



### BRIEF



Professional wrestler Dalip Singh Rana aka The Great Khali joins BJP, ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, in New Delhi, Thursday.

### Loot

**Gurugram:** A maid sedated a woman and her two daughters and got the house robbed by bringing in four men in Sector 10A area here, police said on Thursday. According to a complaint, the maid Aarti along with her four accomplices held the family hostage on Tuesday evening and ran away with jewellery, Rs 50,000 in cash, watches and two mobile phones. The FIR was lodged at Sector 10A police station on Thursday and efforts are on to nab the accused, SHO Naveen Kumar said.

### Illicit liquor

**Mumbai:** Police have arrested three women on charges of manufacturing and selling illicit liquor in Mumbai, an official said on Thursday. According to the Vakola police official, the women - identified as Rupmani Bai Kadam, Chanabai Dabde and Kalawati Godake - were arrested on Wednesday from the Kalina Kolveerya area in suburban Kalina. During a raid, the police seized illicit liquor from their possession, he said, adding a case was registered against the trio and further investigation was underway.

### No proposal

**New Delhi:** There is no such proposal under consideration of the government to increase man hour work from eight to 12 hours for its establishments, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. No such proposal is under consideration of the government, he said, responding to a query whether government is in the process of increasing the man hour work from 8 hours to 12 hours a day in all government establishments.

### Mishap

**Kota:** Three persons of a family, including a five-year-old boy, were killed on the spot while three women sustained critical injuries after their car rammed into a roadside stationary truck on Baran Jhalawar Mega highway in Jhalawar district on Wednesday night, police said. The three deceased persons were identified as Amit Nagar (28), his son Vasu (5) and Koshaliya Bai (48), all residents of Marayata village under Khanpur police station of Jhalawar district while injured were identified as Mamtai Bai (28), Chamelibai (42) and Sitabai (51) of the same village.

Weather	
High	27
Low	14
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,605.85
SENSEX	58,926.03
BULLION	
GOLD	48,825
SILVER	63,152

### UP FIRST PHASE POLLS

## Nearly 58 % vote amid EVM glitches

Lucknow, Feb 10 (PTI):

About 58 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 5 pm on Thursday in Uttar Pradesh, where polling was held across 58 assembly constituencies in 11 districts.

Polling closed at 6 pm but those already in queue were allowed to vote, Election Commission officials said.

There were reports of technical snags in EVMs at some places, but voting was peaceful, they added. "An average 57.79 per cent polling was witnessed in Uttar Pradesh till 5 pm," an official said.

Additional Chief Election Officer (ACEO) B D Ram Tiwari said, "There were reports of a technical error in EVMs at some places." Those EVMs were being replaced as the reports came in, he added.

On the Samajwadi Party's allegation that poor voters were not allowed to exercise their franchise in Dundukheda village in the Kairana assembly constituency, Tiwari said the district magistrate concerned was



A voter gets her finger inked at a polling station, during the first phase of UP Assembly elections, in Dadri, Thursday.

asked to look into the matter. Till 5 pm, Agra recorded 56.61 per cent polling, Aligarh 57.25 per cent, Baghpat 61.35 per cent, Bulandshahr 60.52 per cent, Gautam Buddha Nagar 54.77 per cent, Ghaziabad 54.77 per cent, Hapur 60.50 per cent, Mathura 58.51 per cent, Meerut 58.52 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 62.14 per cent and Shamli 61.78 per cent, an EC report said.

A report from Ghaziabad said a minor skirmish took place between supporters of BJP leader V K Singh and Congress leader Rajan Kant, allegedly when the

former addressed media persons and talked about the work done by the BJP within the premises of a polling station, and security personnel had to intervene.

In Bulandshahr, a groom reached the Char Khamba polling station in the Sadar assembly segment to cast his vote before joining his marriage procession. The groom, Bahram, after performing the 'Ghuchhadhi' ceremony, reached the polling station on a motorcycle to cast his vote.

Voters in Mathura braved a dense fog in the morning when the polling

### Poll details

58 assembly constituencies in 11 districts voted in first phase. Till 5 pm, Agra recorded 56.61 per cent polling, Aligarh 57.25 per cent, Baghpat 61.35 per cent, Bulandshahr 60.52 per cent, Gautam Buddha Nagar 54.77 per cent, Ghaziabad 54.77 per cent, Hapur 60.50 per cent, Mathura 58.51 per cent, Meerut 58.52 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 62.14 per cent and Shamli 61.78 per cent.

began but visibility improved as the day progressed.

As many as 623 candidates, including 73 women, are in the fray for the first phase, and around 2.28 crore voters, including 1.24 crore men and 1.04 women besides others, are eligible to cast their franchise, state EC officials said.

State ministers whose fate will be decided in the first phase include Shrikant Sharma, Suresh Rana, Sandeep Singh, Kapil Dev Agarwal, Atul Garg and Chowdhury Lakshmi Narain.

Campaigning in the con-

stituencies going to the polls in the first round of the seven-phase election in the politically crucial state ended on Tuesday evening. Leading the campaign for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pitched for a double-engine government for fast-paced development while attacking the Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) combine.

While Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tried to put the spotlight back on the alleged "exodus" of Hindus from Kairana before 2017, SP president Akhilesh Yadav claimed that people have made up their mind to vote out the BJP.

The SP-RLD alliance has centred its electioneering on farmers' issues and has attacked Yogi Adityanath over poll promises.

BSP chief Mayawati, who started the poll campaigning late, reminded the people of her government's track record on law and order in the past.

## 'Congress using General Rawat's cut-outs for votes'

Srinagar (U'khand), Feb 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress on Thursday of abusing former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat when he was alive and using his cut-outs now for votes.

Addressing a rally in Uttarakhand's Srinagar ahead of the February 14 state Assembly polls, Modi said it is the Congress that had asked for proof of surgical strikes against terror hideouts in Pakistan.

"Its leaders in Delhi had asked for proof of the surgical strikes on television," he said. Reminding people that a Congress leader had even called General Rawat a "streetside hooligan", the prime minister said they are full of hatred for the armed forces.

If that was not the case, they would not have "lied" to the armed forces on "One Rank One Pension" for decades, he said, adding that OROP could finally be implemented only when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power at the Centre.



Describing the Congress as a party with a single-minded pursuit for power, Modi said it can never understand the price of "sacrifices". He also charged the Congress with indulging in politics when General Rawat was appointed as the country's first CDS. "The responsibility of giving the Congress a fitting reply in the coming polls for showing disrespect to General Rawat and using his name politically rests on the shoulders of the people of Uttarakhand.

"Won't you give them a strong reply to deter them from repeating what they have done?" the prime minister asked the gathering.

### PATH TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

## RBI maintains status quo

Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday held its key lending rates steady at record low levels for the 10th straight meeting to support a durable recovery of the economy from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to hold the lending rate, or the repo rate, steady at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo, or the rate at which it absorbs excess cash from lenders, unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

The six-member MPC, which has been on pause since August 2020, voted unanimously to maintain



the status quo on the repo rate and by a majority of 5-1 to retain the accommodative policy stance as long as necessary, he said. "Monetary policy actions will be calibrated and well telegraphed," he said, indicating that there will not be any surprises.

"Overall, taking into consideration the outlook for inflation and growth, in particular the comfort provided by improving inflation outlook, the uncertainties related to Omicron and global

spillovers, the MPC was of the view that continued policy support is warranted for a durable and broad-based recovery," he noted.

While a status quo on repo rate was expected, some economists had expected a hike in the reverse repo to re-align it with short-term money market rates.

MPC continuing with the accommodative policy stance was one of the prime reasons Das cited for not hiking the reverse repo rate.

The decision comes days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to up spending to support the economy's world-beating recovery.

## Woman moves HC challenging validity of Sharia court, triple talaq order

Raipur, Feb 10 (PTI):

A woman has filed a petition in the Chhattisgarh High Court, challenging the validity of a Sharia court operating in Raipur and a 'triple talaq' order passed by it against her recently.

The petitioner had complained at a women's police station here against her husband and in-laws, and the counselling at the 'One Stop Sakhi Centre' (which takes up women-related issues) failed.

An FIR was subsequently registered at the police station against the woman's husband and in-laws.

But, the respondent (woman's husband) had proceeded for the 'triple talaq', her counsel Devershi Thakur said on Thursday. The 'Idara-e-Shariya

### What happened earlier

The 'Idara-e-Shariya Islami Court' here last month passed the triple talaq order against the woman and no opportunity was provided to her to be heard, which is violation of the right to life provided under the Constitution of India, the woman said in her plea submitted recently in the HC at Bilaspur. The petition will come up for hearing in due course.

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## Union minister's son granted bail

Noida, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers. The Bhartiya Kisan Union and the Rashtriya Lok Dal expressed displeasure over Mishra's bail. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra renewed her demand for the minister's resignation. The Lucknow bench of the court had reserved its order on January 18 on Ashish Mishra's plea after concluding the hearing through video-conferencing.

## Govt makes three-point seat belts mandatory

### For all front-facing passengers in car

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The government has made it mandatory for automakers to provide three-point seat belts for all front-facing passengers in a car.

The norm will also be applicable for the middle seat in the rear row of a car, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said at a press conference on Thursday.

"I have signed a file yesterday to make it mandatory for automakers to provide three-point seat belts for all the front facing passengers in a

car," the road transport and highways minister said. He did not mention about the date from which the new requirement will come into force.

Presently, only the front seats and two rear seats in most cars produced in the country have three-point seat belts. However, the centre or middle rear seat in these cars come equipped with only a two-point or lap seat belt, similar to the ones provided in aircraft seats. Last month,

the ministry said it will make it mandatory for car-makers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers for enhanced safety of occupants from October this year. As many as 1.5 lakh people die every year in 5 lakh road accidents in the country and need of the hour is to create mass awareness for road safety measures by information dissemination, Gadkari said on Thursday.

### NEW RULES FOR INT'L ARRIVALS

## No RT-PCR test for flight, no quarantine

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Travellers arriving in India won't have to undergo a mandatory seven-day home quarantine or an RT-PCR test on the eighth day from February 14, according to revised guidelines for international arrivals issued on Thursday.

There will be random sampling of 2 per cent of International travellers from all countries on arrival. They can give their samples and will be allowed to leave the airport after that, Union

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Twitter. Instead of the seven-day home quarantine mandated earlier, all travellers will self-monitor their health for 14 days after their arrival, he said while detailing the relaxation in curbs for international arrivals.

Apart from uploading a negative RT-PCR report (taken 72 hours before the journey), there will be an option to upload certificates of the completion of full primary Covid vaccination schedule provided from

countries on a reciprocal basis. The ministry provided a list of 82 such countries. These include the US, UK, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Mexico and the Netherlands. The demarcation of countries 'at-risk' and other countries has been removed. Accordingly, the need for giving samples on port of arrival and waiting till the result is obtained from countries 'at-risk' has been dispensed with.

## Overall COVID-19 situation optimistic: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The overall COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country is optimistic and improving even as some states, including Kerala and Mizoram, are still reporting high positivity rates and are of concern, the Centre said on Thursday.

It also said that a decline in coronavirus infections and positivity rate has been noted across all states, but nearly 40 districts are still reporting an increase in weekly cases and there is a need to maintain vigilance.

Presently, 141 districts have COVID-19 positivity rate over 10 per cent, and 160 districts have positivity rate between 5-10 per cent in India, the government said. It added that Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have over 50,000 active cases.

It also said that the Covid daily positivity in Kerala is still enormously high at 29.57 per cent, adding that the positivity rate in Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim is also of concern.

### NATURE'S BEAUTY

Tulips bloom inside the premises of Mughal Garden, ahead of its opening for general public, at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, Thursday.

### Studies made easy

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# Three arrested for youth's murder

**Bhilai, Feb 10:**

With the arrest of three persons, police claimed to have solved the blind murder case of the youth whose semi-nude body was found at ITI Ground in Khursipar on February 07. Two of the accused are directly involved in the murder while the third one had helped them later on. The accused were friends of the deceased and had killed him after an altercation while boozing at the lonely ground.

It could be recollected here that the semi-nude body of the 27-year-old youth with injuries on face and private parts was recovered from ITI Ground in Khursipar on Monday. The deceased was Monu alias Shyam Kumar (27) son of Deen Bandhu a resident of Oriya Basti, Zone 03, Khursipar. The youth was hit by stones on face and private parts which resulted in his death. Police had recovered clothes, some cash, mobile phone and vehicle keys, which were placed nearby on the ground. The forensic team had collected evidence including the liquor bottles, disposable glasses, water pouches and blood stained stones.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control Room on Thursday, SSP Badri



Narayan Meena informed that as the pants and underwear of the deceased were found properly folded and kept nearby, primarily the crime was considered to be an outcome of illicit relationships. Soon the investigation team got information about the illicit relationships of the deceased. Accordingly, police quizzed the relatives, friends and others but any significant clue was not found. Police examined the CCTV footage, call records and other technical inputs but did not reach any significant conclusion. During investigation, Constable D Prakash of Khursipar Police Station received information regarding two bikers who were seen that night near the office of a local transporter located at Canal Road. The guard had seen them coming from the direction of ITI Ground. They had

stopped near the office and had even fallen down from the bike. Later, a third youth had come there and they had left after some conversation. Police checked the CCTV footage but the suspects were not visible clearly. As the guard had seen the third youth, police searched him and questioned him about the bikers. The youth detailed the appearance of the bikers as well as their bike. On the basis of this information, police started searching the suspects and soon a similar bike was found in Oriya basti. Owner of the bike was an acquaintance of the deceased. Police immediately took the suspect Balram Kshatriya into custody. During interrogation, he confessed to have committed the crime. He further revealed that one Jhunan Sahu also helped him in

murder. The accused disclosed that Balram's sister had recently given birth to a baby. On Sunday around 22:30 hrs, Balram accompanied by Jhunan Sahu and the deceased Monu Kumar had gone to ITI ground for a liquor party. While consuming liquor, Monu questioned Balram why he has not become a father even after two years of marriage. Monu further made an objectionable comment on Balram's physical health. Balram got angered and attacked Monu with a stone. Jhunan also attacked Monu with another stone. They pulled out his lower pants and underwear and inflicted injuries on Monu's private parts. The accused stoned Monu to death and thereafter properly folded his clothes and placed it nearby to misguide the police. Balram and Jhunan then escaped on their bike and

contacted their friend Yashwant Yadav. Yashwant provided fresh clothes to the accused after which they reached Mashuriya Pond where they burnt their blood stained clothes. Police have recovered the partially burnt belt, chappal, clothes and ATM card from the pond. Police have also seized Balram's bike which was used in the crime. After committing the crime, the accused even attended the last rites and other programme's at the residence of the deceased and carefully watched the police investigations.

The accused Balram Kshatriya (30) son of Ranjeet Kshatriya a resident of Kanti Nagar, Zone 3, Khursipar; Jhunan Sahu (32) son of Jagdeesh Ram Sahu a resident of Kanti Nagar, Zone 3, Khursipar and Yashwant Kumar Yadav (26) son of Pawan yadav a resident of Lavkush Nagar, ACC Jamul have been booked under the provisions mentioned in Sections 302, 201, 34 of IPC. Inspector Durgesh Sharma, Sub Inspector Satish Sahu, ASI Lakhan Lal Sahu, Constable D Prakash, Rakesh Chaudhary, Rakesh Anna and Civil Team members Satyendra Madhariya and Arvind Mishra played vital role in solving the case.

# Webinar on 'An Introduction to Pharmaceutical Quality Systems' organised

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy, Kumhari organized a webinar on the topic "An Introduction to Pharmaceutical Quality Systems" on February 09, 2022. The session was deliberated by Abhijeet Mihir, Quality Specialist, Parexel International Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Abhijeet Mihir in his lecture on "An Introduction to Pharmaceutical Quality Systems" shared the Quality Management System, ICH Guidelines, and Regulations followed by Quality Control Laboratory. Dr Anshita Gupta, Associate Professor and Principal, SRIP, Kumhari addressed and motivated students to take this platform as opportunity to get acquainted with importance of pharmaceutical quality system in industry. Suman Shrivastava, Assistant Professor, SRIP, Kumhari pro-



posed a vote of thanks at the end of the session. Dr JK Upadhyay, Vice Chairman, SRI, MK Shrivastava, Director, SRIP, Kumhari, Dr Anshita Gupta, Principal SRIP encouraged students to participate and get learned about recent advances.

# Several BJP activists join Congress, Devendra welcomes with signature Gamcha

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Former BJYM Secretary Rakesh Srivastava (Bholu), Sandeep Sharma, social media in-charge of Shri Ram Jannotsav Samiti, Prashant Tiwari and hundreds of other BJP workers joined the Congress party on Thursday. Impressed by the working style of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav, a large number of office bearers of Shri Ram Jannotsav Samiti and BJP Khursipar Mandal entered the Congress, informed a press communique. MLA Devendra Yadav and Bhilai District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar welcomed everyone to the party fold by presenting them the signature gamcha of Congress and a bouquet. The



Banchore, Youth and Sports Department in-charge Aditya Singh, MIC member Rita Singh Gera, Khursipar's Zone President Bhupendra Yadav, Executive Block President Janardan Prasad Congress workers including former block president D Kamaraju, councillor K Jagdish, Shubham Jha, M Lakshmi Gopal, D Nagamani, Raja Devangan, Ajit Singh, Pramod Baitha, Kolaraju and Siyaram Kaushik.

# Vijay Baghel sets stage for PM's physical public rally in Jalandhar on Feb 14



**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls 2020 the prime Minister Narendra Modi will be addressing three rallies, out of which the first is scheduled in Jalandhar on February 14. Member of parliament from Durg Vijay Baghel is the in-charge of the 9 assembly constituencies that fall under Jalandhar Lok Sabha. For making the rally successful a meeting was organised at the BJP office. Vijay Baghel, Gujarat MP Vinod Chawda, Punjab BJP General Secretary Subhash Sharma,

Chhattisgarh MLA Saurabh Singh, Jalandhar district expatriate in-charge Amit took meeting of the office bearers of BJP Jalandhar City, district head, all district working committee members Member, Mandal Head and all Mandal Executive Members, District Mahila Morcha President and all Mahila Morcha Executive Members, District Youth President and all Youth Executive Members, District SC Morcha President and office bearers. MP Vijay Baghel, in his remarks, while enthu-

ing all the office bearers said that fortunately we have received the programme of Modi ji in spite of his very busy schedule and so it is the responsibility of all of us to unite in making this program a success. Modi ji's meeting will pave the way for BJP's victory. He reminded the office bearers that Punjab Government had made all efforts and conspiracy to prevent Prime Minister's successful program in Ferozepur; that shortcoming has to be filled by all of us together through this meeting.

# Anjani Kumar interacts with participants of ED (Works) Trophy

**Bhilai, Feb 10:**

Anjani Kumar, Executive Director (Works), SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant visited the workshop at HRD Centre (HRDC) on Thursday to interact with the participants of ED (Works) Trophy for Works Skill Competition 2021-22 and the Winners of the CII Regional competition held at Kolkata in the previous year. He encouraged the participants to take part in the competition enthusiastically and bring more laurel to BSP by showcasing their talents at regional and national level. He interacted with a cross section of contestants and previous years awardees of CII regional competition. Sanjay Dhar CGM (HRD & BE) along with his HRD team gave a brief and the importance of this works Skill Competition while taking ED (Works) through the various sections of the workshops.

This year the Trophy for Works Skill Competition at SAIL-BSP 2021-22 for Non-Executive Employees is now being



organized in the 10 different Trades at HRD Centre Workshops from February 09 to 19, 2022. These trades are Fitting, Welding, Turning, Machining, Electrical, Computer, Hydraulics, PLC, Carpentry and Material Handling.

A total of 236 participants from across the Plant and Mines have registered for the competition through BSP e-Sahyog online portal to showcase their talent and technical skill while doing the various tests jobs at HRDC Workshop. The ED (Works) Trophy for Work

Skills Competition was instituted in the year 2008-09 to instill in its employees a spirit of learning and to test their skills and is being organized every year since then. The objective of the competition is to recognize, promote and showcase the skill and talent of BSP employees at plant and mines as well as at Regional/National level. Since its inception, the competition has been evoking good response amongst BSP employees.

BSP Employees have since registered their presence by securing awards almost every year

in Regional and National Work Skills Competition conducted by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Seven employees from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant had won awards in 33rd Eastern Regional Work skills Competition, organized by CII Eastern Region. The competition was held between December 1-3, 2021 at ITI Tollygunge, MCKV Institute of Engineering and Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira (Community Training Centre), Howrah.

Employees who won laurels for BSP at the

National level include Sevakram, Opr (SMS 3) in the Fitter trade, Dipak Kumar Pandit, ACT (AR Shop) & Gopikishan, Tech (SMS 2) in the Hydraulics trade, Gopal Ram, Sr Tech (BF) in the Machinist trade, Manjha Hansdah, ACT (BRM) in the Turner trade, Rameshwar Singh Gajendra, Tech (Rajhara) and Venkatraman Madharia, C/man (F & P shop) in the Carpentry trade. The Human Resource Development department of Bhilai Steel Plant provides technical as well as managerial training to its employees and stakeholders like MSMEs, Students undergoing professional courses, faculty from educational institutions, Indian Railways professionals, IAS probationers, etc.

HRDC, formerly known as BTI or Bhilai Technical Institute that was established in the year 1957 to provide technical training to the upcoming 1 MT Integrated Steel Plant, has focussed on Enhancing Engineering Skills in various technical trades in its three workshops.

# Obituary Baldau Prasad Pandey



**Bhilai:** Baldau Prasad Pandey, a native of village Parpodi, left for heavenly abode on Thursday. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence situated at LIG-49, Housing Board Colony, Bhilai Charoda on February 11 around 12:00 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at local muktidham. He was the father of Rajesh Pandey, Rituraj Pandey, Padma Sharma, Sunita Tripathi and father-in-law of Advocate Arvind Tripathi.

# 'Ek aur lockdown' goes viral on social media

**Bhilai, Feb 10:**

Possibly no one on this earth wants another lockdown, be it on the streets; at work or even in the dreams. Based on this thought, Swayamsiddha (NGO) has produced a short film "Ek aur Lockdown" which has gone viral on social media. This short film has been written and directed by Dr Sonali Chakraborty. Aimed to bring awareness for vaccine, this film gained significant number of views within a short period after being released on YouTube on the occasion of Basant Panchami.

District Collector Dr Narendra Sarveshwar Bhure has also given his message through this film and appealed to the people to get inoculated. Messages of senior journalists, editors, Bhilai Corporation Mayor Neeraj Pal and other dignitaries have been included in this short film. All of them have urged the people to



get vaccinated to avoid lockdowns in future.

Sonali stated that the underprivileged and slum dwellers were the worst hit during pandemic and lockdown. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of every citizen to get vaccinated so that the entire society could be saved from the pandemic and

children of slums could also make their dreams come true. This film beautifully shows the children of slums urging everyone to get a vaccine, else they will not be able to survive and their dreams will be locked down forever. Mayor Neeraj Pal appreciated the initiatives of Swayamsiddha and said

that the Bhilai Municipal Corporation is always ready for the cause of social awareness.

Sonali further informed that another branch of Swayamsiddha's slum class "Kacchi Dhoop" has been opened in the slums of Sector 6. Students of Kachi Dhoop including Shilpi Sharma, Varsha Netam, Pratap Singh and Ajay Deshlahra were present.

The film was launched during a simple function in the presence of Menaka Verma, Rita Vaishnav, Deepa Singh, Neera Lakhera, Anju Chandniha, Bipasha Halder, Somali Sharma, Madhurima Rai, Akshuna Vaishnav and Neelima Shukla. This short film was written and directed by Dr Sonali Chakraborty while Bipasha Halder is the camera person. Sandeep Chakraborty, Sushila Sahu, Moushumi Tandon and Laxmi Sahu extended special support in the film.

# JRD School's original beauty being preserved during renovation

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Jhaduram Dewangan School located on GE Road has been attracting the attention of people due to its beautiful architecture. The alumni of this school are holding significant positions in the country and abroad. It was built in 1904 during British rule. After 120 years, the work is going on for upgrading it as Swami Atmanand Model Hindi Medium School. Renovation is being done to provide better infrastructure without losing its beautiful architecture. Its renovation work is going on at a cost of about Rs 1.5 crore. On Thursday, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the construction works. He said that according to the expectations of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, a model Hindi school is to be built in every district under Swami Atmanand Yojana. These institutions will be excellent in infrastructure and educational level from every point of view. JRD School has been selected for this project in Durg. Best in terms of infrastructure and in terms of quality has to be done. Nupur Rashi Panna, Additional Collector, informed that at pres-



ent the work of renovation of the school rooms is going on. Labs are being improved. Landscaping will also be done to enhance the beauty of the school. Collector said that necessary works must be included in the school from the point of view of infrastructure and from the point of view of quality of education. He said that children study with more interest in better infrastructure. He said that while improving the school infrastructure and mobilizing new facilities, the experiments being done in other districts and the infrastructure of the best educational institutions of the state should also be taken into consideration. By following more and more 'best practices', the quality of education can be improved. It

is noteworthy that this school has a capacity of about 1000 students. The Collector said that the beauty of JRD School lies in its beautiful architecture. While preserving its beauty, the building has to be decorated. He asked the Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi to regularly monitor the construction works and the activities for introducing the best innovations in this school. Collector also inspected the construction work of Swami Atmanand English Medium School located in Deepak Nagar. New construction work is being done with renovation. Collector gave instructions to do the work fast and maintain quality so that teaching can be done smoothly in the new session.

