



BRIEF



Son Bappa of music composer Bappi Lahiri performs his last rites, in Mumbai, Thursday.

Donate

■ Tirupati(AP): A 76-year-old female devotee from Chennai has posthumously made an offering of Rs 9.2 crore to the ancient hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara near here. On behalf of the spinster, Parvatham, who passed away, her sister handed over documents of immovable property valued at Rs.6 crore along with a demand draft for Rs 3.2 crore to TTD Board Chairman YV Subba Reddy at the hill temple this morning, the temple official told PTI.

Technical snag

■ New Delhi: An Amritsar-bound Vistara aircraft, carrying 146 passengers, suffered a technical snag and returned to the Delhi airport soon after take off on Thursday. A Vistara spokesperson said a technical snag was detected on flight UK 697 operating from Delhi to Amritsar.

Suicide

■ New Delhi: A 23-year-old Army jawan hanged himself to death inside a guest-house in central Delhi's Paharganj area, police said on Thursday. Murari, who was in the Bihar regiment, checked into a guesthouse in Paharganj on Tuesday, they said. The jawan, hailing from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, was scheduled to check out of the guest-house in the evening, but when he did not open the door, the manager informed the police, officials said.

Mild quake

■ Jammu: A mild intensity earthquake with its epicentre in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra area shook the region on Thursday, an official said. The earthquake of magnitude 3.5 occurred at 3.02 am, the National Centre for Seismology said.

Weather	
	High 29 Low 15
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,304.60 ▼
SENSEX	57,892.01 ▼
BULLION	
GOLD	50,166
SILVER	63,590

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TRAGIC INCIDENT

13 killed after falling into well

■ At marriage function

Kushinagar (UP), Feb 17 (PTI):

Loud cries echoed in non-descript Nebua Naurangia village of Kushinagar district on Thursday after 13 women and children, all girls, fell into a well during a marriage ritual and died.

The incident, in which at least 10 people were also injured, happened on Wednesday night when an iron grille they were sitting on broke, officials and family members said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have expressed grief over the incident. Parmeshwar Kushwaha, father of the groom, said the



Police and villagers stand near the well in which many women and children accidentally fell during a wedding ritual, at Nebua Naurangiya village in Kushinagar district, Thursday.

pre-wedding ritual of "Matkorba" on the occasion of "Haldi" was in progress near an old and dilapidated well in the village, about 10 kilometres from the Kushinagar district headquarters, when tragedy struck.

Some women and children were sitting on the iron grille and it suddenly broke and they fell into the well, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said. Narrating the incident, Kushwaha said, "Actually the well is old and it was

covered with a slab. During the ritual, girls were standing on the slab when it broke and they all fell inside the well."

"It is heartbreaking, and I have decided that no procession will go with my son Amit Kushwaha for the wedding. Only the groom will go and get married in a very simple manner as we are not in the state to celebrate," he added.

The bodies were cremated in the village on Thursday. On getting information about the tragic incident, Inspector Girjesh Upadhaya reached the spot. Police personnel and villagers pulled out all 23 people who had fallen into the well and rushed them to a hospital. Thirteen of them

were declared dead by doctors, the officials said.

Senior administrative and police officials also reached the spot.

No one from Parmeshwar Kushwaha's family died in the incident. His granddaughter Payal fell into the well but was rescued.

"We were singing and dancing and suddenly the slab broke and within seconds we all fell in the well. I was drowning in the well but somehow I was rescued," a woman of the village said.

Ramesh Chaurasia lost his wife Mamta Devi. His brother's wife Shakuntala Devi and two-year-old daughter Pari Chaurasia are among the dead.

‘Oppn parties don’t even care for their voters’

Fatehpur (UP), Feb 17 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called the opposition parties "selfish" for opposing triple talaq, saying they don't think for the good of even those who vote for them.

"When the government made a law against triple talaq, then the whole 'kunba' (opposition) stood against it," the PM said addressing an election rally in UP's Fatehpur.

"I am surprised in which century they are living. They cannot think for the good of even those who are voting for them," the PM said, asking people if the opposition parties can be trusted.

"There used to be triple talaq even on small issues. Think about the father of a daughter who returns with one or two kids. What would they have to face. What a brother and mother faced when his sister or daughter returned from her in-laws' place," he said.

"But I am getting blessings of Muslim sisters and daughters all over the country as I have done a great job of saving their lives," the PM said referring to the triple talaq law, which was enacted by the Centre in 2019. Hitting out at the rival parties over dynasty politics, Modi said the dynasts of UP had termed the covid vaccine as the BJP's vaccine and they always question the country's achievements. In an apparent jibe



at the Samajwadi Party, Modi said, "The BJP government is giving free vaccine to the entire country but these 'parivarwadi' (dynasts) are saying this is BJP's vaccine."

"These 'parivarwadis' of UP never liked the might of the country and they question whatever good the country does," the PM alleged. Modi said only two entities are afraid of the vaccine-coronavirus and the ones who oppose it.

The PM also predicted the BJP win in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, saying people have made up their mind to celebrate Holi on March 10, referring to the day of counting.

The PM claimed that the support for the BJP is on the rise in the state.

"Your enthusiasm shows a glimpse of the next five phases," he told people at the rally referring to the remaining rounds of the UP polls.

LIC IPO

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* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

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Stolen mobiles and bikes seized from notorious thieves

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: With the arrest of seven ruffians and recovery of large quantities of mobile phones and bikes, Police claimed to have busted a notorious gang of thieves. The accused were arrested from Utaí when they were trying to sell the stolen mobile phones. A joint team of Utaí Police Station, Jamgaon (R) Police Station and Machandur Chowki apprehended the accused. 26 nos stolen mobiles, 04 motorcycles, 04 cycles and a gold necklace total worth Rs 3.69 lakhs were recovered from them.

As per the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Badri Narayan Meena and under the guidance of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu, the team of Utaí Police Station led by Inspector Navi Monika Pandey was patrolling on February 15 within their PS limits. In



the meanwhile, they received a tip off regarding some youth who were trying to sell stolen mobile phones at Bazar Chowk, Utaí. The team rushed to the Bazar Chowk and the suspects were taken into custody. They were brought to the Police Station. During interrogation, the accused confessed

to have committed thefts at several places. The accused were identified as Kailash Pardhi, Kishan Pardhi, Ramesh Pardhi, Rajesh Pardhi, Nandkishor Pardhi, Ashwani Pardhi and Rohit Pardhi, all residents of Ganiyari of Old Bhilai Police Station area. 26 nos stole mobiles, motor cy-

cles, bicycles and gold necklace were recovered from them. Police found that the accused had committed thefts in Anda Police Station area. Accordingly, the recovered booty was seized and the accused were arrested under the provisions mentioned in section 41 (1+4) of CrPC.

Inspector Navi Monika Pandey (SHO, Utaí), Sub-Inspector KL Gaur, ASI Rajkumar Deshmukh, Chandrashekhar Soni, Ashwani Kumar, Sharifuddin Sheikh, Hemlata Verma, Constable Rajkumar Chandra, Surendra Singh Chauhan, Mahesh Dewangan, Dushyant Lahere, Bhupendra Sahu, Mahavir Sahu, Laxminarayan Shukla, Mukesh Yadav, Bhisham Karait, Pawan Adil, Komal Singh Rajput, Amar Nayak, Chhagan Lal, Kirti Sahu, Ashwani Yadav from Anda Police Station, Himmat Singh Thakur from jamgaon (R) Police Station, Rajeshwar Thakur, Khilesh Kurre, Shravan Sahu, Sub-Inspector Shyam Singh Netam, Constable Jagendra Sahu, Narayan Thakur and Kalicharan Deshmukh from Machandur Chowki played vital role in arresting the accused.

Closed Campus Recruitment Drive conducted at CCET



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Christian College of Engineering and Technology (CCET) has been fulfilling the dreams of its technocrats since 1998. CCETians have time and again proved their skills on core Engineering sectors albeit low vacancies in such sectors. In this sequence Dhoot Transmission Pvt Ltd, Aurangabad, Maharashtra visited CCET on Feb 16, 2022 for recruitment in the post of Graduate Trainee

Engineer. The closed campus recruitment drive started with a pre-placement talk session, where the resource persons interacted with the candidates and gave an audio visual presentation about the working of the company. This was followed by a GD and personal interview. After these rigorous rounds students were selected for Dhoot Transmission Pvt Ltd, Aurangabad for the post Graduate Trainee Engineer. A total number of 22 students have been

selected out of 40 students from Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Department. The package for the same is 2.5 lakhs per annum plus free boarding, working lunch as well as medical and PF. The Administrative Coordinator Rev Fr Philip Kuruvilla, along with the Principal, Dr Dipali Soren, Dr Avinash Kumar (HOD Electrical Engineering & TPO) and College Management congratulated the selected candidates and wished them well for their bright future.

Admissions open for Class 1 in Bhilai Ispat Vikas Vidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Admissions are open for Class 1 in Bhilai Ispat Vikas Vidyalaya (BIVV), Sector 06 and Bhilai Ispat Vikas Vidyalaya, Sector 11. These schools are run for BPL children by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant as part of CSR activities. Children from families who are BPL Card holders for Survey Year 2007-08 and Antodya card holders covered in socio-economic Census 2011 list are eligible for admission in the BIVV schools. The last date for registration has been extended from February 16,

2022 to March 03, 2022. Parents can come to BIVV, Sector 06 from 10:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs and BIVV Sector 11 from 9:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs except holidays. Children born between April 2015 to March 31, 2017 are eligible for admission in Class 1.

Students from Sector 01 to Sector 10, Maroda, Ruabanda, Risali, Hospital Sector and HUDCO are eligible to apply admission in BIVV, Sector 06 while children of families living within vicinity of 1 km of the school in Sector 11 are eligible to apply in BIVV Sector 11.

ED (P&A) visits HRDC Workshops to encourage participants

● Of on-going ED (Works) Trophy for Works Skill Competition-2021-22

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: KK Singh, Executive Director (P&A), SAIL-BSP visited the HRDC workshop on February 15th, 2022 to interact with the participants of Works Skill Competition 2021-22 wherein he encouraged the participants to take the competition seriously and bring more laurels to BSP by showcasing their talents at all levels of the competition.

ED (P&A) was accompanied by Sanjay Dhar CGM (HRD & BE), Amulya



Priyadarshi GM (HRD.) Mukul Saharia, In-charge of Workshops at HRDC & DGM (HRD) gave a brief about the Works Skill Competition to ED (P&A). Singh visited the various sections of the workshops



where tests were being carried out.

The ED (Works) Trophy for Work Skills Competition was instituted in the year 2008-09 to instil in employees a spirit of learning and to test their

skills and is being organized every year since then. The objective of the competition is to recognize, promote and showcase the skill and talent of BSP employees at plant and mines as well as at

Regional/National level. Since its inception, the competition has been evoking good response amongst BSP employees. As a consequence of development through local competition, BSP Employees have regis-

tered their presence by securing ranks almost every year in Regional and National Work Skills Competition conducted by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

This year the ED (Works) Trophy for Works skill competition started on February 09 and shall continue till February 19, 2022. A total of Two Hundred and Thirty Six (236) participants from across the Plant and Mines have registered for the competition through BSP e-Sahyog online portal. The competition is in 10 different trades - Fitting, Computer, Welding, Hydraulics, Turning, PLC, Machining, Carpenter, Electrical and Material Handling.

Efforts being made for protection of endangered Egyptian Vulture

Forest and Revenue Departments working on concept of Vulture Restaurant

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: In Sanskrit literature, the species of Egyptian Culture was called as Shakunta. In his Sanskrit Play Abhigyan Shakuntalam, Mahakavi Kalidas has mentioned that Kanva Rishi had found the girl child Shakuntala in Shakunta forests i.e. in the vulture's abode. Our country has been named as Bharat after Shakuntala's son Bharat. Vultures are also mentioned in Ramayana with Jatayu and Sampati as strong characters.

Unfortunately, the species of vultures in the country are in danger. Vultures are on the verge of extinction all over the country. In such an adverse situation, a positive sign is being seen for the last few years in Dhamdha Block. Egyptian Vultures are being spotted in the

Dhamdha block. They are making nests in big trees and are living here. It is a good opportunity for the conservation and promotion of their species.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and DFO Dhammsheel Ganveer had explored the possibilities of conservation of vultures and decided to identify a place to create a protected area for their conservation. Thereafter, a joint team of the Forest Department and Revenue Department conducted a survey for the identification of the place where the Egyptian Vultures are living.

Giving more information in this regard, DFO Ganveer said that it is a matter of great happiness that the species of Egyptian Vulture is being seen here. It is a rare species and needs protection. A special area will be created for them.



As the Vultures are carnivores, the corpses of the dead animals will be brought here. Such trees will be planted in this area which will be suitable for the habitat of vultures. Vultures make their habitat in tall trees like Peepal. All such facilities will be developed in the conservation area which will be useful for the habitat of vultures.

He further informed that there are nine species of

vultures in India and Egyptian Vulture is one such species. These are small sized vultures. He added that earlier there were a large number of vultures in India, but the last decade saw a sharp decline in their population.

The reason for this sharp decline in their population was the drug Diclofenac, which was given to cattle. After the death of cattle, when vultures eat their kidneys, this medicine reaches

into the stomach of vultures. This drug was fatal for them. The drug was banned across the country, but the species of vultures had already declined significantly by then.

Bird expert Anubhav Sharma said that there are two types of Egyptian Vultures found in India. First species has a nature of staying permanently in a region while the second species is migratory. There is an interesting description about them in Indian literature.

The Egyptian Vulture has been called Shakunta in Sanskrit literature. Mahakavi Kalidas in his Sanskrit Play Abhigyan Shakuntalam has mentioned that Saint Kanva had found the girl child Shakuntala in the Shakunta Forest, the adobe of vultures.

Due to this reason only, he named her Shakuntala.

Shakuntala was the mother of Bharat. Migratory Shakunt birds fly from the Himalayas to reach Rameshwaram. There is a legend about them that they are devotees of Lord Shiva and offer the Ganges water from the Himalayas to Lord Shiva in Rameshwaram.

Bird expert Raju Verma informed that last year Egyptian Vulture was also seen in Achanakpur of Patan. About 2000 migratory birds have been spotted here. World Wetland Day was celebrated here on February 02. Egyptian Vultures have white hair on their neck and are comparatively smaller than other vultures. At the time of breeding, their neck becomes slightly orange.

Police conducts anti-riot mock drill



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: With the aim of creating a sense of security among the citizens and to deal with any chaotic incident happening, Durg Police conducted an anti-riot mock-drill at Police Lines in Durg on Thursday. Cops practiced to deal with rioters and emergency situations. This mock drill was conducted on instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) BN Meena.

Various units of Durg Police participated in the drill. During the drill, the intelligence unit identified the suspects in the crowd and confidentially collected information about their weapons, manpower and anti-social elements etc. The jawans were given tips on ways of dispersing the uncontrollable crowd. The use of gas tear guns to divide their manpower of the furious crowd, lathi charge etc were practiced. Police firing party exercise was also conducted. Information was given to issue orders for the furious crowd from one line, two line and three line. Apart from this, reserve parties and first aid exercises were also held.

Mock drill proceedings were conducted by dividing all the police officers/employees present during the Balwa drill into different teams, including Dharna Demonstration Party, Protest Party, Tear Gas Party, Attacking Party, Danda Party, Rifle Party and Reserve Party.



There were medical, arrest and intelligence parties also. Apart from this, the nuances of using water cannon and use of tear gas to deal with the miscreants were explained.

The entire anti-riot mock drill was conducted under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu and leadership of Deputy Superintendent of Police (Police Lines) Nilesh Dwivedi. City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Yadav, Trainee Assistant Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Banker, City Superintendent of Police (Chhawani) Kaushalendra Patel, Sub-Divisional Officer (Patan) Devansh Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Abhishek Jha, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Nassar Siddiqui, SHOs of various Police Stations and special branch in-charge and Subedar Tripti Singh were present.

IF CRICKETERS CAN BE AUCTIONED, WHY NOT EDUCATIONALIST ?

Change is the nature, and following nature is true religion.

In Today's world, when everything seems to be professional, Marketable, negotiable and feasible, as such anything can be changed even the trend of Education and recognition of Educationalists.

Lets's ponder over the 'AUCTION' of cricketers like Ishan Kishan who has been bought for 15.5 crores for one IPL season. Shikhar Dhawan for 8.5 crores, R Ashwin for 5.5 crores soccer players Messi Ronaldo, tennis stars, Man, Machine, Market, sites of Heritage and Historical importance, Airports, and so

on endless speres which are passing through AUCTIONS for the best outcomes with minimum investments, under such 'VOGUE' why can't principals Teachers of schools, Professors of colleges and universities coaching experts of Coaching centres, Educationalists, Academic coaches be 'AUCTIONED' who will be bought by all chain of schools, colleges universities, even by the boards/bodies like CBSE, ISCE, NCERTUGC.

In my opinion, if the Educationalists are auctioned, the Employers will get quality educationists and true educa-

tional professionals to lead the 'TORCH OF KNOWLEDGE' with affordable prices according to the ability and field experience of the Educationist. This will not only be cost-effective and beneficial to the Government or any other private employer but also it will be free of long-term liabilities of the employers like paying their PF/Pension/Gratuity/L eave Encashment on



just like IPL Players who are offered certain lumpsum amount to play for one particular club or particular Tournament, similarly Educationists will be bought for certain fixed short tenure by paying his 'TAG OF VALUE THROUGH

AUCTION'. This professional approach will not only save lot of money which is being invested for logistics, recruitment expenses, advertisements, maintenance of perks but this will also provide quality and Healthy competitive education, and educationalists will also keep on their constant endeavour to maintain their academic excellence and performance to be in the 'RACE' for future years to come.

As cricketers need to display their quality performance in domestic as well as international matches to be in the fray. Similarly educationists too will be compelled to maintain their result oriented approach by constantly 'HONING' their skills to rule the world of the 'EDUCATION'.

Though the notion is perfectly matching with the need of the present time but this can further be well discussed and debated on some relevant platform resulting into a new 'VOGUE' of emerging educationists and academic institutions of repute.

In a nutshell if players can be auctioned in sports, why not the rest of the flock?

By GV Rajshekher Rao, Principal, TATA DAV Public School, Sonadih, Baloda Bazar

All necessary arrangements should be made for redressal of traffic challan cases: CS

● Through virtual court

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain chaired a meeting of senior officers from various departments and directed them to ensure proper arrangements for the proceedings of traffic challan cases through virtual court, as per the instructions of the Chief Justice of High Court Chhattisgarh. Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, Principal Secretary Law Department Ramkumar Tiwari, Secretary Home Department Dhananjay Devangan, the officers of other departments and State Bank of India attended the virtual meeting.

Chief Secretary said that Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court has given instructions to ensure availability of all the resources at the earliest for the speedy action on traffic challan cases



through virtual courts in all the districts of the state. Chief Secretary has directed the officers concerned to gather information about the agreements made with the banks of the states, where traffic cases are being resolved in the virtual courts. He also directed the officials to identify the banks in Chhattisgarh that are willing to install POS machines on minimum charges, and to receive the proposals in the context from such banks. In the meeting, Director General of Police gave detailed information about the preparations being made by Police Department for redressal of cases through virtual courts. He in-

formed that necessary training would be provided to the police officers in this regard. In the meeting, Commissioner Transport held necessary discussion with the representatives of the bank regarding virtual settlement of cases of traffic challans and digital payment.

It was also informed in the meeting that in Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh, this system is being implemented in collaboration with various banks. Mr Jain has directed the officials to submit a copy of the agreement between these states and the banks, copy of the C h h a t t i s g a r h Government's agreement with the banks in this re-

gard, and to provide detailed information of the proposal received by the banks to the I.T. Committee of the High Court.

It is worth mentioning that the High Court of Chhattisgarh has given instructions to start the proceedings of traffic challan cases in all the divisional headquarters of the state through virtual courts. And preparations have been started in Raipur divisional headquarters, as per the instructions of the High Court. Traffic challan cases are being settled through POS machines. The process of settlement of digital challan cases will soon be started in Rajnandgaon, Durg, Bastar and Sarguja divisions as well. Additional Director General of Police Pradeep Gupta, Director Institutional Finance Sheetal Shashwat Verma, High Court Nodal Officer Chouhan, Regional General Manager State Bank Rao and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Under no circumstances should there be a shortage of fertilizers in district: Collector

Raipur, Feb 17: In compliance with the orders of Director Agriculture and Collector Raipur, the development block and district level inspection teams have been constituted by the Agriculture Department, Raipur to prevent black marketing of fertilizers. Regular visits are being made by the inspection team.

Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the Chief Executive Officer, District Co-operative Central Bank Limited, Raipur and District Marketing Officer for storage of fertilizers in all the societies in the district. He instructed private fertilizer sellers to sell fertiliser at reasonable price so as to avoid shortage in the district. During surprise in-



spection of the district level team, all the fertilizers found in M/s Chhattisgarh Krishi Kendra Village-Datrenga were sold to the farmers at the prescribed price in front of the agriculture officers. Fertilizers were sold at the fixed price to about 200 farmers in village-Datrenga.

According to the availability of fertilizers in private fertilizer sales centers, the Deputy Director

of Agriculture Department, Raipur has been directed to ensure the duty of the Regional Agriculture Officers at the selling point for sale at the prescribed price. Action was taken to ban the sale at some agricultural centers in Datrenga village after irregularities were found during inspection. Several sales premises were inspected by the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Raipur.

Rebate of 40% in land guideline rates

Raipur, Feb 17: In order to provide relief to the people of the state, an order has been issued by the Chhattisgarh government to give maximum rebate of 40% in the rates of the market value of the land. The people of the state will be able to take advantage of this special exemption on the purchase of land till March 31, 2022. Earlier, a rebate of 30% was being given in land guideline rates.

