

rising 3.10 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints and Titan.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, TCS, Tech Mahindra and HDFC twins were among the losers, shedding up to 1.66 per cent. Of the Sensex constituents, 19 shares closed higher while 11 were in the red.

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel began its three-day deliberations on Tuesday to decide the next monetary policy in the backdrop of Budget 2022-23, inflationary concerns and evolving geopolitical situation.

Airtel Payments Bank partners with ICICI Lombard to offer 'Cyber Insurance'

Mumbai, Feb 08:

Adding to the wide-range of insurance solutions available to customers on its platform, Airtel Payments Bank has started offering Cyber Insurance in partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company. Growth in digital payments and transactions has also led to a surge in online frauds that are becoming increasingly sophisticated. The cyber insurance solution from ICICI Lombard provides financial protection to customers against potential financial fraud relating to banking, credit or debit card; identity theft; phishing or email spoofing and more. Airtel

Payments Bank customers can purchase this cyber insurance policy within minutes using the Airtel Thanks app. This insurance comes with ZERO waiting period and allows users to make multiple claims multiple times during the policy tenure, within the limits of the insured amount opted for. The policy will provide a 90-day discovery period followed by a seven-day reporting period. This means that if the insured discovers an unauthorised transaction processed from their card or account on the 90th day from the transaction date, they can still report it in the next seven days to the issuing bank or mobile wallet company.

Rupee slips 5 paise at 74.74 against USD, gold climbs Rs 144

Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTD):

The rupee declined 5 paise to close at 74.74 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and elevated crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.65 against the American dollar, and later witnessed an intra-day high of 74.57 and a low of 74.80 against the greenback. The local unit finally ended the day at 74.74, down 5 paise from the previous close.

In the previous session on Friday, the rupee had settled at 74.69 against the greenback. The forex market was closed on Monday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.25 per cent higher at 95.63.

"The rupee depreciated against the dollar on importer covering and broad-based strength in dollar index. Dollar index gained after US yields soared amid prospects of faster policy normalisation by the Federal Reserve," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

"There have been multiple factors like foreign fund outflows, higher crude oil prices, higher government borrowings and elevated inflation which are already adding pressure on the rupee. While there are few posi-

tive factors like higher forex reserves, better growth prospectus of the economy and expectation of good inflows in LIC IPO," Parmar said.

Forex market traders are re-assessing fundamentals ahead of the RBI monetary policy decisions for clear direction. Gold price in the national capital on Tuesday rallied by Rs 144 to Rs 48,167 per 10 grams, reflecting overnight gains in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 48,023 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, dipped by Rs 76 to Rs 61,607 per kg from Rs 61,683 per kg in the previous trade.

Bridging the gap in Cancer care: Anil Agarwal

Mumbai, Feb 08:

I aspire to live in a society where everybody lives cancer-free. A society where children don't grow up without parents, loved ones are not lost, and lives are lived to the fullest. On World Cancer Day 2022 (WCD), we are still away from this becoming a reality. The National Cancer Registry Programme India reports that one in nine Indians may suffer from this life-threatening disease once in their lifetime. The report further stated that India was stipulated to have a massive 1,392,179 new cancer cases in 2020.

When we examine the availability of cancer diagnostics and care facilities

in the country, we still need to do much more. Most of our cancer-related hospitals and healthcare facilities are limited and concentrated in tier-I cities. This, accompanied with general lack of cancer awareness, and high costs of cancer treatments, has led to the mortality to incidence ratio of cancer being much higher than high-income countries. It is more important than ever to bridge the gap in cancer care, even during one of the most severe pandemics. While the limited availability of healthcare facilities was already a problem for cancer patients, the prevailing pandemic has further increased their woes.

5G spectrum auction consultation paper was historical

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTD):

TRAI Chairman PD Vaghela on Tuesday termed the consultation paper on 5G spectrum auction as "watershed in history of telecom" as the regulator embarked on the last phase of industry-wide deliberation through open house discussions, ahead of finalising its views on crucial aspects such as pricing of radio waves.

The government expects Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to give its recommendations on 5G spectrum, by March. The spectrum auctions will be conducted in 2022, to facilitate the roll out of 5G mobile services with in 2022-23, by private telecom providers.

As the country gears up for the mega auction, the industry has made an aggressive pitch for lowering of



spectrum pricing.

In his opening remarks during the TRAI Open House Discussion conducted virtually on Tuesday, Vaghela said: "This consultation paper is watershed in the history of telecom and we are conscious of this fact."

Vaghela urged stakeholders participating in Tuesday's discussion to support their suggestions with evidence and best practices.

Telecom regulator, TRAI, in November-end had released a detailed consultation paper to discuss threadbare the modalities

for auction of spectrum across multiple bands, including pricing, quantum and other conditions -- preparing the groundwork for upcoming 5G auctions.

TRAI's comprehensive consultation paper runs into 207 pages and throws up 74 questions for industry-wide discussion, touching on crucial aspects like valuation and reserve price of spectrum, including 5G, quantum of spectrum, block size, eligibility conditions for participation in auction, roll-out obligations, spectrum cap, and surrender of spectrum.

Norms will also be worked out for new frequencies such as 526-698 MHz and millimetre band, that is 24.25-28.5 GHz, in addition to bands such as 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz.

Life insurers' new premium income up 3% to Rs 21,957 cr

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTD):

The new business premium income of all the life insurance companies grew 2.65 per cent to Rs 21,957 crore in January 2022, data from Irdai showed.

The 24 life insurance companies had collected Rs 21,389.70 crore as the first year or the new business premium in January 2021.

The country's largest and the only state-owned insurer LIC registered a decline of 1.58 per cent in new premium income at Rs 12,936.28 crore in January 2022, as against Rs 13,143.64 crore in the same month a year ago. The rest 23 private sector players witnessed 9.39 per cent growth in their collective new business premium at Rs 9,020.75 crore from Rs 8,246.06 crore, showed the data from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).

Fertiliser cos asked to manufacture additional DAP

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTD):

Stating that there is a "comfortable" supply of DAP fertiliser for the ongoing rabi season, Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said the Centre however has asked companies to manufacture additional quantity of DAP at no-profit-no-loss basis to meet the requirement.

DAP (Di ammonium Phosphate) is the most widely consumed fertiliser after urea in the country.

Domestic production of DAP reached 34.35 lakh tonne and imports were at 42.56 lakh tonne till January of the ongoing fiscal year.

Mandaviya, in his written reply to the Rajya Sabha, said there is no "acute shortage" of DAP in the country. However, in between the season, some



states had highlighted the shortfall of DAP particularly in a few districts.

Accordingly, based on state governments requests, the Centre has moved the DAP rakes to meet their requirement. "However, the overall availability of DAP fertiliser in the country is comfortable during the ongoing rabi (winter) season of 2021-22 (crop year July-June)," he said.

Highlighting steps taken to boost DAP supply, the minister said over and above the ongoing production of DAP, the ministry

has instructed the companies to manufacture "additional DAP" by using the NPK stream on a no-profit-no-loss basis so that the demand of the farming community is adequately met.

Paradeep Phosphates Ltd has been granted permission to manufacture additional DAP and NPK fertiliser complex to the tune of 8 lakh tonne per annum utilizing the two trains of ZACL Goa Plant, he said.

Madhya Pradesh-based Madhya Bharat Agro Product Ltd has been allowed to produce DAP and NPK fertilizers at its installed capacity of 1.20 lakh tonne, he added.

Besides, state-owned Rashtriya Chemical Fertilisers and FACT Kochi will set up new DAP/NPK plants with annual capacity of 5 and 5.5 lakh tonne per annum, respectively.

Crayon Motors launches e-scooter Snow+ starting at Rs 64,000

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTD):

Startup electric two-wheeler maker Crayon Motors on Tuesday launched a low-speed electric scooter Snow+ with a price starting at Rs 64,000.

Snow+ is designed for light mobility needs with a top speed of 25 kmph. It comes with a 250-watt motor, the company said in a statement.

The scooter comes with features, such as central locking, USB charging for mobile, central locking and anti-theft and navigation (GPS), besides a digital speedometer, it added.

Commenting on the launch, Crayon Motors Co-founder and Director Mayank Jain said, "Low-speed e-scooters are a rea-



sonable purchase for riders' daily commutes within the city. Customers' expectations are met by these scooters, which provide them with a cost-effective and pleasurable travel experience with no fuss". He further said that while the company is starting with low-speed e-scooters, it is progressing towards high-speed.

The company said it will announce two new high-speed models by the end of the month.

RBI begins monetary policy meet to decide on key rates

All banks incremental credit grew

Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTD):

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel began its three-day deliberations on Tuesday to decide the next monetary policy in the backdrop of Budget 2022-23, inflationary concerns and evolving geo-political situation.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to announce the policy resolution on Thursday.

The meeting was to start



on Monday but it was postponed by a day in view of Maharashtra declaring public holiday on February 7 to mourn the death of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

It is widely anticipated that the MPC is likely to maintain the status quo on the benchmark interest rate or repo rate.

Experts, however, are of

the opinion that the MPC may change the policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' and tinker with the reverse-repo rate as part of the liquidity normalisation process.

If the RBI maintains status quo in policy rate on Thursday, it would be the tenth consecutive time since the rate remains unchanged. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting interest rate to a historic low.

According to Brickwork Ratings, the RBI may continue to hold the policy rates at current levels in the upcoming policy meeting.

NMDC registers a 125% growth in turnover of Rs 19,179 crore

Performs exceptionally in the 9 months of FY-22

Hyderabad, Feb 08:

India's largest iron ore producer registered a 125% growth in turnover of Rs.19,179 crore for the first nine months of FY22 compared to Rs. 8,522 crore achieved during FY21.

Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the nine months is Rs.10,101 crore reflecting a growth of 118% against the Rs.4,633 crore for the CPLY. Profit After Tax (PAT) for the 9 months of FY 22 increased to Rs.7,583 crore which is 122% over Rs.3,415 crore reported during the first nine months of FY 21. NMDC produced 10.65 million tonnes (MT) and sold



9.85 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in the third quarter of FY22. Cumulative production and sale figures for the first three quarters stood at 28.33 MT and 28.28 MT respectively. Above operational and financial figures are the strongest nine months performance in NMDC's history. NMDC in its Board Meeting held on 08.02.2022 declared 2nd Interim Dividend of Rs 5.73 per share.

People misunderstood my maternity break as me quitting acting: Priya Ahuja Rajda

Actress Priya Ahuja Rajda, who rose to fame post her stint in the show 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' is all set to get back to work.

The actress who was on maternity leave, lost a tremendous amount of weight and is now all set to start working and keen on doing some path breaking roles. The actress however says that people misunderstood her maternity break as her goodbye to the industry. But that's clearly not the case.

Priya cleared the air, that she is still very much wanting to work and that too with more efficiency than ever before.

She says: "People misunderstood my maternity break for me quitting the industry. I am an actor who still actively wants to explore many roles and I am not someone who wants to restrict myself with any medium. I want to do television, OTT, films, everything. But I want people to really know that I never decided to sit home, I gave birth to my child and it's been 2 years ever since."

Furthermore, she adds: "I am still here, ready for work, undaunted and as active as I was before! Also, the kind of work I was offered in the last few years was not satiating my creative urge as an actor. I really want to do roles which challenge the actor in me."



'When I was being narrated the story I was smiling'

Sony Entertainment Television's upcoming slice of life drama, Jagannath aur Purvi Ki 'Dosti Anokhi' has created a wave of excitement amongst the audience with the show's first glimpse. The show brings to life an unusual and innocent friendship between an elderly man, Jagannath Mishra and a young vivacious girl, Purvi. Bringing alive the character of Purvi, an impulsive and carefree millennial who believes in living on her terms is the debutante, Ismeet Kohli. Having worked in numerous web series and films, Ismeet is all set to leave a mark in the hearts of the audience with her talent in Dosti Anokhi, her first television project.

In a candid conversation with Ismeet Kohli here's what she had to say about her role and the show.

Dosti Anokhi marks your television debut, what made you say 'yes' to do a show like this?

