



BRIEF



On poll duty employees cast postal ballot for UP assembly polls, at a polling centre in Kanpur, Friday.

Ladakh App

■ **Leh:** The Ladakh administration has launched a mobile application to identify as well as list historical and heritage sites in the Union Territory to preserve them, officials said. Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Tashi Gyalson launched the ‘Ladakh heritage mobile app’ in Leh.

Jawans injured

■ **Lohardaga:** Two CoBRA jawans suffered serious injuries in an IED blast in Jharkhand’s Lohardaga district and were airlifted to Ranchi, a police officer said on Friday. The blast occurred in extremist-hit Bulbul-Peshrar area when a joint team of the CRPF – of which CoBRA is a special operation unit – and the Jharkhand Police were engaged in an operation against Maoists. “CoBRA jawans Dileep Kumar and Narayan Das were injured in an IED blast in Bulbul-Peshrar area during an anti-extremist drive,” Officer-in-charge, Peshrar Police Station, Rishi Kumar, told PTI.

Cheat held

■ **Thane:** A 23-year-old man was held from Jharkhand’s Jamtara, nowadays infamous on social media as the phishing capital of the country, for allegedly duping a woman magistrate from Thane in Maharashtra, a police official said on Friday. The woman magistrate had complained that she had called a customer care number she found on the internet after encountering problems while carrying out a credit card transaction on her mobile phone, Naupada Assistant Commissioner of Police Sonali Dhole said. “The person who answered on the customer call number stole Rs 54,000 from her account.

RS function

■ **New Delhi:** Rajya Sabha functioned half an hour more than its scheduled sitting time during the first half of the Budget session as there was no forced adjournment during its proceedings, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said on Friday. In his concluding remarks at the close of the first half of the Budget session, Harivansh on behalf of Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, he expressed happiness over the disruption-free proceedings in the Upper House.

Weather

High 27 Low 11

MARKET

NIFTY	17,374.75	▼
SENSEX	58,152.92	▼

BULLION

GOLD	48,669
SILVER	62,214

Hijab row: HC restrains students from wearing hijab, saffron shawls within classrooms

Bengaluru, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Karnataka High Court, in its interim order pending considerations of all petitions related to the Hijab row, has requested the state government to reopen educational institutions and restrained all the students from wearing saffron shawls, scarves, Hijab and any religious flag within the classroom. The court also made it clear the order was confined to such of the institutions wherein the College Development Committees have prescribed the student dress code or uniform. “We request the State Government and all other stakeholders to reopen the educational institutions and allow the students to return to the classes at the earliest. Pending consideration of all these petitions, we restrain all the students regardless of their religion or faith from

SC to take up plea at appropriate time

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Friday said it would protect the Constitutional rights of every citizen and take up at an appropriate time the pleas challenging a direction of the Karnataka High Court asking students not to wear any religious clothing in educational institutions, and emphasised that these issues should not spread at national level . A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was told by senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, appearing for the students, that the high court order has led to the “suspension of fundamental right to practice religion under Article 25 of the Constitution” and the plea be listed for hearing on Monday. Refusing to list the plea on February 14 as sought by Kamat, the bench, also comprising justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, referred to the ongoing hearing of the case in the high court and said it will protect the fundamental right of every citizen and take up the matter at an appropriate time. At the outset, Kamat said, I am mentioning a fresh SLP against an interim order passed yesterday in the hijab’ matter by the high court. I would say it is rather strange that the high court says that none of the students should disclose any religious identity when they go to school and college.

wearing saffron shawls (Bhagwa), scarfs, hijab, religious flags or the like within the classroom, until further orders,” the full bench of the Karnataka High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi said in their order, made available on Friday. In their order, the judges expressed their pain over the ongoing agitations and closure of edu-

cational institutions for the past few days, “especially when this Court is seized of this matter and important issues of constitutional significance and of personal law are being seriously debated”. The court also noted that India is a country of plural cultures, religions and languages. Being a secular state, the country does not identify itself with any religion as its own, the bench

said, adding, every citizen has the right to profess and practice any faith of choice. “Ours being a civilized society, no person in the name of religion, culture or the like can be permitted to do any act that disturbs public peace and tranquility. Endless agitations and closure of educational institutions indefinitely are not happy things to happen,” the court observed. Stating that the interest of stu-

dents would be better served by their returning to the classes than by the continuation of agitations and consequent closure of institutions, the court said the academic year is coming to an end shortly and hoped all stakeholders and the public at large maintained peace and tranquility. The Court has posted the matter for February 14. The three-judge full bench was formed on Wednesday to hear the petitions by the Muslim girl students challenging the ban on Hijab after the single bench of Justice Dixit, who had been hearing the case since Tuesday referred it to Chief Justice Awasthi with a view that the petitions can be heard by a larger bench. The Karnataka government on Thursday night decided to resume classes for high school students from Monday following the court observation to reopen schools.

‘Uniform Civil Code need of the hour’

**New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):** Amid the row over wearing ‘hijab’ in schools and colleges, Union Minister and BJP leader Giriraj Singh on Friday said the Uniform Civil Code is the “need of the hour” and it should be discussed both in Parliament and in the society. The Hijab row started in Karnataka in December-end when a few students of a government pre-university college in Udupi who attended classes wearing headscarves were asked to leave the campus. The matter then spread to different parts of the state, with youngsters, backed by right-wing outfits, responding by wearing saffron scarves. With the protests taking a violent turn at some places earlier this week, the state government on Tuesday declared a three-day holiday for the institutions. Interacting with re-

porters, Giriraj Singh described the row over wearing ‘hijab’ as a “disturbing trend aimed at muddling the atmosphere of the country”. “There are some vote ke saudagar (votes dealers) who for their political benefits are supporting such illogical demands of wearing Hijab in school. Such people are playing with the lives of innocent girls for votes. I feel Uniform Civil Code is need of the hour and it should be discussed from the streets to Parliament,” he said. The Karnataka High Court, in its interim order pending consideration of all petitions related to the Hijab row, on Thursday requested the state government to reopen educational institutions and restrained all the students from wearing saffron shawls, scarves, Hijab and any religious flag within the classroom.

SC to UP govt

‘Withdraw recovery notices against anti-CAA protestors or we will quash it’

**New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):** The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday drew flak from the Supreme Court for acting on the recovery notices issued to the alleged anti-CAA protestors in December 2019 and gave one final opportunity to it to withdraw the proceedings and warned that it will quash the proceedings for being in violation of the law. The top court said that the proceedings initiated in December 2019 were contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court and cannot be sustained. A bench of

Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said that the Uttar Pradesh government has acted like a complainant, adjudicator and prosecutor by itself in conducting the proceedings to attach the properties of the accused. Withdraw the proceedings or we will quash it for being in violation of the law laid down by this court , the bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by one Parwaiz Arif Titu seeking quashing of notices sent to alleged protestors by the district administration for recovering losses caused by damage to public prop-

erties during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) agitations in Uttar Pradesh and asked the state to respond to it. The plea has alleged that such notices have been sent in an “arbitrary manner” against a person, who had died six years ago at the age of 94 and also to several others including two people who are aged above 90. Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, appearing for the UP government, said that 106 FIRs were registered against 833 rioters in the State and 274 recovery notices were issued against

them. Out of the 274 notices, recovery orders were passed in 236 while 38 cases were closed , she said, adding that under the new law notified in 2020, claim tribunals have been constituted which is being headed by retired district judges, and earlier it was headed by Additional District Magistrates (ADMs). The bench said, The Supreme Court has passed two judgements in 2009 and 2018, which said that judicial officers should be appointed in claim tribunals but instead you appointed ADMs .

**Ahmedabad, Feb 11 (PTI):** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday apprehended six Pakistani fishermen from the Harami Nalla creek area in the Kutch district of Gujarat, officials said. On Thursday, the BSF had launched a major operation against intrusion by Pakistani fishing boats in the creek areas along the international border. It had nabbed 11 Pakistani boats which were in the Indian waters, but their occupants had managed to flee and hide in the marshy terrain. “In an ongoing operation against intrusion of Pakistani Fishing boats & Fishermen in Harami



Nalla, BSF Gujarat has apprehended 6 Pakistani Fishermen. Inclement weather, marshy area,

mangroves & tidal waters are making task of the troops challenging. The operation is in progress,” the BSF said in a tweet on Friday. A day before, it had said that “03 Commando teams of @BSF\_India have been Air dropped from 03 different directions in @IAF\_MCC\_helicopters” and “They are closing in where d Pakistanis are hiding”. #CreekCrocodiles of @BSF\_India will not let the enemies of the nation succeed!” BSF said in a new tweet after the arrest of six Pakistanis on Friday.

Gurugram building collapse: Death toll rises to 2

Gurugram, Feb 11 (PTI):

Another body was pulled out on Friday from under the rubble of a partially collapsed apartment building here, taking the toll to two, officials said. Police have booked the builder of Chintels Paradiso, a residential complex, and the construction contractor for negligence, while the district administration has ordered an inquiry into the matter, they said. Residents staged a protest over the Thursday night incident, while the gates of the housing complex have been sealed by police. While Ekta Bhardwaj (31) died last night, the body of Sunita Srivastava was recovered on Friday, officials said, adding that opera-



**Police personnel stand guard as NDRF personnel carry out rescue operation after a portion of a building of Chintels Paradiso housing society collapsed, in Gurugram, Friday.**

tions by rescue personnel at the incident site are still on. Sunita Srivastava’s husband, Arun Kumar Srivastava, who was trapped under the building’s debris, has been hospitalised, they said. The builder and the construction contractor have been booked on a complaint

lodged by Ekta Bhardwaj’s husband Rajesh Bharadwaj, the officials said. Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said, “A special inquiry team has been constituted and it will look into the allegations of negligence. Rescue operations are underway.”

Budget brings stability, inflation less than that during 2008 financial crisis: FM

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday put a staunch defence of her Budget relying on expenditure to boost growth, saying the Budget brings stability for an economy reeling under the pandemic and will create jobs through public spending.

Rejecting criticism of high prices in the country, she said the inflation at just over 6 per cent when pandemic shaved off Rs 9.57 lakh crore from the economy is less than that during past crises like the 2008-09 global financial meltdown when the economic impact was much



**Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, during the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Friday.**

less. Replying to a discussion on Budget 2022-23 in the Rajya Sabha, she said there is no question of a slowdown or recession, as she cited an estimated 9.2 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year ending March 31. The size of

the economy has grown from Rs 110 lakh crore 7 years ago to Rs 232 lakh crore, she said, replying to the charge that the economy was running on a treadmill. The Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 (FY23) stands

for continuity and predictability in taxation while focussing on growth just as last year. “The Budget aims at continuity, the continuity is in giving the stimulus through public expenditure. We also wanted to underline the stability and sustainable recovery that we so need now,” she said. “At a time when the economy has to grow and grow at a good pace, it is important for the economy also to be stabilised.” Public expenditure in building infrastructure as part of the massive Rs 7.5 lakh crore capital spending plan outlined in the Budget will provide stable and sustainable recovery.



# Three villagers of Chandkhuri arrested for engineer's murder

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** Three villagers including a former Panch of village Chandkhuri have been arrested in connection with the murder of a young engineer. 06 teams of police were engaged in solving the murder mystery. It took 65 days for solving the high profile murder mystery.

About 500 people were questioned and 200 CCTV cameras were examined by the cops. The accused had planned to abduct the engineer for ransom. However, while executing the conspiracy, they strangled him to death. The accused buried the body in the fields and had burnt the belongings of the deceased.

The accused committed the crime for earning a huge amount of money in a short time and fulfilling the desires of a lavish life. A former Panch of Chandkhuri village was

the master mind of this murder. He had some other disputes also with the deceased.

While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Friday, OP Pal (IGP, Durg Range) informed that on December 07, 2021, Pulgaon Police had received a complaint regarding missing of a young engineer Shivang Chandrakar. He had left his farmhouse on December 06 around 19:30 hrs on bike but did not reach his home at Maroda in Bhilai. Police started searching the missing youth but did not get any clue.

Later on January 05, 2022, Shivang's elder brother Dharmesh Chandrakar informed the cops that human skeletal remains were seen in the fields of one Harish Sahu in Chandkhuri Bhatha near Jharjhra bridge. Police team reached the spot and recovered skeletal remains,



watch, cloths, etc from a pit created due to the wheels of Harvester.

On receiving information, IGP OP Pal, Senior Superintendent of Police BN Meena; Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu, City Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav, Deputy Superintendent of Police Abhishek Jha, Deputy Superintendent of

Police (Crime) Nassar Siddiqui, forensic expert Mohan Patel and other senior officials reached the spot. Family members confirmed that the wrist watch and other items found near the skeletal remains were of Shivang Chandrakar.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, Police launched investigations and questioned more than 500 people and examined the footages of over 200

cameras. Later the cops rounded up three suspects including a former Panch of village Chandkhuri. During sustained interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime.

The accused are identified as Ashok Deshmukh (31) son of Ramnarayan Deshmukh; Vicky alias Monu Deshmukh (20) son of Late Durga Prasad; and Basant Kumar Sahu (24) son of Balaram Sahu; all residents of Canal Para,

Chandkhuri.

The accused disclosed that they had planned to abduct Shivang Chandrakar and demand a ransom of Rs 30 lakhs. They started monitoring the movement and arrival time of Shivang Chandrakar and finally executed the plan on December 06. As per the plan, Ashok Deshmukh was waiting on the road around 19:00 hrs when Shivang generally returned home. Vicky and Basant Sahu were hid-

ing in the canal.

As soon as Shivang Chandrakar reached there, Ashok Deshmukh stopped him and requested for a lift. Immediately after sitting behind him on the bike, Deshmukh grabbed him tightly. Vicky and Basant, who were hiding in the canal, rushed towards them and tied a nylon rope around Shivang's neck. When Shivang started screaming, they tightened the rope out of fear which resulted in Shivang's death. At this moment, they spotted a vehicle approaching there. The accused swiftly lifted the body and hid it in the canal.

Later they left Shivang's bike at some distance. Ashok Deshmukh brought his car and the accused carried Shivang's body in the car trunk to Jharjhara Bridge. They buried the body in the pit created due to the movement of Harvester and burnt the be-

longings of Shivang at a nearby place. His helmet and mobile phone were thrown in Dongia Pond. Police have booked the three accused on charges of Shivang's murder and have recovered evidences.

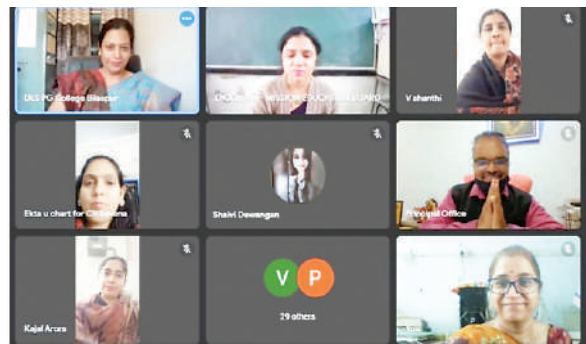
Inspector Nareish Patel, Inspector Gaurav Tiwari, Sub-Inspector Duleswar Singh Chandravanshi, ASI Ajay Singh, Radhelal Verma, Narendra Singh Rajput, Purna Bahadur, Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Santosh Mishra, Chandrashekar Banjeer, Constable Javed Khan, Pradeep Singh, Jagjit Singh, Tisheshwar Rathor, Dharendra Yadav, Chitrases Sahu, Keshav Sahu, Alauddin, Hiramam Sahu, Luv Pandey, Shamim Khan, Anoop Sharma, Shahbaz Khan, Pannalal, Santosh Gupta, Jugnu Singh, Upendra Yadav, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Shobhit Singh played vital role in solving the case.

## St Thomas College organises guest lecture on Women in Sciences

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** The PG Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology of St Thomas College organized a guest lecture on "Women in Sciences" to celebrate International day of women and girls in sciences. The objective of this guest lecture was to encourage the students for scientific contribution.

Dr Neha Behar, Head, Department of Biotechnology, DLS PG College, Bilaspur delivered a lecture on Role of Women in Science. Dr Neha Behar gave brief description on various works done by Indian as well as foreign women. She also thanked the or-



ganizing team for arranging women oriented Programme. Principal Dr MG Roymon congratulated all staff members and said that St Thomas College regularly organizes this type of programme for benefit to students. This event was supervised by Dr V

Shanthi, Head, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology. For this event a total 107 participants from all over the India had registered.

This Programme was conducted by Dr Shubha Diwan and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Ujjwala Supe.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** GS Prasad, Former CEO, Rourkela Steel Plant, H Chattopadhyay, Former Director(Safety), DGFASI and S Vashishta, CGM (Safety), SAIL Safety Organisation (SSO) on the Panel of Judges for the prestigious 'Safety Excellence award' are conducting the Final Evaluation of the Safety Excellence award at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant from February 11-12, 2022.

SAIL Safety Organisation (SSO) will be evaluating the Integrated Steel plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Burnpur to ascertain the position of

safety before declaring the 'Safety Excellence award' in the organisation. An award of Rs 1 crore will be given to the winner and Rs 75 lakhs will be given to the Runners up Plant. The judges took cognisance of the Safety processes and practices at BSP in presence of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c BSP, Executive Directors and Senior Officers during the opening meeting on February 11, 2022.

During the two-day visit, the Panel of judges will evaluate various Safety processes and practices at the Plant. At the outset, Panel of Judges visited the Safety Excellence Centre. They visited Coke Ovens and Coal Chemical depart-



ment, National Occupational Health Centre, Blast Furnace 8, Steel Melting Shop 3 (SMS 3), Merchant Mill, on February 11, 2022. They also had an unscheduled visit to SMS 2, Propane Plant, Gas holder etc.

At BSP, diagnostic study to study the safety culture at BSP has been done through the Safety climate

survey. Structured methodologies for proper reporting and investigation of incidents are being done to prevent recurrence of accidents and unsafe practices. Safety month, Safety week, Road Safety, National Safety Day and other events along with Mock drills are organised at regular intervals.

Workplace management

systems like 5S are in place to ensure proper housekeeping. The concept of voluntary 'Safety warriors' are promoted at BSP. Training programmes on Safety, Occupational Health and Fire services are imparted to employees. Leadership Safety programmes for the top management is also organised. Mapping of 'High hazards' is also done on a regular basis. 'Roko-toko' campaigns are also held to promote a Safe working culture at BSP.

GP Singh, Actg. CGM (Safety and FS) has guided the members of the Safety department, who have contributed in conducting the evaluation for the Safety Excellence award.

## 'Black Diamond' fountain inaugurated at CO & CCD of BSP

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** Coke Ovens and Coal Chemical department of SAIL-BSP that has been making concerted efforts towards environment conservation has developed and installed a 'Black Diamond' fountain on its campus.

As part of efforts being made by CO & CCD department to work in an environment-friendly atmosphere, the department has developed an 'exotic garden'. A 4.5 Metre high 'Black Diamond fountain' has been set up in this garden through internal resources. GA Rao, CGM (CO & CCD) inaugurated the 'Black Diamond' fountain on February 10, 2022.

Rajiv Shrivastava, CGM (EMD), Parvinder Singh, Gen Secy, OA and other



Senior officers were present on the occasion. Rao said that the fountain is a unique effort towards environment conservation and congratulated the employees for development of this fountain.

The development of the fountain has been made under the guidance of GA Rao, CGM (CO & CCD) with the support of

Soumya Ranjan Mahapatra, AGM (Mech), Sandeep Gurwa, Gurusharan Singh, Raunak Singh, AC Futane, Narayn Yadav, Ashok Dakua, Subhash Sahu, Alok Pathak, Teema Sahu, BD Manikpuri, Prabhulal and others.

Waste water coming out of the department's Refrigeration system is

used in this fountain. SAIL's 3D logo in this fountain is a major source of attraction. A swing has been developed to relax near the fountain.

A hut named 'Tiger Gazebo' has also been made here for seating persons. Provision for a cool environment due to the fountain in the vicinity and a relaxed seating arrangement also been made.

CO & CCD is committed to be a better workplace along with its Environment conservation efforts. The fountain's beauty lies in its light arrangement. A clean, beautiful and serene work environment along with good housekeeping has successfully been made possible due to the development of this fountain.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** Police have arrested five ruffians on charges of stealing a truck loaded with reinforcement bars from the bridge construction site in Hanoda. 17 tonnes of rebar and truck bearing registration number CG07 - CE - 7817 total worth Rs 1070000 have been seized from the possession of the accused. The accused were arrested within 05 hours after receiving complaint.

ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv informed that on February 10, they received a complaint from one Ballu Ram Dewangan regarding theft of a rebar laden truck from the construction site of a bridge in village Hanoda.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, Inspector Bhushan Ekka and Padmanabhpur Chowki in-charge



Dharam Singh Mandavi launched investigations. 17 bundles of iron rebar of 8 mm size were stolen.

Acting on a tip off, Police rounded up a suspect Manish Sahu (38) son of Manharan Lal a resident of Hanoda Bhatapara; Nemichand Thakur (21) son of Shriram Thakur a resident of village Navagaon, Jamgaon (R) District Durg, Rashmi Ranjan Sahu (25) son of Rahanandan Saham a resident of Baturaboro Police Station Gadisagda

of his accomplices, who were also arrested immediately. Police have arrested Manish Sahu (38) son of Manharan Lal a resident of Hanoda Bhatapara; Nemichand Thakur (21) son of Shriram Thakur a resident of village Navagaon, Jamgaon (R) District Durg, Rashmi Ranjan Sahu (25) son of Rahanandan Saham a resident of Baturaboro Police Station Gadisagda

District Puri Orissa; Anand Mandal (30) son of Dashrath Mandal a resident of Sundarpur (Orissa) and Subrato Biswas (23) son of Nani Gopal a resident of Village Palyaeknan Camp (WB).

Stolen truck and rebar worth Rs 1070000 was recovered from their possession. All the accused were produced before the Court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand. Two other accused Horilal and Birendra Kosare are absconding.

Sub-Inspector Dharam Mandavi; Head Constable Shiv Prasad Dubey, Constable Balmukund Sahu, Kishore Soni, Punesh Sahu, Yogendra Chandrakar; Qayamuddin Khan played vital role in arresting the accused.

## DMC continues action against illegal hoardings



## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** Durg Municipal Corporation is regularly taking action against illegal hoardings. On the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Hareesh Mandavi the action continued on fourth consecutive day. Action was taken on the portion of GE road that falls under DMC limits.

The hoardings set up in

front of Gandhi Square close to district hospital Patel Square was removed.. Illegal hoardings in the vicinity of the aforesaid area were removed. During the proceedings, encroachment in-charge Durgesh Gupta, flying squad in-charge Shiv Sharma, market officer Than Singh Yadav, Ishwar Verma, Bhuvan Das Sahu, Shashikant Yadav and the team were present.

## 'Cong Govt cannot suppress public sentiments by arresting BJP leaders'

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel has condemned the State Government over the arrest of agitating BJP activists in Jagdalpur. Instead of registering an FIR against the Congress leader who duped lakhs of rupees from 40 underprivileged families on promise of providing houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Congress State Government is providing protection to the accused. On the other hand, hundreds of BJP activists of Bastar, who raised their voice against the corruption, were arrested. State Government is trying to suppress the public senti-



ments by arresting the BJP leaders, he asserted.

Durg MP Vijay Baghel alleged that the leaders of the Congress have initiated corrupt practices

across the state. Congress leaders from the lower level to the top are deep neck in corruption. Baghel alleged that the state government is openly protecting such corrupt people.

Vijay Baghel said that there is direct evidence of illegal collection made by Congress Councilor in Jagdalpur from the common people on promise of providing houses. The aggrieved people are ready to record their statement, but the police are trying to protect the corrupt leader. Vijay Baghel asserted that the dictatorial attitude of the state government and its unfair efforts to demoralise the BJP workers and the general public will never succeed.

## TA & DA of SAIL executives and employees revised

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 11:** SAIL management has issued an order on February 10 revising the traveling allowance; daily allowance; transfer allowance and terminal allowance of the officers and personnel working in SAIL.

It needs to be mentioned here that till now, these allowances were being given in SAIL at the prescribed rates of the year 2007. For the last few months, SAIL was continuously making efforts to get them revised. SEFI President Narendra Kumar Banchor said that on behalf of the executives, SEFI had demanded that the Travel, Transfer and Terminal Allowance should be increased as per the existing rates and the

process of granting this allowance should also be simplified.