Under this scheme 107 villages of Raipur-Birgaon Municipal Corporation and their investment areas have been included in the district. In all these 107 villages of the district, 40% rebate will be given on

purchase, sale or donation of land. Registration fee of 5% of the value of immovable property will be charged for registration of property or donation letter records in these areas. The scheme will be effective till 31 March 2022. The order comes in the backdrop of cabinet meeting held recently under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

According to the 40% rebate would be given in place of 30% on the rates of market value guideline in case of properties of municipal corporations and their investment area for the remaining period of the financial year 2021-22.

CSPCL postpones physical exam and verification

Raipur, Feb 17: Chhattisgarh State Power Company(CSPCL) has postponed published attendant (line) verification and physical test, which was going to be conducted from 21 February due to administrative reasons. New date, will be soon declared by company officials. Holding Company Executive Director said short-listed candidates were called for 3000 attendant (line) post for Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, Jagdalpur and Ambikapur region. It was scheduled from February 21- 26. Due to administrative reasons the schedule for above exam has been postponed for time being. It will be rescheduling as soon as notifications comes for new dates.

‘GET-TOGETHER’



Members of Punjabi Women Welfare and Cultural Society organised a get-together programme here on Thursday.

Fraud dupes credit card holder of Rs 1.06 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: Unidentified fraud duped a credit card holder of Rs 1.06 lakh on pretext of closing his card's operation. According to Rajendra Nagar police, complainant Jitendra Kumar Sahu received a call from phone number 8334-45111. The

caller further informed of being calling from the State Bank of India that the operation of his credit card will be stopped immediately. He further offered the complainant of offering online assistance about revoking the card's operation. With the complainant accepting to avail the assistance, the frau sent him an OTP which

was shared by the complainant. This turned out to be a major mistake as the fraud instantly siphoned Rs 1.06 lakh from bank account. Police has since registered an offence under Section 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned phone and further investigation is now underway.

COVID-19: Ch'garh logs 433 new cases, 4 deaths

Raipur, Feb 17: Chhattisgarh on Wednesday reported 433 new COVID-19 cases, taking the overall tally to 11,47,880, while four fresh deaths pushed the toll to 14,016, an official said. The daily positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, was 1.37 per cent, he said.

The number of recover-

ies reached 11,29,061 after 46 people were discharged from hospitals and 1,107 others completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an active tally of 4,803, he said. "Raipur recorded 63 cases, followed by Bilaspur 40, Balrampur 34, Kondagaon 28, Surguja 26, Durg 24, Korba 15 and Raigarh 11, among other

districts," the official said. With 31,595 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,68,18,022, he said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,47,880, new cases 433, death toll 14,016, recovered 11,29,061, active cases 4,803, total tests 1,68,18,022.

Subedar (Traffic) Pendra arrested taking bribe Rs 50,000

● PA arrested along with

Raipur, Feb 17: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested the Subedar (Traffic) of Pendra along with his private PA after trapping them red-handed taking bribe of Rs 50,000 from the local operators.

According to information provided by ACB office in Raipur, a bus operator of Pendra on behalf of several local bus transports had complained against accused Subedar Visas Narang and his personal PA Bharat Panika alleging that they are demanding a bribe of Rs 60,000 for granting operation of buses in the region. Following the com-

plaint ACB got verified the allegation and it was found that the accused had demanded the bribe. Later the amount was reduced to Rs 50,000 and the money was asked to be given on Thursday.

ACB then on Thursday accompanied the transporter and the deal was decided to be accomplished in a dhaba at Amarapur. No sooner the bribe was handed to both the accused the ACB team surrounded them and seized the money red-handed.

Both the accused were arrested and booked under Section 7(A), 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act and further investigation is now underway.

One arrested with pistol, 3 live cartridges

Raipur, Feb 17: Tikrapara police on Thursday arrested a man from Santoshi Nagar locality after he was arrested possessing a pistol and three live cartridges. Identified as Mohammad Sadiq Tigala, the accused was immediately taken to the police station and was booked under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act.

According to police, the patrolling of Tikrapara police station on Thursday night received information about the accused roaming in Santoshi Nagar market trying to sell the pistol along with live cartridges.

The information was forwarded to the senior police officers who then advised the patrolling staff to immediately nab the accused and take him in custody. Further investigation is now underway.

BoB offers banking transaction details in preferred language

● Bank of Baroda's special initiative on International Mother Language Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: The country's leading bank, Bank of Baroda, is organising a three-day SMS log-in day in its branches on the occasion of International Mother Language Day (February 21) to promote the option of making bank account transaction information available to customers in their preferred language. Customers will be able to receive SMS in their preferred language

by opting for this facility provided by the Bank. For this, customers will have to send LANG<space>HIN SMS for Hindi language to 8422009988 number from their mobile number entered in the bank. Replace HIN for other languages TAM (Tamil), KAN (Kannada), ASM (Assamese), BEN (Banglar), GUJ (Gujarati), MAL (Malayalam), MAR (Marathi), ORI (Oriya), PAN (Punjabi), TEL (Telugu) and URD (Urdu). The bank is trying to make this facility accessible to its customers through various mediums. Working in this direction, the bank plans to connect more and more customers to this fa-

cility through SMS Log-in Day across the country on February 18th, 19th and 21st, 2022. It is worth noting that at present Bank of Baroda is providing transactional SMS facility to its customers in 12 Indian languages including English so that any kind of fraud can be avoided. This initiative of the bank is aimed not only to make banking services simple and transparent, but also to keep the customers aware of the transaction related activities in their account. On the occasion of the upcoming International Mother Language Day, this initiative of the bank is special in itself.

Cement prices drop on low demand, Wholesale rate Rs 280

No drop in the prices of sand, due to adequate coal supply

Possibility of a fall in the price of steel bars by Rs four to five thousand

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: The price hike by cement companies has not got the support of the market. Prices of cement have dropped due to low demand. Cement is priced at Rs 280 in Wholesale market and in retail it is being sold at Rs 290-300 per bag. Traders



said that the prices may drop further in the coming days. Cement prices had risen in the past. Cement was being sold in retail for Rs 315 to 320. The market did not support the rise in cement prices and the demand slowed down. On Thursday, cement was sold

for Rs 290 to 300 in retail and Rs 280 in wholesale. On the other hand the prices of bars will also dropped.

Industrialists said that coal shortage problems will be resolved shortly as supply of coal will start. Its effect will also be seen in the prices of steel bars in the market. At present, bars are being sold up to Rs 65 thousand a ton in retail and Rs 61 thousand a ton in factories. There is a possibility of a drop in the prices of about Rs four to five thousand rupees per tonne as the coal supply starts smoothly. However, the price of sand has not come down yet and there is still a shortage.

Distt committee constituted under the chairmanship of Collector

Raipur, Feb 17: A committee has been constituted at the district level under the chairmanship of the collector for the implementation of the campaign related to the development of basic literacy and numeracy among children up to class-III in the district. The committee has been formed in compliance with the letter of the Department of School Education, Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan), Naya Raipur and Managing Director, State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha Chhattisgarh Raipur, Government of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, Commissioner / Chief Municipal Officer, Urban Local Self Government,

District Women and Child Development Officer, Assistant Commissioner, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department, Chief Medical Officer and Health Officer, Deputy Director Social Welfare Department, District Education Officer, Principal District Education and Training Institute and District Mission Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha will be ex-officio members in the committee.

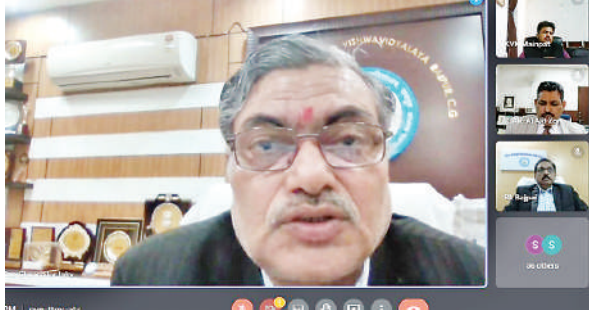
Advisor working in PMU, Leaders of various NGOs working in Elementary Language/Mathematics, Specialist Teacher in FLN of Primary Class Language/Mathematics and District Nodal Officer FLN have been made members.

Two bikes lifted

Raipur: Unidentified lifters escaped with two bikes from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, a TVS-XL CG04-NK-2781, was lifted from Mahoba Bazaar locality where owner Kuldeep Sahu had parked it. The lifting was later complained in Amanaka police station. The other one, a Hero Deluxe CG04-MX-5783, was lifted outside Abhanpur liquor shop where complainant Shriram Dhruv had parked it. The lifting was later complained in Abhanpur police station. Respective police have since registered offence under Section 379 IPC against unidentified lifters and further investigations are now underway.

Agronomist should work to promote organic and natural farming: Dr. Sengar

● **Two-day workshop for annual plan formulation of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, plan to link Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendras**



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Attari, Jabalpur organised a two-day workshop on Annual Action Plan-2022 for all Krishi Vigyan Kendras operated in Chhattisgarh. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. SS Sengar, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University. He called for linking the Agriculture

Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendras through monthly workshops in the districts.

He advised the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras to work on issues related to organic, natural farming and integrated farming system keeping in view the regional diversity of Chhattisgarh state and the priorities of farmers. 27 Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and one Krishi Vigyan

Kendra under DSVK Kamdhenu University participated in this two day workshop and presented their action plans for extension area research for the year 2022.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Chhattisgarh presented their annual plan, which included on-farm trials, field level demonstrations, cluster field level demonstrations, nutrient-smart village planning and training and extension activities. Each research propos-

al was reviewed and suggested by Dr. SS Sengar, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Dr. SRK Singh, Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Attari-Jabalpur and Director Extension Services of both the universities. The unique feature of the proposed action plan for 2022, as recommended by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Attari-Jabalpur, was the inclusion of research on indigenous and traditional knowledge, which have immense potential in Chhattisgarh, especially in the northern and southern regions. Research works have also been proposed by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Chhattisgarh to promote precision farming the central plains.

IIM organizes MDP on Strategic Project Management

Raipur, Feb 17: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur has started four days online Management Development Program for the executives of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited from Feb 16, 2022. This is the first program institute is organizing for HPCL.

This program combines the concepts of strategy and project management and will allow participants to enhance their skills in both areas. The program is designed with industry in mind and will provide participants with the necessary concepts, tools, and techniques for successful project management based on up-to-date theory, best practice standards, and methodologies.

The Program is being attended by various executives comprising of Managers, Senior Managers, Chief Managers and DGMs from various HPCL Business Units across the country.

Devotees take a Holy dip in Triveni Sangam

● **At Rajim Maghi Punni Mela on Magh Purnima**

Rajim, Feb 17: Maghi Punni fair has started from Wednesday in Rajim, famous as Prayag Raj of Chhattisgarh. 'Devalaya Darshan' and bathing in the Ghats has started since morning. According to the belief, 'Punni bath' has special significance on the occasion of Magh Punni, so as large number of devotees took bath at Sodhur, Parri and Triveni Sangam of Mahanadi. Special arrangements have been made by the state government at the fair site of Rajim. Arrangements were made for Sant Niwas, transportation facilities, cleanliness of the entire fair area, cultural programs etc. in the ancient built at the Sangam site. In this 14-day long fair, blessings will also be given here by the saints every day. Police personnel have been deployed for law and order in the entire fair venue. Special buses are also being operated for the convenience of the devotees. The venues for shops have been systematically allotted at the Mela site. Arrangements for drinking



water, toilets and parking have also been made at the fair site. A grand and attractive stage has been built near the main temple, where cultural programs will be presented by local folk artists. The entire fair area including the temple complex has been decorated with attractive decorations. As per the announcement of the Chief Minister, the sale of liquor has been banned in Rajim and adjoining areas during Maghi Punni Mela. The 'Lakshman Jhula' built on the river near the fair site will be a one-way for movement. CCTV cameras have been installed in the fair venue for security. Special arrangements have been made for

organising Maha Aarti at Triveni Sangam site. Special bathing ponds have also been prepared by the Irrigation Department for the bathing by devotees. Similarly, all necessary arrangements have been made in view of VVIP arrival in the fair. In order to make the Mela area organized and attractive, 54 acres of land has been allotted by the new government, where Dharamshala and other necessary buildings are being constructed along with organizing the Mela site. The administrative officers of Raipur, Gariaband and Dhamtari districts have been engaged for making arrangements at venue fair.

BSS hosts massive 'Maghi Poornima' fest



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: On the occasion of 127th birth anniversary of Bharat Seva Ashram Sangha (BSS) founder Yugacharya Srmat Swami Pranavananda and Maghi Poornima festival, a massive programme was organized at BSS VIP Road Pranavananda Academy premises here. The programme started from 9 am with bhajan, kirtan, vishwa shanty yagya and later

discourse by Swami Sureshanand and Swami Taranand. The entire programme was witnessed by ward councilor representative Nanu Takur and Pranavananda Academy principal Mrs Anidita Ghosh offered her active support.

The programme concluded with distribution of clothing to poor and needy along with mass feast, in-forms district secretary S Shivroopnanda Secretary BSS Raipur.

CPSKS Class IV unit election conducted



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: Election for the post of president under Class IV unit of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Swasth Karmachari Sangh(CPKDS) in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital was conducted on Wednesday with three candidates Lakshmi Prasad Banerjee, Khoman Patel and Deepak Gadge in fray for this post. Lakshmi Prasad Banerjee secured 170 votes, Khoman Patel(14) and Deepak

Gadge secured 50 votes while 11 votes were declared invalid out of 245 votes cast.

Lakshmi Prasad Banerjee was declared winner with 75 votes. S S Soni was the Election Officer, Mrs Vibha Sahai, Assistant Election Officer along with Satish Paseria and Kumbhakarna Berma.

The election was conducted under the watchful guidance of CPSKS president O P Sharma, in-forms district secretary S P Dewangan.

Taekwondo selection trial held for PRSU team

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: J Yogananda M Chhattisgarh College on Tuesday organized Inter College Taekwondo selection tournament for the Pt Ravishankar Shukla University (PRSU) team. College Principal

Dr Amitabh Banerjee inaugurated the tournament during which Director Physical Education of Pt RSU Dr Vipin Chandra Sharma was present as special guest. Nearly 70 players from 15 colleges participated in the selection trials, informs a press release issued here.

Work of infrastructure development will be completed soon- V-C

Bilaspur, Feb 17: The University is making steady progress in infrastructure development works as a result of the active and dedicated efforts of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. It is noteworthy that after assuming office, the Vice-Chancellor had given strict instructions to complete the works expeditiously after holding a meeting with the high officials of various construction agencies working in the university. As a result of the visionary and positive working style of the Vice-Chancellor, eight new buildings will be added to the infrastructure development of the university by March 2022. These include two new girls' hostels with a capacity of two hundred girls each, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Education Department, CSIT Department, Law Department, Commerce Department and IT Workshop. Vice-Chancellor reviewed all the under con-



struction works on February 13. On this occasion the Registrar of the University, Prof. Shailendra Kumar, Officer on Special Duty (Engineering), University Engineer and other Engineers of Engineering Section were present. While reviewing the progress of the construction works being executed by various PSUs in the University, the Vice-Chancellor met the engineers of Central Public Works Department, Central PSU MECON, NPCC and UPRNNL and provided necessary instructions.

Central PSU MECON is constructing the Department of

Civil Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, New Boys Hostel with 200 students' capacity and Yoga and Meditation Center buildings in the University. While reviewing the works, the Vice-Chancellor directed to complete the work as soon as possible, ensuring the quality of work, time limit and all the rules of design and construction. The Vice-Chancellor was assured by the officials of MECON that the work of all the above buildings would be completed by November 2022. It is to be mentioned that the deadline

Devotees in large number throng Rajim Madhi Punni Mela

● **On first day of its opening; offer obeisance at Shri Rajiv Lochan Temple, enjoyed cultural prog and other attractions at the mela venue**

Rajim, Feb 17: The first day of inauguration of Rajim Madhi Punni Mela was done here on Wednesday witnessed huge crowd and majority of the visitors were adhering to Covid protocol and were wearing mask. The devotees thronged the Mela venue coming in two-four wheelers.

There was long queue of devotees witnessed since morning at Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan Shri K u l e s h w a r n a t h



Mahadev's temple. Since it happens to be 'janmotsav' of Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan, devotees were found paying obeisance in the temple and offered prayers after taking Holy dip and offered 'prasad' and flowers. Nearby the cultural dais a massive dome has been constructed and here the devotees took a break and were found waiting for the cultural programmes to be presented at the cultural dais from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, reflecting state's rich art & culture. There was huge rush

to witness the 'sua', 'karma', 'dadaria', 'raut nacha', 'Pandwani', 'Manas Prasang' by the folk artist at the venue.

From here the visitors reached the main attraction 'Meena Bazar' with variety of swings and facilities of recreation, including food stalls, cloth shops, sweets shops and others. The devotees were found enjoying all these arrangements till the evening hours and cultural programmes being presented by the folk artists. The other most important



attraction at the Mela venue was the 'Laxman

Jhula' which has been decorated with colourful

Students take out awareness rally for mask

Rajim: On the first day of Rajim Madhi Punni Mela, a total of 40 students under leadership of Youth Red Cross Society of Rajiv Lochan PG College in-Charge Romanlal Sahu and Sangeeta Jha, took out a mask awareness rally by roaming in entire Mela venue with slogan 'Mask nahi to Rajim Mela nahin'. Some peo-

ple had come with mask at the venue, but were not wearing it to its full and on hearing the message they covered it and those who were not having mask were also given. Student Jayant Savai, Raymond Kumar, Janhavi Sahu, Gunja Sahu, Harsha Verma, Devshri Sahu, Puran Kumar Tarak, Madhuri Sonkar

lights and it appears like galaxy of stars during night-hours. Massive police force was deployed to control movement of crowd and do not allow crowd to gather at one place. With announcement the people are being warned to wear masks and maintain social distancing and adhere to corona guidelines and ensure safety of their items and kids.

Koriya restricts Korba to 281 runs in CM Trophy match

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 17: Impressive bowling performance from the bowlers helped Koriya District team restrict the opposition Korba to 281 runs in first innings of the Inter District Senior Plate Group Chief Minister (CM) Trophy being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) here on Tuesday.

Put into bat first, the Korba boys managed to score 281 runs before being bundled out. Ayush

Sharma scored maximum 86 runs for his team with the help of 15 fours whereas Sudhanshu Tiwari was also scored 62 runs for the team. Pawan Kumar Yadav (34 runs) and Jayant Kewat (33 runs) also made valuable contributions.

Akash Sharma claimed maximum 3 wickets for Koriya District whereas Pawan Mahant and Abhijit Singh also claimed two wickets each.

At close of play, Koriya District had scored 12 runs without any loss.

FOR THE FIRST TIME

Collector 'Jan Darshan' conducted in Orchha

Narayanpur, Feb 17:

In a first, a collector 'Jan Darshan' was organized today in one of the worst Maoist-affected Orchha region of Narayanpur district to ensure last mile delivery of government schemes and quick redressal of problems of villagers in this tribal-dominated area.

During the programme, district collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi heard the grievances of public besides immediately providing them benefits of various welfare schemes being run by the state government. The dynamic working style of newly appointed collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi is the talk of the town. His decision of going even to the remotest areas of the district to hear the grievances of tribals has started yielding positive results. The move has proven to be effective in build-



ing trust among tribals towards government. Instructions have been given to the officials concerned to work at the development block headquarters for 3 days a week. Besides, on the market day, the sub-divisional officer (revenue) will also sit for one day in a week. This is being done to ensure that people are not deprived of getting benefits of any scheme of the state government. Officials

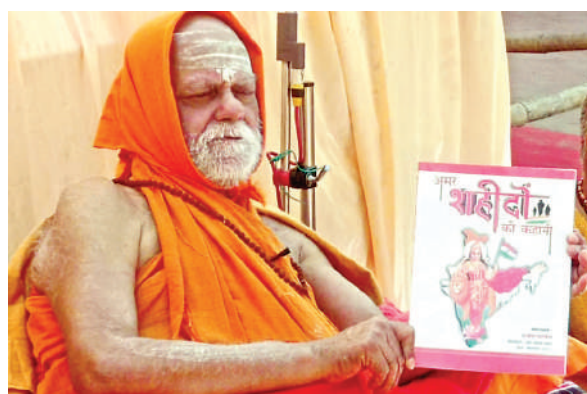
informed that the decision to hold Jan Darshan today was taken keeping in view that today is market day and tribals and villagers from nearby areas gather in large numbers to purchase their daily need stuffs. Abujmad of Narayanpur district is the same area, which still remains a mystery to the country and the world. During the 'Jan Darshan', applications were

received from 165 villagers from far-flung areas regarding solar pump installation, land leveling, construction of ponds and 'dabri' under MNREGA, correction in ration card, Aadhar card registration and correction in Aadhar card, pension, and employment. In addition applications were also received regarding electricity and drinking water issues, road, bridge-culvert, drain,

Ayushman card, caste, income and residence certificates and certificate for people with disabilities. Meanwhile, materials and certificates were distributed by various departments to more than 500 beneficiaries in the programme. This includes distribution of moong Seed Minikit by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, labor registration card and sewing machine by Labor Department; horticulture toolkit, vegetable Seed Minikit and saplings of fruit-bearing plants by Horticulture Department, new ration card and correction of ration card by Food Department, complementary animal feed by Veterinary Department, maize Seed Minikit and medicine distribution by Agriculture Department, 5 HP solar pump by CREDA, caste and residence certificate by Tehsil Orchha and distribution of assistive devices to elderly by the Social Welfare Department.