The driving factor behind choosing 'Dosti Anokhi' was the story which is not unique but very cute. Even when I was being narrated the story I was smiling and had happy tears in my eyes. Also, Sony Entertainment Television has been very experimental with its shows compared to what other TV channels are doing. The production value, the way things are handled, is very natural and real. So, while making the decision, I considered how sony looks at its tv shows and how the story was, also the character which I am playing is very adorable, so I did not have any reason to decline the show.

Can you please tell us about your character 'Purvi'?

In the show, everybody says "Purvi is mad" which I believe too but I think she is adorable as well. She wears her heart on her sleeves. Purvi knows that she wants the love of her life and she is not afraid to go after it. A hopeless romantic girl, she believes in the power of love and will do whatever it takes to live a happy life. She is a simple girl and does not want to hurt anyone.



Vivek Agnihotri's 'The Kashmir Files' to release on March 11



The Vivek Agnihotri-directed film 'The Kashmir Files', inspired by true events, is all set to release on March 11.

The film got postponed due to a significant spike in Covid cases in the country. The movie based on the lives of Kashmiri Pandits will make you feel all the emotions they went through during the tragic events.

The makers took to their social media and posted, "Bringing the story of Kashmir Genocide on the big screen. #TheKashmirFiles releasing on 11th March 2022 #RightToJustice"

Directed by Vivek Agnihotri and produced by Tej Narayan Agarwal, Abhishek Agarwal,

Pallavi Joshi and Vivek Agnihotri under the Zee Studios, IAMBuddha and Abhishek Agarwal Arts banners.

It has an ensemble cast of Mithun Chakraborty as Brahma Dutt, Anupam Kher as Pushkarnath, Darshan Kumar as Krishna Pandit, Pallavi Joshi as Radhika Menon, Bhasha Sumbali as Shradha Pandit, Chinmay Mandlekar as Farooq Malik a.k.a. Bitta (Inspired by Farooq Ahmed Dar), and Puneet Issar as DGP Hari Narain, Prakash Belawadi as Dr Mahesh Kumar, Mrinal Kulkarni as Laxmi Dutt, Atul Srivastava as Vishnu Ram and Prithviraj Sarnaik as Shiva Pandit.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is back from her Switzerland vacation, enjoyed a day out with fellow actresses Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Neerajaa Kona on the weekend.

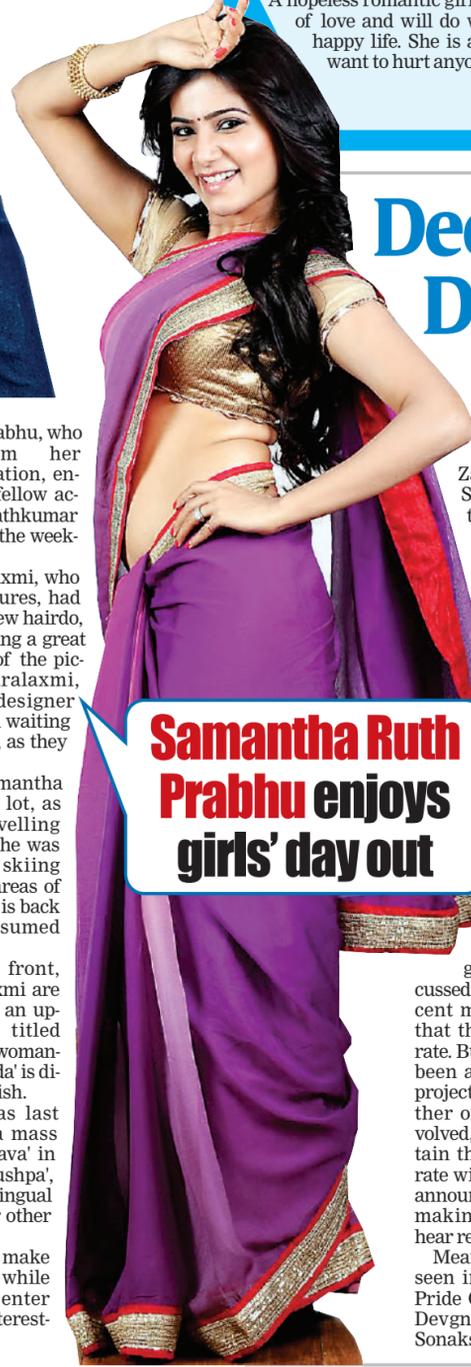
Tamil actress Varalaxmi, who posted some cute pictures, had Samantha flaunt her new hairdo, as the duo is seen having a great time together. In one of the pictures, Samantha, Varalaxmi, and their costume designer Neeraja Kona, are seen waiting for their food to arrive, as they pose together.

In recent times, Samantha has been travelling a lot, as she always says travelling makes her feel alive. She was recently seen taking skiing classes in some hilly areas of Switzerland, while she is back to her job as she resumed work earlier this week.

On the work front, Samantha and Varalaxmi are to share the screen in an upcoming movie titled 'Yashodha'. Billed as a woman-oriented movie, 'Yashoda' is directed by Hari and Harish.

Samantha, who was last seen performing to a mass item number 'Oo Antava' in Allu Arjun starrer 'Pushpa', will be a part of two bilingual movies, apart from her other projects.

Samantha will also make her Hollywood debut, while she is rumored to enter Bollywood with an interesting movie as well.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu enjoys girls' day out

Deepak Mukut and Sanjay Dutt to collaborate?

Recently, producer Deepak Mukut, who is known for films like Mulk and Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana, met actor Sanjay Dutt and the picture of the two of them together fuelled rumours of them coming together for a project. While there has been no announcement from either of the two of them, according to sources, things might be heading towards something interesting.

A source close to the development informs, "Deepak and Sanjay are very fond of each other and they really do want to work together. They even discussed about it during their recent meeting acknowledging that they do want to collaborate. But as of now, there hasn't been any finalization of any project or in what capacity either of them want to get involved, but Deepak is quite certain that he wants to collaborate with Sanjay soon. So, a big announcement could be in the making that we might get to hear really soon."

Meanwhile, Sanjay was last seen in last year's Bhuj: The Pride Of India alongside Ajay Devgn, Sharad Kelkar and Sonakshi Sinha and this year,



he already has Shamsheera with Ranbir Kapoor and Vaani Kapoor and KGF: Chapter 2 with Yash, both of which see him play the antagonist. Whereas Deepak is backing the upcoming Kangana Ranaut-starrer Dhaakad, Radhika Apte and Vikrant Massey's Forensic, Kanjoos Makkhichoos featuring Kunal Kemmu and Shweta Tripathi and the much-awaited sequel, Apne 2 that will again

bring together the Deol family—Dharmendra, Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol—along with the latest addition to the actor family, Karan Deol.

With a line up like this, Deepak is heading towards a brighter phase of his career whereas Sanjay is already a brand in himself. So, the coming together of these two talents is an exciting prospect that will surely put the box office on fire.

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 09

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesha. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today. Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the cooperation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesha, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Your unflinching punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work. If you are in an artistic or a creative profession, such as designing, journalism, multi media, you have a remarkably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
Today, you may resume your quest for spirituality which you had aborted some time back. However, that doesn't mean you are on your way to sainthood. You are just trying to get close to your inner self. Though you will be frugal while spending on yourself, your lavish treatment to your beloved will stump everyone, including him/her, predicts Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
You are likely to be a little over-zealous and over-analytical today, foretells Ganesha. You should not be too forceful or severe on others. This will help you save a few friendships and will make sure that your reputation remains intact. It is best to avoid conflicts and differences with your peers and bosses, suggests Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesha. So, scooting off may not be the best solution.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will test your business abilities, especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Ganesha says that this will be very effective.

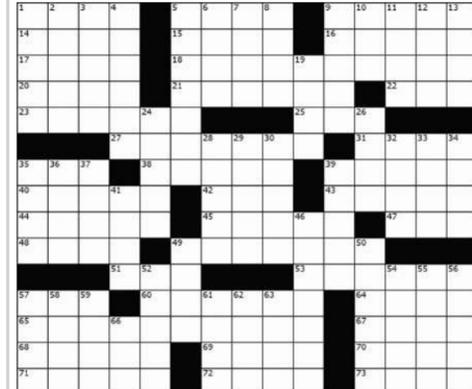
Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
There is a very strong possibility of major improvements in your public standing and image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and, therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life. Those who seek to malign or dent your reputation will be disappointed, says Ganesha.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
Today, there may come up situations which may test your patience, predicts Ganesha. However, it would be wise to sit and sort out all the differences with your colleagues or family members or your partner.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31
The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
You'll kick start the day in high spirit which will take everyone by surprise. You will shift gears at work so that you can perform more efficiently and productively. Such a change will boost your confidence as you will see the positive results for yourself.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- On the peak
 - Behaves
 - Screen
 - Shoe fastener
 - Craney's kin
 - Baron or Bow
 - Tarzan's pals
 - Germ-free
 - Steak, e.g.
 - Instruction
 - Visualize
 - Surly
 - Lease
 - Paraphrase
 - Serpent's sound
 - Psychic letters
 - Rome's country
 - Count of jazz
 - Accompanying
 - Raises
 - Actress Blair
 - Mature

- Call up
- Perfect gymnastics score
- Hearty soup
- Least fatty
- That lady
- Japanese, e.g.
- Stir
- Waterborne
- Stage item
- Opposition
- Carry
- Hawk's weapon
- Chills
- Future sign
- Muzzle
- Coffee break
- Bridge hand

- DOWN**
- San Antonio shrine
 - Slender candle
 - Atlantic or Indian
 - Annoy
 - Critical examiner
 - Ice cream holder
 - Toddlers
 - Snow runners
 - Play part
 - Swiss peak
 - Tanks
 - Buffalo's waterfront
 - Speed contest
 - Foot bottom
 - Royal rule
 - Asian language
 - Brownish gray
 - Greek vowel
 - Heavyweight Mike
 - Ain't, correctly
 - Flank
 - Actor Connery
 - Corn spikes
 - Narrow cut
 - Vatican VIP
 - Make holy
 - "Broadcast"
 - Most tidy
 - Departed
 - Walk cautiously
 - Common contraction
 - Perfume
 - Musical tones
 - Depleted
 - Humanities
 - College official
 - Nordic capital
 - Hideout
 - One time only
 - Top cards
 - Promissory note



Way we batted in first ODI, it was perfect: Suryakumar Yadav



Ahmedabad: India showed a lot of intent while chasing 176 in the first ODI against West Indies and going forward the team will continue to bat in a similar fashion, hinted Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday. India had chased down the target in just 28 overs. Surya also feels that batting first isn't really a big challenge for the side. Not really, I think, we have kept things really simple, we are going to bat the same way, we did in the last game, it is just that when we bat first, we need to try and bat till the end to have that defendable score, but the way we batted in the second innings in the last game, I think it was perfect. "I think the tempo was nice, the intensity and the intent was really good, so there is nothing to change, I mean you just need to be safe and just express ourselves, said the stylish batter ahead of second ODI.

New Zealand loses Kane Williamson for South Africa tests



Wellington: Captain Kane Williamson will miss New Zealand's two-test home cricket series against South Africa with an elbow injury. The strain injury, which can't be corrected by surgery, also caused Williamson to miss New Zealand's recent series against Bangladesh. His most recent test was against India in November. The retirement of veteran Ross Taylor will leave New Zealand with one of its thinnest batting lineups in recent years, with the bowling all-rounder Daryl Mitchell likely to bat as high as No. 5. Coach Gary Stead has recalled batsman Hamish Rutherford and allrounder Colin de Grandhomme to an enlarged 15-man squad which also includes uncapped wicketkeeper Cam Fletcher and seamer Blair Tickner. Rutherford last played a test in 2015.

Kontaveit, Bencic, Mertens progress in St. Petersburg



St. Petersburg: Seeded players Anett Kontaveit, Belinda Bencic and Elise Mertens all got through tough three-set matches to reach the second round of the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy. Kontaveit, who's seeded No. 2 behind Maria Sakkari, had the least trouble of the three as she defeated Swiss player Jil Teichmann 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 on the opening day of the tournament. Fifth seed Bencic came from 3-0 down in the third set to force a tiebreak and defeat Veronika Kudermetova 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5), and No. 8 seed Mertens came from a break down in the third set to beat Aliz Cornet 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Also, home favorite Ekaterina Alexandrova defeated Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-2, 1-6, 6-2. Australian captain Meg Lanning poses with the Ashes series trophy.

