



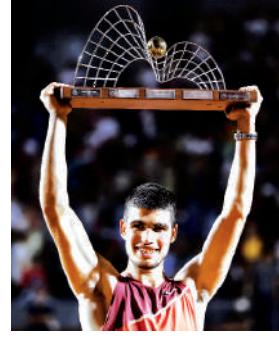
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BRIEF



Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone poses for photos, as she arrives for the success party for her movie Gehraiyan, in Mumbai.

Three die

Azamgarh: Three people died and around 10 hospitalised after they consumed countrymade liquor bought from a government vend here, an official said on Monday. Azamgarh District Magistrate Amrit Tripathi said the incident took place on Sunday evening. Three people died after consuming countrymade liquor bought from the shop in Mahul nagar panchayat under the Ahrula police station area.

Elected

New Delhi: Senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra has been elected as the chairperson of the Bar Council of India for the sixth time, the council said in a press release. Besides Mishra, senior advocate S Prabakaran was elected as the vice-chairperson of the BCI, the apex body of lawyers, in an election held on February 6. The tenure of the newly elected office-bearers will start from April 17, 2022, and they will hold their respective offices till April 17, 2025, BCI Secretary Srimanta Sen said on Monday.

ED charge sheet

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a charge sheet before a Mumbai court in connection with its money laundering probe linked to a Red Sanders smuggling case. The charge sheet was filed in a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai on February 15 against four people, including Badshah Majid Malik, the alleged kingpin, it said in a statement. The court took its cognisance of February 18, it said. Malik was arrested by the ED in December last year after the agency carried out raids at his premises in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district.

Electrocution

Faridabad: Two band artists died of electrocution in the Tigaon area here, police said on Monday. The incident took place in Junhera village late on Sunday night during a marriage function, they said. The deceased have been identified as Akbar (25) and Atru (45), both residents of Sohna town in Haryana. Akbar and Atru were holding umbrella lights when a band was accompanying a marriage party.

Weather	High 33	Low 15
Market	NIFTY 17206.65	Sensex 57683.59
BULLION	GOLD 50,033	SILVER 63,651

FODDER SCAM

Lalu gets 5-yr jail

Fined Rs 60 lakh

Ranchi, Feb 21 (PTI):

A special CBI court on Monday sentenced RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh on him in connection with the Rs 139 crore fodder scam where the Doranda treasury allegedly embezzled.

The court pronounced the sentence on the quantum of sentence after virtually hearing arguments.

"Lalu Prasad has been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment while a penalty of Rs 60 lakh has also been imposed on him. Apart from Prasad, five years imprisonment each was announced by the Court for five convicts, four years each for 32 convicts and three years each for three convicts," CBI counsel BMP Singh told PTI.

"Fine imposed on convicts ranges from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 crore," Singh said adding that the high-



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav speaks to the media outside RJD leader Rabri Devi's residence after special CBI court sentenced 5 years imprisonment and a fine of rupees 60 lakhs, to RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav in 5th fodder scam case, in Patna, Monda.

est amount of Rs 2 crore penalty was imposed on supplier Tripurari Mohan Prasad.

After his conviction in Rs 139.35 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case, the fifth and final one against him in the multi-crore fodder scam on

February 15, the ailing 73-year old former Bihar chief minister was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail and then shifted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on health grounds.

The ebullient leader suf-

About the case....

After Lalu's conviction in Rs 139.35 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case, the fifth and final one against him in the multi-crore fodder scam on February 15, the ailing 73-year old former Bihar chief minister was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail and then shifted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on health grounds.

The ebullient leader suffers from multiple ailments, including renal problems.

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In jail since December 2017, Prasad served most of his sentence period at the RIMS. He was taken to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in January last year

after his health condition deteriorated.

Prasad's counsel said they will appeal this order in the High Court. He (Lalu) has already completed 36 months of his jail term".

Prasad had earlier been sentenced to 14 years in jail in four other fodder scam cases. The final case was related to withdrawals of Rs 139.35 crore from Doranda treasury during his tenure as the chief minister of undivided Bihar.

Of the 99 accused in the case, 24 were acquitted.

The CBI had examined 575 witnesses in the case, and filed charge sheet against 170 people. However, only 99 accused, including Prasad, faced trial which had commenced in 1996.

In the course of the 22-year-long trial, 55 accused died, while eight turned government approvers. As many as six accused are still absconding.

developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against COVID-19, for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It has not been included in the country's vaccination drive. "The DCGI on Monday granted restricted EUA to Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group, subject to certain conditions, official sources said on Monday.

However, the government has not taken a decision yet on vaccinating those aged below 15 years.

The health ministry recently had said additional need for vaccination and inclusion of population for vaccination is examined constantly.

The DCGI's approval comes after the Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the CDSCO on February 14 recommended granting restricted EUA to Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group after deliberating on Biological E's application.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Corbevax, which is India's first indigenously

"Based on the no objection certificate, Biological E has initiated the clinical study in October 2021 and has evaluated the available safety and immunogenicity results of the ongoing phase 2/3 study, which indicated that the vaccine is safe and immuno-

genic.

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Two persons have been arrested in connection with the Sunday night killing, with the police saying efforts were on to nab the rest of the suspects at the earliest, even as the government appealed for calm. A four-five member group of assailants was suspected to be involved in the killing, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said. On Monday, three persons were injured when miscreants pelted stones during the funeral procession of the deceased Harsha that took place amid tight security, even as several vehicles were torched and damaged while there were reports of some shops being ransacked.

Bajrang Dal activist stabbed to death in K'taka

■ Funeral procession turns violent



Vehicles set on fire by rioters during a procession, as tension spreads in Karnataka's Shivamogga town over the murder of a member of right-wing outfit Bajrang Dal on Sunday night, in Shivamogga, Monday.

Online courses

New Delhi: Aiming to disseminate traditional Indian knowledge, including about its art, architecture, timeless epics and Vedas, among the world community, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations will soon start new online courses, and a dedicated portal is likely to be launched on April 2, ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabuddhe said on Monday. Addressing a press conference at Azad Bhawan here to share details about the Ministry of External Affairs' plans to hold celebrations under the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', he also said that a three-day crafts fair 'Coalescence', will be hosted in the city from February 23-25, wherein artists and craftspeople from 11 states will showcase traditional art forms.

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Three drug peddlers arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 5 lakhs



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 22: Police have arrested three drug peddlers and have recovered 27 grams of brown sugar worth Rs 5 lakhs from their possession. The accused used to sell the drugs during night beneath the street lights. The arrested accused is a notorious offender and has supply connection with Nagpur. Forensic Expert Dr Patel conducted scientific identification of the narcotics at the crime scene.

While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Monday,

Deputy Inspector General of Police / Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Badri Narayan Meena informed that they are conducting a special operation against the smuggling and trade of narcotics and other intoxicants.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Kumar Yadav and Narcotics Cell in-charge DSP Nassar Ullah Siddiqui are supervising the operations in various police stations.

In this sequel, the team of Sub-Inspector Mukesh Sori led by Inspector

Bhushan Ekka (SHO, Durg) have succeeded in nabbing three accused of an inter-state gang of drug peddlers. The accused were getting supply of brown sugar from Nagpur (Maharashtra). Police have seized brown sugar worth Rs 5 lakhs from their possession.

On Sunday, Police team received a tip off regarding some suspects who were peddling brown sugar in the Sheopara area of Durg. One of the suspects was a resident of Nagpur and other two were local ruffians. After bringing the information to the notice of senior offi-

cers, the police team rounded up the accused near Sheopara Pond. They were caught red handed while selling the drugs among addicts.