## State's annual action plan worth Rs 338.79 crore approved

**For the betterment of health services**

**Approval received under 15th Finance Commission**

**Healthcare facilities in Chhgarh to be improved and expanded**

**State-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain chaired the meeting of the State-Level Committee, constituted for the implementation of the health grant through 15th Finance Commission, at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan today. Under the 15th Finance Commission, Government of India has approved a proposal of Rs 338.79 crore for Chhattisgarh. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has given instructions to prepare a detailed action plan for providing better



health services in the state.

Under the approved action plan, construction of sub-health centres, primary health centres, community health centres, improvement and expansion of various testing facilities, upgradation of health and wellness centers in rural and urban areas, establishment of polyclinics to provide expert medical services in urban areas will be en-

sured. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Renu G. Pillai, Principal Secretary Health Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Secretary Health and Family Welfare Shehla Nigar, Secretary Finance Alarmlingam D., Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla and other senior officers were present.

## Man duped of Rs 50,000

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: In a strange fraud reported in Arang police station, unidentified fraud duped a man in Bank of Baroda of branch in Arang by luring him that the installment of the tractor purchased through the bank has not been paid.

According to police, complainant Hemlal Tandon received a call from mobile phone number 62670-95349 wherein fraud asked him of not paying the installed from

the bank through Mahendra Finance Company.

The fraud further told Hemlal that not clearing the installment immediately will lead to seizure of his tractor. Saying so, the fraud made Hemlal deposit Rs 50,000 in the bank account he had sent.

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

## Fraud dupes 5 of Rs 99,500

● On pretext of government job

Raipur, Feb 10: In a blatant instance of fraud complained in Arang police station, a fraud has reportedly duped five persons of Rs 99,500 on pretext of providing government jobs but later refused to return the money. According to police, accused Hussain Rizwan, December 14, 2010 lured complainant Anil Devnath and four others of appointing them in the post of GD assistant in the PWD. Saying so, the fraud collected Rs 99,500 from all of them promising early appointment. However the promise was not fulfilled and now the accused is straightway refus-

ing to return the money and is also threatening to kill them.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420, 506 IPC against the accused and further investigation is now underway.

Iron bars lifted

Raipur: Unidentified thieves escaped with 2 tonnes of iron bar besides an under construction bridge in village Bendri at NH-53. The theft was complained in Rakhi police station on February 3 after police registered an offence under Section 379 IPC against unidentified thieves and further investigation is now underway.

## Relaxation in restrictions imposed on public activities

Collector issues order

**Dhabas located on the national highway or main road to be able to operate for trucks, buses and other transport vehicles even after 12 o'clock in the night**

Raipur, Feb 10: In view of the decline in cases of COVID-19 infection in the district, Collector and District Magistrate Sourabh Kumar today issued a new order, giving relaxation in the restrictions which were imposed on public activities. According to the order issued by the Collector today, hotels, restaurants, dhabas, bakery items, food courts and other food related establishments can operate till 12 midnight.

The dhabas located on the national highway or main road outside the municipal corporation and other urban bodies will be able to operate for trucks, buses and other transport vehicles even after 12 o'clock in the night. However, organizing all

types of dharnas, rallies and processions under Raipur district will remain prohibited. According to the order of Chhattisgarh government religious, sports, cultural and other social programmes (marriage and Dashgatra etc.) will be allowed with 50 percent of the maximum capacity at the venues.

For gathering of 100 to 200 persons, it would be mandatory to provide information before at the nearest police station and zone office of urban body a day before the event. Prior written permission of the District Collector will be mandatory for presence of more than 200 persons in the programmes. It will be mandatory to use masks besides maintaining physical distancing in public places. In case of violation, the prescribed fine can be imposed as per the notification issued by the State Government. Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Municipal Corporation, police station will be authorized to follow the above instructions. Refusal to pay fine will result in legal action.

All malls, gyms, cinema halls, auditoriums, li-

braries, swimming pools and other venues under Raipur district can be operated with 50 percent capacity till further orders. Passengers coming from outside to Raipur Railway Station, Inter-State Bus Stand and Airport, will not need to show RTPCR negative test report of last 72 hours on showing final COVID-19 vaccination certificate. Any person with complaints of cold, cough, fever, difficulty in breathing, loss of taste or smell, diarrhoea, vomiting or body ache, can undergo COVID-19 test at the nearest center and go for home quarantine till the test report is received.

Any area with density of COVID-19 positive patients will be declared as a Containment Zone and it will be mandatory for all the people of the said area to follow all the guidelines related to the Containment Zone. Citizens coming from abroad should necessarily give information about the arrival to the nearest health center, district control room, revenue officer and the concerned civic body. It will be mandatory to follow the COVID rules laid down by the health department of state government in this regard.

## Quick implementation of CM's announcement

**10% plots will be reserved in industrial areas for other backward classes**

**Department of Commerce and Industries issued notification in this regard**

**Plots will be given to the OBCs at the rate of 10% of the land interest rate and 1% of the land rent**

Raipur, Feb 10: Taking prompt action on the announcement of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day, a notifica-

tion has been issued by the state government amending the "Industrial Policy-2019-2024". As per the amendment, 10 per cent land will be reserved for OBCs in industrial areas which will be made available at 10 per cent rate of the land interest rate and 1 per cent land rent. This is being done to promote entrepreneurship among people of other backward classes.

According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from Mahanadi Bhawan, 10 per cent land blocks will be reserved for OBCs in all industrial areas maintained by the Industries Department and Chhattisgarh State

Industrial Development Corporation Limited for the establishment of industry and service enterprises. This land will be made available at 10 per cent rate of land interest rate and 1 per cent land rent.

The period of reservation will be for two years from the appointed date or the date of establishment of the industrial area, whichever is later. The amount of plot-land will be as per the eligibility rules and provisions mentioned in "Chhattisgarh Industrial Land and Building Management Rules-2015". These amendments shall be deemed to have come into force from the date of issue of this notification.

## TEDDY BEAR DAY



A girl selecting Teddy Bear of her choice on occasion of Valentine Day here on Thursday.

## Coronavirus: 1,219 new cases in Chhattisgarh, 10 deaths

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: Chhattisgarh on Wednesday reported 1,219 new COVID-19 cases, which raised its tally to 11,42,986, while 10 patients succumbed to the infection, pushing the death toll to 13,971, an official said.

The state's positivity rate is 3.29 per cent, he said. The number of recoveries reached 11,18,420 after 128 people were discharged from hospitals and 1,912 completed their home isolation during the day, leaving the state with

an active tally of 10,595.

"Raipur recorded 164 new cases, followed by Durg 94, Rajnandgaon 91, Bilaspur 78, Dhamtari 70, Korba 69, Kondagaon 59, Jashpur 58 and Raigarh 41, among other districts. With 37,098 swab samples examined during the day, the COVID-19 test count in the state went up to 1,65,99,978," the official said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,42,986, new cases 1,219, death toll 13,971, recovered 11,18,420, active cases 10,595, total tests 1,65,99,978.

## Two arrested under Excise Act

Raipur: Two persons have been arrested under Excise Act from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, identified as Bhumia Markam, was arrested by Khamtarai police from Derapara locality in Rawanbhata after he was nabbed carrying 50 bottles of country liquor. The other one, identified as Anil Das, was arrested by Arang police from Ranisagar locality from where he was nabbed carrying 35 bottles of country liquor. Both the accused were later under Section 34-2 of Excise Act by respective police stations.

## More than 12 months GST collection in ten months



Raipur, Feb 10: The Corona period has proved to be completely ineffective in the matter of GST collection. The amount received in the form of Central GST in Chhattisgarh in the last ten months has exceeded the amount received even in the 12 months of the financial year 2020-21. In the ten months of the financial year 2021-22 i.e. from April to January, the state

has received GST of 10,553 crore, which is 926 crore more than the 12 months of the financial year 2020-21. GST officials said that the biggest role in the increase in GST collection is the steep rise in steel prices. According to the information received from the GST officials, in the financial year 2020-21, the state had received an amount of 9627 crore as Central GST. In the financial year 2021-22, from April to January itself, the state has got Rs 10,533 crore as Central GST. In this way, there is a steady increase in the case of GST collection. Strict action is also being taken

by the GST Department against

the GST evaders.

### GST recovery can be done without giving notice

There has been a big amendment in the GST rules. Under this, in many cases, the recovery officer can make recovery with the trader without giving any notice. Departmental officials said that if the tax invoice shown in the form is less than the invoice shown, then the GST officers can take action against the traders who filed the return. According to the information, there are two

returns in the GST return, GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B. If the annual turnover of the company is more than five crore, then the company has to file returns every month. The first return is GSTR-1, which pertains to invoice of sales. The second GSTR-3B pertains to the payment of GST. GSTR-1 has to be filed by the 11th of the next month of the transaction and GSTR-3B has to be filed by the 20th of the following month.

## Bhoomi puja of drain construction



Raipur, Feb 10: Kuldeep Juneja, MLA and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board performed Bhoomipujan of drain and culvert construction work near Dr. Pradeep Jain's house on Mandi-Narayana Hospital Road on February 9. It is to be known that this road connects Sector 5, in which the movement of the residents of the colony was

closed for the last 4 years due to damage to the drain. After getting information about this, MLA Kuldeep Juneja has released funds for the construction of culvert from the amount of MLA fund. Due to the construction of the drain, there is a wave of happiness among the residents of the colony.

Ward Corporator Pramod Sahu, former Corporator Jasbir Dhillon, Alderman Sunil Bhuwal, Devendra Nagar Resident Association, President, Manoj Rathi and former District President Rajendra Pappu Banjare were present.

## Highly complex coronary bypass and valve transplant surgery successfully performed on 50-year-old patient

● Another achievement of ACI

Raipur, Feb 10: The Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery Department of the Advanced Cardiac Institute at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital has added another feather to its cap by doing extremely complex coronary bypass and valve transplant surgery on a 50-year-old patient resident of Pipraud (Raipur). Patient's left atrium had become as hard as a porcelain vessel. The size of the left atrium of the patient had become bigger than the size of the heart. Not only this, there was a blockage in the coronary artery of the patient as well as the mitral valve and tricuspid valve were also damaged. In view of so many



complications of heart-related diseases and the risk involved during the operation, Dr Krishnakant Sahu, Head of the Department of Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery and team saved patient's life by performing complex heart surgery i.e. two opera-

tions of the heart for 6 hours. Ten days after operation the patient is fine and is ready to go home, Dr Sahu said.

Dr Sahu said that the patient had come to him with a complaint of breathlessness, chest pain and heart palpitation few

days back. According to Dr Sahu he found in preliminary investigations such as echocardiography and coronary angiography, that this patient has a blockage in the coronary artery and its mitral valve stenosis and leakage in the tricuspid valve (regurgitation). Chest X-ray revealed that the size of the patient's heart had become very large. Generally, the larger the size of the heart, the weaker the patient's heart and the risk increases during the operation. Its CT cardiothoracic ratio was greater than 0.8. The normal CT ratio is 0.4 to 0.5. This condition is called severe cardiomegaly. When this patient was told about two simultaneous operations - coronary bypass and valve transplant, as well as its very high risk, the patient and family refused the operation and

went away but after a few days they came and agreed for the operation.

Two operations of the patient were done simultaneously. Bypassed coronary artery first performed with saphenous vein (GSV) graft. After that the patient's heart was opened in open heart surgery in which damaged mitral valve was removed and the metal prosthetic valve was implanted and the tricuspid valve was repaired. The size of the left atrium of the patient was 15x15 cm which is called an aneurysmal giant left atrium. It had become larger than the size of a normal heart (12 x 8.5 x 6 cm).

Not only this, the wall of the left atrium had completely hardened like a porcelain vessel due to the deposition of calcium

which made it impossible to cut the wall of the left atrium for operation. Therefore the method of operation had to be changed. According to Dr Sahu this is the first case of left atrium (heart) hardening like porcelain. It is called porcelain left atrium. Moreover about 100 to 150 grams of blood clot was removed inside the patient's heart. Such patient had a very high chance of being paralyzed. This operation was done at free of cost under the health assistance scheme. The team which carried out the operation comprised Dr Krishnakant Sahu, Dr. Nishant Singh Chandel, Cardiac Anesthetist Dr Tanya, Cardiac Perfusionist Chandan and Digeshwar, Cardiac Technician Bhupendra, Nursing Staff Rajendra, Narendra and Chovaram.

**आयुर्वेद**  
**आयुष्यमान**

**रतन्स आयुर्वेदिक समाधान**

प्र. मेरी दोस्तों की तुलना में मेरा शारीरिक विकास औसत ही है। क्या करूं? - राजेश कुमार, महासमुन्द्र.

उ. ग्रंथि-विकार या हार्मोनल असंतुलन से भी शारीरिक विकास प्रभावित होता है। चाहे तो पाचन क्रिया ठीक कर ग्रंथियों को सक्रिय करने से 'हाईटॉप' सिरप सुबह-शाम सेवन कर सकते हैं। स्ट्रेचिंग वाले व्यायाम करें।

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## CM pays tribute to the tribal leader Amar Shaheed Gundadhur

On the occasion of Bhoomkaal Diwas

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Fe 10: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the martyr and tribal hero Shaheed Gundadhur of Chhattisgarh, on Bhoomkaal Memorial Day. He garlanded the picture of Shaheed Gundadhur, in a ceremony held at his residence office. Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Sori was also present on the occasion.

Baghel said that even before the revolt of 1857, the voice of protest was raised against the atrocities of British Rulers in the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh.



Tribal Heroes played an important role in leading these protests; they sacrificed everything for their motherland. Under the leadership of one of these heroes, Amar Shaheed Gundadhur, the tribals in Bastar fought resolutely against the British rule for

water, forest and land (Jal-Jungle-Zameen) in 1910. His sacrifices will always be a source of inspiration and courage for the tribal people, inspiring them to claim their rights and empowering them to raise voice against exploitation. Baghel further said that

Chhattisgarh Government is committed to protect the interests and rights of the tribals. The government has taken various decisions in this direction, including the returning of the land acquired from tribal farmers of Lohandiguda, to give forest rights on a large scale and to provide a fair price for forest produce to the forest dwellers. Initiatives and decisions of state government have created various sources of income for tribal people and has also improved their standard of living. Chief Minister said that Amar Shaheed Gundadhur's sacrifices, courage and patriotism will always inspire people of tribal communities to protect their rights.

## Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights' held

At IIT Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai organized a one-day online workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - Patents and Designs filing process" in association with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM), Nagpur under 'National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)'.

The aim of this workshop was to develop the understanding about patents, designs and the filing process. Salient points covered during the course of the workshop included the concept of patents, and its different types; the purpose of filing IPRs in different categories; and the advantages



of filing patents for researchers and innovators and its long-time effects. The workshop was followed by a question-answer session, wherein various queries of the participants were addressed.

Dr. Pankaj P. Borkar, Dy. Controller of Patents & Designs, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry - Govt. of India was the speaker on the occasion. Prof. Santosh Biswas (Head, Dept. of Electrical

Engineering and Computer Science); Dr. Sanjib Banerjee (Convener IIC) coordinated the workshop and Dr. Barun Gorain (FIC, DoRD) and Shri Ashok K Gupta, Deputy Registrar (R&D) convened the workshop. Dr. B. K. Murthy (CEO, IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation) was the mentor of the workshop and it was held under the patronage of Prof. Rajat Moona,



Director, IIT Bhilai. Above 120 participants attended the workshop.

## 'Encroachers on railway land would not be rendered homeless'

Delegation of encroachers meets Collector

Bansal assures them of proper rehabilitation holding talks with Railway authorities

Jagdalpur, Feb 10: Collector Rajat Bansal assured the encroachers on Railway land that they will not be rendered homeless and would be given sufficient time to remove their encroachment and would hold talks with the senior railway officers before being displaced. On getting notice about removal from the railway land, a delegation of encroachers from the site urged for relief from the Collector and informed him that the rail-

way has issued notices to all the encroachers to remove their encroachments.

On this Collector Rajat Bansal said that he would take initiatives with railways to provide sufficient time for removal of encroachment and would also apprise them about their rehabilitation. He said that CM Bhupesh Baghel has taken the same into cognizance and directed to hold talks with the senior railway officers for rehabilitation prior to removal of encroachment.

At the time of Collector while holding talks with the encroachers, SDM (Revenue) Dinesh Nag was directed to carry out survey by forming combined team of officers from Revenue, Forest and Nagar Nigam and Railway officials. He asked the encroachers to keep with

them the IDs of their family members and other documents related to electricity and tap-water connection, so that actual encroachers can be identified. He appealed encroachers to keep patience and assured them that the administration would not act in anyway strict manner with them. Some people while holding talks informed that some outsiders try to provoke the people here and misbehave with administrative officers and clarified that none of the encroachers have hand in any of the violent activities which have taken place so far.

Collector asked all encroachers to maintain peace and have patience and do not come into influence of any such anti-social elements or outsiders, so that this problem can be solved easily.

## Two arrested with illicit liquor



Dongargaon, Feb 10: Two accused carrying illicit liquor were arrested by Dongargaon police on Wednesday evening near Fourwara chowk and they seized 30 quarter bottles of country liquor worth Rs 2400 from their possession.

In addition to this by making temporary checkpoint, one Udeshwar Markam S/o Jamfu Markam (19) on motorcy-

cle bearing No. CG 08 AF 3302 was arrested from near Khuji Sheonath River bridge and a total of 32 quarter bottles of country liquor worth Rs 2560 was seized from his possession. Since the two were not having any valid documents of carrying illicit liquor, they were taken into arrest and taken on judicial remand under section 34 (2) of Excise Act.

## Six including a minor arrested

On charges of stealing bikes and then hiding it at different places



Dongargaon, Feb 10: The denizens of city disturbed over frequent theft of two-wheelers have now got a relief as the Dongargaon police succeeded in nabbing the gang of thieves involved into it. In this gang, there are total six accused including a minor as well. The Police informed that the accused after stealing the bikes used to keep it secretly hidden at different places. It was on massive scrutiny and investigation by the police that they manage to arrest all six accused and seized total 11 motorcycles hidden at different places, including one inside Sheonath River sand dunes and other places.

In this case, the complainant DK Sahu R/o

Salhe thana Dongargaon filed report last on Jan 14, 2022 that his Bajaj Platina bike bearing No. CG 08 AG 0163 from his house at around 10:00 in the night. It was based upon this report that the senior officers were informed and matter was taken under investigation.

It was taking the issue of lifting of bikes from houses in city seriously, inspector Rajesh Kumar led a team and constantly collected information. In-between they came to know that one Khomendra alias Majnu Sonkar of Gram Rudragaoon took him into arrest while trying to search for a customer to sell his stolen motorcycle at

lesser rate. On arrest of Khamendra the Police came to know that the gang of thieves is involved in hiding of vehicles after the theft.

On this SDOP Arjun Kurre and TI Dongargaon addressing press conference informed that a total of six accused including a minor have been arrested and as per locations given by them a total of 11 stolen motorbikes were recovered from different locations.

All the accused were booked under Section 41 (1+4) and under section 379 of IPC and seized all the vehicles and the accused were sent to judicial remand.

In this entire action, SI Pradeep Kanwar, head constable Mohan Chandel, Rana Prasanna, R Manoj Thakur, Dharmendra Singh, Devcharan Verma, Chowa Lal Yadav, Yogesh Sahu, Rakesh Sahu, and a 112 driver Ravi gave valuable help.

## District Administration holds camp in Maraiguda



Konta, Feb 10: Aadhar registration of villagers was done by the district administration by setting up a camp in Maraiguda (forest) of Konta block. In the camp organized, apart from Aadhaar registration of remaining beneficiaries of Palodi, Karigundam, the work of name modification in ration card was done. At the same time, Aadhar cards were provided to

the beneficiaries who had registered in the facility organized in Kistaram in the past. Along with this, his Ayushman registration was also done.

It may be noted that the residents of village Palodi Gram Panchayat Karigundam reached the district headquarters and appeared before Collector Vineet Nandanwar and submitted an application and in-

formed about not having Aadhar card.

On which Collector Nandanwar, showing sensitivity, had given instructions to register Aadhaar of villagers as well as register ration card and Ayushman by setting up a base camp at Maraiguda (forest) at the earliest.

The problems of the villagers were resolved by organizing camps by the administration. With the creation of Aadhar card, the villagers can now get the benefits of the schemes very easily. Along with this, they will be able to take advantage of ration card registration, health card registration, various pension schemes etc.

## Police control rooms, CCTV cameras to be installed

In Rajim Punni Mela

Police in Civil uniform for safety of women

Gariyaband, Feb 10: SP Gariyaband JR Thakur convened a meeting of all TIs along with the gazetted officers in context of preparations for Rajim Maghi Punni Mela. In view of this large scale fair, apart from installing CCTV cameras, the traffic security force to streamline traffic and establishing of Police Control Centres on Gariyaband Road, and from Rajim to Fingeshwar Road will be done. In view of security of females in the fair, women in civil clothes will be deputed. There will be Police control centre in the fair as well, so that in case of



any incident, it can be reported easily and on which the police can take action immediately.

During the meeting, all TIs were directed to sort out cases related to crime, that of missing persons and the pending cases. Apart from this the TIs

were asked to speed up rounding off the main accused and others in the fake chit fund company cases in the district. Apart from this in order to streamline traffic, the TIs were asked to take strict action against those driving three on two-wheelers,

riding without helmet and without valid vehicle documents and identify black-spots in the city and find amicable solution to rectify the mistakes.

He also directed the TIs to form a team and conduct evening patrolling on foot to spruce up beet sys-

tem.

Meeting was attended by Addl.SP Chandresh Singh Thakur, SDOP Gariyaband Pushpendra Nayak, DSP Nisha Sinha, reserved Inspecto Umesh Rai, TI Gariyaband Inspector Satiyendra Shyam, TI Rajim Inspector Santosh Bhuarya, TI Deobhog Inspector Basant Baghel, TI Mainpur Inspector Harshwardhan Bais, TI Churra- SI Sachin Gumasta, TI Fingeshwar, FI Panduka SI Bhushan Chandrakar, TI Payalikhand SI Chandan Markam, ASI Human Dhruv from Thana Fingeshwar, Head constable Dhaneshwar Dhruv from Thana Piparchedi and ASI Sataur Ram Netam from Thana Indgaon and ASI Indal Sahu from Thana Amlipadar and others were present.

## Internet services affected upto Chowki

Dongargaon, Feb 09: Due to sheer negligence on part of PHE department and its supervisor, the OFC cable of BSNL got damaged while shifting of pipeline near New Bus Stand, Fourwara Chowk here on Wednesday. Due to his the internet services from Dongargaon to Aandi were disrupted for quite some time and it is by starting it with another route by BSNL employees that the services were continued. On the other hand the internet services from Dongargaon to Chowki remained affected throughout the day.



Bus Stand, Fourwara Chowki on Wednesday and in this the BSNL 48 fibre OFC cable also got cut since morning of Feb 09.

He informed that after cutting of this OFC cable, internet services in Gram Mohad, Kumarda, Mandbazar, Ambagarh Chowki, Mohala, Manpur, Seetagaon, Aundhi got disrupted for hours. But this was shifted on other route,

but the internet services upto Chowki remained disrupted.

PHE department was informed about it through letter and were asked to carry out the work with due precaution, but due to sheer carelessness on part of the department and its contractor that the internet and telecommunication services in the region got badly affected. It was

by late in the evening that the damaged line connections were shifted to other route and then the internet services were resumed. Despite this till the writing of these lines, internet services in Mohad, Badaratola and Kumarda remained affected. On the other hand, BSNL employees had to toiled hard to connected all 48 fibre of OFC cable very carefully.

## NEM offers rich tributes to Lata Mangeshkar

Khairagarh, Feb 10: Under the aegis of Nagrik Ekta Manch, the music and singing lovers of city offered rich tributes to legend and India's renowned Hindi songs icon Lata Mangeshkar at city's Ambedkar Chowk here on Wednesday.

In this condolence programme, Vice Chancellor IKSVM Mamta Chandrakar and Prem Chandrakar were present. All the guests first garlanded the photo of Lata Mangeshkar and lighted the traditional lamp. On this occasion city's well known singer Sapna Singh, Youth artist Pradeep Agrawal and child singer Aviraj sang some of the best selected songs of Lataji and offered her rich tributes.

On this occasion IKSVM Mamta Chandrakar recalled the time she spent



with singing icon Lata Mangeshkar and termed her as fortress of music and singing. During this the Registrar of University ID Tiwari informed that highlighted on the life and works of Lata Mangeshkar and said that Lataji is the singing heritage of India

and so long as this human life will exist, her songs would always continue to remain alive and vibrant for all generations to come.

The programme was conducted by NEM's Jaheen Khan and Raju Yadu and vote of thanks was proposed by Dilip Shrivastava.

On this occasion social worker Samshul Hoda Khan, Anurag Shanti Turre, Narendra Soni, PRO of IKSVM Vinod Dongre, Mangal Sarthi, Uttam Bagde, Tribhuvan Singh, Umend Patel, Prakash Khare and others were present.