Shankaracharya releases book titled 'Amar Shaheed Ki Kahani'

■ **Authored by**
Rajesh Pandey



Masturi, Feb 17:

Shankaracharya Swami Nischalanand Saraswati of Govardhan Math Puri Peeth released the book titled Amar Shaheed Ki Kahani, the third work of young writer Rajesh Pandey of the city during his stay at Geeta Palace Bilaspur on

13 February. He said that releasing this book on the eve of the third anniversary of Pulwama attack is a heartfelt tribute to the brave martyrs. The author Pandey told that before this he wrote two books in relation to the religion city of Malhar and this third work is dedicated to the martyrs. In this,

along with India's first martyr police officer Vinod Choubey, Chhattisgarh's first freedom fighter Sona Khan and martyr Veer Narayan Singh, apart from the brave martyrs martyred in incidents like Indo-Pak war, China war, Parliament attack, Pulwama attack, Kargil war and Mumbai attack etc. In this programme, Bhriugandan Tiwari, Sandeep Pandey, Kishore Dubey, Roshan Pandey, Shivam Pandey, Shubh Pandey, Pradeep Tiwari, Kunti Pandey, Upasana Pandey, Rampyari Pandey, Dageshwari Pandey and Abhishek Pandey were present.

Tehsildar Patwari Union hold demonstration



Mungeli, Feb 17:

In the recent incident regarding the assault of advocates and Naib Tehsildars, the assaulted Tehsildars and Executive magistrates have found solidarity with the Tehsildar and Patwari Union here, who have condemned the incident and demanded arrest of the accused at the earliest.

The Union demonstrated before the Collectorate and has also demanded a probe into the matter and security to the officials at government offices and warned of an indefinite strike if their demands are not met.

Tehsildar Agarwal, Maheshwar Chaya Uikey, Shalini Tiwari, Umakant Jaiswal, Arjun Sahu and others have demanded justice to the assaulted officials. Meanwhile Lormi Tehsil Office, has been closed in wake of the support towards the assaulted Executive Magistrate and Naib Tehsildar, and Tehsildar Chaya Agarwal, Rahuk Kaushik and Maheshwar Uikey sat on strike and have submitted a memorandum seeking justice for the officials. They have uniformly demanded justice and security to the government officials posted here in the Tehsil office.

Collector inspects fields of farmers benefited from the irrigation project

Konta/Sukma, Feb 17:

Administration is making new efforts to encourage the villagers towards agriculture in Sukma district. The irrigation project built on the Malger river at Girdalpara, located a short distance from the district headquarters, is a good example of this. In which river water is being easily transported to the farmers' fields without any electricity or other fuel.

In this project, water is being lifted completely from the kinetic energy of water and is being made available to the farmers for irrigation through canal. A successful example of the innovative efforts of Collector Vineet Nandanwar, the



Girdalpara Hydro Power Irrigation Project has awakened the interest of hundreds of farmers in the area for agricultural work. There is enthusiasm among the farmers due to water reaching about 80 acres of land in

the area. In which he is planting greens, vegetables and other crops including moong. It is noteworthy that during his stay in Raipur in the past, MP Rahul Gandhi has also praised this innovative project of Sukma district.

The Girdalpara project is one of the great interests of Nandanwar. To make it successful and farmers get better yield, for this purpose he regularly inspects and monitors progress with field staff himself. In this sequence, today he observed the water reaching the fields, the crops sown etc. He asked the officials of the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Water Resources to ensure that the farmers get 100% benefit of this project. He took stock of the crop sown in the fields and asked to plant the seeds soon in the remaining fields for sowing. Along with this, instructions were given to secure the entire area with wire fencing.

COSA Commander visits Sainik Welfare Office



Bilaspur, Feb 17:

Chhattisgarh-Odisha Sub-Area (COSA) Sena Medal Commander Brigadier Vignesh Mohanty visited the office of District Sainik Welfare Officer here and took stock of the services being provided to the service men, by having a direct interaction with them. This was the Brigadier maiden visit and he took special interest in contributions towards Military Contributory Health Scheme, and took stock of CSD extension board schemes also. The Brigadier expressed happiness

on getting information about the proposed new ECHS building for the welfare of the soldiers and he assured that funds would be ensured for the welfare of ex-servicemen from the Chhattisgarh-Odisha sub-area.

He said that he would now visit Bilaspur every two-three months and would benefit the ex-servicemen from welfare works under a time bound programme. District Sainik Welfare Officer Col Kuldeep Segal (Veteran) and Welfare Coordinator Subedar Major Shivendra Pandey were present on the occasion.

'Amrit Kaal budget will give new direction to the country'

year of independence. In this budget, the problems arising out of Covid 19 will be taken care of. These problems range from health to economic activities, which will be overcome in the coming times. A new target of GDP has been set. This is India-centred budget, with special focus on health, education, communication revolution and agricultural development. has been emphasized". As the chief guest in the program, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur said in his speech that "This is a unique budget in which arrangements have been made for proper use of money. We have to in-

crease the number of people who come under the tax net here. The government is striving for this because the number of tax payers in the country is very less. This is a revolutionary budget. In which defense products will be made in India. As a Key note speaker in the program, Retired Dr. Chandra Kant Prasad Shahi of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, in his speech said that "By not presenting a populist budget during the election period, the government has laid the foundation of future India or new India through this budget. In this budget, All sectors are covered. This budget is central on education and employment with pri-

mary and secondary sectors as its base. Digital currency is the face of New India". As a special guest in the program, the Faculty of Management in Purvanchal University, Jaunpur, Prof. Manas Pandey in his address "touching all aspects of the budget, focusing on farmers, women, defence, education, MSME, economic development of the country, economic self-reliance and PM Gati Shakti Yojana and Indicated tourism, through which the economic development of the country will be accelerated. The program was conducted by Organizing Secretary II, Assistant Professor of Commerce Department Dr. Vijay Kumar Dixit.

Felicitation ceremony organised in Govt Girls High School

Takhatpur, Feb 17:

An award cum felicitation ceremony was organized in the city's Girls Higher Secondary School, Takhatpur, in which Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh and State Congress Secretary Ashish Singh Thakur presided over as Chief Guest.

Addressing the program, Smt. Rashmi Singh said that the voters of the area have expressed their confidence in her and appointed her as their representative, so she is always trying to live up to their trust. Due to my efforts, the pace of development of the area is increasing continuously, which is being completed by paying attention to all the development work which was not done by the previous government, she said. She also said that Government Girls High



School was selected as a special smart class from the District Mineral Trust fund so that the girls could get better and quality education through latest technology. Expressing views in the program, Ashish Singh Thakur said that it is great to see so many girls studying together in this school and awareness about education among parents, is a positive sign of development. The program was conducted by

lecturer Jitendra Shukla and vote of thanks was given by Hoop Singh Kshatriya. Municipality President Smt. Pushpa Shrivastava, Vice-President Smt. Vandana Singh, Munna Shrivastava, Mukesh Ansari, Paramjit Kaur Hura, Vimla Jangde, Harvinder Hura, Nattu Jayasi, Kailash Devangan, Sunil Ahuja, Laxmi Yadav, Suresh Thakur, Shakuntala as guests in the program Rajput, Sunil

Jangde, Mohit Rajput, Gurdeep Kaur Khurana, Bala Thakur, Vinod Rajput, Guljit Khurana, Brijpal Singh Hura, Varun Singh, Raju Thakur, Parmeshwar Singh, Nilesh Dhankar, Naresh Dubey, Rashmi Mishra, SK Pandey, Minaj Khan, Kamini Gupta, Dibya Mishra, Diksha Pandey, Meenakshi Banerjee, Girdhari Vaishnav, Sandeep Dhruva and others were present.

BJP Working Committee Meeting of Economic Cell concludes



Balod, Feb 17: The first working committee meeting of BJP Economic Cell, District Balod was held at Kurmi Bhavan here. The meeting was discussed in the presence of State Co-Convenor and Division in-charge Shiv Chandrakar, District in-charge Pritpal Chhabra, District President Krishna Kant Pawar and State Working Committee member Sandeep Sinha and concluded in the presence of District Convenor Suresh Soni, in which Shiv Chandrakar while giving

guidance in his enlightenment said that at least 1 or 2 members from every town and districts have to be added in the working committee with a total number of 25 and this has to be established as goal of every member. Elections would be held in November 2023 which should strengthen our grip on the booth level and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's achievements at the center, in the new budget, for the people, for every section, should be told door to door, he said.

Pritpal Chhabra in his enlightenment said that all of us together with all the front cells of our district are the basic organization and are the soldiers of Bharatiya Janata Party, and we all have to work together then our victory will be assured. District Convenor, Economic Cell, Balod Mahamantri Surendra Tiwari, Working Committee Member Ramesh Mittal, Nohar Sahu, Ashwani Sinha, Sandeep Bajpai, Pawan Dhelia, Amit Nahta, Santosh Sharma, Satya Prakash Sinha, Lalchand Jain, Laxminarayan, Ganesh Ram Sahu and hundreds of members were present. This information was given by Suresh Soni, District Convenor, Economic Cell, Balod.

Provide water in schools, Anganwadi, with no running water system: Collector



Mahasamund, Feb 17: District Collector Nileshekumar Kshirsagar here presiding over the weekly time limit meeting said that in schools, Anganwadis, hostels, ashrams etc, where there is dearth of running water connection, provisions to provide running water should be made, available immediately under the Jeevan Mission. It should also be continuously monitored, he said. He also instructed that schools and other learning centers should not be operated on dilapidated buildings and if the power line has passed over or near such buildings, they should be shifted to other places. He also took full information about the preparations being made for organizing the two-day Sirpur Mahotsav on February 16 and 17. He also instructed the district officials to implant the state govern-

ment's flagship schemes like Public Service Guarantee, Ayushman card, payment of gratuity amount for the next of kin of the deceased due to Covid-19, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihreen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Other Backward Classes and Survey of economically weaker sections, allotment of 7500 square feet of land, disposal of applications received in Jandardhan, Noni empowerment scheme, Mahatari Dular Yojna, door to door. He also instructed citizens including eligible officers and employees of all departments of the district to apply booster dose of Covid. He said that all the ongoing construction works in the district should be completed within the time-limit with full quality and keep monitoring the construction works continuously.

Indian Bank		Branch : Raipur Main/DDU Nagar Raipur (Chhattisgarh)				
APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (6)]						
SALE NOTICE for sale of immovable properties						
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002						
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Raipur branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on						
(1) 24.12.2021, for recovery of Rs. 16,81,163/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Eighty One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Three Only) + interest and other charges thereon due to the Indian Bank, Raipur DDU Nagar Branch, Raipur Secured Creditor, from Borrower: Vishal Yadav S/o Ghirau Lal Yadav, R/o MIG-2, H.No. 13, Vinayaka Vihar, DDU Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)						
(2) 01.08.2019, for recovery of Rs. 9,75,886.02 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Six & Two Paise Only) + interest and other charges w.e.f. from 08.05.2019 due to the Indian Bank, Raipur Main Branch, Secured Creditor, from Borrower: M/s Abhigyan (1. Smt. Bina Patel W/o Shri Rajesh Patel, 2. Shri Rajesh Patel S/o Shri J.L. Patel), Qr.No. D-08, Sales Tax Colony, Shankar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)						
The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:						
Detailed description of the Property	Encumbrances on property	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid incremental amount	Date and time of e-auction	Property ID No.
Residential Plot with Plot No. 6, KH. No. 325/7, 325/34, Mouza- Raipur, Pandit Din Dayal, Ward 69, Ph. No.-104/57, RI Circle, Raipur, Teh./Dist: Raipur (C.G.) having area of 1073.76 Sq.ft.in the name of Vishal Yadav.	Not known	Rs. 17.20 Lakh	Rs. 1.72 Lakh	Rs. 0.10 Lakh	28.03.2022 between 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM	IDIB 5038933 5432
All the Part and Parcels of the land standing in the name of the land standing in the name of Smt. Bina Patel W/o Shri Rajesh Patel at Kharsa No. 32/7, PH No. 66/8, RNM-Mandir Hasod, Village and Mouza: Todgaon, Tehsil-Arang, Dist-Raipur (C.G.) land Measuring 3000 Sq. Ft.	Not known	Rs. 08.00 Lakh	Rs. 0.80 Lakh	Rs. 0.10 Lakh	28.03.2022 between 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM	IDIB 500625 2075
Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstccommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiip@mstccommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapiip@mstccommerce.com .						
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131".						
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstccommerce.com .						
Date : 17.02.2022, Place: Raipur						
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank						

BRIEF

Captive

■ **Ahmedabad:** A 22-year-old man from Ahmedabad was allegedly held captive for over one month in Kolkata by some armed illegal immigration agents who had promised to send him to Canada on a work permit. Based on complaint submitted by the victim, Meet Patel, the crime branch registered an FIR under charges of kidnapping, illegal confinement and criminal conspiracy and under the Arms Act against three persons for crime.

Rescued

■ **New Delhi:** A rare Egyptian vulture was found suffering from serious injuries, suspected to have been sustained from 'man-jha' thread, on the premises of a police station here, after which the bird was rescued. The avian creature was found at barrack No 2 of police station at Kalyanpuri. The staff there spotted the injured vulture on their premises.

Racket

■ **Thane:** The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Commissionerate in Navi Mumbai said it has busted a racket of fake input tax credit (ITC) invoices worth Rs 21 crore and arrested the proprietor of a firm. The firm - Shree Ram Enterprise - was engaged in availing, utilising and passing on fraudulent ITC based on the bogus invoices of around Rs 100 crore, thereby defrauding the government exchequer, an official release said.

Explosives

■ **Shillong:** Two persons were arrested in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district with a huge cache of explosives. Acting on a tip-off, a vehicle was intercepted at Byrnihat police outpost area near the inter-state border with Assam around 5 am and the explosives were recovered. Two persons allegedly involved in illegally transporting the explosive substances were arrested. The arrested persons were transporting the materials from Jaintia Hills to Rani Bazar.

Firearms

■ **Thane:** Two persons have been arrested for allegedly manufacturing and selling firearms in Maharashtra's Thane. Police seized 10 guns and 11 bullets among other accessories and equipment from the accused, one of whom was apprehended. The accused Dayanand Badange (42) and his associate Chandradev Saroj (41) were allegedly involved in manufacturing guns and selling them.

Smugglers

■ **Jammu:** The Anti Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) arrested two alleged smugglers with 29 kg hashish from their possession worth crores in the market. The ANTF foiled the smuggling bid acting on the information it received about a truck going outside Jammu and Kashmir. Truck was being driven by Arif Ahmed Wani and Amir Hussain Khan.

Outstation DU students unhappy with offline classes



Students at the Miranda House College as the Delhi University colleges have reopened for classes, in New Delhi, Thursday.

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

Not everyone is happy with the Delhi University's decision to start offline classes. Students from outside Delhi are complaining that the varsity asked them to return to the campus on a very short notice, and the massive rush back to the campus has made the PG rent shoot up to unreasonably high prices.

The varsity had on February 9 issued a notification announcing re-

sumption of in-person classes from February 17.

Even those who managed to find stay in university hostels are no better off. With many of the hostels under repair, students are forced to find accommodation elsewhere.

"The hostel allotment is underway but, anyway, seats are limited and students are given hostel rooms on the basis of a merit list so very few students get them," said a student of Kirori Mal College. Several outstation stu-

Rents for PG tripled in Delhi

dents PTI spoke to complained of being given too short a notice to plan their return. I am anxious since we have exams in the next 20 days. We have to sort many things out and also study for exams. This is an additional pressure.

"Students were asking for hybrid classes but our demand was refused. They said it is not possible, said 24-year-old Aditi Jain, a first year student of Masters in English.

Another student, 18-year-old Mamatha Rose from Kerala, looked visibly tired after standing in a long queue at the Vishwavidyalaya Metro station. They earlier informed us you have to come to Delhi. But two days back they told us you can take online classes. I mean, there is so much mismanagement. We had already booked the tickets and my friend and her father helped us booking a PG.

Women offer 'Attukal Pongala' at home

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 17 (PTI): The mass gathering of devotees and their burning brick hearths that line the city roads were missing on the 'Attukal Pongala' day on Thursday.

However, thousands of women, cutting across area barriers offered 'Pongala' to the presiding diety of the Attukal Bhagavathy temple, from the safety of their homes.

Considered as one of the largest religious congregations of women in the world, the annual Pongala festival has been a muted affair for the past two years in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

As the authorities issued strict instructions against mass gathering of people in public places in



Devotees at Attukal Bhagavathy temple, Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday.

view of recent surge in infections, the celebrations were restricted to homes this year also.

Preparing 'pongala' is considered an auspicious

all-women ritual as part of the annual festival of the Attukal temple here, popularly known as the "Women's Sabarimala." Barring some 'pandals',

displaying huge garlanded images of the Goddess, where devotional songs were played aloud, there was no major sign of the conduct of the famed pongala ritual in the state capital this time.

As a local holiday was declared on account of the festival, several parts of the city wore a deserted look, which used to be teeming with women on the Pongala day every year.

Though the government allowed a maximum of 1,500 people to perform the ritual on the temple grounds this year, the Attukal Temple Trust made it clear that they could not implement it and urged devotees to conduct the ritual at their homes.

Gujarat Congress spokesperson Jayrajsinh quits party

Ahmedabad, Feb 17 (PTI):

Gujarat Congress spokesperson Jayrajsinh Parmar resigned from the party on Thursday, claiming the organisation sidelined him for a long time and that it has become a "personal property" of some select leaders who cannot even win polls.

Amid speculations that he may join the ruling BJP in Gujarat, where the Assembly elections are due later this year, Parmar told reporters here that he will share his future plans afterwards.

In the resignation letter, posted in the form of an address to his supporters on his Facebook page, Parmar expressed anger



Jayrajsinh Parmar

over the state party unit's functioning.

Parmar said though he was not offered any "respectable position" in the party organisation matching his calibre and was deliberately sidelined for the last 10 years, he never complained and remained committed all these years. "I had sought a ticket from

Kheralu Assembly seat of Mehsana in 2007, 2012, 2017 (elections) and 2019 (bypoll), but I was not given the ticket. Despite that, I remained committed.

I have drawn the attention of Congress leaders towards flaws in the party's internal system in the past. But, since the party is not willing to make changes in its functioning, I am left with no other option than to leave the party," he said.

Parmar said he remained a committed Congress worker for 37 years and sacrificed his personal and professional life to keep the party alive in Gujarat. "But now, I feel tired.

400 buses in Indore to run on Bio-CNG generated from waste



Indore Bio-CNG plant.

Indore, Feb 17 (PTI):

Nearly 400 buses in Indore will soon run on Bio-CNG to be generated from waste at a plant which will be virtually inaugurated by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi here in Madhya Pradesh on February 19, civic officials said on Thursday.

The plant has been set up in 15 acres of a trenching ground of the Indore Municipal Corporation in

Devguradia area with an investment of Rs 150 crore through the public-private partnership (PPP) mode, they said.

The civic body has claimed it to be the largest such Bio-CNG plant in

South Asia.

The plant is capable of producing 19,000 kg of Bio-CNG (compressed natural gas) per day from 550 tonne of wet waste (of fruits, vegetables, raw meat, stale food, green leaves and flowers) and a part of this gas produced will soon be used to run 400 buses in the city, officials in the civic said.

These buses are currently running on diesel and they would be converted to operate on Bio-CNG in a phased manner, they said.

In the first-phase, 55 Bio-CNG buses will start running in the city from this month itself, they added.

According to an official, the Indore Municipal Corporation has not spent a single rupee on this plant.

KCR'S BIRTHDAY



Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) members celebrate Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Raos birthday at Charminar, in Hyderabad, Thursday.

Congress seeks sedition case against Karnataka Minister

Issue rocks Karnataka Assembly proceedings

Bengaluru, Feb 17 (PTI):

Protests by the Congress demanding sacking of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister KS Eshwarappa and that he be booked for sedition, for his statement on the national flag, continued to rock the Assembly proceedings in Karnataka for the second consecutive day on Thursday. While the Congress has decided to hold 'day-and-night' protests to take the issue to a "logical end", Eshwarappa said he won't quit. Eshwarappa said there is no question of him resigning for any reason, and he is a patriot who had gone to



KS Eshwarappa

jail during emergency. "Let them protest, I won't budge," he said, and demanded that state Congress chief DK Shivakumar resign, accusing him and his party of 'misusing' the national flag for protests. Recently, Eshwarappa had claimed 'Bhagwa dhwa' (saffron flag) may become the

national flag some time in the future and the same may be hoisted on the Red Fort then. He however had said the tricolour is the national flag now, and it should be respected by everyone. As soon as the House met for the day Congress members trooped into the well to mark their protest. After the House paid tributes to former MLA Mallur Ananda Rao, who died on February 14, Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri took up the question hour, and Congress members began shouting slogans demanding action against Eshwarappa, calling him "Desha Drohi" (traitor). The question hour took place amid sloganeering from Congress members, who did not participate in it, despite repeated requests from the chair.

77.2 percent turnout in first phase of Odisha panchayat polls

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17 (PTI):

A total of 77.2 per cent of the 67.51 lakh voters have exercised their franchise in the first phase of panchayat elections in Odisha, the State Election Commission (SEC) said on Thursday.

Releasing the final voters' turnout in the first phase of the elections held, the SEC said that it is 0.55 per cent higher than the corresponding phase of rural polls in 2017.

Voting in Maoist-affected Malkangiri, Koraput and Kalahandi districts has been encouraging, SEC Secretary RN Sahu said. Boudh district registered the highest voters' turnout of 84.7 per cent, while Ganjam recorded the lowest at 64.96 per cent, the SEC said. Other dis-



First phase of Odisha panchayat poll remained mostly peaceful.

tricts that recorded more than 80 per cent polling are Deogarh (83.75), Angul (82.6), Jharsuguda (82.1), Kalahandi (81.1), Subarnapur (81.56), Nabarangpur (80.54) and Koraput (80.2). Maoist

hotbed Malkangiri recorded 77.86 per cent polling, the SEC said.

The election was held for 200 Zilla Parishad seats at 22,379 booths in 1,669 panchayats in 71 blocks of the state. Polling for 13

ward members, six sarpanches, three panchayat samiti members and one ZP member was countermanded due to the death of contesting candidates.

With violence reported in some booths in the first phase of the election, the SEC has asked the DGP to ensure law and order in the next four phases.

The district administrations of four districts have recommended repolling in 25 booths.