As per the provisions of the NDPS Act, the accused were duly interrogated, searched and the banned narcotics substance was seized from them. The narcotics substance Brown Sugar was identified by FSL Unit Scientific Officer Dr Mohan Patel after conducting preliminary tests at the spot. Brown Sugar packed in 265 sachets were recovered from them. They were selling each sachet for Rs 4000.

The accused were identified as Mohammad Wahid alias Shahbaz (23) son of Mohammad Rashid a resident of Bakramandi Football Ground, Mominpura Nagpur Maharashtra; Prithvi Singh alias Sonu Sardar (33) son of Late Bhupendra Singh a resident of Lodhi Para, Urla, Police Station Mohan Nagar, Durg and Prince alias Gautam Mahar (23) son of Khem Lal Mahar a resident of Shivpara Tulsi Chowk, Durg.

The accused were arrested under section 21 (b) 27 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985. Further action is being taken against them.

Inspector Bhushan Ekka, Sub-Inspector Mukesh Sori, ASI Kirendra Singh, Head Constable Yogesh Chandrakar, Santosh Mishra, Constable Javed Khan, Pradeep Singh, Keshav Sahu, Tileswar Rathor, Dhirendra Yadav, Chitransen Sahu, Farooq Khan and Ramsingh played vital role in arresting the accused.

International fencer seeks monetary aid for continuing with sports



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: On Monday, 52 citizens from different areas of the district submitted applications before the District Collector and shared their problems and demands during the Jandarshan.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure listened to the concerns of the citizens. Monika Sahu, a swordsman who has represented in the Asian Games, has submitted an application for sanctioning financial assistance for preparation in the field of sports.

Monika said that she has won gold and silver medals

at Chhattisgarh level in fencing. At present, the selection for Senior National has been done by the state.

This event is going to be organized in Amritsar (Punjab) from March 13 to March 16. She has to bear the expenses for participating in the said event. Due to weak financial conditions, she is not able to participate in the event. She has demanded financial assistance to continue with sports.

In the Jandarshan, the residents of Shanchari Bazar complained about illegal construction. A resident of Ram Nagar Supela Bhilai complained about

the construction of a multi-storey building by a person who illegally captured his land.

He complained that the person who is constructing the building has acquired the building permission by producing fake documents. He requested to get his land back. Collector has asked the concerned officers to take necessary action for speedy disposal of the applications received in Jandarshan. On Monday, 52 applications were received in Jandarshan including applications related to civic amenities. Collector instructed the officials to take appropriate action.

Blood Storage Units inaugurated at four CHCs and Supela Hospital

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: As per the instructions of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, blood storage units were inaugurated on Monday at Civil Hospital Supela and Community Health Centers of Dhamdha, Kumhari, Bori, Utai. These units have been established with the aim of providing better health facilities to the people of the district.

On this occasion, Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal, BMC Commissioner Prakash Kumar Sarve, Corporators of Municipal Corporation Bhilai, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr GS Thakur, DHO Satish Kumar Meshram and District



Training Officer Dr Sugam Sawant were present at Civil Hospital Supela. At Kumhari Community Health Center, Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar, CMO K Ravi, Jitendra Kushwaha and other councillors were present.

At Community Health Center Dhamdha, Nagar Panchayat President Sunita Gupta, District Panchayat Chairman Samit Qureshi, Block Medical Officer Dr DP Thakur, Shashi Maitri, Blood Unit Incharge, BPM Rajendra Verma and the Community Health Center, Bori.

Community Health Center were present. The blood storage unit was inaugurated in the presence of the in-charge of the health center and all the officers and employees at the Community Health Center, Utai and the Community Health Center, Bori.

Mayor inaugurates city's fifth generic medical store

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: On Monday, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Mayor Neeraj Pal inaugurated Shri Dhanwantri Medical Store at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Supela. With this, the number of generic medical stores in Bhilai city has risen to five. Mayor bought surgical masks from medical stores immediately after inauguration and became the first customer.

Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, Speaker Girwar Bunty Sahu, SDM Mukesh Rawate, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Executive Magistrate Yogendra Verma, Superintending Engineer BK Devangan



were also present. After inaugurating the medical stores, the Mayor inspected the stores and inquired about the stock of medicines.

He said that a large number of citizens seek treatment at Lal Bahadur Shastri Supela Hospital.

Those people would get the benefit of cheap medicine from this store. After the inauguration of generic medical store near the entrance of Shastri Hospital Supela campus,

Power House and Road No 18. In view of the demand of cheap medicines of good quality and to promote health schemes in the city, Mayor has started another medical store. Earlier people used to get medicines at a higher price, but now they are getting high quality medicines including generic branded medicines with a discount of 55 percent.

Bhilai DCC President Mukesh Chandrakar, Mayor in Council members Ekansh Banshore, Laxmipati Raju, Sandeep Nirankari, Lalchand Verma, Neha Sahu, Keshav Choube, Malti Thakur, Chandrashekhar Gavai, Zone President Ramanand Maurya, Santoshnath Singh Jalandhar, Councilor Bhojraj Sinha and others were present.

MIC meeting of Bhilai-Charoda Municipal Corporation held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: The second meeting of the Mayor-in-Council, Bhilai-Charoda Municipal Corporation was convened in the Mayor's room under the chair of Mayor Nirmal Kosare on Monday. In this meeting, topics discussed included celebration of the festival of Maha Shivratri in the Shiv temple located at Devbaloda.

Here it needs that the temple is famous and holds historical importance. It was decided unanimously that to mark the occasion of Maha Shivratri, a one-day



will be organised on March 01. Among those present were MIC members Santosh Tiwari, Mohan Sahu, M Johnny, Dev Kumari Bhalavi, Deepi Verma, Santoshi Nishad, Corporation Commissioner Kirtiman Singh Rathore, Executive

Engineer Sunil Jain, Assistant Accounts Officer Rajkumar Devangan, Assistant Health Officer Ashwani Chandrakar and Secretariat Clerk Lingeshwar Rao. This information was provided by Public Relations Officer Vikas Chandra Tripathi.

'Pran-Pratishta' of Goddess Saraswati at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sec-10

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: Sri Sankara Vidyalaya premise was filled with divinity and spirituality on February 20 and 21, 2022. The pran-pratishta of Goddess Saraswati, Goddess of Wisdom, was performed by the

chief acharya from Tamil Nadu, Guru Swaminatha Shivacharya and his disciples. 'Medha sooka yajna' was performed to invoke the deity followed by 'Abhishekam' of Goddess Saraswati with the holy water. This Yajna was performed to eradicate the hurdles and evils from everyone's life.

The surroundings reverberated with the recital of various mantras. Devotional songs were sung by school staff. Shivacharya blessed the school and stressed on the importance of the role of 'Guru' in a student's life. V Ramachandran (President, SSES), S Swaminathan (Secretary, SSES), Dr Jayaram Iyer (Vice-President, SSES), TR Venkatraman (Treasurer, SSES), members of management and staff of the school participated in the sacred ceremony.



ture. On this occasion, the Trustee of Bhilai Education Charitable Trust and Secretary of Rotary Pinnacle, Bhilai Rajni Kathuria, Govt Girls HSS School Vaishali Nagar Principal Sangeeta Singh Baghel, School teachers Rita Handa and Lissie Roy, Bhilai Education Charitable Trust's Chief Program Officer EP Ritesh, Director of Phoenix Institute Archana Dubey were present.