## Administrative team felicitates farmers in procurement centers

CEO Zila Panchayat Kunal Dudawat honored farmers in Patna PPC

Koriya, Feb 10:

On the last day of paddy procurement, on the instructions and guidance of District Collector Kuldeep Sharma, the administrative team in the district reached different procurement centers and felicitated the farmers. In Patna and Girijapur Paddy Purchase Center, District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat felicitated the farmers who arrived to sell paddy by giving them best wishes, shawls, quinces and plants.

The farmers informed the CEO that the amount against paddy procurement is being paid in the bank account on time. Sudarshan Prasad Sahu, a farmer from village Anjokala, reached Girijapur Paddy Procurement Center and expressed happiness over



the coordination of the administration in paddy selling. On the other hand, Kisan Ramkumar while expressing satisfaction over the system of paddy purchase said that I have sold paddy in two installments in which I have received the payment of the first installment on

time. Mr. Dudawat reached the shopping center and gave information about Kisan Credit Card and also observed the documents of other farmers. In Jampara, Additional Collector and SDM Baikunthpur presented plants to the farmers. At

Jampara Paddy Procurement Center, Additional Collector Sukhnath Ahirwar and SDM Baikunthpur Gyanendra Singh Thakur honored the farmers who came to sell paddy. Farmer Omkar Pandey was honored by SDM BS Markam in Vikaskhand Khargawan by gifting cashew plant on the last day of paddy purchase in Padar Procurement Center Bardar.

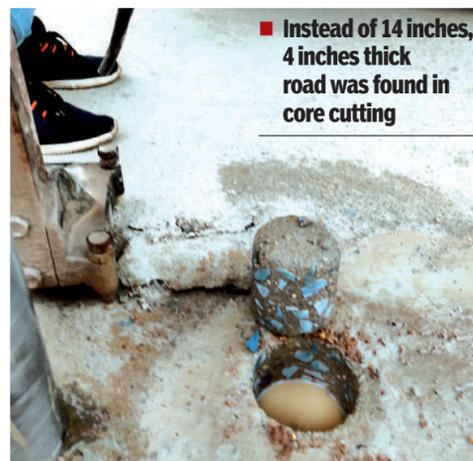
It may be mentioned that 249 farmers have taken tokens to sell paddy in the last day on 07 February. Tokens have been taken by farmers to sell 10 thousand 622 quintals of paddy. 13 lakh 97 thousand 701 quintals of paddy have been sold in the district till February 6, out of which lifting of 53.75 percent paddy has been completed.

## Low level construction work of CC Road

Dongargarh, Feb 10:

In the construction work of CC road at three places in ward no. 6 of the city at a cost of Rs 15 lakh, information has been received of poor construction. A 200 meter long road has been constructed from DB Rao's house to Mr. Raju's house, the cost of which is shown as 5 lakh 95 thousand, but the entire construction due to low grade had received complaint from many sections.

As per complaint by Block Congress President (SC Cell) Mayur Hatel and ward residents, CMO Yaman Devangan had said to pay attention to core cutting but meanwhile Engineer Kishore Thakur, in collaboration with contractor Shyam Agarwal, who is carrying out road construction work under the name of authorized contractor, ML Verma, called the team of Mobile Laboratory, Urban



Instead of 14 inches, 4 inches thick road was found in core cutting

Administration Department and Vikas Durg and without informing the complainants, at two places in the old road core cutting was done.

As soon as the complainants got the information, they lodged their objection on the phone with the CMO, on which core cutting was done on

the new road by the engineer on the instructions of CMO, in which CC road of only 4 inches thickness was found instead of 14 inches. Estimated CC Road was to be filled with 10 cm of Muram filling roller and then roller was rolled. The total thickness of the road was to be 14 inches using 20 mm ballast con-

crete material in the 15 cm thick section at the top level. But only 4 inches thick road construction was found in the core cutting.

According to sources, Kishore Thakur, an engineer of the municipality, is constantly showing negligence regarding the construction work and roads are being constructed in low quality. In this case core cutting was done at the same place, but on the objection of the applicant, when core cutting was done at a new place, CC road of only 4 inches thickness was found instead of 14 inches norm.

Elsewhere, in the presence of the contractor's staff, core cuts were made in two places at the same place. In this way, the engineer rushed to the spot with the team of core cutting without the knowledge of the complainants, and together with the investigation team, an attempt was made to suppress the irregularity.

## CRPF hosts martyr Raghur Singh Memorial Cricket Competition



Konta, Feb 10:

CRPF 74 Corps posted in Naxal Front of Sukma district organized a grand cricket competition in village Polampalli of Konta block in memory of Inspector Shaheed Raghur Singh, who was martyred in Burkopal while fighting the Naxalites. In this competition teams of the ultra-naxal affected villages of the area Pidmel,

Arlampalli, Korrpad, Puswara, Kankerlanka, Polampalli, Ramaram, Temelwada took part. With efforts of CRPF, the players of such villages were seen leaving their mark of talent in Pollampally Sports Ground, in this event, all the teams were provided with dress and cricket kit by CRPF 74 Corps. Apart from the players, food and snacks were also arranged for the spectators who

came to watch the match. In their opening match, the team of Korrpad Kankerlanka Arlampalli and Pollampalli reached the semi-finals. DIG of CRPF Sukma range Yogyan Singh, Commandant of CRPF 131st Battalion Praveen Thapariyal and SDO Jagargunda Vijay Rajput were present at the inauguration. In the final three title match between Pollampalli and Arlampalli

The team of Pollampalli and Arlampalli have made it to the final by winning the semi-finals of Shaheed Raghur Singh Memorial Cricket Competition, will face each other in the final of the competition, along with two teams of girls will also play the match after the final match.

## IKSC organizes lecture on NEP-2020



Khairagarh, Feb 10:

Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (IKSV), Kawardha recently organised a special lecture on New Education Policy (NEP - 2020). Addressing the special lecture hosted by the institute's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), professor of Devi Ahilya Bai Vishwavidyalaya (Indore) and renowned educationist Dr Ashok Sachdeva gave detailed in-

formation about the NEP. On the occasion, IKSV vice chancellor Padma Shri Mamta Chandrakar, registrar professor I D Tiwari, teachers, officials, musicians, guest teachers, research scholars and others have registered their participation. After the lecture, Dr Sachdeva addressed the queries of participants. Later, Dr Sachdeva delivered a lecture in the language lab of the institute's arts stream.

## Tourism Board Chairman visits Maa Bamleshwari

Inspects construction

Dongargarh, Feb 10: Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board (cabinet minister status) Atal Srivastava on Saturday visited Dongargarh. During the Dongargarh visit, he took note of the work approved under the Prasad scheme, the construction works such as the development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi temple, development of Pragyagiri and the development of Pilgrim Facilitation Center. During inspection at Development of Pilgrim Facilitation Center he gathered information on the progress of works from Implementation Agency officer Chourasia and Tourism Board officer Kesaria and Pankaj Jha. He instructed not to compromise on the quality and directed to speed up the construction works to complete them on time. He instructed to write letter to Rajnandgaon



Collector for the transfer of land adjoining the Prasad Yojna site, reserved for adventure sports to the tourism department. He instructed SDM Dongargarh to take necessary action. Assurance was given to MLA Dongargarh, Bhuneshwar Baghel to upgrade Dagora reservoir from tourism department under water sports. After visiting Maa Bamleshwari temple he worshipped the Goddess and wished for the happiness of the state, He was honored by President Maa

Bamleshwari Trust Committee and Prayga Giri Trust Committee. Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Rai, Dongargarh MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel, Central Cooperative Bank President Nawaz Khan, Sudesh Meshram, Pragyagiri Trust chairman, committee member, Maa Bamleshwari Trust Committee chairman, Tourism Information Center Dongargarh's tourism officer Aarti Sahare and TIC Manager PVL Srinivas were present.

## Elders of family and society felicitated

In 'Siyani-Siyani' felicitation prog

Pandaria, Feb 10: A 'Siyani-Siyani' felicitation programme was organised by resident of Gram Panchayat Pouni dependent village Tilaghat village viz. Dr Raghu Sahu, Ranjit Sahu. This programme was organised by Raghu Ranjit Sahu in the memory of his father Late Jhaduram Sahu. The Chief Guest of the programme High Court Advocate TR Nirala and special guest was High Court Advocate Suresh Pandaya, Advocate Devkumar Kaneri, ex-MLA Pandaria- Motiram Chandravanshi, ex-MLA Lormi District Panchayat member and President rep Ramkumar Bhatt and Janpad President rep-



Sewaram Kurre. The guests in the programme hailed the presence of the guests and informed that this is state's first such programme which is novel and a need for the present-day society. All the guests gave priority to just one single thing that be it the house or society, village or state or in the country, the 'Siyani-Siyani' (senior cit-

izens in the family, both male and female) should be felicitated and then only that family, society or state will be happy and prosperous. A place where there is no respect and honour for the seniors or elders of the family, one has to always faces lack of peace, problems and difficult life, they added.

So in order to make each and every family happy



and prosperous, then one should give due respect and honour to their grandmother, grand-father and grand-ma or grand-pa.

The guests on the occasion said that in this modern-world it is generally heard that many children and their wives fails to compromise on the issues and throw away their parents from their house. The very parents who are

not happy with their children, their children can never be happy in years to come. Therefore if at all a child has to spend peaceful and happy life, then they should respect each and every elder in the family and it is true that a family having the blessings of elders, can easily resolve any of the major challenges or issues in their life. On this occasion

District Panchayat President's rep- and District member Ramkumar Bhatt made a declaration of donating Rs 2 lakh for development of the village. In the end, organiser Raghu Ranjit Sahu felicitated the senior/ elders of the family and village with shawl and srfial.

In this programme Navagavhataha Sarpanch VK Dhritlahare, V-P Pradesh Sahu Samaj (PSS)- Gopal Sahu, Gen.Secy. PSS Vishnu Sahu, Janpad member Dhanraj Dahire, Janpad member Krishna Chandrakar, Mohan Kurre, journalists Shyam Tandon, BJP Mandal President Gajpal Sahu, Padam Tandon, Narottam Sahu, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Ashok Sahu and others were present.

## Illegal trade of biodiesel on National Highway route



Dongargarh, Feb 10: Action by Food Inspector Angad Thakur and Garima Sori on 5 February 2021 on behalf of the administration for illegally selling biodiesel on M/S Siddha Jai Biofuels (Rajasthan Gujarat Biofuels) located on the Dongargarh - Chichola Rajnandgaon National Highway road at village Koliapur (Nava) and the pump was sealed. During the proceedings, the officials found that in the name of biodiesel, other types of mineral oil were being sold indiscriminately. After the action taken by the administration, the

pump operator illegally broke the seal of the pump and sold the biodiesel again and on receipt of the information the petrol pump was inspected by the inquiry committee as per the instructions of the collector. After the seal was found to be broken, the pump was sealed again. After taking the statements of Biodiesel Pump Manager Raju Jhade, Leeladhar Varma and land owner Malaram Vishnoi, a report is being sent for further action. Dongargarh Tehsildar Raju Patel, Assistant Food Officer Ashish Ramteke, police station in-charge Chichola RS Sengar and employees of the department were present in this proceeding. According to Tehsildar Raju Patel, a report made for action on pump manager and others for breaking the seal will be done and the District Collector would be informed about the action taken through the report.

## 48,480 people vaccinated against Corona in a single day



Korba, Feb 10:

In the district, a campaign of 100% vaccination was carried out to save people from the infection of Covid - 19 and for the same a large number of people lined up to get the vaccine at the vaccination centers of urban and rural areas since morning. Apart from vaccination centers in rural areas, mobile medical teams also went door-to-door to vaccinate people to protect them from Covid. In this cam-

aign, 48 thousand 480 people were vaccinated against corona in a single day, of which adolescent girls, youth, women, farmers and elderly people also reached the vaccination site with enthusiasm. People were also vaccinated by the vaccinators at the MNREGA work site. Development block Podi, in village Hardeva and Tanera of Uporda the first and second vaccines of Covid were administered to the people in the workplace itself. Similarly, at the bus

stand of Binjhra, people were vaccinated against Covid by the Mobile Medical Unit. During the campaign, school students above 15 years of age also reached the vaccination site with enthusiasm and got themselves inoculated. Sakshi Sahu, a student of class 9th resident of Rajgamar, took the first dose of Covid in the vaccination center built in the district library building and said she feels completely fine after taking the vaccine. Maximum numbers of vaccines were administered in Pali block, where 13 thousand 430 people were vaccinated, Six thousand 093 in Korba block and 10 thousand 108 in Kartala block, seven thousand 808 in Katghora and six thousand 078 people in Pondiuporda block, People were vaccinated by 514 vaccinators at these centers.

### GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

(In Relation of Immovable Property Diverted Commercial Property bearing F.No. 1094/5, 1094/8, Comprising Area 0.03, 0.02 Hect. Total Area 0.05 Hect. Situated at Mouja Churiyara, Ward No. 01, P. H. No. 023, R.I.C. Sihawa, Tahsil Nagari, District Dhamtari (C.G.)

This is inform to General Public that the Original Previous Sale Deed Dated 28.02.2011, Vide Book No. A-1, Volume No. 42, at Pages 01 to 06, Document Sl. No. 198, Registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Nagri, District Raipur (C.G.) of Land bearing Khasra No. 1094/5, Land Area 0.03 Hect., executed by Shri Dashru S/o Shri Pili Ram in favour of Smt. Manju Devi Golchha W/o Shri Trilok Chand Golchha, the above Sale Deed has been lost/Misplaced by Present owner Shri Yogeshwar Sahu S/o Shri Ishwar Sahu, Raipur (C.G.), if any Person/Bank/Corporation/Society/Institution/Govt. or No Govt. Authority etc., having an interest in the said Property or any part thereof may make their claim/objections with documentary proof to the undersigned office within 07 Days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be able to create mortgage on said property.

Place- Raipur Date - 10.02.2022

Ashutosh Mishra Office Address: Flat No. F-3, Modern Complex, Mollbag Chowk, Raipur (C.G.) Landline No. 0771-2222042 Mobile - 9425548998

**शेखल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
शाखा : छत्तीसगढ़ कॉलेज, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**Central Bank of India**  
Branch : CG College, Raipur (C.G.)

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 6 (G) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date and time specified hereinbelow, for recovery of due to the Central Bank of India - Secured Creditor from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit of the respective properties is mentioned hereinbelow:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Lot No.	Description of the property	Reserve Price	
				EMD Demand Notice Date	Bid Increase Amount
1.	Borrower/s - M/s G.T. Homes, Partners and Guarantors - Mr. Gajendra Singh Rajpal, and Mr. Gurjeet Singh Rajpal, BRANCH- CG COLLEGE, RAIPUR	1	Equitable Mortgage of residential diverted open land in the name of M/S G.T. Homes, Total area 1.408 Hect (151500 sq ft approx.) situated at village Baronda PH. No. 011, Dharsiwa-1, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) as under: (a) Open land Part of Kh No 310/8 admeasuring 0.502 Hect. Boundaries: North-Part of Kh No 310, South-Part of Kh No 310, East-Part of Kh No 310, West-Part of Kh No 310. (b) Open land of Kh No 310/3 and Part of Kh No 310/4 admeasuring 0.906 Hect. Bounded by North-Part of Kh No 310, South-Part of Kh. No 310, East-Part and West-Road.	Rs. 25,39,37,600/- (+) interest & expenses thereon Demand Notice Date 17.02.2018 Possession Notice Dated 30.07.2020	Rs. 7,50,00,000/- Rs. 75,00,000/- Rs. 25,00,000/-

**Terms & Conditions:** 1. Date & Time of E-Auction - 04.03.2022 From 12.00 pm To 02.00 pm 2. Last Date And Time of submission of EMD And Documents on or before 03.03.2022 till 4.00 PM. 3. For participating in the E-auction sale, the intending bidders should register their details with the service provider <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> well in advance and shall get user ID & password. Intending bidders advised to change only the password. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>, and Secured Creditor's website i.e. [www.centralbankofindia.co.in](http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in). The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact to [www.mstcecommerce.com](mailto:www.mstcecommerce.com) or their Central Helpdesk Number 033-22901004. 4. Bidder will register on website <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in Global EMD wallet through NEFT/transfer (after generation for Challan from <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>). 5. For Any Property Related Query, Bidders May Contact for Mr. Deepak Gathwal, CM, Branch CG College, Raipur, Mo. No. 7509062631, Email Id : [bmraip3185@centralbank.co.in](mailto:bmraip3185@centralbank.co.in), in at any working day during office hours. 6. Property under sale is also loanable and loan may also be obtained from our bank subject to fulfillment of rules. 7. If Bank/authorized officer fails to handover the physical possession of the sold secured assets to the purchaser, within 6 months from the date of auction, the amount deposited by the auction purchaser shall be refunded to the purchaser if request is made by him/her to the Authorised officer of Bank. 8. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory /non-statutory dues, taxes, TDS (bidding for properties of more than Rs. 50.00 lacs in value will be required to pay 1% of the bid price towards Income Tax), rates, assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.

**Date : 10.02.2022, Place - Raipur**

**Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India**

## BRIEF

### Seized

■ **Jaipur:** A passenger was detained in possession of 116.59 gram gold valued at Rs 5.79 lakh after he landed at the Jaipur International Airport from Dubai, a customs official said. During personal search of the passenger, who had arrived in an Air India flight, two gold buttons were found duly concealed in oral cavity below the tongue. The gold was recovered and seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, the official said.

### Organise

■ **Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat government announced that it will organise the 12th edition of the "Garib Kalyan Mela" between February 24 and 26. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will remain present at the state-level events to be held on at Dahod, Morbi and Amreli town on February 24, 25 and 26 respectively, while other ministers, MPs and MLAs will attend the district-level events, he said. The state government will distribute articles.

### Rides

■ **Kota:** Riding a mare amid a shower of flower petals, 24-year-old Dalit groom Manoj Bairwa took out his wedding procession through the narrow lanes of Neem Ka Kheda village here breaking the social taboo under which Dalit grooms are not allowed to ride a horse (female) to their wedding ceremony. This comes more than three decades after Bairwa's uncle was thrashed in same village by men as he belonged to the SC community.

### Trapped

■ **Mumbai:** A five-year-old leopard, hiding in a drain in the railway barrack area in Bhayander in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) for the last two days, was rescued. The Forest department had received the information that the big cat was roaming in the residential area and killed a dog. The leopard was hiding in a seven-metre long nullah by personnel of the forest department from Thane and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

### Revamped

■ **New Delhi:** The Delhi government will launch a revamped version of its flagship doorstep delivery of services scheme after bringing in two private agencies for field work, and raising number of services from 100 to 300. Delhi government is all set to unveil an all-new model of Doorstep Delivery of Public Services, new agencies on-boarded for field services.

### Arrested

■ **Gurugram:** Police here have arrested a man who allegedly murdered his wife and daughter early this week while being in an inebriated state. The incident took place on February 6, police said, adding the accused has been arrested. The man, a drug addict, has confessed to killing the two in an intoxicated state.

# Show-cause notice over degree courses with edtech companies

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued show-cause notices to two private universities for offering degree and diploma courses in collaboration with ed-tech companies, saying this "outsourcing" is a clear violation of norms.

The action by the technical education regulator comes after it and the University Grants Commission (UGC) warned universities and colleges against offering courses in distance learning and online mode in association with Ed-Tech companies, saying no "franchise" agreement is permissible as per norms. "We have identified two



such universities whose advertisements were visible and have issued them show-cause notice. They have been asked to explain the kind of outsourcing arrangement they have with these companies and also respond as to why their approval should not be withdrawn," AICTE Chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe told PTI.

"We also appeal the public as well as stakeholders to inform us if they come across a similar arrangement between universities and ed-tech companies. So, far we have identified two of them but if we come across more, we will issue show cause and take action," he added.

The AICTE chairman had earlier clarified that the government is not against Ed-Tech companies, but they cannot be allowed to delve into areas that are not their domain.

"These ed-tech companies were advertising for postgraduate programmes in management and computer applications that can only be offered by universities and approved colleges. Even the top institutions in

the country like the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) were also not allowed to offer postgraduate management but only PG diploma in management till the time an Act in Parliament was passed. How can we allow ed-tech companies to do so?" he said.

"We have given approvals to universities and colleges to offer degree and diploma programmes and they are supposed to offer them on their own and not piggyback on private companies or outsource their job to any third party," he added.

The UGC and AICTE have also advised students and parents to check the recognition status of any programme on their websites before enrolling in any course.

## Bizman Pravin 'acting as front' for some influential persons: ED

● **Allegedly no document or agreement in HDIL case**

Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate has claimed before a special PMLA court here that Maharashtra-based businessman Pravin Raut made payments to a "politically exposed person" and is "acting as a front" or in collusion with some influential people.

Raut, arrested by the ED on February 2 under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), was produced before the court after the end of his initial remand. The court extended his ED custody till Friday. Notably, the



agency had also questioned Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut last year in connection with the PMC Bank case and her purported links with Pravin Raut's wife. Pravin Raut, a former director of a company called Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, was arrested by the ED in a money laundering probe linked to a Rs 1,034 crore land 'scam' related to the redevelopment of a 'chawl' in Mumbai. The ED, while seeking further custody of the businessman, told the court that the ongoing investigation of the (money

laundering) case is at a crucial stage and the accused is one of the key persons, who is "instrumental in generation, layering and integration of proceeds of the crime". The case against him pertains to alleged irregularities in the sale of FSI (floor space index) of a plot by a firm, linked to him, that is a subsidiary company of the Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd. The HDIL is under investigation by the ED and few other agencies in connection with an alleged fraud of about Rs 4,300 crore at the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank. The ED in its remand plea said it appears that Pravin Raut is "acting as a front" or in collusion with some influential person(s).

## 'Budget neglects poor, farmers, no relief for middle class'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Union Budget 2022-23 has neglected the poor and farmers and has provided no relief to the middle class, Rajya Sabha member Akhilesh Prasad Singh of Congress claimed on Thursday.

Participating in the general discussion on Budget, he termed it as insipid and direction less and said it looked like the Budget too was also hit by the coronavirus.

This Budget has no provision for the common man, they are disappointed, he said, adding on the contrary it is pro-rich and during this government's tenure income of billionaires have increased.

There is no mention of the 27 crore people who



Akhilesh Prasad Singh

have slipped below poverty line and how to uplift them and how to increase their income, Singh lamented. No relief has been provided to the middle class in the form of tax reduction, he added. Singh further said the Budget has not mentioned anything about the dire economic conditions of the poor, the job losses and disruption in education across schools, colleges and

universities.

He also hit out at the reduced outlay of MGNREGA and said if the poor could sustain a livelihood during the pandemic, it was due to this scheme.

Pointing out that in the Budget outlays of many important schemes in agriculture sector have been reduced, Singh said the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), has been reduced by around Rs 500 crore compared to last year. Similarly, the allocation for another scheme, Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshana Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), which is MSP-based, has been fixed at only Rs 1 crore as compared to the actual spending of Rs 400 crore, he said. It looks like the govern-

ment wants to stop this scheme, Singh said while seeking a response from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on it.

He said when the government withdrew the three farm laws after agitation by farmers, it had assured to look into their demand but that has not happened. The farmers were only asking for legal guarantee on MSP but that didn't happen, Singh said.

On the push for digitisation, Singh said the government must also take steps and bring laws to prevent with cyber fraud.

Taking a dig at the government over its disinvestment programme, he said while on one hand it is promoting Make in India but everything is going in 'Sale in India'.

## Raut disputes Modi's claim about sacking of Hridaynath Mangeshkar

Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that musician Hridaynath Mangeshkar was sacked from the All India Radio (AIR) for presenting a poetry on freedom fighter Veer Savarkar.

Asked by a reporter whether the PM had made the reference in view of the upcoming Goa Assembly elections, Raut said it is possible, considering the Mangeshkar family traces its roots to the coastal state, where polls for the 40-member House will be held on February 14. It is possible. He is a great prime minister. It

seems to me that no one became prime minister before him and there will be none afterwards," Raut said sarcastically.

"I respect (Modi) him a lot. He is a big leader. I don't want to comment on him. It happens in politics, people say something, we should understand, the Rajya Sabha member said addressing media persons in Delhi.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Modi had launched listed instances of past Congress governments muzzling the freedom of expression, and cited Lata Mangeshkar's musician brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar being sacked from the AIR for presenting a poetry on Savarkar.

## Politicians with sports background try luck in Patiala

Patiala, Feb 10 (PTI):

Contesting the Punjab assembly elections on tickets from different parties, a former kabaddi player, an ex-cricketer and an erstwhile polo player have different political ideologies but have a same goal of improving sports facilities in this district.

The Aam Admi Party has fielded former kabaddi player Gurlal Singh as its candidate from Ghanaur constituency. Singh, who has built a sports stadium at Ajrawar village in Ghanaur, believes the constituency is very backward in the field of sports and more work needs to be done in this area. If his party is voted to power in the February 20 polls, Singh said he would work to uplift sports infrastructure at the



Former Punjab CM, PLC Chief and avid polo player Capt Amarinder Singh during an election rally, in Sanaur, Patiala on Thursday.

grassroot level and work for providing government jobs to sportspersons through a new policy.