Australia women win final ODI to finish Ashes series unbeaten



Melbourne: Skipper Meg Lanning led by example as Australia crushed England by eight wickets in the third and final one-day to finish the multi-format Ashes series unbeaten on Tuesday. Australia's bowlers, spearheaded by Annabel Sutherland (4-31), laid the foundation for their 3-0 sweep of the one-day leg of the series by bowling out England for 163 at Melbourne's Junction Oval. Lanning led their chase with an unbeaten 57 as Australia romped home with 13.4 overs to spare for a 12-4 series victory less than a month after their men's team's 4-0 Ashes triumph against England. The England team under Heather Knight finished winless, their points coming from two washed out T20 matches in Adelaide and a drawn test in Canberra.

Mandhana rises to 5th, Mithali maintains 2nd spot in ICC ODI batting rankings

Dubai: India opener Smriti Mandhana gained two places to rise to fifth while her captain Mithali Raj maintained her second spot among batters in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings on Tuesday. Mandhana has 710 rating points in her kitty while Raj has 738. Australia's Alyssa Healy remained at the top spot with 742 points. Other Australians Beth Mooney (719) and Amy Satterthwaite (717) are at third and fourth places respectively.

Rahul's position in focus as India eye series win

Ahmedabad, Feb 08 (PTI):

Focus will be on vice-captain K L Rahul's batting position on his return from a short break as a buoyant India aim for another demolition act against the West Indies in the second ODI to seal the three-match series here on Wednesday.

The India spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar ran riot as they shot out West Indies for a meagre 176 and then skipper Rohit Sharma bossed the chase with a blistering 60, as the hosts recorded an easy six-wicket win in the lung-opener at the Motera.

Infused with new energy under Rohit, India looked a completely overhauled unit after being whitewashed in South Africa and the team would certainly want to continue from where it left off on Sunday night.

The biggest positive for India is that Rohit, who had missed the South Africa series due to a hamstring injury, was in brilliant form on comeback.

He would be raring to take the listless West Indies attack to cleaners once again. Ditto for Ishan Kishan, who opened with Rohit in the first ODI, and did a decent job with a 36-ball 28. But with Rahul being available from this



Match starts at 1.30 PM

game onwards, it remains to be seen whether the wisty Karnataka batter opens along with the skipper or plays in the middle order on a relatively slow track. Rahul skipped the first ODI for a personal engagement.

If he opens the batting, then Jharkhand dasher Kishan will have to make way for the senior batter.

If Rahul bats in the middle order then debutant Deepak Hooda, who played his part to perfection in the

first game with an unbeaten 26 off 32 deliveries, might have to sit out as the team cannot afford to tinker with the rest of the middle-order comprising heavyweights Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav.

The West Indies, on the other hand, will look to forget the hammering and eye improved show in an all the departments, especially batting.

Sunday was the 10th time in the last 16 games that

West Indies failed to bat a full 50 overs.

The Kieron Pollard-led side needs to get that aspect sorted and as pointed out by experienced all-rounder Jason Holder, the batters need to put a bigger prize on their wicket.

"We got to dig deeper. I don't think we are too far off to be fair. Our top-order just needs to go a little deeper, put a heavier prize on their wicket, and just get themselves a really good chance," Holder had said.

Sindhu, Mirabai among five nominees for BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year award

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Two-time Olympic medallist badminton star P V Sindhu and Tokyo silver winner weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu were among the five nominees for the BBC Indian Sportswoman (ISWOTY) of the Year award announced here on Tuesday.

Besides Sindhu and Mirabai, star golfer Aditi Ashok, multiple medal winner at Tokyo Paralympics in shooting Avani Lekhara, Tokyo bronze winner boxer Lovlina Borgohain were the other three nominees, shortlisted by a distinguished jury of sports journalists, experts and sports writers.

"Success doesn't come easy, it's not just few months of hard work, but years of hard work. Every day is a process, that's how



you come up to a certain level," Sindhu, who won a bronze at Tokyo Olympics to go with her silver five years back at Rio de Janeiro, said in a release.

Online voting for the award will remain open until February 28 and the winner will be revealed on March 28 at a ceremony here. Aditi Ashok, who finished fourth place at the Tokyo Olympics said: "I am grateful and thankful

because this was a good year for me, and I had some great performances. I am happy that golf is becoming more popular in India."

The awards ceremony will also honour a legendary sportswoman with the BBC Lifetime Achievement award, and a young female player will be named as the BBC Emerging Player of the Year.

Victorious India U-19 boys arrive home after long flight from Caribbean



New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

The India U-19 squad returned home on Tuesday after winning a record-extending fifth World Cup trophy.

The squad took the long flight back from the Caribbean with connections in Amsterdam and Dubai before reaching Bengaluru on Tuesday morning.

The players will head to Ahmedabad later on Tuesday for the BCCI's felicitation ceremony, most likely to be held on Wednesday. Since the ICC makes

travel arrangements for all participating teams, the Indian contingent flew economy class, which is the norm, but it made travel all the more tedious.

NCA chief VVS Laxman, who was also part of the squad in the West Indies, travelled separately with the selectors and five reserve players who were rushed to the Caribbean after a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp before the second league game against Ireland.

Yash Dhull-led India had beaten England in the final on Saturday.

Khawaja in Australia squad for three-test tour to Pakistan

Brisbane, Feb 08 (AP):

Pakistan-born Usman Khawaja has been included in an 18-man squad for Australia's first test tour to Pakistan since 1998, and its first in four years without Justin Langer as head coach.

The squad was confirmed three days after Langer announced he'd rejected a six-month contract extension offered by Cricket Australia and quit, a decision that left Andrew McDonald as interim coach.

Test captain Pat Cummins has been criticized by some high-profile former players including Ricky Ponting for not giving his full backing to Langer in the days leading up to the contract discussions. Cummins will lead the squad later this month to Pakistan for a three-test series starting March 4 at Rawalpindi.

The Australian starting lineup that finished off the 4-0 Ashes series victory over England last month with a win in Hobart has been retained.

Opener Marcus Harris, who made way for Khawaja's return for Australia late in the Ashes series, has been included in the squad. Josh Hazlewood,



Australia squad

Pat Cummins (captain), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.

who missed four of the five Ashes tests because of injury, also has returned to a pace bowling group that includes Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland, Michael Neser and allrounder Cameron Green.

Ledecka defends Olympic snowboard PGS title, ski racing next



(From L to R) Silver medallist Austria's Daniela Ulbing, gold medallist Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka and bronze medallist Slovenia's Gloria Kotnik pose on the podium during the venue ceremony.

Zhangjiakou, Feb 08 (AP):

Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic defended her Olympic snowboard parallel giant slalom title with a quick final run on a sun-splashed course Tuesday.

On deck, a switch over to ski racing to try and defend her super-G crown.

Four years ago in South Korea, Ledecka became the first competitor to win gold in two different sports at the same Winter Games. She has a chance to accomplish the feat once again in China. The women's super-G ski race is scheduled for Friday at the

Yanqing Alpine Skiing Center. In the gold-medal race, the top-seeded Ledecka opened an early lead on Daniela Ulbing, putting pressure on the Austrian snowboarder along the side-by-side course at the Genting Snow Park. Ulbing made a mistake up top and later veered off course. Gloria Kotnik of Slovenia earned the bronze. As for why Ledecka didn't celebrate much after the win, turns out, she thought she still had another race. She didn't realize she'd won gold. PGS used to be a two-heat affair, but it was only one for the Olympics.

India women begin NZ series with one off T20

Queenstown, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Indian women's cricket team will get to fine tune its ODI World Cup preparations in a six-game limited overs series against hosts New Zealand, beginning with the one off T20 here on Wednesday.

The one off T20 is scheduled ahead of the five ODIs starting February 12. Though the team will be looking to win, it will also be approaching the 20-over game to get used to the conditions with the bigger goal for World Cup in mind.

To reduce the COVID-19 threat, all games have been moved to the scenic Queenstown. The Indian squad arrived here after completing a 10-day quarantine in Christchurch.

ODI skipper Mithali Raj, who won't be playing the T20, said on Tuesday all the six games will be used to figure out their core players who will feature in the



Match starts 5.30 am IST.

ICC event in March-April. "It is a different format. The team will be looking forward to winning the game. Having said that, this T20 will also give a fair idea about the wickets, how the players are coping with an open ground," Raj said in a virtual media interaction referring to the windy conditions.

T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who ended her lean run with the bat with a successful Women's Big Bash League, will look to lead from the front on Wednesday.

Though workload management has gained significance in COVID times, Mithali made it clear that it will be a secondary issue for them in the six games as it is important for fast bowlers to get used to the conditions.

International friendlies will help in preparation for Asian Cup qualifiers: Jhingan, Gurpreet



New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Indian football team's senior players Sandesh Jhingan and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu feel the upcoming international friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus will be a "perfect opportunity to test our skills" ahead of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

India is scheduled to play two international friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus on March 23 and March 26 respectively. Both the matches will be played in Manama, Bahrain. The Asian Cup qualifiers are slated for June, with the main tournament scheduled to be held in China next year.

"This is possibly one of the best news in recent times... These are the sort of matches that we need," current AIFF Player of the Year Jhingan said in a release issued by the national

federation. "We played Bahrain last time in the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019, and are aware they are a very good side. We also understand that Belarus are a powerful side too."

India goalkeeper Sandhu said: "It will be an extremely tough challenge, and a good one to play a side from a UEFA member association, which in itself is a big achievement. "Teams in UEFA get to play against the best in the world as they regularly rub shoulders against them. So, they will come with all the experience, and present us the perfect opportunity to test ourselves. "The federation has done a great job arranging these two matches. I see this as a real step moving forward towards our preparation ahead of the final round of the Asian Cup qualifiers in June 2022."

SURYA JAYANTI



Priests perform Suryaprabha Vahana Seva on the occasion of Surya Jayanti at the Tirumala temple, in Tirupati, Tuesday.

Cong MLAs in Meghalaya join BJP-backed MDA

Shillong, Feb 08 (PTI):

All five Congress MLAs in Meghalaya on Tuesday joined the BJP-backed ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), leaving only Mamata Banerjee's TMC occupying the opposition space in the state assembly. They will, however, remain in the Congress, CLP leader Ampareen Lyngdoh said.

Once a formidable opposition with 17 MLAs, the Congress was left with only five MLAs after 12 legislators, including former chief minister Mukul Sangma, defected to the TMC in November last year. The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) formally handed over a letter of support to Chief

Minister Conrad K Sangma. "We the undersigned MLAs of the Indian National Congress have decided to join the MDA (Meghalaya Democratic Alliance) government today the 8th of February, 2022. We wish to support you and the MDA to strengthen the government's arms and decision making so as to ensure that our joined (sic) efforts will take the state forward, in the general interest of its citizens," the letter stated. The letter was signed by Lyngdoh, besides PT Sawkmie, Mayralborn Syiem, KS Marbaniang and Mohendro Rapsang. A copy of the letter was also sent to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. "The five @INCMeghalaya

(Meghalaya Congress) MLAs have decided to join the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance administration in the benefit of the people of the state, particularly our individual constituencies," Lyngdoh tweeted along with a photo of the Congress MLAs with the chief minister. "We have joined the MDA but will remain part of the Congress," Lyngdoh told PTI.

"We are happy to welcome members of the Congress Legislature Party who have pledged their support to the MDA Government officially today. We will work together under the banner of MDA to strengthen the Government in the interest of the people & the State," Conrad Sangma, whose

National People's Party leads the state's ruling coalition, tweeted. The TMC, which hardly had any meaningful presence in the northeastern state before November 25 last year, when 12 Congress MLAs led by Mukul Sangma joined Mamata Banerjee's party, reacted to the development with expected glee.