CM releases poster for CPL T20 Cup cricket tournament

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: In keeping with the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in promoting professional sports in the state of Chhattisgarh and providing opportunity to talented cricket players from the weaker and backward areas of the state at national level, CPL T20 Cup cricket is being organised under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Sports Cell in association with Government of Chhattisgarh. The tournament is being organised in memory of Jhiram Ghati



martyrs. Giving information that the Avinash Chhattisgarh T20 Cup cricket competition is being organized simultaneously in three divisions of the state, Chhattisgarh Sports Congress State President Praveen Jain and District President Sumit Singh explained that the matches for this competition will be held in Durg from March 27 to 13 at Bhilai Sector 1 Cricket Stadium, in Raipur from March 1 to 12 at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and from March 4, 6, 8 and 10 at Raja Raghuji Singh Cricket

Stadium in Bilaspur. A total of 32 league matches will be played during the competition. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate the tournament on February 27 at 19:00 hrs in Bhilai.

Praveen Jain elaborated that it is for the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that talent hunt camps were organised in all 28 districts of the state and 3200 participants were selected through vari-

Inauguration of PG Darkroom in Physics Department

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: Department of Physics and Electronics, St Thomas College, Bhilai inaugurated their new Dark room for PG level experiments in Physics on February 19, 2022.

Administrator Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese inaugurated the darkroom. Principal Dr MG Roymon, all the faculties, lab staff and M Sc students were present.

In-charge of the department, Amit Kumar



Tamrakar explained about the utilisation of the darkroom in the Physics experiments. Chief Patron, Dr Joseph Mar Dionysius, Patron, Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese, Principal, Dr MG Roymon congratulated the students and department.

Brown sugar, 'charas' and banned tablets worth Rs 15 lakhs seized



Four accused arrested by special Narcotics Cell formed

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: The capital police has arrested four including two inter-state smugglers involved in selling of drugs including

banned Narcotics Cell team was formed along with 2 inspectors by SSP Prashant Agrawal and under supervision of Addl. SP (Crime) Abhishek Maheshwari and guidance of City (SP) Vishwa Deepak Tripathi.

Giving information about the same, IG Anand Chabda said that few days back a review meeting was held and in this discussions were held about rise in use of drugs and other such items in capital city and entire state. After this Narcotics Cell was formed and major action was taken against inter-state smugglers.

This Narcotics Cell team succeeded in seizing 25 gms of Brown Sugar, 250 gms 'Charas', 15 kg 'Ganja' and 7400 pieces of

banned tablets and nabbed four accused along with all this. The estimated cost of all the drugs and psychotropic drugs and tablets is around Rs 15 lakhs.

IG Raipur Range Anand Chabda further informed that efforts are being made to search for the chain supply these drugs in the capital city and find its actual link. In this case accused have been arrested in Raipur and Mahasamund and sent to jail and they have disclosed some secrets and finer details, which is being investigated further. Narcotics Cell has been formed because there is need to break the chain of this drugs supplier and help in youths from falling prey to such drug habits.

'Charas', 'Ganja' and psychotropic tablets and banned syrups. As per information from IG Raipur Range Anand Chabda, instructions have been to take strict action against sales or purchase of drugs, psychotropic drugs, banned syrups from other states and others being smuggled from neighbouring states as well.

So on this a total 8-mem-

State level orientation program for differently-abled students



VK Goyal addressing the participants of all the districts involved in the virtual program, instructed to be essentially benefit the disabled children.

ently-abled children in the examination should be given to the disabled children of all classes as far as possible. Presentation of all the exemptions and facilities given to the disabled children appearing in the examination was done through PPT by Assistant Professor Pradeep Sahu.

In the virtual orientation program, the Joint Director of Samagra Shiksha, Sanjeev Shrivastava, Special Education Advisor, Satya Raj Iyer, Mrs. Shyama Tiwari and all the District Principals, Lecturers, Principal, Readers, Teachers, Package Coordinators, Parents-Guardians and Children of Disabled Children participated. After the presentation, a quiz was organized for the participants. Along with this, the activities of differently abled students of different districts of the state were made aware through videos. The program was broadcast on a YouTube link.

Building, structures on illegal plotting demolished

By NRDA and district administration in Gram Temari, Nakati, and Banarsi of Nava Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: As per instructions from the Collector Saubrah Kumar, action against illegal construction work and encroachments, illegal plotting and construction without building permission had started from Sunday and this continued here Monday as well. A combined team of officers from Revenue department of District administration and NRDA removed encroachments from Temari and Banarsi village near Layor-II of Nava Raipur



near VIP Road. Today from VIP Road, New Mama Café, Mister Maggie Da Café the bulldozer was used. Around construction on 30 decimal land by owner of New Mama Café Manish Singh

was done without obtaining permission and was running the restaurant illegally. This was removed by the local administration.

In the same way, Mister Maggie Da Café owned by

Gyatri and Ashish Sharma was also removed and by this around 20 decimal land was freed from encroachment. This restaurant was also constructed without prior permission and was illegally being run.

Along with this in Gram Temari, Shyam Chawla and Company had encroached upon around 16 acre land and were doing illegal plotting and on this action was taken by district administration and NRDA's team. The buildings, houses and godowns constructed illegally through illegal plotting on this piece of land was removed.

Collector Saurabh Kumar informed that prior to demolition the concerned were issued notices and failing to get any

response on completion of notice period, the illegal construction work was demolished. Collector said that the district administration would continue its action against any such illegal construction work, encroachments, illegal plotting and those carrying out construction without valid permission. It is notable here that on Sunday also NRDA and revenue department's team carried out combined action in three villages of Nava Raipur layer-2 and under his nine illegal construction works in Gram Nakki, Banarsi and Temari were demolished by the team and apart from this three buildings, one illegal plotting and six boundary walls illegally constructed were also removed.

Two including juvenile arrested with country made pistol, live cartridges

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: Khamardih police on Sunday night arrested two persons, including a juvenile, after recovering two country made pistols and six live cartridges from them.

According to police, the patrolling party of Khamardih Police station on Sunday received information the two miscreants who were roaming around Hira Hotel in Bhawana

Nagar trying to sell pistols. Immediately a raid was conducted in the location and both the miscreants were taken into custody. Identified as Kaamran Ali and the juvenile both were detained possessing two nos. of country made pistols and six live cartridges.

Both the accused were immediately taken to the police station where they were booked separately under Section 25 of Arms Act.

One arrested under Arms Act

Raipur: One person has been arrested by Devendra Nagar police on Sunday night from Pandri Cloth Market after he was nabbed red-handed terrorizing the locals armed with a knife. Identified as Chhanu Bhratpahri, the accused was taken to the police station where he was later booked under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act.

ILLEGAL PARKING



Traffic police took action against illegal parking and lifted vehicles illegally parked in capital city.

Become powerful source in the task of nation-building: Ajit Doval



MATS University Booklet.

The keynote speaker was Ajit Kumar Doval, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Kirtichakra while congratulating the students said that he was reminded of his student days. Knowing yourself is wisdom he said and gave a motivating speech calling the students to become a powerful source in the task of nation building where the youth needs to play an important role.

Her Excellency, Shushri Anusuya Uikey in her convocation address expressed her happiness in the fact that MATS University had invited a great and inspiring personality like Shri Ajit Doval ji to speak to the graduating batch. She highlighted the importance of a good value system along with the study of various branches of learning. She also praised the works done in Gullu the village adopted by MATS University. The Governor also released the

Governor of Chhattisgarh to declare the convocation open. In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr.K P Yadav welcomed everyone to join in the celebrations of the achievements of the batch of 2020-2021. He spoke about how this batch completed its studies during the pandemic and how the university was quick to change to the online mode of teaching, learning and evaluation. As the Governor declared the convocation open, the respected Chancellor, Shri Gajraj Pgariya, administered the oath to all the graduating students.