Singh, who was an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Punjab Police, had joined the AAP in June last year.

Achar Singh of village Pabri said, "People of

## VP AT TIRUMALA



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu pays obeisance at the sacred golden Dwajastambham at Lord Venkateswara temple, at Tirumala in Tirupati, Thursday.

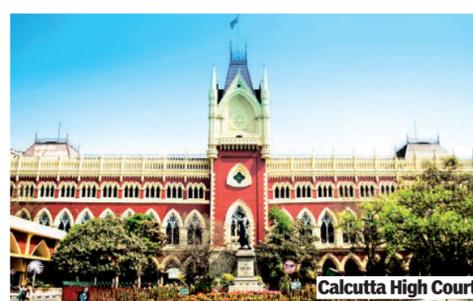
## Discuss force deployment in civic polls: HC to WB SEC

Kolkata, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to hold a meeting with top officials of the West Bengal government within 12 hours to appraise the ground situation in the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation area and ascertain whether the deployment of paramilitary forces is necessary to ensure peaceful polling on February 12.

The court said that the SEC commissioner will be personally liable to ensure peaceful elections in Bidhannagar if he forms an opinion that deployment of paramilitary forces is not required in the civic body jurisdiction adjoining Kolkata.

"Commissioner, State Election Commission will



Calcutta High Court

hold the joint meeting with the Chief Secretary and Home Secretary of the State and the Director General and Inspector General of Police within 12 hours and will do the reappraisal of the ground situation in Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation area and ascertain if deployment of paramilitary forces is necessary," a division bench presided by

Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava ordered.

Elections to the municipal corporations of Bidhannagar, Asansol, Siliguri and Chandannagar in West Bengal are scheduled to be held on February 12.

The court, passing its order on prayers seeking deployment of paramilitary forces in Bidhannagar on the apprehension of vio-

lence during the polls, directed that the commissioner, if he forms an opinion in favour of such deployment, will submit a requisition to the Union Home Ministry or the competent authority.

The bench, also comprising Justice R Bharadwaj, directed that any such request for providing paramilitary forces will be duly considered by the authority without any delay. "In case, if the Commissioner, State Election Commission forms an opinion that deployment of the paramilitary forces during Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation election is not necessary, then he will be personally liable to ensure that no violence takes place and free, fearless and peaceful elections are held in Bidhannagar," the court ordered.

## Utensil seller out to challenge Keshav Maurya

Lucknow, Feb 10 (PTI):

Having contested many elections both at the state and the national level in the past over two decades, a small-time utensil seller has entered the poll fray this time against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Chhedu Chamar has filed his nomination as an independent candidate from the Sirathu assembly segment in Kaushambi district for the Uttar Pradesh elections. Maurya is fighting the polls from the same seat.

Chamar has in the past contested two Parliamentary as well as two Uttar Pradesh assembly elections and though he tasted defeat, he says he fights the polls out of passion.

Chamar, 52, says he is not bothered about the stature of Maurya and as-

serts that "nobody is greater than Narayan (god)."

A resident of Taibapur Shamshabad village in Kaushambi district, he makes a living by selling utensils house-to-house.

During his 'political journey' in the last about 22 years, Chamar has contested 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections as well as 2012 and 2017 UP legislative assembly polls. He has also fought the elections thrice for district panchayat.

Talking to PTI, he says, "Even though I go door-to-door selling utensils and somehow manage to make a living, contesting elections is my passion. I have sacrificed a lot for this."

"I cut down on all my needs. I do not eat meat, fish, or even smoke cigarettes to save on my expenses. I just lead a simple life and take simple food to save money so that the

election expenses can be met."

Asked whether he stands a chance in the Sirathu assembly seat against the deputy chief minister, Chamar says, "Narayan (God) is great. No one has any status in front of him. I have been going to people's houses for the last 22 years seeking votes. I hope that someday people's hearts will melt."

He had also filed my nomination in the by-election of Sirathu assembly seat in 2014 but it was rejected," he said.

Chamar as an independent candidate in the 2012 assembly elections had got 3,756 votes. He bagged 1,147 votes in the 2017 assembly elections.

Slowly people are realising what is happening in politics. There will be no change until politics is done on real issues, he says.

79-year old scion of the erstwhile Patiala royal family, during his tenure as chief minister also established a sports university in Patiala district in the memory of his grandfather Maharaja Bhupinder Singh. Shiromani Akali Dal candidate from Rajpura Charanjit Singh Brar says he enjoys playing volleyball and kabaddi. SAD's Harinderpal Singh Chandumajra, who is contesting from Sanaur in this district, has also played hockey at the school level.

Patiala district is known as a sports hub and has contributed immensely to the sporting prowess of India. The Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, which is Asia's largest sports institute, is also located here.

Aminder Singh, the

**BRIEF****Disrupts**

**Canberra:** An Australian spy agency says it has disrupted a foreign government's attempt to illegally bankroll the election of candidates who are politically sympathetic or vulnerable to inducements. Mike Burgess, director-general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, did not identify the country when he delivered his annual security threat assessment.

**Lowered**

**London:** Britain's official threat level for international terrorism was lowered to substantial, meaning an attack is likely. It previously stood at severe, signaling that UK intelligence officials considered an attack highly likely. Home Secretary Priti Patel said that any reduction in the threat level is positive but it must never make us complacent. The threat level was raised to severe, the second-highest rung on a five-point scale, in November.

**Slams**

**Barcelona:** The European Union has criticised a plan by lawmakers in southern Spain to expand irrigation rights for farmers near one of Europe's largest wetlands, arguing that it will further endanger a major wildlife refuge that is already drying up. The government of the Andalusia region wants to grant water rights to farmers near the Doñana National Park, which the United Nations cultural agency has designated as a World Heritage site.

**Migrants**

**Berlin:** Austrian police say they found eight migrants in life-threatening conditions hidden inside a narrow wooden pallet box that had been attached to the underside of a truck. Police said the people from Turkey had been trafficked from Romania via Hungary to Austria. Several of them suffered from hypothermia during the trip in freezing temperatures, and some had fainted because they were exposed to the truck's exhaust fumes.

**Charges**

**Johannesburg:** Peter Beale, a South African surgeon who is facing murder charges after a 10-year-old Indian origin boy died after a routine surgery conducted by him in 2019, has been deregistered by the country's Health Professional Council.

## Blinken says century will be shaped by Indo-Pacific region

Canberra, Feb 10 (AP):

The United States remains focused long-term on the Indo-Pacific region despite concerns over Russian aggression toward the Ukraine, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday. Blinken is in the Australian city of Melbourne for a meeting on Friday with his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan.

The four nations form the so-called Quad, a bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies that was created to counter China's regional influence.

There are a few other things going on in the world right now, some of you may have noticed. We have a bit of a challenge with Ukraine and Russian aggression. We're working 24/7 on that, Blinken said in his first public address since arriving in Australia. But we know, the president knows better



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, right, walks with University of Melbourne VC Duncan Maskell in Melbourne, Australia Thursday.

than anyone else, that so much of this century is going to be shaped by what happens here in the Indo-Pacific region, he added.

The Indo-Pacific is the fastest growing region in the world, accounting for two-thirds of global economic growth over the past five years and home to half the world's population, Blinken said.

What matters in the re-

gion matters around the world and challenges like climate change and COVID-19 can't be tackled by any nation alone, he said.

More than ever before, we need partnerships, we need alliances, we need coalitions of countries willing to put their efforts, their resources, their minds into tackling these problems, Blinken said.

## Adrift after enslavement, Yazidi teen unable to go home

2,800 Yazidi women and children are still missing

Barzan, Feb 10 (AP):

Roza Barakat's tormentors have been defeated, but the horrors she endured still hold her captive. She was 11 years old when she was captured and enslaved by the Islamic State group, along with thousands of other Yazidi women and girls taken when the militants overran northern Iraq in their brutal 2014 campaign. Torn from her family in the town of Sinjar, the enclave of the ancient religious Yazidi minority, she was taken to Syria, sold multiple times and repeat-



Roza Barakat

edly raped. She bore a child, a boy she has since lost. Now, at 18, she speaks little of her native Kurdish dialect, Kurmanji.

With the defeat of IS in 2019, Barakat slipped into the shadows, opting to hide in the turmoil that followed the worst of the battles. As IS fighters were arrested, their wives and children were packed into detention camps. Barakat was free,

but she couldn't go home.

'I don't know how I'll face my community,' she told The Associated Press, speaking in Arabic, as she nervously played with the ends of her long dark braid, the red polish on her dainty fingers fading.

For years, her IS captors told her she would never be accepted if she returned. 'I believed them,' she said. Barakat's tale, corroborated by Yazidi and Syrian Kurdish officials, is a window into the complicated realities faced by many Yazidi women who came of age under the brutal rule of IS. Traumatized and lost, many struggle to come to terms with the past, while the Yazidi community is at odds over how to accept them.

'What do you expect from

## S-400 AT DRILL



S-400 air defense system during joint drills of the armed forces of Russia and Belarus in Brest, Belarus on Thursday.

## Swiss region votes on giving primates fundamental rights

Geneva, Feb 10 (AFP):

A northern Swiss region will vote Sunday on whether non-human primates should enjoy some of the same basic fundamental rights as their human cousins. The vote in the Basel-Stadt canton, which is

home to the city of the same name and to one of Europe's best-known zoos, is being keenly followed by animal rights activists.

Triggered by the campaign group Sentience under Switzerland's direct democracy system, the regional vote concerns

whether to give primates the right to life and the right to "mental and physical integrity".

"This will mark the first time worldwide that people can vote on fundamental rights for non-human animals," the group claims. Basel-based Sentience says

primates are highly intelligent and maintain an active social life, and feel pain, grief and compassion.

However, they cannot defend themselves against interventions in their lives — so humans need to take responsibility and grant them rights, says Sentience.

## India objects to UNSG report's omission of terror groups links

Tirumurti voiced concern over terror networks in Africa

United Nations, Feb 10 (PTI):

India has expressed dismay at the failure of the UN Secretary General's report on ISIS to take note of the close links between proscribed terrorist groups such as Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad despite New Delhi repeatedly flagging these concerns. The 14th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security and the range of United Nations ef-



orts in support of Member States in countering the threat' notes that the security landscape in Afghanistan changed dramatically on August 15, following a Taliban military campaign that took control in the country, including Kabul. The report says the dreaded Islamic State terrorist group aims to position itself

as the chief rejectionist force in Afghanistan, expands into neighbouring Central and South Asian countries and is viewed by the Taliban as its primary armed threat.

Speaking at the Security Council briefing on Threat to International Peace & Security Caused by Terrorist Acts' that took up UNSG report, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said that India has been reiterating the close links between proscribed terrorist entities such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terror groups, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad.

## Police arrest protesters at New Zealand's Parliament



Police arrest people protesting against coronavirus mandates at Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand, Thursday.

Wellington, Feb 10 (AP):

Police on Thursday began arresting dozens of protesters who were camped out on the grounds of New Zealand's Parliament on the third day of a convoy protest against coronavirus mandates.

The arrests came after Parliament Speaker Trevor Mallard took the rare step of closing the grounds.

Police called in more than 100 extra officers from other parts of the country. Still, police seemed prepared to wait it out as officers formed a line and ordered people to leave but only very slowly advanced

on them. By noon, police had arrested more than 50 people and had charged many of them with trespassing or obstruction. Police wore protective vests but didn't don riot gear or carry guns. Police said they had told everybody on the grounds they were trespassing. 'Police have appealed repeatedly to protesters to leave the grounds and have begun evicting people from the precinct,' said Superintendent Corrie Parnell, the Wellington district commander.

## Monitors say North Korea may be preparing military parade

Seoul, Feb 10 (AP):

Satellite photos show hundreds of people in formation at a training ground in North Korea's capital in a possible sign the country is preparing for a military parade amid heightened animosities over its recent missile tests. The 38 North website, which specializes in North Korea studies, said the Feb 5 imagery taken on the Mirim airfield in

Pyongyang where rehearsals for past military parades occurred likely signals a forthcoming parade.

NK News, another website that monitors North Korea, also reported that there have been signs of increased preparations for a military parade in Pyongyang in recent weeks. It cited unidentified informed sources on the ground and satellite imagery.

**F.No. A-12024/1/2019-Admn.I(LA)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Law and Justice**  
**Department of Legal Affairs**

Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA), Ministry of Law & Justice invites applications/nominations for the post of Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs. The applications should reach on or before 14th March, 2022, to Shri A.K. Joshi, Director, Department of Legal Affairs, Room No. 418-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. For details, please log on to the url: <http://legallaffairs.gov.in> or refer to the advertisement in the forthcoming edition of Employment News.

davp 24201/11/0003/2122

**Directorate of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh**

Indrawati Bhawan, Block-3, Nawa Raipur  
 Phone no. 0771-2331393, 94, 95 Fax no. 0771-2331392/95  
 Mob. - 9406041111 email. - [dirvet.cg@nic.in](mailto:dirvet.cg@nic.in)

**e-Tender Cancellation and Invitation Notification**

Online Tender no. 7629/Veterinary Castrator for Large Animal/DVS.CG/2021-22/Dated: 26.11.2021 are cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Fresh Online Tender no. 466 dated 28.01.2022 are invited from licensed manufacturers, importer for Veterinary Castrator for Large Animal to Department of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh. The detailed schedule are as follows -

1	Date of Online Bid	28.01.2022
2	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender	26.02.2022, Upto - 5:30PM

The detailed tender documents and list of items are made available under department Livestock Development Department(LDD) on website <https://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in> and <https://agriportal.cg.nic.in/ahd>

Director Veterinary Services Chhattisgarh

G-67660/1

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION**  
**BAIKUNTHPUR, DISTT. KORIYA (C.G.)**

e-Procurement Tender Notice  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

**Tender Cancellation Notice**

Online Tenders were invited vide Adv. No.67179, 67180 & 67414 Vide this office NIT 10 & 11 System Tender No. 91097 & 91099 & NIT 12/2021-2022 System tender No. 91638 (1st Call) is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable. Circumstances.

(S.K. Dubey)  
 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
 WATER RESOURCES DIVISION  
 BIKUNTHPUR KORIYA (C.G.)  
 For: Chief Engineer

G-67647/3 Hasdeo Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt., Ambikapur, Sarguja (C.G.)

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**  
**MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

**(1st Call)**  
 System Tender No. : 91921/NIT No. : 34/SAC/2021-22,  
 Durg, Dated : 08.02.2022  
 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 02.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD ON SERVICE BANK OF BATANG MINOR CANAL FROM 0 M TO 9000 M IN BLOCK PATAN OF DISTRICT DURG.

Probable Amount of Contract: -Rs. 564.58 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 15.02.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

**NOTE** - All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer  
 Tandula Water Resources Division, Durg (C.G.)  
 For: Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin Raipur (C.G.)

G-67649/2

**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

Advt. No. Estab.IV/293/2022 Dated: 17.01.2022

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 14 of 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in various Departments of the University. The last date for receipt of application is 31.03.2022 or two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the *Employment News*, whichever is later. For details, please visit the University website [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in) and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU".

**Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.**

davp 21231/12/0009/2122 **REGISTRAR**

**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 कार्यों हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 मिमी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 मिमी व्यास के कंजोर्जित पाईप एवं 90 मि.मी. व्यास के यू.पी.सी.सी. पाईप 6&10 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, स्पेक्स सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टेस्टिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत शोड्यूल अनुसार।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./दिनांक/सिस्टम नम्बर	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (राशि रु. लाख में)	अनुमानित राशि (राशि रु. में)
1	317/04.02.2022 92075	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम गाला के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 167 नग	81.63	61250/-
2	318/04.02.2022 92077	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम बालाझार, बहनाटार एवं खारवोदी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 202 नग	106.52	79900/-
3	319/04.02.2022 92079	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम इंजको, जोरकोल एवं कुनकुरी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 360 नग	130.09	97600/-
4	320/04.02.2022 92080	विकासखण्ड पथलगांव के ग्राम बुलहोरा, कुकुपुआ एवं शिमकी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 237 नग	149.00	111750/-
5	321/04.02.2022 92081	विकासखण्ड कुनकुरी के ग्राम बेरापुरी एवं जोकरी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 214 नग	102.63	77000/-
6	322/04.02.2022 92082	विकासखण्ड कुनकुरी के ग्राम मुन्हा, घाईगारा, देवबारा एवं पकोरीकच्छार, रेमते, सरंगडांड एवं टुकुपानी के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 296 नग	179.61	134750/-
7	323/04.02.2022 92083	विकासखण्ड कुनकुरी के ग्राम मुन्हा, घाईगारा, देवबारा एवं गझार के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 211 नग	133.68	100300/-
8	324/04.02.2022 92085	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहर के ग्राम कोल्हेगुजराया के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 192 नग	133.47	100150/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 21.02.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा वस्तुवेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-67643/1



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Parliamentary language

Language problems between members of Parliament again came to the fore in the Lok Sabha, with DMK MP A Ganeshmurthi and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal exchanging words on the issue. Ganeshmurthi had, during question hour, asked a supplementary question on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Tamil Nadu. Goyal said he had missed a part of the question in Tamil and asked the MP to repeat which specific project was being referred to. Last week, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who were former party colleagues, sparred over the Minister replying to English questions in Hindi. While responding to supplementary questions asked by members from Tamil Nadu in English, the Civil Aviation Minister had replied in Hindi. In 2018, the then Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan had said that members can speak in any of the 22 languages given in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as simultaneous interpretation was now available for five remaining languages. The Lok Sabha Secretariat had since made arrangements with Rajya Sabha's cooperation to extend this facility vis-a-vis Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali, and Sindhi languages. Members wishing to speak in any of the 22 languages need to give information 24 hours beforehand. When the Constitution of India was framed, this aspect of linguistic diversity was given due consideration and hence in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution 14 Indian languages were adopted at that point of time. In absence of a unified written script for Indian languages, English remains the convenient parliamentary language but some politicians want to trivialise the language issue. The core functioning of Parliament of India or for that matter any legislative body is to debate and discuss various issues concerning the people of the country. Members of Indian Parliament are free and privileged to speak in any of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India while participating in the debates and discussions of the Parliament. This freedom and privilege are guaranteed to the Members of Parliament by Article 120 of the Constitution of India. The initial success in Hindi/English interpretation since the inception of the Service in 1964 led to the introduction of facilities for simultaneous interpretation into Hindi and English of some other Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Constitution makers had deliberated the issue of Official Language in detail at the time of framing the Constitution and it was decided that Hindi in Devanagari script should be adopted as the official language of the Union. This is the basis of declaring Hindi as the Official Language of the Union under Article 343(1). At the time of framing and adoption of the Constitution, it was envisaged that English will continue to be used for executive, judicial and legal purposes for an initial period of 15 years. The Constitution makers were conscious that language transition in all the fields may not be possible by 1965. The Official Language Rules were framed in 1976. Article 351 of the Constitution speaks of the development of Hindi as the Official Language of the Union. The framers of the Constitution had envisaged that Hindi with the help of other Indian Languages would evolve as a composite language, capable of being accepted by people living in non-Hindi speaking regions. Over the years, despite intermingling of languages, Hindi could not be developed as composite language due to different written scripts, hence use of English is convenient.

## Solar geoengineering

Last month, an underwater volcanic eruption covered the island nation of Tonga in ash. It sent tsunami waves surging across the entire West Coast. And it also released a cloud of sulfur dioxide, a chemical that, in large enough quantities, reflects the sun's rays and cools the planet. But the eruption illustrated a question that has been dogging scientific and climate experts. Blocking the sun's rays with an artificial particle shield launched high into Earth's atmosphere to curb global temperatures is a technological fix gaining traction as a last resort for containing the climate crisis but it needs to be stopped, wrote a coalition of over 60 academics in an open letter. One underappreciated, terrifying aspect of climate change is that the situation would be even worse if our air pollution weren't cooling us. These debates about solar geoengineering tell us more about the assumptions and epistemologies of the people creating them than about what might actually happen with solar geoengineering which in many important ways could be a force for peace and stability. Modelling research has consistently shown that solar geoengineering 'could offset some of the effects of increasing' greenhouse gases 'on global and regional climate,' according to climate scientists. India has still not made its solar geoengineering stance clear. Critics of solar geoengineering dismiss it as unworkable, given the difficulty of global political agreement. But is solar geoengineering more or less workable than the extremely complicated and conflict-rich problem of phasing out fossil fuels globally? Instead of fossil-fuel-producing countries dragging the planet into an existential death spiral, a truce could be accommodated in which solar geoengineering is used to smooth the transition. In its best-case form, solar geoengineering would buy time for decarbonization and carbon removal, as a temporary program that ramps up during the transition, then ramps down again over a century or so 'shaving the peak' off climate impacts. Solar geoengineering research needs public funding through national science agencies. This can help ensure several important things. It can maintain public oversight of the research and enable the design of research programs where social scientists and governance scholars are integrated from the outset, producing the critical type of interdisciplinary research this topic demands. Perhaps most important, national funding agencies can structure research programs to examine the potential risks and benefits in a comprehensive way, making sure to give full attention to everything that could go wrong. Without this systematic approach, what gets published may be a trickle of studies showcasing only the most stellar results, making solar geoengineering look better than it is.

## COMICS AND ANIMATION FEST



A woman stands next to effigies at the 10th Comics and Animation Festival in Taipei, Taiwan on Thursday.

## Deep impact of ocean seabed mining

**PRADEEP A SINGH**

The world's ever-growing appetite for metals has pushed the mining sector to search for new potential sources, putting the extraction of deep-sea minerals on the horizon. A race is now on between those that regulate deep sea mining and those hoping to extract its riches. Deep seabed mining is generally at depths greater than 200 metres, and possibly beyond 5,000 metres, an area that despite incremental improvements in scientific understanding over the last few decades, remains poorly understood. Scientists do know that commercial-scale deep seabed mining can cause substantial, long lasting and potentially irreversible (on human timescales) impacts on the marine environment and its food web. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS), a widely ratified multilateral treaty, covers the various maritime zones and the corresponding rights and obligations of states including ensuring the protection and preservation of the marine environment. Beyond the limits of seabed areas within national jurisdictions (200 nautical miles from the coastline) lies the international seabed, otherwise known as the Area, where a unique and dedicated legal regime created under UNCLOS exists. Two thirds of the world's deep sea beyond 200 metres deep lies beyond Exclusive Economic Zones that are controlled by states. The Area and its mineral resources are legally designated as the common heritage of humankind. Access is via an international organisation created

under UNCLOS known as the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The ISA administers the mineral resources of the Area both rules related to exploration and ensuring the marine environment is protected from such activity. Over the last two decades, the ISA has adopted regulations for the exploration of three mineral deposits of polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, which contains high-grade metals such as copper, nickel, iron, and zinc and has already awarded 31 exploration contracts (as of 1 January 2022). The majority of these contracts are for the exploration of polymetallic nodules in the nodule-rich region of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone in the Pacific Ocean. But no exploration contracts have so far been awarded because the ISA is yet to adopt exploitation regulations. It has been negotiating the draft text since 2019. The ISA is under pressure to finalise exploitation regulations after the Republic of Nauru triggered a two-year deadline provision in June 2021. If this deadline is not met, any pending exploitation applications will still need to be considered despite the absence of regulations. The pandemic has affected the ability to have in-person negotiations and many crucial matters still need to be resolved over a short time period. The ISA's transition from exploration to exploitation deserves close scrutiny as its implications could be far-reaching once exploitation activities are allowed to commence, it could be difficult to reel things back. The current models of payment for commercial mining incentivises mining operators by imposing low rates that fail to take into account the natural capital value of the deep ocean and provide fair compensation to humankind for losses incurred. The ISA and its member states must agree on an appropriate mechanism for the equitable sharing of benefits derived from deep seabed mining in the Area before allowing exploitation to commence. While ISA member states may directly apply to the ISA for mining contracts, they can also choose to

sponsor state-owned enterprises or nationally-based private entities, or foreign companies that are under the effective control of the state(s). In recent years, developing countries, particularly small island states, have increasingly sponsored locally registered companies that are wholly owned or controlled by foreign companies to conduct exploration activities. These sponsored entities essentially operate from developed countries but have been granted access to reserved areas, or sites with commercial value that have been set aside exclusively for developing countries under UNCLOS, and do not appear to be under the effective control of the sponsoring state. One example is The Metals Company (formerly DeepGreen), a foreign company that obtained exploration rights over three separate contract areas that are all located within reserved areas. It did this through wholly-owned subsidiaries and other arrangements with locally-based companies, under the sponsorship of Nauru, Tonga and Kiribati respectively, without being named in any of the ISA contracts. Left unchecked, such sponsorship practices could pave the way for exploitation monopolies. Some sponsoring states may also lack the capacity to supervise exploitation works, may impose lesser environmental conditions, or simply form a relationship of convenience as opposed to a partnership. And by agreeing to sponsor an entity, sponsoring states expose themselves to potential responsibility under international law and could stand to be liable for environmental damage caused by the sponsored entity. In future, the ISA should foster greater involvement of developing countries in its work by enhancing training and capacity building efforts, as well as facilitating transfers of technology from developed countries to developing countries. The ISA should also expedite the operationalisation of its own entrepreneurial organ, the Enterprise, which was established under UNCLOS to be the vessel through which all states, including and especially developing

ones, can participate in seabed exploration and exploitation. Some say it's necessary to mine the seabed in order to secure the metals required for clean energy to tackle climate change. Premised on the projection of metal supplies and demands over the next few decades, this remains a subject of intense debate. Those pushing this argument are private entities currently engaged in exploration activities, and of late, the ISA Secretariat. In any case, the picture that is being painted appears to be incomplete. There is some truth in positing that the clean energy transition requires more metals and that acquiring them from terrestrial sources may require current mining operations to go deeper and further, thereby causing more environmental harm. But the problems with land-based mining are known and can be managed through better techniques and stricter regulation. Mining in a liquid environment that is remote and largely out of sight is a lot more challenging and difficult to manage. Enabling deep seabed mining to commence could in turn undermine global efforts to meet the sustainability agenda. Mining the seabed may contribute metals that are used to advance sustainable development, but that does not make the activity itself sustainable the end does not necessarily justify the means. Deep seabed mining is being considered at a time when the ocean is already facing unprecedented levels of threat. In 2018, ISA Secretary-General Michael Lodge said 'mineral exploitation cannot be permitted to proceed unless the ISA is satisfied that rigorous environmental safeguards are in place'. Decisions taken by the ISA today will not only concern the present generation but the rights and interests of future generations. With the clock ticking and many possible pathways ahead, all eyes are now on ISA member states. (Pradeep A Singh is doctoral researcher at University of Bremen, Germany.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mamata's setback

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's is a perfect case of odd personality in Indian politics. She has made efforts for taking extreme steps all through her political career to reach her political ambition at any cost. Following a surprise victory of her party's, the TMC (Trinamool Congress), in the West Bengal State polls in 2011, she became the Chief Minister of the state and was convinced that minority votes in the state were a solid constituency to score success in the state polls. Ever since Banerjee took to irrational tactics of appeasing voters and she has tasted huge success by winning continuously for the third time in 2021. Mamata Banerjee has met with a setback recently in Goa as 5 TMC leaders, including former MLA Lavoo Mamladar resigned nearly three months after joining as they dubbed TMC a communal party. They clearly stated, "we do not want to continue with a party which is trying to divide Goans" as they were exasperated by TMC's polarizing the voters with an eye to the coming Goa polls. The Goa setback to TMC is a perfect recipe to similarly counter the rise of ill-conceived appeasement which only fuelled fanaticism in the country. Banerjee's style of governance is equally authoritarian which is conspicuous by her flouting democratic principles. During her official tour to the districts she openly holds out threats to the journalists to send only positive reports about Government actions. The unrestrained demon of wacky politics being played a la Mamata Banerjee is a bane in the Indian political landscape and needs to be eliminated.