"The unscrupulous & power hungry people have officially joined hands. This alliance between Congress & NPP led MDA has once again clearly MARKED @AITCofficial as the only credible alternative in Meghalaya!," the party tweeted. "Dedicated to Meghalaya, WE WILL continue to fight for development of all," it added.

TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER

Youth trapped on mountain face in Kerala

Palakkad, Feb 08 (PTI):

Similar to the story of a 2010 biographical survival drama film, 127 hours, about a man trapped by a boulder in an isolated canyon, a young man in Malampuzha area of Palakkad in Kerala has been trapped on a hill between rocks since Monday with rescuers unable to reach him or provide him with food or water.

The difference between the film and the plight of Babu is that in the movie, which is based on real live events, there were no rescue attempts for the trapped person as no one knew where he was and he had to cut off his arm -- which was trapped under a boulder -- to free himself.

However, in Palakkad, several attempts, including one by a Coast Guard helicopter, have already been made to rescue the youth who is trapped on the hill side between rocks in the scorching heat with no water or food for more than a day. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan also intervened and sought the help of the Army to rescue the youth.

Subsequently, Lt General Arun of Army's Southern Command informed the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) that a specialised team will be starting from Bengaluru soon, a release from CMO said. The team, which specialises in mountaineering and rescue, would be travelling by road

with travel by helicopter at night being impossible, the release said. TV visuals indicated that after the Coast Guard efforts failed, a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team was attempting to reach the youth who appears to be sitting in a small recess on the mountain face.

A member of one of the rescue teams told a media channel that while during the day the heat is scorching and unbearable, by evening and late night it becomes windy and cold and even wild animals would be roaming about which would obstruct the rescue efforts. The rescuer said that another team was on its way to rescue the youth.

OPCC to utilise its Chh'garh leaders for campaigning in coming rural poll

Mohan Markam, Kawasi Lakhma and Amar Jeet Bhagat in list

Bhubaneswar, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Congress, pushed to the third position in Odisha politics, will utilise its leaders in neighboring Chhattisgarh to campaign for the party's candidates for zilla parishad seats during the rural polls slated to begin in February 16.

The names of Chhattisgarh Congress leaders figured in the list of 20 star campaigners and was submitted by the party to the State Election Commissioner, Odisha, a party release said on Monday. The Chhattisgarh leaders who will campaign in Odisha included the

state's PCC president Mohan Markam and the state's ministers Kawasi Lakhma and Amar Jeet Bhagat, it said. Sources in the party said that the Chhattisgarh leaders will campaign for Congress candidates in the border districts.

OPCC president Niranjana Patnaik, CLP leader Narasingha Mishra and AICC general secretary and Odisha in-charge A Chella Kumar are also among the star campaigners for the Congress. Among other Congress leaders who will campaign for the party are AICC secretary G Rudra Raju, OPCC

working president Chiranjib Biswal, MP Saptagiri Ulaka, former OPCC presidents Jayadev Jena, Sarat Patnaik and Panchanan Kanungo, the release said.

Former OPCC president Prasad Harichandan's name was excluded after he broke his silence over criticism for his alleged role in the non-distribution of party tickets among aspirants in six zilla parishad zones of Satyabadi Assembly Constituency in Puri district.

Congress has not fielded any candidate from Satyabadi for the first time, an indication of fresh in-

fighting within the party ahead of the panchayat poll. The party has fielded 836 candidates for 852 zilla parishad posts in Odisha, election for which will be held between February 16 and February 24.

Congress, which had been the state's main opposition party since it was ousted from power by the ruling BJD in 2000, was relegated to the third position after it secured only 60 zilla parishad seats in the 2017 panchayat election. The BJP had then emerged the number two party by securing 297 zilla parishad seats while the BJD had won 476 seats.

Facebook, Instagram block handles of Chinar Corps

Srinagar, Feb 08 (PTI):

Facebook and Instagram have blocked the handles of Chinar Corps, the Indian Army's strategically located formation in the Kashmir valley, for over a week now and have not responded to the official communication in this regard, officials said on Tuesday.

The pages on Facebook and Instagram were created to negate the lies and propaganda flowing from across the border and also to apprise people of the real situation in the Kashmir valley, an official said.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the matter had been taken up with the authorities concerned in Facebook, but so far there has been no response from their side.

"A link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed," read the messages on both Facebook as well as Instagram pages of the Chinar Corps, a popular name of XV Corps of the Army in Kashmir.

There was no immediate response from Facebook and Instagram, which are a part of the same company. The two social media websites remove a page if it does not follow the rules and regulations laid by the company or if people report about it.

JOSHI ON HIJAB ROW

'Everyone should follow dress code in schools'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Amid the simmering 'hijab' row in Karnataka, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said everyone should follow the dress code in schools and alleged that some politicians and fanatics made it an issue. His remark came as protests for and against the hijab intensified at colleges in different parts of Karnataka.

"Wearing uniform is a routine thing, why are they making it an issue? And when school has issued a guideline, everyone should follow it. What is the fuss about it? Undertakings have also been given by students and their parents to follow the dress code," Joshi told reporters outside



Pralhad Joshi

the parliament. He also asked as to who were inciting the students for not abiding by the dress code, saying "some politicians and fanatics have made it an issue". However, Joshi, who hails from Karnataka, said the matter is in court and the state government can wait for its outcome. He said no one should take law and order in their hands, and police will do what is expected of them in case of any violation.

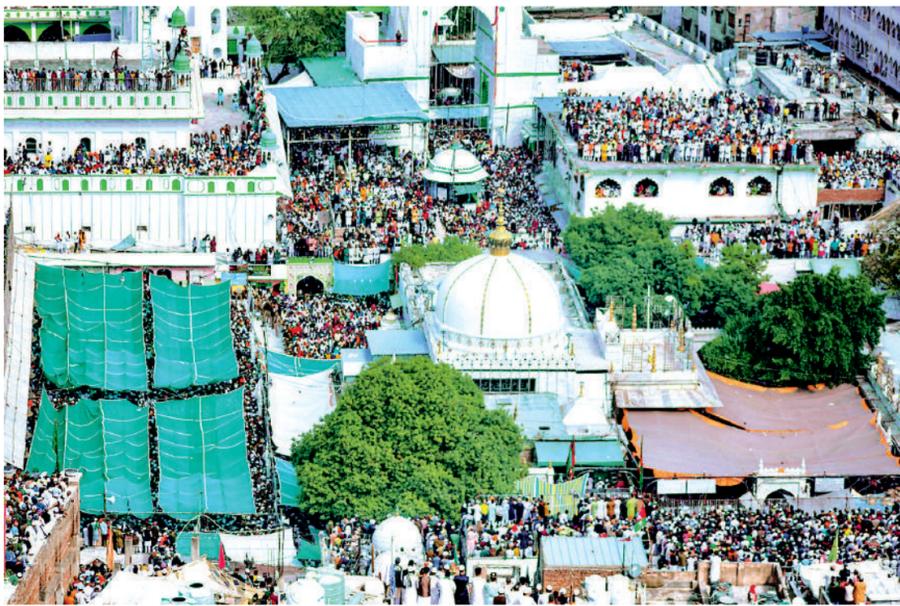
Maha ATS raids places in Mumbai, Thane, Raigad

Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTI): The Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad arrested 11 people and seized 13 high-quality pistols and ammunition after carrying out raids in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip off, the Kalachowky unit of ATS nabbed an arms supplier from Mulund on January 31, and his interrogation helped the probe agency unravel a smuggling network, he added.

"Raids were carried out at nine spots in Kandivali and Mulund in Mumbai, Kalyan and Dombivali in Thane district and Uran in Raigad. The operation was conducted over four days and we seized 13 high quality factory-made pistols, 36 bullets. Eleven people have been arrested," the official informed.

COVID PROTOCOL: WHO CARE'S?



Devotees gather to celebrate The Urs festival at Dargah Ajmer Sharif of Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti, in Ajmer, Tuesday.

BJP unveils manifesto, promises 3 free gas cylinders, restoration of mining

Panaji, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday promised to make Goa a USD 50 billion economy in the next 10 years and resolved to provide three free LPG cylinders to every household, restore mining activities besides housing for all as the party unveiled its manifesto for the February 14 assembly polls in the coastal state.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, in presence of chief minister Pramod Sawant and Goa BJP president Sadanand Shet Tanavade, unveiled the manifesto that speaks about "empowering the fu-

ture of Goa, increasing tourism activities, restoring legal mining and eliminating multidimensional poverty in the state.

The ruling party said, "We will through constant efforts propel Goa to a growth trajectory that will enable the state to become a USD 50 billion economy in the next ten years." The BJP, which has fielded candidates in all the 40 assembly constituencies, promised to completely eliminate "multidimensional poverty" in the coastal state in the next five years.

We will deliver social welfare benefits to the poor in a timely manner and through direct benefit transfers. We will increase

the old age pension under DDSSY (Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana) to Rs 3,000 per month, the manifesto said.

In an important assurance, the BJP promised to restore mining activities (suspended since 2018), a key source of revenue for the state, within six months of returning to the power through Goa Mineral Development Corporation and auction of iron ore blocks through "transparent leasing and by following the due process of law".

The party vowed to double the number of annual tourist arrivals in the state in the next five years by harnessing the potential for inland tourism,

medical tourism and promoting heritage and spiritual tourism while augmenting the current infrastructure around adventure sports and beach tourism. The ruling party promised to make Goa an Asian hub for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), a key segment of the tourism industry.

On sports front, the BJP assured to launch Mission Gold Coast to groom an Olympic gold medalist for India from Goa. Wooing women voters, the party said it will provide three free LPG cylinders to every household in Goa (in a year) to ease the financial burden on home-makers.

Chidambaram calls Centre 'no data available government'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

This is a no data available government' said former finance minister P Chidambaram in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday over the ruling dispensation's failure to have the record on oxygen shortage deaths, corpses floating in rivers and migrants walking back home during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Initiating a discussion on the Union budget 2022-23, Chidambaram said unemployment is on the rise in the country and questioned the Centre over the steps taken for the welfare of the common people following reduced subsidies for petroleum, fertiliser, food, among others.

"Welfare has been thrown to the wind for 142 billionaires of this country, he said. Chidambaram spoke immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the debate on the Motion of 'Thanks to the President's address. He said he was speaking eloquently about jobs and employment, and as on March 31, 2021, there were 8.72 lakh vacancies in the central government and the government made 78,264 recruitments, leaving nearly 8 lakh vacancies." "This is the statistic I hope the prime minister will welcome and use in his next speech," he said. On Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech, Chidambaram sar-

castically said, The thing I liked about the finance minister's budget speech is that it was the shortest speech of 90 minutes. I will also keep my reply very short," he said.

"I am a member of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang, which means disruption'. I am worried because in this parliament, a question was asked who are members of Tukde Tukde gang?" and the honourable minister said we have no data available on Tukde Tukde gang," he said. No data is also available on oxygen shortage death, corpses floating in rivers, migrants walking back to their homes and doubling farmers income, which was supposed to happen in 2022.

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BRIEF



President Ram Nath Kovind pays floral tributes to the former President of India Dr. Zakir Hussain on his birth anniversary, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Ruckus

New Delhi: Ruckus prevailed in the BJP-led EDMC House on Tuesday as members of opposition staged a protest over civic issues during the proceedings. The House was convened to discuss and finalise the annual budget of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation. Some members from the AAP trooped to the Well of the House and raised slogans, while others held placards and protested.

Jail term

Thane: A man was on Tuesday sentenced to seven years in jail by a POCSO court in Thane for raping his 14-year-old daughter repeatedly. The victim's mother, who was accused of abetting the crime, was acquitted for want of evidence by District and Special Judge (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) HM Patwardhan.

Applications

New Delhi: The Delhi government is inviting fresh applications for the Chief Minister Advocates Welfare Scheme under which lawyers, who are residents of the capital, are provided Rs 5 lakh medical insurance and term insurance of Rs 10 lakh. Delhi Law Minister Kailash Gahlot said the last date for applying for the scheme is February 17.