The students pledged to use their knowledge for the honour and dignity of their country and to endeavour to bring about the glory of the university. After this the Vice Chancellor admitted the students to get their degrees in the streams of Education, Commerce, Management, Science, Information Technology, Library Science, Arts, Humanities, Engineering, Physical Education and Law. The degree certificates and gold medals were awarded by the Governor, Shushri Anusuya Uikey and the Minister for Higher Education of Chhattisgarh, Shri Umesh Nandkumar Patel.

After the procession and the inauguration of the convocation, the Vice Chancellor in his welcome address and requested Her Excellency, the

degrees, the Honourable Chancellor Gajraj Pgariya, addressed the audience . In his address he expressed the joy of meeting students of the university years after they have passed out and are successful in their fields of research. He also spoke about how MATS University supports the less privileged students in their pursuit of higher education by offering them scholarships and by taking care to enhance their skills.

Shiv Varan Shukla, the Chairman of Private University Regulatory Commission, Government of Chhattisgarh addressed the convocation. He said that learning does not end with this convocation but continues lifelong. The Guest of Honour Umesh Nandkumar Patel, Minister for Higher Education of Chhattisgarh was the next to speak. He said that we need to update our education system so that higher education would be accessible to all. He also promised new policies that would be introduced very soon by the government.

Mementos were presented to all the dignitaries. After the Vote of Thanks by the Registrar he also requested the Governor to close the Convocation . As she did the same, the national anthem

was sung once more and the procession led by the Governor left the Convocation Hall.

This marked the end of the celebrations of the academic achievements of the students and a beginning of a new chapter of their life's journey which will take them to a larger campus of the world.

The 21st of February, 2022 was a landmark day for the class of 2020 -2021 of MATS University. The day marked the Convocation Ceremony of the University in which 848 graduates, 319 post graduates, 7 MPhil, and 28 PhD degrees were conferred. 59 students received gold medals for their outstanding performance. The class of 20-21 has been a special batch. They were the first to adapt to the online mode of teaching and write exams in the same mode. The pandemic did effect their learning experience, denied them the joys of classroom learning and the rich experiences of campus life, but they were quick to adapt themselves to the sudden changes and did their best with whatever the changed times brought about. In recognition of their achievements, the convocation ceremony was held at the rural campus of the university at Gullu, Arang.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Enthusiasm on faces of students from private school shows that the long wait of schools remaining closed is over and they would be enjoying company of each other.

आयुर्वेद से आयुर्भान

रत्नस आयुर्वेदिक समाधान

प्र. मेरी आयु ५२ वर्ष हैं, शरीर में कूलापन महसूस होता है, समस्या के लिए उपचार बाबू - एल. विश्वकर्मा, कारवा.

उ. समस्या के लिए आप 'अद्वैतिक' कैम्प्यूल २-२ सुख-शाम पानी के साथ आपके लिए साथ रखने कर सकते हैं। साथ ही 'सुखाल' ३ मास सेवा कर सकते हैं। साथ ही 'सुखाल' बॉडी टोनर जैल से मालिक कर सकते हैं।

प्र. मेरी आयु ४४ वर्ष हैं। मैं बैब्लॉक्ट्रॉप और ग्रीन ट्रॉप इनोटेक्ट्रॉप द्वारा दो घरेलू परेशान हो रहा है। उपचार में बहुत अच्छे परेशान देता है।

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Fortified rice to be distributed in Aspirational and High-burden districts of state

On the lines of National Food Security Act, fortified rice will be made available on the ration cards of state scheme as well

Distribution of Fortified rice to be commenced from March 2022

Ch'garh Govt will bear the cent percent cost of rice fortification

Raipur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh Government has taken an important decision to eradicate malnutrition and anemia in the Aspirational districts and high-burdened districts of Chhattisgarh. From March 2022 in the financial year 2022-23, State Government will distribute fortified rice to the ration card holder beneficiaries of the state scheme in 10 aspirational districts and 02 high-burdened districts, under public distribution system. 100% of the expenses of rice fortification will be borne by the state government. This decision was taken today at the Cabinet meeting chaired by

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

According to the information received from the Food Department, annual allocation of rice to ration cards under the state scheme via PDS is about 3 lakh 89 thousand 486 tons. Nearly Rs 28.43 crores will be spent on the fortification of this rice and Rs 11.16 crores will be spent on distribution of fortified rice to the beneficiaries of National Food Security Act. In this way, an amount of Rs.39.59 crores will be spent.

Fortified rice will be distributed in 10 Aspirational districts of the state namely Korba, Rajnandgaon,

Mahasamund, Kanker, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur, Bastar, Kondagaon, Sukma and 2 highburden districts Kabeerdham and Raigarh. On the lines of National Food Security Act, fortified rice will be distributed to ration card holding beneficiaries of State Scheme in these districts.

It is noteworthy that 'fortified' rice is rich in iron and vitamins. Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, folic acid, iron and zinc as well as a combination of all the nutrients are found in this rice, which can prove to be helpful in prevention and cure of malnutrition and anemia

ROUNDABOUT REMOVED



The wrongly constructed round-about near RMC's head office was finally removed and now the divider is being extended further.

Ch'garh child rights observatory set up to promote rights of children

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 22: For the first time, over 100 civil society organizations and NGOs in the state have come together to form an alliance under 'Chhattisgarh Child Rights Observatory (CCRO)' to safeguard the well-being of children. The Observatory will promote, advocate and monitor child rights in the state.

Job Zachariah, Chief of UNICEF Chhattisgarh said that building a child-friendly Chhattisgarh is not the responsibility of the government alone. "It is the shared responsibility of everyone including parents, community influencers, faith leaders, media and most importantly the civil society. The Observatory is a collective



action led by civil society organizations and UNICEF to put children at the centre of the development and to ensure rights of children are upheld", he said.

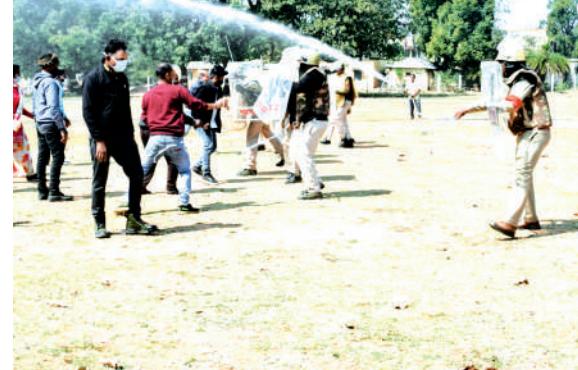
The Observatory will create awareness on the importance of child rights among parents, caregivers, communities and families. CCRO will advocate the rights of children with the government, gram panchayats, corporations, media, and influencers. The consortium

nical assistance and guidance to the consortium. CCRO is the first-ever civil society coalition for the overall development of children in Chhattisgarh."

Syam Sudheer Bandi, UNICEF Communication specialist said "The observatory will be a facilitator, advocate and messenger of child rights. It will strive to make the development of children a high priority by public engagement, policy advocacy and concrete action on the ground."