SEFI Chairman stated that the order is satisfactory and SEFI welcomes it. Officers who are on journey due to official reasons will get relief from this order. Specially the superannuating officers will be greatly benefitted by the increase in terminal allowance and simplification of procedure.

During the SAIL-SEFI meeting dated September 16, 2021, the executives had received assurance in this regard from the SAIL management. Later the proposal was passed in the SAIL board meeting held on December 17, 2021. SEFI has expressed gratitude towards the SAIL Management.

## OBITUARY

## EK Subramanian



**Bhilai:** Ashish Nagar (west), Risali resident EK Subramanian left for heavenly abode at the age of 70 years. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. He is survived by wife - Udaya Subramanian; son - ES Subi and daughter ES Shruti. He was the brother-in-law of K Anil Kumar; KS Ramesh Kumar; Suresh Kumar; Prakash Kumar and Mahesh Kumar.



# Engineer of a Construction Co abducted

**Under Bedare thana, 70 kms from Bijapur**

**Constructing bridge to act as link between Ch'garh and Maharashtra**

Central Chronicle News

**Bijapur, Feb 11:** An Engineer working in the construction of a bridge on Indravati River in Bastar region has been reportedly abducted by the Naxalites. According to Police sources, an Engineer and one labourer working with construction Company of Contractor Ankit Gupta has been abducted. It was while conducting supervision of this bridge under construction in Bedare thana,

that one Engineer Ashok Pawar and his colleague Anand Kishore have been abducted.

This incident is reported to be that of Friday afternoon at around 1:00 pm and in this regard ASP Pankaj Shukla said that there is information about the abduction, but so far no complete information has been received and we are regularly in touch with Bedare thana.

It is notable here that Bedare thana is located about 70 kms away from remote area of Chhattisgarh i.e. Bijapur. It is near this Gram Bedare that Indravati River flows. It is the road linking the Maharashtra state that Mittal Construction Company is constructing a bridge and it has been given on sub-contract to petty Gupta contractor.

Gupta Contractor has sent on Ashok Pawar and Anand Kishore to conduct inspection of the bridge under construction. The Naxalites have registered stiff protest on start of construction of this bridge on Indravati River, but was under Police security that the same was started.

It is notable here that naxalites have been protesting against construction of roads, bridges and police camps in the region. SDOP Abhinav Upadhyay informed that construction of the bridge on Indravati river is in progress and there are reports that Naxalites have abducted an Engineer and a labourer. SDOP informed that the Naxalites have also opened fire near Indravati River.

## INSPECTION



**GM SECR Alok Kumar conducted inspection of various facilities and amenities at the Raipur Railway Station as part of GM's Annual Inspection here on Friday evening.**

## Three burglars, a buyer arrested

**Raipur, Feb 11:** Kabir Nagar police on Friday arrested four burglars and buyer of their stolen goods. Police thus solved five burglaries committed in Kabir Nagar and DD Nagar police station areas.

According to police, initially a burglar identified as Veer Abhimanyu was arrested by Kabir Nagar police. His further interrogation led police to identification of two accomplice of who were identified as Shiva Rao and Suraj. Further interrogation revealed that they had burgled

in four houses.

They also revealed about selling the ornament two jewellers identified Deepak Goswami and his brother Raju Goswami, owners of Chirag Jeweller situated in Mahadev Ghat locality.

Police then arrested ornaments and cash Rs 1000, a laptop computer, a mobile phone and Honda Activa bike. This bike was also a stolen one and was being used in burglary the houses. All three burglars were booked under Section 457, 380 IPC and the buyer was booked under Section 411 IPC.

## Two arrested under Arms Act

**Raipur:** Two persons have been arrested under Arms Act by Moudhapara police station from separate areas during last 24-hours. According to police, the first one identified as Rajesh Verma was arrested opposite to Samvet Sikh press building after was nabbed terrorizing the locals armed with a knife. The other one, identified Bhuneshwar Prasad Nirmalkar, was arrested from Old Shada Talkies where he was nabbed terrorizing the locals armed with a knife. Both the accused were later booked under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act.

## Two Bihar based burglars arrested

**Raipur, Feb 11:** In a joint action on Friday, Urla police and Dharsinwa police arrested two burglars who are natives of Bihar and recovered from them booty worth Rs 3 lakh. Police thus solved four burglaries committed in separate locked house.

According to police, both the burglars identified as Shiv Kumar and Upendra Shah. Both are residents of Rohtas district in Bihar and had been regularly shifting from one house to another to their identification.

Police upon nabbing them recovered ornaments, several household items and electronic gadgets, all totaling to Rs 3 lakh.

Both the burglars were then booked under Section 457, 380 IPC and are now being interrogated further.

## 21 gets injured, 8 reported critical

**Mahasamund:** A major accident took place when a pick-up van turned turtle and 21 persons in it got injured and out of which 8 are reported to be critical. All the persons in this pick-up Van were going to attend 'chati' programme of one of their relatives. It was near Parkom turn in Komakhan area of Bagbahra block that this pick-up Van turned turtle. As per information in this regard, people in this Van were going from Achridih to Parkom to attend a 'Chati' programme, that it was near Parsuli Dhan Mandi that the pick-up Van turned turtle and in

this all 21 persons got injured.

### Bike lifted

**Raipur:** Unidentified lifter escaped with a Honda Activa CG04-FJ- 1943 from Krishna Nagar where it was parked by owner Om Prakash Mishra outside his house. The lifting was later complained in Tikrapara police station where an offence has since been registered against unidentified lifter under Section 379 IPC and further investigation is now underway.

## COVID-19: Ch'garh logs 1,008 cases, 7 deaths; active tally drops below 10,000

**Raipur, Feb 11:** Chhattisgarh on Thursday reported 1,008 new COVID-19 cases, down from 1,219 a day ago, taking the overall tally to 11,43,994, while seven more deaths raised the toll to 13,978, an official said. The state's daily positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, was 2.69 per cent, a drop from 3.29 per cent on Wednesday, he said. The number of recoveries reached 11,20,119 after 129 people were discharged from hospitals and 1,570 others completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an active tally of 9,897, he

said.

"Durg recorded 115 cases, followed by Raipur 113, Bilaspur 106, Rajnandgaon 76, Dhamtari 52, Korba 48 and Raigarh 28 among other districts," the official said. With 37,448 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,66,37,426, he said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,43,994, new cases 1,008, death toll 13,978, recovered 11,20,119, active cases 9,897, today tests 37,448, total tests 1,66,37,426.

## Three on Scooty injured, one critical

**Janjgir-Champa, Feb 11:** In a major road accident in Janjgir-Champa, three students on a Scooty were hit by a speedy car and in this the three students got injured and condition of one is reported to be critical.

All the injured have

been admitted in the hospital.

The people annoyed over the incident have badly beaten the driver of the car and entire incident has got captured in CCTV footage. The incident took place in Station Road under Kotwali Thana.

## BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



**The new Telibandha bridge is under construction in full swing for the denizens of Gudhiyari and other areas on other side of the Raipur Railway Station.**

## Inter-departmental coordination and review meeting organized

### Under Anemia Free India Programme

**Raipur, Feb 11:** An inter-departmental coordination and review meeting was organized under the Anemia Free India Programme here recently in the Red Cross meeting hall in Collectorate. The government is running programmes under many schemes to make the country anemia free. Campaign to make Anemia Free India has been started in India from 17th July. Under this campaign, children up to 5 years of age and women in the age group of 15 to 49 will be examined in villages, and if found anemic, they will be

given necessary treatment.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Meera Baghel informed that from 21 March National Animal Day, anemia free Raipur week will be observed in Raipur district. Iron rich food will be added to mid day meal and iron rich lunch box will be made available in schools. Poster competition and camps will also be organized.

Health department officials said that anemia can be caused by many reasons, but in our country, the biggest reason for this is lack of nutritious diet. Another major reason for this disease is the presence of worms in the stomach. These worms

enter our body through polluted water and food items and due to lack of iron in the body there is a lack of blood. If there is a deficiency in blood, we should use spinach, tomato, beet, apple, pomegranate etc. in the diet.

Due to the closure of schools in the COVID situation, weekly tablets were not available to the children which led to rise in the cases of anemia. It was decided in coordination meeting that all the tabs needed in the

Department of Women and Child Development and School Education Department will be fulfilled by the Health Department.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Meera Baghel, Dr. Smriti Devangan, Dr. Nikita Pawar, Nishamani Sahu, Pilaram Kumhar, Dr. Pankaj, Anuradha, Neha Nirmalkar, Gajendra Dongre and other employees of Education and Health Department were present in the meeting.

## Of Secularism -sense, essence, lessons

Which colour may the dispute over Hijab be, or can it be said that it has no colour at all unless someone finds it convenient to colour it, for? However, the insistence on allowing to keep their faces covered up from public view or viewer-ship is from a community that believes in keeping their 'women folk' in veil for reasons not in conflict with the ideologies belonging to that community. The issue, it seems, feels being developed into a tailor-made plank to draw attention to the need of stressing the urgency of a uniformity among the people of a majority community in the elect-

ed body and governance. If asked, Digvijay Singh might say it is saffron retaliation against green adherence to a traditional practice while Chidambaram may have other interpretation.

Yet, its an issue seemingly less opposed to the green adherence and more optimistic of officialization of saffron demand or else, the demand for staying veiled and the demand for donning scarves in saffron and tilak, dhoti represent two different motives. One is for continuance and the other is for introducing a new practice, so as to make it match the schematic colourism. Needless to

### Between the blurry lines...

say... the blue heavens of the bahunas? What will happen if all veiled in clothes of shapes of their choice and colours of their ethnic nuanances, for it is the teacher who has to encourage the students to pay attention, to respond and to respect the teacher. He or she does it by looking direct into their eyes. Good eye contact shows that the teacher has confidence in him/herself and in what s/he is saying.



**N. V. R. Murty**  
Camp-in-Bengaluru

When the government had mandated uniform, there it must have been felt it was needless to issue an order to prescribe veils, purdahs. Ghunghat must have not been cared for, with regards to the need of prescribing or proscribing. However pardah and ghunghat are one and the same in meaning. Married students of women's colleges could hide their faces behind ghunghats, as well as take lessons. But the government has to issue orders that allow scarves, and even colours -white, blue or whatever. Secularism is gaining momentum.

## Nigerian High Commission officer appreciate infrastructure

### Of MATS University in Raipur, Arang

**Raipur, Feb 11:** MATS University has added another feather in his cap. Esteemed dignitaries from Nigerian High Commission Officer Eucharia Eze, Charge International Affairs (Education and Medical) and Christopher Okekevisited (Minister) on Thursday visited MATS University, Raipur.

Eucharia Eze, appreciated the infrastructure, academic and non-academic facilities and hard work of the faculties and students of MATS University, in both the City and the Aarang Campuses. While Christopher Okeke, especially applauded the university's efforts to make edu-

cation more accessible, inclusive and expansive for all national and international students. They especially praised the provision of scholarship services, online education and examination, and other academic and non-academic resources to the students, including cost-effective tuition fees, laboratories, library and information sciences, and the promotion of research and innovation amongst young minds.

Mr. Okeke and Mrs. Eze also had a great interaction with the faculty and management of both the campuses and commended Professor Dr K.P.Yadav, Vice Chancellor, MATS University and Prof (Dr.) Deepika Dhand Pro VC, and Registrar Gokulananda Panda for their tremendous efforts towards the students and the institution.

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# Organizing webinar series for agricultural students is commendable: Dr. Sengar

● Webinar organized on depression management among college students

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 11: A seven-day webinar series organized under the joint aegis of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the development and strengthening of agricultural higher education in India, concluded here. On the concluding day, a webinar was organized by the college students on the topic of management of depression. The chief guest of the concluding program was Dr. S.S. Sanger of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University. The special guest of the program was Dr. M.P. Thakur, Dean of Agriculture College, Raipur and was presided over by the Dean Student Welfare Dr. (Major) G.K. Srivastava.

Psychiatrist Dr. Amba Sethi, the keynote speaker of the webinar, gave a lecture



ture regarding the causes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of depression in college students. It is noteworthy that a webinar series on various subjects was organised by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University with the financial support of Indian Council of Agricultural Research from February 01 to 09 for agricultural students.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony, Dr. S.S. Sengar said that the organization of webinar series on various useful topics for the students of various agricultural colleges by the Dean Student Welfare is a commendable effort.

In these webinars, career and business prospects for agriculture students by subject experts, civil services preparation for agriculture stu-

dents, physical fitness and mental health of students, possibilities of studying in foreign educational institutions for agricultural students, summary information was given on important student-friendly topics like road safety awareness and depression management among college students.

He hoped that this webinar series would prove useful for the personality development, capacity building and career development of the students. The special guest of the program Dr. M.P. Thakur said that apart from Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, students of other universities of the country also participated in this webinar series.

The keynote speaker of the webinar, Consultant Psychiatrist Dr. Amba Sethi said that according

to the World Health Organization, about 5 percent of the world's population suffers from depression. He said that the problem of depression among college students is increasing. Stress, anxiety, sadness, being silent and lonely and unexpected changes in behaviors are the main symptoms of depression.

He said that despite this, if there is no benefit, then a psychiatrist should be consulted and treated. This webinar series was coordinated by Dr. Jenu Jha, Dr. Deepti Jha, Dr. Pratap Toppo, Dr. Subuhi Nishad, Dr. RK. Thakur and Dr. Ashulata Kaushal. Many senior scientists including Dr. Prabhakar Singh, Head of the Faculty of Fruit Sciences and Dr. Lalji Singh, Head of the Faculty of Forestry were present in the closing ceremony.

## DIGGING & INCONVENIENCE



A common site in capital city as either some repair work or cleaning of drains leads to such digging work, posing lots of inconvenience to passer-bys.

## Special meeting between Ex-Servicemen Organization, RSB Ch'garh

● Rajya Sainik Board meeting is held every year under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 11: A special meeting was organised at Directorate of Sainik Welfare, Raipur regarding the welfare and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, their families and families of martyrs. Under the aegis of Director, Sainik Welfare Chhattisgarh and District Sainik Welfare Office, Raipur, a meeting of office bearers of ex-servicemen organizations of the state was held on February 8th in the newly constructed auditorium of Sainik Welfare Council.

The meeting was conducted by Captain Anurag Tiwari, retired District Sainik Welfare Officer Raipur from the Indian Navy. The Home Department of the State Government was represented in the meeting by Mr. F. Kerketta, Deputy Secretary, Home



Department.

Every year in the meeting of the Rajya Sainik Board, held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, matters related to the welfare of soldiers and related issues are kept. Officials of the Ministry of Defense and the Army are also present in this meeting. This year's annual meeting is going to be held soon and this special meeting was organized regarding the preparations for the same.

All the ex-servicemen organizations of the state were also included in this meeting. Issues related to these and the problems of the families dependent on them were discussed in detail in the meeting. 40 representatives of various ex-servicemen organizations

attended the meeting. 4 officers of District Sainik Board were directly present in the meeting while 6 District Sainik Welfare Officers attended the meeting in virtual mode. In the meeting, retired colonel rank officers and other officers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha region related to the army were also present on behalf of the ex-servicemen organizations.

Various types of problems being faced by ex-servicemen organizations were discussed in the meeting. Along with this, ex-gratia amount to be given to martyr families, reservation for ex-servicemen, increase in the amount given in gallantry awards and job prospects for ex-service-

men in the state were considered. It was for the first time that the meeting office bearers and their representatives of 14 ex-servicemen organizations were organized together.

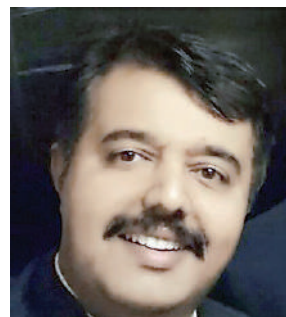
The agenda of this meeting was duly prepared after consultation with all the organizations of the state. The main objective of this meeting was to deliberate, discuss and find solutions to the problems of all the ex-servicemen, military families, Brave Women, Brave Mothers, Widows and women of World War II in the state. The ex-servicemen were already informed about the schemes being run by the state and central government for the families of martyrs and their dependent families, including scholarships, medical facilities and financial assistance for the needy. In this first of its kind meeting, in which all District Sainik Welfare Organizations, ex-servicemen were present, everyone expressed their happiness and congratulated the Director of Rajya Sainik Board.

## Heart hole closed through zero rim VSD device closure

Dr Smit Srivastava fourth cardiologist in country to use the device

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 11: Setting new records of heart treatment, the Advance Cardiac Institute (ACI) at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur has closed the heart hole Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) of a 15-year-old girl using a special type of Zero Eccentric Button Device. The procedure was performed by Dr Smit Srivastava, Head of Department of Cardiology, ACI, and his team.



Due to the proximity of the patient's heart valve, use of normal button device to close the hole was risky. Closing the hole to the heart with a normal button device was likely to result in leakage from the valve. So the heart hole was closed using a newly designed VSD button device, the Zero Rim Eccentric, which has a zero edge size. Ventricular septal defect (VSD) is a common



heart defect, which is congenital, caused by abnormal contact between the lower chambers (ventricles) of the heart. This involves a hole in the wall between the lower chambers of the heart, the left and right ventricles. Most holes close on their own, but sometimes an operation or a catheter-based procedure may be needed to close the hole.

What is zero rim device The Zero Rim Eccentric

device is a specially designed device used to treat VSDs. This specially designed device can close the heart defect atrial septal defect (heart hole). Various studies have been done on this device to see its success result and so far the achievement rate of this device is 98.91 percent.

So far this device has been used by only four doctors in the country including Dr Smit Srivastava (Advance Cardiac Institute Medical College Raipur - dated - 7 February 2022), Dr Vishal Chhangela (Cardiologist, NH Hospital - 3 February - 2021), Dr Shiv Kumar (Cardiologist - MMM Hospital - 21 November - 2021) and Dr Rajesh Kumar (Cardiologist, MGM Hospital - 3 November - 2021).

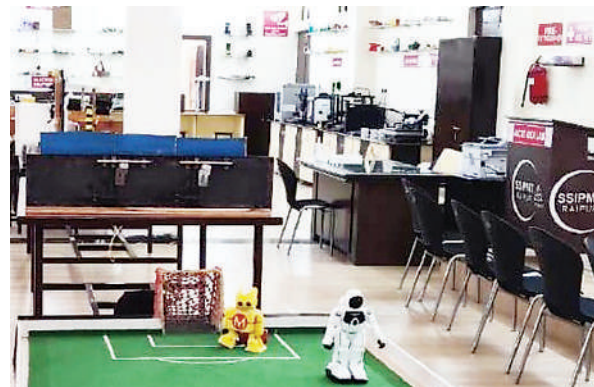
## Chhattisgarh's first AICTE Idea Lab inaugurated

Will get opportunity for innovation

School Education Minister Dr. Tekam inaugurated the country's first Idea Lab, 49 engineering colleges were selected from across the country.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: School Education Minister Dr. Prem Sai Singh Tekam inaugurated the first AICTE Idea Lab in Chhattisgarh. Sri Shankaracharya Institute of Professional Management and



Technology College is the first college in the country where All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Idea Lab has been started on Tuesday. With the establishment of this lab, the best facilities for research and innovation

will be available to the students. It is noteworthy that AICTE selected Shankaracharya College, Raipur to set up Idea Lab. Many engineering colleges from all over the country had applied, in which 49 colleges were

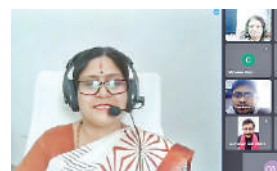
selected. One of them is also Shankaracharya Engineering College, Raipur. Minister Dr. Tekam said that this achievement is a matter of pride not for this college but for the entire state. Students can make their future bright by using it properly. He said that the Idea Lab has been established with the objective of making the students understand and apply the basic principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to gain practical experience. important in embodying imagination and thinking. This idea lab will play an important role in giving shape to the imagi-

nation and thinking of the students studying in technical institutions. This lab can be used by the students as well as the general public. Minister Dr. Tekam said that the youth starting a new enterprise would be able to take full advantage of it. If any student has any technical idea then they can come to this lab to make their dream come true and can patent their idea. The products designed by them can be developed here. This will be a big step in the field of self-employment. On this occasion the chairman of the college, I.P. Mishra, Secretary Nishant Tripathi also addressed.

## Poetry competition organized on Ch'garhi patriotism

Central Chronicle News

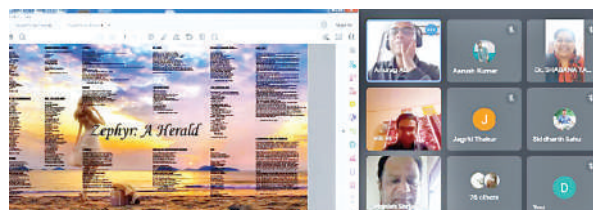
Bilaspur, Feb 11: Political Science Department under the School of Social Sciences of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) organized an online poetry competition on Chhattisgarhi patriotism on February 7, 2022 in which participants from different departments of the university participated. Students expressed their patriotism in Chhattisgarhi language through their poetry. All the participants introduced Chhattisgarhi regional culture through their costumes.



The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Leena Gahane, Deputy Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore who said in her speech that if we are determined that we should have a feeling of respect in our minds towards our mother tongue and the land which nurtures us, and when this thought touches our soul, so many beautiful compositions come out, which were introduced by the students today.

The program was presided over by the Head of the Department of Political Science, Prof. Anupama Saxena. In her presidential speech, she said that today's young generation is very much aware of their society, culture and country. Alumnus of the university, Mr. Akshay Dubey, Deputy Editor, Outlook magazine and advocate Mr. Bhuneshwar Nath Mishra were present as judges in the program. All the teachers, research scholars and students of the Department of Political Science gave their participation in this program.

## Wall magazine 'Zephyr' unveiled at CU



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 11: A new edition of 'Zephyr', the wall magazine of Department of English and Foreign Language was launched on 5 February.

The wall magazine was launched with the aim of bringing out and showcasing the creative talents of the students in the shape of poems,

articles, reviews, drawings etc.

Even teachers of the department have also contributed to it.

This time, 'Zephyr' was launched in online mode on 5 January, on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami and Saraswati Puja.

Around 82 persons were present through Google Meet at the launch which includ-

ed teachers of the department and the students. Professor Manish Shrivastava addressed the students and told about the start of Zephyr some years ago.

Head of the Department, Anurag Chauhan and Dr Shabana Yasmeen Khan also addressed the students and inspired them to keep up their creative initiatives.

Mr Vikas Chandani told about the editing and designing of the magazine in which he was guided by the faculty members and was assisted by Runjhun Pandey.

## Govt departments will now get the products of 'Ch'garh Herbals'

With 10 percent discount As per instructions of CM Baghel, CS has sent a letter to all departments for necessary action

Now there is no need of separate tender, facility of direct purchase

Raipur, Feb 11: According to the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, all the departments of the state government, government undertakings and municipal corporations have been instructed to compulsorily purchase the products of "Chhattisgarh



Herbals" brand with discounts as per their requirement. In this connection, a letter has been sent by Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain to all the departments of the state, Chairman Revenue Board, Bilaspur, Heads of Departments, Collectors

and Public Undertakings. In which it has been directed that necessary action should be taken to implement the system of government procurement by taking advantage of 10 percent discount on MRP to the products manufactured under the brand

"Chhattisgarh Herbals".

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has directed that the sale of herbal products being processed by all the departments of the state government, government undertakings, municipal corporations from various self-help groups of the state through various Sanjeevani centers under Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest

Produce Association under the name of "Chhattisgarh Herbals". It should be compulsorily purchased as per the requirement of the department.

Chhattisgarh Store Purchase Rules 2002 (as amended) regarding direct purchase of ayurvedic

medicines, herbal products and processed food items from minor forest produce manufactured by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association at the prescribed rate and there is no need to call a separate tender for this, a provision has been made to amend Rule 8. Therefore, such ingredients are sold by all government organizations, which are sold under the brand "Chhattisgarh Herbals" through Sanjeevani Kendras. It should be compulsorily purchased with 10 percent discount on MRP. The concerned departmental officers have been directed to ensure strict compliance.