Resignation

Agartala: Tripura assembly Speaker Ratan Chakraborty on Tuesday accepted the resignation of two dissident BJP MLAs - Sudip Roy Barman and Asish Saha. Barman and Saha had on Monday resigned from the House and the primary membership of the BJP, the ruling party in the North-eastern state where assembly election is due next year. "Resignation letters of MLAs Sudip Roy Barman and Asish Saha were accepted after examining all legal options," Chakraborty said at a press conference here.

Weather
High 31 Low 15

MARKET
NIFTY 17,266.75
SENSEX 57,808.58

BULLION
GOLD 48,327
SILVER 62,026

'Omicron spreads faster than previous COVID-19 variants of concern'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI): Multiple studies have been conducted globally to assess the transmission of Omicron and to compare the transmissibility with the previous variants of concern and it was found that the rate of its spread is higher than the previous COVID-19 variants, the Rajya Sabha was told on Tuesday. A comparative study carried out by Translational Health Science and

MAOISTS UNLEASH VIOLENCE

Naxals trigger IED blast

Four CRPF jawans injured

Bijapur, Feb 08:

Four personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured on Tuesday in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by Naxals in Bijapur district, police said. The incident occurred around 3 pm on the Murkinar road under the Modakpal police station area when a team of CRPF's 153rd battalion was out on an area domination operation. Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI. The patrolling team, which had launched the operation from its



Injured jawans in the hospital.

Chinnakodepal camp, was cordoning off the forest along Murkinar road, located around 450 km away from state capital Raipur when ultras detonated the IED in which four personnel sustained injuries, he said. The injured jawans were evacuated from the spot and shifted to Bijapur district hospital, he said. The injured jawans include Deputy Commandant Palwan Biswas, ASI Sada Shiv Yadav, Head Constable Rajiv Ranjan and constable Om Prakash. Three of these jawans have been airlifted to Raipur for better treatment.

About the incident

The patrolling team, which had launched the operation from its Chinnakodepal camp, was cordoning off the forest along Murkinar road, located around 450 km away from state capital Raipur when ultras detonated the IED in which four personnel sustained injuries.

Maoists torch road construction equipment

Phulbani (Odisha): Suspected Maoists set afire two road construction equipment in Odisha's Kandhamal district in protest against conducting the three-tier panchayat elections in the state, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place at Kiamunda village under the jurisdiction of Phiringia Police station on Monday night. The construction work was being carried out by a private company, said P Shyamsundar Rao, the Inspector-in-Charge of Phiringia Police Station. Police said the ultras, suspected to be members of the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the banned CPI (Maoist), reached the construction site around midnight and torched the equipment. Some hand-written Maoists posters were also spotted at the scene, with an appeal to the villagers to boycott the ensuing panchayat polls, withdrawal of CRPF camps in the area and the district, and adequate payment of wages to labourers, Rao said. Further investigation is underway.

'Zero tolerance towards misuse of govt machinery, money power'

Imphal, Feb 08 (PTI):

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra said here on Tuesday that the poll panel had zero tolerance towards misuse of government machinery and abuse of money power as he reviewed the preparedness for Manipur elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3. Chandra, who is here with his team on a two-day visit, also stated that polling officials found to have mala fide intention or bias of any kind would be taken to task. Addressing a



CEC Sushil Chandra

press meet, he said that voters could report violations of Model Code of Conduct on the Election Commission's eVIGIL App. Lauding the state's efforts to promote gender parity despite logistics challenges, the CEC said that 16.4 per cent of all polling stations in Manipur would be managed by women.

Four mercy petitions pending with Govt

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Four mercy petitions, including one since 2012, are pending with the government, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said one mercy petition has been pending with the government since 2012, another since 2015 and two more since 2021. "Under Article 72 of the Constitution of India, there is no limitation of time within which the power conferred may be exercised," he said.

Free electricity for irrigation, minimum 10-yr jail for 'love jihad'

Lucknow, Feb 08 (PTI):

The BJP on Tuesday assured free electricity for irrigation, a job for every household and free travel for women over 60 in its Uttar Pradesh election manifesto, which also promised a minimum 10-year sentence in cases of what it describes as "love jihad". The announcements were made by Union Home

Minister Amit Shah at the release of the 'Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra 2022', just two days before the first phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Reaching out to farmers, the party promised free electricity for irrigation, speedier payment for sugarcane and strengthening the minimum support price (MSP) system for wheat and rice. If farmers are not paid for their sugar-

cane within 14 days, the sugar mills will have to shell out the interest on the amount due, the ruling party's manifesto promised. It also announced that work on the establishment of an anti-terrorist commando centre in Deoband would be completed in the next five years. Similar centres would come up in Meerut, Rampur, Azamgarh, Kanpur and Bahraich.

10 Naxals surrender

Sukma, Feb 08:

Ten Naxals, including two carrying cash rewards on their heads, surrendered in Dantewada and Sukma districts in , police said on Tuesday. Three ultras, identified as DAKMS president Dasrath alias Kotulu Mandvi (29), Mangdu Nuppo (27), both of who carry a bounty of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, and Motu Kuhdami (24), surrendered in Dantewada during the day, an official said. The ultras said they were impressed by the 'Lon Varratu' (homecoming in the local Gondi dialect) initiative of the Dantewada police, the official informed, adding that 515 Naxals, including 127 with cash rewards on their heads, had surrendered in the district so far..

'BJP and NDA always stood with Sikh traditions'

With vision for 'Nawan Punjab'

Chandigarh, Feb 08 (PTI):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it is only the National Democratic Alliance that has a vision of a 'Nawan' (new) Punjab to develop its agriculture and industry and the state does not need the "hollow promises" of other parties. Addressing a virtual rally for assembly segments of Ludhiana and Fatehgarh Sahib parliamentary constituencies, Modi said the BJP and NDA allies have always stood with Sikh traditions and can take them forward with the right intention. Attacking the Congress, he accused the grand old party of indulging in the massacre of Sikhs. But we got the guilty of genocide punished, said Modi, in an apparent reference to the 1984-anti-Sikh riots. Congress could not keep Kartarpur (Sahib) in India. But we opened the way to Kartarpur, he said. The NDA has a vision of 'Nawan' Punjab and a track record of delivering on the ground, he said, adding that Punjab does not need

hollow promises of new parties. Punjab needs modernisation at every level, which is beyond the capability of Congress and least of those who want to convert Delhi into "jhuggi jhopdi" (slum), he said, in a veiled attack on the Aam Aadmi Party. He urged the voters to be cautious of those "who made lofty speeches on the menace of drug addiction, but instead of helping the people, they took the disease to Delhi".

MODI IN PARLIAMENT

'Congress in grip of urban Naxals'

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Dynastic parties are the biggest threat to India's democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he launched an all-out attack on the Congress and held it responsible for a host of issues, including the Emergency, the anti-Sikh riots, caste politics and the exodus of Pandits from Kashmir. Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the president's address in the Rajya Sabha, the

prime minister, who highlighted his government's achievements in various sectors, said the Congress is creating hurdles in the country's development as an opposition party too. Modi said urban Naxals are today controlling the Congress' thought and ideology. "The Congress in a way is in the grip of urban Naxals. That is why its thought has become negative." The Rajya Sabha adopted the motion of thanks after negating all amendments moved by opposition members. The

Congress staged a walkout from the House during the prime minister's address, prompting Modi to say that one needs to listen too in a democracy and alleging that the party was used to only preaching to others till now. Modi suggested that the opposition party change its name from Indian National Congress to 'Federation of Congress' and urged it to not impose its frustration and despair on the people of the country as loss and victory happen in politics.

Leopard killed by poachers

Bilaspur, Feb 08:

A leopard was killed by poachers in Bilaspur forest division, a senior official said on Tuesday. The carcass of the animal, around 8 years old, was found on Monday evening near Bitkula village in Sipat-Sonthi forest range and the claws of its rear legs had been cut off by poachers, Bilaspur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kumar Nishant said. "Two nails of the front legs are missing too. The poachers also made an unsuccessful attempt to extract the big cat's teeth. It does not seem to be the handiwork of trained or habitual hunters," he said.

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LIC/PRA/2021-22/45/ENG

Four arrested with 2 quintal 'Ganja'

● Were taking it to Anoopur in MP

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Feb 08: It was on investigation, a combined team of Gourela Thana, Cyber Cell left for the venue on Odisha to Bilaspur- Ratanpur-Gourela road and going towards Anoopur Kotma. The team stopped one white KUV bearing No. MP 65 C 1712 coming from Jogisar to Ratanpur and conducted search inside the vehicle and that of the passengers.

In this four persons from MP were travelling and taking 'Ganja' from Odisha-



Jaipur to Kotma in MP. The police seized 2 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 20 lakhs from the car and cost of car worth Rs 5 lakhs, totalling Rs 25.0 lakh and sent all the four accused were sent on remand.

The four accused arrested

ed are Vishnu Sahu S/o Gourelal Sahu (30), R/o Khanda Rampur district Anoopur (MP); Golu alias Chandrabhan Banjara S/o Dillan Singh (28), R/o Parsel Thana Karanjia District Dindhour (MP); Rahul Agrawal S/o

Santosh Agrawal (28), R/o Gorakhpur Thana Gadasarai District Dindouri (MP) and Pradeep Mishra S/o Shankar Prasad Mishra (30), R/o Barnai Thana Karanjia district Dindouri (MP).

In the above action, TI Yuvraj Tiwari, Thana Gourela, Cyber Cell - Hemant Aditya, Durgesh Rathore, Rajesh Sharma, Ramlal Khurana, Choupal Kashyap, Thana Gourela-Sujan Jagat, Arvind Mishra, Surendra Vishwakarma, Rakshit Kendra constable LN Shyam, Girwar Paikra, Vijay Khunte and others gave valuable help in nabbing of all four accused.

Neonatal ICU inaugurated by CMD, NMDC

Central Chronicle News

Bacheli, Feb 08: Neonatal ICU and New Born Care unit was inaugurated here at NMDC Apollo Hospital Bacheli by Mr. Sumit Deb, Chairman cum Managing Director NMDC.

The Chairman, taking out time from his busy schedule, was welcomed by Dr. SM Haq, followed by traditional welcome proposed by the hospital staff, thereafter he inaugurated the Neonatal Care Unit.

Having visited the ward and premises of the children's ward he also met the children admitted there and their mothers and distributed among them toys, sari and shawl.



A lot many new services have been started in the hospital which comprises of digital X-Ray machine, High Flow Nasal Oxygen System, Oxygen concentrator and others owing to which life saving process

during Covid-19 pandemic was done. The Chairman also appreciated the staff and assured all possible aid from NMDC towards the hospital. Present during the inaugural ceremony were Mr. Sumit Deb,

Chairman cum Managing Director NMDC, PK Majumdar, Sanjay Vasu, Dharmendra Acharya, MM Agarwal and other dignitaries apart from hospital staff and management.

Basant Panchami celebrated in Eklavya Adarsh Vidyalaya



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Feb 08: Basant Panchami was celebrated here in Eklavya Adarsh Vidyalaya here with worship of goddess Saraswati

and seeking her blessings. Teacher of music in the school Dharmaraj Kulmitra, led the students in worship and rituals of the day, devoted to the goddess of wisdom and

knowledge. Present were Deepa Mishra, Rajesh Sharma, Ushalata Lehare, Nandini Soni, Tulsi Patre, Ramesh Sahu, Santosh Hela and many others.

Increase in psychiatric patients in the district

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Feb 08: The district with a population of more than eight lakhs is lacking in facilities of psychiatry ward, and as per reports there is also an increase in patients of disorders related to psychiatry and the needed set up to treat such cases are lacking in the district hospital, even though the hospital has a capacity of two fifty beds.

Presently Dr. Rachna Padamwar is giving her services to the psychiatry department but lack of a

specialist is causing problems among the patients and their attendees. According to information from the year 2015 till data a total of approximately twelve thousand patients have been treated in the department out of which 240 are new patient's registered. Lack of sleep and unemployment are the leading cause of psychiatric disorders among people of the region. According to UL Kaushik, Civil Surgeon, the department needs to be upgraded and a proposal has been sent to the concerned authorities.