The Jaipur district collector has recommended repolling in 11 booths, while the collectors of Puri and Bhadrak have recommended repolling in five booths each, and the Dhenkanal authorities have recommended repolling in four booths, Sahu said.

Malayalam actor Kottayam Pradeep no more

Kottayam, Feb 17 (PTI):

Renowned Malayalam actor Pradeep KR, popularly known as Kottayam Pradeep, died here following a cardiac arrest on Thursday morning, family sources said. He was 61.

Though he was rushed to a hospital here in the small hours, he was declared dead by doctors after some time, they said. He is survived by wife and two children.

Known for his unique style of dialogue delivery, Pradeep, hailing from Kottayam district, had been a constant presence in Malayalam films for the past few years with his humorous roles.

A theatre actor primarily, he entered the tinsel town in his 40s through I V Sasi-directed "Ee Nadu



Pradeep KR

Innale Vare" in 2001.

Later, he enacted small and significant roles in over 60 films.

Evergreen Tamil blockbuster "Vinnaitaandi Varuvayaay", helmed by Gautham Menon, gave Pradeep a breakthrough in his acting career. He played the heroine's relative in the 2010 movie.

Later, he grabbed the at-

tention of film buffs through a handful of movies like "Kattappanayile Hritvik Roshan", "Aadu Oru Bheekara Jeevvi", "Kunhiramayana", "Life of Josutty" and so on.

The actor, who also appeared in advertisements, has reportedly played a role in the upcoming Mohanlal-starrer "Arattu".

People from various walks of life including ministers, people's representatives and actors con-doled the demise of Pradeep.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in his condolence message, said Pradeep was a unique actor who made even minor roles memorable through his spontaneous style.

BRIEF

Misused

■ **Billings:** Government investigators say former US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke misused his position to advance a development project in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement. The Interior Department's inspector general said that Zinke continued working with a foundation on the commercial project in the community of Whitefish, Montana even after he committed upon taking office.

Expects

■ **Damascus:** The UN's special envoy for Syria said he expects a committee representing the Syrian government and the opposition to resume talks next month over draft constitutional reforms. Geir Pedersen spoke to reporters in the capital of Damascus after he met with Syrian officials, including Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, over the country's lengthy conflict.

Changes

■ **Berlin:** The leading dictionary of standard German has changed its definition of Jew, or Jude in German, after a recent update caused an uproar in the country's Jewish community a move reflecting the sensitivities that persist eight decades after the Holocaust. The Duden dictionary had recently added explanation to its online edition saying that occasionally, the term Jew is perceived as discriminatory because of the memory in nation.

Probe

■ **London:** London police have launched an investigation into allegations that people associated with one of Prince Charles' charities offered to help a Saudi billionaire secure honours and citizenship in return for donations. Investigation followed reports that a long-time aide to Charles helped to secure prince's support for a Saudi citizen to receive a knighthood and British citizenship in return for donations of as much as 1.5 million pounds.

US accuses Russia of more troops near Ukraine

Kyiv, Feb 17 (AP):

As Ukrainians waved flags in a show of defiance of a feared Russian invasion, the United States reported that Moscow had added as many as 7,000 troops to forces stationed along the tense border a warning that contradicted Kremlin declarations that military units were being pulled back.

A Russian invasion of Ukraine did not materialize, as originally feared. But after a handful of positive signals from Moscow that eased tensions earlier in the week, the pendulum appeared to swing in the opposite direction again.

Western allies maintained that the threat of an attack was strong, with an estimated 150,000-plus Russian troops surrounding the country on three sides. At the heart of the



Russian army tanks are loaded onto railway platforms to move back to their permanent base after drills in Russia.

crisis are Russia's demands that the West keep Ukraine and other former Soviet nations out of NATO, halt weapons deployments near Russian borders and roll back forces from Eastern Europe. The US and its allies have roundly rejected those demands, but they offered to engage in talks

with Russia on ways to bolster security in Europe.

Though Russia has said it is pulling back some troops, a senior US administration official said some forces arrived only recently and that there had been a marked increase in false claims by Russians that the Kremlin might use as

pretext for an invasion. The official said those claims included reports of unmarked graves of civilians allegedly killed by Ukrainian forces, assertions that the US and Ukraine are developing biological or chemical weapons, and claims that the West is funneling in guerrillas to kill Ukrainians. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about sensitive operations and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The official did not provide underlying evidence for the assertions.

'We haven't seen a pull-back,' US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told ABC News. Russian President Vladimir Putin 'can pull the trigger. He can pull it today. He can pull it tomorrow.'

Funding Canada protests to affect US politics

Washington, Feb 17 (AP):

The Canadians who have disrupted travel and trade with the US and occupied downtown Ottawa for nearly three weeks have been cheered and funded by American right-wing activists and conservative politicians who also oppose vaccine mandates and the country's liberal leader.

Yet whatever impact the protests have on Canadian society, and the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, experts say the outside support is really aimed at energising conservative politics in the US Midterm elections are looming, and some Republicans think standing with the protesters up north will galvanise fundraising and voter turnout at home, these experts say.

The kind of narratives that the truckers and the trucker convoy are focusing on are going to be really im-

portant issues for the (US) elections coming ahead, said Samantha Bradshaw, a postdoctoral fellow at the Digital Civil Society Lab at Stanford University. And so using this protest as an opportunity to galvanise their own supporters and other groups, I think it's very much an opportunity for them. By Wednesday afternoon, all previously blocked border crossings had been re-opened, and police began focusing on pressuring the truckers and other protesters in Ottawa to clear out of the capital city or face arrest, fines and confiscation of their vehicles.

About 44 percent of the nearly USD 10 million in contributions to support the protesters originated from US donors, according to an Associated Press analysis of leaked donor files.

Zimbabwe grapples with substance abuse problems

Harare, Feb 17 (AP):

Tucked in a corner of a dimly-lit hallway of a run-down block of flats in Zimbabwe's Mbare township, a few drug users desperate for recovery prayed and encouraged each other to reduce their habits. They passed around a plate of cookies.

Among those in the support group was Adrias Chidemba, 28, who used to sell fruits and vegetables on Harare's streets and was saving to set up a small kiosk.

But then COVID-19 hit and the months-long lockdown shattered his dreams. I took to drugs

and alcohol to numb the stress, he said, adding that his parents took me as a madman and kicked me out of the house.

The pandemic has exacerbated a mental health crisis in Zimbabwe driven by substance abuse, say health professionals. Authorities and cam-

paigners attribute it to loss of employment, prolonged school closures and anxiety resulting from COVID-19. Lack of support systems such as affordable rehabilitation centers makes recovery difficult for many abusers.

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग

नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर - 19 नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)
दूरभाष 0771-2439564, फैक्स-0771-2331525, 2446556 वेबसाइट: www.psc.cg.gov.in

क्रमांक / 7398 / 42 / परीक्षा / 2021 रायपुर, दिनांक 15 / 02 / 2022

सहायक संचालक, रेशम (ग्रामोद्योग विभाग), साइंटिफिक ऑफिसर (केमेट्री) चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग, सहायक संचालक (योजना, आर्थिक एवं सांख्यिकी विभाग) के पद पर सीधी भर्ती के संबंध में महत्वपूर्ण सूचना

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा विज्ञापन क्रमांक 16 / 2021 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 03.12.2021, विज्ञापन क्रमांक 03 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 13.01.2022, विज्ञापन क्रमांक 02 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 14.01.2022 के अंतर्गत सहायक संचालक, रेशम (ग्रामोद्योग विभाग), साइंटिफिक ऑफिसर (केमेट्री) चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग, सहायक संचालक (योजना, आर्थिक एवं सांख्यिकी विभाग) के क्रमशः रिक्त 01, 01, 10 पदों हेतु विज्ञापन जारी किया गया है। उक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु लिखित परीक्षा दिनांक 01, 02 एवं 03 मई, 2022 को जिला-रायपुर में आयोजित की जाएगी। उक्त परीक्षाओं की विस्तृत समय-सारणी पृथक से जारी की जावेगी।

(जीवन किशोर ध्रुव) सचिव
छ.ग. लोक सेवा आयोग,
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

G-67919/1

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, E/M CIRCLE, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from contractors, Registered contractor class in "D" & above C.G. P.W.D. For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) in new Registration system (unified Registration system) for the following work :-

NIT.No.	Name of work	Probable amount of Contract	Last date of bid submission
74/SE E/M/2021-22 (III Call) System Tender No. 92989	STALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF VRV/VRF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM AT AUDITORIUM HALL HALL IN COLLEGE OFTECHER EDUCATION (CTE) SHANKAR NAGAR Raipur	Rs. 42.86 Lacs	03-03-2022

Note :-
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Only those contractors/bidders, interested in bidding shall pay the tender document cost online.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. E/M Circle Raipur (C.G.)

G-67895/1

विकास का वादा-मनकृत इरादा आपकी धी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

Credible Chhattisgarh विश्वसनीय छत्तीसगढ़ गढ़बो नवा छत्तीसगढ़

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066
Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

KIND ATTENTION : ENERGY USERS IN 13 NOTIFIED SECTORS		
Submission of Report on the Status of Energy Consumption under Energy Conservation Act 2001 (52 of 2001)		
All users/class of users of energy in the following energy intensive sectors having Annual Energy Consumption of and above the specified limit shown against the following energy intensive sectors are notified as designated consumers vide S.O. 394 (E) dated the 12 th March, 2007, S.O. 3542 (E) dated 29 th Dec. 2015, S.O. 1388(E) dated 02 nd May, 2017 and 502147 (E) Dated 17th June, 2020, under clause (e) of section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act (52 of 2001).		
S. No.	Notified Sector	Threshold Energy Consumption in metric tonne of oil equivalent (mtoe) per year
1.	Aluminium	7,500
2.	Cement	
	(a) Integrated Cement Unit	30,000
	(b) Cement Grinding Unit	10,000
3.	Commercial Buildings or Establishments	
	(a) Hotels	500
	(b) Airports	500
4.	Chlor-Alkali	12,000
5.	Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)*	All licensed distribution companies by SERC/JERC
6.	Fertilizer	30,000
7.	Iron & Steel	20,000
8.	Pulp & Paper	20,000
9.	Petroleum Refineries	90,000
10.	Petrochemical units having gas crackers or naphtha crackers or both	1,00,000
11.	Railways	
	(a) All Zonal Railways (Traction)	70,000
	(b) Workshops	750
	(C) 8 Production Factories of Railways namely ICF, RCF, CLW, DLW, DCW, RWF, MCF & RWP	-
12.	Textile	3,000
13.	Thermal Power Stations	30,000

[*Energy Consumption of DISCOMs shall be considered equivalent to the total of Aggregate Technical & Commercial Losses (AT & C), which is equivalent to 1000 Million kWh]

All units/establishment consuming more than the listed threshold energy consumption under respective sectors, notified by the Central Government under S.O. 1264 (E) dated 31st March, 2016 and S.O. 998(E) dated 30th March, 2017, S.O. 1409(E) dated 28th March, 2018, S.O. 1473(E) dated 29th March, 2019, S.O. 1254(E) dated 13th April, 2020, S.O. 4491 (E) dated 26th October, 2021 are requested to submit to the concerned designated agency, with a copy to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a report on the status of Annual Energy Consumption, together with their annual production, for the last two years, namely, 2020-21 and 2021-22 in Form 1 notified under clause (I) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001), duly authenticated by the Energy Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the required sector applicable Pro-forma or Form-I could be downloaded from BEE website: <http://beeindia.gov.in/content/pat-performa>.

If any person fails to submit a report on the status of annual consumption etc by 30th June, 2022, he shall be liable to a penalty under clause 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

For more information/query please contact us on 011-26766700 or send mail on newdc@beenet.in.

DAVP 34106/12/0019/2122

Mission Director NMEEE

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट निविदा सूचना

दिनांक 16.02.2022
निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "डी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के उम्मेदवारों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा डायनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3	4
NIT NO. 139 Tender No. 93022	बलौदाबाजार अनुविभाग अंतर्गत कम्पोजिट भवन बलौदाबाजार का रंगई पोताई एवं डिस्टेम्परिंग का कार्य। (प्रथम आमंत्रण)	08.03.2022	रु. 32.63 लाख
NIT NO. 140 Tender No. 93023	जिला महासमुन्द्र के उपसभाग सरायपाली के अंतर्गत शासकीय आवासीय भवनों में रंगई पोताई एवं मरम्मत का कार्य। (प्राथम्य आमंत्रण)	26.02.2022	रु. 25.00 लाख

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। (राशि रु. 100.00 के नान ज्युडिशियल स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि रु. 10.00 के नान ज्युडिशियल स्टाम्प पर एनेक्जर-3 का शपथ पत्र (बिडकेपेसीटी) उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2.10 में संलग्न प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें।) निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि., रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)

G-67928/2

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड-सुकमा, छ.ग.
(जिला, जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, जिला - सुकमा)

"ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना"

निक्र. 111,112,113,114,115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124,125,126, 127,128,129,130,131,132, / नि.प्र. / जेजेएम / डी.डब्ल्यू.एस.एम. / लो.स्वा.यां.ख. / सुकमा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत उम्मेदवारों से जल-जीवन मिशन के सहित एकल ग्राम योजनांतर्गत निर्धारित शेड्यूल अनुसार पाईप लाईन विस्तार, उच्च स्तरीय जलटंकी निर्माण, घरेलू नलकनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि कार्यों हेतु प्रपत्र "ए" में ऑनलाईन **Online** निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

स.क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्रमांक	सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक	ग्राम / विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	111	92185	डोडपाल / सुकमा	85.90
2	112	92186	पोंगामेज्जी / सुकमा	48.47
3	113	92187	रामपुरम / सुकमा	46.92
4	114	92188	पोरदेम / सुकमा	39.48
5	115	92189	गोदम / सुकमा	91.44
6	116	92190	तोंगरास / सुकमा	26.40
7	117	92191	डंडाबाड़ी / सुकमा	50.98
8	118	92192	कोनमुड्डा / सुकमा	39.36
9	119	92193	गोलाबेकुर / सुकमा	89.23
10	120	92194	गाडमरास / छिन्दगढ़	87.43
11	121	92196	मुडवाल / छिन्दगढ़	46.80
12	122	92198	कोडरीपाल / छिन्दगढ़	98.04
13	123	92199	गोंडारास / सुकमा	49.81
14	124	92200	चिनाबोडकेल / पेदाबोडकेल / कोण्टा	38.47
15	125	92201	जैमर / छिन्दगढ़	41.86
16	126	92202	पुसगुन्ना / छिन्दगढ़	39.44
17	128	92217	मेटागुडा / कोण्टा	43.85
18	129	92219	जगावरम / कोण्टा	47.37
19	130	92220	इडोपाल / छिन्दगढ़	56.07
20	131	92221	चिड़पाल / छिन्दगढ़	45.27
21	132	92222	मारेगा / छिन्दगढ़	114.74

नोट :- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा, निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दर्शित एवं डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा की अंतिम तिथि 28.02.2022 तक है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
सुकमा

G-67907/3



CENTRAL
Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 136

Supply chain autonomy

India can add USD 20 billion to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if the country can reduce by 50 per cent the dependence on imports from China by leveraging the production linked incentive schemes, an SBI research report has said. In terms of imports, India continued to reduce its trade deficit with China in FY21. However, share of China in India's total merchandise imports has been steadily increasing to 16.5 percent currently, as per the report Ecowrap. In FY21, out of the USD 65 billion of imports from China, around USD 39.5 billion were commodities and goods where PLI scheme has been announced (textile, agri, electronics goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals). The key for India is to develop supply chains for manufacturing industries while ignoring China. Autonomy in manufacturing supply chain is critical for geopolitical leverage against China. India's growth will benefit immensely by delinking from China. Global supply chains have been in a state of disruption for the past few years due to a combination of rising trade tensions and the impacts of Covid-19. According to the Statista Supply Chain Index, the US and EU are the most exposed to supply chain disruptions, yet all regions featured were sitting above the index 100 line, proving that disruption remained high. GlobalData's Supply Chain Vulnerability Index reveals that the US and the UK are in first and second position, respectively, for supply chain vulnerability. Australia, France and Russia follow. The index found Germany to be the least vulnerable, with China, South Korea, Ireland and the Netherlands following in the top five spaces, indicating that their supply chains remain fairly secure. All regions are suffering, however, India, the US and Brazil have been hit particularly hard with substantial shortages across many categories of products. Modern products often incorporate critical components or sophisticated materials that require specialized technological skills to make.

It is very difficult for a single firm to possess the breadth of capabilities necessary to produce everything by itself. Consider the growing electronics content in modern vehicles. Automakers aren't equipped to create the touchscreen displays in the entertainment and navigation systems or the countless microprocessors that control the engine, steering, and functions such as power windows and lighting. Another more arcane example is a group of chemicals known as nucleoside phosphoramidites and the associated reagents that are used for creating DNA and RNA sequences. These are essential for all companies developing DNA- or mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccines and DNA-based drug therapies, but many of the key precursor materials come from South Korea and China. Manufacturers in most industries have turned to suppliers and subcontractors who narrowly focus on just one area, and those specialists, in turn, usually have to rely on many others. It's hard to think of a superstructure more impervious to external pressure for change emanating from foreign private firms' supply chain decisions subject to home country mandates. The rise of industry 4.0 has also meant that automation, AI, robotics and logistic management are becoming more prevalent, and as a result supply chains have become wrapped up in the global tech race. As tech bolsters productivity and visibility for supply chains, it also demands a skilled workforce and investment into new technologies. The old model for manufacturing and supply chains is over; according to experts, and the countries and companies that are placing lowering costs over embracing tech and security are widely considered the 'losers' in the supply chain industry. If low-cost labour is a developing country's only offering, its future now looks uncertain.

Unintended consequence

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed the curbs on the number of flights that can be operated between India and Ukraine under the bilateral air bubble arrangement to facilitate travel of Indians from the eastern European nation, according to a senior official. Amid the prevailing situation in Ukraine due to the rising tensions with Russia, India has advised its citizens to temporarily leave Ukraine. Ukrainian International Airlines, Air Arabia, Fly Dubai and Qatar Airways are operating flights at present from Ukraine. The union government had not anticipated unintended consequence of fault in medical admission process in India. Over 20,000 Indian students pursuing medical courses are estimated to be in different parts of the country, which is currently in conflict with Russia. Ukraine has been one of the sought-after destinations for Indian medical aspirants, who are unable to afford private education here. It's a daunting challenge for thousands of medical aspirants who want to pursue MBBS in government and private medical colleges due to a lack of seats and a high fee structure. Nonetheless, Ukraine had emerged as a beacon of hope for a large section of medical aspirants seeking to pursue MBBS at significantly lower costs and with higher educational standards than India. For the students in India, pursuing MBBS in Ukraine is significantly cheaper than in many other private medical schools.

Indians leave the country every year to study medicine abroad, with China, Russia, and Ukraine among the top destinations. Getting into government-run medical schools is very hard. Private colleges, meanwhile, are prohibitively expensive. Private institutes in India have huge amounts of donation or capitation fee, apart from the yearly fee. This is not the case for colleges or universities abroad. Unlike India, there is no entrance test required to secure admission in an MBBS college. Studying MBBS in Ukraine for Indian students is quite cheap as most of the students can survive with as low as USD 100 and USD 200 per month. But, thousand Indian medical graduates from foreign universities struggle to get a licence to practise in their homeland. They claim that they are victims of a screening examination that is unfair and whose grading practices appear tainted in India. Some allege intentionally tough examination would suit the interests of many private medical colleges. Education to become a doctor is overly complicated in India and politics ensured that most of aspirants are not selected. Indian aspirants forced to move abroad to become doctors have forced the government to take unusual steps as an unintended consequence.

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: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com

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

SEA LEVEL THREAT



Strip of beach separates the ocean from condo buildings in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida. Scientists warn that sea level rise due to climate change will become threat to such properties.

Small satellites take to skies

IGOR LEVCHENKO & KATERYNA BAZAKA



Processions of small satellites obscuring the sky have provoked the ire of astronomers, but their potential for humanity is enormous. When it comes to rockets, Starship, one of the most ambitious SpaceX projects to date, certainly packs a punch. SpaceX is founded by US industrialist, Elon Musk, who is known for electric vehicle company Tesla. With more than 100 tonnes of payload and scheduled for orbital testing as soon as 2022, this gigantic, fully reusable system is designed to one day help humans colonise Mars. Much closer to home, it may help SpaceX rapidly assemble constellations of small commercial satellites. SpaceX's Starlink satellites are already providing high-speed internet to remote locations. Starship will deliver satellites to orbit at a substantially lower cost. Capable of carrying about 400 Starlink satellites at once, it will cost an estimated USD 2-10 million per launch. To compare, a partially reusable Falcon 9 rocket launches about 50 Starlink satellites at a cost of about USD 50 million. Even with the possibility of setbacks, it's very likely that Starship or a similar system will soon be delivering large numbers of satellites to orbit.

What would this mean for us on Earth? For consumers, this is likely to mean greater access to satellite-based services, with improved quality and lower cost. Starlink's internet coverage will improve and other

smaller but still-large constellations such as OneWeb will offer broadband internet, geodesy, navigation, communication, and weather monitoring and forecasting. Indeed, a distributed network of small satellites offers greater physical coverage, improved robustness of the network, and much better speeds of data transmission. It is also possible to collect a lot more high-quality data. And SpaceX and OneWeb are not the only industry players looking to the skies. In addition to big-tech players, small companies, universities and public organisations will be able to afford to pay to launch their own satellites. With SpaceX planning to have a large fleet of Starships, it is likely that Starship and its relatives will be available to others in the same way that the SmallSat Rideshare Program uses Falcon 9. Various industries will look to transfer their technologies to orbit to exploit the advantages of zero gravity, from 3D-printing biological tissues and organs to growing protein crystals for pharmaceuticals. Affordable scientific experiments available to research institutions, large and small, will lead to new discoveries and technological advances.