# On-the-spot redressal camp organised

For electricity rectification in Darri near Jalgaon HTPC Colony

Central Chronicle News

**Korba, Feb 11:** On the special instructions of Revenue Minister Mr. Jaisingh Agrawal, and under the guidance of Mayor Rajkishore Prasad a complaint redressal camp was organized in Darri area near Jelgaon HTPS Colony Lal Maidan, to solve the problems related to electricity related problems of common citizens.

It is worth mentioning here that on 08 February a meeting of the officials of Electricity Distribution Department was organized by Mayor Rajkishore Prasad and electricity related works were reviewed and officials were asked to organize troubleshooting camps in various zone offices of



the electricity distribution company.

Mayor Rajkishore Prasad said on the occasion that there are clear instructions from Revenue Minister Shri Jaisingh Agrawal that there should be no problems related to drinking water, electricity and roads in any ward of the

entire corporation area, immediate steps should be taken to redress them and continuous work is going on. Camps will be organized by Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company at Padimar Zone Office on February 10 and Tulsinagar Zone Office on February 11 to solve elec-

tricity bills and other problems related to electricity.

Mayor Rajkishore Prasad has appealed to the citizens that if there is any problem related to electricity bill or electricity, then they must reach the problem redressal camp to be held on the scheduled date in their re-

spective zone and get their grievances redressed.

During the camp, MIC members Ropa Tirkey, Sunil Patel, councilors Firtaram Sahu and Pushpa Devi Kanwar, aldermen Maniram Sahu, Ashish Aggarwal, former chairman Dhurpal Singh Kanwar, former councilor Veersai Dhanuwar, Anupam Sarkar from electricity department, Bharti Soni, Madhuri Patel, Assistant Engineer of the Corporation Devendra Swarnkar, Deputy Engineer Yogesh Rathore, A. Ram, Shri Rege, Sarvjit Singh, Sudhir Jain, Tulsi Thakur, Suresh Rathor, Surendra Yadav, Devidayal Tiwari, Bisahudas, Bhuneshwar Dubey, B.C. Namdev, Parvez Khan, Parameswarsahu etc. were present.

# SK Warrior's defeat Kherlapal by 15 runs

● Wins KPL Cricket Tourney

Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Feb 11:** In the KPL Cricket Tournament organised by Prince Club in the memory of Late Laxman Ram Yadav, the Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma and District Panchayat President Harish Kawasi motivated the players.

In the conclusion, the final's was played between SK Warriors and Kerlapal Star and in this SK Warriors defeated Kerlapal with 15 runs and won the title. Kawasi Lakhma and Harish Lakhma presented prizes to the winners and runner's up with first prize



of Rs 50000 to the winning team. On this occasion Kawasi Lakhma said that it is under leadership of CM Bhupesh Baghel that massive works are being carried out in the field of sports and today in every district of the state variety of sports activities are being organised.

It is outcome of the same that new records is

being created in the field of sports in Bastar division's well. He extended greetings to the players taking part in the tournament and to organising committee of Prince Club. On this occasion large number of public reps, rural folks, young players and office bearers of the Club and members were present in large number.

# 2,700 cu. mt of sand illegally stored seized

In Lingiyadih area of district

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 11:** In a joint action by the Mineral, Revenue and Police department against illegal storage, transportation and excavation of sand in Lingiyadih area of district, the team found illegal storage of sand at 15 different places.

The seven persons found present were is-

sued notices to prove validity of their storage of sand and out of which four persons accepted in storage of 1164 cb. mt. of sand illegally and out of which three persons deposited Rs 2.22 lakh as penalty for illegal storage of sand under Storage Rules and rest of the 1700 cu.mt. was also handed over to Nigam and other urban bodies for government's construction work.

after getting the fees deposited.

It is notable here that earlier also the Mineral, Revenue and Police department has taken action against illegal storage of sand in Lingiyadih and Rajkishore Nagar and nearby areas and the sand seized was again handed over to Nagar Nigam for government's construction works.

# Tennis ball cricket on Feb 15

**Khairagarh, Feb 11:** Tennis Ball cricket tournament at city's Fateh Maidan will be organised from Feb 15. The entry fees for this tournament is Rs 3500 for urban teams and Rs 2500 for rural teams. The first prize for urban cricket team winners will be Rs 71000 and second is Rs 41000 and for rural team the first prize is Rs 35000 and second prize is Rs 21000. The organising committee has handed over application to CMO Nagar Palika for its permission to hold this match.

# Camp held in Maraiguda for villagers

● To provide 'Aadhar' cards to them

**Sukma, Feb 11:** The District administration organised camp in Maraiguda for the villagers and 'Aadhar' registration of villagers was done. In this camp the beneficiaries from Gram Palodi, Karigundam and others got their 'Aadhar' registration and changes in their ration cards. In the camp organised in Kistaram earlier, the beneficiaries who got their 'Aadhar' registration done, were provided with their



'Aadhar Card' and now their registration for 'Ayushman' card was also done. It is notable here that the residents of Gram Panchayat Karigundam and Gram Palodi had approached the Collector Vineed Nandanvar in Sukma that they are not

having 'Aadhar' cards and on this the Collector directed authorities to hold camp in Maraiguda

(Forest) and get 'Aadhar' registration of forest people made and get their registration done for 'Ayushman' card as well. The local administration by holding camp here sorted out the long pending demand of the villagers. With making of 'Aadhar' card by the villagers, now they would be able to avail benefits of government schemes.

# GPM surging ahead on path of progress: Dhruv

- Inaugurates 'Aarpa Mahotsav'
- Madhav Rao Sapre Mahotsav and seminar also organised
- Information about govt's flagship schemes thru stalls

Central Chronicle News

**Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi (GPM), Feb 11:** On completion of two years of formation of new GPM district, the 'Aarpa Mahotsav' began at Govt. Multi-purpose School Ground here with reciting of state's Song 'Aarpa Pari ke Paar...' and apart from this variety of other cultural programmes were presented.

Addressing the programme MLA KK Dhruv extended greetings to people of the district on occasion of district foundation day and said that it is surging fast on path of progress and people of district are being provided with most of the basic amenities at district-level.

MLA Kota Dr (Mrs.) Renu Jogi expressed gratitude towards CM Bhupesh Baghel for organising 'Aarpa



Mahotsav' with formation of new GPM district and extended greetings to denizens of the district. She said that to make this district as the most beautiful and tourist-friendly district, we all should be part and parcel in its development.

The other guests and public representatives at the guests gallery also addressed the foundation day and extended greetings on 'Aarpa Mahotsav'.

Through various stalls at the Mahotsav venue, people of the region were apprised about various schemes of the state government.

Along with this with courtesy Police and Transport department,



facility of learning licence camp was also provided for people interest in this Mahotsav.

Apart from this for recreation, facility of swings, Food stalls and others were also provided for the visitors.

It was under guidance of Collector RP Choudhary and with courtesy Police and District administration that this 'Aarpa Mahotsav' was organised. In this the stall of PR Department flashed information about various government flagship schemes. In the same way in the stall of Industrial department the model of Shyam Cold Storage of Rani Durgawati

Industrial area was the centre of attraction. In the stall of the Forest department, the people were seen enjoy-

ing the taste of Sweet Apple and 'Jamun' flavoured ice-creams. The women present were interested in the herbal products prepared by women self-help groups apart from bangles made out of 'lakh' and in the same way other stalls too kept attracting the visitors.

The seats of guests remained vacant due to lack of promotion of this 'Aarpa Mahotsav' and people were just not aware of what all it is there in this Mahotsav.

It was under aegis of District Police that for traffic awareness, a bike rally was organised to give information about traffic rules and regulations to people present and use helmet while driving. The rally was flagged off by SP Trilok Bansal, District Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and it passed through Railway Station to various parts of city and concluded at venue of 'Aarpa Mahotsav'.

# No-confidence motion moved against Dy. Sarpanch

**Mahasamund, Feb 11:** SDM of the Mahasamund district Bhagwat Jaiswal was gheraoed by the Sarpanch and Panchs of Gram Panchayat Khaira under Mahasamund block headquarters and asked him to remove the Dy. Sarpanch submitting an application for applying no-confidence motion against him. In this context, SDM taking action directed the Nayab Tehsildar Mahasamund Suraj Bansod to work as Presiding officer and take action on no-confidence motion against the Dy. Sarpanch and hold voting on the same on Feb 22.

# कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक/लो.क.वि./जोन-4/2022 /969/327 निविदा सूचना भिलाई, दिनांक 09.02.2022

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

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा लागत (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त होने का अंतिम तिथि	निविदा विभाग में प्राप्त होने का अंतिम तिथि
1.	वाई 37 सुभाष नगर शास. स्कूल के पास दुर्गा मंच में डोम शेड निर्माण कार्य।	10.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
2.	वाई क्र. 29 राजीव नगर दुर्गा पंडाल के समीप शेड निर्माण कार्य।	12.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
3.	वाई क्र.33 एवं 34 में शौचालय निर्माण कार्य।	6.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
4.	वाई 28 लक्ष्मण नगर संतोषी मंदिर के समीप ज्योति कलश निर्माण कार्य।	5.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
5.	वाई 28 लक्ष्मण नगर बस्ती में पेपर ब्लॉक लगाने का कार्य।	12.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
6.	वाई 28 छावनी दुर्गाकर बस्ती में गार्डन निर्माण कार्य।	5.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
7.	वाई 34 काली मंदिर के समीप मंच एवं शेड निर्माण कार्य।	8.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
8.	वाई 37 रेल्टी समुदाय हेतु सामुदायिक भवन निर्माण कार्य।	8.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
9.	वाई 32 जवाहर लाल नेहरू स्कूल के समीप विम भवन का संभरण एवं विम समुग्री प्रदाय कार्य।	8.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
10.	वाई 31 दुर्गा मंदिर के समीप कबोटी मंदिर प्रोग्राम में शौचालय साहित्य भवन निर्माण कार्य।	8.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
11.	वाई 30 बालाजी नगर सोई मंदिर के समीप ज्योति कलश भवन निर्माण कार्य।	5.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
12.	वाई 32 जवाहर लाल नेहरू स्कूल परिसर में डोम शेड निर्माण कार्य।	12.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022
13.	वाई 30 बालाजी नगर स्थित निर्मल राठी विद्यालय के समीप बैडमिंटन कोर्ट निर्माण कार्य।	5.00	02.03.2022	09.03.2022

निविदा स्वीड पोस्ट/विजिटिंग डाक से स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, श्रेश्चर राशि, निम्नलिखित विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की वेबसाइट [www.bhilaingarnigam.com](http://www.bhilaingarnigam.com) अथवा संचालनालय की वेबसाइट [www.uad.cg.gov.in](http://www.uad.cg.gov.in) में भी देखी जा सकती है। (पर से निकलने वाले गोले एवं सुझाव कचरे को अलग कर सकाई मित्र (रिक्शा) को दें।)

जोन आयुक्त

# नाम परिवर्तन

मैं आशाराम यादव उम्र 28 वर्ष पिता कृष्णो यादव, निवासी-ग्राम मण्डिया, तहसील कशडोल, जिला खलीदाबाजार भाटापारा निम्नलिखित कथन शपथपूर्वक करता हूँ कि :-

- यह कि मेरा नाम व पता उपरोक्तानुसार सत्य व सही है।
- यह कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम आशाराम यादव था जो कि मेरे समस्त शैक्षणिक, शासकीय, अर्थशासकीय एवं अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरा यही नाम दर्ज चला आ रहा था।
- यह कि मैं अपना नाम परिवर्तित कर आशाराम यादव के स्थान पर "राम यादव" रख लिया हूँ तथा इसी नाम से मेरा पेन कार्ड क्रमांक **AVWPY1535H** बन चुका है।
- यह कि मैं भविष्य में राम यादव के नाम से ही जाना, पहचाना व पुकारा जाना चाहेगा इसलिए यह शपथ पत्र सक्षम अधिकारी के समक्ष अपने उपरोक्त कथनों के समर्थन में प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ।

**सत्यापन**  
मैं उपरोक्त शपथकर्ता सत्यनिष्ठा से सत्यापित करता हूँ कि इस शपथ पत्र को कंडिका क्रमांक 01 से 04 के कथन मेरी निजी जानकारी में सत्य व सही है एवं आज दिनांक की स्थान रायपुर छ.ग. में अपना हस्ताक्षर कर सत्यापित किया हूँ।

शपथकर्ता

# शपथ पत्र

मैं श्री राजू माण्डे उम्र 32 वर्ष पिता चन्द लाल माण्डे, निवासी-कुम्हा नगर मिनी माल चौक सुपेला भिलाई तह. व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) की हूँ जो कि निम्नलिखित कथनकर शपथपूर्वक कथन प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

- यह कि मैं उनका पति पर निवास करता हूँ।
- यह कि मेरी रजिस्ट्रीसुव भूमि मौजा - ग्राम कचानूर, प.ह.नं. 17 राजिम, दुर्ग -1 तह. व जिला - दुर्ग छ.ग. में स्थित है जिसका खसरा नं. 921/4 का टुकड़ा, प्लॉट नं. 2 है कुल रकबा 0.014 है. 1523 वर्ग फीट जो कि मेरे नाम पर उपर्युक्त कार्यालय दुर्ग में पंजीकृत है।
- यह कि मेरे सम्पूर्ण रजिस्ट्री में से पांचवा / छठवा भूख जो कि ई स्टाम में दर्शाया किता हुआ है जिसका ग्रंथ क्रमांक 28105, पुस्तक क्रमांक - अ 1 के पृष्ठ 10 से 17 पर विवरण क्रमांक - 802/9 पंजीकृत है। असाध्यविकार गुण हो गई है।
- यह कि मुझे अपनी उस रजिस्ट्री को बंधक रखकर ग्राम प्राप्त करने की आवश्यकता है।
- यह कि उस भूमि इसके अधीनस्थ किसी भी शासकीय बैंक / अर्थशासकीय बैंक/ निजी बैंक/ ग्राम निवासि संस्था/ बीमा निगम से किसी प्रकार का कोई ऋण नहीं किया है, और न ही किसी भी बैंक किसी प्रकार का ऋण चुकाने पर है।
- यह कि उस भूमि इसके अधीनस्थ किसी भी शासकीय बैंक / अर्थशासकीय बैंक/ निजी बैंक/ ग्राम निवासि संस्था/ बीमा निगम से किसी प्रकार का कोई ऋण नहीं किया है, और न ही किसी भी बैंक किसी प्रकार का ऋण चुकाने पर है।

उक्त जानकारी समक्ष प्राधिकारी के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करवाई, अतः शपथ पत्र प्रस्तुत है।

शपथकर्ता

# Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)

S. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/ (ies) (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding Amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HHLDMT00445580 1. CHETAN PRASAD 2. JIYA NOOR	HOUSE NO. HIG II/ 562 ADMEASURING 185.74 SQUARE METERS, PART OF KHASRA NO. 589, 597, P.H.N 71/16 SITUATED IN NEW RAIPUR TOWNSHIP, SECTOR 29, RAIPUR-492001, CHHATTISGARH.	30.11.2021	Rs.47,47,277.57/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakh Forty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Seven and Paise Fifty-Seven) As on 30.11.2021

That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan account on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non-Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower.

In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law.

Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property."

In terms of provision of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.

For Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd  
Authorized Officer

Place: RAIPUR/DELHI

# Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)

S. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/ (ies) (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding Amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HHLRPR00482943 1. RAMAN KUMAR GOYAL 2. SARITA GOYAL	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BUNGALOW NO. 11, ADMEASURING 1790.33 SQ. FEET, CONSISTING FLOOR-965.80 SQ. FT., 1ST FLOOR-965.80 SQ. FT., AND 2ND FLOOR-733.04 SQ. FT., SITUATED IN THE RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX KNOWN AS "ASHOKA ICON" IN THE KHASRA NO.-704/2,705/1-2-3 P.H. NO.-109, RAIPUR-492001 CHHATTISGARH	16.11.2021	Rs. 60,78,641.30/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty One and Paise Thirty Only) As On 16.11.2021

That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan account on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non-Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower.

In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law.

Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property."

In terms of provision of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.

For Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd  
Authorized Officer

Place: RAIPUR



## BRIEF

## Fake

■ **Jammu:** Security forces at the Jammu airport arrested three people and recovered fake Aadhaar cards from them. Yasir Hussain, Mohammad Rafi and Parvinder, all from Doda here, were detained by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel deployed at the airport based on suspicion and asked them to produce their documents.

## Lacking

■ **New Delhi:** Absence of a strong and robust mechanism to investigate human trafficking cases that often span across state borders leads to the acquittal of accused, activists have said. Reacting to the statistics recently shared by the government in parliament that the conviction rate in human trafficking cases has been consistently declining over the last four years, activists said indicates there is a lack of strong and appropriate investigation.

## Training

■ **New Delhi:** The US Embassy along with an organization that deals in English-language teaching has launched a training programme for about a 100 teachers working for Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal state governments. Approximately 100 English language teachers and teacher trainers participated in the launch of the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Core Certificate Program (TCCP).

## Held

■ **Mumbai:** Five persons have been arrested for allegedly breaking into the house of a senior citizen and de-camping with valuables worth over Rs 11 lakh in the western suburb of Malad here. The police nabbed the accused Naushad Khan (31), Saddam Khan (34), Ronnie Altaf (35), Abdul Pathan (40) and Guddu Soni (35). The accused had allegedly broken into the apartment of the 60-year-old complainant while he was away.

## Gold

■ **Chennai:** Over two kilograms of gold worth Rs 1.20 crore allegedly smuggled into India from Dubai and Sri Lanka was seized and two passengers were arrested in this connection. In the first incident, the department officials intercepted a man on his arrival from Dubai and recovered gold ingot that was concealed in his inner garment.

## Audit

■ **New Delhi:** The Delhi government has ordered an audit of all types of high-risk food business premises in the national capital by engaging a third-party audit agency. High-risk food business premises include those dealing in milk and dairy products, meat and such other items, sweet shops and slaughterhouses. The department of food safety has a panel of third-party agencies that conduct an audit of such establishments, officials said.

# Yemeni man held for getting rifle parts made in Gujarat

● **Terrorists and Maoists can emulate strategy to source weapons**

**Ahmedabad, Feb 11 (PTI):**

A 36-year-old Yemeni national was arrested with parts of AK-47 and other assault rifles, which he allegedly got manufactured from engineering firms in Gujarat, police said on Friday.

Based on a tip-off, the Ahmedabad crime branch nabbed the accused Abdul Aziz Al-Azzani from a hotel on February 9, and seized parts of assault rifles from him, an official said.

The police recovered a



gas block, a front sight, a short barrel and some other mechanical parts of various assault rifles, including AK-47, he said.

The crime branch also recovered nearly 150 wax moulds and four dyes from two firms in Kathwada area of the GIDC in Ahmedabad, the official said.

According to the police,

Abdul Aziz had planned to send these rifle parts to Yemen, a war-torn country where groups such as the Al-Qaeda and Houthis rebels are fighting against each other.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused, who is a resident of Al-Baidah city in Yemen, works as a labourer and farmer, the official said.

To fulfil the demand for parts of assault rifles in Yemen, one Munir Mohammed had offered commission to Abdul Aziz to acquire these parts from India and send them to Yemen, the crime branch stated in a release.

Abdul Aziz had visited Mumbai in 2018 for his father's heart operation, and

had since visited every year for his father's check-ups, it said.

As per the deal struck with Munir, Abdul came to Mumbai with his father on November 16 last year, and after a check-up, he sent his father back to Yemen and travelled to Ahmedabad, it was stated.

The accused contacted DK Engineering, a firm in Odhav GIDC area, to prepare dyes for parts, such as a short barrel, front sight and gas block, the release said.

As per the designs and measurements provided by Abdul Aziz, the firm prepared the metal dyes and gave it to him, unaware that the dyes were meant for manufacturing rifle parts, it said.

## Silent wave in my favour: Utpal Parrikar

● **Parrikar says Panaji finds itself languishing towards dystopian city**

**Panaji, Feb 11 (PTI):**

Asserting that there is a silent wave in his favour, Utpal Parrikar, elder son of late Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who is contesting the February 14 Assembly election as an independent candidate from the Panaji seat, has said he was a favoured choice after his father's death in 2019, but was denied poll ticket by the BJP due to local politics.

On the BJP offering him three seats other than Panaji for next week's election, Parrikar (41), a businessman, said the fight was "never for options". After being denied ticket by the BJP, Parrikar is contesting against sitting



Utpal Parrikar

BJP MLA Atanasio Monserrate, a local heavyweight. Monserrate had defeated BJP candidate in the bypoll necessitated after the death of Manohar Parrikar in 2019, but in a coup, a bunch of Congress MLAs broke away from the party and joined the saffron fold months later. Monserrate's wife Jeniffer is an MLA from neighbouring Taleigao constituency, while their son is Mayor of Panaji. "I was de-

nied a ticket due to local politics in 2019 and I followed the party's decision, but then a person was brought in from the Congress who had such heinous charges against him that I am ashamed even to talk about it," Parrikar told PTI in an interview. He was referring to Atanasio Monserrate, who is an accused in a 2016 rape case.

"It was not possible to surrender this constituency which was nurtured (by my father) with so much hard work. How could I have sat back calmly? So with the support from the people and workers, I had to enter the fray," he added. With odds stacked against him, Parrikar said, "There is a silent wave in my favour", as he scamped from building to another in Altinho, a plush suburb in Panaji, housing government colonies, residences of chief ministers and top bureaucrats.

## Sanyukt Samaj Morcha on sticky wicket in hotbed of farmers' stir

● **Farmers did not fear laws as much as they feared system**

**Sangrur, Feb 11 (PTI):**

The Sanyukt Samaj Morcha—the political front of 22 farmer unions which had taken part in the stir against the Centre's farm laws—is finding it hard to woo voters here, with many questioning their foray into politics.

The opposition to the Morcha's move to contest the Punjab assembly polls has come from some of the most influential farmer unions, especially the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugrahan).



Election campaign meeting of Sanyukt Samaj Morcha.

The union is the state's largest farmer outfit holding considerable influence in Sangrur, which was a hotbed of the struggle against the central laws. The union's head, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, says they can't compromise on principles.

"We had come together

to fight against the central laws on the basis of a common minimum programme, which bars unions from undertaking any such adventure," says Ugrahan, whose union has presence in around 1,600 village. He says as soon as 22 farmer unions decided to contest the polls, they

stopped to be the part of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmer unions that led the stir against the laws. "The ball is now in their court. They will have to clarify on it," he says. Krantikari Kisan Union chief Dr Darshan Pal echoes similar views.

He rejects the farmer bodies' political plunge, saying history tells that any party formed out of a movement like the farmers' agitation can't survive. Pal claims that a majority of the outfits that joined the SSM have already left it.

Randeep Kaur, vice-president of the Sunam block for the Ugrahan faction of the BCU, says they stand with their leadership against the Morcha.

## Will continue trekking: Rescued Kerala trekker

**Palakkad, Feb 11 (PTI):**

Young trekker R Babu, who was trapped in the face of a mountain cleft and was rescued by the Indian Army through a breathtaking operation recently, said on Friday that trekking was his passion and he was sure that someone would come to rescue him from the steep gorge.

"I was not afraid. The cleft was like a tiny cave. When it was too cold and too hot outside, I used to crawl into the gorge and came outside whenever I heard anyone calling my name," he told reporters here. The 23-year-old youth was discharged from the district hospital here as the doctors certified that his health condition was stable. However, they advised him to take rest at least for one week. When asked whether he realised that his rescue



Trekker R Babu had to be rescued after difficult operation.

was breaking news in channels, the trekker said he was not aware about it but he was sure that someone would come to lift him to safety. "The mobile phone lost its charge by the evening. Before that, I managed to click some selfies and sent to my friends to in-

## WORKERS PROTEST



Anganwadi workers protest against the Delhi government over payment of minimum wages, inflation and others, outside the Vikas Bhawan in New Delhi, Friday.

## 'One who built Varsity in jail, one who killed farmers out on bail'

**Rampur, Feb 11 (PTI):**

Taking a swipe at the ruling BJP, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said while Azam Khan is in jail for building a university, a Union minister's son is out on bail in a case pertaining to the killing of farmers, and mockingly said this is the "new India" of the saffron party.

He also claimed that the voting in the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls has given enough indications that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be wiped out from the state.

The Allahabad High Court had granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in a case of violence in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav during an election campaign rally, in Rampur, Friday.

Pradesh in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed.

Addressing an election meeting here in favour of Khan and other SP candidates, Yadav said, "Even if the BJP performs 700 squats, the farmers will not forgive the party."