Gautam Bandhopadhyay of CART, Bhupesh Tiwari, Secretary, Saathi Samaj Sevi Sansthan, Ramesh Sharma of Ekta Parishad, Sushil Kumar Pandey of BJVS are among members of the Observatory, while the regional secretariats in the state. UNICEF will provide tech-

GPM Police and administration carries mock drill



Against public mutiny

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 21: GPM police and administration carried out a mock drill against public mutiny here at police line premises. GPM Superintendent of Police Trilok Bansal took stock of the preparations and gave the needed instructions. The drill was

created in accordance to demolition of houses due to road widening, and the public uproar and consequent mutiny on the roads, of which as soon as the police got the information, reached the spot for control measures.

Attempts were made to convince the public before reaching but the demonstration continued, to which the police and revenue officials, while taking legal action, warned the rebels and asked them

to disperse the crowd. Violent demonstrations and stone pelting by the crowd followed and the magistrate present ordered to open fire on the crowd to disperse them through aerial firing. As a result 5 rebels and 2 policemen were injured.

A separate party of the present employees and officers was formed and by providing them with the equipment, the rebellion drill was practiced. Before this, the members of both

the sides were briefed by Superintendent of Police Trilok Bansal. Present were Sub Divisional Revenue Officer Pushpendra Sharma, Sub Divisional Police Officer Ashok Wade Gavkar, I.P. Turkey Tehsildar Indira Mishra, Shesh Narayan Jaiswal, Rakshit Inspector Ram Prasad Paikra, Police Station Gaurela in-charge Yuvraj Tiwari and officers and staff of Rakshita Kendra and Thanas were present.

ITBP jawans distributes items to villagers



Under Civic Action programme in Gram Limautola

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 21: The ITBP Jawans reaching remote Limautola region, distribution important house-hold and sports items to rural people and students. It is under the public welfare schemes of the GoI in naxal infested areas, the ITBP jawans took initiative for Civic Action Programme 2022 and under leadership of 40th Battalion Commandant Romesh Bhatia, the 'samvay ad-

hikari'- Pawan Kumar Tiwari and other office bearers distributed blankets, sari, 'lungi', 'football', 'volleyball', 'Airpump', 'Badminton racket', shuttlecock; cricket bat; cricket ball; cricket stumps to people and students of Gram Limautola in e-samvay Gatapar jungle area.

Along with this the Dy. Commandant PK Tiwari created awareness about de-addiction campaign launched by the GoI for the rural people and youth. In addition to this they also created awareness among educated unemployed youth about the vacancies for post of po-

lice and in the Army issued through advertisement by the GoI, state government.

The villagers got a secure feeling finding jawans amidst them and hailed the public welfare works being done by GoI and apprising them about various public welfare schemes and making an efforts to make their village addiction-free and also informing about social evils and its outcome and making an attempt to bring villagers to join mainstream of the society. During this Sarpanch Limautola Basant Kunwar and other villagers were present.

Bio-diversity Center will be established soon in CU - V-C

Spirit of companionship is an integral part of our culture: V-C

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 21: A two-day National Symposium cum workshop February 21 and 22, on Biodiversity and its Utilization and Conservation in Central India was organized at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) on February 21 at 10 am in the Smart Class Room of Department of Biotechnology. The Chief Guest of the inaugural program was the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. Special Guest, Prof. S.P. Singh, Department of Bioscience, Saurashtra University Gujarat and Prof. Uma Shankar OF Botany Department, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya. Program Coordinator, Prof. SS Singh Dean, School of



Natural Resources and Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar were also present.

The guests on stage lit the lamp and offered flowers to the idol of Maa Saraswati. Saraswati Vandana was presented by Tarang Band. The guests were welcomed with small saplings. Welcome Address was delivered by Dean of School of Natural Resources and Convener of the program, Prof. SS Singh.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural program, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that for mapping and conservation of biodiversity in the University, a proposal was sent to set up Bio

Diversity Center in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India which has a high probability of being approved. He said that every effort is being made to establish the university as a brand.

The Vice-Chancellor said that we will soon fulfill the goal of establishing the brand value of research and innovation of Guru Ghasidas University at the international level. In the National Education Policy 2020, importance has been given to self-reliance and value-based education. The spirit and tradition of companionship

is an integral part of our culture. Conservation of biodiversity and not tampering with the balance of nature is the spirit of our culture.

Special guest at the inauguration, Prof. S.P. Singh, Department of Bioscience, Saurashtra University Gujarat said that it is a matter of good luck to come to the holy land of Chhattisgarh. With such events, mutual dialogue will start in the field of biodiversity. This type of workshop gives an opportunity to know and understand different dimensions of biodiversity.

Pro. Uma Shankar of Botany Department, North Eastern Hill University Shillong,

Meghalaya said that organizing the workshop is important as well as expedient. The central region has immense potential in the field of biodiversity. Various departments of the Government of India, DBT, DST and other organizations provide grants.

On this occasion, the Registrar of the University, Prof. Shailendra Kumar also expressed his views. The proceedings of the workshop were released by the guests on stage. The guests were honored by presenting shawls, coconuts and mementos. Vote of thanks was presented by the workshop co-convenor, Prof. B.N. Tiwari and Dr. Garima Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Forestry Department conducted it. 120 participants registered at the workshop. The opening ceremony was telecast in blended mode. Deans, heads of departments, officers, teachers and students of various schools were present at the inaugural function of the workshop.

Development of E-Passport services using Smart Card Technology

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: The Smart Card (SCOSTA) technology was developed by Prof. Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Bhilai, and his team in 2002. Now, this technology is being used in e-passport services. The cryptographography present in the card makes it near authentic, meaning the data cannot be altered or tampered with.

IIT scientists in collaboration with National Informatics Center have prepared a basic structure for the issuance of e-passports. The software

required for e-passports and the Scosta-CL technology was developed at IIT Kanpur under Prof. Moona in 2002 for applications in transport services. It has been implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in driving licenses, for instance, while various registration cards, and other ID cards such as the ones issued by Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) also use this technology.

More particularly, this technology is used in plastic smart cards, the size of a credit card,

which have an electronic chip. This chip consists of a processor with memory that runs on a tamper-proof operating system. It is designed in such a way that the chip can also store information. The data inside the chip is accessed through an access control protocol in the operating system. The memory of the card ranges from 4 kB to 150 kB. The processor inside the smart card is an 8 or 32-bit cryptographic processor. At present, smart cards are being used in health, banking and ticketing systems etc.

OBITUARY

Pramod Kumar Dubey

Raipur: Pramod Kumar Dubey (Devadawale), breathed his last here on Monday. He was 75. He was father of Amit Dubey and elder father of Sandeep Sharma and Sudeep Sharma. The final rites were performed at Mahadev Ghat crematorium on Monday.

Manti Devi Taowri

Raipur: Manti Devi Taowri (Maheshwari), R/o Central Avenue, Choubey Colony, Raipur, breathed her last here on Monday. She was 73. The final rites were held at Mawari crematorium. She was W/o Late Ram Ratan Tiwari and mother of Directors Maheshwari Publicity Service, Modern Marketing - Prakash Taowri, Pradeep Taowri and Pankaj Taowri.

Commissioner forms three-member committee

Jagdalpur, Feb 21: It was based upon complaint of irregularity in promotion in the education department, the Commissioner Bastar division formed a three-member inquiry committee, which will be investigating upon 8-points.