### Modern Dronacharya

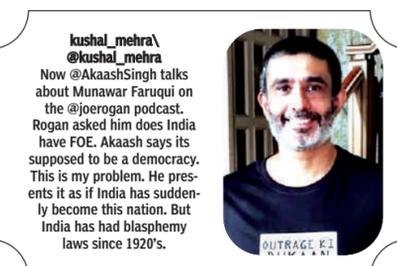
Of late India has emerged as one of the leading Badminton playing nations of the world. The man behind this epic feat is Pullela Gopichand, former All England Open Badminton champion. After retiring from competitive badminton, Gopichand dedicated himself to coaching and he started his Badminton Academy at his effort which started producing world-beaters like PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Sai Praneth, Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth Kidambi, Guru Sai Dutt and others, to name a few. Total dedication and discipline are his main mantras which he displayed when he expelled Saina Nehwal, an Olympic bronze medalist from the Academy for appearing in the commercial advertisement at the cost of her regular practice, thus violating his principles. He is modern-day Dronacharya, the then guru of the Pandavas which produced archers like Arjun, second to none in archery. The government of India duly conferred him with the prestigious Dronacharya Award in 2009. He maintains a low profile from any publicity, unlike the others. I wish him well.

Lanu Dutta, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



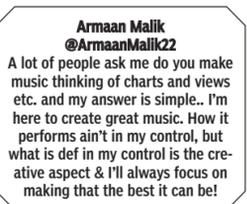
**Brahma Chellaney @Chellaney**  
Xi takes a page out of the 1936 Berlin Olympics playbook: Just as Hitler sought to camouflage his persecution of Jews by including one Jewish athlete in the German team, Xi has tried to whitewash his Xinjiang genocide by presenting a Uyghur skier as the face of the Beijing Games.



**kushal\_mehra @kushal\_mehra**  
Now @AkaashSingh talks about Munawar Faruqui on the @joerogan podcast. Rogan asked him does India have FOE. Akaash says it's supposed to be a democracy. This is my problem. He presents it as if India has suddenly become this nation. But India has had blasphemous laws since 1920's.



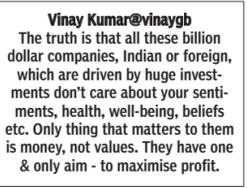
**DP Singh@MajDPSingh**  
Sad to see grown up well read janta is getting trapped in politically influenced issues. Even more sad is to see them instigating/supporting their own kids to develop negative traits w/o realizing it is harmful to their growth. Present is getting spoiled. Future will suffer.



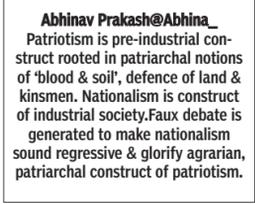
**Armaan Malik @ArmaanMalik22**  
A lot of people ask me do you make music thinking of charts and views etc. and my answer is simple. I'm here to create great music. How it performs ain't in my control, but what is def in my control is the creative aspect & I'll always focus on making that the best it can be!



Elliot Hawkey@ElliotHawkey The awe inspiring landscapes of Northern Norway



**Vinay Kumar@vinaygb**  
The truth is that all these billion dollar companies, Indian or foreign, which are driven by huge investments don't care about your sentiments, health, well-being, beliefs etc. Only thing that matters to them is money, not values. They have one & only aim - to maximise profit.



**Abhinav Prakash@Abhina\_**  
Patriotism is pre-industrial construct rooted in patriarchal notions of 'blood & soil', defence of land & kinsmen. Nationalism is construct of industrial society. Faux debate is generated to make nationalism sound regressive & glorify agrarian, patriarchal construct of patriotism.

## BRIEF

### Raise



**New Delhi:** Cleartrip on Thursday said it will increase its employee headcount by 40 per cent in the coming quarter taking the total to 700 by December 2022. CEO Ayyappan Rajagopal said it is the opportune time to scale up our business, which is now recovering.

### Completes

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday said it has completed the acquisition of a 40 per cent stake in Shapoorji Pallonji Group's Sterling & Wilson Renewable Energy Ltd (SWREL) for Rs 2,845 crore. Reliance had in October 2021 announced two back-to-back acquisitions - a USD 771 million buy-out of Norway-based solar panel manufacturer REC Solar Holdings and purchase of a 40 per cent stake in EPC firm SWREL.

### Acquires



**Mumbai:** Spinny on Thursday said it has acquired 100 per cent stake in Scouto, a move that marks consolidation in the AI-powered used car solutions space. Spinny CEO Niraj Singh said we can accelerate towards building the country's largest used car brand.

### Partner

**Mumbai:** The Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), the apex body representing the staffing or private employment services industry in India, on Thursday said it has signed a pact with FutureSkills Prime to address the Indian IT/ITeS sector's demand for skilled professionals. Under this partnership with FutureSkills Prime, a MeitY-NASSCOM digital skilling initiative, learners will find employment opportunities through industry.

### Jumps

**New Delhi:** ABB India on Thursday posted three-fold jump in net profit to Rs 194 crore for December quarter 2021, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company follows January to December financial year. It had reported a net profit of Rs 62 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020. Revenue during the quarter stood at Rs 2,101 crore, higher 24 per cent as compared to Rs 1,701 crore in the same period a year ago.

### Assets

**New Delhi:** IT company Persistent Systems will acquire assets of Data Glove for USD 90.5 million (about Rs 677 crore) in an all-cash deal, the company said. Through this deal, Persistent will acquire assets of Data Glove Inc, USA, with assets of its Indian subsidiary and affiliate entities based out of Australia, UK, Canada and Singapore.

# With same rates, RBI's main concern is inflation risk

Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Monetary Policy Committee continuing with the accommodative policy stance was one of the prime reasons cited by Governor Shaktikanta Das for not hiking the reverse repo rate at Thursday's policy review.

Das also said that the weighted average rate for reverse repo moved up to 3.87 per cent on February 4, as against 3.37 per cent in August 2021, hinting that the narrowing of the rate corridor the difference between the repo at which it lends and the reverse repo at which it absorbs excess funds from banks - has already happened courtesy the RBI's liquidity measures.

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) is expected to come well below its upper tolerance level, at 4.5 per cent, in the next fiscal year beginning April 2022, helped by better fresh crop arrivals, supply-side interventions, as well as prospects of a good mon-

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review

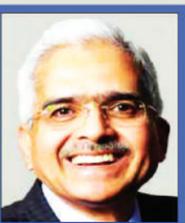
Repo rate unchanged at **4.00%**

Retains Reverse Repo rate at **3.35%**

GDP growth at **7.8%** for next fiscal, against **9.2%** this fiscal

Retail inflation projected at **5.3%** for current fiscal, **4.5%** in FY23

Current account deficit to be below **2.0%** of GDP in current fiscal



India charting different course of recovery than rest of the world, to be fastest growing economy

PTI GRAPHICS

## Exporters hail RBI holding policy rates

**Coimbatore:** Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA) on Thursday thanked RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for maintaining the policy rate at the same level.

soon. However, the hardening of crude oil prices presents a major upside risk to the inflation outlook. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) retained its inflation projection at 5.3 per cent for the current financial year.

Unveiling the last monetary policy for the current fiscal year, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, core inflation remains elevated at tolerance-testing levels. Although the continuing pass through of tax cuts relating to petrol and diesel last November, would help to moderate the input cost pressures to some extent, he said.

RBI, keeps a close watch on the CPI inflation to decide on its bi-monthly

monetary policy.

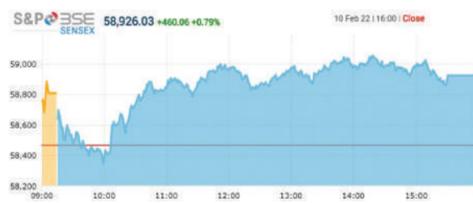
Retail inflation rose to a five-month high of 5.59 per cent in December, from 4.91 per cent in November, mainly due to an uptick in food prices.

The Reserve Bank on Thursday pegged the economic growth rate for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent expected in 2021-22, in view of uncertainties on account of the pandemic and elevated global commodity prices. The Reserve Bank's growth projection for next financial year is lower than 8-8.5 per cent projected by the Finance Ministry in the recent Economic Survey which was tabled in Parliament earlier in the month.

The Reserve Bank of India will soon come out with the guidelines on digital lending, Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao said on Thursday.

In November last year, the working group on digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps, had submitted their recommendations.

## Sensex surges 460 pts due to accommodative stance



Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex climbed 460 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 17,600-mark on Thursday after the RBI left interest rates unchanged but retained its accommodative policy stance to boost growth.

A positive trend in global stocks also supported the domestic markets, traders said.

Extending its gains for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 460.06 points or 0.79 per cent higher at 58,926.03. Likewise, the NSE Nifty jumped 142.05 points or 0.81 per cent to end at 17,605.85.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 2.11 per cent, followed by Infosys, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Kotak Bank, M&M and PowerGrid.

In contrast, Maruti, Nestle India, Ultratech

Cement and Reliance Industries were the only laggards.

In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with modest gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe were in positive territory in the afternoon session. France's CAC 40 added 0.5% in early trading to 7,168.36, while Germany's DAX rose 0.7% to 15,595.10. Britain's FTSE 100 edged up 0.1% to 7,651.65. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.4% to finish at 27,696.08. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.3% to 7,288.50. South Korea's Kospi added 0.1% to 2,771.93. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.4% to 24,924.35, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 0.2% to 3,485.91.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude inched up 0.08 per cent to USD 91.62 per barrel.

## Nuvoco Vistas bullish on growth

Mumbai, Feb 10:

Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a leading building materials company and the fifth largest cement player, in terms of capacity, in India, announced its investments and expansion plans in-line with its business strategy while remaining committed to prioritize deleveraging. Nuvoco has been working on multiple projects for a sustainable growth with an aspiration to diversify its market base and reduce the business risk.

Comprehensive planning and execution to augment cement volumes availability by approx. 2.4 MTPA. The ongoing debottlenecking projects to increase the clinker capacity at Risda

and Nimbol Cement Plants are on track. Furthermore, the Blending Unit at Bhiwani, Haryana will be upgraded to a Grinding Unit to leverage on the successful launch of Double Bull cement brand in North and the Company's existing channel in the region.

This will provide key impetus to serve high growth North India markets. The prevailing infrastructure at site will help to expedite the commissioning of the projects with limited capex. The debottlenecking and upgradation projects will augment the collective volume availability by approx. 2.4 MTPA and involve a total capex of approx. Rs.400 crores.

## Over 26k Indian law compliances with imprisonment clauses

### Need to usher in compliance climate that befits India

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Acts of sedition can attract a sentence of one to three years - a similar sentence can be given for not whitewashing latrines and urinals once every four months, according to a study detailing the imprisonment clauses plaguing the country's business compliance regulation framework.

Almost two out of five compliances that businesses in India have to acquiesce can send an entrepreneur to jail, the monograph



by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) said.

Among the 69,233 unique compliances that regulate doing business in India, 26,134 clauses have imprisonment clauses as a penalty of non-compliance. "In other words, almost two out of five compliances can send an entrepreneur to jail," ORF said.

India's five most industri-

alised states - Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu - have more than 1,000 imprisonment clauses in their business laws while an average Indian MSME in the manufacturing sector with more than 150 employees deals with 500-900 compliances a year that cost Rs 12-18 lakhs in a single year.

The monograph offers key policy recommendations that would help reshape India's business climate and benefit both economy and the entrepreneur ecosystem. "Doing business in India is challenging due to the presence of imprisonment clauses in its business laws enacted since Independence," ORF said.

## RE capacity addition rises 80% to 3.4 GW during Dec quarter

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Renewable energy capacity addition increased 80 per cent to 3.4 gigawatts (GW) during the December 2021 quarter compared to a year ago, according to CEEW-CEF.

New capacity addition of non-hydro renewable energy increased to 3.4 GW during the third quarter of FY22, compared to just 1.9 GW installed in the same period last year (October-December 2020), according to the latest edition of the CEEW Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) Market Handbook, according to a



statement. This is nearly an 80 per cent jump in new renewable energy (RE) capacity addition on a year-on-year basis.

However, it stated that compared to the preceding quarter (July-September), new non-hydro RE capaci-

ty additions fell 27 per cent on account of intensifying supply chain constraints.

Solar energy comprised 92 per cent of the total RE capacity added during the quarter, driven partly by a 142 per cent rise in instal-

## BSE gets Sebi's in-principle approval to introduce EGR

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Capital markets regulator Sebi has given in-principle approval to BSE for introducing Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) on the stock exchange's platform.

For final approval for the introduction of EGR segment, the exchange has been advised to submit additional information, according to a regulatory filing on Thursday.

Sebi, in January, came out with a framework for operationalising the gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of EGRs.

Also, the regulator has notified rules for vault



managers paving the way for operationalising of the gold exchange.

"Sebi vide its letter dated February 9, 2022, has granted its in-principle approval for introducing EGR segment on BSE Limited," the exchange said. Under the rules, the entire transaction has been divided into three tranches - creation of EGR, trading of EGR on stock exchange and con-

version of EGR into physical gold.

The bourses can launch contracts with different denomination for trading or conversion of EGR into gold. The source of supply of the physical gold to be converted into EGR will be the fresh deposit of gold coming into the vaults, either through imports or through stock exchanges-accredited domestic refineries.

A common interface will be developed by depositories, which will be made accessible to all the entities - vault managers, depositories, stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

## Amway India introduces new range of supplements in gummies & jelly strips format

Mumbai, Feb 10:

Continuing to solidify its leadership in the health and immunity space through constant product innovation, Amway India, one of the country's leading FMCG Direct Selling companies, for the first time ever introduced a range of nutrition supplement trendy, tasty, convenient and simplified formats like flavoured gummies and mouth dissolving jelly strips under its flagship brand Nutrilite. The range is power-packed with essential nutrients for overall health, immunity, bone health and eye health. Designed to suit modern lifestyles, especially of the busy young mil-

lennials, this range of on-the-go nutrition supplements all set to further strengthen Amway's nutrition portfolio. Understanding the busy lifestyles of the millennials today, Amway has formulated the on-the-go nutrition solutions to meet their everyday nutrition needs. Currently, the range comprises three products - Seize the Day, strawberry flavoured gummies containing vitamins and minerals to support overall health and immunity, D-fence - mouth dissolving jelly strips containing Vitamin D3 to support bone health and immunity, and I Candy gummies containing Lutein & Zeaxanthin to support eye health.

## Reliance Jewels celebrates the season of love with special Valentine collection 'Floreo'

Mumbai, Feb 10:

Reliance Jewels, India's leading jewellery brand, has launched "Floreo" - a special Valentine's Day collection for those who help love grow. With the concept of love growing and becoming stronger with time, Reliance Jewels embraces the season of love with the launch of this exquisite diamond jewellery collection with minimalist and modern designs to celebrate Valentine's Day. The designs in the collection are inspired by plants and flowers that grow so gracefully day after day. Just as a newly planted seed turns into a beautiful plant, it is the brewing love story that

blooms into a beautiful relationship. All good things see the light of growth with time. Each piece in this elegant diamond collection is carefully designed to spread the true meaning of love - to remind you to be there for your loved one and to grow together with love. The special collection, "Floreo", is available in the form of contemporary rings and pendants in rose gold and yellow gold with intricate design detailing starting from Rs 12000. It is the perfect expression of love and strong bonds that fondly grow together over time. It will prove to be a great addition to personal jewellery collections and also act as a token of apprecia-

tion for your loved ones.

In addition to the new collection, Reliance Jewels has announced a special offer called the 'Dream Diamond Sale' till February 28, which includes up to 25% off on invoice value of diamond products at Reliance Jewels. Patrons can also avail up to 25% off on making charges of gold jewellery.

Commenting about the new collection, Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels said, "This season of love, we want to imbibe and share the true meaning of love with our valued customers through our newest collection 'Floreo'. Our aim has always been to bring out the best in our customers.

## BYJU'S 'Education for All' initiative has impacted 3.4 million children

Mumbai, Feb 10:

Reinforcing its commitment to create a far-reaching impact for students from underserved communities, BYJU'S flagship social impact initiative, Education for All (EFA), marks the one-year milestone of its launch. Within a year, the initiative has impacted 3.4 million children across 26 states and 340+ districts by making tech-driven education accessible, equitable, and possible for all. On the occasion of this momentous one-year anniversary, BYJU'S Education for All has revised its goals to empower

10 million children by 2025 through high-quality digital learning from 5 million which was decided at the launch of this initiative. Since its launch, BYJU'S Education For All, through its partner NGOs, has been enabling children from rural areas and urban slums of India to get an equal opportunity to learn with access to BYJU'S free streaming licenses. It is focused on a vision to eliminate the digital divide across the country by empowering and enabling students with sufficient resources and fostering a comprehensive ecosystem of digital learning.

**N**agesh Kulkarni's Telugu directorial 'Good Luck Sakhi' is all set for a digital premiere on February 12, Prime Video announced on Wednesday.

The Telugu comedy-drama movie starring Keerthy Suresh, also has Aadhi and Jagapathi Babu in pivotal roles. The movie which had a theatrical release recently will stream exclusively on Prime Video for viewers in more than 240 countries and territories, in Telugu, Malayalam and Tamil.

'Good Luck Sakhi' is the story of a happy-go-lucky girl Sakhi Pamar, portrayed by Keerthy Suresh, who hails from the Banjara tribe in the Rayalaseema region.

She goes by the nickname 'Bad Luck Sakhi' as the villagers consider Sakhi's presence a bad omen and harbinger of tough times. A colonel, portrayed by Jagapathi Babu, arrives in the village, hunting for a promising shooter whom he wishes to prep for the bigger stage. Sakhi has a gift for aiming targets that makes her a natural in shooting. How far will Sakhi fly under the guidance of the Colonel, forms the crux of 'Good Luck Sakhi'.

**Keerthy Suresh-starrer 'Good Luck Sakhi' to see digital release on Feb 12**



**TV celebs applaud 'Wagle Ki Duniya'**

It's celebrations galore in Sony ISAB's Wagle Ki Duniya as the

show completes a glorious year of entertaining audiences nationwide. In just one year, the show managed to captivate viewers of three different generations who are heavily invested in the lives of various members of the Wagle family because of its relatable storylines reflecting common man dilemmas, social issues, family values and aspirations that resonated with audiences. But that's not all, the show has managed to tug at the heartstrings of not just us but also our favourite celebrities. Here are some of the television's most popular faces talking about Wagle Ki Duniya as it reaches a monumental milestone: Tannaz Irani said, "Life filled with empathy, simplicity and morals should never be underestimated. That is why even today, in a fiercely competitive world, a simple feel-good series like Wagle Ki Duniya has made such a strong presence amongst the audience. All the cast members are doing an amazing job, and their hard work has certainly been translated onscreen as the show is a delight to watch."



**COLORS rolls out 'Naagin 6' and a fiction drama 'Parineetii'**

The nation's finest storytellers, COLORS and Balaji Telefilms have yet again joined forces to introduce two new captivating shows- the sixth edition of fantasy fiction 'Naagin' and a brand-new fiction-drama 'Parineetii'. With Naagin 6, COLORS brings back the audience's favourite serpent queen but this time in an all-new avatar on a quest to save the entire human race from a deadly catastrophe. On the other hand, Parineetii is an heart warming tale of two best friends Parineet and Neeti who share an unbreakable bond despite their contrasting aspirations in life. However, unknowingly they end up marrying the same man, Rajiv. What ensues is a riveting tale of love and friendship. Helmed by Ekta Kapoor, 'Naagin 6' will premiere on 12th February at 8 pm and air every Saturday and Sunday, whereas 'Parineetii' will premiere from 14th February every Monday to Friday at 10 pm.

Get ready for double entertainment as 'Naagin 6' will premiere on 12th February while 'Parineetii' will air every Monday to Friday at 10 pm starting 14th February only on COLORS!



**Huma Qureshi: 'I don't lie' is the biggest lie in itself**

As her new web series 'Mithya' is releasing soon, actress Huma Qureshi explains how the story of the show goes beyond the general interpretation of the word 'lie' and explores the dangerous side of the truth that could alter reality.

In the series, she is playing a teacher and how an ugly truth becomes a haunting element of her life and she takes refuge in lying to deal with the situation but it only gets messed up. Asked about her interpretation of the word 'Mithya' and Huma said: "Look, everyone lies and that is the truth. If anyone is saying that I do not lie, that is the biggest lie in itself. But there are different shades of lie that we say in communication like a white lie, manipulation of the truth, helpful lie, harmless lie because we all are trying to achieve something by doing that."

"But of course, a lie is bad, it is hurtful and it creates distrust between people. But so can truth, truth at times could be more dangerous than lie and more destructive than one can imagine. Quite interestingly our story is actually blurring those lines and exploring beyond the regular interpretation of those two words, truth and lie." In the show, Huma has worked with debutant actress Avantika Dassani, the daughter of 'Maine Pyar Kiya' fame actress Bhagyashree. She shares how working with Avantika took her back to the memory lane of her debut film 'Gangs Of Wasseypur'.

**Neethu's resilience is what drew me to 'Bestseller': Shruti Haasan**

Actress Shruti Haasan, who plays the lead in the web series 'Bestseller' that is to release on Prime Video on February 18, says that what appealed to her the most about Neethu, the character she plays in the series, was her resilience. Shruti Haasan said, "I'm entering a new space like OTT and I wanted it to be in a female-led story. I have been getting offers for scripts that are led by a woman in films and OTT but this particular one, led by the woman, was really interesting to me because of the kind of woman she is. Her name is Neethu and her character has a resilience which all women have. However, her application of resilience was different. She was sparkling with resilience." 'Bestseller', produced by Siddharth Malhotra's Alchemy Production LLP and directed by Mukul Abhyankar, will be special for Shruti as this will be the first time she will be seen playing a lead role in a web series. Is shooting for a web series any different from shooting for a film? Says Shruti, "When you go to shoot, you don't feel it is different."

## HOROSCOPE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11

**Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**  
Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions. At gatherings and social dos, says Ganesha, you will remain your charming self, impressing people with an amazing social grace.

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
Indications are that you will be busy partitioning your time equally between business and family today. Make sure that means something a bit more meaningful than going home for lunch. You will encounter a little variety and excitement at the workplace today, possibly in the form of a new secretary. Keep hoping.

**Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**  
No matter what you do, today you are not going to have your way. The times when you have been selfish are finished. Besides, you are likely to solicit trouble today. It may actually turn out to be good for you, says Ganesha, provided you change the focus of your actions.

**Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**  
Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesha. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out.

**Gemini: May 22 - June 21**  
You will feel some measure of loneliness today. You will need the company of someone close to you for reassurance. The evening will see you plagued by rapid mood swings. Meditative techniques can help calm your mind, says Ganesha.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesha. All you need is a little attitude adjustment. Today, you are likely to meet an old friend and you will get busy reminiscing about your time together.