He said Khan's son Abdullah Azam had to

languish in jail for two years on false cases.

"Azam Khan was also sent to jail on false charges. Cases of buffalo theft, chicken theft and theft of books were lodged against him. But the man who crushed farmers under the wheels of a jeep has come out of jail. This is

the new India of the BJP," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added.

"The man who built a university for you, fought for your rights and honour; was sent to jail. And the man who crushed farmers using a jeep has been sent out of jail. Nowhere in the world, farmers have been crushed by a jeep. But since the Uttar Pradesh polls are here, he has got bail and is out," he said.

Khan got the Jauhar University built in Rampur. He is currently lodged in the Sitapur jail on various charges.

The SP has fielded Khan from the Rampur Assembly segment and his son from the Suar constituency in the district. Rampur will vote on February 14.

## First Indian Army Hackathon by RRU

**Gandhi Nagar, Feb 11:** Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) along with Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mahow along conducted the first ever hackathon for Indian Army over the last three months. Gen M Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Army Staff complimented all participants and congratulated the winners. With a large number of students from across the country as also Army personnel participating, the Hackathon has been a major success.

General Naravane mentioned that cyber threats are one of the most critical challenges faced by India today, and Indian

Army has taken a number of steps to consolidate its capabilities in cyber domain.

Prizes worth INR 15 lac were given to the winners by Gen Naravane and Colonel Nidhish Bhatnagar, Director, School of Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, Rashtriya Raksha University.

Prof (Dr) Bimal Patel, Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University, stated that cyber is now a way of life across all sectors and touches almost everyone. The exploitation of vulnerabilities in the system are being exploited by criminals and adversaries alike,

and this is emerging as the biggest threat to a peaceful and law-abiding life. He complimented Indian Army and MCTE for having taken the lead in this and mentioned that events such as the Hackathon are essential to understand possible vulnerabilities and weaknesses, and thereby secure them.

Rashtriya Raksha University is an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Based in Gandhinagar Gujarat, the University is a pioneering National Security and Policing University of India.

## Handmade Kashmir carpets to get QR code certification

**Jammu, Feb 11 (PTI):**

The handmade carpets in Jammu and Kashmir will now get QR code-based certification, which is a first-of-its-kind in the country. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the Quick Response Code-based mechanism for labelling of the carpets in the Union Territory. With the QR-based application, customers can check and verify authenticity and other requisite details of carpets produced in Jammu and Kashmir. The Lt Governor observed that Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts are repository of India's creative traditions that is serving as a cultural expression for centuries.

"This creative tradition

is strikingly visible in handmade carpets with intricate designs & subtle shades. With the help of modern technology, we will be able to standardize uniqueness of handmade carpets & boost exports of J&K's carpet industry in the international market," he added. On the occasion, the Lt Governor also felicitated UT's awardees of Handicrafts & Handloom.

"I truly admire the painstaking work of all the craftsmen and carpet weavers. Government is providing training & financial support to strengthen the priceless artistic and cultural heritage of J&K," he said, noting that the Union Territory has a unique identity in the global market for handloom and handicraft products.



## BRIEF

## Approval

■ **Tokyo:** Japan has granted fast-track approval to US drug maker Pfizer Inc.'s COVID-19 pill, the health minister said, as the country struggles to slow fast-spreading omicron infections. The approval came less than a month after Pfizer applied in mid-January, an exceptional speed in a country where foreign drug approvals usually take much longer. Health Minister Shigeyuki Goto said the availability gives greater treatment options.

## Sanctions

■ **Mexico City:** The US Treasury Department said it has sanctioned men from Mexico and Ecuador accused of shipping tons of cocaine from South America to the United States. Wilder Emilio Sanchez Farfan of Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Miguel Angel Valdez Ruiz of Culiacan, Mexico, work together to supply Mexico's Sinaloa cartel with cocaine.

## Negotiations

■ **Helsinki:** Denmark says it will begin negotiations on a new defense cooperation agreement with the US that may include allowing American troops and military equipment to be stationed on Danish soil in reversal of a decades-old policy. But Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen stressed that the move is not due to current tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

## Rose

■ **Beijing:** The Central Tibetan Valley rose from a low valley into its current soaring height of over 4,000 metres between 38 and 29 million years ago, according to a new study, which provided fresh clues to the formation of the mountainous region — known as 'the roof of the world'. Surrounded by imposing mountain ranges that harbour the world's two highest summits, Mount Everest and K2, the Tibetan Plateau is also referred to as Qinghai Plateau.

## Probe

■ **Bangkok:** Police in Thailand said they were looking for a suspect in the robbery of German celebrity Cathy Hummels, who reported that her mobile phone was stolen during nighttime attack on a southern beach.

# 'Defence and security key pillars of India-Australia partnership'

**Blinken says confrontation with China not inevitable**

**Canberra:** Confrontation with China is not inevitable, but the United States must stand up with its allies for a rules-based system threatened by Chinese aggression, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday.

**Melbourne, Feb 11 (PTD):**

Defence and security are key pillars of the partnership between India and Australia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Friday, as he held talks with Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton ahead of a crucial meeting of Quad foreign ministers.

Jaishankar is in Australia on his first trip to the country as external affairs minister. He will co-chair with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne the 12th India-Australia foreign



**US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi in Melbourne.**

ministers' framework dialogue on February 12 besides attending the Quad meeting.

"Started the day with meeting Defence Minister Peter Dutton, MP. We followed up on the 2+2 discussions last year," he said in a tweet.

"Defence and security are key pillars of the India-Australia partnership," he said.

Jaishankar also met Australian Minister for Immigration, Citizenship,

Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Alex Hawke and held a "useful discussion" on talent, mobility and globalisation.

"I met with Indian Minister for External Affairs Dr Jaishankar to discuss challenges and opportunities for our region in coming years and the strength of the Indian diaspora in Australia, particularly through the pandemic," Hawke said in a tweet. "As we celebrate 75 years of Indian

Independence in 2022, we also mark 75 years of friendship between Australia and India," he said.

"We also attended the Australia India Institute launch of the India Matters program which will play critical role in fostering stronger ties between both countries," he said in another tweet.

Jaishankar thanked leader of the Australian Labour Party Anthony Albanese and Senator Penny Wong, representing South Australia, for their exchange of views on bilateral ties and "strong support" for deepening the partnership with India. "Pleasure to meet with @DrSJaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, who is in Melbourne for the Quad Ministerial meetings. India is a great friend of Australia and we spoke about regional security and deepening the bonds between our great democracies," Albanese said in a tweet.

## Low-cost coating for fabrics can kill Covid virus

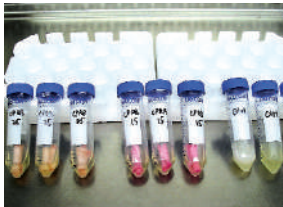
● **Coating can also be used for activewear**

**Toronto, Feb 11 (PTD):**

Scientists in the US have developed an inexpensive, non-toxic coating for almost any fabric that decreases the infectivity of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by up to 90 per cent.

The coating, described in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, may be used in future to develop an antiviral spray for fabrics.

"When you are walking into a hospital, you want to know that pillow you



**Coated material undergoing antimicrobial testing.**

are putting your head onto is clean," said study lead author Taylor Wright, a doctoral student at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada.

"This coating could take a little bit of the worry off frontline workers to have personal protection equipment (PPE) with anti-

microbial properties," Wright said.

Researchers soaked fabric in a solution of a bacteria-killing polymer which contains a molecule that releases sterilising forms of oxygen when light shines on it.

They then used an ultraviolet (UV) light to turn this solution to a solid, fixing the coating to the fabric. "This coating has both passive and active antimicrobial properties, killing microbes immediately upon contact, which is then amped up when sunlight hits the cloth," said senior study author Michael Wolf, a professor at UBC.

## Putin's Ukraine strategy mixes threats, diplomacy

**Moscow, Feb 11 (AP):**

With Russia carrying out a massive military buildup near Ukraine and the West roundly rejecting Moscow's security demands, a window for diplomacy in the crisis appears to be closing.

But even as Moscow continues to bolster its forces and holds sweeping war games, President Vladimir Putin is keeping the window open for more negotiations in a calculated game of brinkmanship intended to persuade Washington and its allies to accept Russia's demands. The West fears that a Russian



**Protesters sit outside their tents on the lawn of Parliament against Covid-19 restrictions, in Wellington, New Zealand on Friday.**

## US urges Canada to use federal powers to end bridge blockade

**Toronto, Feb 11 (AP):**

The Biden administration urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to use its federal powers to end the truck blockade by Canadians protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions, as the bumper-to-bumper demon-

stration forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production. For the fourth straight day, scores of truckers taking part in what they dubbed the Freedom Convoy blocked the Ambassador Bridge connecting Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, disrupting

the flow of auto parts and other products between the two countries. The White House said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg spoke with their Canadian counterparts and urged them to help resolve the standoff.



**Russian military vehicles moves during at a training ground in Rostov region, Russia.**

invasion of Ukraine may be imminent, while Russia maintains it has no plans to do so but wants its security concerns addressed.

Russia wants the US and its allies to keep Ukraine and other former Soviet nations from joining

NATO, refrain from putting any weapons near Russia, and roll back alliance forces from Eastern Europe.

Washington and NATO reject those demands as 'nonstarters,' but they also are offering to discuss pos-

sible limits on missile deployments, a greater transparency of military drills and other confidence-building measures.

Putin has yet to deliver Moscow's formal response to the Western proposals, but he has already described them as secondary and warned that he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer on his main demands. He countered the Western argument about NATO having an open-door policy by arguing that it threatens Russia and violates the principle of the 'indivisibility of security' enshrined in international agreements.

## CIA has secret programme that collects American data

**Washington, Feb 11 (AP):**

The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has a secret, undisclosed data repository that includes information collected about Americans, two Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee said. While neither the agency nor lawmakers would disclose specifics about the data, the senators alleged the CIA had long hidden details about the programme from the public and Congress.

Sens Ron Wyden of Oregon and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico sent a letter to top intelligence officials calling for more details about the program to be declassified. Large parts of the letter, which was sent in April 2021 and declassified, and documents released by the CIA were



**US Central Intelligence Agency HQ.**

blackened out. Wyden and Heinrich said the programme operated outside the statutory framework that Congress and the public believe govern this collection.

There have long been concerns about what information the intelligence community collects domestically, driven in part by previous violations of Americans' civil liberties.

The CIA and National Security Agency have a foreign mission and are generally barred from investigating Americans or US businesses. But the spy agencies' sprawling collection of foreign communications often snares Americans' messages and data incidentally.

Intelligence agencies are required to take steps to protect US information,

including redacting the names of any Americans from reports unless they are deemed relevant to an investigation. The process of removing redactions is known as unmasking.

CIA recognises and takes very seriously our obligation to respect the privacy and civil liberties of US persons in the conduct of our vital national security mission, Kristi Scott, the agency's privacy and civil liberties officer, said in a statement. CIA is committed to transparency consistent with our obligation to protect intelligence sources and methods. The CIA released a series of redacted recommendations about the program issued by an oversight panel known as the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. According to the document, a pop-up box warns CIA analysts using

the program that seeking any information about US citizens or others covered by privacy laws requires a foreign intelligence purpose.

However, analysts are not required to memorialize the justification for their queries, the board said.

Both senators have long pushed for more transparency from the intelligence agencies. Nearly a decade ago, a question Wyden posed to the nation's spy chief presaged critical revelations about the NSA's mass-surveillance programs.

In 2013, Wyden asked then-Director of National Intelligence James Clapper if the NSA collected any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans. Clapper initially responded, "No." He later said, Not wittingly.

## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

**Advt. No. Estab.IV/292/2022**

**Dated: 17.01.2022**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Associate Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 13A 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 21231/12/0007/2122**

**REGISTRAR**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)**

**Durg, Dated: 07.02.2022**

**e- Procurement Tender Notice**

**1st Call**

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated **22-02-2022** :-

Tender System & NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
376/92306	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Renovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Bemetara Division Bemetara	195.00
377/92308	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Renovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Khairagarh DIVISION Khairagarh	195.00
378/92309	S/R Work of Various Location at Rajnandgaon-Kawardha-Pondri road (SH-05) 28/2 to 51/10 km 44/4, 46/4 and 50/2 km 34/4-6 km Block-Khairagarh	29.98
379/92311	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Renovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Balod Division Balod	195.00
380/92312	Construction of Additional Room at First Floor Govt. Lal Shyam Shah College Manpur, Block - Manpur, (i/c Electrification work)	112.52
381/92313	B.T. Patch Repair on Various Roads under P.W.D. Division Rajnandgaon	100.00
382/92315	B.T. Renewal of Baghera Mangtla Road & 03 Other Roads Length Km 11.30 Km. Under Sub Div. No 02 Rajnandgaon	190.39

### Note :-

- NIT No 376 are under Public Works Department Bemetara Division, NIT No. 377 & 378 are under Public Works Department Khairagarh Division, NIT No 379 are under Public Works Department Balod Division, NIT No 380, 381 & 381 are under Public Works Department Rajnandgaon Division..
- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Procurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.
- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

**Superintending Engineer**  
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)  
Tel. 0788-2210876

**G-67714/1**

**ग्रामाद्योग संचालनालय हाथकरघा**  
चतुर्थ तल, ब्लॉक-ए, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अल नगर,  
जिला-रायपुर 492002 (छ.ग.)  
फोन एवं फैक्स नं. 0771-2221766 email-[handloomraipur@gmail.com](mailto:handloomraipur@gmail.com)

### लकड़ी एवं लोहे के कम्पलिट फ्रेमलूम हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण

ग्रामाद्योग संचालनालय हाथकरघा अल नगर रायपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा राष्ट्रीय हाथकरघा विकास कार्यक्रम योजनागत प्रदेश के बुनकर सहकारी समितियों/संस्थाओं में लगने वाले लकड़ी के कम्पलिट फ्रेमलूम, जेकार्ड डोंडी एवं सहायक हाथकरघा उपकरण के क्रय दर निर्धारण हेतु लूम निर्माताओं तथा जेकार्ड, डोंडी एवं सहायक उपकरण आपूर्ति कर्ताओं/निर्माताओं से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। फ्रेमलूम, जेकार्ड, डोंडी एवं सहायक हाथकरघा उपकरण क्रय की वार्षिक अनुमानित आवश्यकता राशि रु. 55.00 लाख की होगी। निविदा फार्म ग्रामाद्योग संचालनालय (हाथकरघा) इन्द्रावती भवन नवा रायपुर से कार्यालयीन समय पर (सुबह 10:30 से शाम 5:00 बजे तक) दिनांक 14.03.2022 तक प्राप्त किया जा सकता है अथवा ग्रामाद्योग संचालनालय हाथकरघा के वेबसाइट [www.ruralindustries.cg.gov.in](http://www.ruralindustries.cg.gov.in) से आवेदन पत्र डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा जमा करते समय निविदा आवेदन शुल्क 15.03.2022 रु. नगद जमा करना होगा। मुहर बंद निविदा ग्रामाद्योग संचालनालय (हाथकरघा) इन्द्रावती भवन नवा रायपुर में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 15.03.2022 दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक रहेगी एवं प्राप्त निविदायें उसी दिन दिनांक 15.03.2022 को दोपहर 1:00 बजे खोली जावेगी। चाहे तो निविदादाता निविदा खोलते समय उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।

(सुधाकर खलखो)  
आ.प्र.से.  
संचालक  
ग्रामाद्योग हाथकरघा संचालनालय  
छत्तीसगढ़ रायपुर  
G-67701/1

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### Tender Notice (1st Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works:-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
211/91980	S/R, M.O.W. & DEPOSIT WORK AT KABEER NAGAR SECTION UNDER PWD SUB DIVISION NO.-2 RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 25.00 Lakh
212/91981	S/R, M.O.W. & DEPOSIT WORK AT SCIENCE COLLEGE SECTION UNDER PWD SUB DIVISION NO.-2 RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
213/91982	S/R, M.O.W. & DEPOSIT WORK AT HEERAPUR SECTION UNDER PWD SUB DIVISION NO.-2 RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 25.00 Lakh

**Last date of tender Download Date up to 02.03.2022 Time 17:30 PM**  
Note:- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Superintending Engineer**  
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1  
Raipur (C.G.)  
G-67728/1

### छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना**  
**eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>**  
**(प्रथम आमंत्रण)**

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 92119/निविदा सूचना क्र. 25/वलेलि/2021-22 बेमेतरा, दिनांक 10.02.2022 निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 03.03.2022, 17.30 तक ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

**कार्य का नाम-** बेमेतरा जिले के विकासखण्ड साजा की कुबिया व्यपवर्तन योजना के शीर्ष कार्य में वियर मजबूतीकरण, जलद्वार निर्माण एवं मुख्य एवं शाखा नहर का रिमाडलिंग एवं लाईनिंग कार्य के साथ 04 नग माईनर हेड, 21 नग पुलिया, 02 नग ड्रेनेज क्रासिंग, 03 नग साईफन, 06 नग फाल, 05 नग इनलेट एवं 58 नग कुलाबा निर्माण कार्य।

**अनुमानित लागत- रु. 680.64 लाख**  
अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब साईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 17.02.2022 समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।  
**नोट:** निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा  
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,  
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर छ.ग.

**G-67728/1**



CENTRAL  
Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 130

## Intent of school uniform

The Supreme Court has declined to give urgent listening for hearing a Special Leave Petition against Karnataka High Court's direction regarding the hijab petitions. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said that the apex court will take up the matter at an 'appropriate time.' The Karnataka High Court bench hearing the hijab ban case said students should not wear religious dress to colleges. The matter will now be heard on February 14. Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi indicated to the advocates for the petitioner-students and the State Advocate General that the court will pass an interim order for starting the educational institutions and that all students should not insist on wearing head scarves or saffron shawls till the Bench decides the issues raised in the petitions. Are school uniforms still relevant in the modern world? There are multiple reasons why a dress code is considered necessary with correct intent. The most compelling one is that of economy, parents don't need to worry about dressing their children in different clothes for school every day when there is a school uniform. In many ways, this immediately wipes out a large chunk of the class differences between students. Both poor and rich students are dressed the same way. The very first institutionalized uniform has documented evidence from 1222. The uniforms were ordered by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, who standardized the wearing of the cappa clausa, a cape with a closed front. After that religious use, the practice branched into educational and academic institutions around England. The idea of a standardized dress code was adopted by the Cambridge University in UK right from the 13th century. Though it was met with staunch opposition from the students, the academic dress code gradually acquired a status symbol.

In the 16th century, England was the first nation to require school uniforms. But these uniforms were not to be worn by elite students, they were to distinguish the poor children attending charity schools from other children. It wasn't until 300 years later that student who attended the better English public schools began wearing uniforms. Once this became the norm, it blossomed into an obsession, as well as a way to effect social and cultural control over the students. Those who support school uniforms argue that if all of the students are wearing the same clothing, they will take school more seriously instead of worrying about what they're wearing. Since many places of employment also require uniforms, this will prepare the students for future jobs, and group clashes will decrease because members will be unable to identify their rivals by their clothing. In India, school uniforms were introduced during the British rule. Girls in senior secondary schools usually wear 'Salwar Kamiz' and boys wear pants and shirts. In preschool, girls wear skirts and blouses and boys wear short pants and shirts. Though some religious institutions have specific needs, the government institutions have to strictly follow secular ethics. In other parts such as New Zealand and Australia, where the British colonial rule was in effect, the uniform system is followed in government schools. The purpose of a school uniform is to promote team spirit and discipline, and enhance equality among all students. Though uniforms have helped to wipe out the discrimination meted out to the weaker section, critics have a different story to say. According to them, uniforms have no such great impact on the mindset of students. Last, some schools in Kerala were praised for introducing gender neutral uniforms for boys and girls. The court will have to keep original intent of school uniforms in perspective for its judgements.

## Local drone industry

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the commerce and industry ministry has issued a notification banning the import of foreign drones. Import policy for drones in CBU (Completely Built Up) or CKD (Completely Knocked Down) or SKD (Semi Knocked Down) form is prohibited with exceptions provided for Research and Development (R&D), defence and security purposes. Import of drones by government entities, educational institutions recognised by central or state government, government recognised R&D entities and drone manufacturers for R&D purpose will be allowed in CBU, SKD or CKD form. This will be subject to import authorisation issued by DGFT in consultation with line ministries concerned. The civil aviation ministry said that in order to promote Made in India drones, import of foreign drones has been prohibited with effect from February 9, 2022. The ministry came out with liberalised drone rules in August 2021. After the rules, the ministry issued the drone airspace map and PLI scheme in September 2021, UTM policy framework in October 2021. Besides, drone certification scheme and single window DigitalSky Platform were put in place last month. Drones are computerised aircrafts, booming due to lowered cost of electronics.

Chinese corporations have dominated the civilian drone market and now government wants the local drone industry to bloom. New technologies often start with the military and are very expensive. And then, as economies of scale kick in, suddenly they hit a consumer moment and words like 'personal' enter into it. At that point, all bets are off. That's the stage we're hitting right now with drones. It's hard to argue that we're not in an exponential period of technological innovation. The personal drone is basically the peace dividend of the smartphone wars, which is to say that the components in a smartphone like sensors, the navigation, the camera, the computing processors, the wireless antenna, the memory, the battery all that stuff, which is being driven by the incredible economies of scale and innovation at electronic corporations is available for a few hundred rupees. They were essentially not available to civilians fifteen years ago. This is stuff that used to be military industrial technology, you can buy it at any electronic store now. Society has never seen technology move faster than it's moving right now, and that's because of the supercomputer in your pocket called a smartphone. Much depends on electronic manufacturing in India.

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

## PLAYING AMID PROTEST

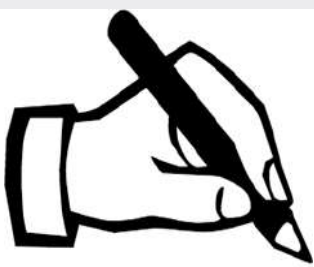


Children play at a make shift playground as demonstrators continue to protest the vaccine mandates implemented by government in Canada, in capital Ottawa.

## Continuity, correctness, conservatism and crowding-in for economy



V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN



Four Cs - continuity, correctness, conservatism and crowding-in - are the hallmarks of the budget for 2022-23 presented by the finance minister on the 1st of February for the economy of India. The budget has continued with the practice started two years ago of bringing all below-the-line items above the line. Extra-budgetary resources in which the borrowing is guaranteed and serviced by the Union Government is restricted to a single transitional item of Rupees 750 crores in the current year's revised estimates (RE). Transparency and cleaner accounting continue to be accorded the highest priority in budget-making as was the case with the previous two budgets. In the last two years, marked by the global pandemic, the government has provided resources for the vulnerable sections of the society through Emergency Credit Line Schemes, through Emergency Food support (PM Gharib Kalyan Yojana) involving allocation of additional foodgrain over and above eligibility under Public Distribution extended multiple times, enhanced allocations to rural employment guarantee programme and PM-Kisan.

In this year's budget, it has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to contact-based sectors that are yet to return to their pre-pandemic levels. The revamping of the Credit Guarantee Trust for

Micro and Small Enterprises (MSME) and infusing additional capital into it will unlock additional capital into it will unlock additional Rupees 2.0 lakh crores of credit to MSME. The government has used the pandemic crisis as an opportunity to usher in many important structural changes in the economy. Examples include the Production Linked Incentive Schemes for fourteen sectors, the ending of the uncertainty associated with retrospective taxation, privatisation, faceless assessment and reduction in corporate and personal income taxes wherein taxpayers could opt for lower tax rates with fewer or no exemptions or to file under the old method. In addition, important process-oriented measures such as the launch of the Gati Shakti dashboard, reforms to government procurement, changes to Factoring laws and the Account Aggregator framework have been launched.

The budget for 2022-23 builds on this approach of combining structural reforms and process improvements. The many initiatives under Gati Shakti, the inter-linking of many portals (Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and ASEEM) to help MSME with credit facilities, skilling and augmentation, the enabling of post-offices with the core -banking solution, the facilitation of updated returns to correct errors in the original returns for up to two years and creating a pathway for world-class foreign universities and institutions in selected fields to be

set up in GIFT city are but few of the examples. The assumption of 11.2 percent as the growth rate of GDP at current prices might strike many as being too conservative especially given that the Economic Survey for 2021-22 projects a figure of between 8 and 8.5 percent as the growth rate for GDP at constant prices. If anything, the chances of this projection being exceeded are higher than the chances of undershooting it, given that real GDP contracted q/q in 1Q2021-22. That sets up a positive base effect for 2022-23. However, depending on the impact of the omicron variant on economic activity could be weaker in the last quarter of the current fiscal year. If multiple external shocks impact the Indian economy in 2022-23 (oil price shock, Fed's monetary policy normalisation impacting global financing conditions, etc.), then 11.2 percent might not appear as conservative but prudent.