It is notable here that the Industry and Commerce Minister Kawasi Lakhma based upon complaint relation to promotion in the office of Lt. Director Education Department Bastar division, issued orders for investigating into the complaints. Under this as per the orders issued from

Joint Director's office on Jan 28, as per order No.'s 262, 272, 268, 280 and 274, the teacher (LB) (T-Cadre) promoted to Head Master (Middle School), a combined three-member committee has been formed to thorough inquiry into promotional orders issued for the above posts. This committee comprises of Lt. Director Education Deptt RS Chouhan and senior Accounts officer Srinivas Rath.

The inquiry committee investi-

Two-day training on 'nava-jatan' held

For heads of institutions, teachers from 3 'Sankuls'

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Feb 21: Two-day training programme on 'Nava Jatan' with assistance of Ajim Premji Foundation was organised for all the institutional heads and teachers of Govt HS School Ganiyari along with 'Sankul' trio- Adseena, Ganiyari and Asounda by the School Education department under Tilda block.

First teacher Daulat Dhurandhar, Laxminarayan Sahu and Ravi Dheewar presented 'saraswati vandana', national song and anthem and formally inaugurated the training programme and after which the skilled trainers were welcomed.

On this occasion 'Sankul' in-charge Nodal Principal Kripalita Toppo motivating the teachers said that in the present day context compensating for the loss to students in studies is a big challenge and it is possible to meet up the same on war-footing.

In this the biggest challenge will be that of teacher and to which the



teachers through their hard work and commitment would make all possible efforts.

The main objective of training is to re-develop the interest and shortage in study-level due to corona pandemic in the schools and fulfill the same in short period.

Two-day training prog on 'Nindanmatmak Parikshan' and Upcharatmak Shiksha.'

Kamla Vajpayee of Ajim Premji Foundation, along with Sankul coordinator trio- BP Verma, Adseena, Arvind Pushpkar Asounda and Dushyant Bandhe Ganiyari and other trainer under Nava Jatan programme highlighted on knowledge of

words, letters and spelling in language; alphabetical introduction, formation of words, pronunciation, good hand-writing; Algebra in Mathematics, identification of numbers, experiment based preliminary knowledge, categorisation as per IQ and on intricacies related to 'upcharatmak shiksha'.

They also delivered lecture on how to provide quality education on subject matter and motivated the teachers to impart education through education materials; using gadgets with modern techniques, through games and other novel methods.

In the second session the BEO BL Dewangan being specially present

hailed the efforts made by teachers to impart education to students through online classes, 'Baltuketabol', loudspeaker class, 'Mohalla class' and others. He said that despite all this what all academic, physical, mental and intellectual loss has been made to the students, cannot be fulfilled so easily.

Expressing concern over the distance which has taken place among students from books, he held the need to make improvement speedily adopting novel methods in their education level and try to bring back their studies back on track.

He also appealed all teachers to follow the instructions issued by the

education department and fulfill their responsibilities with due dedication and commitment and give minimum of six hours daily to students on daily basis.

He made an appeal to all teachers that students of today are future citizens and will be having burden on their shoulders for development of society, state and country. So in order to make them well-educated, dedicated citizens of the country, the entire responsibility lies on the shoulder of teachers and to which they should constantly introspect.

The two-day session was successfully conducted by teacher duo Daulat Dhurandhar and Laxminarayan Sahu. In the training Head Master Tukaram Chandrakar, Lakan Bharadwaj, Madhav Prasad Sahu, Anita Nag Parmar, Sheshnaryan Sharma, Manoj Yadu, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Vishnugiri Goswami, Topsingh Tandon, and heads of institutions and teachers from three Sankuls were present.

ing care of the health of the people by organizing medical camps, distribution of medicines to the needy and increasing health awareness. Sports competitions have been organized from time to time.

CRPF installed solar street light in inner village Godelguda to win the trust of the villagers

In this sequence, under the direction of Commandant Devendra Nath Yadav, in an innovative experiment, due to lack of electricity in village Godelguda, we have tried to remove the darkness of the lives of the villagers by installing solar lights with the courtesy of 74th



Corps. During this action, a large number of villagers and children were present

CRPF installs solar light in villages

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Feb 21: On the direction of Commandant Devendra Yadav of 74th Corps, along with anti-Naxal operations, civic action programs have also been conducted from time to time. Due to which the general public and the security forces get an opportunity to increase mutual coordination and the human face of the security forces is exposed to the public, while the general public also becomes aware that the security forces not only keep weapons but they are also common human beings like them.

Such programs help in increasing the positivity and in reducing the negativity spread and being spread by the Naxalites.

From the Civic Action Program, the needy are made available by the same corps as per the convenience

From time to time, civic action programs have been organized by the Vahini, in which the distribution of essential goods to the villagers, tak-

Kunbi Samaj celebrates Shivaji's Jayanti

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Feb 21: The birth anniversary of 'Chatrapati' Shivaji Maharaj' was observed by Chhattisgarh Pradesh Kunbi Samaj Mahasanghatan (CPKSM), Bilaspur in Devarikhurd. In this the chief guest released the 'cloth bag' as symbol to make Chhattisgarh plastic-free as per inclination of Kunbi Samaj.

In the above programme chief guest was MLA Dr Krishnamurti Bandhi, President Kissan Morcha BP Singh, special guest of Samaj State President Ranjit Bhau Muneshwar, Patron Dheeraj Vankhede, District President Rajendra Shende, working president Ashok Patil,



Secretary Roopnarayan Sher, V-P Chhaya Varkad, Treasurer Mukesh Brahmakar and all other members of the society. Along with this a colourful cultural programme was also presented.

Strengthen the information system and work in mutual coordination: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 21: District Collector Kuldeep Sharma discussed law and order situation and gave instructions to maintain law and order in the region with mutual coordination and strengthening the information system.

The meeting held here was attended by CEO, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat, Additional Superintendent of Police Madhulika Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kavita Thakur, Sub-Divisional Officers of Police and District Administration officers. Talking on Section 107 of the Code of Criminal



Procedure, he said that the Executive Magistrate is empowered, if he receives information that is likely to cause a breach of the peace or to disturb the public peace or to do any wrongful act likely to

cause a breach of the peace, to order to such person to execute the bond in his discretion with or without security. In the meeting, the Collector said that in case of road accident, as soon as the information about the incident is received, the revenue and police administration should coordinate and take the person to the nearest medical center so that immediate medical facilities can be provided.

Along with this, he instructed to complete the process at the earliest in the case of death due to road accident and provide the grant amount of Rs.25 thousand to the near family members.

The Collector also instructed the police administration to conduct a mock drill exercise to deal with the law and order situation in the district. It is noteworthy that in the virtual meeting regarding law and order presided by the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of the state, the Collectors and Superintendents of Police of all the districts of the state were ordered to conduct the practice of mock drill.

Collector appreciates performance of Janakpur CHC's NRC

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 21: District Collector Kuldeep Sharma had earlier directed the Department of Health and Women and Child Development in the meeting to maintain 100% bed occupancy, hygiene, child friendly environment and quality of nutritious food in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC). In this connection, the Collector inspected Janakpur Nutrition Rehabilitation Center located in the Community Health Center during his visit to Vikaskhand Bharatpur.

Seeing the all-round arrangement in hygiene,



care, nutrition diet in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center, the Collector praised the entire health team and encouraged them to maintain quality. The NRC in-charge informed the Collector of 18 children admitted here. The collector talked to the children

and discussed their care with the mothers.

The NRC in-charge informed that baby girl Kavya was admitted on February 1, with weight of 6.8 kg at the time of admission, but today due to better care and diet Kavya's weight has increased by

RTI activists file complaint against Achouti 'Sachiv'



Central Chronicle News

But the PIO in order to avoid disclosure of corruption, the 'sachiv' Gram Panchayat Achouti KK Sahu refused to give information as per demand from applicant Mohan Patel through a letter under RTI Act 2005 and is openly violating the rules.