For those developing and operating satellites, the fact that the low Earth orbit is becoming an increasingly crowded place brings new challenges in collision avoidance and traffic control. Right now, there are about 7,000 satellites, some of which are operational and some are malfunctioning orbiting the Earth. The development of Starship has allowed SpaceX alone to revise its initial plans from 12,000 to 42,000 satellites from one company that's a 600 percent increase on the combined launch of every satellite to date. The first constellation collision avoidance manoeuvre was performed in 2019, when the Aeolus satellite operated by the European Space Agency used its thrusters to avoid a collision with one of the Starlink satellites. In the near future, constellation collision avoidance manoeuvres will probably

become a daily reality. In addition to global control systems capable of coordinating such a large satellite population in the future, satellite propulsion systems are critical to ensure manoeuvring and, importantly, de-orbiting at the end of their service life to prevent them from becoming space junk.

Drastic miniaturisation of electronics has allowed developers to package functions previously available in only much larger satellites into something the size and weight of a microwave oven. Rapid prototyping and advanced manufacturing have contributed to simplification and affordability of the development and manufacturing processes, making them affordable for small teams. Miniaturisation of propulsion thrusters, however, present several challenges. Many of the small satellites use electric propulsion thrusters due to their superior efficiency. Yet, electric propulsion thrusters become less efficient when they are miniaturised. Then there are challenges with propellant gases and their complex system of tanks, valves, tubes and gauges. Xenon is very expensive and highly in-demand. Krypton is less efficient, and hence more propellant needs to be carried on board. But iodine could be a game changer for miniature satellites. As a solid fuel, it offers a combination of simplicity, much lower cost and reasonable efficiency. Solid iodine has recently been successfully tested in space. The design cleverly used the ability of iodine to transform from solid to gas at relatively low temperatures, which meant that the fuel could be stored without a tank and then made into a gas with only a small energy input.

Rapid re-solidification of the gas when the heating was turned off allowed the designers to do away with inlet valves, further simplifying the system. Yet, this and similar systems will need to undergo further development before it can fully meet the needs of the satellites in commercial

constellations. Despite the exciting potential of thousands of miniature satellites circling the world, providing services to humanity, and skilfully jetting away from collision, not everyone is looking forward to this future. An overabundance of shiny satellites in the lower orbit can quite literally obstruct the view for stargazers, both professional and amateur. Astronomers first raised these concerns soon after the launch of the first Starlink satellites. To minimise disruptions, SpaceX designed a DarkSat, a Starlink satellite designed to significantly reduce brightness. However, the design did not solve the problem and a new, more advanced design named VisorSat, a satellite with deployable visors, was proposed.

Another concern is radioastronomy. Decreasing the adverse effect of mega-constellations on radio telescopes is a much more complex problem to solve, if solvable at all. It remains to be seen what impact 42,000 satellites, even darkened, will have on our ability to continue making discoveries about distant galaxies and the big bang. It may well be the case that the very satellites interfering with our ability to study the universe from the Earth will be the ones to deliver the next set of advances in astronomy. In astrophysics, for example, interacting satellites can operate like multiple eyes separated by thousands of kilometres, observing the Earth and remote planets from different angles, and gaining information that cannot be collected by a single satellite. We have the technology and will to expand our physical world to the Earth's orbits. Despite the bumps and challenges along the way, exploration and exploitation of the near-Earth space will be the next phase in humanity's expansion of our world.

Igor Levchenko is research scientist in Singapore. Kateryna Bazaka is professor in Australian National University.)

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Bollywood monopoly

With the demise of legendary Sandhya Mukherjee, the Bengali film world has perhaps lost the last jewel of its golden age. If Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen had formed the most illustrious couple in acting front, Hemanta Mukherjee-Sandhya Mukherjee used to represent that excellence in the sphere of playback songs. The divine combo of Sandhya's melody and Suchitra's lip-synching had indeed created a history which still gives goosebumps to us even five or six decades later. Though the eternal fact remains that her genius and greatness as a singer was second to none in the Indian musical circuit, still Mukherjee didn't receive her due as far as national honour is concerned. It seems that national awards of top grades form the monopoly of the Bollywood brigade only. Surely this is the very reason why so many personalities hailing from Hindi film industry, have been awarded Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan much earlier despite being not only junior to Sandhya Mukherjee but also can't hold a candle to her as an artist. Thus it has again proved that not quality or caliber but sheer hype, nepotism, political influence and regional credential form the determinant factors while selecting the Padma awardees or recipients of Bharat Ratna. I regard the audacity of offering Padma Shri to Sandhya Mukherjee as an insult to the then living legend.

All admirers of her indeed felt renewed pride for Sandhya Mukherjee for displaying her unique self-respect by rejecting that much belated "honor" named Padma Shri which was indeed much demeaning for a singer of her stature. Is it a mere coincidence that she had fallen ill immediately after such a humiliating offer by New Delhi. Whatever might be the reasons of her health-related setback leading to her demise, any self-respecting individual is bound to get hurt on such a humiliating offer arriving at the fag end of illustrious life. Though Mukherjee resided at a much higher pedestal than any award the State can think of, but what matters is behaviour and in this respect, the highest decision-making authorities had indeed failed her. However, the litmus test of any singer remains how many hearts he/she has won over in his/her lifetime and on this yardstick, Sandhya Mukherjee has indeed passed with flying colours. The legend will indeed live on for eternity.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Narendra Shenoy@shenoy
In schools. Housing societies. Random cultural mandal events. From observation, I knew that about 70 percent of the boys would come dressed as Arabs. Because this was the easiest. All you needed was an old bedsheet, a towel to throw over your head, and two cooker rubbers around.

Amit Varma@amitvarma
Good advice, and if I may add to that, don't argue with fools to begin with. Twitter is the natural habitat of bad people engaging in bad faith. They are not entitled to your time or attention. Don't engage. Beyond the toxic, there is also the sublime. Embrace that.



Desai Pooja@poojadesai
'Sarvajanic suvayavasthe'. Maintaining public order is the responsibility of the state. You can't ban hijab in classrooms (effectively violating hijab-wearing Muslim students' right to education) citing a breakdown in law and order, precisely because it's your job to ensure peace.

Sana Hashmi@sanahashmi1
Dear Indian Hindi news channels, stop comparing the Ukraine issue with Taiwan, and stop saying that China is on the verge of invading Taiwan. My family back in India is getting worried and calling me at 1 in the night to ask if that's actually happening.



Priya Pillai@PillaiPriy
Driving holiday after ages! Beautiful coffee estates.



Ajai Shukla@ajashukla
South Asian myths: Myth 1: (Long propagated by Pakistan) India's Hindu military is cowardly, non-martial and can't really fight. Myth 2: (Purveyed now by India) China's military, manned by pampered, single sons as a result of the one-child policy, is suspect as a fighting army.

Gen_Cho@Strat_31360
Reminds me of tales our elder grandfather used to tell about his WW1 deployment in France. They went through hell but he was lucky to come back alive. Granted land Jagirs by the Brits for their valorous service. (Unfortunately now being called mercenaries???)

BRIEF

Ambassador



■ **New Delhi:** Piramal Pharma Ltd on Thursday said it has roped in Bollywood actor Amyra Dastur as the brand ambassador for its Lacto Calamine skin care product range. The consumer products division has also expanded Lacto Calamine skin care with new products.

Partners

■ **New Delhi:** Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Thursday said it has partnered with Quiklyz by Mahindra Finance, for its vehicle subscription program, Subscribe. Under the partnership, Quiklyz will offer a white plate subscription, wherein the vehicle is registered under the user's name and hypothecated to the subscription partner, for a range of Maruti Suzuki vehicles.

Open



■ **Mumbai:** French IT company Capgemini on Thursday said it will be setting up dedicated centres of excellence (CoE) for driving innovation efforts. CEO Aiman Ezzat said Internet of Things, smart factory, intelligent supply chain centers of excellence in India.

Investment

■ **New Delhi:** ATD Group and UK's SRAM & MRAM Group on Thursday announced plans to invest Rs 100 crore for their foray into electric mobility in India through a joint venture, Canopus. As part of the plans, Canopus will launch four electric two-wheeler models — Aurora, Scarlett, Colette and Valeria — in March this year, which will be imported initially from Malaysia.

Produce



■ **Mumbai:** Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM) announced on Thursday its strategic alliance with Israel based startup EVR Motors to produce in India, new TSRF-technology based compact e-motor.

Nod

■ **New Delhi:** Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) on Thursday said its board has given approval to raise equity capital worth Rs 4,600 crore by issuing preference shares to the government. The decision was taken at the board meeting held on February 17, 2022.

G-20 finance ministers eye ways to support pandemic recovery

Jakarta, Feb 17 (AP):

Countries must avoid tensions and cooperate to support a recovery from the pandemic as it lingers in many parts of the world, Indonesian President Joko Widodo told a gathering of top financial leaders of the world's largest economies Thursday.

The winter is coming," Widodo said in welcoming finance ministers and heads of central banks of the Group of 20 industrial nations. The pandemic is far from over, and the global economy is struggling," he said. During this situation, no single country could recover alone. All countries are interconnected, no one is isolated." Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das are also participating in the meet.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attending G-20 meet virtually.

The G-20 financial gathering comes as many economies are treading a precarious path between raising costs of borrowing to cool inflation and helping to support recoveries from the pandemic.

Worries over potential conflict in Ukraine are an added unwelcome source of uncertainty, Widodo

said, warning against antagonisms at this time.

Officials were attending the meetings both in person and online, given troubles with travel and quarantines due to outbreaks, mostly of the omicron variant of coronavirus, that are plaguing many countries. Host Indonesia is among many

countries in Southeast Asia that have endured severe waves of infections, though vaccinations have helped quell the worst of outbreaks.

The fourth most populous nation with 274 million people, it has reported nearly 5 million cases and 145,622 deaths. In the past month, 690,518 new cases have been reported.

Indonesia is the world's 10th largest economy and is located in the fastest growing region at least before the pandemic swept the world, disrupting business and travel while killing nearly 6 million people.

Surging prices for food and energy are among the challenges the financial leaders confront as they discuss how to best nurture a global economic recovery, Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told G-20 participants.

Sensex, Nifty end lower in see-saw trade

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI):

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for a second day on Thursday after a volatile trade triggered by a selloff in banking shares.

After oscillating over 700 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended 104.67 points or 0.18 per cent lower at 57,892 points.

The NSE Nifty dropped 17.60 points or 0.10 per cent to settle the day at 17,304.60 marking its second straight session of loss.

The Sensex pull-back was mainly staged by constant selloffs in banking shares, led by ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank. Of the Sensex constituents, 19 shares suffered losses.



Bucking the broader trend, index heavyweights HDFC and RIL rose up to 1.71 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets ended mostly higher in line with positive Wall Street after Federal Reserve policymakers indicated they are leaning toward more decisive action on inflation but set no firm targets.

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.2% to 7,590.34 and Frankfurt's DAX advanced 0.2% to 15,397.44.

The CAC 40 in Paris gained 0.4% to 6,991.50.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.3% to 3,474.98 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.3% to 24,793.12.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo shed 0.2% to 27,395.85 after January exports rose by a weaker-than-expected 9.6% over a year earlier. The Kospi in Seoul advanced 1.4%.

Global crude oil benchmark Brent Futures fell 0.86 per cent to USD 93.99 per barrel on Thursday.

Vi demonstrates 5G Voice over NR

Mumbai, Feb 17:

India's leading telecom operator, Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) has announced that it has successfully demonstrated 5G Voice over New Radio (VoNR) with its technology partner, Nokia, during the ongoing 5G Trials in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Once deployed, the VoNR solution will enable Vi to offer its subscribers high-definition voice experience over 5G, as well as several advanced voice applications and use cases in the future.

Vi is conducting 5G Trials on Govt. allocated 5G spectrum in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

and Pune in Maharashtra. The VoNR trial was done on Nokia's comprehensive portfolio of solutions including its AirScale 5G RAN, 5G Core and IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) voice core. Once commercially deployed, the solution can provide superior user experience on a reliable, low latency network, as it uses the 5G network for both voice and data services.

According to Jagbir Singh, CTO, Vodafone Idea Limited, "We are testing technology solutions for offering superior network experience and use cases of relevance to digital enterprises and consumers, during our 5G Trials."

Kolkata, Feb 17 (PTI): Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI will explore the use of blockchain technology in auditing, its new president Debashis Mitra said. Technology will be a major focus of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) as it not only disrupts but will also creates opportunities, Mitra told PTI. "Artificial intelligence and blockchain technology will be the focus among the emerging technologies. We will explore how blockchain can be used in auditing," he said. Mitra said the ICAI's decision to mandate a peer review mechanism for certain categories of firms rendering assurance services to specific classes of entities will go a long way in enhancing the audit quality. The implementation will begin in a phased manner from April 1 with practice



Rupee slips 7 paise at 75.11 against USD, gold climbs Rs 513

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI):

The rupee declined by 7 paise to close at 75.11 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday as geopolitical tensions pushed investors towards safe-haven assets.

Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows and elevated crude oil prices too weakened the rupee. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.94 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.18 against the greenback.

The local unit was quoted at 75.11 at close, down 7 paise from the previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength

Ariel launched their new campaign #Share The Load

Mumbai, Feb 17:

Over the last 7 years, Ariel India has continuously sparked conversations around the unequal division of domestic chores within households and urging more and more men to #ShareTheLoad. In the spirit of keeping this conversation going and furthering the cause of equality within households, Ariel launched the #SeeEqual film, to inaugurate the 5th edition of ShareTheLoad.

By raising a pertinent question - "if men can share the load equally with other men, why are they not doing it with their wives?", Ariel is urging men to be equal partners playing Equal roles. Because when we see equal, we #ShareTheLoad.

During the lockdown, everyone got confined to their homes which transformed into offices, schools, playgrounds overnight. So many men took to household chores actively and proudly - be it cleaning, cooking or laundry. And while this trend faded as the pandemic eased out, it established that men are open to change and can take up chores when needed. Additionally, a new study by an independent third party revealed a startling fact - 73% men agreed that they did their share of household chores when they were staying with other men or roommates. So, if men have taken responsibility of chores in the past, what stops them from doing this as partners?

Ariel's new film - See Equal raises this pertinent question to men. The reason for this disparity could be many but it was alarming to find that 80% women believe their partners know how to do household tasks but choose not to do them.

The same men, who chose to take up household chores when living with other men, are not doing their share of work in the house with their wives. This 'choice' signaled a mindset issue arising from years of unconscious bias, and 83% women felt that men don't see women as equal when it comes to housework.



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The same men, who chose to take up household chores when living with other men, are not doing their share of work in the house with their wives. This 'choice' signaled a mindset issue arising from years of unconscious bias, and 83% women felt that men don't see women as equal when it comes to housework.

Sarthak Metals Limited announced its Q3FY22 Results

Revenue from Operations at Rs 107 crores, EBITDA at Rs 11 crores, PAT at Rs 7 crores

New Delhi, Feb 17: SML, one of India's leading manufacturer of cored wires and aluminium flipping coils, that find application in the metallurgical industry. The Revenue from Operations stood at an all-time high of Rs 106.8 Crore in Q3FY22, an increase of 81% YoY. EBITDA (excluding Other Incomes) stood at Rs 10.8 Crores in Q3FY22, an increase of 75% YoY and 42% sequentially.

ICAI to explore use of blockchain tech in auditing

Kolkata, Feb 17 (PTI): Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI will explore the use of blockchain technology in auditing, its new president Debashis Mitra said. Technology will be a major focus of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) as it not only disrupts but will also creates opportunities, Mitra told PTI. "Artificial intelligence and blockchain technology will be the focus among the emerging technologies. We will explore how blockchain can be used in auditing," he said. Mitra said the ICAI's decision to mandate a peer review mechanism for certain categories of firms rendering assurance services to specific classes of entities will go a long way in enhancing the audit quality. The implementation will begin in a phased manner from April 1 with practice



units that have undertaken a statutory audit of enterprises, having equity or debt securities listed in India. Over the next three years, the rollout would steadily cover firms providing assurance services to unlisted companies. Mitra said the institute's recently-launched Audit Quality Maturity Model Version 1.0 (AQMM v1.0) will help sole proprietors and audit firms to

self-evaluate their current level of audit maturity, identify areas where competencies are lacking and develop a roadmap for achieving a higher level of maturity. "ICAI is committed to being a partner in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda and strengthen the sustainability reporting ecosystem in the country," he said.

Housing financiers' bad loans jump by 70 bps

■ Following new asset quality norms

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI):

Since the introduction of new asset quality norms last November that brought in shadow banks and housing financiers on par with banks, housing finance companies' gross bad loans have gone up by 70 basis points (bps) even as their portfolio quality has improved, according to a report. The bad loan pile is expected to stabilise by the end of this quarter, Crisil Ratings said in the report. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 12, 2021, introduced tighter asset quality reporting norms for all lenders, which brought in housing financiers and non-banking financial



companies (NBFCs) on par with commercial banks. Though the new norms had to be implemented by December 31, 2021, by all, earlier this week, the monetary authority extended the timeline for NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) till September 30, 2022. While affordable housing companies have seen a 140-bp spike in gross non-performing assets, other housing finance companies saw their gross NPAs rising to 3.3 per cent by December 31, 2021, up from three per cent in September 2021.

India gets 10 bids for 8 oil, gas blocks in latest bid round

■ Exploration rights are offered on all retained areas

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

As many as four companies, including three state-owned, put in 10 bids for the eight oil and gas blocks on offer in India's latest round of bidding for exploration acreage, according to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

Total six out of the eight blocks on offer got single bids while there were two bidders for the remaining area, DGH said in a summary of bids received on blocks that were offered in the seventh bid round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). State-



owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) bid for five out of the eight blocks or areas offered for exploring and producing oil and gas, while Oil India Ltd (OIL) was the only bidder for the two blocks it made an offer for. GAIL

was the sole bidder for the lone block on offer from Rajasthan. ONGC was the sole bidder in three of the blocks and had Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd for competition in two others, according to DGH.

The eight blocks offered in OALP-VII were spread over six sedimentary basins, 5 states covering 15,766 square kilometre area. While five blocks are onland type, two are shallow water-type and one block is ultra deep-water type. The previous bid round, OALP-VI, too had attracted just three bidders, two being ONGC and OIL. Out of the 21 blocks or areas that were offered for exploration and production of oil and gas in OALP-VI, 18 got single bids.

Housing prices up 3-7% in top 8 cities, sales rise 13%

New Delhi, Jan 17 (PTI):

Housing prices increased in the range of 3-7 per cent last year across eight major cities due to rise in rates of construction raw materials like cement and steel, according to property brokerage firm PropTiger.com.

In its report 'Real Insight Residential - Annual Round-up 2021', PropTiger.com, which is owned by Australia's REA group, housing sales increased 13 per cent in 2021, to 2,05,936 units from 1,82,639 units in the previous year.

The new launches of housing units rose 75 per cent to 2.14 lakh units in 2021 compared to 1.22 lakh units in the preceding year.

Nepal to become first country to deploy UPI platform

Nepal has a population of about 3 crore



New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Thursday. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the services in Nepal. GPS is the authorised payment system operator in Nepal and Manam Infotech will deploy Unified

Payments Interface (UPI) in that country. The collaboration will serve the larger digital public good in Nepal and bolster interoperable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in the neighbouring country, NPCI said in a statement. "Nepal shall be the first country outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform driving the digitalization of cash transactions and furthering the vision and objectives of the Nepal Government and Nepal Rastra Bank as the Central bank," it said. This collaboration will enable the last-mile consumers in Nepal to reap the benefits of an open interoperable payments system driving immediate payment transfers between bank accounts and merchant payments in real-time.

CEPA to unleash India-UAE economic potential



Dubai, Feb 17 (PTI): The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, to be signed during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, is a path-breaking pact which will unleash the economic potential between India and the UAE, Indian Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir said on Thursday. The CEPA is likely to boost trade between India and the UAE from USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion in the next five years, Ambassador Sudhir told PTI on the eve of the virtual summit.

Sharon Stone: 'Basic Instinct' gave me a backbone

Hollywood star Sharon Stone says she learned "how to have a spine" after her iconic role in the 1992 movie 'Basic Instinct'.

Stone told Instyle: "I was 32 when I got the part of Catherine Tramell in 'Basic Instinct'. It was probably as late as you could be in your career without a big break. But from the moment I read the script, I knew I was the right person for the role. It was an intellectually complex part, and I

felt like I had a real grasp on it."

Stone, who only made \$500,000 on the picture while her co-star Michael Douglas took home \$14 million, and made sure she was given the option to "keep the clothes" in her contract, female-first.co.uk.

She said: "People thought I was crazy, but the truth is I wasn't getting paid much compared to my male co-star, so keeping my costumes was a really smart thing

to do."

The 'Catwoman' star said that she was asked to lose her knickers before filming the movie's famous interrogation scene as it was "reflecting the light".

Stone said: "The cinematographer told me that they couldn't see anything. In those days, the monitors were much less sophisticated than they are now, so even when they played it back for me, I didn't see any issues."

However, Sharon didn't realise that people could see up her skirt and thinks it would have been "much fairer and more reasonable" if someone had run it by her before it was filmed.

She said: "It would've been a much fairer and more reasonable thing for them to have shown it to me alone first, but it was a part of the movie, and I'm sure they didn't want some new actress overreacting and telling them what to do."

Star Plus to launch a new Reality Show 'Smart Jodi'

Known for its popular fiction shows with differential story-telling, Star Plus reaches out to millions of people every day with its powerful content. This refreshing new show will showcase Celebrity Couples from different fields — acting, dancing, cricket, music, and choreography on one common stage. The show will witness some of the craziest moments on Indian television as the celebrity couples compete for the title of 'Smart Jodi'.

Produced by Frames Production, this fun reality show will have 12 to 15 couples in the show. Two of the couples' names have already been finalized - Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin fame actor Neil Bhatt and wife actress Aishwarya Sharma, and Rahul Mahajan and wife Natalya Ilina.