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**  
When it comes to maintaining a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesha.

**Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**  
You will focus on your finances today and work towards consolidating your profits, says Ganesha. You may also make provisions for any crisis that may arise in future. Ganesha strongly feels that you may sign some agreements and documents that will become milestones in your future business life.

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**  
There is a very high probability of legal disputes receding and going your way due to out-of-court settlements that go in your favour. The afternoon may see you being unyielding when it comes to interacting with people. You will display courage and resilience when it comes to matters of relationships, or so hopes Ganesha.

**Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22**  
You are a visionary and today you work towards building a successful future. But, expecting an instant result would be unfair. You need to have patience to bring in those dynamic changes in your life. Wait and watch, the patience would reap sweet fruits!

**Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21**  
As Ganesha foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. It was fun being kid, isn't it?

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**  
You may get bogged down with work, and experience enormous stress today, says Ganesha. But, an adept professional, you will not give up easily. Your opponents will take a beating and will start to acknowledge your potential and abilities.

## CROSSWORD

210



- Stitched line
- The thing here
- Patriot \_\_\_\_ Allen
- \_\_\_\_ Murphy of "Shrek"
- Peeved
- Question
- Compass point (abbr.)
- Second self (2 wds.)
- Sailor
- Destroy
- Part of New York (2 wds.)
- Small wagon
- Entire
- Female voice
- Colors
- Mud brick
- Shredded cabbage
- Risked
- Fleet
- Nevada neighbor
- Hindu dress
- House additions
- Bound
- Rewrite text
- Ark's captain
- Decorations
- Sub finder
- Projectile
- Supplements
- Letter after gamma
- Tiny
- Christmas visitor
- Finance
- Curve
- Hawaiian feast
- Fatigue
- Fine
- Upon
- Woeful word
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- DOWN**
- Church steeple
  - Hues
  - Formal necktie
  - Factory
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  - Doorway
  - Handling
  - Stop
  - Eye suggestively
  - Critic Rex \_\_\_\_
  - Shoe part
  - Paper quantities
  - Discomfort

- ACROSS**
- RR stops
  - Tantalize
  - Norse god
  - Luxurious
  - Kidney, e.g.
  - Current fad
  - Unintelligible
  - Fashion magazine
  - Unlock again
  - Notched like a saw
  - NY time zone
  - \_\_\_\_ de toilette
  - Thus far
  - Actress \_\_\_\_ Evans
  - Entertain
  - Carson's successor
  - Shakespearean monarch
  - Iron or lead
  - Aromas
  - Elbow location
  - Growl
  - Libra's instrument



## Ruturaj recovers, out of isolation



**Ahmedabad:** India batter Ruturaj Gaikwad, who had tested positive for COVID-19, has recovered and is out of isolation. However, with skipper Rohit Sharma already making it clear that senior opener Shikhar Dhawan will open the innings in the third ODI against West Indies here on Friday, the Maharashtra player is unlikely to be considered for the inconsequential match. Ruturaj warmed the bench in the home T20 series against New Zealand and also did not get an opportunity to play against South Africa in the away ODI series. He was found to be COVID positive just four days before the start of the West Indies series, practically ruling him out of the rubber.

## Dutch women's team pulls out of FIH Pro League games in India

**New Delhi/Amsterdam:** The Dutch women's hockey team has pulled out of its back-to-back FIH Pro League matches against India to be played in Bhubaneswar on February 19 and 20 due to rise in COVID-19 cases in the Netherlands, especially the highly contagious omicron variant of the infection. The Royal Dutch Hockey Association (KNHB) said it has requested the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to postpone the matches to a later date. But, Hockey India on Thursday expressed surprise at the pulling out of the Dutch team. "The KNHB medical committee issued a negative advice for intercontinental travel in January.

## Australia makes 2 changes for Sri Lanka T20 opener



**Sydney:** Australia has made two changes to the team which claimed its first Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates in November for the first match of a five-game T20 series against Sri Lanka. With David Warner rested, the top run-scorer in the domestic T20 competition, Ben McDermott, will open the batting with captain Aaron Finch for Friday's match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Josh Inglis comes in for Mitch Marsh and will play solely as a batsman while Matthew Wade is the wicketkeeper. Finch on Thursday endorsed Andrew McDonald as Justin Langer's permanent replacement and echoed the comments of his test counterpart Pat Cummins by saying the next coach must be more collaborative."

## Djokovic on entry list for Indian Wells tournament



**Indian Wells:** Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is on the entry list for the BNP Paribas Open in California, where the Serb would face a vaccine mandate. Djokovic, who was unvaccinated against COVID-19 as of last month, was detained and eventually deported from Australia for failing to meet that country's strict vaccination requirements. It prevented him from defending his Australian Open title last month. To enter Australia, Djokovic submitted a positive test issued in Serbia on Dec. 16 for a visa exemption on the grounds that he had recently recovered from the virus. But the Australian government canceled his visa and deported him. Neither the ATP nor WTA tours require players to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Isner beats Anderson in Dallas



**Dallas:** John Isner beat Kevin Anderson to advance to the quarterfinals of his hometown Dallas Open, outlasting the South African in their first meeting since a marathon in the Wimbledon semifinals in 2018. All three sets went to tiebreakers, with Isner holding on, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (7), 7-6 (5). Anderson was the one who survived the second-longest match in Wimbledon's 134-year history six hours and 36 minutes for a spot in that final. Anderson went on to lose to Novak Djokovic.

# Dhawan returns as India eye series sweep vs WI

**Ahmedabad, Feb 10 (PTI):**

The returning Shikhar Dhawan will add more firepower to a ruthless India, who are faced with the problem of plenty, as they eye a clean sweep of West Indies in an inconsequential third ODI here on Friday.

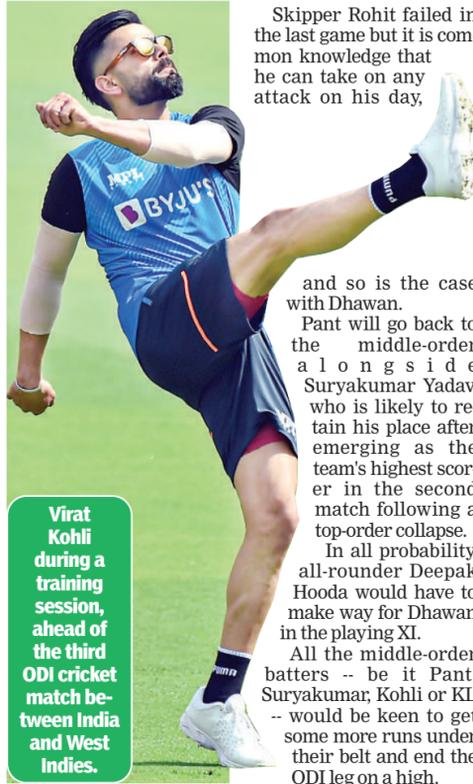
Hosts India head into the final match of the series after having ticked almost all the boxes in the first two games, which they won comfortably.

Senior opener Dhawan was among the four players, including a reserve bowler, who had tested positive for COVID-19 just four days ahead of the start of the ODI leg.

"We will get Shikhar back for next game, and he needs some game time. It is not always the results. We wanted to try it one game," Rohit had said.

This means that vice-captain KL Rahul would continue to bat in the middle-order along with former skipper Virat Kohli, whose search for his 71st international hundred continues.

The hosts, who were restricted to 237 for nine in the second game, would be



**Virat Kohli during a training session, ahead of the third ODI cricket match between India and West Indies.**

Skipper Rohit failed in the last game but it is common knowledge that he can take on any attack on his day,

and so is the case with Dhawan.

Pant will go back to the middle-order alongside Suryakumar Yadav, who is likely to retain his place after emerging as the team's highest scorer in the second match following a top-order collapse.

In all probability, all-rounder Deepak Hooda would have to make way for Dhawan in the playing XI.

All the middle-order batters -- be it Pant, Suryakumar, Kohli or KL -- would be keen to get some more runs under their belt and end the ODI leg on a high.

It remains to be seen whether Shreyas Iyer, if available for selection, can

make the playing XI or not. The Indian bowlers dished out a clinical show in the two preceding matches, dismissing their opponents for 176 and 193, respectively.

And with the series sealed, the Indian team management can afford to make few changes and give opportunities to new players. So, either left-arm orthodox spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is making a comeback after recovering from an injury, or young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi could get a look-in.

This means that either Yuzvendra Chahal or Washington Sundar could be rested to make way for one of their teammates.

Also, Madhya Pradesh pacer Avesh Khan has been waiting in the wings, and the team management might also give him a game.

With pacer Prasidh Krishna taking four wickets in an excellent second game and Shardul Thakur also among the wickets, it is highly unlikely that the duo would be dropped.

So if Avesh is included, probably Mohammed Siraj would have to make way.

## Someone else took credit for decisions I took in Australia: Rahane



**New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):**

He was a central figure in India's epic turnaround during the 2020-21 tour of Australia but stand-in captain of that series Ajinkya Rahane says "someone else took the credit" for decisions he made to resurrect the team after the nightmarish 36 all out in the Adelaide Test.

As regular captain Virat Kohli flew out of Australia, leaving in his wake the disappointment of the humiliating loss in

the opener at Adelaide, Rahane took over the reins in the most difficult of circumstances.

What followed was one of the most incredible turnarounds seen in Test history as India rebounded to win the second match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground by eight wickets, with Rahane leading the fight-back with a magnificent hundred.

"I know what I've done there. I don't need to tell anyone. That's not my na-

ture to go and take credit. Yes, there were some things that I took the decisions on the field or in the dressing room but someone else took the credit for it," Rahane said in an episode of 'Backstage With Boria'.

"(What was) important for me was that we won the series. That was a historical series and for me, that was really special."

Rahane did not take any names but his comments could well be a veiled attack on the then head coach Ravi Shastri, who was widely acclaimed for the team's performance and dominated the media space for being the architect of the turnaround given that the dressing room resembled a hospital ward at one point. In fact, Shastri became the voice of the team after those brilliant victories.

Rahane earned plaudits from the cricket fraternity for the manner in which he led the heavily depleted team in one of the most difficult situations, not just at the MCG but through the remainder of the four-match series.

# Young Jugraj slams hat-trick as India beat South Africa 10-2 in FIH Pro League hockey

**Potchefstroom, Feb 10 (PTI):**

Young drag-flicker Jugraj Singh, playing his second international match, slammed a hat-trick as Olympic bronze medallist India hammered hosts South Africa 10-2 in the FIH Pro Hockey Pro League, here on Wednesday.

Jugraj converted three penalty corners in the fourth, sixth and 23 minutes, while Gursahibjit Singh (24th, 36th) and Dilpreet Singh (25th, 58th) scored a brace each for India in the opening match of the two-leg tie.

The other goal getters for the visitors were Harmanpreet Singh (2nd), Abhishek (12th) and Mandeep Singh (27th).

South Africa's goals were scored by Daniel Bell (44th) from a penalty corner and field strike from Richard Pautz (45th).

India's dominance in the match can be gauged from the fact that they earned as many as 12 penalty corners. India had defeated France 5-0 here on



Tuesday. The Indians started from where they left against France and completely dominated the first two quarters to race to a 8-0 lead at half time.

The Indians completely dominated the first and second quarters, scoring four goals apiece to take a sizeable lead at half time.

After the change of ends, India extended their lead but South Africa showed some fight towards the end of the third

quarter and scored two goals in a span of one minute to reduce the margin to 2-9.

The fourth and final quarter witnessed a more defensive approach from the Indians as they preferred to sit back and guard their goal, depending more on counter-attacks to surprise South Africa.

Their play yielded result deep into the final quarter when Dilpreet scored his

second goal of the day with a fierce reverse hit from the top of the South African circle to make it 10-2 in favour of India.

In no time, South Africa secured a penalty corner but the Indians defended well to deny their opponents.

The Indians then secured a penalty corner in the next move but Harmanpreet's flick was well defended by South Africa.

# ESPNcricinfo Awards: Pant wins 'Test Batting Award', Williamson is 'Captain of Year'



**New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):**

India's dashing keeper-batter Rishabh Pant won top "Test batting" prize for his series-winning knock of 89 against Australia in Brisbane last year while New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged 'Captain of the Year' at the 15th Annual ESPNcricinfo awards.

The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson for his 5 for 31, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions. Pant steered India to an unlikely victory in the dying moments of play in the final Test, taking them to a 2-1 series win. Few would have predicted India to emerge victorious as they went into the match with a third-string

side in the wake of numerous injuries to their first-choice players.

Williamson, who was up against Virat Kohli, Babar Azam and Aaron Finch for the award, won it for leading his side to the World Test Championship win and a runners-up place at the T20 World Cup.

England fast bowler Ollie Robinson was named Debutant of the Year for his 37 wickets at 21.16 in eight Tests, which made him England's second highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2021.

While England men's side had a largely forgettable year, they still managed to grab three awards.

Saqib Mahmood's 4 for 42 in a nine-wicket win over Pakistan got him the top ODI bowling prize.

# Lukaku goal puts Chelsea through to Club World Cup final

**Abu Dhabi, Feb 10 (AP):**

Chelsea will get another chance to win the Club World Cup for the first time after beating Al Hilal 1-0 to set up a meeting with Palmeiras in the final.

Romelu Lukaku's close-range goal in the 32nd minute settled a match between the European and Asian champions on Wednesday.

A European team has won 13 of the last 14 finals in the intercontinental competition. The last to lose was Chelsea, beaten by Corinthians in 2012.

Another Brazilian team in Palmeiras, the south American champion, awaits on Saturday and Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel should be in Abu Dhabi for that.

Tuchel missed the game against Al Hilal because he is isolating after contracting the coronavirus, and is hoping to be able to travel out for the final.

Lukaku's goal was his first in six appearances and came after Al Hilal de-



Chelsea's forward Romelu Lukaku (C) heads the ball during the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup semi-final football match between Saudi's Al-Hilal and England's Chelsea at Mohammed Bin Zayed stadium in Abu Dhabi.

fender Yasser Al-Shahrani failed to clear a cross by Kai Havertz. The Belgium

striker crashed home a finish from the edge of the six-yard box. (AP)

# Dream was to receive India cap from either MS Dhoni or Virat Kohli: Deepak Hooda



**Ahmedabad, Feb 10 (PTI):**

All-rounder Deepak Hooda says his childhood dream was realised when he received the India cap from the great Virat Kohli during the team's first ODI against the West Indies last week.

Hooda has always dreamed of playing for India and receiving the debut cap from either Kohli or the legendary MS Dhoni. "I made my debut in the first ODI, it was an amazing feeling. You always work hard for that. I feel blessed and honoured to be a part of the side," Hooda said while speaking

to teammate Suryakumar Yadav on 'bcci.tv' after India's 44-run win over West Indies in the second ODI on Wednesday.

"Earlier also when I came in the team Virat bhai was not there. While growing up I saw him becoming a legend and Mahi (Dhoni) bhai was already a legend. It was my childhood dream to get the cap from either of them.

"Getting the cap from Kohli was an amazing feeling," the Baroda player added. The batting all-rounder had also been picked in India's T20 squad in 2017 but didn't get a chance to play.

## SC orders reinstatement of woman judicial officer in MP

Says her resignation can't be construed as voluntary

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday ordered reinstatement of a former Madhya Pradesh woman judicial officer, who resigned in 2014 following an inquiry into her allegations of sexual harassment against a high court judge, saying her resignation cannot be construed to be voluntary.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai set aside the order accepting her resignation and directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to reinstate her as additional district judge. The apex court noted that a fortnight after her resignation, the petitioner had made a representation to the President as well as the Chief Justice of India, with a copy to the Chief Justice of the Madhya

Pradesh High Court, for reconsideration of the circumstances under which, she was left with no option but to resign. Though it may not be possible to observe that the petitioner was forced to resign, however, the circumstances enumerated herein would clearly reveal they were such that out of frustration, she was left with no other alternative, it said.

"We hold and declare that the petitioner's resignation from the post of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Gwalior dated July 15, 2014, cannot be construed to be voluntary and as such, the order dated July 17, 2014, passed by the respondent No.2 (MP govt), thereby accepting the resignation of the petitioner, is quashed and set aside; "The respondents are directed to reinstate the petitioner forth-

with as an Additional District & Sessions Judge. Though the petitioner would not be entitled to back wages, she would be entitled for continuity in service with all consequential benefits with effect from July 15, 2014," the bench said in its 86-page judgement. The apex court said the petitioner has established that her transfer order was in contravention of the Transfer Policy and the rejection of her two representations was also arbitrary. "Though it is the case of the respondent No.1 that the transfer order of the petitioner dated 8th July 2014, was on the ground of administrative exigencies, the material placed on record and particularly, the depositions of the then Judge on the Transfer Committee and the then RG, would clearly show that it was on

the basis of the complaint made by the then District & Sessions Judge, Gwalior," the bench said. The apex court said the transfer order of July 8, 2014, would squarely be covered by 'malice in law' as it was passed without taking into consideration the Guidelines provided in the Transfer Policy but on the basis of unverified allegations made in the complaint made by the then District & Sessions Judge.

On the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Registrar General of the high court, that "impulsive" decision of a judicial officer to resign cannot be said to be coercion, the top court said that no doubt, a Judicial Officer while discharging his/her duties, is expected to be independent, fearless, impassionate and non impulsive.

## SELFIE AFTER VOTING



Women voters click a selfie, holding their identification cards after casting their vote during the first phase of UP Assembly polls, in Meerut, Thursday.

## 'States not sending adequate IAS officers for central deputation'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said states have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation which has prompted changes in the service rules.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, he said the extant IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 contain provisions for central deputation of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

However, state governments have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

In view of the above, in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of

All India Services Act, 1951, comments have been sought from states/UTs on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 relating to the central deputation of IAS officers, which are under examination, he said.

In another reply, Singh said the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Regulations, 1955 contain provision for a central deputation reserve not exceeding 40% of the senior duty posts of a cadre/joint cadre.

However, state governments have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation. In order to address the above issue, comments



Jitendra Singh

have been sought from states/UTs, in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951 on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, he said. The issue of

proposed amendments affecting the authority of states or leading to instability in states' administration does not arise, the minister said, replying to a question whether the government intends to diminish the authority of states over their own officers.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has recently proposed changes in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 that will take away the power of states to override the Centre's request for seeking officers on central deputation.

As many as nine non-BJP ruled states have opposed the Centre's proposal that gives it an overriding power while deciding on central deputation of IAS officers,

whereas eight others have given their consent.

Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan have raised their voice against the amendments, officials said.

On the other hand, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have given their consent, they said.

Karnataka and Meghalaya had opposed the proposal initially sent to them last month but are expected to send a revised proposal, the officials said, adding that Bihar had also opposed the move earlier, the officials said.

## BANK LOAN FRAUD

## ED arrests director of Hyderabad company

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the director of a Hyderabad-based company in connection with a money laundering probe linked to an alleged bank loan fraud of Rs 370 crore, the agency said on Thursday.

Balvinder Singh, director of PCH Corporation Ltd and other PCH group companies, was arrested on February 8 and produced before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The court remanded him to judicial custody till February 23, the ED said in a statement.

This money laundering case, related to the alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 370 crore, was filed by the ED after studying a CBI FIR and chargesheet filed against the accused.

"In the CBI chargesheet, it is alleged that PCH Agencies Pvt Ltd, PCH Lifestyle Pvt Ltd, Balvinder Singh and others caused wrongful loss to Punjab and Sind Bank, George Town branch, Chennai, by fraudulently availing credit facilities by submitting fabricated documents to show higher turnover and then diverting the loan funds," the ED said.

It added that later, two more FIRs were registered by the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) against the PCH group companies. PCH group companies availed loans from various public and private banks and "failed" to repay them, the ED said.

"The amounts received as loan were diverted through shell companies with the help of CAs (chartered accountants) and entry operators (hawala dealers) in Hyderabad and Mumbai and it was received back in the PCH group companies for the purpose of showing a false rosary picture about the financial health of PCH Group, for the purpose of availing more loans and also for the purpose of an intended IPO (initial public offering).

## RAVIDAS JAYANTI PREPARATIONS



Devotees prepare chapati at Guru Ravidass Janam Asthan Mandir, ahead of Ravidas Jayanti, in Varanasi, Thursday.

## Maha DGP propose allowance hike for C-60 commandos

Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI) Maharashtra Director General of Police Sanjay Pandey has assured that a proposal will be sent to the state government to double the allowance of C-60 commandos engaged in anti-Naxal operations, an senior official said on Thursday.

The C-60 commandos, a specialised combat unit of the Gadchiroli police, are engaged in tackling the Naxal menace in the district. Pandey on Wednesday visited Gatta post, located around 60 km from Gadchiroli along the Maharashtra - Chhattisgarh border, and other police camps in the district to review the anti-Naxal operations.

## Mamata hands over 2000 freehold title deeds to refugee families

Assures regularisation of land occupied by them

Kolkata, Feb 10 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday handed over 2,000 freehold title deeds to eligible refugee families and assured that all land occupied by such people in the state will be regularised.

No refugee, including Matuas, will be left out of getting freehold deeds for his or her land and not a single refugee family possessing land deed will be evicted, she said.

The chief minister said that in Bengal at least 261 refugee colonies have been regularised and in the last three years 27,000 pattas



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hands over freehold title deeds to beneficiaries of a refugee colony, in Kolkata, Thursday.

have been distributed benefitting over 52,000 people.

Banerjee had announced in November 2020 that 1.25 lakh freehold title deeds would be given.

The TMC government had taken the decision to regularise refugee lands and handover land deeds

and CAA. "I would like to congratulate you (refugee families). This is your right towards your land. You have finally achieved an address after a long struggle.

All the refugee colonies belonging to the state government have been legally regularised and nobody will be evicted from those places.

The freehold title deeds for the lands will be distributed from time to time," Banerjee said at the deed distribution programme held at Netaji Indoor Stadium in the city.

The chief minister said that Bengal has formulated a law so that no refugee can be evicted from lands belonging to the Railway and other central governmental organisations.

## UP POLLS

## Groom casts vote before marriage procession

Bulandshahr (UP), Feb 10 (PTI): Talk about the zest to vote. A groom reached Char Khamba polling station in the Sadar assembly seat here to cast his vote before joining his marriage procession on Thursday.

Balram performed the Ghudchadhi ceremony, but came to the polling station on a motorcycle. The first phase of polling, which started at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm, is being held in 58 assembly seats spread across 11 districts in the western part of Uttar Pradesh.

Balram said he felt it necessary to exercise his franchise. After casting his vote, his marriage pro-

cession left from his house for Loni. The Char Khamba polling station is a model polling booth built on DM Colony Road. The booth was decorated with balloons and voters were welcomed with drum beats.

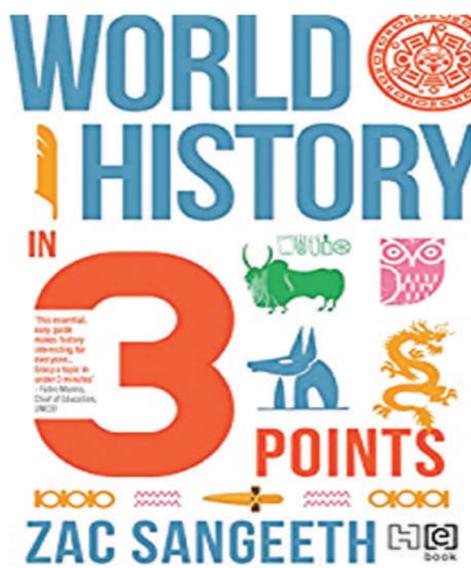
Meanwhile, at both number 421 of Anupshahr area in the district, people had to wait for hours in the queue before they were able to cast their votes due to a technical glitch in the electronic voting machines (EVM). Residents of Nagla Kheda and Nagla Bhud villages of Dibai area raised slogans of no voting as they claimed no development in the region.

## 10-year-old turns author with book on world history

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

"World History in 3 points", written by 10-year-old Zac Sangeeth, promises to give its readers — whether students or curious history buffs — a bird's view of history by presenting every topic in three crisp bite-sized capsules.

The book, published by Hachette India, claims to cover 101 topics "from ancient Egypt and imperial China to the Dark Ages and the Industrial Revolution, from Chanakya and Max Weber to Alexander to Ashoka, and from the Crusades and the Iranian Revolution to Socrates and Hegel". "In this era of fleeting attention spans and our addiction to micro



messaging platforms like Twitter and Instagram, history is still that odd subject that makes readers search information haystacks for a needle of insight. This is because normal history books take a worm's eye view — delving into minute historical details. "My book 'World History in 3 Points' takes a bird's eye view of history — a broad, to-the-point approach. I try cutting through details, simplifying complexities, distilling them into summaries," debutant author Sangeeth told PTI. Sangeeth, touted to be among the world's youngest commissioned non-fiction series authors, is currently a fifth grade student at Head Start Educational Academy, Bengaluru.

## 'Be aware of fake websites offering govt recruitments'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The National Recruitment Agency, which is mandated to conduct online examination for central government recruitments, has asked people to be aware of fake websites offering jobs in its name.