Small traders, politicians reap benefit from 'Public App'

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 08: Ending the year 2021 on a high note, Public App, India's largest location-based social network enabled more than 30,000 local promoters of Bharat to reach their neighborhood customers by promoting their offerings on the app at an affordable starting cost of Rs. 1000 only.

Local promoters such as small businesses and politicians have utilized this opportunity to reach 1.8 million users in Chhattisgarh who use the app actively to stay updated about their surroundings through local verified updates.

These local promoters

across sectors have also reported phenomenal responses through the promotions and have witnessed a spike in demand for their products and services. Lakshman Pal, proprietor of RK Jewelers selling gold jewelry in Bilaspur says, "We received a phenomenal response through the promotion of our business on Public app.

We got phone calls from our near and dear ones congratulating us on this initiative. Some new customers came to our shop informing that they saw our shop's advertisement on Public App. As the response rate was beyond our expectation which cre-

ated awareness in the smaller villages and towns, I have extended our association with them for an entire year! I request other small businesses too to promote their brand on Public app to increase their business."

Uddeshwari Paikra, State President of Bharatiya Janata Party in Balrampur who used the platform for promotions says, "Through the promotions, we were delighted to see that our video has reached 1-1.5 lakh users on the app on a daily basis. To further strengthen our messaging, we have also planned to partner with Public app again on the occasion of Republic Day."

YC burns effigy of ex-BJP Minister

● Demands him to be an apology in public or face action

Central Chronicle News

Dognargarh, Feb 08: As per instructions from PCC President and VS president and under guidance of District Co-op Bank President, the YC workers burnt an effigy of ex-BJP Minister and leader Rajesh Munat on charges of using abusive language against the Congress workers staging silent protest and against the policemen out in open public.

It was under leadership of YC city President Aman Bansod, YC workers raised slogans in protest against former BJP Minister Rajesh Munat on Sunday



and burnt his effigy. Aman charged that the BJP leader and Minister even after staying in the Ministry for last 15 years failed to learn about due respect to law and how to behave in public.

To register protest is the right of any party, be in power or in the Opposition. When the Rahul Gandhi arrival was announced, at that time

the BJP party workers tried to show black-flags to the leader. In the same way the Congmen decided to register protest of Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia during his visit to the capital city.

But the way the former Minister Rajesh Munat tried to misbehave with the policemen and party workers in open public, using

abusive language is simply intolerable and for which ex-Minister should bag an apology.

On the other hand, the ex-Minister has forgotten about the reasons for his defeat in last 2018 VS polls and putting himself above the law tried to show his sheer frustration on the policemen and Congmen. YC demanded Munat to either beg an apology for his conduct or else he should face strict action.

Those who staged protest included Sandeep Dhruve, Bunty Gupta, Karan Verma, Rakesh Verma, Bhushan Sinha, Naved Khan, Nitesh Larokar, Pawan, Nikki, Sunny Bhatia, Miraj Khan, Bunty Namdeo, Avinash Khan, Radh Singh Rajput, Monu Sahu and others.

Yashwant, Pushpanjali and Rajeshwari become national judges of chess

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Feb 08: The motive of Pithora All India Chess Federation, 'Chess for Everyone', whose main objective is to prepare arbiters from each district of all the states of the country and solve the problems being faced by the judges at the district level so that the competition can be completed smoothly in less cost.

In the same vein, online examination was organized for senior chess judge and national deciders on 30 January, in which Yashwant Chaudhary (Saraipali) from Mahasamund district, Pushpanjali Chaudhary (Saraipali) and



Rajeshwari Dhruvanshi from Jhalp participated. On the very first attempt, all three achieved stupendous success.

On this achievement, Dr. DN Sahu, President of District Chess Association, Vice President Sanjay Srivastava, Treasurer Biju Patnaik, Joint Secretary Dr. Mrinal Chandrasen, Rajendra Markandey, Mrs.

D. Sahu and Chhattisgarh State Chess Federation Secretary Hemant Khute have congratulated them.

It is worth mentioning that all the three decisive ones are associated with the world of education and the school children will get the benefit of this. Dr DN Sahu said that they would be honored under the banner of District Chess Association.

'Ten Mahavidyas' worshiped in Gupt Navratri



Anwari, Feb 08: Gupt Navratri has started from 2nd February and it will continue till February 10 and on this occasion in Shani Mandir Bhakhara, manokamana flames have been lit by the devotees here. Priest Pitambar Mishra informed that in this Navratri worship is done in secret, hence it is called Gupta Navratri and it falls in the month of Magha and Ashadha.

Sadhaks who do Tantra Sadhana, they do spiritual practice of ten Mahavidyas during Gupt Navratri. He further said that Significance of Gupt Navratri like Chaitra or Shardiya Navratri, Durga Saptashati is recited for nine days in Gupt Navratri. The fast is completed by worshipping the girl child not attained of age on the day of Ashtami or Navami. To be informed, in Gupt Navratri, not the nine forms of the Goddess, but 10 Mahavidyas are worshipped.

Stone laid for water tank, pipeline work

● Under Jal Jeewan Mission in Gram Bahatola, Gahiratola

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 08: The foundation stone for Water Tank and Pipeline in Gram Bahatola of Khairagarh block was laid at the hands of District Panchayat 'sahapati' Ghamman Sahu. It is notable here that under Jal Jeewan Mission, apart from construction of water tank and expansion of pipeline in Gram Bahatola at the cost of Rs 76.27 lakh and another dependent village Gahiratola at the cost of Rs 74.47 lakh and for CC road worth 5 lakh.

In this programme Gourelal Verma, Mantri Mandal BJP Pandadah,



Jagdish Verma, Mandal office bearer, Pawan Markandey, Sarpanch Radhelal Ui were present. During this Speaker District Panchayat Ghamman Sahu said that under the prestigious Jal Jeewan Mission scheme of PM Narendra Modi, sanction for construction of water tank and laying of pipeline in the above two Grams have been received. On its completion the last person in the remote corner of the village will get tap-water and the villagers

will not have to wander in search of water during summer season. It was as per demand from villagers, Ghamman Sahu made a declaration of Rs 1.50 lakh for ward No. 11 for construction of drainage. For this important sanction, the villagers expressed gratitude towards PM Narendra Modi, former CM Raman Singh, LS MP Santosh Pandey, District Panchayat president Geeta Sahu and V-P Vikrant Singh, Sahapati Ghamman Sahu, and others.

Basant Panchami celebrated with pomp

● At Nehru Memorial School

Birkoni, Feb 08: The festival of Basant Panchami was celebrated with great fanfare on Saturday at Nehru Smriti Vidyalaya located at village Birkoni Barbaspur Road. The program was inaugurated by the guests with the worship of Maa Saraswati. Children wearing attractive yellow colored costumes mesmerized everyone. Teachers apprised the children about Basant Panchami. Head Master Tupsing Nishad said that special worship of Maa Saraswati should be done on this day. Worship of Maa Saraswati keeps intellect pure and helps develop positive thinking, he said. Sankul Coordination In-charge Shahdev Dhruv told the students about the historical importance of Basant

Panchami. Rituraj Basant has great importance in Indian culture. Everyone welcomes this season with great enthusiasm. Spring is said to be the king of all seasons. The yellow flowers planted in mustard fields all around attract everyone's mind. On this occasion, Saraswati Yadu, Rama Yadav, Purnima Chandrakar, Madhu Sahis, Tekeshwari Yadav, Bharti Yadav, Godavari Nishad, Khemin Sahu were present along with students.



DRM conducts window trailing inspection

Of Sambalpur-Jarapada section



Central Chronicle News

Sambalpur, Feb 08: Pradeep Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur conducted a window trailing inspection of Sambalpur - Jarapada section on Monday. Window-trailing inspection is a specialized inspection in the Indian Railways in which the track and its surrounding installations like signals, OHE, platforms, etc are inspected from the rear window of an inspection car attached to a moving train. During the inspection, important parameters like safety and overall

condition of stations falling en-route, riding quality of the train-especially on points and crossings, progress of work of other ongoing developmental work, Improvement in Track Geometry Index (TGI), Condition of level crossing gates en-route, etc. were observed by the DRM, Sambalpur.

After the window trailing inspection, he inspected the Jarapada Station, where he inspected the passenger amenities, waiting rooms, platforms, toilets, Cleanliness and adequacy of water supply on the platforms and Circulating area.

Change of Name

It is informed to the general public that I Vijay Pillay S/o Late. Sudhirthath Pillay. Resident of Rajendra Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) have changed my old name Vijay Pillay S/o Late Sudhirthath Pillay, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Vijay Kumar Pillay S/o Sudhirthath Pillay in all Government and other documents.

Vijay Kumar Pillay Rajendra Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.)

OBITUARY

Jagatram Yadav

Churrikala: Jagatram Yadav, R/o Narabodha, breathed his last few days back. He was 70. He was ailing for quite some time and left behind a full-fledged family. He was Patron of Yadav Adarsh Sewa Sansthan (YASS). In his final rites the members of YASS and family members were present in large number.

OBITUARY

Sharda Prasad Tamrakar

Nandini-Ahirwara: A well-known businessman and senior BJP leader and former District V-P BJP Durg Dau Shri Sharda Prasad Tamrakar breathed his last in a private hospital in Raipur on Tuesday. He was ailing for few days back. He was father of Natwar Lal Tamrakar President Nagar Palika Parishad Ahirwara, Anshuman Tamrakar, Shalini, Divya and grand-father of Anmol, Kimti and Amolia.



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Cultural context of hijab

The Karnataka hijab row has evolved into a full blown controversy. The controversy over hijab (headscarf) in Karnataka began on January 1 when Muslim schoolgirls at Udupi Women's Pre-University college attended classes wearing hijab. The controversy is mired in politics, so it is imperative to look at cultural context of hijab. The concept of hijab is not unique to Islam, but embraced by other religions, such as Judaism where the concept of modesty is called 'Tzuniut' and Christianity. The Islamic concept of hijab is most often expressed in women's clothing. Hijab garments range from simple head scarves called khimaar or simply hijab to head-to-toe cloaks such as abayas and burqas. Although firmly rooted in Islamic tradition, hijab is not strictly defined in the Muslim holy book, the Quran. It is often a personal and cultural concept, not a religious one. Expression of hijab varies within the Muslim world and beyond. Public expression of hijab is a very controversial issue. It is, first and foremost, an act of worship among Muslim women. However, hijab clothing has also become a potent indicator of identity, with many non-Muslims viewing it as a political statement. Some people interpret hijab as a sign of Islamic fundamentalism. Women in Arabia use 'abaya', Persian women use 'chador', Afghani women use burqa, Malaysian and Indonesian Muslim women use kerudung, East African Muslim women use buibui and now in the West, some women use mainstream clothes worn with a bigger scarf over the head and a loose outfit.

The hijab is not simply about religion as women wear it for a variety of reasons that can change, depending on the time and social context. Certainly, the headscarf is tied to religion. Many women who cover talk about it as a way demonstrating their submission to God and a constant reminder to hold fast to beliefs such as being honest and generous to those in need. French and British colonizers encouraged Muslim women to remove the veil and emulate European women. Consequently, in North African and Middle Eastern countries, the veil became a symbol of national identity and opposition to the West during independence and nationalist movements. Some women wear the hijab to signal pride in their ethnic identity. For many other women, the headscarf has become a means of resistance to standards of feminine beauty which includes fashion trends. For some women, the headscarf is a convenience. It can reduce comments from others about women being out in public and lessen incidents of harassment on the street and at work. Despite the multiple, complicated reasons behind wearing a hijab, there are those who routinely assert that women who wear a headscarf are necessarily oppressed. The act of wearing one's faith 'on their sleeve' plays an important role in affirming a Muslim's self identity. Compared to other nations, personal attire has not faced such controversy before in India. But with radicalisation using social media, every issue is bound to be mired in politics.