Capital expenditure by the government will rise 36 percent over the revised budget estimate (and 35.4 percent over BE 2021-22), after one excludes the cash infusion of nearly Rupees 52000 crores into AIR INDIA. It includes Rupees 1.0 lakh crores of 50-year interest-free loans to state governments to undertake capital infusion. It includes incremental (over last year's 65000 crores of Rupees) budget support of Rs. 69000 crores (provided as equity) to the National Highways Authority of India. All of this information is in the public domain. If State governments were allowed these Rupees 1.0 lakh crore as an additional borrowing limit, they will bear an interest rate that is higher than the rate at which the Union Government borrow. Further, the money can be used for revenue expenditure. This interest-free loan, dedicated as it is to capital expenditure, incentivises it. The fact that states' capex up to November 2021 was 67 percent higher than in the same eight months of the previous fi-

nanacial year supports this 50-year interest-free loan purely for capital expenditure purposes. NHAI's capital investments in recent years have been considerably financed by borrowings and this has increased its interest burden. By providing enhanced budgetary support, the government is strengthening NHAI to remain a financially viable entity while ensuring continued investment in national highways. As far as USD 5 trillion economy is concerned, India is the fastest growing large economies in the world.

Depending on how exchange rate move Indian Rupee would remain stable to strong given what is going on the developed world. If we extrapolate that we should be at the USD 5 trillion by 2025-26 or 2026-27. So, we have enough cushion to help the demand recovery. Economic stress is high because of the pandemic cloud, which is still keeping people uncertain and restrained in their spending. Once the pandemic cloud lifts, the consumer sentiment and spending habits would come back to a normal growth pattern. Crude oil is a bigger risk for the economy, bigger than a hawkish Federal Reserve, and monsoon. While monsoon is too early to talk about and regardless of how taper proceeds in the US, the fall out on India should be very, very manageable, which leaves crude oil, which is a "risk the world economy faces and not just India. Once confidence and cheer crowd out the pandemic-induced concern that is currently clouding the minds of the citizens, then the various measures announced and the capital investments envisaged in the budget will succeed in crowding in private investments.

(V Anantha Nageswaran is the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India.)

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Undecided

It is a need of hour that there should be engagement with reason, fairness and common sense as Pakistan has already entered in this unhealthy controversy which could have been avoided if the amicable solution had been sought at the early stage as the entire episode revolves around just scarves only which is a very pity matter and could have been solved at the local levels only. Can religious symbolism in a person's appearance-a turban, a tilak, a crucifix round the neck be a threat to law and order? This is just one example of confusions and conflicts underlying 'coexistence' in India. Saffron scarves are symbols of Hindutva, not quite on the same plane as the hijab which, apart from customary use by adherents of a faith, fell under the bsupreme court's earlier 'essence of religion' test. Yet all courts approach such issues by the same route. Yet many ambiguities afflict them which leaves them of distortion by vested interests. Does secularism mean stopping of girls from study if they wear hijab? Court has referred the matter to a larger bench and had not given any interim relief and that relief can be given by that larger bench. Some vested interests are already inciting both parties to gain momentary gain and such type of vested interests should be discouraged at all levels. Till the outcome of court verdict both parties should restrain and maintain peace in the national interests as already such type of incidents had happened recently where inflammatory speeches were delivered from both sides and utmost care is required so such type activities may not further spread which will be against the national interests.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar  
Suicide rate

Oh God! At least this time No Data Available (NDA) government has some data and that's too on suicides due to unemployment. Citing National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB) data, Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on that 3,548 people died by suicide due to unemployment and another 5,213, (total 8,761) on account of and indebtedness, in 2020. Ground reality may be different. People are strongly believe that it may be more than government data who may have died by suicide due to unemployment or debts in 2020. In 25th March 2020 nation-wide lockdown was announced by the Modi government in the event of Covid pandemic. The government had urged the people to be where they were. But people started migrating to their native places asap with whatever they could grab. Moreover, thousands died of starvation and those who could take loans they had tried to survive with debts. Sadly, later many people committed suicide due to heavy debts which they couldn't pay up. It could not have happened if the Modi government came to power in 2014, and claimed that it would create 2 crore jobs per year, but miserably failed. Due to the failure of the government thousands committed suicide. Though there was no remorse from Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding these deaths, instead, he played dirty politics in the Parliament and blamed Congress over migrant labourers. But when the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech said that the government would create 60 lakh jobs over the next five years, it clearly exposed the Modi government's inability to meet the past promise of 2 crore jobs. Whatsoever, government should not stop wasting time on the ones who committed suicide at least as per their data, instead concentrate in supporting (if not) their immediate family members who bear the most pain.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kiran Kumar@KiranKS

Many talk about Indian cities & traffic congestion. The core issue is with the last mile connectivity for public transport. If your nearest Metro station is more than 20 minutes walk, forget about it. People won't use much. Focus on last mile connectivity. That's the core issue.

Brig V Mahalingam @BrigMahalingam

Absolutely. There is an election every other day and in the name of elections the political class abuse each other & pollute the minds of people besides promoting hatred & disturbing the unity & cohesion of the society. Besides, our leaders have no time for governance.

Tishaa Dogra@DograTishaa  
Colours are essence of life!!!

Abhishek@aramanujaa

Comic books are classified as "extracurricular." Why? Because they are entertaining, colourful & simple to comprehend Our educational system has instilled in us the belief that anything enjoyable and free is pointless. We need to remind them that learning can be fun & free.

Kavita Krishnan@kavita\_krishnan

To paraphrase the great feminist educator Rokeya Sakhawati Hossain, author of Sultana's Dream parodying pardah; and a campaigner against mandatory pardah for Muslim and Hindu women in the 19th century: "forcing women out of the veil is just as oppressive as forcing them into it."



D. Muthukrishnan@dmuthuk

Every fintech wants to be a lender. Even among banks, only few have mastered the art of lending. To lend is easy. To get back money is difficult. This is going to be transfer of wealth from VCs to Indian borrowers. What is the use of fintech if final destination for them is to become money lenders?

thakursahab@65thakursahab

The biggest blow to patriarchy & regressive custom's, will come by empowering the girls, letting them fly, no matter from which community. Heckling them, forcing them, just pushes the girls & the community, into asserting their identity.



## BRIEF

## Reappointed



**New Delhi:** N Chandrababu Naidu was on Friday reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second five-year term. The reappointment was ratified by the board. Ratan N Tata who was a special invitee to this meeting expressed his satisfaction on Tata Group's performance.

## Finance

**New Delhi:** Hero Electric on Friday said it has tied up with State Bank of India (SBI) for retail finance for its customers. The customers can now ride home their favourite company scooter at the lowest interest rates across India for a hassle-free experience. This partnership will provide the best interest rates and unique offers to fuel the green mobility revolution.

## Inaugurates



**Mumbai:** Atumobile on Friday announced the inauguration of its second manufacturing facility at Patancheru, in Hyderabad. MD Vamsi Gaddam said considering growing e-two-wheeler market, we are enhancing annual production capacity to nearly three lakh vehicles.

## Chairman



**New Delhi:** Auto component firm Sundaram-Clayton Ltd (SCL) on Friday said it has appointed R. Gopalan as Chairman of the Board with effect from April 1. Gopalan has rich experience in economic and financial administration with long stints in ministries and sectors.

## Files

**New Delhi:** Kids Clinic India Ltd, which operates super-specialty mother and baby care chain Cloudnine, has filed preliminary prospectus with Sebi to raise Rs 1,200 crore through an initial share-sale.

## Acquire

**New Delhi:** Max Healthcare Institute on Friday said it has inked a deal to acquire Egova Healthcare, a company with long-term exclusive rights to aid development and provide medical services to an upcoming 400-bed hospital. The hospital, which is owned by Nirogi Charitable and Medical Research Trust, will come up at Patparganj, Delhi. The healthcare provider said it aims to acquire the firm by way of upfront purchase of stake.

# JSPL, Hindalco bag coal mines in Odisha in auction

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The second and third days of auction of coal blocks for commercial use saw Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) bagging Utkal-C coal mine in Odisha, while Hindalco Industries made the highest bid for Meenakshi mine in the eastern state.

While BS Ispat Ltd emerged as the highest bidder for Majra mine in Maharashtra, Assam Mineral Development Corporation bagged Garampani coal block in Assam. E-auction for Namchik Namphuk mine in Arunachal Pradesh was in progress till 10:00 AM on Friday, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The government has put on sale 10 coal mines



in the third round of commercial coal mining.

"On the 2nd and 3rd day of the e-auction (February 9-10), cumulative five coal mines were put up for auction," the

statement said. The five coal mines are fully explored and have total geological reserves of 528.051 million tonne. The cumulative peak rated capacity (PRC) for these coal mines is 16.07

million tonne per annum (MTPA).

On the first day of auction on February 8, five blocks were sold.

Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd had emerged as the highest bidder for two coal blocks in Jharkhand.

While Mahanadi Mines and Minerals emerged as the highest bidder for a coal block in Odisha, Yazdani Steel And Power was the highest bidder for another coal mine in the eastern state, coal ministry had said in a statement on Tuesday.

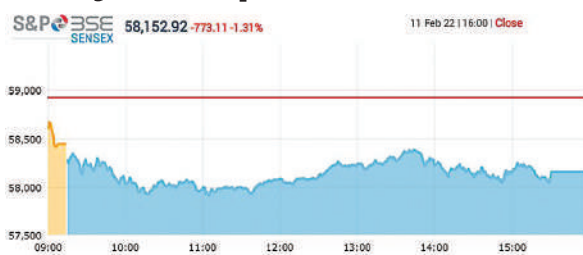
Assam Mineral Development Corp Ltd was the highest bidder for a mine in Assam.

Five coal mines were put up for auction on the first day of the auction, the statement said.

## Rupee slumps 24 paise at 75.39 against USD, gold rises Rs 22

**Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTI):** The rupee plunged by 24 paise to 75.39 (provisional) against the US currency at close on Friday due to fears of an aggressive rate hike by the Federal Reserve after US inflation raced to a 40-year high in January. Forex traders said muted domestic equities, sustained foreign fund outflows and elevated crude oil prices weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 75.40 against the American dollar, and later witnessed an intra-day high of 75.27 and a low of 75.46 against the greenback. The local unit finally ended the day at 75.39, down 24 paise from the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 75.15 against the US dollar, after the Reserve Bank of India kept the benchmark lending rate unchanged and said it will continue with the accommodative stance.

## Sensex sinks 773 pts, Nifty slumps below 17,400



**Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTI):** Equity benchmark Sensex tumbled 773 points on Friday, tracking huge losses in IT and financial stocks amid a fresh sell-off in global markets.

Persistent selling by foreign funds also affected the sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE index ended 773.11 points or 1.31 per cent lower at 58,152.92. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 231.10 points or 1.31 per cent to 17,374.75. Tech Mahindra was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding around 3 per cent, followed by Infosys, HCL Tech, SBI, Kotak Bank and

HDFC. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, NTPC and Tata Steel were among the gainers. In other Asian markets, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Shanghai ended with losses, while Tokyo closed in the green.

Stock exchanges in Europe were under intense selling pressure in afternoon trade. Germany's DAX lost 0.9% to 15,352.78 and the CAC 40 in Paris gave up 1.2% to 7,017.53. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.9% to 7,603.97. In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.1% to 24,906.66, while in Sydney, the S&P/ASX 200 lost 1% to 7,217.30.

## Passenger vehicle wholesales dip 8% in Jan as semicon woes continue

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Passenger vehicle dispatches from factories to dealers in India fell 8 per cent in January, mainly due to semiconductor shortage, auto industry body SIAM said on Friday. The total passenger vehicle wholesales dropped to 2,54,287 units in January 2022 as compared to 2,76,554 units in the same month of last year. Last month, passenger car dispatches stood at 1,26,693 units as compared to 1,53,244 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, van dispatches declined to 10,632 units in the period under review from 11,816 units in January 2021. Utility ve-

hicle sales, however, increased to 1,16,962 units last month as compared to 1,11,494 units in January 2021.

Total two wheeler dispatches declined 21 per cent to 11,28,293 units from 14,29,928 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, three wheeler wholesales dropped to 24,091 units last month as against 26,794 units in January 2021.

Total dispatches last month fell to 14,06,672 units as compared to 17,33,276 units in the same month last year. "Sales in January 2022 again declined compared to January 2021, due to both Omicron-related concerns and semicon-

ductor shortage. There is clearly a demand issue for two-wheelers due to lower rural off-take of entry level models," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) Director General Rajesh Menon said.

On the other hand, the passenger vehicle segment is unable to meet the market demand due to supply side challenges, he added. "Three wheelers continue to be severely affected due to lower sales," Menon said.

Last month the country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki dispatched 1,28,924 units as compared to 1,39,002 units in January 2021.

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has as of now not found any contravention by e-commerce companies to have indulged in predatory pricing, Parliament was informed on Friday.

The CCI has received certain complaints alleging predatory pricing against e-commerce companies, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said in a written reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha. He added that the imposition of unfair or discriminatory prices (including predatory pricing) by a dominant enterprise or group is prohibited under provisions of the Competition Act, 2002. "As



of now, the CCI has not found any contravention by any e-commerce company to have indulged in predatory pricing," he said.

In a separate reply, the minister said measures taken by the government, including on FDI policy reforms, have resulted in increased foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in the country year after year. "In the last seven financial years (2014-21),

India has received FDI inflow worth USD 440.27 billion, which is nearly 58 per cent of the FDI reported in the last 21 years (USD 763.83 billion).

"This indicates increasing inclination of global companies to set up their business in India," Parkash said. Replying to a question on intellectual property rights, he said that as of January 31 this fiscal, 51,940 patent applications have been filed as

against 58,503 in 2020-21 and 56,267 in 2019-20. The number of patents filed by Indians in India over the last five years is also showing a steady increase, he said.

As of January 31 this year, 21,104 patent applications were filed by Indians in the country as against 24,284 in 2020-21 and 20,824 in 2019-20.

During the past five years, there has been a steady switchover from manual to a computerised system of processing of applications, upgradation of infrastructure, augmentation of technical manpower, computerisation, re-engineering of the process workflow, database up-gradation and IT enablement of patent offices.

## Need for state specific agency for energy conservation, efficiency

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTD):

Union Power Minister RK Singh has stressed on creating a state-specific agency dedicated for energy conservation and efficiency as part of measures to ensure participation of states and UTs in fulfilling the country's climate commitments. The minister also asserted that India will replace diesel with renewables to achieve target of zero-diesel use in the agricultural sector by 2024, a power ministry release said on Friday.

The minister held a virtual meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Power or Energy Departments of states & UTs. The power

ministry said the role of states and UTs towards energy transition goals of India was discussed in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Singh stressed the need for collaborative efforts between the Central and State Governments towards the large-scale deployment of energy efficiency measures in potential sectors of the economy. He emphasised the need to have a state-specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation. He urged that the states should develop action plan to achieve the assigned targets. He further said that the central government is working for a new and modern India, which cannot happen without modern power systems, and it look forward to working with all states and UTs to achieve this.

## RBI believes differing policy strategy, policy stance can coexist

■ Small savings, short-term borrowings via treasury bills higher

Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTD):

Stating that the RBI has surprised everyone with its status quo on rates and accommodative stance for the 10th time in a row and a lower forecast for inflation and growth for FY23, SBI Research said that with this, the central bank has set a clear distinction between policy strategy and policy stance and that these can coexist simultaneously.

As result, the bond yields have shed seven basis points (bps) to 6.73 per cent on Thursday after touching 6.88 per cent on the Budget day when the



Soumya Kanti Ghosh

government said it would borrow a record Rs 14.3 lakh crore to fund its capex (capital expenditure) plans of Rs 7.5 lakh crore. On Thursday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) surprised the market with a policy statement that has a lower gross domestic product (GDP) at 7.8 per cent and an inflation forecast at 4.5 per cent for FY23. This translates into a WPI (Wholesale

Price Index) projection of around 2.8 per cent in FY23. The lower inflation forecast has taken the market by surprise and the 10-year yields declined by seven bps to close at 6.73 per cent after falling 10 bps immediately after the policy was announced.

SBI Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh expects the yields to decline further to settle at 6.55-6.6 per cent. He also said that even though the market was surprised by the tone of the policy, the RBI may have moved ahead of the market in terms of expectations. As a result, FY23 could usher in a new era of separate strategy and separate stance, an unconventional monetary policy setting in the true sense, Ghosh added.

## With USD 35 bn flowing into start-ups, total deals soar 40%

Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTD):

Led by a 50 per cent jump in private equity funding to an all-time of over USD 66 billion, the overall deal activity soared nearly 40 per cent to reach about USD 115 billion in 2021 across 2,064 transactions, according to a report that expects the momentum to continue this year.

The Deal Street was boosted by a 50 per cent jump in private equity (PE) deals in value terms to USD 66.1 billion, an all-time high in 2021 across 1,258 deals, which is 32 per cent higher in volume compared with 2020, according to data compiled by PwC India.

Of the total PE money, as much as USD 35 billion were pumped into start-ups alone, the report added.



Despite the headwinds from the pandemic and other looming uncertainties, the deal activity saw a record high in 2021 and surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels. The deal activity reached USD 114.9 billion with 2,064 transactions, a 40 per cent increase from 2020 in terms of value and 60 per cent in terms of volume, PwC said.

The record buoyancy in the deal activity was driv-

en by abundant cash reserves, availability of private equity dry powder, foreign direct investments and lower interest rates, it said. Of the total, PE deals contributed 57 per cent by value and 61 per cent by volume, while mergers and acquisitions (M&As) contributed the remaining 43 per cent by value and 39 per cent by volume, it said.

The country also saw record 43 start-ups turning

into unicorns in 2021. Start-ups had a blockbuster with around USD35 billion raised across more than 1,000 rounds, a three times increase compared to 2020 and largely driven by fintech, edutech and software-as-a-service (SaaS).

PwC India Partner and Leader (Deals) Dinesh Arora said that despite headwinds from the pandemic and other uncertainties, chief executive officers are significantly optimistic about the prospects for a stronger economy in the coming year.

"We, therefore, expect the deal momentum to continue in 2022, as we see a strategic shift taking place at the corporate side to digital and new disruptive business models driving M&A decision-making," Arora said.

## Growing revenues will lower fiscal deficit

Kolkata, Feb 11 (PTI):

Union Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj on Friday said that the country's fiscal deficit will come down once revenues start to grow.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Bajaj said that the government had adopted a loose fiscal policy on the backdrop of increased capital expenditure.

"The fiscal deficit at present is 6.9 per cent of the GDP. The target for 2025-26 is to bring down to 4.5 per cent. If we continue to grow our revenues, the fiscal deficit can come down by 0.1 or 0.2 per cent", he said. Next year, the targeted



Tarun Bajaj

fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent, Bajaj said, adding that the government had the opportunity to lower it further. "But increased capital expenditure by almost 35 per cent had forced us to keep the fiscal level at that level", he added.

The Revenue secretary said since last year, the

Centre had started giving money to the states for making capital expenditure. Unless this is done, the last mile infrastructure will not take place, Bajaj added.

"The intention of the government is to keep the GDP growing. Then only income and revenues will be better", he stated.

On the taxation part, he said the emphasis was on to maintain stability so very little tinkering was done.

On the direct taxes, he said 55 per cent of the revenue on this count was coming from transactions based on TDS.

Bajaj said increased capital expenditure will lead to increased consumption and spending.





## Ashi Singh compares herself with Alia Bhat

'Meet' actress Ashi Singh believes that her journey is very similar to popular Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt when it comes to picking a versatile and challenging role. Ashi mentions: "I believe I have always taken risks while choosing my characters since the start of my career and so I relate to Alia Bhatt a lot as she also has experimented with her choice of roles." "She has been a versatile actor throughout her journey in terms of choosing her characters in movies like 'Highway', 'Udta Punjab', 'Raazi', etc. I have always tried the same." Ashi is seen in the show as Meet Hooda, who is ready to break all the societal norms of gender roles related to work and other responsibilities. The actress says the most important thing for her while doing any role is to make it look realistic and impactful. She adds: "I have always been very excited to try different kinds of roles. There were times when I wasn't sure if it would work out or not, or how it would look onscreen but all I knew was I wanted to act and give my best performance in whatever I do. I believe it is very important for me to love the character, know what it requires, and be in that comfort zone of playing it onscreen." 'Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai' actress shared that she said, 'yes' for the show, 'Meet' because this character made her excited to bring it on-screen. "Even when I was approached for Meet's character, I never thought about how it would look onscreen, what would the audience say, will I be able to pull it off? All I knew was that I was and still am excited about playing this character," she concludes. '

Actress Priyamani, who is all set to make her Telugu OTT debut with 'Bhamakalapam', seems quite excited, as the web original is all set for streaming release on Friday. While the National Award-winning actress has taken on many roles across industries in the last two decades, she says 'Bhamakalapam' is one of the roles she enjoyed working for. Priyamani speaks about her role as Anupama in the upcoming web movie. "Anupama is someone who is a homemaker with excellent culinary skills. She has a cooking channel on YouTube. But, her curiosity to know about others, rather than focusing on her own life, lands her in troubles", Priyamani elaborates. Apart from her role in specific, Priyamani said, "The story is a thriller, and has got a racy screenplay. There is a thrill, there is a situational comedy. We have cooked a delicious meal, on a whole", the 'Yamadonga' actress said. When asked how she prepared herself for this role, Priyamani said that she has always been a spontaneous actor, who goes by the indications from the directors. "I did observe some people in real life, to get an inspiration for the role I have played in 'Bhamakalapam'." "You see, there are women amongst us, who really get excited to know about others' lives, gossip on what's happening here and there. I did take a note of those people's gestures, facial expressions and so. But, mostly, I did not have to prepare for the role in specific", Priyamani explained. On being quizzed about her work experience with Abhimanyu Tadietti and presenter Bharat Kamma, Priyamani said that she has been lucky that the makers had taken all her inputs and they teamed up

## I am a spontaneous actress: Priyamani on her Telugu OTT debut 'Bhamakalapam'



## World TV premiere of 'Kya Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai?' on Feb 14

Ek note jo ban gaya sansani khez khabar, & pictures is here with an answer to Sonam Gupta's bewafai with the World Television Premiere of 'Kya Meri Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai?' on 14th February at 8pm. In a world where people move from one meme to another within split seconds, a random rupees 10 note with 'Sonam Gupta Bewafa' written on it, got the entire nation talking about it for weeks! So much so, it found its way to the big silver screen under the direction of debutant Ssaurabh Tyagi. Set in the heartland of Uttar Pradesh, the film travels through the mysterious yet mischievous saga of Sonam Gupta with catchy dialogues and captivating music. So, get ready with your buckets of popcorn for the World Television Premiere of Kya Meri Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai? on & pictures on 14th February at 8pm. Helming this hilarious tale of misadventures and bewafaai, we have the all-rounder Jassie Gill as the jilted lover and gorgeous debutante Surbhi Jyoti as Sonam Gupta along with talented Surekha Sikri, Vijay Raaz and Brijendra Kala in pivotal roles.

To find out, catch the World Television Premiere of 'Kya Meri Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai?' on & pictures on 14th February at 8pm.



## Gaurav Amlani shares the journey of his physical transformation

Preparation is as much of an actor's job as the performance itself, especially when a character's physicality, speech, or persona are starkly different from their own. Truly embodying a character's traits in all their nuances produces the most memorable and admirable performances on screen.

Sony Entertainment Television's magnum opus, Punyashlok Ahilyabai revolves around the noteworthy life story of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, portraying the strength and courage of a woman who defied all odds of the 18th century and proved to be a name that not only went on to create history but also inspired many.

In the show, actor Gaurav Amlani has been portraying the pivotal character of Ahilyabai's husband, Khande Rao Holkar. Gaurav Amlani believes that how you portray yourself in totality is a vital element in portraying the character. He fo-

cuses on the physicality of his character and emphasizes on the degree of self-awareness—how Khanderao character walked, stood, and embody his persona.