It has come to notice that some fake advertisements offering vacancies through recruitment examinations for or by National Recruitment Agency (NRA) are being published in websites /YouTube videos on the Internet (for example, the fake website nragovt.online), the NRA said in a public notice issued on Tuesday. It is hereby clarified that such websites are completely

fake and false. Appropriate action in this regard is being taken as per law, it said. NRA is yet to launch its official website, the notice stated. The candidates/applicants/aspirants and general public are accordingly advised to keep themselves away from such types of fake advertisements/websites/videos, it said.

The NRA has been tasked to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for jobs in government sector for which recruitment is currently carried out through Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).



### BRIEF



Professional wrestler Dalip Singh Rana aka The Great Khali joins BJP, ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, in New Delhi, Thursday.

### Loot

**Gurugram:** A maid sedated a woman and her two daughters and got the house robbed by bringing in four men in Sector 10A area here, police said on Thursday. According to a complaint, the maid Aarti along with her four accomplices held the family hostage on Tuesday evening and ran away with jewellery, Rs 50,000 in cash, watches and two mobile phones. The FIR was lodged at Sector 10A police station on Thursday and efforts are on to nab the accused, SHO Naveen Kumar said.

### Illicit liquor

**Mumbai:** Police have arrested three women on charges of manufacturing and selling illicit liquor in Mumbai, an official said on Thursday. According to the Vakola police official, the women - identified as Rupmani Bai Kadam, Chanabai Dabde and Kalawati Godake - were arrested on Wednesday from the Kalina Kolveerya area in suburban Kalina. During a raid, the police seized illicit liquor from their possession, he said, adding a case was registered against the trio and further investigation was underway.

### No proposal

**New Delhi:** There is no such proposal under consideration of the government to increase man hour work from eight to 12 hours for its establishments, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. No such proposal is under consideration of the government, he said, responding to a query whether government is in the process of increasing the man hour work from 8 hours to 12 hours a day in all government establishments.

### Mishap

**Kota:** Three persons of a family, including a five-year-old boy, were killed on the spot while three women sustained critical injuries after their car rammed into a roadside stationary truck on Baran Jhalawar Mega highway in Jhalawar district on Wednesday night, police said. The three deceased persons were identified as Amit Nagar (28), his son Vasu (5) and Koshaliya Bai (48), all residents of Marayata village under Khanpur police station of Jhalawar district while injured were identified as Mamtai Bai (28), Chamelibai (42) and Sitabai (51) of the same village.

Weather	
High	27
Low	14
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,605.85
SENSEX	58,926.03
BULLION	
GOLD	48,825
SILVER	63,152

### UP FIRST PHASE POLLS

## Nearly 58 % vote amid EVM glitches

Lucknow, Feb 10 (PTI):

About 58 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 5 pm on Thursday in Uttar Pradesh, where polling was held across 58 assembly constituencies in 11 districts.

Polling closed at 6 pm but those already in queue were allowed to vote, Election Commission officials said.

There were reports of technical snags in EVMs at some places, but voting was peaceful, they added. "An average 57.79 per cent polling was witnessed in Uttar Pradesh till 5 pm," an official said.

Additional Chief Election Officer (ACEO) B D Ram Tiwari said, "There were reports of a technical error in EVMs at some places." Those EVMs were being replaced as the reports came in, he added.

On the Samajwadi Party's allegation that poor voters were not allowed to exercise their franchise in Dundukheda village in the Kairana assembly constituency, Tiwari said the district magistrate concerned was



A voter gets her finger inked at a polling station, during the first phase of UP Assembly elections, in Dadr, Thursday.

asked to look into the matter. Till 5 pm, Agra recorded 56.61 per cent polling, Aligarh 57.25 per cent, Baghpat 61.35 per cent, Bulandshahr 60.52 per cent, Gautam Buddha Nagar 54.77 per cent, Ghaziabad 54.77 per cent, Hapur 60.50 per cent, Mathura 58.51 per cent, Meerut 58.52 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 62.14 per cent and Shamli 61.78 per cent, an EC report said.

A report from Ghaziabad said a minor skirmish took place between supporters of BJP leader V K Singh and Congress leader Rajan Kant, allegedly when the

former addressed media persons and talked about the work done by the BJP within the premises of a polling station, and security personnel had to intervene.

In Bulandshahr, a groom reached the Char Khamba polling station in the Sadar assembly segment to cast his vote before joining his marriage procession. The groom, Bahram, after performing the 'Ghuchhadhi' ceremony, reached the polling station on a motorcycle to cast his vote.

Voters in Mathura braved a dense fog in the morning when the polling

### Poll details

58 assembly constituencies in 11 districts voted in first phase. Till 5 pm, Agra recorded 56.61 per cent polling, Aligarh 57.25 per cent, Baghpat 61.35 per cent, Bulandshahr 60.52 per cent, Gautam Buddha Nagar 54.77 per cent, Ghaziabad 54.77 per cent, Hapur 60.50 per cent, Mathura 58.51 per cent, Meerut 58.52 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 62.14 per cent and Shamli 61.78 per cent.

began but visibility improved as the day progressed.

As many as 623 candidates, including 73 women, are in the fray for the first phase, and around 2.28 crore voters, including 1.24 crore men and 1.04 women besides others, are eligible to cast their franchise, state EC officials said.

State ministers whose fate will be decided in the first phase include Shrikant Sharma, Suresh Rana, Sandeep Singh, Kapil Dev Agarwal, Atul Garg and Chowdhury Lakshmi Narain.

Campaigning in the con-

stituencies going to the polls in the first round of the seven-phase election in the politically crucial state ended on Tuesday evening. Leading the campaign for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pitched for a double-engine government for fast-paced development while attacking the Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) combine.

While Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tried to put the spotlight back on the alleged "exodus" of Hindus from Kairana before 2017, SP president Akhilesh Yadav claimed that people have made up their mind to vote out the BJP.

The SP-RLD alliance has centred its electioneering on farmers' issues and has attacked Yogi Adityanath over poll promises.

BSP chief Mayawati, who started the poll campaigning late, reminded the people of her government's track record on law and order in the past.

## 'Congress using General Rawat's cut-outs for votes'

Srinagar (U'khand), Feb 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress on Thursday of abusing former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat when he was alive and using his cut-outs now for votes.

Addressing a rally in Uttarakhand's Srinagar ahead of the February 14 state Assembly polls, Modi said it is the Congress that had asked for proof of surgical strikes against terror hideouts in Pakistan.

"Its leaders in Delhi had asked for proof of the surgical strikes on television," he said. Reminding people that a Congress leader had even called General Rawat a "streetside hooligan", the prime minister said they are full of hatred for the armed forces.

If that was not the case, they would not have "lied" to the armed forces on "One Rank One Pension" for decades, he said, adding that OROP could finally be implemented only when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power at the Centre.



Describing the Congress as a party with a single-minded pursuit for power, Modi said it can never understand the price of "sacrifices". He also charged the Congress with indulging in politics when General Rawat was appointed as the country's first CDS. "The responsibility of giving the Congress a fitting reply in the coming polls for showing disrespect to General Rawat and using his name politically rests on the shoulders of the people of Uttarakhand.

"Won't you give them a strong reply to deter them from repeating what they have done?" the prime minister asked the gathering.

### PATH TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

## RBI maintains status quo

Mumbai, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday held its key lending rates steady at record low levels for the 10th straight meeting to support a durable recovery of the economy from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to hold the lending rate, or the repo rate, steady at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo, or the rate at which it absorbs excess cash from lenders, unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

The six-member MPC, which has been on pause since August 2020, voted unanimously to maintain



the status quo on the repo rate and by a majority of 5-1 to retain the accommodative policy stance as long as necessary, he said. "Monetary policy actions will be calibrated and well telegraphed," he said, indicating that there will not be any surprises.

"Overall, taking into consideration the outlook for inflation and growth, in particular the comfort provided by improving inflation outlook, the uncertainties related to Omicron and global

spillovers, the MPC was of the view that continued policy support is warranted for a durable and broad-based recovery," he noted.

While a status quo on repo rate was expected, some economists had expected a hike in the reverse repo to re-align it with short-term money market rates.

MPC continuing with the accommodative policy stance was one of the prime reasons Das cited for not hiking the reverse repo rate.

The decision comes days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to up spending to support the economy's world-beating recovery.

## Woman moves HC challenging validity of Sharia court, triple talaq order

Raipur, Feb 10 (PTI):

A woman has filed a petition in the Chhattisgarh High Court, challenging the validity of a Sharia court operating in Raipur and a 'triple talaq' order passed by it against her recently.

The petitioner had complained at a women's police station here against her husband and in-laws, and the counselling at the 'One Stop Sakhi Centre' (which takes up women-related issues) failed.

An FIR was subsequently registered at the police station against the woman's husband and in-laws.

But, the respondent (woman's husband) had proceeded for the 'triple talaq', her counsel Devershi Thakur said on Thursday.

The 'Idara-e-Shariya

### What happened earlier

The 'Idara-e-Shariya Islami Court' here last month passed the triple talaq order against the woman and no opportunity was provided to her to be heard, which is violation of the right to life provided under the Constitution of India, the woman said in her plea submitted recently in the HC at Bilaspur. The petition will come up for hearing in due course.

Islami Court' here last month passed the triple talaq order against the woman and no opportunity was provided to her to be heard, which is violation of the right to life provided under the Constitution of India, the woman said in her plea submitted recently in the HC at Bilaspur.

## Union minister's son granted bail

Noida, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers. The Bhartiya Kisan Union and the Rashtriya Lok Dal expressed displeasure over Mishra's bail. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra renewed her demand for the minister's resignation. The Lucknow bench of the court had reserved its order on January 18 on Ashish Mishra's plea after concluding the hearing through video-conferencing.

## Govt makes three-point seat belts mandatory

### For all front-facing passengers in car

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The government has made it mandatory for automakers to provide three-point seat belts for all front-facing passengers in a car.

The norm will also be applicable for the middle seat in the rear row of a car, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said at a press conference on Thursday.

"I have signed a file yesterday to make it mandatory for automakers to provide three-point seat belts for all the front facing passengers in a

### New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

There is no proposal under consideration for giving additional attempts to aspirants of civil services examination for the year 2022, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

The issue of granting age relaxation and extra attempt to the candidates in civil services examination (CSE) due to the COVID-19 pandemic had been brought before the Supreme Court of India vide writ petitions filed by the aspirants, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

Based on the judgements passed by the apex

court, the matter has been considered and it has not been found feasible to change the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the civil services examination, he said.

In view of above, no such proposal is under consideration, said Singh, replying to a query whether the government would consider giving additional attempts for the year 2022?.

The civil services examination is conducted annually to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others.

### NATURE'S BEAUTY



Tulips bloom inside the premises of Mughal Garden, ahead of its opening for general public, at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, Thursday.

### NEW RULES FOR INT'L ARRIVALS

## No RT-PCR test for flight, no quarantine

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Travellers arriving in India won't have to undergo a mandatory seven-day home quarantine or an RT-PCR test on the eighth day from February 14, according to revised guidelines for international arrivals issued on Thursday.

There will be random sampling of 2 per cent of International travellers from all countries on arrival. They can give their samples and will be allowed to leave the airport after that, Union

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Twitter. Instead of the seven-day home quarantine mandated earlier, all travellers will self-monitor their health for 14 days after their arrival, he said while detailing the relaxation in curbs for international arrivals.

Apart from uploading a negative RT-PCR report (taken 72 hours before the journey), there will be an option to upload certificates of the completion of full primary Covid vaccination schedule provided from

countries on a reciprocal basis. The ministry provided a list of 82 such countries. These include the US, UK, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Mexico and the Netherlands. The demarcation of countries 'at-risk' and other countries has been removed. Accordingly, the need for giving samples on port of arrival and waiting till the result is obtained from countries 'at-risk' has been dispensed with.

## Overall COVID-19 situation optimistic: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The overall COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country is optimistic and improving even as some states, including Kerala and Mizoram, are still reporting high positivity rates and are of concern, the Centre said on Thursday.

It also said that a decline in coronavirus infections and positivity rate has been noted across all states, but nearly 40 districts are still reporting an increase in weekly cases and there is a need to maintain vigilance.

Presently, 141 districts have COVID-19 positivity rate over 10 per cent, and 160 districts have positivity rate between 5-10 per cent in India, the government said. It added that Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have over 50,000 active cases.

It also said that the Covid daily positivity in Kerala is still enormously high at 29.57 per cent, adding that the positivity rate in Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim is also of concern.

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## Administrative team felicitates farmers in procurement centers

CEO Zila Panchayat Kunal Dudawat honored farmers in Patna PPC

Koriya, Feb 10:

On the last day of paddy procurement, on the instructions and guidance of District Collector Kuldeep Sharma, the administrative team in the district reached different procurement centers and felicitated the farmers. In Patna and Girijapur Paddy Purchase Center, District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat felicitated the farmers who arrived to sell paddy by giving them best wishes, shawls, quinces and plants.

The farmers informed the CEO that the amount against paddy procurement is being paid in the bank account on time. Sudarshan Prasad Sahu, a farmer from village Anjokala, reached Girijapur Paddy Procurement Center and expressed happiness over



the coordination of the administration in paddy selling. On the other hand, Kisan Ramkumar while expressing satisfaction over the system of paddy purchase said that I have sold paddy in two installments in which I have received the payment of the first installment on

time. Mr. Dudawat reached the shopping center and gave information about Kisan Credit Card and also observed the documents of other farmers. In Jampara, Additional Collector and SDM Baikunthpur presented plants to the farmers. At

Jampara Paddy Procurement Center, Additional Collector Sukhnath Ahirwar and SDM Baikunthpur Gyanendra Singh Thakur honored the farmers who came to sell paddy. Farmer Omkar Pandey was honored by SDM BS Markam in Vikaskhand Khargawan by gifting cashew plant on the last day of paddy purchase in Padar Procurement Center Bardar.

It may be mentioned that 249 farmers have taken tokens to sell paddy in the last day on 07 February. Tokens have been taken by farmers to sell 10 thousand 622 quintals of paddy. 13 lakh 97 thousand 701 quintals of paddy have been sold in the district till February 6, out of which lifting of 53.75 percent paddy has been completed.

## Low level construction work of CC Road

Dongargarh, Feb 10:

In the construction work of CC road at three places in ward no. 6 of the city at a cost of Rs 15 lakh, information has been received of poor construction. A 200 meter long road has been constructed from DB Rao's house to Mr. Raju's house, the cost of which is shown as 5 lakh 95 thousand, but the entire construction due to low grade had received complaint from many sections.

As per complaint by Block Congress President (SC Cell) Mayur Hatel and ward residents, CMO Yaman Devangan had said to pay attention to core cutting but meanwhile Engineer Kishore Thakur, in collaboration with contractor Shyam Agarwal, who is carrying out road construction work under the name of authorized contractor, ML Verma, called the team of Mobile Laboratory, Urban



Instead of 14 inches, 4 inches thick road was found in core cutting

Administration Department and Vikas Durg and without informing the complainants, at two places in the old road core cutting was done.

As soon as the complainants got the information, they lodged their objection on the phone with the CMO, on which core cutting was done on

the new road by the engineer on the instructions of CMO, in which CC road of only 4 inches thickness was found instead of 14 inches. Estimated CC Road was to be filled with 10 cm of Muram filling roller and then roller was rolled. The total thickness of the road was to be 14 inches using 20 mm ballast con-

crete material in the 15 cm thick section at the top level. But only 4 inches thick road construction was found in the core cutting.

According to sources, Kishore Thakur, an engineer of the municipality, is constantly showing negligence regarding the construction work and roads are being constructed in low quality. In this case core cutting was done at the same place, but on the objection of the applicant, when core cutting was done at a new place, CC road of only 4 inches thickness was found instead of 14 inches norm.

Elsewhere, in the presence of the contractor's staff, core cuts were made in two places at the same place. In this way, the engineer rushed to the spot with the team of core cutting without the knowledge of the complainants, and together with the investigation team, an attempt was made to suppress the irregularity.

## CRPF hosts martyr Raghur Singh Memorial Cricket Competition



Konta, Feb 10:

CRPF 74 Corps posted in Naxal Front of Sukma district organized a grand cricket competition in village Polampalli of Konta block in memory of Inspector Shaheed Raghur Singh, who was martyred in Burkopal while fighting the Naxalites. In this competition teams of the ultra-naxal affected villages of the area Pidmel,

Arlampalli, Korrpad, Puswara, Kankerlanka, Polampalli, Ramaram, Temelwada took part. With efforts of CRPF, the players of such villages were seen leaving their mark of talent in Pollampally Sports Ground, in this event, all the teams were provided with dress and cricket kit by CRPF 74 Corps. Apart from the players, food and snacks were also arranged for the spectators who

came to watch the match. In their opening match, the team of Korrpad Kankerlanka Arlampalli and Pollampalli reached the semi-finals. DIG of CRPF Sukma range Yogyan Singh, Commandant of CRPF 131st Battalion Praveen Thapariyal and SDO Jagargunda Vijay Rajput were present at the inauguration. In the final three title match between Pollampalli and Arlampalli

The team of Pollampalli and Arlampalli have made it to the final by winning the semi-finals of Shaheed Raghur Singh Memorial Cricket Competition, will face each other in the final of the competition, along with two teams of girls will also play the match after the final match.

## IKSC organizes lecture on NEP-2020



Khairagarh, Feb 10:

Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (IKSV), Kawardha recently organised a special lecture on New Education Policy (NEP-2020). Addressing the special lecture hosted by the institute's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), professor of Devi Ahilya Bai Vishwavidyalaya (Indore) and renowned educationist Dr Ashok Sachdeva gave detailed in-

formation about the NEP. On the occasion, IKS V vice chancellor Padma Shri Mamta Chandrakar, registrar professor I D Tiwari, teachers, officials, musicians, guest teachers, research scholars and others have registered their participation. After the lecture, Dr Sachdeva addressed the queries of participants. Later, Dr Sachdeva delivered a lecture in the language lab of the institute's arts stream.

## Tourism Board Chairman visits Maa Bamleshwari

Inspects construction

Dongargarh, Feb 10: Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board (cabinet minister status) Atal Srivastava on Saturday visited Dongargarh. During the Dongargarh visit, he took note of the work approved under the Prasad scheme, the construction works such as the development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi temple, development of Pragyagiri and the development of Pilgrim Facilitation Center. During inspection at Development of Pilgrim Facilitation Center he gathered information on the progress of works from Implementation Agency officer Chourasia and Tourism Board officer Kesaria and Pankaj Jha. He instructed not to compromise on the quality and directed to speed up the construction works to complete them on time. He instructed to write letter to Rajnandgaon



Collector for the transfer of land adjoining the Prasad Yojna site, reserved for adventure sports to the tourism department. He instructed SDM Dongargarh to take necessary action. Assurance was given to MLA Dongargarh, Bhuneshwar Baghel to upgrade Dagora reservoir from tourism department under water sports. After visiting Maa Bamleshwari temple he worshipped the Goddess and wished for the happiness of the state, He was honored by President Maa

Bamleshwari Trust Committee and Prayga Giri Trust Committee. Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Rai, Dongargarh MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel, Central Cooperative Bank President Nawaz Khan, Sudesh Meshram, Pragyagiri Trust chairman, committee member, Maa Bamleshwari Trust Committee chairman, Tourism Information Center Dongargarh's tourism officer Aarti Sahare and TIC Manager PVL Srinivas were present.

## Elders of family and society felicitated

In 'Siyani-Siyani' felicitation prog

Pandaria, Feb 10: A 'Siyani-Siyani' felicitation programme was organised by resident of Gram Panchayat Pouni dependent village Tilaihat village viz. Dr Raghu Sahu, Ranjit Sahu. This programme was organised by Raghu Ranjit Sahu in the memory of his father Late Jhaduram Sahu. The Chief Guest of the programme High Court Advocate TR Nirala and special guest was High Court Advocate Suresh Pandaya, Advocate Devkumar Kaneri, ex-MLA Pandaria- Motiram Chandravanshi, ex-MLA Lormi District Panchayat member and President rep Ramkumar Bhatt and Janpad President rep-



Sewaram Kurre. The guests in the programme hailed the presence of the guests and informed that this is state's first such programme which is novel and a need for the present-day society. All the guests gave priority to just one single thing that be it the house or society, village or state or in the country, the 'Siyani-Siyani' (senior cit-

izens in the family, both male and female) should be felicitated and then only that family, society or state will be happy and prosperous. A place where there is no respect and honour for the seniors or elders of the family, one has to always faces lack of peace, problems and difficult life, they added.

So in order to make each and every family happy



and prosperous, then one should give due respect and honour to their grandmother, grand-father and grand-ma or grand-pa.

The guests on the occasion said that in this modern-world it is generally heard that many a children and their wives fail to compromise on the issues and throw away their parents from their house. The very parents who are

not happy with their children, their children can never be happy in years to come. Therefore if at all a child has to spend peaceful and happy life, then they should respect each and every elder in the family and it is true that a family having the blessings of elders, can easily resolve any of the major challenges or issues in their life. On this occasion

District Panchayat President's rep- and District member Ramkumar Bhatt made a declaration of donating Rs 2 lakh for development of the village. In the end, organiser Raghu Ranjit Sahu felicitated the senior/ elders of the family and village with shawl and srfial.

In this programme Navagavhataha Sarpanch VK Dhritlahare, V-P Pradesh Sahu Samaj (PSS)- Gopal Sahu, Gen.Secy. PSS Vishnu Sahu, Janpad member Dhanraj Dahire, Janpad member Krishna Chandrakar, Mohan Kurre, journalists Shyam Tandon, BJP Mandal President Gajpal Sahu, Padam Tandon, Narottam Sahu, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Ashok Sahu and others were present.

## Illegal trade of biodiesel on National Highway route



Dongargarh, Feb 10: Action by Food Inspector Angad Thakur and Garima Sori on 5 February 2021 on behalf of the administration for illegally selling biodiesel on M/S Siddha Jai Biofuels (Rajasthan Gujarat Biofuels) located on the Dongargarh - Chichola Rajnandgaon National Highway road at village Kolihapuri (Nava) and the pump was sealed. During the proceedings, the officials found that in the name of biodiesel, other types of mineral oil were being sold indiscriminately. After the action taken by the administration, the

pump operator illegally broke the seal of the pump and sold the biodiesel again and on receipt of the information the petrol pump was inspected by the inquiry committee as per the instructions of the collector. After the seal was found to be broken, the pump was sealed again. After taking the statements of Biodiesel Pump Manager Raju Jhade, Leeladhar Varma and land owner Malaram Vishnoi, a report is being sent for further action. Dongargarh Tehsildar Raju Patel, Assistant Food Officer Ashish Ramteke, police station in-charge Chichola RS Sengar and employees of the department were present in this proceeding. According to Tehsildar Raju Patel, a report made for action on pump manager and others for breaking the seal will be done and the District Collector would be informed about the action taken through the report.

## 48,480 people vaccinated against Corona in a single day



Korba, Feb 10:

In the district, a campaign of 100 % vaccination was carried out to save people from the infection of Covid - 19 and for the same a large number of people lined up to get the vaccine at the vaccination centers of urban and rural areas since morning. Apart from vaccination centers in rural areas, mobile medical teams also went door-to-door to vaccinate people to protect them from Covid. In this cam-

paign, 48 thousand 480 people were vaccinated against corona in a single day, of which adolescent girls, youth, women, farmers and elderly people also reached the vaccination site with enthusiasm. People were also vaccinated by the vaccinators at the MNREGA work site. Development block Podi, in village Hardeva and Tanera of Uporda the first and second vaccines of Covid were administered to the people in the workplace itself. Similarly, at the bus

stand of Binjhra, people were vaccinated against Covid by the Mobile Medical Unit. During the campaign, school students above 15 years of age also reached the vaccination site with enthusiasm and got themselves inoculated. Sakshi Sahu, a student of class 9th resident of Rajgamar, took the first dose of Covid in the vaccination center built in the district library building and said she feels completely fine after taking the vaccine. Maximum numbers of vaccines were administered in Pali block, where 13 thousand 430 people were vaccinated, Six thousand 093 in Korba block and 10 thousand 108 in Kartala block, seven thousand 808 in Katghora and six thousand 078 people in Pondiuporda block, People were vaccinated by 514 vaccinators at these centers.

## Youth should be self-sufficient and independent: Sahu

In prog under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

Bazar Ataria, Feb 10: An orientation programme for youth was organised under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (ABA) under the aegis of Nehru Yuwa Kendra (NYK) Rajnandgaon in Gram Bazar Ataria. The chief guest of the programme was Sabhapati District Panchayat Viplav Sahu and journalist Dinesh Sahu was the special guest. The programme began with garlanding of photo of source of inspiration for youths viz. Swamy Vivekanand. Viplav Sahu informed that appealed the youths



to take up skill-development and become more self-sufficient and independent. He informed that if any person wants to become to entrepreneur than he is given some funds by the district headquarters, so that he can become self-sufficient and develop some confidence and take up some profession of his own. He

held the need to think seriously on how to develop the human resources in a better manner. Teacher is one such person who holds the talent to find out budding talent in a child and added that in the coming time, they should try to stay in company of good persons in order to link with different institutions. Dinesh Sahu giving guid-

ance to youths said that when the country and its people were facing corona pandemic, at that time there was no supply of items or goods from foreign countries and at that time the PM Narendra Modi visualised the need for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and appealed people also to become self-sufficient in manufacturing and meet-

ing up resources on their own. Once the country will become self-sufficient in production or various goods, machinery and others, then it will not have to be dependent upon other countries for it. He said that India has been self-sufficient country right since ancient times, as it holds the talent and charisma to manufacturing anything on this planet Earth.