Mohan Patel said that under RTI Act 2005, no PIO has got the rights to ask any applicant about the objective of seeking information about any department or institution

and any person can avail information about the expenditure of public money paid to Gram Panchayat under RTI.

In this case Sachiv KK Sahu's complaint has been made to CEO District Panchayat Dhamtari, Janpad Panchayat Kurud and District Collector and SDM and demanded suspension of the Sachiv Achouti, failing which he warned to file a petition in the High Court in Bilaspur.



Panchayat wise, village wise and group wise for training.

Being aware of the fish processing center being set up in the district Dubbatota, he stressed upon using all the resources only after testing them. During the review of the famous Girdalpara Irrigation Project of the district, he took cognizance of the progress of works like fencing, irrigation in the fields, sowing etc. and directed for regular monitoring. In order to accelerate the rural economy in the district, he asked to expedite the work of site selection regarding the establishment

of fisheries center. During the review of the Health Department, Shri Nandanwar inquired about the Covid vaccination, supply medical services and Ayushman card registration, and Noni Em powerment Assistance Scheme run by the Labor Department, and directed the concerned officer to identify girls above 18 years of age under the scheme.

CEO, District Panchayat Shri Devnarayan Kashyap, SDM Sukma, Ms. Preeti Durgam, all Deputy Collectors and key officers of all departments were present in the meeting.

Anwari, Feb 21: RTI activist Mohan Patel R/o Charcha block Kurud district Dhamtari under the right to information act has sought details of basic work and expenditure in FY 2020-21 from PIO and Sachiv Gram Panchayat Achouti Janpad Panchayat Kurud.

Dhanbad, Feb 21: It is hereby informed to all concerned that e-auction Sale Notice (for sale of immovable properties) published in Central Chronicle, Raipur edition on 18.02.2022 issued by this office, the date of e-auction has been published inadvertently as 24.12.2021 for Borrower No. (1) Vishal Yadav and 01.08.2019 for Borrower No. (2) M/s. Abhishek (1. Smt. Bina Patel, W/o Shri Rajesh Patel, 2. Shri Rajesh Patel S/o Shri J.L. Patel) in the first paragraph, please read it 28.03.2022.

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

BRIEF

Stops

Mathura: The Mathura child welfare society has prevented two minor girls from getting married off in a rural area of the district. On getting information that two minor girls of a village under Naujheel police station area of district were being married, police team along with district's Child Welfare Society officials visited their village and stopped the marriage. Child Welfare Society's Magistrate and Presiding Officer Rajesh Kumar Dixit said.

Peddlers

Ghaziabad: Two alleged interstate drug peddlers were nabbed in a joint operation of Delhi and Ghaziabad Police with 105 kg contraband worth Rs 4 crore. The arrests were made with the help of a tip-off when police searched a suspicious car on Delhi-Meerut Expressway near Ganga canal. The accused were identified as Sanjit and Ankur; both residents of Sagarpur area of southwest Delhi.

Stolen

Gwalior: Unidentified thieves broke open three ATM cash chests using gas cutters and decamped with Rs 44 lakh in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city after blackening CCTV cameras installed in these booths. Thefts took place in Padav and Maharajpura police station limits. Two ATMs in Padav and one in Maharajpura were cut open using gas cutters and Rs 44 lakh was stolen.

Apprehended

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man was apprehended from Jaipur in connection with the alleged murder of his wife, whose body was found at her friend's house in Delhi a couple of days ago. Aman Singh Bisht, the accused, was planning to move to a safer location, probably to some other part of North India or Nepal. Priyanka Bisht, Aman's wife, was found dead at her friend Priyanka Saha's house in north Delhi's Burari area.

Syrup

Mumbai: Seven persons were held with MD drug worth Rs 25 lakh and 200 bottles of cough syrup in two operations conducted in Ghatkopar and Govandi areas of Mumbai. Rohit Jaiswal (23) was nabbed from Ghatkopar with 250 grams of MD drug worth Rs 25 lakh, while Shivaji Nagar police held Atif Sheikh, Gulzar Sheikh, Shahnawaz Khan, Farooq Maniyar, Ashish Jaiswal and Sorab Khan from Govandi with 200 bottles of cough syrup.

Injured

Imphal: Two personnel of border guarding force ITBP were injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in poll-bound Manipur. The incident was reported in the Wangoo Tera area of Kakching district, about 45 kms from state capital Imphal.

HC questions Maha Govt over CCTV for police stations

Mumbai, Feb 21 (PTD):

The Bombay High Court on Monday said the Maharashtra government has not done anything substantial with regard to the installation of CCTVs in police stations across the state.

A division bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and MN Jadhav said in the past whenever the court asked for CCTV footage in any case, the police refused with one excuse or the other. "Let us be candid and say that this is all done intentionally," Justice Kathawalla said.

The HC said that the Supreme Court had in December 2020 passed an order directing all states to install CCTVs in police stations.

"Nothing substantial has been done in Maharashtra in the past two years. Has anyone even bothered to read the Supreme Court order? You (state government) need to set up a committee to look into all

comply with the SC order," the high court said.

The whole purpose of the Supreme Court order was to ensure transparency and hence, only "paper compliance" would not suffice, the HC said.

"You (Maharashtra government) need to set up a committee to look into all



this, otherwise no one would be bothered," the court said asking questions about intention of state government.

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, appearing for the state government, told the court that work is being carried out by two contractors to install CCTVs in police stations and to repair the

ones which are currently non-functional.

As per an affidavit submitted by the government in the court on Monday, there are 1,089 police stations in the state. So far 6,092 CCTVs have been installed in 547 police stations. Out of these cameras, 5,639 are functional, while the remaining are non-functional.

Kumbhakoni said the contractors have been asked to repair all the non-functional CCTVs in 15 days.

The bench then said steps are being taken only after orders are passed and till then, nothing is done.

The HC also said that as per the apex court order, the CCTVs have to be placed at all the entry and exit points, inside lock-ups, in the rooms of the inspector, sub-inspectors and other places.

Kumbhakoni said this was "most probably" being complied with.

ROADSHOW



Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Shatabdi Roy waves during a roadshow, in support of TMC candidates for Bankura municipal elections, in Bankura, West Bengal on Monday.

Congress continues protest in Karnataka assembly

Speaker objects to slogans against RSS

Bengaluru, Feb 21 (PTD):

Protests by the Congress, who are demanding the sacking of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister KS Eshwarappa and that he be booked for sedition over a statement on the national flag, continued to rock the Assembly proceedings in Karnataka for the fourth consecutive day on Monday.

The Assembly also saw passage of four bills amidst the din, and Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri took strong exception to Congress members "unnecessarily" bringing in RSS' name during their protest in the well of the House.

The 'day-and-night' protests by the legislators



Congress MLAs led by DK Shivakumar outside Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru on Monday.

whereby they spend the night inside the Assembly began on Thursday demanding Eshwarappa's dismissal.

Recently, Eshwarappa had claimed 'Bhagwa dhwaj' (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 the House met for the day, Congress members trooped into the well of the House and started shouting slogans demanding action against Eshwarappa.

Slogans like - "Down, down BJP", "Suspend Eshwarappa",

"Eshwarappa desha drohi (traitor)", "Down Down desha drohi BJP government", "Speaker give justice", "This government is RSS' puppet", "We want constitution, not Manuvada" - among others marred the proceedings.