Watch Punyashlok Ahilyabai, every Monday to Friday at 7:30PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.



## Kajol and Revathy begin shoot for 'Salaam Venky'

After making a complete recovery from Covid-19, Kajol has joined forces with Revathy. The two names, who are well-regarded in the industry, are coming together for their upcoming film 'Salaam Venky', the first schedule of which was flagged off on Friday. Kajol will be showing her acting prowess in the film and Revathy will take the director's chair calling the shots.

The details of the plot are yet to be revealed, but on the surface, the film, inspired by a true story and real characters, will showcase the tale of a mother who battles the most difficult circumstances. The film is being produced by Suuraj Sinngh, Shraddha Agrawal and Varsha Kukreja under the banner Blive Productions and Take 23 Studios. In addition to 'Salaam Venky', Kajol has four projects lined up, the Javalalithaa biopic 'Sasi Lalitha', in which she plays the late Tamil Nadu chief minister, with Amala Paul; the Tamil film, 'Velaiilla Pattadhari 3', with Dhanush; and Rajkumar Hirani's untitled satirical comedy, where she'll reunite with Shah Rukh Khan.



## HOROSCOPE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesha advises you to travel alone, because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips. But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find enjoyment in that, too.

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesha.

### 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.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings. Personal life should be peaceful with Ganesha's blessings.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesha counsels hard work to achieve success.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Thank Ganesha that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation of listening to soft music.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesha chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

You will be so scheming and calculating today that you can even give the vixen in a soap opera a run for her money. With such stars on the horizon, it becomes imperative that you find a way to keep your temper, especially at work. Your day will end with a feeling of gratitude and emotional attachment to loved ones, beyond the sweet veneer of material love.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Mysteries that have perplexed and plagued you for the past few days will unravel as the curtain draws from the clandestine, laying bare the aspects you needed an insight into. Any associations you make today will be beneficial in the long run. Your day will end with a feeling of gratitude and emotional attachment to loved ones, beyond the sweet veneer of material love.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

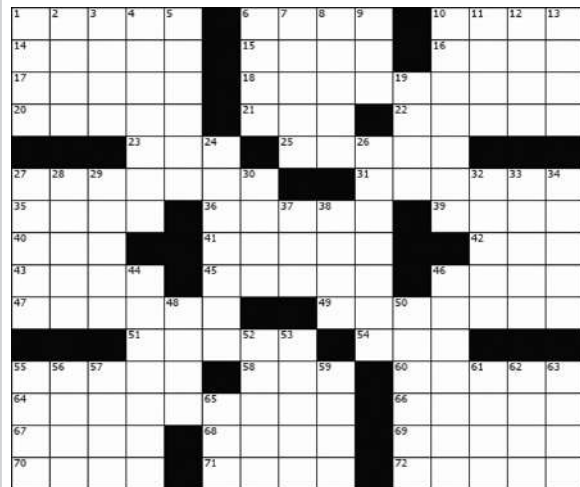
You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesha warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today. You'll be in a completely romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happiness of your sweetheart.

## CROSSWORD

211



### ACROSS

- Cut
- Stadium cheers
- Not nearby
- A la \_\_\_\_
- Mets' old stadium
- Musical sound
- Peaks
- Air out
- Put back to zero
- Pot's partner

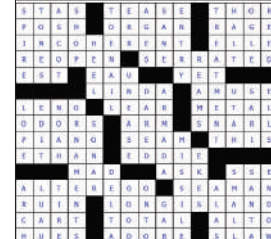
### DOWN

- "The Lion King" villain
- Shoestring
- Upper limbs
- Pittsburgh footballer
- Actor Charlton \_\_\_\_
- Invitation inits.
- Leading
- Hair coloring
- Rested
- Books of maps
- Proth
- Feed the kitty
- Spool
- Bakery employee
- Said
- Quizzes again

- Goes by taxi
- Attracted
- Make certain
- Brooks
- Hebrew feast
- Defunct USAF branch
- Test for flavor
- Ewe's mate
- Bias
- Instantaneous
- Concerned one
- Designer Christian \_\_\_\_
- China's locale
- Ascend
- Margin
- Bright sign
- Tenant's document

- Essay topic
- Baseball great Hank \_\_\_\_
- Property claims
- Indian robe
- Santa
- Carved pole
- Hearty soups
- Singer \_\_\_\_ Stewart
- Lyric poems
- Severe
- Announce
- Critic Rex \_\_\_\_
- Scoundrel
- Wipe out
- Math proportion
- Ocean movement
- Between
- Air pollution
- Unkind
- Divya's forte
- Loch
- Forest plant
- Actor \_\_\_\_ McKellen

### SOLUTION 210





## Reilly Opelka makes quarterfinals at inaugural Dallas Open



**Dallas:** Second-seeded Reilly Opelka advanced to the quarterfinals of the inaugural Dallas Open with a straight-sets win over Cedrik-Marcel Stebe. Opelka, a two-time ATP Tour winner ranked 23rd in the world, won 7-6 (3), 7-6 (8) in his second meeting with Stebe. The first was at Wimbledon in 2019. The 24-year-old American will play the winner of the late match between No. 5 Adrian Mannarino and Yoshihito Nishioka. Fourth-seeded Jenson Brooksby, playing with a career-best No. 54 world ranking and seeded in an ATP Tour event for the first time in his career, also advanced the quarterfinals with 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Italian Andreas Seppi. Brooksby, the 21-year-old American who reached fourth round as a wild card in the 2021 U.S. Open, has yet to win an ATP Tour title despite a breakout 2021 that included 49 professional wins and three ATP Challenger titles.

## Formula One extends Bahrain GP contract through 2036

**Paris:** Formula One extended its contract to continue racing in Bahrain until 2036, saying Friday that the Middle Eastern country holds a very special place in our sport. The Sakhr-based circuit has held F1 races since 2004 and will stage the season-opener next month. Ahead of the Bahrain Grand Prix last year, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton urged the global racing series to not ignore human rights violations in the countries where it stages races. Bahrain has been accused of exploiting the series to gloss over, or sports-wash, its human rights record. The Bahrain GP is scheduled March 20 and the Bahrain International Circuit will also host pre-season testing. Since 2004, we have had some fantastic races in Sakhr and we cannot wait to be back there for the start of the 2022 championship as we begin a new era for the sport, F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali said in a statement.

## Even with Salah back, Jota shows depth of attacking options



**London:** Diogo Jota is squeezing every moment out of his understudy role in the Liverpool attack. Even with Egypt striker Mohamed Salah back available after a month away at the African Cup of Nations, Jota still started and scored both goals in a 2-0 victory over Leicester on Thursday. “We have more options now and it’s good for the team,” Jota said after taking his tally for the season to 17. “We have a lot of games and everyone will be important at some point.” The second was scored with Salah on the field for the final 30 minutes in a win that keeps second-place Liverpool nine points behind Manchester City with a game in hand. Liverpool is also chasing titles still in the Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup. “He is really helpful for us,” Liverpool manager Jrgen Klopp said of Jota. “He was not a bargain, we did not get him for free. But it was obvious the potential was there, the work rate he puts in. “If you have that there is always space for improvement.

## Beijing punishes traders in Olympic souvenir crackdown

**Beijing:** Police are punishing Chinese traders for cashing in by reselling scarce dolls of Olympics mascot Bing Dwen Dwen at up to 10 times retail price. Buyers stood in line overnight in freezing weather and emptied store shelves after the Winter Games opened Feb. 4. News reports say factory employees were called back from their Lunar New Year holiday to make more panda mascots. Three people in Beijing were sentenced to unspecified administrative penalties for reselling souvenirs at prices deemed too high, police announced. Punishment can include detention, fines and confiscation of goods. Plush toys of Bing Dwen Dwen, a panda in a clear plastic suit, sold for 192 yuan ( 30) at the Gongmei Emporium in central Beijing. The shop on the Wangfujing pedestrian mall and other authorised outlets also sell Olympics-themed pens, badges and other souvenirs.

## Schwartzman advances at Argentina Open



**Buenos Aires:** Second-seeded and home crowd favorite Diego Schwartzman defeated Spain’s Jaume Munar 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) to reach the quarterfinals of the Argentina Open. Schwartzman will face Francisco Cerundolo, the Argentinian compatriot he beat to win last year’s title in Buenos Aires. Schwartzman, ranked the 15th-best player in the circuit, will take on a rival in the 107th position. Cerundolo beat Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 to reach the last eight. Also on Thursday, Italy’s Fabio Fognini topped Spaniard Pedro Martinez. The 34-year-old No. 4-seeded player in the clay court tournament won 6-4, 7-6 (5). Fognini will take on Argentinian Federico Delbonis on Friday. Top-seeded Casper Ruud of Norway will face local favorite Federico Coria.

# India beat West Indies by 96 runs to clinch series 3-0

Ahmedabad, Feb 11 (PTI):

India affected a 3-0 whitewash over West Indies after defeating the visitors by 100 runs in the third and the final One-Day International on Friday at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Mohammed Siraj (3/29) and Prasidh Krishna (3/27) picked three wickets each while Deepak Chahar (2/41) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/51) scalped two wickets apiece as India bowled out West Indies for 169 in 37.1 overs. With this comprehensive win, Rohit Sharma registered his first series triumph as India’s full-time ODI skipper.

The Windies on Friday put a decent bowling show on display at Motera. For the first time in the series, the tourists managed to bowl out India, for 265, in fifty overs. But once again, their inconsistency with the bat became the reason behind their disappointing defeat. Unlike the previous encounter, the West Indies batting line-up ap-



peared more fragile and kept on losing wickets at regular intervals.

Odean Smith continued to impress with his all-round show on Friday. After scalping the wicket of Shikhar Dhawan, the 25-year-old threw away his bat to almost every ball he faced during his stay in the middle. He smashed 3 boundaries and as many sixes (most by any player in the game) before Siraj finally ended his fiery cameo in the 24th over.

Despite scalping 8 wickets inside 24 overs, the hosts had to toil a bit more to taste victory as Alzarri

Joseph and Hayden Walsh showed great resistance against the Indian attack. They added enough 47 runs to the 9th wicket after staying at the crease for more than 12 overs.

Mohammed Siraj drew the first blood by trapping wicketkeeper-batter Shai Hope (5) in front in the fourth over. An early dismissal unsettled the visitors completely as Deepak Chahar came in to affect two quick dismissals, removing Brandon King (14) and Shamarh Brooks (0) in the same over. Stand-in skipper Nicholas Pooran then joined Darren Bravo

in the middle and the duo tried to anchor the innings for a while. They added 43 runs to the fourth wicket before Prasidh Krishna dismantled the partnership with a length delivery. Bravo fell prey and ended up getting caught by Virat Kohli at the slips for 20 off 30 balls. The right-arm quick struck again in his next over and jolted the Windies further by getting the better of Jason Holder for 6.

After the pacers played their roles remarkably, it was Kuldeep Yadav’s turn to spin webs around the opposition. Playing an ODI at home after almost a year, the Chinaman bowler started off pretty well and sent back Fabian Allen and Pooran packing in quick successions, reducing the West Indies for 82 for 7 in just 18.3 overs.

Earlier Shreyas and the flamboyant Pant resurrected the innings with their 110-run stand after India suffered a top-order collapse to be reeling at 42/3.

## Was forced to approach court: Manika after Delhi HC suspends TTFI in fixing row

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manika Batra on Friday welcomed the Delhi High Court’s order that effectively suspended the Table Tennis Federation of India following her petition, saying ill-treatment from TTFI forced her to take the legal route. Manika, who recently broke into the top-50 of world rankings, had filed a petition in the Delhi High Court after she was not included in the team for the Asian Championships. TTFI had excluded her as she did not attend the national camp before the event.



“I’ve the the greatest faith in Indian Judiciary. I have devoted my life for sports to bring glory for my country. I’m grateful to the Govt of India, everyone who stood with me and the people of my country for the support I received,” Manika said in a statement.

# Iyer, Shardul and Kishan set to hit pay dirt like never before at IPL auction

Bengaluru, Feb 11 (PTI):

Dashing batter Shreyas Iyer and the multi-skilled Shardul Thakur are expected to laugh their way to the bank as two of the costliest buys in the history of Indian Premier League when the last mega-auction commences here on Saturday. The 10 teams in the league, following the addition of Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Supergiants, will be bidding heavily for the Indian players in a list of 590 cricketers, including 227 overseas candidates up for grabs during the two-day event. This year’s auction might witness the maximum number of Indian



million dollar buys (Rs 7.5 crore and above) with more than 10 cricketers set to cross Rs 10 crore bid range and some expected to hit close to Rs 20 crore. While Iyer could be the

highest ever auction buy (in the 20 crore range), the likes of Shardul and Kishan (keeper-batter), with their bouquet of skills, can also fetch anything in the range of Rs 12-

15 crore or even upwards if some franchises get into intense bidding wars. Then there are Deepak Chahar and Yuzvendra Chahal, who can also get anything in the range of USD 2 million (Rs 15 crore) as both of them are proven international performers.

With megastars like Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings), Virat Kohli (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians) retained by their respective franchises, teams would look from flamboyant middle-order batters to good wrist spinners not to forget the all-rounders, who are always in demand.

## Australia beats Sri Lanka by 20 runs in 1st Twenty20 match



Sydney, Feb 11 (AP):

Australia defeated Sri Lanka by 20 runs in its first Twenty20 match since capturing the T20 World Cup last November in the United Arab Emirates. Sri Lanka finished with 122 runs for eight wickets on Friday after Australia scored 149-9 after Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka won the toss and sent the home side in to bat.

Sri Lanka’s required run total was adjusted under the Duckworth-Lewis system due to a short rain delay that reduced the visitors’ overs to 19. Josh Hazlewood led Australia with four wickets for 12 runs in his four overs while Adam Zampa took 3-18.

The teams play again on Sunday at the SCG in the second game of the five-match series. In the Australian innings, Ben McDermott carried his impressive Big Bash form into the first T20 international to help the hosts set Sri Lanka a moderate initial target of 150, later reduced to 143 due to the rain delay.

McDermott recorded his first half-century at international level with 53 from 41 balls before falling lbw to Chamika Karunaratne. McDermott, who replaced the rested David Warner as captain Aaron Finch’s opening partner, was restricted in the opening stages but began to find his groove.

## Indian women aim to sort combination in ODI series

Queenstown, Feb 11 (PTI):

With extended quarantine set to keep star batter Smriti Mandhana out, the Indian women’s cricket team will look to sort some combination issues when it starts the five-ODI series against New Zealand here on Saturday. The tour of New Zealand started with a reversal after the visitors went down by 18 runs in the one-off T20 and skipper Mithali Raj will be keen to provide the team a winning start in its ODI campaign, which is crucial ahead of the ICC World Cup next month.

“I am excited to lead the team as we face the WHITE FERNS in New Zealand. While each series is equally important for us, we can



feel a billion hopes riding on our shoulders with this tournament,” Mithali said. “The pressure, as always, is immense, but the team and I are confident of putting our best foot forward and delivering our best performance.” Playing amid windy conditions in small-

er grounds will be a challenge for India but it will also hold them in good stead when they turn up for the World Cup here starting March 4. Availability of players has also been an issue for the Indian team with Mandhana, and pacers

Renuka Singh and Meghana Singh missing the first game due to an extended Managed isolation and Quarantine (MIQ).

Their absence will be an opportunity to test other players as the team looks to slot their core players ahead of the ICC event.

In the one-off T20I, batting let the side down and Mithali has her task cut out as she tries to put a playing XI that can do the job in the absence of the top players. Yastika Bhatia, who scored 26 while opening the innings with Shafali Verma in the T20I, is likely to retain her position in the absence of Mandhana, while India will need to sort their middle-order, which revolves around Mithali.

## Rahul, Axar ruled out of T20 series against West Indies

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

India vice-captain KL Rahul and all-rounder Axar Patel were on Friday ruled out of the three-match T20I series against the West Indies beginning in Kolkata from February 16 due to injuries with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Hooda replacing them in the squad.

While Rahul has suffered a hamstring injury while fielding in the second ODI on February 9, Axar has not fully recovered from his shin injury that also forced him to miss the South Africa tour. The spinner had also recently tested positive for COVID, said BCCI. “Rahul sustained an upper left hamstring strain during



fielding in the 2nd ODI on 9th February 2022 while Axar has resumed the final stage of his rehabilitation after recently recovering from Covid-19. They will now head to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for further management of their injury,” said the BCCI in a statement. “The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Hooda as replacements,” it added.

# Williamson hoping to recover from elbow injury in time to play in IPL

Auckland, Feb 11 (PTI):

New Zealand and Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Kane Williamson is hoping to be fit in time to play in this year’s IPL as he spends time in rehabilitation after deciding against surgery for a long-standing elbow injury.

Although no time-frame has been set for his return to competitive cricket, the 31-year-old batter is optimistic of recovering at some point during the white-ball series against the Netherlands in March-April, which could precede the IPL slated to start end of March.

“Last (IPL) season was an example as well, where I wasn’t involved initially and it was elbow-related

as well. The franchise was great and supportive of it,” Williamson was quoted as saying by ‘ESPNcricinfo’.

“I’m optimistic that it will continue to improve. The (T20) format, in particular, is slightly more friendly to managing the load. So, we will wait and see, but it is taking steps forward, which is positive.” He said he is hoping to return to action as soon as possible.

“All the conversations, certainly with New Zealand cricket and Sunrisers who are aware of this...I’ve had it (elbow injury) for a long time now, so this period of time is to try and get it right,” Williamson said. “It is progressing ...



there’s still quite a bit of time between now and then, or now and some of the Netherlands games perhaps. There’s nothing definite, but I’m hopeful that I’ll be back on the field as soon as possible.”

Williamson said he also spoke to the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Steven

Smith and his former IPL team-mate Manish Pandey — who have all dealt with elbow injuries.

“I spoke to a number of different people with different thoughts and ways to get rid of it,” he said.

Williamson had come into IPL 2021 carrying an elbow injury. He returned

to action for Sunrisers’ fourth game last season, against Punjab Kings at Chepauk.

He then replaced David Warner as captain midway through the season after the side suffered five defeats in six games.

The elbow injury flared up in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup in the UAE.

He then sat out the second Test against India in Mumbai, with Tom Latham taking over as captain in his place.

Williamson subsequently missed the home Test series against Bangladesh, and will miss the forthcoming Test series against South Africa as well.

He expressed his frustration at the lengthy in-

jury layoff but pointed out that undergoing surgery would be the “last resort”.

“Cutting it off — thought about it a few times. It has been a very frustrating time really — one of the more frustrating periods in my career,” he said.

“From what I can gather and certainly talking to the professionals is that it doesn’t promise; it’s sort of an absolute last resort and after, if there’s a real requirement of rehab and specific loading because it sort of doesn’t promise...

“This (rehab) is without a doubt the more preferred option at this point of time and hopefully the one that works and gets rid of it. It is tracking in the right direction.”



# Quad foreign ministers resolve to keep Indo-Pacific free from coercion

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Quad foreign ministers on Friday vowed to ramp up cooperation to keep the Indo-Pacific region free from bullying, opposed "coercive" economic policies, denounced the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism and asserted that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country.

The Ukraine crisis was also discussed at the fourth meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in Melbourne with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying that Russia would face "massive consequences" if it renewed aggression towards the Eastern European nation and that Washington is following an approach of diplomacy and dialogue to



Foreign Minister of Japan Yoshimasa Hayashi, left and India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, right, talk at the Quad foreign ministers press conference in Melbourne, Friday.

resolve the issue. At a joint media briefing with his counterparts from the US, Australia and Japan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said an agenda seeking to further the Quad's shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific is being pur-

sued to ensure peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region. "As leading democracies, we pursue our shared vision of upholding a rules-based international order free from coercion, one based on respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, the

rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, and peaceful resolution of disputes," he said in his remarks at the meeting.

He said there is ample scope to work together on global issues such as terrorism, cyber security, maritime security, and disinformation and that India continues to pursue an "agile" and multidimensional strategy towards the Indo-Pacific. "In the meeting, we reaffirm the Quad's commitment to supporting Indo Pacific countries' efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific -- a region which is inclusive and resilient, and in which states strive to protect the interests of their people, free from coercion," a joint statement said with a veiled reference to China's bullying in region.

## HALL TICKETS



Students holding their exam hall tickets, pose for photos at Thane College, in Thane, Friday.

## SC seeks to know if cases pertaining to quota in pvt sector be considered together

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday sought to know whether parties concerned are agreeable that cases pertaining to quota in private sector on the basis of domicile be considered together. The apex court was hearing an appeal of the Haryana government challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court order granting an interim stay on its law providing 75 per cent quota in private sector jobs for residents of the state.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai said it has got to know that similar legislations have been passed in Andhra Pradesh

and Jharkhand and they have been challenged in the high courts. The top court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to check on this and gather the details.

If the matters are pending before other high courts, we can hear the larger issue after calling for the papers from high courts, you can inform us," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on Monday.

At the outset, Mehta submitted that a statute has been stayed by an unreasoned order, after a hearing for only 90 seconds. He said only a handful of people are opposed to the Act. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing

for one of the parties, said that this issue requires consideration by the apex court. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that he would ponder over the issue after consulting the clients.

The high court on February 3 had granted interim stay on the Haryana government law on pleas filed by various industry associations from Faridabad and other bodies in the state including Gurgaon. The high court admitted multiple petitions against the implementation of the law -- Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, the counsel of one of the petitioners had said.

## Building collapses in north Delhi, 2 women pulled out of debris

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Two women were pulled out of the debris of a building which collapsed in north Delhi's Bawana area on Friday afternoon and efforts are on to rescue others who are underneath the rubble, police said. The fire department officials received information about the incident at 2.48 pm, following which three to four fire tenders rushed to the spot.

The police were informed that the building near the Delhi Jal Board had collapsed and four to five people are reportedly buried under debris. The police rushed to the spot

and found that the collapsed building was the part of Rajiv Ratan Aawas in which there were about 300 to 400 flats, a senior police officer said. Three JCB, one hydra machine and two ambulances reached the spot and rescue operation was started, they said.

"Two women -- Fatima and Shahnaaz -- both residents of JJ Colony, Bawana were taken out of the debris and sent to MV hospital Pooth Khurd. "Another women Rukiya Khatoun and Shahnaz's daughter Afrina (9) are still under the debris," Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer north) Brijender Kumar Yadav said.

## Morphed pic of Cong leader Harish Rawat

# EC warns U'khand BJP to be more careful

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Election Commission (EC) has warned the Uttarakhand BJP to be more careful in the future and advised it to follow all provisions of the poll code, days after it tweeted a morphed picture of Congress leader Harish Rawat.

Last week, the poll panel had issued a notice to the Uttarakhand unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for tweeting a morphed image of former chief minister Rawat, in which he was shown as a Muslim cleric. An EC order issued

on Wednesday said the Uttarakhand BJP has submitted that the purpose of the tweet was neither to violate any provisions of the Model Code of Conduct nor to create any differences between groups on the basis of religion, race, caste and language.

It has also told the poll panel that the tweet has since been deleted from its official Twitter handle. The EC said it has not found the reply of the Uttarakhand BJP satisfactory. The order noted that an FIR has been lodged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the

Representation of the People Act in connection with a Facebook post, which "will follow its logical conclusion".

"Now, therefore, the Commission warns the Bharatiya Janata Party, Uttarakhand to be more careful in future and advises to follow all the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and other guidelines of the Commission in letter and spirit," the order read. The 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly is scheduled to go to polls on February 14 and the counting of votes will be taken up on March 10.

## Man hit by car, dragged on bonnet for over 100 metres

### Ex-bureaucrat's son held

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The son of a retired bureaucrat was arrested for allegedly hitting a man with his car and carrying him on its bonnet for over 100 metres in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area, police said on Friday. The police has also arrested the bureaucrat under section 212 (harbouring offender) of the Indian Penal Code, they said.

The injured man, Anand Vijay Mandelia (37), is a city-based businessman and being treated at the Max Super Specialty hospital. He is under observation but out of danger, police said. In the video of the incident, which was widely circulated on the social media, the man is seen

being carried on the bonnet of the car which was being driven rashly. The victim was carried on the bonnet for over 100 meters, police said. The accused, a law student, has been identified as Raj Sunderam, they said. The police identified the vehicle and seized it.