Sharing the exclusive information, a source close to the show said, "There will be a host and



a co-host. They have approached many names. One is Ayushmaan Khurrana, the others are Riteish Deshmukh and Manish Paul. They are in the process of locking one name. They are currently working on money, dates and other details.

Besides the host, many couples have been approached to participate on the show as contestants." The show has a lot in store for audiences in the coming day! So gear up to watch a new-age reality show only on your fav channel - Star Plus!

Sanjay Kapoor opens up on reuniting with Madhuri

Sanjay Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit Nene made for one of the most popular and loved on screen couples in the '90s Bollywood. The duo first appeared together in Raja in 1995 and then again in Mohabbat in 1997. People still listen to and groove to the songs of theirs like 'Ankhiyan Milaon' and 'Nazrein Mili Dil Dhadka'. And now, 25 years later, the duo is coming back together on screen in the Netflix web show The Fame Game, and the trailer of the series released which is garnering a lot of praise for their undeniable chemistry.

The Fame Game shows the flip side of the glitz and glamour in Bollywood by following the story of a starlet, Anamika Anand, played by Madhuri, and the price she has to pay for being a part of this world. Sanjay is excited to be reuniting with Madhuri and insists that it brings back such good memories. Working with Madhuri has always been a pleasure and a delight. We have been a part of a blockbuster like Raja and getting back together for The Fame Game felt like



it was just yesterday we were shooting for the former. While shooting the show we discussed and relived so many fond memories and stories of our time in the '90s and the chemistry between us

just came naturally. The audience will see that too," he promises

Produced by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment Pvt Ltd, The Fame Game is directed by Bejoy Nambiar and

Karishma Kohli, and written by Sri Rao. The series also features Manav Kaul, Lakshvir Saran and Muskaan Jafari and will start streaming on Netflix from February 25th, 2022.

Saqib Saleem kicks off last schedule of 'Crackdown 2' in Kashmir

Actor Saqib Saleem who plays the character of Riyaz Pathan in the new season of espionage thriller 'Crackdown' is excited to start the last schedule of the show in Kashmir.

Talking about shooting in the valley Saqib who was last seen in the cricket drama film '83' said, "Kashmir is paradise on earth and getting an opportunity to shoot here is a dream come true. The team is all set to shoot the sequences that demanded great preparation. The energy and tranquillity of this beautiful state are inspiring. I'm happy to be here."

Saqib will be seen in the series along with Shriya Pilgaonkar, Mohammed Iqbal Khan, Ankur Bhatia, Rajesh Tailang, Waluscha De Sousa and Ekavali Khanna. The story of the series revolves around spies sparing no effort to protect the nation from an impending threat.



The shooting for the sequel of 'Drishyam' starring Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn has commenced. Abhishek Pathak is set to direct the next chapter in this franchise.

Talking about coming back with 'Drishyam 2', Ajay shares: "Drishyam" was loved and it's a legend. I am now elated to present yet another interesting story with 'Drishyam 2'. Vijay is a multidimensional character and he creates an engaging narrative on-screen. Abhishek Pathak (director) has a fresh vision for this film. I'm keenly looking forward to part 2, filling in the large shoes of the earlier film with people investing in the mystery and the characters."

'Drishyam 2' has commenced its shoot in Mumbai with Ajay Devgn and will be extensively shot in Goa in the following months. 'Drishyam 2' will also feature the star cast of the first film including Tabu, Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta amongst others.

The film begins seven years after the events in the first film and tests Vijay's resolve to protect his family for whom he



would cross any limits. This movie aims to provide justice to the 'crime-thriller' genre in every way possible.

Taking over the director's seat for the film, Pathak shares: "Making an official remake of a successful franchise film is an honour and a challenge. An opportunity to work along with Ajay Devgn, who is such a powerhouse of talent is a morale-booster for any creative person; his unique influence is undoubtedly the most enriching experience for me personally."

"It's exciting to retell a story from your own perspective and vision by divergent visuals in the most justified yet extraordinary way. The setting and the mood of the film

uplifts the very essence of the crux making it gripping from the very beginning."

Kumar Mangat Pathak, Chairman and Managing Director, Panorama Studios, says, "Being able to remake Drishyam 2 with Ajay Devgn and with Abhishek helming the film gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment."

Bhushan Kumar, T-Series chairman, says: "Ajay Devgn's powerpack performance and prowess in Drishyam definitely captivated the audiences. Retaining the zest, we are delighted to begin filming its sequel that will take this franchise a notch higher as the audiences will witness double suspense, double mystery, double drama."

HOROSCOPE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one. Ganesha says you deserve a pat on the back for being so devoted to family.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesha.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesha says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasure purposes. It may be a busy day for you work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues. Try your luck in the stock market today, as it may prove beneficial to you.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This day you will be prone to be stubborn and uncompromising in your business and professional dealings and thereby inviting unnecessary problems. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency and conduct yourself cordially and amiably with your colleagues and clients.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesha. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesha feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesha has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You will try to take up new projects to be the best of your abilities today. You will be able to successfully tackle all your tasks today. You will face a little instability in your personal relationships, but will be able to solve all issues successfully, says Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Work is likely to keep you on toes. At work place, you and your opinions will be in demand. Those who are associated with stock exchange and shares will be happy to gain profits during the afternoon. Wait and watch the end result in the evening.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesha.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Today you will feel monetarily much stronger than you have ever felt, says Ganesha. You will realise the need to make monetary arrangements for some unforeseen financial instability that may occur in the future. Your leadership qualities will be appreciated by people around you. Ganesha warns that there may be wild fluctuations in monetary transactions.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Opportunities don't knock on the door twice. Today, you'll answer the door and utilise the opportunity to the most, predicts Ganesha. Positive results will be visible and you'll stand a chance to overtake your competitors. Even if the competition is fierce and opponents try everything to pull you down, you'll not let them win the battle.

CROSSWORD

217



ACROSS

- Golfer's woe
- Sleeping
- Gels
- Fastened shoestrings
- Surrealism's Salvador
- Prepare copy
- Alter
- Papa's mate
- Hero shop
- James Bond's drink
- Nastier

- German, e.g.
- Pierce
- Religious beliefs
- Baked dessert
- Feeble, as an excuse
- Pittsburgh football team
- Musical instrument
- Following
- Mr. Gershwin et al.
- Burrito ingredient
- Location
- Garden implement

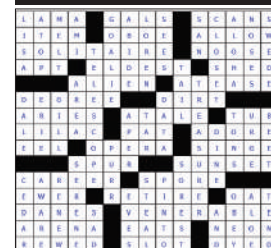
- President Ronald
- Tavern drinks
- Traded goods
- Emphasize
- Of the seashore
- Loud noise
- Conception
- Conceal
- Auto type
- Biblical locale
- Flooring square
- Bustle
- Lighten
- Visible to the audience
- Sampras of tennis
- Laziness
- Forbidden
- Love (Italian)

DOWN

- Close noisily
- Dalai
- Bakery worker
- Copper coin
- Murphy of "Beverly Hills Cop"
- Respect
- Sheep's cry
- Stately tree
- Twice the radius
- Auto type
- Biblical locale
- Flooring square
- Bustle
- Lighten
- Visible to the audience
- Sampras of tennis
- Laziness
- Forbidden
- Love (Italian)

- Borscht ingredient
- Hazard
- Incensed
- Curvy letters
- "Mona"
- Warning
- Tire mishap
- Iraq's neighbor
- Pinball parlor
- "The Matrix" hero
- French cap
- Risked
- Tentacles
- Chicken's home
- Guitar device
- Shopper's delight
- Quarrel
- India's continent
- Gave temporarily
- Bad grade
- Poet's eternity

SOLUTION 216



Team management clear with Shreyas that it wants all-round option: Rohit Sharma



Indian cricket team head coach Rahul Dravid with team batting coach Vikram Rathour and team captain Rohit Sharma, during a training session.

Kolkata: Shreyas Iyer might have been the third biggest buy at the IPL auction but to fit into India's T20 combination, he would need to showcase all-round skills as that's what the team is looking for in the middle-order slot, skipper Rohit Sharma has said. Wednesday was a mixed bag for Shreyas. Around evening, Kolkata Knight Riders unveiled the worst kept secret in the IPL universe by announcing their Rs 12.25 crore recruit as franchise captain for 2022. By 6:30 pm, however, it was clear that the former Delhi Capitals and new KKR captain isn't fitting into the specialist batter category in Team India for the T20 game against West Indies. "Someone like Shreyas Iyer is sitting out, very hard on him to be out and not making it to the XI, but it's what the team requires."

Ostwal not sure of getting a chance in DC XI but ready to learn

New Delhi: Picked by Delhi Capitals in the IPL auction, India's U-19 World Cup lead spinner Vicky Ostwal is unlikely to get many chances in the upcoming edition of the T20 league but he is looking ahead to learn from his seniors in his maiden season. DC bought left-arm spinner Ostwal for Rs 20 lakh at the IPL 2022 mega auction in Bengaluru on Sunday. "Not sure that I might get a chance or not get a chance to play, but learning will always be there. Sharing the stage with some of the great players will be huge learning for me," Ostwal said in a video posted on IPL website.

Sania-Hradecka pair enters semifinals



Dubai: Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka progressed to the semifinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships with a straight set win over Japan's Shuko Aoyama and Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia here on Thursday. Sania and Hradecka, who had received a wild card for the tournament, claimed a 7-5 6-3 win over the Japanese-Serbian combination in the quarterfinals of the WTA 500 tournament. The Indo-Czech pair will face the winner of the match between top seeds Japan's Ena Shibahara and China's Shuai Zhang and Ukraine's Lyudmyla Kichenok and Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia. Sania is a past winner here, having lifted the title in 2013 with USA's Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Rahm voted European tour's player of the year for 2nd time

Virginia: Jon Rahm was voted as the European tour's player of the year for the second time in three seasons on Wednesday. The top-ranked Spaniard won the 2021 award after a year in which he captured his first major the U.S. Open and spent 27 weeks at No. 1. Rahm was also Europe's leading points scorer at the Ryder Cup, with 3 from his five matches, and had top-eight finishes in the other three majors. Rahm, the tour's player of the year in 2019, too, received the newly named Seve Ballesteros Award after a vote by his fellow professionals. It is very unique to be recognized by your peers like this, Rahm said. It is a true honor to be able to win this award for a second time."

I tried to not give them room to free their arms: Bishnoi



Kolkata: Young India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi says he just focussed on bowling stump to stump and not give any room to the West Indies power-hitters to free their arms during his dream debut in the opening T20I here. Bishnoi snapped up two wickets for 17 runs in his quota of four overs in his maiden international match on Wednesday as India registered a six-wicket win over West Indies to take a 1-0 lead in the series. "The planning was to bowl on right line and length, the plan was not to give the batters much room because if they are able to free their arms then they can hit hard," Bishnoi told fellow leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in a video posted by BCCI. "They are one of the best T20 sides, so I just tried to bowl stump to stumps and not give room and in the process I ended up bowling 5-6 wides as well." Handed the India cap by Chahal, the 21-year-old dismissed Roston Chase and Rovman Powell in one over to derail the West Indies in the middle overs.

Henry takes 7-23 as NZ bowls out Proteas for 95 in 1st test

Christchurch, Feb 17 (AP):

When Matt Henry woke up in his Christchurch hotel room Thursday it was to a day of warm promise. He was about to play his 15th test match for New Zealand in a stop-start career of seven years and to do it in his hometown in front of friends and family.

He looked forward as a new-ball bowler to the chance of bowling first on a green seaming pitch at Hagley Oval. All he needed was for his captain Tom Latham to win the toss.

Latham did for the first time in a half-dozen matches as New Zealand captain. A little more than four hours later Henry had taken career-best figures of 7-23 and South Africa had been bowled out for 95, its lowest score against New Zealand.

The high promise of the morning had been thoroughly fulfilled.

Henry had raced through the South Africa order, taking three wickets before lunch to leave the Proteas 44-4, then four more including two with consecutive deliveries in the second session before the innings ended in the 50th over, well before tea.

By stumps on the first



day of the first test, New Zealand was 116-3, leading by 21. Henry Nicholls was 37 not out, the highest score of a first day on which 13 wickets fell, and South Africa-born Neil Wagner, the nightwatch-

man, was 2.

Nicholls shared a vital 75-run partnership with Devon Conway for the second wicket which steered New Zealand into the lead. Conway, also South Africa-born and playing against

his countrymen for the first time, was out for 36 just before stumps.

New Zealand went into the match with a patchwork batting lineup in the absence of captain Kane Williamson who is still laid low by an elbow injury and Ross Taylor, who retired last month from test matches.

Williamson and Taylor jointly represent almost 15,000 runs, 198 tests and 43 centuries. It was 2008 when New Zealand last played played without the two of them in the lineup.

New Zealand held all its chances as Nicholls assembled his seven-wicket haul. He took advantage of the tentative play of the South Africa batsman on a green pitch, pitching short of a length and close to off stump, forcing batsmen to play at deliveries which seamed away. Six of his victims were caught behind the wicket and one was lbw.

Henry was only called into the New Zealand team on Wednesday to replace Trent Boult who is on paternity leave. His appearances for New Zealand have been sporadic since his debut in 2015 and he was determined to make the best of his chance on his home ground.

We were caught in two minds against Indian spinners: Pooran



Kolkata, Feb 17 (PTI):

West Indies batters were caught in two minds while tackling Indian spinners during the opening T20I, said vice-captain Nicholas Pooran, urging the batting unit to make "minor adjustments" to come good in the next two games of the three-match series.

Opener Kyle Mayers gave West Indies a good start as they reached 44 for one in the first six overs but Indian

spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and debutant Ravi Bishnoi grabbed three wickets between them to derail the visitors in the middle overs and restrict them to 157 for 7 at Eden Gardens.

"We felt 10-15 runs short to be honest. A total 170-75 would have been a good score on this track. We can't really fault the bowlers. As batters we needed to play a bit smarter," Pooran said at the post-match media interaction here. Urging their batters to buck up, he said: "Again it's our batting (that needs to improve). We played the spinners fairly okay today. We just want to continue to build partnerships. We just need to negate the spinners a bit better. "Today we were in two minds whether to attack them or keep them out of the game and we got caught in two minds there. So small fixes and minor adjustments needed to be done. We just need to be a bit more creative in the next game and execute our plans well." Pooran said that dew played a key role as batting second under heavy dew made it easier for the Indians, who coasted to a six-wicket win to go 1-0 up in the series.

"It (dew) was a big factor obviously. If you look at the game then you see the bowlers struggling to grip the ball in the last five overs. I think the wicket played better in the second half of the game," he said.

Indian men claim 3-2 win over Hong Kong, keep hopes alive at Badminton Asia Championship

Shah Alam, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Indian men's team, led by world championship bronze medalist Lakshya Sen, secured a 3-2 win over Hong Kong in group A to keep its slim hopes alive of making the knockout stage at the Badminton Asia Team Championships here on Thursday.

The crushing 0-5 defeat against Korea in their opening match has made life difficult for India as they are currently at the third spot in group A, just above Hong Kong, with one win and one loss. Three-time defending champions Indonesia and Korea are currently ahead in the race to qualify from group A.

India Open winner Lakshya Sen, Mithun Manjunath and doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Rethinasabapathi Kumar gave a good account of themselves during the five-

match rubber.

World no 13 Lakshya started the proceedings, thrashing world no 17 Lee Cheuk Yiu, a silver medalist at 2013 Asian Youth Games, 21-19 21-10 in 35 minutes to give India a good start.

Hong Kong took control of the match with Law Cheuk Him and Lee Chun Hei Reginald notching up a thrilling 20-22 21-15 21-18 win over Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam.

Kiran George, who won his maiden Super 100 event at Odisha, put up a spirited show before losing 13-21 21-17 9-21 to Chan Yin Chak as Hong Kong led 2-0 after three matches.

Hariharan and Ruban, who had won the all-India senior ranking badminton tournament in Chennai in December last year, got the better off Hong Kong's Chow Hin Long and Lui Chun Wai 21-17 21-16 to keep India afloat.

Firmino, Salah give Liverpool 2-0 win at Inter Milan in CL

Milan, Feb 17 (AP):



Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (L) goes for a header next to Inter Milan's Italian defender Alessandro Bastoni during the UEFA Champions League first leg football match.

whose cross into the penalty area was nodded down by Virgil van Dijk. Salah was primed unmarked centrally to produce a shot that deflected past goalkeeper Samir Handanovic for his 10th goal in his last 12 Champions League appearances. By securing a fourth successive away win in Europe for the first time since 2006, the 2019

Champions League winners gained a crucial cushion to take back to Anfield for the second leg next month. I think we both took a lot of risk in the pressing, Van Dijk told CBS. It's about the hard fight, the battle when you have the ball be brave, make the right decisions and keep it tight at the back.

Time has come to drop Harmanpreet: Edulji



New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

Harmanpreet Kaur "can't survive in the team" on the 171 she scored in the 2017 World Cup and it is time to drop her starting with the third ODI against New Zealand, said former India captain Diana Edulji. Edulji also wants to drop Shafali Verma for the next game with Smriti Mandhana expected to return after completing quarantine. In the star player's absence, S Meghana has made an impact while Shafali continues to struggle in the 50-over format since making her debut last year. Harmanpreet has made only two 50 plus scores since the 2017 World Cup in England where India reached the final. The 32-year-old had fitness issues last year but after an impressive WBBL, she was expected to replicate that performance at the highest level.

Mandhana set to bolster batting in must-win game



Queenstown, Feb 17 (PTI):

Staring at another series defeat, a struggling India will welcome the return of star opener Smriti Mandhana for the third women's ODI against New Zealand here on Friday.

Mandhana, the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year, had exited mandatory quarantine in Christchurch to join the squad ahead of second ODI but needed a few days to get match ready. Pacers Renuka Singh and Meghna Singh are also available for selection after completing their

quarantine. Lead pacer Jhulan Goswami, who had to miss the second game due to a neck spasm, is also expected to play on Friday.

Though Mandhana's return will be very much welcomed, India did not lose the previous game due to their batting. The bowlers let the team down as they were unable to defend a competitive 271-run target. Goswami's absence was also felt as only 10 overs of pace was used with Pooja Vastrakar bowling seven overs and debutant Simran Bahadur three.

PRACTICING FOR GRAND EVENT



Artists during a practice session of Folk Safar, a three day event promoting artists from Bengal, in Kolkata, Thursday.

'No partial approval be given to universities for running certain technical courses'

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided that that no partial approval of technical courses will be given to universities in order to avoid confusion among stakeholders, according to officials.

"All affiliated institutions running technical education programmes require prior approval of AICTE. However, it has been observed that some of the central, state and private universities are taking partial approval of AICTE for some selected courses and programmes and is creating confusion among the stakeholders," said AICTE Member Secretary Rajive Kumar.

SC to HCs

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday advised the High Courts not to make general observations that are not warranted in the case. A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said the High Courts shall refrain from making sweeping observations that are beyond the contours of the controversy involved.

We advise the High Courts not to make general observations which are not warranted in the case. The High Courts shall re-

frain from making sweeping observations which are beyond the contours of the controversy and/or issues before them, the bench said. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi high court order.

Bharat Fritz Werner Limited had assailed before the high court, the Letter of Acceptance issued by the Union of India in its favour in respect of the award of the tender.

The high court had declined to interfere in the proceedings and disposed of the writ petition re-

serving liberty in favour of the original writ petitioner to raise all its pleas and claim the reliefs available to him at this stage in an appropriate civil proceeding.

It, however, had made certain observations against which the Centre moved the top court for expunging those remarks. The apex court said that the observations made by the High Court were absolutely unwarranted.

The High Court was not deciding a Public Interest Litigation. The High Court did not even decide the writ petition on merits. On the contrary, in the

earlier paragraph, it was observed that it had not gone into the merits of the writ petitioner's claim or the respondent's defence, the bench said.

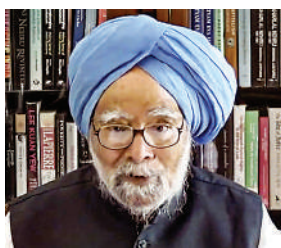
The top court said that general observations should have been avoided by the High Court and it ought to have restricted itself to the controversy between the parties before it.

Even otherwise, on the basis of a solitary case, general observations could not have been made by the High Court that the Indian bidders are being discriminated against, the bench said.

'Rather than admitting mistakes, BJP govt blaming Nehru for people's problems'

Chandigarh, Feb 17 (PTI):

The BJP had been in power for more than seven years and was still blaming first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the problems of the people, former prime minister and Congress leader Manmohan Singh said on Thursday in a scathing attack against the Modi-led government. Targeting the central government on a host of issues, including the farmers' agitation, foreign policy, price rise and unemployment, Singh said ahead of the Punjab elections on February 20 that the BJP's nationalism was "fake" and was based on the British policy of "divide and rule". The



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the people of Punjab via a video link, ahead of the Assembly polls.

Congress played the message delivered in Punjabi at a press conference here. According to Singh, the government had proved to be a "complete failure" on the issue of foreign policy. The Chinese army, he alleged,

was occupying "our pious land for the last one year but efforts are being made to bury this issue". "Our relations with neighbouring nations are also deteriorating," Singh said. Further targeting the Centre on foreign policy matters, Singh said, "Old friends are constantly alienating from us, while our relations with neighbouring countries are also deteriorating." "I hope that now the ruling dispensation has come to understand that the relations of the countries do not improve by forcefully embracing the leaders, playing on a swing with them or going for uninvited biryani," he said, in a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Centre keeps Polavaram 'stop work' order in abeyance

Amaravati, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Centre on Wednesday kept the stop work order, related to Polavaram multipurpose project, in abeyance till July 2, 2023. In February 2011, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the stop work order asking the Andhra Pradesh government to stall all works on Polavaram project, following objections raised by neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Odisha governments.