Comparing agendas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Congress in Parliament calling the grand old party the leader of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang, a catchphrase used by the ruling camp against those it alleges to be supporting secession and anti-national activities. Modi said that the US is facing the worst inflation in 40 years. The UK is facing worst inflation in 30 years. Similar is the condition in many European nations. In India, inflation is kept between 4-5 percent. During UPA's regime, inflation touched double digits. India is only large nation that has high growth and low inflation. Earlier, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of leaving farmers on roads for a year amid the COVID-19 pandemic and said his party will never do that. Rahul's speech in parliament managed to force a response from the BJP leadership. Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a '21st century king' adding that the Congress would provide pro-people governance to the people of Uttarakhand and would never shut its doors on the masses. If social media buzz is any indication, the Congress leader's speech was watched over 1.6 million times in just five hours, pointed out a user on Twitter. In many ways, Rahul Gandhi spoke not much like a politician, and yet he did, treading a fine line juxtaposing the old version of nationalism that his party stands for against the one that has a proponent in the BJP. These speeches by both the governing side and opposition should be viewed in context of agendas and manifestos discussed before assembly election in five states.

Analysis of party manifestos published by BJP and Congress exhibits patterns. These shed a light on a variety of insights, especially in their field of priorities, representation and target vote base. BJP that emerged victorious in elections, had a greater frequency of occurrence for words like 'defence', 'terrorism', 'development', 'digital' and 'dalits', while its biggest contender, Congress, used words like 'education', 'employment', 'reforms', 'safety', 'women', 'rural' and 'urban' more. The frequency of occurrence of keywords such as 'farmers', 'youth', and 'agriculture' was greater in the Congress manifesto albeit with a small margin. The key takeaway from the chart is how development, education and women's issues have been the three key areas for both Congress and BJP, at least in their manifestos. This insight might be surprising to many who hold the popular belief that youth, rural India and terrorism has been the dominant discourse that swayed political winds. It is possible, however, that this speaks to a larger issue of the difference between an official declaration and ground-level chatter. The BJP released its manifesto for the UP elections in Lucknow. It has promised free electricity to all farmers in 5 years. Congress released the party manifesto for the upcoming Uttarakhand assembly elections, promising to reserve 40 percent jobs for women in the police department, jobs to 400,000. Political parties present grand visions in manifestos and make speeches during election season, but societies function with undercurrents.

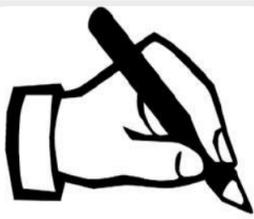
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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

TULIPS IN DELHI



Tulips are pictured along a roadside in New Delhi.

Budget provisions will strengthen India's banking sector

**SATISH SINGH**

The Union Budget for the financial year 2022-23, presented on February 1, will bring many direct and indirect benefits to the banking sector. The extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 2023 will extend benefits to banks & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) both, as this would not increase the non-performing assets (NPA) of banks. Along with this, MSMEs will also keep their business continue by the help of this scheme. The ECLGS will be extended to cover the next fiscal with expanded guarantee cover of Rs 5 lakh crore. An additional guarantee amount of Rs 50,000 crore has been announced for the hospitality sector. It is noteworthy that this scheme was started in the year 2020 due to Covid 19, which has benefited the MSMEs in a big way.

The budget has announced the introduction of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Rupeya in the year 2022. CBDCs will operate somewhat on the lines of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin or ether, as these transactions take place without an intermediary or bank. In view of the growing trend of virtual currency globally, the government wants India to have a digital currency of its own. Currently, RBI prints notes as per the requirement, which reaches the market through banks, which takes a lot of time, while the digital currency Rupeya will be sent

directly to the user through mobile, laptop or desktop. And again, the user will be able to transfer the same to any other person on real time basis. The sent digital currency Rupeya will neither be deposited in any wallet nor in any bank account.

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed the formation of 'Bad Bank' in the budget for the financial year 2021-22 to get rid of the banks from NPAs. Now in the budget of the financial year 2022-23, the finance minister has announced that the 'Bad Bank' will start functioning by March 31, 2022. Initially, a total of 15 NPA accounts totalling Rs.50,335 crore will be transferred to the 'Bad Bank'. Banks are the backbone of the Indian economy. Therefore, it is important for the banks to remain healthy, but for a long time, banks especially the public sector banks are facing the problem of NPAs. The Corona pandemic has added to the problems of banks even more. Due to this, many people have lost their jobs and businesses have also collapsed. This has increased the chances of banks increasing their NPAs in the coming months.

The cash which will come back to the bank by selling the NPA, can be given again in the form of loan to the needy, as the banks have already made provision for NPA. Therefore, whatever NPA banks sell to the 'Bad Bank', that amount will be directly added to the profits of the banks.

'Bad Banks' have been successful in selling bad loans in many countries of the world. After the 2008 financial crisis, the US launched a distressed asset relief program, which improved the health of the US economy. According to an estimate, 'Bad Banks' can be effective in resolving bad loans of more than 5 lakh crore. It has other benefits as well, for example, after selling NPAs to 'Bad Banks', banks will be able to focus on strengthening their business activities, because banks suffer financial loss in recovery of bad loans. Keeping the balance sheet clean will increase the confidence of domestic and foreign investors and depositors in the banks, which will increase the rating of the bank and will also make the path of investment easier.

In the budget, in the year 2022, the work of connecting 1.5 lakh post offices of the country with the core banking system will be completed, which will make it possible to operate savings and current accounts through internet banking, mobile banking, ATMs. They will also be able to transfer their money to the any corner of the country. Today the country has the largest network of post offices. Therefore, this will also promote financial inclusion. At present, the post office is also providing the facilities of deposit and payment to the customers through India Post Payments Bank. To promote digital payments, the finance minister has also announced setting up of 75 digital banks in 75 districts by scheduled commercial banks in the budget, so that digitization can be given a further boost in the country.

In the budget, the government has announced to increase the amount of capital investment from Rs 5.54 lakh crore to Rs 7.55 lakh crore. MSMEs will benefit the most from this. To increase their business, they will also take loans from banks, which will accelerate the credit flow of banks. This will also accelerate the demand and supply and will also

give impetus to employment generation. The budget also talked about reducing the corporate surcharge from 12 percent to 7 percent. This will give additional capital to the corporates, which they can use to increase the business. To strengthen the business, they can also take loans from banks, because at present, capital is available with the banks at a cheap rate.

In the budget, the finance minister has announced to give 6 thousand crore rupees to MSMEs in 5 years, which will help MSMEs to deal with capital problems. It has also been said in the budget to link Udayam, E-Shram, NCS and Aseem Portal. This will make it easier for the entrepreneurs to take loan from the bank and boost the possibilities of entrepreneurship. More than 60,000 new start-ups have been started in the country since the year 2016. To further strengthen this concept, the tax benefit period for start-ups has been extended by 1 year to March 31, 2023, in the Budget. There is a proposal to build 80 lakh houses for the poor in the budget, for which a provision of Rs 48000 crore has been made. An announcement was made in the budget to promote organic farming on the land falling within 5 km radius of the banks of the Ganges. To make these announcements material, it would be necessary to take loans from banks. At present, the credit growth rate of banks was 9.2 percent on a year-on-year basis in December 2021, while it increased by 6.6 percent on a year-on-year basis in the month of December last year. The budget is likely to increase the credit growth rate of banks and reduce the level of NPAs, as well as this will also lead to a significant increase in the profits of banks in the coming months.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AFSPA clarity

The Nagaland Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to withdraw the crucial law, AFSPA. This is shocking. If tomorrow the law in that area is repealed and the insurgents take over, the soldiers will stand as a shield to protect the civilians. At that time there will be political leaders who will demand that 'we need more security because our lives are in danger'. At that time they will not remember the safety of the people. A committee constituted by the Centre to study the withdrawal of AFSPA will give its recommendations within 45 days. Although this incident is from Nagaland, let's hope it does not contain recommendations that negatively impact the morale of soldiers everywhere. Unlike Kashmir, the language of bombs and bullets is not spoken in this region. That's why the soldiers here do not need weapons. Instead, they can be given sticks like police, there should be no such ideology. The repeal of AFSPA means taking out the teeth and nails of a tiger and sending it on a hunt. Why is it happening that the idea of taking away the rights of our soldiers by taking back the law is being insisted upon? Whether it is the Parliament House or the Rajya Sabha or the Legislative assemblies of the country, there is a ruckus in the Legislative Council over many topics. To date, it has not been taken seriously. Loss of life is valuable, financial loss is priceless. While considering the AFSPA Act on Nagaland, it should be noted that the soldiers deployed in the most sensitive border areas of the country, especially in Kashmir, should not be bothered by the recommendations of the committee constituted. The soldiers posted in Kashmir should not feel that the soldiers who are caught in the interrogation because of what happened in Nagaland, can happen to them tomorrow. AFSPA is also applicable in Kashmir. If there is a demand to repeal that law like Nagaland in Kashmir and there are fierce demonstrations against that law, then how should the soldier protect the borders of the country? This should also be clear.

Jayesh, via email

Curb violence

We all know that India unlike other democratic countries is a multi-party democratic nation and all the parties are eligible to participate in the election after fulfilling ECI's guidelines. Till the sixties and early seventies, it was so far and so good with no political violence. But with the advent of the CPI(M) in West Bengal in particular, political violence has almost become an order of the day. Killing in broad daylight, looting, burning of houses of the opposition etc., became very usual happenings. From West Bengal a state, then ruled by CPI(M) the political violence started spreading to other states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala etc., making a mockery of the democratic rights of the voters. By the grace of God, fortunately, so far, our Assam is not infected by that deadly virus. A proper vaccine to prevent the spread of that deadly virus is urgently needed.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Arvind Virmani@dravirmani**

Putin is a geopolitical player, pushing his own interests and that of his country as he sees them. Don't be under the delusion that mutual interest in arms sales/purchase & to some extent in Afghanistan, is a sign of 'Jigri dosti' or eternal 'Bhai-Bhai'

Kaushik Basu@kaushikbasu

Taxi from LaGuardia. Smart young Bangladeshi driver. As always I got talking. He was very critical of Bangladesh & corruption & all recent South Asian leaders. Then added, 'with one exception, Manmohan Singh. He was a world class leader.' Then asked me, 'Have you ever seen him?'

**Narendra@perfectly_pixel**

I have a different perspective. Unless one is a fake expert, an expert can actually be good but still use a lot of jargon. It suggests they have not mastered the way of communicating their expertise to everyday people who are not in their field.

HarshVivek@HVSBanwait

It may be my crude observation but the maximum fight or struggle within each party for the tickets was for the assembly constituencies with or near the River Beds. And those denied chose to fight independently. Ropar to Nawanshahr to Sultanpur Lodhi to.....

**Bilaseng@chowbilaseng**

For perhaps the first time, snow has fallen on the mountains of Itanagar Capital Region.

**Vir Das@theviridas**

55%. Disaster. But got 10% for debating, dramatics and basketball respectively and 85% got me into DU on the extra curricular quota. But between dyslexia and not studying the right stream, was never academically inclined.

Sridhar Vembu@svembu

I was visiting friends and family in Chennai. What struck me coming from a village with plenty of kids is how older apartment complexes in affluent areas are strikingly devoid of children. Reason? Young families cannot afford to live in these neighborhoods ...

SURYA JAYANTI



Priests perform Suryaprabha Vahana Seva on the occasion of Surya Jayanti at the Tirumala temple, in Tirupati, Tuesday.

Cong MLAs in Meghalaya join BJP-backed MDA

Shillong, Feb 08 (PTI):

All five Congress MLAs in Meghalaya on Tuesday joined the BJP-backed ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), leaving only Mamata Banerjee's TMC occupying the opposition space in the state assembly. They will, however, remain in the Congress, CLP leader Ampareen Lyngdoh said.