"Sunderam was arrested from outside the Le Meridien Hotel, Gurgaon in Haryana. Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 307 (attempt to murder) and 212 (harbouring offender) of the Indian Penal Code have also been added in the case on the basis of facts that emerged during the investigation," Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Benita Mary Jaiker said.

## VALENTINES ROSES



Workers engaged in packing roses, ahead of the Valentines Day, at Hosur, in Krishnagiri district, Friday.

## Delhi court issues arrest warrants against 8 HM terrorist

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

A Delhi court has issued arrest warrants against eight alleged Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terrorists on charges of money laundering related to funding terrorist and secessionist activities in Jammu & Kashmir valley.

Additional Sessions Judge Parveen Singh issued non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against Gulam

Nabi Khan, Umer Farooq Shera, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Zaffar Hussain Bhat, Nazir Ahmad Dar, Abdul Majeed Sofi, Mubarak Shah and Mohd Yusuf on a plea moved by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The court noted the submission made by ED's Special Public Prosecutor Nitesh Rana that the accused persons had been declared proclaimed offenders in 2013 itself.

# Transparency most important aspect of good governance in democracy: President

Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said the word 'durbar' was linked to royalty in the pre-Independence era, but its modern concept promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in democracy.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the newly-reconstructed Durbar Hall at the Raj Bhavan here. The president said that just like the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital, the Raj Bhavan in

Mumbai has become a constitutional symbol of hopes and aspirations of people in the world's largest democracy.

"Before Independence, the word durbar was connected to royalty, while in the present times, it is associated with democracy. The modern concept of durbar promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in a democratic system," he said. "There is nothing private or secret in a durbar. Everything happens in full public view, by taking everyone along. Even



President Ram Nath Kovind during inauguration of newly built Darbar Hall at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Friday.

elected representatives are holding 'janata durbars' to connect with the people. This method is be-

coming popular. In this context, the new Durbar Hall is a symbol of new India, new Maharashtra

and our vibrant democracy," the president said. This heritage site might be a legacy of the British, but its present and future was linked to the glory of Maharashtra and rest of the country, he added.

Kovind said there was definitely something special about Maharashtra, which brings him to the state again and again.

"Maharashtra is a land of spirituality as well as of brave struggles against injustice. This is a land of patriots and devotees of god. Maharashtra is a major economic and cultural

centre in the country," the president said. He said that during his four-and-a-half years of tenure as the president, he visited Maharashtra 12 times.

"But during this visit, I am experiencing a void due to the death of Lata Mangeskar. A week ago, we lost our dear Lata didi, but her music is immortal and it will live among the people for generations to come. A great genius like her is born once in a century. The memory of her simplicity and gentle nature will also be imprinted in the mind of people," Kovind said.

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BRIEF



On poll duty employees cast postal ballot for UP assembly polls, at a polling centre in Kanpur, Friday.

Ladakh App

■ **Leh:** The Ladakh administration has launched a mobile application to identify as well as list historical and heritage sites in the Union Territory to preserve them, officials said. Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Tashi Gyalson launched the ‘Ladakh heritage mobile app’ in Leh.

Jawans injured

■ **Lohardaga:** Two CoBRA jawans suffered serious injuries in an IED blast in Jharkhand’s Lohardaga district and were airlifted to Ranchi, a police officer said on Friday. The blast occurred in extremist-hit Bulbul-Peshrar area when a joint team of the CRPF – of which CoBRA is a special operation unit – and the Jharkhand Police were engaged in an operation against Maoists. “CoBRA jawans Dileep Kumar and Narayan Das were injured in an IED blast in Bulbul-Peshrar area during an anti-extremist drive,” Officer-in-charge, Peshrar Police Station, Rishi Kumar, told PTI.

Cheat held

■ **Thane:** A 23-year-old man was held from Jharkhand’s Jamtara, nowadays infamous on social media as the phishing capital of the country, for allegedly duping a woman magistrate from Thane in Maharashtra, a police official said on Friday. The woman magistrate had complained that she had called a customer care number she found on the internet after encountering problems while carrying out a credit card transaction on her mobile phone, Naupada Assistant Commissioner of Police Sonali Dhole said. “The person who answered on the customer call number stole Rs 54,000 from her account.

RS function

■ **New Delhi:** Rajya Sabha functioned half an hour more than its scheduled sitting time during the first half of the Budget session as there was no forced adjournment during its proceedings, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said on Friday. In his concluding remarks at the close of the first half of the Budget session, Harivansh on behalf of Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, he expressed happiness over the disruption-free proceedings in the Upper House.

Weather	
	High 27 Low 11
MARKET	
NIIFTY	17,374.75 ▼
SENSEX	58,152.92 ▼
BULLION	
GOLD	48,669
SILVER	62,214

## Hijab row: HC restrains students from wearing hijab, saffron shawls within classrooms

Bengaluru, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Karnataka High Court, in its interim order pending considerations of all petitions related to the Hijab row, has requested the state government to reopen educational institutions and restrained all the students from wearing saffron shawls, scarves, Hijab and any religious flag within the classroom. The court also made it clear the order was confined to such of the institutions wherein the College Development Committees have prescribed the student dress code or uniform. “We request the State Government and all other stakeholders to reopen the educational institutions and allow the students to return to the classes at the earliest. Pending consideration of all these petitions, we restrain all the students regardless of their religion or faith from

## SC to take up plea at appropriate time

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Friday said it would protect the Constitutional rights of every citizen and take up at an appropriate time the pleas challenging a direction of the Karnataka High Court asking students not to wear any religious clothing in educational institutions, and emphasised that these issues should not spread at national level . A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was told by senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, appearing for the students, that the high court order has led to the “suspension of fundamental right to practice religion under Article 25 of the Constitution” and the plea be listed for hearing on Monday. Refusing to list the plea on February 14 as sought by Kamat, the bench, also comprising justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, referred to the ongoing hearing of the case in the high court and said it will protect the fundamental right of every citizen and take up the matter at an appropriate time. At the outset, Kamat said, I am mentioning a fresh SLP against an interim order passed yesterday in the hijab’ matter by the high court. I would say it is rather strange that the high court says that none of the students should disclose any religious identity when they go to school and college.

wearing saffron shawls (Bhagwa), scarfs, hijab, religious flags or the like within the classroom, until further orders,” the full bench of the Karnataka High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi said in their order, made available on Friday. In their order, the judges expressed their pain over the ongoing agitations and closure of edu-

cational institutions for the past few days, “especially when this Court is seized of this matter and important issues of constitutional significance and of personal law are being seriously debated”. The court also noted that India is a country of plural cultures, religions and languages. Being a secular state, the country does not identify itself with any religion as its own, the bench

said, adding, every citizen has the right to profess and practice any faith of choice. “Ours being a civilized society, no person in the name of religion, culture or the like can be permitted to do any act that disturbs public peace and tranquility. Endless agitations and closure of educational institutions indefinitely are not happy things to happen,” the court observed. Stating that the interest of stu-

dents would be better served by their returning to the classes than by the continuation of agitations and consequent closure of institutions, the court said the academic year is coming to an end shortly and hoped all stakeholders and the public at large maintained peace and tranquility. The Court has posted the matter for February 14. The three-judge full bench was formed on Wednesday to hear the petitions by the Muslim girl students challenging the ban on Hijab after the single bench of Justice Dixit, who had been hearing the case since Tuesday referred it to Chief Justice Awasthi with a view that the petitions can be heard by a larger bench. The Karnataka government on Thursday night decided to resume classes for high school students from Monday following the court observation to reopen schools.

## ‘Uniform Civil Code need of the hour’

**New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):** Amid the row over wearing ‘hijab’ in schools and colleges, Union Minister and BJP leader Giriraj Singh on Friday said the Uniform Civil Code is the “need of the hour” and it should be discussed both in Parliament and in the society. The Hijab row started in Karnataka in December-end when a few students of a government pre-university college in Udupi who attended classes wearing headscarves were asked to leave the campus. The matter then spread to different parts of the state, with youngsters, backed by right-wing outfits, responding by wearing saffron scarves. With the protests taking a violent turn at some places earlier this week, the state government on Tuesday declared a three-day holiday for the institutions. Interacting with re-

porters, Giriraj Singh described the row over wearing ‘hijab’ as a “disturbing trend aimed at muddling the atmosphere of the country”. “There are some vote ke saudagar (votes dealers) who for their political benefits are supporting such illogical demands of wearing Hijab in school. Such people are playing with the lives of innocent girls for votes. I feel Uniform Civil Code is need of the hour and it should be discussed from the streets to Parliament,” he said. The Karnataka High Court, in its interim order pending consideration of all petitions related to the Hijab row, on Thursday requested the state government to reopen educational institutions and restrained all the students from wearing saffron shawls, scarves, Hijab and any religious flag within the classroom.

SC to UP govt

## ‘Withdraw recovery notices against anti-CAA protestors or we will quash it’

**New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):** The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday drew flak from the Supreme Court for acting on the recovery notices issued to the alleged anti-CAA protestors in December 2019 and gave one final opportunity to it to withdraw the proceedings and warned that it will quash the proceedings for being in violation of the law. The top court said that the proceedings initiated in December 2019 were contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court and cannot be sustained. A bench of

Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said that the Uttar Pradesh government has acted like a complainant, adjudicator and prosecutor by itself in conducting the proceedings to attach the properties of the accused. Withdraw the proceedings or we will quash it for being in violation of the law laid down by this court , the bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by one Parwaiz Arif Titu seeking quashing of notices sent to alleged protestors by the district administration for recovering losses caused by damage to public prop-

erties during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) agitations in Uttar Pradesh and asked the state to respond to it. The plea has alleged that such notices have been sent in an “arbitrary manner” against a person, who had died six years ago at the age of 94 and also to several others including two people who are aged above 90. Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, appearing for the UP government, said that 106 FIRs were registered against 833 rioters in the State and 274 recovery notices were issued against

them. Out of the 274 notices, recovery orders were passed in 236 while 38 cases were closed , she said, adding that under the new law notified in 2020, claim tribunals have been constituted which is being headed by retired district judges, and earlier it was headed by Additional District Magistrates (ADMs). The bench said, The Supreme Court has passed two judgements in 2009 and 2018, which said that judicial officers should be appointed in claim tribunals but instead you appointed ADMs .

**Ahmedabad, Feb 11 (PTI):** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday apprehended six Pakistani fishermen from the Harami Nalla creek area in the Kutch district of Gujarat, officials said. On Thursday, the BSF had launched a major operation against intrusion by Pakistani fishing boats in the creek areas along the international border. It had nabbed 11 Pakistani boats which were in the Indian waters, but their occupants had managed to flee and hide in the marshy terrain. “In an ongoing operation against intrusion of Pakistani Fishing boats & Fishermen in Harami



Nalla, BSF Gujarat has apprehended 6 Pakistani Fishermen. Inclement weather, marshy area,

mangroves & tidal waters are making task of the troops challenging. The operation is in progress,” the BSF said in a tweet on Friday. A day before, it had said that “03 Commando teams of @BSF\_India have been Air dropped from 03 different directions in @IAF\_MCC\_helicopters” and “They are closing in where d Pakistanis are hiding”. #CreekCrocodiles of @BSF\_India will not let the enemies of the nation succeed!” BSF said in a new tweet after the arrest of six Pakistanis on Friday.

## ‘No plan to reintroduce three repealed farm laws in future’

**New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):** Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday said in the Rajya Sabha that the government has no plan to reintroduce the three repealed farm laws in future. Asked whether the government has any plan of reintroducing the three repealed farm laws in future, the minister said: “No Sir”. Replying to a written question, he said “the subject of compensation etc. to the families of the deceased farmers in the farmers movement is with the concerned state government.” On November 19 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation announced the withdrawal of the three farm laws, saying the government could not convince

protesting farmers about the benefits of the agriculture sector reforms. The three laws that were repealed are: Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. In reply to a separate query on PM-KISAN scheme, Tomar said: “As on February 8, 2022, more than 11.78 crore beneficiaries have been given the financial benefits of approximately Rs 1.82 lakh crore under the scheme through various installments.” “Out of them, 48.04 lakh were found to be ineligible. Therefore, effectively, there are approximately 11.30 crore eligible beneficiaries under the scheme,” he added.

## Gurugram building collapse: Death toll rises to 2

Gurugram, Feb 11 (PTI):

Another body was pulled out on Friday from under the rubble of a partially collapsed apartment building here, taking the toll to two, officials said. Police have booked the builder of Chintels Paradiso, a residential complex, and the construction contractor for negligence, while the district administration has ordered an inquiry into the matter, they said. Residents staged a protest over the Thursday night incident, while the gates of the housing complex have been sealed by police. While Ekta Bhardwaj (31) died last night, the body of Sunita Srivastava was recovered on Friday, officials said, adding that opera-



**Police personnel stand guard as NDRF personnel carry out rescue operation after a portion of a building of Chintels Paradiso housing society collapsed, in Gurugram, Friday.**

tions by rescue personnel at the incident site are still on. Sunita Srivastava’s husband, Arun Kumar Srivastava, who was trapped under the building’s debris, has been hospitalised, they said. The builder and the construction contractor have been booked on a complaint

lodged by Ekta Bhardwaj’s husband Rajesh Bharadwaj, the officials said. Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said, “A special inquiry team has been constituted and it will look into the allegations of negligence. Rescue operations are underway.”

## Budget brings stability, inflation less than that during 2008 financial crisis: FM

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday put a staunch defence of her Budget relying on expenditure to boost growth, saying the Budget brings stability for an economy reeling under the pandemic and will create jobs through public spending.

Rejecting criticism of high prices in the country, she said the inflation at just over 6 per cent when pandemic shaved off Rs 9.57 lakh crore from the economy is less than that during past crises like the 2008-09 global financial meltdown when the economic impact was much



**Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, during the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Friday.**

less. Replying to a discussion on Budget 2022-23 in the Rajya Sabha, she said there is no question of a slowdown or recession, as she cited an estimated 9.2 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year ending March 31. The size of

the economy has grown from Rs 110 lakh crore 7 years ago to Rs 232 lakh crore, she said, replying to the charge that the economy was running on a treadmill. The Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 (FY23) stands

for continuity and predictability in taxation while focussing on growth just as last year. “The Budget aims at continuity, the continuity is in giving the stimulus through public expenditure. We also wanted to underline the stability and sustainable recovery that we so need now,” she said. “At a time when the economy has to grow and grow at a good pace, it is important for the economy also to be stabilised.” Public expenditure in building infrastructure as part of the massive Rs 7.5 lakh crore capital spending plan outlined in the Budget will provide stable and sustainable recovery.





# On-the-spot redressal camp organised

For electricity rectification in Darri near Jalgaon HTPC Colony

Central Chronicle News

**Korba, Feb 11:** On the special instructions of Revenue Minister Mr. Jaisingh Agrawal, and under the guidance of Mayor Rajkishore Prasad a complaint redressal camp was organized in Darri area near Jalgaon HTPC Colony Lal Maidan, to solve the problems related to electricity related problems of common citizens.

It is worth mentioning here that on 08 February a meeting of the officials of the Electricity Distribution Department was organized by Mayor Rajkishore Prasad and electricity related works were reviewed and officials were asked to organize troubleshooting camps in various zone offices of



the electricity distribution company.

Mayor Rajkishore Prasad said on the occasion that there are clear instructions from Revenue Minister Shri Jaisingh Agrawal that there should be no problems related to drinking water, electricity and roads in any ward of the

entire corporation area, immediate steps should be taken to redress them and continuous work is going on. Camps will be organized by Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company at Padimar Zone Office on February 10 and Tulsinagar Zone Office on February 11 to solve elec-

tricity bills and other problems related to electricity.

Mayor Rajkishore Prasad has appealed to the citizens that if there is any problem related to electricity bill or electricity, then they must reach the problem redressal camp to be held on the scheduled date in their re-

spective zone and get their grievances redressed.

During the camp, MIC members Ropa Tirkey, Sunil Patel, councilors Firtaram Sahu and Pushpa Devi Kanwar, aldermen Maniram Sahu, Ashish Aggarwal, former chairman Dhurpal Singh Kanwar, former councilor Veersai Dhanuwar, Anupam Sarkar from electricity department, Bharti Soni, Madhuri Patel, Assistant Engineer of the Corporation Devendra Swarnkar, Deputy Engineer Yogesh Rathore, A. Ram, Shri Rege, Sarvjit Singh, Sudhir Jain, Tulsi Thakur, Suresh Rathor, Surendra Yadav, Devidayal Tiwari, Bisahudas, Bhuneshwar Dubey, B.C. Namdev, Parvez Khan, Parameswarsahu etc. were present.

# SK Warrior's defeat Kherlapal by 15 runs

● Wins KPL Cricket Tourney

Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Feb 11:** In the KPL Cricket Tournament organised by Prince Club in the memory of Late Laxman Ram Yadav, the Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma and District Panchayat President Harish Kawasi motivated the players.

In the conclusion, the final's was played between SK Warriors and Kerlapal Star and in this SK Warriors defeated Kerlapal with 15 runs and won the title. Kawasi Lakhma and Harish Lakhma presented prizes to the winners and runner's up with first prize



of Rs 50000 to the winning team. On this occasion Kawasi Lakhma said that it is under leadership of CM Bhupesh Baghel that massive works are being carried out in the field of sports and today in every district of the state variety of sports activities are being organised.

It is outcome of the same that new records is

being created in the field of sports in Bastar division s well. He extended greetings to the players taking part in the tournament and to organising committee of Prince Club. On this occasion large number of public reps, rural folks, young players and office bearers of the Club and members were present in large number.

# 2,700 cu. mt of sand illegally stored seized

In Lingiyadih area of district

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 11:** In a joint action by th Mineral, Revenue and Police department against illegal storage, transportation and excavation of sand in Lingiyadih area of district, the team found illegal storage of sand at 15 different places.

The seven persons found present were is-

sued notices to prove validity of their storage of sand and out of which four persons accepted in storage of 1164 cb. mt. of sand illegally and out of which three persons deposited Rs 2.22 lakh as penalty for illegal storage of sand under Storage Rules and rest of the 1700 cu.mt. was also handed over to Nigam and other urban bodies for government's construction work

after getting the fees deposited.

It is notable here that earlier also the Mineral, Revenue and Police department has taken action against illegal storage of sand in Lingiyadih and Rajkishore Nagar and nearby areas and the sand seized was again hanged over to Nagar Nigam for government's construction works.

# Tennis ball cricket on Feb 15

**Khairagarh, Feb 11:** Tennis Ball cricket tournament at city's Fateh Maidan will be organised from Feb 15. The entry fees for this tournament is Rs 3500 for urban teams and Rs 2500 for rural teams. The first prize for urban cricket team winners will be Rs 71000 and second is Rs 41000 and for rural team the first prize is Rs 35000 and second prize is Rs 21000. The organising committee has handed over application to CMO Nagar Palika for its permission to hold this match.

# Camp held in Maraiguda for villagers

● To provide 'Aadhar' cards to them

**Sukma, Feb 11:** The District administration organised camp in Maraiguda for the villagers and 'Aadhar' registration of villagers was done. In this camp the beneficiaries from Gram Palodi, Karigundam and others got their 'Aadhar' registration and changes in their ration-cards.

In the camp organised in Kistaram earlier, the beneficiaries who got their 'Aadhar' registration done,



were provided with their 'Aadhar Card' and now their registration for 'Ayushman' card was also done.

It is notable here that the residents of Gram

Panchayat Karigundam and Gram Palodi had approached the Collector Vined Nandanvar in Sukma that they are not having 'Aadhar' cards and on this the Collector di-

rected authorities to hold camp in Maraiguda (Forest) and get 'Aadhar' registration of forest people made and get their registration done for 'Ayushman' card as well. The local administration by holding camp here sorted out the long pending demand of the villagers.

With making of 'Aadhar' card by the villagers, now they would be able to avail benefits of government schemes. Along with this they can also avail benefits under Pension Scheme and others.

# Sand excavation begins as rates soar

**Dhamtari, Feb 11:** After prices of sand has soared due to administrative action against sand excavation, once again JCB and chain mountain machines are deployed to excavate sand, despite ban.

Many vehicles including trucks and heavy movers were confiscated, but after a few weeks, the vehicles were transporting sand from the river bank, without paying royalties.

A hefty sum as penalty was also paid by the owners but reportedly many vehicles were seen excavating sand, without permission. A total of 29 sand mines have been given license and 13 are working for excavation in the district.

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Feb 11:** Illegal business of mineral oil in the name of biodiesel is being done openly from Baghnadi National Highway to Tumdiboard under Dongargarh block of Rajnandgaon district. Even after the complaint, no action is being taken by the administration, while on the other hand, the dealers of many petrol pumps located on the National Highway road are facing huge financial losses.

By installing dozens of undeclared diesel pumps

on the highway, the possibility of consumption of mineral oil in the name of 50000 liters of biodiesel through tankers has been expressed by petrol pump operators.

The government is at a loss of Rs 60 crores annual, and at the same time, experts are opining that there is heavy damage to the environment due to the vehicles using this oil.

Regarding this, on September 2021, on behalf of Rajnandgaon Petroleum Dealers Association, an objection was lodged before the District Collector Rajnandgaon through a



memorandum, in which it was said that illegal trade and illegal (bouser) 2000 liters (small tanker) going on in the name of biodiesel in Rajnandgaon district should be banned.

The memorandum further stated that illegal trade of spurious diesel is going on in the district on



a large scale in the name of biodiesel, due to which there is a direct loss of revenue of crores of rupees to the Chhattisgarh government.

And the future of about 115 petrol pumps in the district and 1000 employees working in them is also at stake. After

Gujarat, illegal trade of fake bio diesel has been stopped by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu and similarly, by issuing a notification on June 2021, the Chhattisgarh State Government was instructed to take action against it

in the state, but no action is being taken.

While it has been declared illegal by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization, Government of India in the year 2020, it is also illegal to supply diesel by bower (small tanker) without their permission.

And by taking input credit of GST by pumps and industries of biodiesel about 2000 KL (about 20 thousand liters) of fake diesel is being traded in the district every month and the loss of revenue of ? 60 crore per year is happening only in Rajnandgaon district.

# Open business of selling mineral oil in the name of biodiesel continues

## No-confidence motion moved against Dy. Sarpanch

**Mahasamund, Feb 11:** SDM of the Mahasamund district Bhagwat Jaiswal was gheraoed by the Sarpanch and Panchs of Gram Panchayat Khaira under Mahasamund block headquarters and asked him to remove the Dy. Sarpanch submitting an application for applying no-confidence motion against him.

In this context, SDM taking action directed the Nayab Tehsildar Mahasamund Suraj Bansod to work as Presiding officer and take action on no-confidence motion against the Dy. Sarpanch and hold voting on the same on Feb 22.

# GPM surging ahead on path of progress: Dhruv

- Inaugurates 'Aarpa Mahotsav'
- Madhav Rao Sapre Mahotsav and seminar also organised
- Information about govt's flagship schemes thru stalls

Central Chronicle News

**Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi (GPM), Feb 11:** On completion of two years of formation of new GPM district, the 'Aarpa Mahotsav' began at Govt. Multi-purpose School Ground here with reciting of state's Song 'Aarpa Pari ke Paar...' and apart from this variety of other cultural programmes were presented.

Addressing the programme MLA KK Dhruv extended greetings to people of the district on occasion of district foundation day and said that it is surging fast on path of progress and people of district are being provided with most of the basic amenities at district-level.

MLA Kota Dr (Mrs.) Renu Jogi expressed gratitude towards CM Bhupesh Baghel for organising 'Aarpa



Mahotsav' with formation of new GPM district and extended greetings to denizens of the district. She said that to make this district as the most beautiful and tourist-friendly district, we all should be part and parcel in its development.

The other guests and public representatives in the guests gallery also addressed the foundation day and extended greetings on 'Aarpa Mahotsav'.

Through various stalls at the Mahotsav venue, people of the region were apprised about various schemes of the state government.

Along with this with courtesy Police and Transport department,



facility of learning licence camp was also provided for people interest in this Mahotsav.

Apart from this for recreation, facility of swings, Food stalls and others were also provided for the visitors.