On this occasion NYK worker Om Upadhyay, Virendra Singh Lodhi, Ugra Singh Lodhi, Hariprasad Upadhyay, Tarun Pal, Hemant Upadhyay, Dinesh Verma, Nilesh Upadhyay, Komal Verma, Rishabh Yadav, Dhanus, Kartik, Mahendra, Vivek and other youths from nearby villages were present.



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Parliamentary language

Language problems between members of Parliament again came to the fore in the Lok Sabha, with DMK MP A Ganeshmurthi and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal exchanging words on the issue. Ganeshmurthi had, during question hour, asked a supplementary question on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Tamil Nadu. Goyal said he had missed a part of the question in Tamil and asked the MP to repeat which specific project was being referred to. Last week, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who were former party colleagues, sparred over the Minister replying to English questions in Hindi. While responding to supplementary questions asked by members from Tamil Nadu in English, the Civil Aviation Minister had replied in Hindi. In 2018, the then Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan had said that members can speak in any of the 22 languages given in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as simultaneous interpretation was now available for five remaining languages. The Lok Sabha Secretariat had since made arrangements with Rajya Sabha's cooperation to extend this facility vis-a-vis Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali, and Sindhi languages. Members wishing to speak in any of the 22 languages need to give information 24 hours beforehand. When the Constitution of India was framed, this aspect of linguistic diversity was given due consideration and hence in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution 14 Indian languages were adopted at that point of time. In absence of a unified written script for Indian languages, English remains the convenient parliamentary language but some politicians want to trivialise the language issue. The core functioning of Parliament of India or for that matter any legislative body is to debate and discuss various issues concerning the people of the country. Members of Indian Parliament are free and privileged to speak in any of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India while participating in the debates and discussions of the Parliament. This freedom and privilege are guaranteed to the Members of Parliament by Article 120 of the Constitution of India. The initial success in Hindi/English interpretation since the inception of the Service in 1964 led to the introduction of facilities for simultaneous interpretation into Hindi and English of some other Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Constitution makers had deliberated the issue of Official Language in detail at the time of framing the Constitution and it was decided that Hindi in Devanagari script should be adopted as the official language of the Union. This is the basis of declaring Hindi as the Official Language of the Union under Article 343(1). At the time of framing and adoption of the Constitution, it was envisaged that English will continue to be used for executive, judicial and legal purposes for an initial period of 15 years. The Constitution makers were conscious that language transition in all the fields may not be possible by 1965. The Official Language Rules were framed in 1976. Article 351 of the Constitution speaks of the development of Hindi as the Official Language of the Union. The framers of the Constitution had envisaged that Hindi with the help of other Indian Languages would evolve as a composite language, capable of being accepted by people living in non-Hindi speaking regions. Over the years, despite intermingling of languages, Hindi could not be developed as composite language due to different written scripts, hence use of English is convenient.

## Solar geoengineering

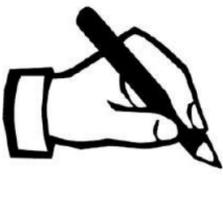
Last month, an underwater volcanic eruption covered the island nation of Tonga in ash. It sent tsunami waves surging across the entire West Coast. And it also released a cloud of sulfur dioxide, a chemical that, in large enough quantities, reflects the sun's rays and cools the planet. But the eruption illustrated a question that has been dogging scientific and climate experts. Blocking the sun's rays with an artificial particle shield launched high into Earth's atmosphere to curb global temperatures is a technological fix gaining traction as a last resort for containing the climate crisis but it needs to be stopped, wrote a coalition of over 60 academics in an open letter. One underappreciated, terrifying aspect of climate change is that the situation would be even worse if our air pollution weren't cooling us. These debates about solar geoengineering tell us more about the assumptions and epistemologies of the people creating them than about what might actually happen with solar geoengineering which in many important ways could be a force for peace and stability. Modelling research has consistently shown that solar geoengineering 'could offset some of the effects of increasing' greenhouse gases 'on global and regional climate,' according to climate scientists. India has still not made its solar geoengineering stance clear. Critics of solar geoengineering dismiss it as ungovernable, given the difficulty of global political agreement. But is solar geoengineering more or less governable than the extremely complicated and conflict-rich problem of phasing out fossil fuels globally? Instead of fossil-fuel-producing countries dragging the planet into an existential death spiral, a truce could be accommodated in which solar geoengineering is used to smooth the transition. In its best-case form, solar geoengineering would buy time for decarbonization and carbon removal, as a temporary program that ramps up during the transition, then ramps down again over a century or so 'shaving the peak' off climate impacts. Solar geoengineering research needs public funding through national science agencies. This can help ensure several important things. It can maintain public oversight of the research and enable the design of research programs where social scientists and governance scholars are integrated from the outset, producing the critical type of interdisciplinary research this topic demands. Perhaps most important, national funding agencies can structure research programs to examine the potential risks and benefits in a comprehensive way, making sure to give full attention to everything that could go wrong. Without this systematic approach, what gets published may be a trickle of studies showcasing only the most stellar results, making solar geoengineering look better than it is.

## COMICS AND ANIMATION FEST



A woman stands next to effigies at the 10th Comics and Animation Festival in Taipei, Taiwan on Thursday.

## Deep impact of ocean seabed mining

**PRADEEP A SINGH**

The world's ever-growing appetite for metals has pushed the mining sector to search for new potential sources, putting the extraction of deep-sea minerals on the horizon. A race is now on between those that regulate deep sea mining and those hoping to extract its riches. Deep seabed mining is generally at depths greater than 200 metres, and possibly beyond 5,000 metres, an area that despite incremental improvements in scientific understanding over the last few decades, remains poorly understood. Scientists do know that commercial-scale deep seabed mining can cause substantial, long lasting and potentially irreversible (on human timescales) impacts on the marine environment and its food web. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS), a widely ratified multilateral treaty, covers the various maritime zones and the corresponding rights and obligations of states including ensuring the protection and preservation of the marine environment. Beyond the limits of seabed areas within national jurisdictions (200 nautical miles from the coastline) lies the international seabed, otherwise known as the Area, where a unique and dedicated legal regime created under UNCLOS exists. Two thirds of the world's deep sea beyond 200 metres deep lies beyond Exclusive Economic Zones that are controlled by states. The Area and its mineral resources are legally designated as the common heritage of humankind. Access is via an international organisation created

under UNCLOS known as the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The ISA administers the mineral resources of the Area both rules related to exploration and ensuring the marine environment is protected from such activity. Over the last two decades, the ISA has adopted regulations for the exploration of three mineral deposits of polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, which contains high-grade metals such as copper, nickel, iron, and zinc and has already awarded 31 exploration contracts (as of 1 January 2022). The majority of these contracts are for the exploration of polymetallic nodules in the nodule-rich region of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone in the Pacific Ocean. But no exploration contracts have so far been awarded because the ISA is yet to adopt exploitation regulations. It has been negotiating the draft text since 2019. The ISA is under pressure to finalise exploitation regulations after the Republic of Nauru triggered a two-year deadline provision in June 2021. If this deadline is not met, any pending exploitation applications will still need to be considered despite the absence of regulations. The pandemic has affected the ability to have in-person negotiations and many crucial matters still need to be resolved over a short time period. The ISA's transition from exploration to exploitation deserves close scrutiny as its implications could be far-reaching once exploitation activities are allowed to commence, it could be difficult to reel things back. The current models of payment for commercial mining incentivises mining operators by imposing low rates that fail to take into account the natural capital value of the deep ocean and provide fair compensation to humankind for losses incurred. The ISA and its member states must agree on an appropriate mechanism for the equitable sharing of benefits derived from deep seabed mining in the Area before allowing exploitation to commence. While ISA member states may directly apply to the ISA for mining contracts, they can also choose to

sponsor state-owned enterprises or nationally-based private entities, or foreign companies that are under the effective control of the state(s). In recent years, developing countries, particularly small island states, have increasingly sponsored locally registered companies that are wholly owned or controlled by foreign companies to conduct exploration activities. These sponsored entities essentially operate from developed countries but have been granted access to reserved areas, or sites with commercial value that have been set aside exclusively for developing countries under UNCLOS, and do not appear to be under the effective control of the sponsoring state. One example is The Metals Company (formerly DeepGreen), a foreign company that obtained exploration rights over three separate contract areas that are all located within reserved areas. It did this through wholly-owned subsidiaries and other arrangements with locally-based companies, under the sponsorship of Nauru, Tonga and Kiribati respectively, without being named in any of the ISA contracts. Left unchecked, such sponsorship practices could pave the way for exploitation monopolies. Some sponsoring states may also lack the capacity to supervise exploitation works, may impose lesser environmental conditions, or simply form a relationship of convenience as opposed to a partnership. And by agreeing to sponsor an entity, sponsoring states expose themselves to potential responsibility under international law and could stand to be liable for environmental damage caused by the sponsored entity. In future, the ISA should foster greater involvement of developing countries in its work by enhancing training and capacity building efforts, as well as facilitating transfers of technology from developed countries to developing countries. The ISA should also expedite the operationalisation of its own entrepreneurial organ, the Enterprise, which was established under UNCLOS to be the vessel through which all states, including and especially developing

ones, can participate in seabed exploration and exploitation. Some say it's necessary to mine the seabed in order to secure the metals required for clean energy to tackle climate change. Premised on the projection of metal supplies and demands over the next few decades, this remains a subject of intense debate. Those pushing this argument are private entities currently engaged in exploration activities, and of late, the ISA Secretariat. In any case, the picture that is being painted appears to be incomplete. There is some truth in positing that the clean energy transition requires more metals and that acquiring them from terrestrial sources may require current mining operations to go deeper and further, thereby causing more environmental harm. But the problems with land-based mining are known and can be managed through better techniques and stricter regulation. Mining in a liquid environment that is remote and largely out of sight is a lot more challenging and difficult to manage. Enabling deep seabed mining to commence could in turn undermine global efforts to meet the sustainability agenda. Mining the seabed may contribute metals that are used to advance sustainable development, but that does not make the activity itself sustainable the end does not necessarily justify the means. Deep seabed mining is being considered at a time when the ocean is already facing unprecedented levels of threat. In 2018, ISA Secretary-General Michael Lodge said 'mineral exploitation cannot be permitted to proceed unless the ISA is satisfied that rigorous environmental safeguards are in place'. Decisions taken by the ISA today will not only concern the present generation but the rights and interests of future generations. With the clock ticking and many possible pathways ahead, all eyes are now on ISA member states. (Pradeep A Singh is doctoral researcher at University of Bremen, Germany.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mamata's setback

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's is a perfect case of odd personality in Indian politics. She has made efforts for taking extreme steps all through her political career to reach her political ambition at any cost. Following a surprise victory of her party's, the TMC (Trinamool Congress), in the West Bengal State polls in 2011, she became the Chief Minister of the state and was convinced that minority votes in the state were a solid constituency to score success in the state polls. Ever since Banerjee took to irrational tactics of appeasing voters and she has tasted huge success by winning continuously for the third time in 2021. Mamata Banerjee has met with a setback recently in Goa as 5 TMC leaders, including former MLA Lavoo Mammedar resigned nearly three months after joining as they dubbed TMC a communal party. They clearly stated, "we do not want to continue with a party which is trying to divide Goans" as they were exasperated by TMC's polarizing the voters with an eye to the coming Goa polls. The Goa setback to TMC is a perfect recipe to similarly counter the rise of ill-conceived appeasement which only fuelled fanaticism in the country. Banerjee's style of governance is equally authoritarian which is conspicuous by her flouting democratic principles. During her official tour to the districts she openly holds out threats to the journalists to send only positive reports about Government actions. The unrestrained demon of wacky politics being played a la Mamata Banerjee is a bane in the Indian political landscape and needs to be eliminated.

Pannalal, via email

### Modern Dronacharya

Of late India has emerged as one of the leading Badminton playing nations of the world. The man behind this epic feat is Pullela Gopichand, former All England Open Badminton champion. After retiring from competitive badminton, Gopichand dedicated himself to coaching and he started his Badminton Academy at his effort which started producing world-beaters like PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Sai Praneth, Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth Kidambi, Guru Sai Dutt and others, to name a few. Total dedication and discipline are his main mantras which he displayed when he expelled Saina Nehwal, an Olympic bronze medalist from the Academy for appearing in the commercial advertisement at the cost of her regular practice, thus violating his principles. He is modern-day Dronacharya, the then guru of the Pandavas which produced archers like Arjun, second to none in archery. The government of India duly conferred him with the prestigious Dronacharya Award in 2009. He maintains a low profile from any publicity, unlike the others. I wish him well.

Lanu Dutta, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



**Brahma Chellaney @Chellaney**  
Xi takes a page out of the 1936 Berlin Olympics playbook: Just as Hitler sought to camouflage his persecution of Jews by including one Jewish athlete in the German team, Xi has tried to whitewash his Xinjiang genocide by presenting a Uyghur skier as the face of the Beijing Games.

**kushal\_mehra\ @kushal\_mehra**  
Now @AkaashSingh talks about Munawar Faruqui on the @joerogan podcast. Rogan asked him does India have FOE. Akaash says its supposed to be a democracy. This is my problem. He presents it as if India has suddenly become this nation. But India has had blasphemy laws since 1920's.



**Elliot Hawkey@ElliotHawkey**  
The awe inspiring landscapes of Northern Norway



**Armaan Malik @ArmaanMalik22**  
A lot of people ask me do you make music thinking of charts and views etc. and my answer is simple. I'm here to create great music. How it performs ain't in my control, but what is def in my control is the creative aspect & I'll always focus on making that the best it can be!

**Vinay Kumar@vinaygb**  
The truth is that all these billion dollar companies, Indian or foreign, which are driven by huge investments don't care about your sentiments, health, well-being, beliefs etc. Only thing that matters to them is money, not values. They have one & only aim - to maximise profit.



**DP Singh@MajDPSingh**  
Sad to see grown up well read janta is getting trapped in politically influenced issues. Even more sad is to see them instigating/supporting their own kids to develop negative traits w/o realizing it is harmful to their growth. Present is getting spoiled. Future will suffer.

**Abhinav Prakash@Abhina\_**  
Patriotism is pre-industrial construct rooted in patriarchal notions of 'blood & soil', defence of land & kinsmen. Nationalism is construct of industrial society. Faux debate is generated to make nationalism sound regressive & glorify agrarian, patriarchal construct of patriotism.

## SC orders reinstatement of woman judicial officer in MP

Says her resignation can't be construed as voluntary

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday ordered reinstatement of a former Madhya Pradesh woman judicial officer, who resigned in 2014 following an inquiry into her allegations of sexual harassment against a high court judge, saying her resignation cannot be construed to be voluntary.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai set aside the order accepting her resignation and directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to reinstate her as additional district judge. The apex court noted that a fortnight after her resignation, the petitioner had made a representation to the President as well as the Chief Justice of India, with a copy to the Chief Justice of the Madhya

Pradesh High Court, for reconsideration of the circumstances under which, she was left with no option but to resign. Though it may not be possible to observe that the petitioner was forced to resign, however, the circumstances enumerated herein would clearly reveal they were such that out of frustration, she was left with no other alternative, it said.

"We hold and declare that the petitioner's resignation from the post of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Gwalior dated July 15, 2014, cannot be construed to be voluntary and as such, the order dated July 17, 2014, passed by the respondent No.2 (MP govt), thereby accepting the resignation of the petitioner, is quashed and set aside; "The respondents are directed to reinstate the petitioner forth-

with as an Additional District & Sessions Judge. Though the petitioner would not be entitled to back wages, she would be entitled for continuity in service with all consequential benefits with effect from July 15, 2014," the bench said in its 86-page judgement. The apex court said the petitioner has established that her transfer order was in contravention of the Transfer Policy and the rejection of her two representations was also arbitrary. "Though it is the case of the respondent No.1 that the transfer order of the petitioner dated 8th July 2014, was on the ground of administrative exigencies, the material placed on record and particularly, the depositions of the then Judge on the Transfer Committee and the then RG, would clearly show that it was on

the basis of the complaint made by the then District & Sessions Judge, Gwalior," the bench said. The apex court said the transfer order of July 8, 2014, would squarely be covered by 'malice in law' as it was passed without taking into consideration the Guidelines provided in the Transfer Policy but on the basis of unverified allegations made in the complaint made by the then District & Sessions Judge.

On the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Registrar General of the high court, that "impulsive" decision of a judicial officer to resign cannot be said to be coercion, the top court said that no doubt, a Judicial Officer while discharging his/her duties, is expected to be independent, fearless, impassionate and non impulsive.

## SELFIE AFTER VOTING



Women voters click a selfie, holding their identification cards after casting their vote during the first phase of UP Assembly polls, in Meerut, Thursday.

## 'States not sending adequate IAS officers for central deputation'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said states have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation which has prompted changes in the service rules.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, he said the extant IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 contain provisions for central deputation of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

However, state governments have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

In view of the above, in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of

All India Services Act, 1951, comments have been sought from states/UTs on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 relating to the central deputation of IAS officers, which are under examination, he said.

In another reply, Singh said the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Regulations, 1955 contain provision for a central deputation reserve not exceeding 40% of the senior duty posts of a cadre/joint cadre.

However, state governments have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation. In order to address the above issue, comments



Jitendra Singh

have been sought from states/UTs, in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951 on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, he said. The issue of

proposed amendments affecting the authority of states or leading to instability in states' administration does not arise, the minister said, replying to a question whether the government intends to diminish the authority of states over their own officers.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has recently proposed changes in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 that will take away the power of states to override the Centre's request for seeking officers on central deputation.

As many as nine non-BJP ruled states have opposed the Centre's proposal that gives it an overriding power while deciding on central deputation of IAS officers,

whereas eight others have given their consent.

Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan have raised their voice against the amendments, officials said.

On the other hand, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have given their consent, they said.

Karnataka and Meghalaya had opposed the proposal initially sent to them last month but are expected to send a revised proposal, the officials said, adding that Bihar had also opposed the move earlier, the officials said.

## ED arrests director of Hyderabad company

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the director of a Hyderabad-based company in connection with a money laundering probe linked to an alleged bank loan fraud of Rs 370 crore, the agency said on Thursday.

Balvinder Singh, director of PCH Corporation Ltd and other PCH group companies, was arrested on February 8 and produced before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The court remanded him to judicial custody till February 23, the ED said in a statement.

This money laundering case, related to the alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 370 crore, was filed by the ED after studying a CBI FIR and chargesheet filed against the accused.

"In the CBI chargesheet, it is alleged that PCH Agencies Pvt Ltd, PCH Lifestyle Pvt Ltd, Balvinder Singh and others caused wrongful loss to Punjab and Sind Bank, George Town branch, Chennai, by fraudulently availing credit facilities by submitting fabricated documents to show higher turnover and then diverting the loan funds," the ED said.

It added that later, two more FIRs were registered by the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) against the PCH group companies. PCH group companies availed loans from various public and private banks and "failed" to repay them, the ED said.

"The amounts received as loan were diverted through shell companies with the help of CAs (chartered accountants) and entry operators (hawala dealers) in Hyderabad and Mumbai and it was received back in the PCH group companies for the purpose of showing a false rosary picture about the financial health of PCH Group, for the purpose of availing more loans and also for the purpose of an intended IPO (initial public offering).

BANK LOAN FRAUD

## RAVIDAS JAYANTI PREPARATIONS



Devotees prepare chapati at Guru Ravidass Janam Asthan Mandir, ahead of Ravidas Jayanti, in Varanasi, Thursday.

## Maha DGP propose allowance hike for C-60 commandos

Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI) Maharashtra Director General of Police Sanjay Pandey has assured that a proposal will be sent to the state government to double the allowance of C-60 commandos engaged in anti-Naxal operations, an senior official said on Thursday.

The C-60 commandos, a specialised combat unit of the Gadchiroli police, are engaged in tackling the Naxal menace in the district. Pandey on Wednesday visited Gatta post, located around 60 km from Gadchiroli along the Maharashtra - Chhattisgarh border, and other police camps in the district to review the anti-Naxal operations.

## Mamata hands over 2000 freehold title deeds to refugee families

Assures regularisation of land occupied by them

Kolkata, Feb 10 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday handed over 2,000 freehold title deeds to eligible refugee families and assured that all land occupied by such people in the state will be regularised.

No refugee, including Matuas, will be left out of getting freehold deeds for his or her land and not a single refugee family possessing land deed will be evicted, she said.

The chief minister said that in Bengal at least 261 refugee colonies have been regularised and in the last three years 27,000 pattas



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hands over freehold title deeds to beneficiaries of a refugee colony, in Kolkata, Thursday.

have been distributed benefitting over 52,000 people.

Banerjee had announced in November 2020 that 1.25 lakh freehold title deeds would be given.

The TMC government had taken the decision to regularise refugee lands and handover land deeds

and CAA. "I would like to congratulate you (refugee families). This is your right towards your land. You have finally achieved an address after a long struggle.

All the refugee colonies belonging to the state government have been legally regularised and nobody will be evicted from those places.

The freehold title deeds for the lands will be distributed from time to time," Banerjee said at the deed distribution programme held at Netaji Indoor Stadium in the city.

The chief minister said that Bengal has formulated a law so that no refugee can be evicted from lands belonging to the Railway and other central governmental organisations.

UP POLLS

## Groom casts vote before marriage procession

Bulandshahr (UP), Feb 10 (PTI): Talk about the zest to vote. A groom reached Char Khamba polling station in the Sadar assembly seat here to cast his vote before joining his marriage procession on Thursday.

Balram performed the Ghudchadhi ceremony, but came to the polling station on a motorcycle. The first phase of polling, which started at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm, is being held in 58 assembly seats spread across 11 districts in the western part of Uttar Pradesh.

Balram said he felt it necessary to exercise his franchise. After casting his vote, his marriage pro-

cession left from his house for Loni. The Char Khamba polling station is a model polling booth built on DM Colony Road. The booth was decorated with balloons and voters were welcomed with drum beats.

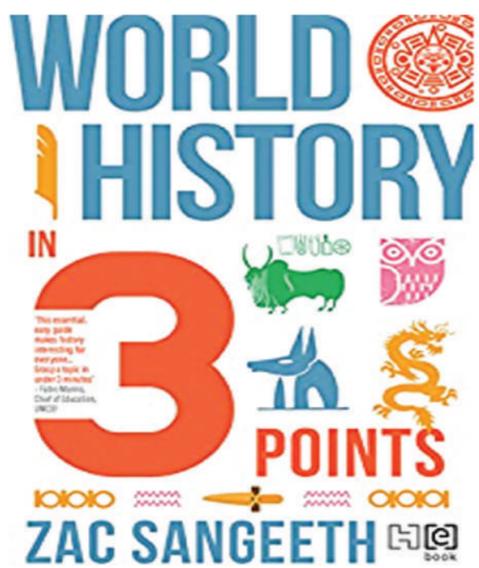
Meanwhile, at both number 421 of Anupshahr area in the district, people had to wait for hours in the queue before they were able to cast their votes due to a technical glitch in the electronic voting machines (EVM). Residents of Nagla Kheda and Nagla Bhud villages of Dibai area raised slogans of no voting as they claimed no development in the region.

## 10-year-old turns author with book on world history

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

"World History in 3 points", written by 10-year-old Zac Sangeeth, promises to give its readers — whether students or curious history buffs — a bird's view of history by presenting every topic in three crisp bite-sized capsules.

The book, published by Hachette India, claims to cover 101 topics "from ancient Egypt and imperial China to the Dark Ages and the Industrial Revolution, from Chanakya and Max Weber to Alexander to Ashoka, and from the Crusades and the Iranian Revolution to Socrates and Hegel". "In this era of fleeting attention spans and our addiction to micro



messaging platforms like Twitter and Instagram, history is still that odd subject that makes readers search information haystacks for a needle of insight. This is because normal history books take a worm's eye view — delving into minute historical details. "My book 'World History in 3 Points' takes a bird's eye view of history — a broad, to-the-point approach. I try cutting through details, simplifying complexities, distilling them into summaries," debutant author Sangeeth told PTI. Sangeeth, touted to be among the world's youngest commissioned non-fiction series authors, is currently a fifth grade student at Head Start Educational Academy, Bengaluru.

## 'Be aware of fake websites offering govt recruitments'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The National Recruitment Agency, which is mandated to conduct online examination for central government recruitments, has asked people to be aware of fake websites offering jobs in its name.

It has come to notice that some fake advertisements offering vacancies through recruitment examinations for or by National Recruitment Agency (NRA) are being published in websites /YouTube videos on the Internet (for example, the fake website nragovt.online), the NRA said in a public notice issued on Tuesday. It is hereby clarified that such websites are completely

fake and false. Appropriate action in this regard is being taken as per law, it said. NRA is yet to launch its official website, the notice stated. The candidates/applicants/aspirants and general public are accordingly advised to keep themselves away from such types of fake advertisements/websites/videos, it said.

The NRA has been tasked to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for jobs in government sector for which recruitment is currently carried out through Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).