After Polavaram has been declared a national project, the then Telugu Desam Party government pre-

vailed upon the Centre and got stop work order kept in abeyance for a year from June 2015. Subsequently, the Union Ministry had been extending the abeyance period annually. The extension period ended on July 2, 2021 but works on the projects have been continuing unhindered. Based on a fresh request from the state government and also the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, the Environment and Forest Ministry issued an order on Wednesday keeping the stop work order in abeyance for a further period of two years (from July 2, 2021) since Polavaram is a national project.

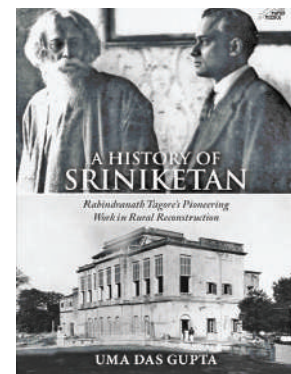
'History of Sriniketan'

Book throws light on Tagore's work for rural reconstruction

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

A new book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922. The book, "A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction", is written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta.

It is published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint. "Rabindranath referred to his rural work as his 'life's



work' in the introduction of the book. Tagore's work in 'village reconstruction' at Sriniketan is not as widely known as his work at Santiniketan, popularly known today as a university town. The idea of doing something to redeem the neglected village came to Tagore when he first went to live in his family's agricultural estates in East Bengal during the 1890s.

His endeavour was to improve the condition of the peasantry by using scientific methods of cultivation through laboratory experiments where the expert and the peasant collectively participated.

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BRIEF



Son Bappa of music composer Bappi Lahiri performs his last rites, in Mumbai, Thursday.

Donate

■ **Tirupati(AP):** A 76-year-old female devotee from Chennai has posthumously made an offering of Rs 9.2 crore to the ancient hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara near here. On behalf of the spinster, Parvatham, who passed away, her sister handed over documents of immovable property valued at Rs.6 crore along with a demand draft for Rs 3.2 crore to TTD Board Chairman YV Subba Reddy at the hill temple this morning, the temple official told PTI.

Technical snag

■ **New Delhi:** An Amritsar-bound Vistara aircraft, carrying 146 passengers, suffered a technical snag and returned to the Delhi airport soon after take off on Thursday. A Vistara spokesperson said a technical snag was detected on flight UK 697 operating from Delhi to Amritsar.

Suicide

■ **New Delhi:** A 23-year-old Army jawan hanged himself to death inside a guest-house in central Delhi's Paharganj area, police said on Thursday. Murari, who was in the Bihar regiment, checked into a guesthouse in Paharganj on Tuesday, they said. The jawan, hailing from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, was scheduled to check out of the guest-house in the evening, but when he did not open the door, the manager informed the police, officials said.

Mild quake

■ **Jammu:** A mild intensity earthquake with its epicentre in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra area shook the region on Thursday, an official said. The earthquake of magnitude 3.5 occurred at 3.02 am, the National Centre for Seismology said.

Weather	
	High 29 Low 15
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,304.60 ▼
SENSEX	57,892.01 ▼
BULLION	
GOLD	50,166
SILVER	63,590

TRAGIC INCIDENT

13 killed after falling into well

■ At marriage function

Kushinagar (UP), Feb 17 (PTI):

Loud cries echoed in non-descript Nebua Naurangia village of Kushinagar district on Thursday after 13 women and children, all girls, fell into a well during a marriage ritual and died.

The incident, in which at least 10 people were also injured, happened on Wednesday night when an iron grille they were sitting on broke, officials and family members said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have expressed grief over the incident. Parmeshwar Kushwaha, father of the groom, said the



Police and villagers stand near the well in which many women and children accidentally fell during a wedding ritual, at Nebua Naurangia village in Kushinagar district, Thursday.

pre-wedding ritual of "Matkorba" on the occasion of "Haldi" was in progress near an old and dilapidated well in the village, about 10 kilometres from the Kushinagar district headquarters, when tragedy struck.

Some women and children were sitting on the iron grille and it suddenly broke and they fell into the well, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said. Narrating the incident, Kushwaha said, "Actually the well is old and it was

covered with a slab. During the ritual, girls were standing on the slab when it broke and they all fell inside the well."

"It is heartbreaking, and I have decided that no procession will go with my son Amit Kushwaha for the wedding. Only the groom will go and get married in a very simple manner as we are not in the state to celebrate," he added.

The bodies were cremated in the village on Thursday. On getting information about the tragic incident, Inspector Girjesh Upadhaya reached the spot. Police personnel and villagers pulled out all 23 people who had fallen into the well and rushed them to a hospital. Thirteen of them

were declared dead by doctors, the officials said.

Senior administrative and police officials also reached the spot.

No one from Parmeshwar Kushwaha's family died in the incident. His granddaughter Payal fell into the well but was rescued.

"We were singing and dancing and suddenly the slab broke and within seconds we all fell in the well. I was drowning in the well but somehow I was rescued," a woman of the village said.

Ramesh Chaurasia lost his wife Mamta Devi. His brother's wife Shakuntala Devi and two-year-old daughter Pari Chaurasia are among the dead.

'Oppn parties don't even care for their voters'

Fatehpur (UP), Feb 17 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called the opposition parties "selfish" for opposing triple talaq, saying they don't think for the good of even those who vote for them.

"When the government made a law against triple talaq, then the whole 'kunba' (opposition) stood against it," the PM said addressing an election rally in UP's Fatehpur.

"I am surprised in which century they are living. They cannot think for the good of even those who are voting for them," the PM said, asking people if the opposition parties can be trusted.

"There used to be triple talaq even on small issues. Think about the father of a daughter who returns with one or two kids. What would they have to face. What a brother and mother faced when his sister or daughter returned from her in-laws' place," he said.

"But I am getting blessings of Muslim sisters and daughters all over the country as I have done a great job of saving their lives," the PM said referring to the triple talaq law, which was enacted by the Centre in 2019. Hitting out at the rival parties over dynasty politics, Modi said the dynasts of UP had termed the covid vaccine as the BJP's vaccine and they always question the country's achievements. In an apparent jibe



at the Samajwadi Party, Modi said, "The BJP government is giving free vaccine to the entire country but these 'parivarwadi' (dynasts) are saying this is BJP's vaccine."

"These 'parivarwadis' of UP never liked the might of the country and they question whatever good the country does," the PM alleged. Modi said only two entities are afraid of the vaccine-coronavirus and the ones who oppose it.

The PM also predicted the BJP win in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, saying people have made up their mind to celebrate Holi on March 10, referring to the day of counting.

The PM claimed that the support for the BJP is on the rise in the state.

"Your enthusiasm shows a glimpse of the next five phases," he told people at the rally referring to the remaining rounds of the UP polls.

Courts should not interfere in policy matters:SC

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday said that courts should not interfere in policy matters unless it is clearly discriminatory and arbitrary.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai said the courts should not get in the way of policy issues if it is shown that there is the application of intelligible differentia in the application of policy. It is trite that the Courts would be slow in interfer-

ing in the policy matters unless the policy is found to be palpably discriminatory and arbitrary. This court would not interfere with the policy decision when a State is in a position to point out that there is intelligible differentia in the application of policy and that such intelligible differentia has a nexus with the object sought to be achieved, the bench said. The top court was hearing an appeal against the judgement of the division bench of the Rajasthan High Court.

'Nehru's India' remark by Singapore PM unacceptable: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

India on Thursday took exception to the remarks by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong referring to criminal charges on Indian lawmakers, people familiar with the development said.

It is learnt that the issue was raised with the Singaporean High Commissioner at the Ministry of External Affairs.

"The remarks by the prime minister of Singapore were uncalled for. We are taking up the matter with the Singaporean side," said one of the people cited above.

The Singapore PM had invoked Jawaharlal Nehru while highlighting how democracy should work in the city-state during a debate in Parliament.

"Many political systems today would be quite unrecognisable to their founding leaders. Ben-Gurion's Israel has morphed into one which can barely form a government, despite four general elections in two years. Meanwhile, a stream of senior politicians and of-

Nehru continues to inspire world leaders: Cong

After Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong invoked Jawaharlal Nehru during a speech on democracy, the Congress on Thursday said while the country's first premier continues to inspire world leaders even today, PM Narendra Modi denigrates him inside and outside of Parliament. "Pandit Nehru's magnanimity continues to inspire world leaders even today. Pity the ones here at home who fail to have the vision to understand the exceptional leader he was," the Congress said on its Twitter handle.

Officials in Israel face a litany of criminal charges, some have gone to jail.

"While Nehru's India has become one where, according to media reports, almost half the MPs in the Lok Sabha have criminal charges pending against them, including charges of rape and murder. Though it is also said that many of these allegations are politically motivated," Lee said.

CBI questions ex-ABG Shipyard CMD

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The CBI has questioned former chairman and managing director of ABG Shipyard Ltd Rishi Agarwal in connection with its probe into the Rs 22,848 crore alleged banking fraud, the biggest such case registered by the central agency, officials said Thursday. Agarwal was examined recently, the officials said without giving details of exact date of his examination. The CBI swung into action after registering the FIR on February 7 on a complaint filed by SBI on August 25, 2020. The central probe agency has issued look out circulars against the accused in the case to prevent them from leaving the country, the officials said. The agency has also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company ABG International Pvt Ltd for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

Govt dismisses media reports on 'undercounting' of Covid deaths

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Union health ministry on Thursday dismissed media reports based on a published research paper alleging that India's COVID-19 mortality count is much higher than the official figure, which is "fallacious and completely inaccurate".

The ministry said the country has a robust system of reporting deaths, including those caused by COVID-19, and the data is compiled regularly at different levels of governance, starting from the gram panchayat level to the district level and the state level. "The reporting of deaths is regularly done in a transparent manner.

All deaths are compiled by the Centre after being independently reported by states and UTs.

"To project that COVID deaths have been under-reported is without basis and devoid of justification," the ministry said in a statement. There have been some media reports based on a published research paper alleging that the Covid mortality count in India is much higher than the official figure and the actual numbers have been undercounted, it said.

The study estimates that the Covid death toll in the country till early November 2021 was between 32 lakh and 37 lakh, as compared to the official figure of 4.6 lakh.

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* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

FOR THE FIRST TIME

Collector 'Jan Darshan' conducted in Orchha

Narayanpur, Feb 17:

In a first, a collector 'Jan Darshan' was organized today in one of the worst Maoist-affected Orchha region of Narayanpur district to ensure last mile delivery of government schemes and quick redressal of problems of villagers in this tribal-dominated area.

During the programme, district collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi heard the grievances of public besides immediately providing them benefits of various welfare schemes being run by the state government. The dynamic working style of newly appointed collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi is the talk of the town. His decision of going even to the remotest areas of the district to hear the grievances of tribals has started yielding positive results. The move has proven to be effective in build-



ing trust among tribals towards government. Instructions have been given to the officials concerned to work at the development block headquarters for 3 days a week. Besides, on the market day, the sub-divisional officer (revenue) will also sit for one day in a week. This is being done to ensure that people are not deprived of getting benefits of any scheme of the state government. Officials

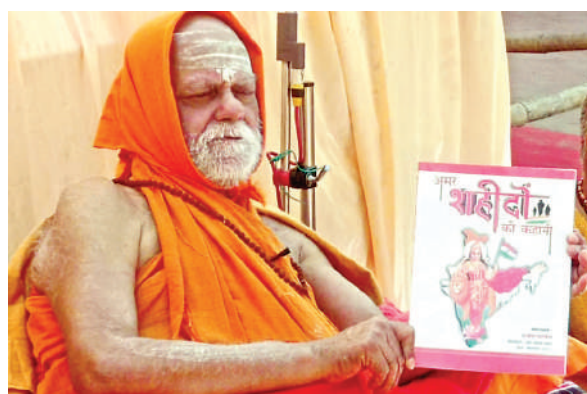
informed that the decision to hold Jan Darshan today was taken keeping in view that today is market day and tribals and villagers from nearby areas gather in large numbers to purchase their daily need stuffs. Abujmad of Narayanpur district is the same area, which still remains a mystery to the country and the world. During the 'Jan Darshan', applications were

received from 165 villagers from far-flung areas regarding solar pump installation, land leveling, construction of ponds and 'dabri' under MNREGA, correction in ration card, Aadhar card registration and correction in Aadhar card, pension, and employment. In addition applications were also received regarding electricity and drinking water issues, road, bridge-culvert, drain,

Ayushman card, caste, income and residence certificates and certificate for people with disabilities. Meanwhile, materials and certificates were distributed by various departments to more than 500 beneficiaries in the programme. This includes distribution of moong Seed Minikit by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, labor registration card and sewing machine by Labor Department; horticulture toolkit, vegetable Seed Minikit and saplings of fruit-bearing plants by Horticulture Department, new ration card and correction of ration card by Food Department, complementary animal feed by Veterinary Department, maize Seed Minikit and medicine distribution by Agriculture Department, 5 HP solar pump by CREDA, caste and residence certificate by Tehsil Orchha and distribution of assistive devices to elderly by the Social Welfare Department.

Shankaracharya releases book titled 'Amar Shaheed Ki Kahani'

■ **Authored by**
Rajesh Pandey



Masturi, Feb 17:

Shankaracharya Swami Nischalanand Saraswati of Govardhan Math Puri Peeth released the book titled Amar Shaheed Ki Kahani, the third work of young writer Rajesh Pandey of the city during his stay at Geeta Palace Bilaspur on

13 February. He said that releasing this book on the eve of the third anniversary of Pulwama attack is a heartfelt tribute to the brave martyrs. The author Pandey told that before this he wrote two books in relation to the religion city of Malhar and this third work is dedicated to the martyrs. In this,

along with India's first martyr police officer Vinod Choubey, Chhattisgarh's first freedom fighter Sona Khan and martyr Veer Narayan Singh, apart from the brave martyrs martyred in incidents like Indo-Pak war, China war, Parliament attack, Pulwama attack, Kargil war and Mumbai attack etc. In this programme, Bhriugandan Tiwari, Sandeep Pandey, Kishore Dubey, Roshan Pandey, Shivam Pandey, Shubh Pandey, Pradeep Tiwari, Kunti Pandey, Upasana Pandey, Rampyari Pandey, Dageshwari Pandey and Abhishek Pandey were present.

Tehsildar Patwari Union hold demonstration



Mungeli, Feb 17:

In the recent incident regarding the assault of advocates and Naib Tehsildars, the assaulted Tehsildars and Executive magistrates have found solidarity with the Tehsildar and Patwari Union here, who have condemned the incident and demanded arrest of the accused at the earliest.

The Union demonstrated before the Collectorate and has also demanded a probe into the matter and security to the officials at government offices and warned of an indefinite strike if their demands are not met.

Tehsildar Agarwal, Maheshwar Chaya Uikey, Shalini Tiwari, Umakant Jaiswal, Arjun Sahu and others have demanded justice to the assaulted officials. Meanwhile Lormi Tehsil Office, has been closed in wake of the support towards the assaulted Executive Magistrate and Naib Tehsildar, and Tehsildar Chaya Agarwal, Rahuk Kaushik and Maheshwar Uikey sat on strike and have submitted a memorandum seeking justice for the officials. They have uniformly demanded justice and security to the government officials posted here in the Tehsil office.

Collector inspects fields of farmers benefited from the irrigation project

Konta/Sukma, Feb 17:

Administration is making new efforts to encourage the villagers towards agriculture in Sukma district. The irrigation project built on the Malger river at Girdalpara, located a short distance from the district headquarters, is a good example of this. In which river water is being easily transported to the farmers' fields without any electricity or other fuel.

In this project, water is being lifted completely from the kinetic energy of water and is being made available to the farmers for irrigation through canal. A successful example of the innovative efforts of Collector Vineet Nandanwar, the



Girdalpara Hydro Power Irrigation Project has awakened the interest of hundreds of farmers in the area for agricultural work. There is enthusiasm among the farmers due to water reaching about 80 acres of land in

the area. In which he is planting greens, vegetables and other crops including moong. It is noteworthy that during his stay in Raipur in the past, MP Rahul Gandhi has also praised this innovative project of Sukma district.

The Girdalpara project is one of the great interests of Nandanwar. To make it successful and farmers get better yield, for this purpose he regularly inspects and monitors progress with field staff himself. In this sequence, today he observed the water reaching the fields, the crops sown etc. He asked the officials of the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Water Resources to ensure that the farmers get 100% benefit of this project. He took stock of the crop sown in the fields and asked to plant the seeds soon in the remaining fields for sowing. Along with this, instructions were given to secure the entire area with wire fencing.

COSA Commander visits Sainik Welfare Office



Bilaspur, Feb 17:

Chhattisgarh-Odisha Sub-Area (COSA) Sena Medal Commander Brigadier Vignesh Mohanty visited the office of District Sainik Welfare Officer here and took stock of the services being provided to the service men, by having a direct interaction with them. This was the Brigadier maiden visit and he took special interest in contributions towards Military Contributory Health Scheme, and took stock of CSD extension board schemes also. The Brigadier expressed happiness

on getting information about the proposed new ECHS building for the welfare of the soldiers and he assured that funds would be ensured for the welfare of ex-servicemen from the Chhattisgarh-Odisha sub-area.

He said that he would now visit Bilaspur every two-three months and would benefit the ex-servicemen from welfare works under a time bound programme. District Sainik Welfare Officer Col Kuldeep Segal (Veteran) and Welfare Coordinator Subedar Major Shivendra Pandey were present on the occasion.

'Amrit Kaal budget will give new direction to the country'

year of independence. In this budget, the problems arising out of Covid 19 will be taken care of. These problems range from health to economic activities, which will be overcome in the coming times. A new target of GDP has been set. This is India-centred budget, with special focus on health, education, communication revolution and agricultural development. has been emphasized". As the chief guest in the program, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur said in his speech that "This is a unique budget in which arrangements have been made for proper use of money. We have to in-

crease the number of people who come under the tax net here. The government is striving for this because the number of tax payers in the country is very less. This is a revolutionary budget. In which defense products will be made in India. As a Key note speaker in the program, Retired Dr. Chandra Kant Prasad Shahi of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, in his speech said that "By not presenting a populist budget during the election period, the government has laid the foundation of future India or new India through this budget. In this budget, All sectors are covered. This budget is central on education and employment with pri-

mary and secondary sectors as its base. Digital currency is the face of New India". As a special guest in the program, the Faculty of Management in Purvanchal University, Jaunpur, Prof. Manas Pandey in his address "touching all aspects of the budget, focusing on farmers, women, defence, education, MSME, economic development of the country, economic self-reliance and PM Gati Shakti Yojana and Indicated tourism, through which the economic development of the country will be accelerated. The program was conducted by Organizing Secretary II, Assistant Professor of Commerce Department Dr. Vijay Kumar Dixit.

Felicitation ceremony organised in Govt Girls High School

Takhatpur, Feb 17:

An award cum felicitation ceremony was organized in the city's Girls Higher Secondary School, Takhatpur, in which Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh and State Congress Secretary Ashish Singh Thakur presided over as Chief Guest.

Addressing the program, Smt. Rashmi Singh said that the voters of the area have expressed their confidence in her and appointed her as their representative, so she is always trying to live up to their trust. Due to my efforts, the pace of development of the area is increasing continuously, which is being completed by paying attention to all the development work which was not done by the previous government, she said. She also said that Government Girls High



School was selected as a special smart class from the District Mineral Trust fund so that the girls could get better and quality education through latest technology. Expressing views in the program, Ashish Singh Thakur said that it is great to see so many girls studying together in this school and awareness about education among parents, is a positive sign of development. The program was conducted by

lecturer Jitendra Shukla and vote of thanks was given by Hoop Singh Kshatriya. Municipality President Smt. Pushpa Shrivastava, Vice-President Smt. Vandana Singh, Munna Shrivastava, Mukesh Ansari, Paramjit Kaur Hura, Vimla Jangde, Harvinder Hura, Nattu Jayasi, Kailash Devangan, Sunil Ahuja, Laxmi Yadav, Suresh Thakur, Shakuntala as guests in the program Rajput, Sunil

Jangde, Mohit Rajput, Gurdeep Kaur Khurana, Bala Thakur, Vinod Rajput, Guljit Khurana, Brijpal Singh Hura, Varun Singh, Raju Thakur, Parmeshwar Singh, Nilesh Dhankar, Naresh Dubey, Rashmi Mishra, SK Pandey, Minaj Khan, Kamini Gupta, Dibya Mishra, Diksha Pandey, Meenakshi Banerjee, Girdhari Vaishnav, Sandeep Dhruva and others were present.

BJP Working Committee Meeting of Economic Cell concludes



Balod, Feb 17: The first working committee meeting of BJP Economic Cell, District Balod was held at Kurmi Bhavan here. The meeting was discussed in the presence of State Co-Convener and Division in-charge Shiv Chandrakar, District in-charge Pritpal Chhabra, District President Krishna Kant Pawar and State Working Committee member Sandeep Sinha and concluded in the presence of District Convener Suresh Soni, in which Shiv Chandrakar while giving

guidance in his enlightenment said that at least 1 or 2 members from every town and districts have to be added in the working committee with a total number of 25 and this has to be established as goal of every member. Elections would be held in November 2023 which should strengthen our grip on the booth level and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's achievements at the center, in the new budget, for the people, for every section, should be told door to door, he said.

Pritpal Chhabra in his enlightenment said that all of us together with all the front cells of our district are the basic organization and are the soldiers of Bharatiya Janata Party, and we all have to work together then our victory will be assured. District Convener, Economic Cell, Balod Mahamantri Surendra Tiwari, Working Committee Member Ramesh Mittal, Nohar Sahu, Ashwani Sinha, Sandeep Bajpai, Pawan Dhelia, Amit Nahta, Santosh Sharma, Satya Prakash Sinha, Lalchand Jain Laxminarayan, Ganesh Ram Sahu and hundreds of members were present. This information was given by Suresh Soni, District Convener, Economic Cell, Balod.