It was under guidance of Collector RP Choudhary and with courtesy Police and District administration that this 'Aarpa Mahotsav' was organised. In this the stall of PR Department flashed information about various government flagship schemes. In the same way in the stall of Industrial department the model of Shyam Cold Storage of Rani Durgawati

Industrial area was the centre of attraction. In the stall of the Forest department, the people were seen enjoy-

On occasion of GPM district formation and 'Aarpa Mahotsav', Madhav Rao Sapre memorial Mahotsav was organised at DIET meeting hall and seminar as well. In this Ramkumar Tiwari President, Srikanth Verma Srijan Peeth, Editor Praveen Shukla, Bilaspur and Pardeshi Ram Verma, of Durg expressed his views on the life and works of Madhav Rao Sapre.

ing the taste of Sweet Apple and 'Jamun' flavoured ice-creams. The women present were interested in the herbal products prepared by women self-help groups apart from bangles made out of 'lakh' and in the same way other stalls too kept attracting the visitors.

The seats of guests remained vacant due to lack of promotion of this 'Aarpa Mahotsav' and people were just not aware of what all it is there in this Mahotsav.

It was under aegis of District Police that for traffic awareness, a bike rally was organised to give information about traffic rules and regulations to people present and use helmet while driving. The rally was flagged off by SP Trilok Bansal, District Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and it passed through Railway Station to various parts of city and concluded at venue of 'Aarpa Mahotsav'.

# Collector annoyed over lack of interest

- In distribution of eggs and implementation of 'Suposhan Abhiyan'
- During inspection of Anganbadi centre in Gram Shrirampur

Central Chronicle News

**Koriya, Feb 11:** Collector Kuldeep Sharma conducted inspection of Anganbadi centre in remote Kelhari's Gram Shrirampur and took information about implementation of 'Suposhan Abhiyan'. Holding talks with Anganbadi workers it was informed that at present 7 children are under 'mal-nutrition category'.

In the list of hot-cooked food from Anganbadi, 5 pregnant women were registered. During this inspection CEO District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat and other administrative officers were present.

Having reached the Anganbadi centre during inspection, Collector expressed annoyance over less attendance of chil-



dren. Similarly showing negligence in distribution of eggs also the Collector came down heavily against the District Programme Officer of WOMen and Child Development Department.

Collector said that children are the future of the society and to make children right from urban to remote rural areas well-nourished, the government has launched this campaign of 'Suposhan Abhiyan' to make them healthy and well-nour-

ished. He warned all concerned that no carelessness in such works will be tolerated.

On proving of carelessness in implementation of 'Suposhan Abhiyan', Collector gave instructions to suspend Anganbadi worker Munni Devi and issue notices to SDOP and Supervisor as well. During inspection of 'Anganbadi', Collector also checked nutrition chart and hot food arrangements made for children.



CENTRAL  
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## Intent of school uniform

The Supreme Court has declined to give urgent listening for hearing a Special Leave Petition against Karnataka High Court's direction regarding the hijab petitions. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said that the apex court will take up the matter at an 'appropriate time.' The Karnataka High Court bench hearing the hijab ban case said students should not wear religious dress to colleges. The matter will now be heard on February 14. Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi indicated to the advocates for the petitioner-students and the State Advocate General that the court will pass an interim order for starting the educational institutions and that all students should not insist on wearing head scarves or saffron shawls till the Bench decides the issues raised in the petitions. Are school uniforms still relevant in the modern world? There are multiple reasons why a dress code is considered necessary with correct intent. The most compelling one is that of economy, parents don't need to worry about dressing their children in different clothes for school every day when there is a school uniform. In many ways, this immediately wipes out a large chunk of the class differences between students. Both poor and rich students are dressed the same way. The very first institutionalized uniform has documented evidence from 1222. The uniforms were ordered by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, who standardized the wearing of the cappa clausa, a cape with a closed front. After that religious use, the practice branched into educational and academic institutions around England. The idea of a standardized dress code was adopted by the Cambridge University in UK right from the 13th century. Though it was met with staunch opposition from the students, the academic dress code gradually acquired a status symbol.

In the 16th century, England was the first nation to require school uniforms. But these uniforms were not to be worn by elite students, they were to distinguish the poor children attending charity schools from other children. It wasn't until 300 years later that student who attended the better English public schools began wearing uniforms. Once this became the norm, it blossomed into an obsession, as well as a way to effect social and cultural control over the students. Those who support school uniforms argue that if all of the students are wearing the same clothing, they will take school more seriously instead of worrying about what they're wearing. Since many places of employment also require uniforms, this will prepare the students for future jobs, and group clashes will decrease because members will be unable to identify their rivals by their clothing. In India, school uniforms were introduced during the British rule. Girls in senior secondary schools usually wear 'Salwar Kamiz' and boys wear pants and shirts. In preschool, girls wear skirts and blouses and boys wear short pants and shirts. Though some religious institutions have specific needs, the government institutions have to strictly follow secular ethics. In other parts such as New Zealand and Australia, where the British colonial rule was in effect, the uniform system is followed in government schools. The purpose of a school uniform is to promote team spirit and discipline, and enhance equality among all students. Though uniforms have helped to wipe out the discrimination meted out to the weaker section, critics have a different story to say. According to them, uniforms have no such great impact on the mindset of students. Last, some schools in Kerala were praised for introducing gender neutral uniforms for boys and girls. The court will have to keep original intent of school uniforms in perspective for its judgements.

## Local drone industry

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the commerce and industry ministry has issued a notification banning the import of foreign drones. Import policy for drones in CBU (Completely Built Up) or CKD (Completely Knocked Down) or SKD (Semi Knocked Down) form is prohibited with exceptions provided for Research and Development (R&D), defence and security purposes. Import of drones by government entities, educational institutions recognised by central or state government, government recognised R&D entities and drone manufacturers for R&D purpose will be allowed in CBU, SKD or CKD form. This will be subject to import authorisation issued by DGFT in consultation with line ministries concerned. The civil aviation ministry said that in order to promote Made in India drones, import of foreign drones has been prohibited with effect from February 9, 2022. The ministry came out with liberalised drone rules in August 2021. After the rules, the ministry issued the drone airspace map and PLI scheme in September 2021, UTM policy framework in October 2021. Besides, drone certification scheme and single window DigitalSky Platform were put in place last month. Drones are computerised aircrafts, booming due to lowered cost of electronics.

Chinese corporations have dominated the civilian drone market and now government wants the local drone industry to bloom. New technologies often start with the military and are very expensive. And then, as economies of scale kick in, suddenly they hit a consumer moment and words like 'personal' enter into it. At that point, all bets are off. That's the stage we're hitting right now with drones. It's hard to argue that we're not in an exponential period of technological innovation. The personal drone is basically the peace dividend of the smartphone wars, which is to say that the components in a smartphone like sensors, the navigation, the camera, the computing processors, the wireless antenna, the memory, the battery all that stuff, which is being driven by the incredible economies of scale and innovation at electronic corporations is available for a few hundred rupees. They were essentially not available to civilians fifteen years ago. This is stuff that used to be military industrial technology, you can buy it at any electronic store now. Society has never seen technology move faster than it's moving right now, and that's because of the supercomputer in your pocket called a smartphone. Much depends on electronic manufacturing in India.

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

## PLAYING AMID PROTEST

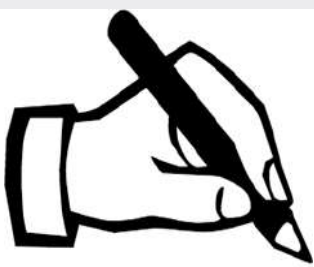


Children play at a make shift playground as demonstrators continue to protest the vaccine mandates implemented by government in Canada, in capital Ottawa.

## Continuity, correctness, conservatism and crowding-in for economy



V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN



Four Cs - continuity, correctness, conservatism and crowding-in - are the hallmarks of the budget for 2022-23 presented by the finance minister on the 1st of February for the economy of India. The budget has continued with the practice started two years ago of bringing all below-the-line items above the line. Extra-budgetary resources in which the borrowing is guaranteed and serviced by the Union Government is restricted to a single transitional item of Rupees 750 crores in the current year's revised estimates (RE). Transparency and cleaner accounting continue to be accorded the highest priority in budget-making as was the case with the previous two budgets. In the last two years, marked by the global pandemic, the government has provided resources for the vulnerable sections of the society through Emergency Credit Line Schemes, through Emergency Food support (PM Gharib Kalyan Yojana) involving allocation of additional foodgrain over and above eligibility under Public Distribution extended multiple times, enhanced allocations to rural employment guarantee programme and PM-Kisan.

In this year's budget, it has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to contact-based sectors that are yet to return to their pre-pandemic levels. The revamping of the Credit Guarantee Trust for

Micro and Small Enterprises (MSME) and infusing additional capital into it will unlock additional capital into it will unlock additional Rupees 2.0 lakh crores of credit to MSME. The government has used the pandemic crisis as an opportunity to usher in many important structural changes in the economy. Examples include the Production Linked Incentive Schemes for fourteen sectors, the ending of the uncertainty associated with retrospective taxation, privatisation, faceless assessment and reduction in corporate and personal income taxes wherein taxpayers could opt for lower tax rates with fewer or no exemptions or to file under the old method. In addition, important process-oriented measures such as the launch of the Gati Shakti dashboard, reforms to government procurement, changes to Factoring laws and the Account Aggregator framework have been launched.

The budget for 2022-23 builds on this approach of combining structural reforms and process improvements. The many initiatives under Gati Shakti, the inter-linking of many portals (Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and ASEEM) to help MSME with credit facilities, skilling and augmentation, the enabling of post-offices with the core -banking solution, the facilitation of updated returns to correct errors in the original returns for up to two years and creating a pathway for world-class foreign universities and institutions in selected fields to be

set up in GIFT city are but few of the examples. The assumption of 11.2 percent as the growth rate of GDP at current prices might strike many as being too conservative especially given that the Economic Survey for 2021-22 projects a figure of between 8 and 8.5 percent as the growth rate for GDP at constant prices. If anything, the chances of this projection being exceeded are higher than the chances of undershooting it, given that real GDP contracted q/q in 1Q2021-22. That sets up a positive base effect for 2022-23. However, depending on the impact of the omicron variant on economic activity could be weaker in the last quarter of the current fiscal year. If multiple external shocks impact the Indian economy in 2022-23 (oil price shock, Fed's monetary policy normalisation impacting global financing conditions, etc.), then 11.2 percent might not appear as conservative but prudent.

Capital expenditure by the government will rise 36 percent over the revised budget estimate (and 35.4 percent over BE 2021-22), after one excludes the cash infusion of nearly Rupees 52000 crores into AIR INDIA. It includes Rupees 1.0 lakh crores of 50-year interest-free loans to state governments to undertake capital infusion. It includes incremental (over last year's 65000 crores of Rupees) budget support of Rs. 69000 crores (provided as equity) to the National Highways Authority of India. All of this information is in the public domain. If State governments were allowed these Rupees 1.0 lakh crore as an additional borrowing limit, they will bear an interest rate that is higher than the rate at which the Union Government borrow. Further, the money can be used for revenue expenditure. This interest-free loan, dedicated as it is to capital expenditure, incentivises it. The fact that states' capex up to November 2021 was 67 percent higher than in the same eight months of the previous fi-

nanacial year supports this 50-year interest-free loan purely for capital expenditure purposes. NHAI's capital investments in recent years have been considerably financed by borrowings and this has increased its interest burden. By providing enhanced budgetary support, the government is strengthening NHAI to remain a financially viable entity while ensuring continued investment in national highways. As far as USD 5 trillion economy is concerned, India is the fastest growing large economies in the world.

Depending on how exchange rate move Indian Rupee would remain stable to strong given what is going on the developed world. If we extrapolate that we should be at the USD 5 trillion by 2025-26 or 2026-27. So, we have enough cushion to help the demand recovery. Economic stress is high because of the pandemic cloud, which is still keeping people uncertain and restrained in their spending. Once the pandemic cloud lifts, the consumer sentiment and spending habits would come back to a normal growth pattern. Crude oil is a bigger risk for the economy, bigger than a hawkish Federal Reserve, and monsoon. While monsoon is too early to talk about and regardless of how taper proceeds in the US, the fall out on India should be very, very manageable, which leaves crude oil, which is a "risk the world economy faces and not just India. Once confidence and cheer crowd out the pandemic-induced concern that is currently clouding the minds of the citizens, then the various measures announced and the capital investments envisaged in the budget will succeed in crowding in private investments.

(V Anantha Nageswaran is the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India.)

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Undecided

It is a need of hour that there should be engagement with reason, fairness and common sense as Pakistan has already entered in this unhealthy controversy which could have been avoided if the amicable solution had been sought at the early stage as the entire episode revolves around just scarves only which is a very pity matter and could have been solved at the local levels only. Can religious symbolism in a person's appearance-a turban, a tilak, a crucifix round the neck be a threat to law and order? This is just one example of confusions and conflicts underlying 'coexistence' in India. Saffron scarves are symbols of Hindutva, not quite on the same plane as the hijab which, apart from customary use by adherents of a faith, fell under the bsupreme court's earlier 'essence of religion' test. Yet all courts approach such issues by the same route. Yet many ambiguities afflict them which leaves them of distortion by vested interests. Does secularism mean stopping of girls from study if they wear hijab? Court has referred the matter to a larger bench and had not given any interim relief and that relief can be given by that larger bench. Some vested interests are already inciting both parties to gain momentary gain and such type of vested interests should be discouraged at all levels. Till the outcome of court verdict both parties should restrain and maintain peace in the national interests as already such type of incidents had happened recently where inflammatory speeches were delivered from both sides and utmost care is required so such type activities may not further spread which will be against the national interests.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar  
Suicide rate

Oh God! At least this time No Data Available (NDA) government has some data and that's too on suicides due to unemployment. Citing National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB) data, Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on that 3,548 people died by suicide due to unemployment and another 5,213, (total 8,761) on account of and indebtedness, in 2020. Ground reality may be different. People are strongly believe that it may be more than government data who may have died by suicide due to unemployment or debts in 2020. In 25th March 2020 nation-wide lockdown was announced by the Modi government in the event of Covid pandemic. The government had urged the people to be where they were. But people started migrating to their native places asap with whatever they could grab. Moreover, thousands died of starvation and those who could take loans they had tried to survive with debts. Sadly, later many people committed suicide due to heavy debts which they couldn't pay up. It could not have happened if the Modi government came to power in 2014, and claimed that it would create 2 crore jobs per year, but miserably failed. Due to the failure of the government thousands committed suicide. Though there was no remorse from Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding these deaths, instead, he played dirty politics in the Parliament and blamed Congress over migrant labourers. But when the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech said that the government would create 60 lakh jobs over the next five years, it clearly exposed the Modi government's inability to meet the past promise of 2 crore jobs. Whatsoever, government should not stop wasting time on the ones who committed suicide at least as per their data, instead concentrate in supporting (if not) their immediate family members who bear the most pain.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kiran Kumar@KiranKS

Many talk about Indian cities & traffic congestion. The core issue is with the last mile connectivity for public transport. If your nearest Metro station is more than 20 minutes walk, forget about it. People won't use much. Focus on last mile connectivity. That's the core issue.

Brig V Mahalingam @BrigMahalingam

Absolutely. There is an election every other day and in the name of elections the political class abuse each other & pollute the minds of people besides promoting hatred & disturbing the unity & cohesion of the society. Besides, our leaders have no time for governance.

Tishaa Dogra@DograTishaa  
Colours are essence of life!!!

Abhishek@aramanujaa

Comic books are classified as "extracurricular." Why? Because they are entertaining, colourful & simple to comprehend Our educational system has instilled in us the belief that anything enjoyable and free is pointless. We need to remind them that learning can be fun & free.

Kavita Krishnan@kavita\_krishnan

To paraphrase the great feminist educator Rokeya Sakhawati Hossain, author of Sultana's Dream parodying pardah; and a campaigner against mandatory pardah for Muslim and Hindu women in the 19th century: "forcing women out of the veil is just as oppressive as forcing them into it."



D. Muthukrishnan@dmuthuk

Every fintech wants to be a lender. Even among banks, only few have mastered the art of lending. To lend is easy. To get back money is difficult. This is going to be transfer of wealth from VCs to Indian borrowers. What is the use of fintech if final destination for them is to become money lenders?

thakursahab@65thakursahab

The biggest blow to patriarchy & regressive custom's, will come by empowering the girls, letting them fly, no matter from which community. Heckling them, forcing them, just pushes the girls & the community, into asserting their identity.



# Quad foreign ministers resolve to keep Indo-Pacific free from coercion

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Quad foreign ministers on Friday vowed to ramp up cooperation to keep the Indo-Pacific region free from bullying, opposed "coercive" economic policies, denounced the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism and asserted that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country.

The Ukraine crisis was also discussed at the fourth meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in Melbourne with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying that Russia would face "massive consequences" if it renewed aggression towards the Eastern European nation and that Washington is following an approach of diplomacy and dialogue to



Foreign Minister of Japan Yoshimasa Hayashi, left and India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, right, talk at the Quad foreign ministers press conference in Melbourne, Friday.

resolve the issue. At a joint media briefing with his counterparts from the US, Australia and Japan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said an agenda seeking to further the Quad's shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific is being pur-

sued to ensure peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region. "As leading democracies, we pursue our shared vision of upholding a rules-based international order free from coercion, one based on respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, the

rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, and peaceful resolution of disputes," he said in his remarks at the meeting.

He said there is ample scope to work together on global issues such as terrorism, cyber security, maritime security, and disinformation and that India continues to pursue an "agile" and multidimensional strategy towards the Indo-Pacific. "In the meeting, we reaffirm the Quad's commitment to supporting Indo Pacific countries' efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific -- a region which is inclusive and resilient, and in which states strive to protect the interests of their people, free from coercion," a joint statement said with a veiled reference to China's bullying in region.

## HALL TICKETS



Students holding their exam hall tickets, pose for photos at Thane College, in Thane, Friday.

## SC seeks to know if cases pertaining to quota in pvt sector be considered together

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday sought to know whether parties concerned are agreeable that cases pertaining to quota in private sector on the basis of domicile be considered together. The apex court was hearing an appeal of the Haryana government challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court order granting an interim stay on its law providing 75 per cent quota in private sector jobs for residents of the state.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai said it has got to know that similar legislations have been passed in Andhra Pradesh

and Jharkhand and they have been challenged in the high courts. The top court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to check on this and gather the details.

If the matters are pending before other high courts, we can hear the larger issue after calling for the papers from high courts, you can inform us," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on Monday.

At the outset, Mehta submitted that a statute has been stayed by an unreasoned order, after a hearing for only 90 seconds. He said only a handful of people are opposed to the Act. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing

for one of the parties, said that this issue requires consideration by the apex court. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that he would ponder over the issue after consulting the clients.

The high court on February 3 had granted interim stay on the Haryana government law on pleas filed by various industry associations from Faridabad and other bodies in the state including Gurgaon. The high court admitted multiple petitions against the implementation of the law -- Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, the counsel of one of the petitioners had said.

## Building collapses in north Delhi, 2 women pulled out of debris

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

Two women were pulled out of the debris of a building which collapsed in north Delhi's Bawana area on Friday afternoon and efforts are on to rescue others who are underneath the rubble, police said. The fire department officials received information about the incident at 2.48 pm, following which three to four fire tenders rushed to the spot.

The police were informed that the building near the Delhi Jal Board had collapsed and four to five people are reportedly buried under debris. The police rushed to the spot

and found that the collapsed building was the part of Rajiv Ratan Aawas in which there were about 300 to 400 flats, a senior police officer said. Three JCB, one hydra machine and two ambulances reached the spot and rescue operation was started, they said.

"Two women -- Fatima and Shahnaaz -- both residents of JJ Colony, Bawana were taken out of the debris and sent to MV hospital Pooth Khurd. "Another women Rukiya Khatoun and Shahnaz's daughter Afrina (9) are still under the debris," Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer north) Brijender Kumar Yadav said.

## Morphed pic of Cong leader Harish Rawat

# EC warns U'khand BJP to be more careful

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The Election Commission (EC) has warned the Uttarakhand BJP to be more careful in the future and advised it to follow all provisions of the poll code, days after it tweeted a morphed picture of Congress leader Harish Rawat.

Last week, the poll panel had issued a notice to the Uttarakhand unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for tweeting a morphed image of former chief minister Rawat, in which he was shown as a Muslim cleric. An EC order issued

on Wednesday said the Uttarakhand BJP has submitted that the purpose of the tweet was neither to violate any provisions of the Model Code of Conduct nor to create any differences between groups on the basis of religion, race, caste and language.

It has also told the poll panel that the tweet has since been deleted from its official Twitter handle. The EC said it has not found the reply of the Uttarakhand BJP satisfactory. The order noted that an FIR has been lodged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the

Representation of the People Act in connection with a Facebook post, which "will follow its logical conclusion".

"Now, therefore, the Commission warns the Bharatiya Janata Party, Uttarakhand to be more careful in future and advises to follow all the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and other guidelines of the Commission in letter and spirit," the order read. The 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly is scheduled to go to polls on February 14 and the counting of votes will be taken up on March 10.

## Man hit by car, dragged on bonnet for over 100 metres

### Ex-bureaucrat's son held

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

The son of a retired bureaucrat was arrested for allegedly hitting a man with his car and carrying him on its bonnet for over 100 metres in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area, police said on Friday. The police has also arrested the bureaucrat under section 212 (harbouring offender) of the Indian Penal Code, they said.

The injured man, Anand Vijay Mandelia (37), is a city-based businessman and being treated at the Max Super Specialty hospital. He is under observation but out of danger, police said. In the video of the incident, which was widely circulated on the social media, the man is seen

being carried on the bonnet of the car which was being driven rashly. The victim was carried on the bonnet for over 100 meters, police said. The accused, a law student, has been identified as Raj Sunderam, they said. The police identified the vehicle and seized it.

"Sunderam was arrested from outside the Le Meridien Hotel, Gurgaon in Haryana. Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 307 (attempt to murder) and 212 (harbouring offender) of the Indian Penal Code have also been added in the case on the basis of facts that emerged during the investigation," Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Benita Mary Jaiker said.

## VALENTINES ROSES



Workers engaged in packing roses, ahead of the Valentines Day, at Hosur, in Krishnagiri district, Friday.

## Delhi court issues arrest warrants against 8 HM terrorist

New Delhi, Feb 11 (PTI):

A Delhi court has issued arrest warrants against eight alleged Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terrorists on charges of money laundering related to funding terrorist and secessionist activities in Jammu & Kashmir valley.

Additional Sessions Judge Parveen Singh issued non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against Gulam

Nabi Khan, Umer Farooq Shera, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Zaffar Hussain Bhat, Nazir Ahmad Dar, Abdul Majeed Sofi, Mubarak Shah and Mohd Yusuf on a plea moved by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The court noted the submission made by ED's Special Public Prosecutor Nitesh Rana that the accused persons had been declared proclaimed offenders in 2013 itself.

# Transparency most important aspect of good governance in democracy: President

Mumbai, Feb 11 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said the word 'durbar' was linked to royalty in the pre-Independence era, but its modern concept promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in democracy.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the newly-reconstructed Durbar Hall at the Raj Bhavan here. The president said that just like the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital, the Raj Bhavan in

Mumbai has become a constitutional symbol of hopes and aspirations of people in the world's largest democracy.

"Before Independence, the word durbar was connected to royalty, while in the present times, it is associated with democracy. The modern concept of durbar promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in a democratic system," he said. "There is nothing private or secret in a durbar. Everything happens in full public view, by taking everyone along. Even



President Ram Nath Kovind during inauguration of newly built Darbar Hall at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Friday.

elected representatives are holding 'janata durbars' to connect with the people. This method is be-

coming popular. In this context, the new Durbar Hall is a symbol of new India, new Maharashtra

and our vibrant democracy," the president said. This heritage site might be a legacy of the British, but its present and future was linked to the glory of Maharashtra and rest of the country, he added.

Kovind said there was definitely something special about Maharashtra, which brings him to the state again and again.

"Maharashtra is a land of spirituality as well as of brave struggles against injustice. This is a land of patriots and devotees of god. Maharashtra is a major economic and cultural

centre in the country," the president said. He said that during his four-and-a-half years of tenure as the president, he visited Maharashtra 12 times.

"But during this visit, I am experiencing a void due to the death of Lata Mangeskar. A week ago, we lost our dear Lata didi, but her music is immortal and it will live among the people for generations to come. A great genius like her is born once in a century. The memory of her simplicity and gentle nature will also be imprinted in the mind of people," Kovind said.

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