Once a formidable opposition with 17 MLAs, the Congress was left with only five MLAs after 12 legislators, including former chief minister Mukul Sangma, defected to the TMC in November last year. The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) formally handed over a letter of support to Chief

Minister Conrad K Sangma. "We the undersigned MLAs of the Indian National Congress have decided to join the MDA (Meghalaya Democratic Alliance) government today the 8th of February, 2022. We wish to support you and the MDA to strengthen the government's arms and decision making so as to ensure that our joined (sic) efforts will take the state forward, in the general interest of its citizens," the letter stated. The letter was signed by Lyngdoh, besides PT Sawkmie, Mayralborn Syiem, KS Marbaniang and Mohendro Rapsang. A copy of the letter was also sent to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. "The five @INCMeghalaya

(Meghalaya Congress) MLAs have decided to join the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance administration in the benefit of the people of the state, particularly our individual constituencies," Lyngdoh tweeted along with a photo of the Congress MLAs with the chief minister. "We have joined the MDA but will remain part of the Congress," Lyngdoh told PTI.

"We are happy to welcome members of the Congress Legislature Party who have pledged their support to the MDA Government officially today. We will work together under the banner of MDA to strengthen the Government in the interest of the people & the State," Conrad Sangma, whose

National People's Party leads the state's ruling coalition, tweeted. The TMC, which hardly had any meaningful presence in the northeastern state before November 25 last year, when 12 Congress MLAs led by Mukul Sangma joined Mamata Banerjee's party, reacted to the development with expected glee.

"The unscrupulous & power hungry people have officially joined hands. This alliance between Congress & NPP led MDA has once again clearly MARKED @AITCofficial as the only credible alternative in Meghalaya!," the party tweeted. "Dedicated to Meghalaya, WE WILL continue to fight for development of all," it added.

TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER

Youth trapped on mountain face in Kerala

Palakkad, Feb 08 (PTI):

Similar to the story of a 2010 biographical survival drama film, 127 hours, about a man trapped by a boulder in an isolated canyon, a young man in Malampuzha area of Palakkad in Kerala has been trapped on a hill between rocks since Monday with rescuers unable to reach him or provide him with food or water.

The difference between the film and the plight of Babu is that in the movie, which is based on real live events, there were no rescue attempts for the trapped person as no one knew where he was and he had to cut off his arm -- which was trapped under a boulder -- to free himself.

However, in Palakkad, several attempts, including one by a Coast Guard helicopter, have already been made to rescue the youth who is trapped on the hill side between rocks in the scorching heat with no water or food for more than a day. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan also intervened and sought the help of the Army to rescue the youth.

Subsequently, Lt General Arun of Army's Southern Command informed the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) that a specialised team will be starting from Bengaluru soon, a release from CMO said. The team, which specialises in mountaineering and rescue, would be travelling by road

with travel by helicopter at night being impossible, the release said. TV visuals indicated that after the Coast Guard efforts failed, a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team was attempting to reach the youth who appears to be sitting in a small recess on the mountain face.

A member of one of the rescue teams told a media channel that while during the day the heat is scorching and unbearable, by evening and late night it becomes windy and cold and even wild animals would be roaming about which would obstruct the rescue efforts. The rescuer said that another team was on its way to rescue the youth.

OPCC to utilise its Chh'garh leaders for campaigning in coming rural poll

Mohan Markam, Kawasi Lakhma and Amar Jeet Bhagat in list

Bhubaneswar, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Congress, pushed to the third position in Odisha politics, will utilise its leaders in neighboring Chhattisgarh to campaign for the party's candidates for zilla parishad seats during the rural polls slated to begin in February 16.

The names of Chhattisgarh Congress leaders figured in the list of 20 star campaigners and was submitted by the party to the State Election Commissioner, Odisha, a party release said on Monday. The Chhattisgarh leaders who will campaign in Odisha included the

state's PCC president Mohan Markam and the state's ministers Kawasi Lakhma and Amar Jeet Bhagat, it said. Sources in the party said that the Chhattisgarh leaders will campaign for Congress candidates in the border districts.

OPCC president Niranjana Patnaik, CLP leader Narasingha Mishra and AICC general secretary and Odisha in-charge A Chella Kumar are also among the star campaigners for the Congress. Among other Congress leaders who will campaign for the party are AICC secretary G Rudra Raju, OPCC

working president Chiranjib Biswal, MP Saptagiri Ulaka, former OPCC presidents Jayadev Bhagat, Sarat Patnaik and Panchanan Kanungo, the release said.

Former OPCC president Prasad Harichandan's name was excluded after he broke his silence over criticism for his alleged role in the non-distribution of party tickets among aspirants in six zilla parishad zones of Satyabadi Assembly Constituency in Puri district.

Congress has not fielded any candidate from Satyabadi for the first time, an indication of fresh in-

fighting within the party ahead of the panchayat poll. The party has fielded 836 candidates for 852 zilla parishad posts in Odisha, election for which will be held between February 16 and February 24.

Congress, which had been the state's main opposition party since it was ousted from power by the ruling BJD in 2000, was relegated to the third position after it secured only 60 zilla parishad seats in the 2017 panchayat election. The BJP had then emerged the number two party by securing 297 zilla parishad seats while the BJD had won 476 seats.

Facebook, Instagram block handles of Chinar Corps

Srinagar, Feb 08 (PTI):

Facebook and Instagram have blocked the handles of Chinar Corps, the Indian Army's strategically located formation in the Kashmir valley, for over a week now and have not responded to the official communication in this regard, officials said on Tuesday.

The pages on Facebook and Instagram were created and propaganda flowing from across the border and also to apprise people of the real situation in the Kashmir valley, an official said.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the matter had been taken up with the authorities concerned in Facebook, but so far there has been no response from their side.

"A link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed," read the messages on both Facebook as well as Instagram pages of the Chinar Corps, a popular name of XV Corps of the Army in Kashmir.

There was no immediate response from Facebook and Instagram, which are a part of the same company. The two social media websites remove a page if it does not follow the rules and regulations laid by the company or if people report about it.

JOSHI ON HIJAB ROW

'Everyone should follow dress code in schools'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Amid the simmering 'hijab' row in Karnataka, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said everyone should follow the dress code in schools and alleged that some politicians and fanatics made it an issue. His remark came as protests for and against the hijab intensified at colleges in different parts of Karnataka.

"Wearing uniform is a routine thing, why are they making it an issue? And when school has issued a guideline, everyone should follow it. What is the fuss about it? Undertakings have also been given by students and their parents to follow the dress code," Joshi told reporters outside



Pralhad Joshi

the parliament. He also asked as to who were inciting the students for not abiding by the dress code, saying "some politicians and fanatics have made it an issue". However, Joshi, who hails from Karnataka, said the matter is in court and the state government can wait for its outcome. He said no one should take law and order in their hands, and police will do what is expected of them in case of any violation.

Maha ATS raids places in Mumbai, Thane, Raigad

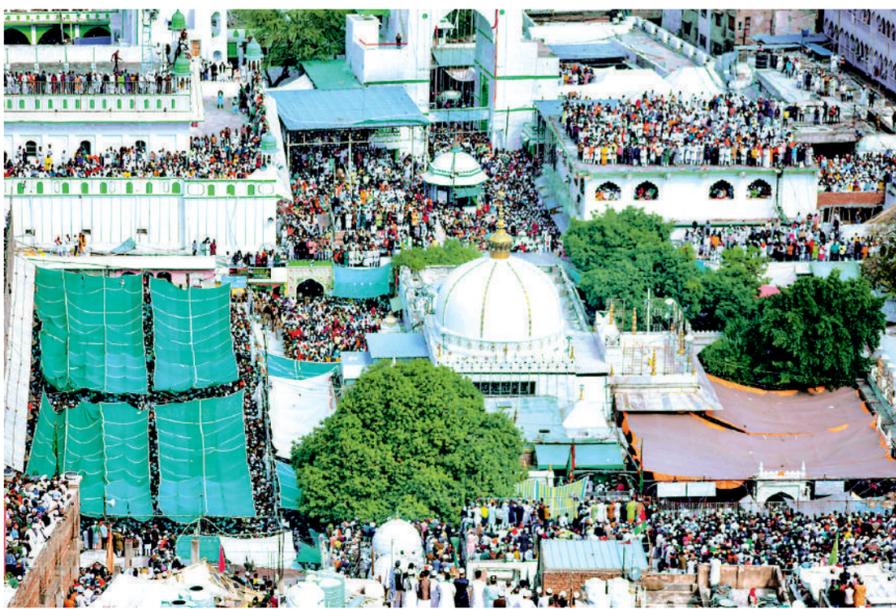
Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad arrested 11 people and seized 13 high-quality pistols and ammunition after carrying out raids in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip off, the Kalachowky unit of ATS nabbed an arms supplier from Mulund on January 31, and his interrogation helped the probe agency unravel a smuggling network, he added.

"Raids were carried out at nine spots in Kandivali and Mulund in Mumbai, Kalyan and Dombivali in Thane district and Uran in Raigad. The operation was conducted over four days and we seized 13 high quality factory-made pistols, 36 bullets. Eleven people have been arrested," the official informed.

COVID PROTOCOL: WHO CARE'S?



Devotees gather to celebrate The Urs festival at Dargah Ajmer Sharif of Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti, in Ajmer, Tuesday.

BJP unveils manifesto, promises 3 free gas cylinders, restoration of mining

Panaji, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday promised to make Goa a USD 50 billion economy in the next 10 years and resolved to provide three free LPG cylinders to every household, restore mining activities besides housing for all as the party unveiled its manifesto for the February 14 assembly polls in the coastal state.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, in presence of chief minister Pramod Sawant and Goa BJP president Sadanand Shet Tanavade, unveiled the manifesto that speaks about "empowering the fu-

ture of Goa, increasing tourism activities, restoring legal mining and eliminating multidimensional poverty in the state.

The ruling party said, "We will through constant efforts propel Goa to a growth trajectory that will enable the state to become a USD 50 billion economy in the next ten years." The BJP, which has fielded candidates in all the 40 assembly constituencies, promised to completely eliminate "multidimensional poverty" in the coastal state in the next five years.

We will deliver social welfare benefits to the poor in a timely manner and through direct benefit transfers. We will increase

the old age pension under DDSSY (Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana) to Rs 3,000 per month, the manifesto said.

In an important assurance, the BJP promised to restore mining activities (suspended since 2018), a key source of revenue for the state, within six months of returning to the power through Goa Mineral Development Corporation and auction of iron ore blocks through "transparent leasing and by following the due process of law".

The party vowed to double the number of annual tourist arrivals in the state in the next five years by harnessing the potential for inland tourism,

medical tourism and promoting heritage and spiritual tourism while augmenting the current infrastructure around adventure sports and beach tourism. The ruling party promised to make Goa an Asian hub for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), a key segment of the tourism industry.

On sports front, the BJP assured to launch Mission Gold Coast to groom an Olympic gold medalist for India from Goa. Wooing women voters, the party said it will provide three free LPG cylinders to every household in Goa (in a year) to ease the financial burden on home-makers.

Chidambaram calls Centre 'no data available government'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

This is a no data available government' said former finance minister P Chidambaram in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday over the ruling dispensation's failure to have the record on oxygen shortage deaths, corpses floating in rivers and migrants walking back home during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Initiating a discussion on the Union budget 2022-23, Chidambaram said unemployment is on the rise in the country and questioned the Centre over the steps taken for the welfare of the common people following reduced subsidies for petroleum, fertiliser, food, among others.

"Welfare has been thrown to the wind for 142 billionaires of this country, he said. Chidambaram spoke immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the debate on the Motion of 'Thanks to the President's address. He said he was speaking eloquently about jobs and employment, and as on March 31, 2021, there were 8.72 lakh vacancies in the central government and the government made 78,264 recruitments, leaving nearly 8 lakh vacancies. "This is the statistic I hope the prime minister will welcome and use in his next speech," he said. On Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech, Chidambaram sar-

castically said, The thing I liked about the finance minister's budget speech is that it was the shortest speech of 90 minutes. I will also keep my reply very short," he said.

"I am a member of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang, which means disruption'. I am worried because in this parliament, a question was asked who are members of Tukde Tukde gang?" and the honourable minister said we have no data available on Tukde Tukde gang," he said. No data is also available on oxygen shortage death, corpses floating in rivers, migrants walking back to their homes and doubling farmers income, which was supposed to happen in 2022.

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