Provide water in schools, Anganwadi, with no running water system: Collector



Mahasamund, Feb 17: District Collector Nileshekumar Kshirsagar here presiding over the weekly time limit meeting said that in schools, Anganwadis, hostels, ashrams etc, where there is dearth of running water connection, provisions to provide running water should be made, available immediately under the Jeevan Mission. It should also be continuously monitored, he said. He also instructed that schools and other learning centers should not be operated on dilapidated buildings and if the power line has passed over or near such buildings, they should be shifted to other places. He also took full information about the preparations being made for organizing the two-day Sirpur Mahotsav on February 16 and 17. He also instructed the district officials to implant the state govern-

ment's flagship schemes like Public Service Guarantee, Ayushman card, payment of gratuity amount for the next of kin of the deceased due to Covid-19, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumihreen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Other Backward Classes and Survey of economically weaker sections, allotment of 7500 square feet of land, disposal of applications received in Jandashan, Nani empowerment scheme, Mahatari Dular Yojna, door to door. He also instructed citizens including eligible officers and employees of all departments of the district to apply booster dose of Covid. He said that all the ongoing construction works in the district should be completed within the time-limit with full quality and keep monitoring the construction works continuously.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to General Public that Original sale deed duly executed by Ramkhilawan Mishra S/o Late Ganesh Prasad Mishra in favour of A. Shankar Rao S/o Shri A. Tata Rao Vide Document No 2138, dated 06.09.2006, Registered in the Office of Sub-registrar Bilaspur (C.G.) has been lost/Misplaced by present Owner Shri Dev Kumar Sahu S/o Shri Motilal Sahu. That written intimation duly given in the Police Station Civil Line, Bilaspur (C.G.) on dated 16.02.2022 in this regard.

Now Shri Dev Kumar Sahu S/o Shri Motilal Sahu has applied for Loan from My client Bank of Baroda, agarsen Chowk Branch, Bilaspur (C.G.) if any person/Bank/corporation/Society/Institution/Govt. or No Govt. Authority etc. objectives with documentary proof to undersigned office within 15 Days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be enable to create mortgage on said property.

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I MEENAL MILIND DESHKAR W/O MILIND DESHKAR RESIDENT OF QTR NO. D-21, SEEPAT ROAD, INDIRA VIHAR COLONY, SARKANDA LINGIYADIH, PO - S.E.C.L., BILASPUR C.G. 495006 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME MEENAL MILIND DESHKAR W/O MILIND DESHKAR, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME MEENAL DESHKAR W/O MILIND DESHKAR IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

MEENAL DESHKAR
QTR NO. D-21, SEEPAT ROAD
INDIRA VIHAR COLONY,
SARKANDA
LINGIYADIH, PO. S.E.C.L.
BILASPUR C.G. 495006

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I ABI MATHEW, S/O MATHEW RESIDENT OF JHAJHARIA BHAWAN, JAGMAL BLOCK, RAILWAY STATION ROAD, BILASPUR C.G. 495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME ABI MATHEW, S/O MATHEW SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME ABY MATHEW S/O MATHEW IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

ABY MATHEW
JHAJHARIA BHAWAN,
JAGMAL BLOCK, RAILWAY
STATION ROAD,
BILASPUR
C.G. 495001

CENTRAL
Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 318

Supply chain autonomy

India can add USD 20 billion to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if the country can reduce by 50 per cent the dependence on imports from China by leveraging the production linked incentive schemes, an SBI research report has said. In terms of imports, India continued to reduce its trade deficit with China in FY21. However, share of China in India's total merchandise imports has been steadily increasing to 16.5 percent currently, as per the report Ecowrap. In FY21, out of the USD 65 billion of imports from China, around USD 39.5 billion were commodities and goods where PLI scheme has been announced (textile, agri, electronics goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals). The key for India is to develop supply chains for manufacturing industries while ignoring China. Autonomy in manufacturing supply chain is critical for geopolitical leverage against China. India's growth will benefit immensely by delinking from China. Global supply chains have been in a state of disruption for the past few years due to a combination of rising trade tensions and the impacts of Covid-19. According to the Statista Supply Chain Index, the US and EU are the most exposed to supply chain disruptions, yet all regions featured were sitting above the index 100 line, proving that disruption remained high. GlobalData's Supply Chain Vulnerability Index reveals that the US and the UK are in first and second position, respectively, for supply chain vulnerability. Australia, France and Russia follow. The index found Germany to be the least vulnerable, with China, South Korea, Ireland and the Netherlands following in the top five spaces, indicating that their supply chains remain fairly secure. All regions are suffering, however, India, the US and Brazil have been hit particularly hard with substantial shortages across many categories of products. Modern products often incorporate critical components or sophisticated materials that require specialized technological skills to make.

It is very difficult for a single firm to possess the breadth of capabilities necessary to produce everything by itself. Consider the growing electronics content in modern vehicles. Automakers aren't equipped to create the touchscreen displays in the entertainment and navigation systems or the countless microprocessors that control the engine, steering, and functions such as power windows and lighting. Another more arcane example is a group of chemicals known as nucleoside phosphoramidites and the associated reagents that are used for creating DNA and RNA sequences. These are essential for all companies developing DNA- or mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccines and DNA-based drug therapies, but many of the key precursor materials come from South Korea and China. Manufacturers in most industries have turned to suppliers and subcontractors who narrowly focus on just one area, and those specialists, in turn, usually have to rely on many others. It's hard to think of a superstructure more impervious to external pressure for change emanating from foreign private firms' supply chain decisions subject to home country mandates. The rise of industry 4.0 has also meant that automation, AI, robotics and logistic management are becoming more prevalent, and as a result supply chains have become wrapped up in the global tech race. As tech bolsters productivity and visibility for supply chains, it also demands a skilled workforce and investment into new technologies. The old model for manufacturing and supply chains is over; according to experts, and the countries and companies that are placing lowering costs over embracing tech and security are widely considered the 'losers' in the supply chain industry. If low-cost labour is a developing country's only offering, its future now looks uncertain.

Unintended consequence

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed the curbs on the number of flights that can be operated between India and Ukraine under the bilateral air bubble arrangement to facilitate travel of Indians from the eastern European nation, according to a senior official. Amid the prevailing situation in Ukraine due to the rising tensions with Russia, India has advised its citizens to temporarily leave Ukraine. Ukrainian International Airlines, Air Arabia, Fly Dubai and Qatar Airways are operating flights at present from Ukraine. The union government had not anticipated unintended consequence of fault in medical admission process in India. Over 20,000 Indian students pursuing medical courses are estimated to be in different parts of the country, which is currently in conflict with Russia. Ukraine has been one of the sought-after destinations for Indian medical aspirants, who are unable to afford private education here. It's a daunting challenge for thousands of medical aspirants who want to pursue MBBS in government and private medical colleges due to a lack of seats and a high fee structure. Nonetheless, Ukraine had emerged as a beacon of hope for a large section of medical aspirants seeking to pursue MBBS at significantly lower costs and with higher educational standards than India. For the students in India, pursuing MBBS in Ukraine is significantly cheaper than in many other private medical schools.

Indians leave the country every year to study medicine abroad, with China, Russia, and Ukraine among the top destinations. Getting into government-run medical schools is very hard. Private colleges, meanwhile, are prohibitively expensive. Private institutes in India have huge amounts of donation or capitation fee, apart from the yearly fee. This is not the case for colleges or universities abroad. Unlike India, there is no entrance test required to secure admission in an MBBS college. Studying MBBS in Ukraine for Indian students is quite cheap as most of the students can survive with as low as USD 100 and USD 200 per month. But, thousand Indian medical graduates from foreign universities struggle to get a licence to practise in their homeland. They claim that they are victims of a screening examination that is unfair and whose grading practices appear tainted in India. Some allege intentionally tough examination would suit the interests of many private medical colleges. Education to become a doctor is overly complicated in India and politics ensured that most of aspirants are not selected. Indian aspirants forced to move abroad to become doctors have forced the government to take unusual steps as an unintended consequence.

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: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com

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

SEA LEVEL THREAT



Strip of beach separates the ocean from condo buildings in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida. Scientists warn that sea level rise due to climate change will become threat to such properties.

Small satellites take to skies

IGOR LEVCHENKO &
KATERYNA BAZAKA

Processions of small satellites obscuring the sky have provoked the ire of astronomers, but their potential for humanity is enormous. When it comes to rockets, Starship, one of the most ambitious SpaceX projects to date, certainly packs a punch. SpaceX is founded by US industrialist, Elon Musk, who is known for electric vehicle company Tesla. With more than 100 tonnes of payload and scheduled for orbital testing as soon as 2022, this gigantic, fully reusable system is designed to one day help humans colonise Mars. Much closer to home, it may help SpaceX rapidly assemble constellations of small commercial satellites. SpaceX's Starlink satellites are already providing high-speed internet to remote locations. Starship will deliver satellites to orbit at a substantially lower cost. Capable of carrying about 400 Starlink satellites at once, it will cost an estimated USD 2-10 million per launch. To compare, a partially reusable Falcon 9 rocket launches about 50 Starlink satellites at a cost of about USD 50 million. Even with the possibility of setbacks, it's very likely that Starship or a similar system will soon be delivering large numbers of satellites to orbit.

What would this mean for us on Earth? For consumers, this is likely to mean greater access to satellite-based services, with improved quality and lower cost. Starlink's internet coverage will improve and other

smaller but still-large constellations such as OneWeb will offer broadband internet, geodesy, navigation, communication, and weather monitoring and forecasting. Indeed, a distributed network of small satellites offers greater physical coverage, improved robustness of the network, and much better speeds of data transmission. It is also possible to collect a lot more high-quality data. And SpaceX and OneWeb are not the only industry players looking to the skies. In addition to big-tech players, small companies, universities and public organisations will be able to afford to pay to launch their own satellites. With SpaceX planning to have a large fleet of Starships, it is likely that Starship and its relatives will be available to others in the same way that the SmallSat Rideshare Program uses Falcon 9. Various industries will look to transfer their technologies to orbit to exploit the advantages of zero gravity, from 3D-printing biological tissues and organs to growing protein crystals for pharmaceuticals. Affordable scientific experiments available to research institutions, large and small, will lead to new discoveries and technological advances.

For those developing and operating satellites, the fact that the low Earth orbit is becoming an increasingly crowded place brings new challenges in collision avoidance and traffic control. Right now, there are about 7,000 satellites, some of which are operational and some are malfunctioning orbiting the Earth. The development of Starship has allowed SpaceX alone to revise its initial plans from 12,000 to 42,000 satellites from one company that's a 600 percent increase on the combined launch of every satellite to date. The first constellation collision avoidance manoeuvre was performed in 2019, when the Aeolus satellite operated by the European Space Agency used its thrusters to avoid a collision with one of the Starlink satellites. In the near future, constellation collision avoidance manoeuvres will probably

become a daily reality. In addition to global control systems capable of coordinating such a large satellite population in the future, satellite propulsion systems are critical to ensure manoeuvring and, importantly, de-orbiting at the end of their service life to prevent them from becoming space junk.

Drastic miniaturisation of electronics has allowed developers to package functions previously available in only much larger satellites into something the size and weight of a microwave oven. Rapid prototyping and advanced manufacturing have contributed to simplification and affordability of the development and manufacturing processes, making them affordable for small teams. Miniaturisation of propulsion thrusters, however, present several challenges. Many of the small satellites use electric propulsion thrusters due to their superior efficiency. Yet, electric propulsion thrusters become less efficient when they are miniaturised. Then there are challenges with propellant gases and their complex system of tanks, valves, tubes and gauges. Xenon is very expensive and highly in-demand. Krypton is less efficient, and hence more propellant needs to be carried on board. But iodine could be a game changer for miniature satellites. As a solid fuel, it offers a combination of simplicity, much lower cost and reasonable efficiency. Solid iodine has recently been successfully tested in space. The design cleverly used the ability of iodine to transform from solid to gas at relatively low temperatures, which meant that the fuel could be stored without a tank and then made into a gas with only a small energy input.

Rapid re-solidification of the gas when the heating was turned off allowed the designers to do away with inlet valves, further simplifying the system. Yet, this and similar systems will need to undergo further development before it can fully meet the needs of the satellites in commercial

constellations. Despite the exciting potential of thousands of miniature satellites circling the world, providing services to humanity, and skilfully jetting away from collision, not everyone is looking forward to this future. An overabundance of shiny satellites in the lower orbit can quite literally obstruct the view for stargazers, both professional and amateur. Astronomers first raised these concerns soon after the launch of the first Starlink satellites. To minimise disruptions, SpaceX designed a DarkSat, a Starlink satellite designed to significantly reduce brightness. However, the design did not solve the problem and a new, more advanced design named VisorSat, a satellite with deployable visors, was proposed.

Another concern is radioastronomy. Decreasing the adverse effect of mega-constellations on radio telescopes is a much more complex problem to solve, if solvable at all. It remains to be seen what impact 42,000 satellites, even darkened, will have on our ability to continue making discoveries about distant galaxies and the big bang. It may well be the case that the very satellites interfering with our ability to study the universe from the Earth will be the ones to deliver the next set of advances in astronomy. In astrophysics, for example, interacting satellites can operate like multiple eyes separated by thousands of kilometres, observing the Earth and remote planets from different angles, and gaining information that cannot be collected by a single satellite. We have the technology and will to expand our physical world to the Earth's orbits. Despite the bumps and challenges along the way, exploration and exploitation of the near-Earth space will be the next phase in humanity's expansion of our world.

Igor Levchenko is research scientist in Singapore. Kateryna Bazaka is professor in Australian National University.)

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Bollywood monopoly

With the demise of legendary Sandhya Mukherjee, the Bengali film world has perhaps lost the last jewel of its golden age. If Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen had formed the most illustrious couple in acting front, Hemanta Mukherjee-Sandhya Mukherjee used to represent that excellence in the sphere of playback songs. The divine combo of Sandhya's melody and Suchitra's lip-synching had indeed created a history which still gives goosebumps to us even five or six decades later. Though the eternal fact remains that her genius and greatness as a singer was second to none in the Indian musical circuit, still Mukherjee didn't receive her due as far as national honour is concerned. It seems that national awards of top grades form the monopoly of the Bollywood brigade only. Surely this is the very reason why so many personalities hailing from Hindi film industry, have been awarded Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan much earlier despite being not only junior to Sandhya Mukherjee but also can't hold a candle to her as an artist. Thus it has again proved that not quality or caliber but sheer hype, nepotism, political influence and regional credential form the determinant factors while selecting the Padma awardees or recipients of Bharat Ratna. I regard the audacity of offering Padma Shri to Sandhya Mukherjee as an insult to the then living legend.

All admirers of her indeed felt renewed pride for Sandhya Mukherjee for displaying her unique self-respect by rejecting that much belated "honor" named Padma Shri which was indeed much demeaning for a singer of her stature. Is it a mere coincidence that she had fallen ill immediately after such a humiliating offer by New Delhi. Whatever might be the reasons of her health-related setback leading to her demise, any self-respecting individual is bound to get hurt on such a humiliating offer arriving at the fag end of illustrious life. Though Mukherjee resided at a much higher pedestal than any award the State can think of, but what matters is behaviour and in this respect, the highest decision-making authorities had indeed failed her. However, the litmus test of any singer remains how many hearts he/she has won over in his/her lifetime and on this yardstick, Sandhya Mukherjee has indeed passed with flying colours. The legend will indeed live on for eternity.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Narendra Shenoy@shenoy
In schools. Housing societies. Random cultural mandal events. From observation, I knew that about 70 percent of the boys would come dressed as Arabs. Because this was the easiest. All you needed was an old bedsheet, a towel to throw over your head, and two cooker rubbers around.

Amit Varma@amitvarma
Good advice, and if I may add to that, don't argue with fools to begin with. Twitter is the natural habitat of bad people engaging in bad faith. They are not entitled to your time or attention. Don't engage. Beyond the toxic, there is also the sublime. Embrace that.



Desai Pooja@poojadesaid
'Sarvajanic suvayavasthe'. Maintaining public order is the responsibility of the state. You can't ban hijab in classrooms (effectively violating hijab-wearing Muslim students' right to education) citing a breakdown in law and order, precisely because it's your job to ensure peace.

Sana Hashmi@sanahashmi1
Dear Indian Hindi news channels, stop comparing the Ukraine issue with Taiwan, and stop saying that China is on the verge of invading Taiwan. My family back in India is getting worried and calling me at 1 in the night to ask if that's actually happening.



Priya Pillai@PillaiPriy
Driving holiday after ages! Beautiful coffee estates.



Ajai Shukla@ajashukla
South Asian myths: Myth 1: (Long propagated by Pakistan) India's Hindu military is cowardly, non-martial and can't really fight. Myth 2: (Purveyed now by India) China's military, manned by pampered, single sons as a result of the one-child policy, is suspect as a fighting army.

Gen_Cho@Strat_31360
Reminds me of tales our elder grandfather used to tell about his WW1 deployment in France. They went through hell but he was lucky to come back alive. Granted land Jagirs by the Brits for their valorous service. (Unfortunately now being called mercenaries???)

PRACTICING FOR GRAND EVENT



Artists during a practice session of Folk Safar, a three day event promoting artists from Bengal, in Kolkata, Thursday.

'No partial approval be given to universities for running certain technical courses'

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided that that no partial approval of technical courses will be given to universities in order to avoid confusion among stakeholders, according to officials.

"All affiliated institutions running technical education programmes require prior approval of AICTE. However, it has been observed that some of the central, state and private universities are taking partial approval of AICTE for some selected courses and programmes and is creating confusion among the stakeholders," said AICTE Member Secretary Rajive Kumar.

SC to HCs

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday advised the High Courts not to make general observations that are not warranted in the case. A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said the High Courts shall refrain from making sweeping observations that are beyond the contours of the controversy involved.

We advise the High Courts not to make general observations which are not warranted in the case. The High Courts shall re-

'Don't make general observations'

frain from making sweeping observations which are beyond the contours of the controversy and/or issues before them, the bench said. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi high court order.

Bharat Fritz Werner Limited had assailed before the high court, the Letter of Acceptance issued by the Union of India in its favour in respect of the award of the tender.

The high court had declined to interfere in the proceedings and disposed of the writ petition re-

serving liberty in favour of the original writ petitioner to raise all its pleas and claim the reliefs available to him at this stage in an appropriate civil proceeding.

It, however, had made certain observations against which the Centre moved the top court for expunging those remarks. The apex court said that the observations made by the High Court were absolutely unwarranted.

The High Court was not deciding a Public Interest Litigation. The High Court did not even decide the writ petition on merits. On the contrary, in the

earlier paragraph, it was observed that it had not gone into the merits of the writ petitioner's claim or the respondent's defence, the bench said.

The top court said that general observations should have been avoided by the High Court and it ought to have restricted itself to the controversy between the parties before it.

Even otherwise, on the basis of a solitary case, general observations could not have been made by the High Court that the Indian bidders are being discriminated against, the bench said.

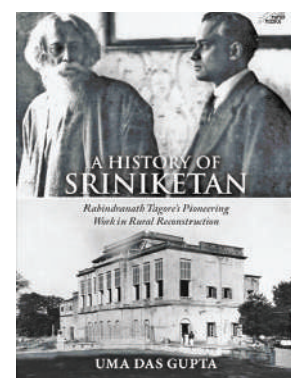
'History of Sriniketan'

Book throws light on Tagore's work for rural reconstruction

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

A new book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922. The book, "A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction", is written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta.

It is published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint. "Rabindranath referred to his rural work as his 'life's



work'. This study here on Sriniketan's history intends to document the work of rural reconstruction and examine its pioneering features of integrated thought and action," wrote the au-

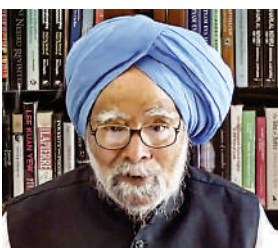
thor in the introduction of the book. Tagore's work in 'village reconstruction' at Sriniketan is not as widely known as his work at Santiniketan, popularly known today as a university town. The idea of doing something to redeem the neglected village came to Tagore when he first went to live in his family's agricultural estates in East Bengal during the 1890s.

His endeavour was to improve the condition of the peasantry by using scientific methods of cultivation through laboratory experiments where the expert and the peasant collectively participated.

'Rather than admitting mistakes, BJP govt blaming Nehru for people's problems'

Chandigarh, Feb 17 (PTI):

The BJP had been in power for more than seven years and was still blaming first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the problems of the people, former prime minister and Congress leader Manmohan Singh said on Thursday in a scathing attack against the Modi-led government. Targeting the central government on a host of issues, including the farmers' agitation, foreign policy, price rise and unemployment, Singh said ahead of the Punjab elections on February 20 that the BJP's nationalism was "fake" and was based on the British policy of "divide and rule". The



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the people of Punjab via a video link, ahead of the Assembly polls.

Congress played the message delivered in Punjabi at a press conference here. According to Singh, the government had proved to be a "complete failure" on the issue of foreign policy. The Chinese army, he alleged,

was occupying "our pious land for the last one year but efforts are being made to bury this issue". "Our relations with neighbouring nations are also deteriorating," Singh said. Further targeting the Centre on foreign policy matters, Singh said, "Old friends are constantly alienating from us, while our relations with neighbouring countries are also deteriorating." "I hope that now the ruling dispensation has come to understand that the relations of the countries do not improve by forcefully embracing the leaders, playing on a swing with them or going for uninvited biryani," he said, in a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Centre keeps Polavaram 'stop work' order in abeyance

Amaravati, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Centre on Wednesday kept the stop work order, related to Polavaram multipurpose project, in abeyance till July 2, 2023. In February 2011, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the stop work order asking the Andhra Pradesh government to stall all works on Polavaram project, following objections raised by neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Odisha governments.

After Polavaram has been declared a national project, the then Telugu Desam Party government pre-

vailed upon the Centre and got stop work order kept in abeyance for a year from June 2015. Subsequently, the Union Ministry had been extending the abeyance period annually. The extension period ended on July 2, 2021 but works on the projects have been continuing unhindered. Based on a fresh request from the state government and also the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, the Environment and Forest Ministry issued an order on Wednesday keeping the stop work order in abeyance for a further period of two years (from July 2, 2021) since Polavaram is a national project.

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