Despite protest, Speaker Kageri took up the question hour with no Congress legislator taking part in it.

Then, amidst the din, the assembly also passed four bills - The Karnataka Civil Services (Validation of Selection and Appointment of 2011 batch Gazetted Probationers) Bill, 2022; The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2022; The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022; The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944, (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2022 - without any discussions.

Manipur's women remain laggards in politics

Despite civil society leadership

Imphal, Feb 21 (PTD):

With just 17 of them contesting in the upcoming Manipur Assembly election out of a total of 265 candidates in the fray, women political leaders in the state say unless there is seat reservation, women will never get a fair political representation.

Despite the fact that the number of Manipuri women voters at more than 10.57 lakh, outnumber males (9.90 lakh) and are known to take the lead when it comes to civil society movements, women find it difficult to rise in electoral politics against the tradition of male dominance. Among major politi-



BJP Manipur Pradesh President A Sharda Devi during a rally on Monday.

cal parties, BJP and the Congress have put up three women candidates each, Nationalist Congress Party and National People's Party two each and Janata Dal (United) just one. The leaders argue that women empowerment cannot be complete without empowering them politically. "In the North East women play a leading role in other walks of life but when

it comes to politics, women are not encouraged as society looks at women entering politics differently and are looked down upon," BJP Manipur Pradesh President A Sharda Devi told PTI.

In Manipur's history, Devi said even when the state was a kingdom there were instances of women taking part in politics but due to the nature of society the number of them taking an active role politically were few and far between. Things are, however, changing slowly. Sharda Devi asserted, citing the example of her party which has increased the number of women candidates to three this time from two in the last assembly election, crediting the move to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Despite civil society leadership

Akhilesh will remain 'babu' throughout life: Adityanath

Hardoi, Feb 21 (PTD):

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday took a jibe at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for calling the prime minister for his poll campaign, and coined a new acronym for PM - Packers and Movers — to state that people have understood its meaning.

Hitting out at the BJP, Yadav also asserted that there is a 440 volt current against the ruling party in the public.

"The CM has called PM (for UP polls). The people of cities know what PM



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during a campaign rally on Monday.

means...It means his Packers and Movers (PM) are ready," Yadav said while addressing an election rally in Sandila constituency in Hardoi.

He said this time there is direct fight between the BJP and people of the state. "We are with the people who are directly

fighting with the BJP. Neither BSP nor Congress are going to form the next government. Don't waste your votes and ensure the SP forms the next government," he said.

Terming Adityanath as "Bulldozer Baba", Yadav said he used to call him 'Baba CM' but a newspa-

per has named him as "Bulldozer Baba"

"The CM used to change names and colours of schemes in past five years and now his name has also been changed," he said.

He said in the first and second phase of polls, the Samajwadi Party has scored a century in terms of seats and after third and fourth phase the "double century" of his party will be made and in rest of the phases the BJP will be left far behind.

"The BJP did not understand that there is 440 volt current against it in the public. The language of its leaders has changed," he said, adding that the people of the state have already sent the Baba to his native place Gorakhpur (from where he is contesting polls).

HC asks status report on plea to reopen spa and wellness clinic

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTD):

Commercial Health Trade Licence can go on.

The Delhi High Court Monday asked the Delhi Police to file a status report on a plea seeking to reopen a spa and wellness clinic, which is being prohibited to carry out the business despite DDMA's order permitting such centres to reopen with certain conditions and restrictions. Justice V Kameswar Rao said the Delhi Police shall file the status report within two days and listed the matter for further hearing on February 28.

Meanwhile, state Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi welcomed

Twitter's action. "We firmly believe that terrorism has no religion. The Congress had lost two of its leaders - Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi - fighting terrorism. The verdicts of courts must not be seen through a political prism," he said.

"But, the BJP tried to take political advantage out of this (2008 Ahmedabad blasts case) judgement. This is BJP's old tactic to remain in power. Instead of indulging in such dramas, the BJP should focus on issues concerning the common man," the Congress leader said.

Social activist Mujahid Nafees, who also runs an NGO for the minority community's welfare, claimed the BJP always targets the country's minorities, mainly Muslims and Christians, for political gains.

The plea said the petitioner got a licence to operate the spa centre in April 2021 and in December the same year, some police officials barged into custody all male and female staff working there allegedly cooked up a false story against them.

On December 28, 2021, following the order of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), the petitioner had to close down his spa business on account of COVID-19, and on February 4, this year, the authorities permitted spa and wellness centres in the national capital to reopen subject to certain conditions and restrictions, it said.

Cartoon on blast verdict not against any religion: BJP

Congress hails its removal by Twitter

Ahmedabad, Feb 21 (PTD):



tricolour and a drawing depicting the scene of a bomb blast in the background, with "Satyamev Jayate" written on its top right corner. It was posted on the Gujarat BJP's official Twitter handle on Saturday, a day after a special court here sentenced to death 38 convicts and handed life terms to 11 others in the case of 2008 serial bomb blasts in which 56 people had lost their lives and over 200 were injured.

The cartoon is not available on either the Instagram or Facebook so-

cial media pages of the state BJP unit.

"The sketch was based on real photographs of the convicts published by newspapers a day after the verdict. The Gujarat BJP or its social media team had no intention to target any particular religion or community through the sketch," state party unit spokesperson Dr Rutvij Patel said.

He said when (terrorist) Osama Bin Laden was killed by American soldiers, his sketch was also published in the US. "Our sketch was just an artistic expression shared on social media, nothing else," Patel said. Gujarat BJP's media coordinator Yagnesh Dave said Twitter removed the cartoon after "someone had reported against it".

BRIEF

Positive

Los Angeles: Justin Bieber's Justice World Will in Las Vegas has been put on hold after the singer tested positive for COVID-19. Besides Bieber, there are others in the team who have contracted the virus, Variety reported quoting the 'Baby' singer's representatives. Bieber, 27, was set to take the stage but the concert had to be delayed for a few months. The new date for the concert is now June 28. Justin is of course hugely disappointed.

Rejects

Canberra: Australia's largest electricity generator, AGL Energy, has rejected an 8 billion Australian dollar (USD 5.8 billion) takeover bid from tech billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes and Canadian investment firm Brookfield, who want to accelerate the company's transition away from coal-fired power. The Australian founder of Atlassian and Brookfield made the preliminary and non-binding offer of AUD7.50 (USD 5.39) per share.

Scrutinised

Omaha: A Nebraska state senator in US called for a criminal investigation after one of her colleagues said he would resign after admitting that he took photos of a female legislative aide without her knowledge. Democratic state Sen Megan Hunt of Omaha sent a letter urging the state attorney general and Nebraska State Patrol to investigate the conduct of Republican Sen Mike Groene to determine if he committed any crimes.

Russia has lists of Ukrainians to be killed: US

Washington, Feb 21 (AFP):

The United States has warned the United Nations it has information that Russia has lists of Ukrainians "to be killed or sent to camps" in the event of an invasion, according to a letter sent to the UN rights chief and obtained by AFP.

The letter, which came as Washington warned of an imminent invasion by Russian troops massed near the Ukrainian border, says the United States is "deeply concerned" and warns of a potential "human rights catastrophe."

The United States has "credible information that indicates Russian forces are creating lists of identified Ukrainians to be killed or sent to camps following a military occupation," the letter says.

"We also have credible information that Russian forces will likely use lethal measures to disperse peaceful protests or otherwise



An instructor, right, shows a grenade during a training of Ukrainians in Kyiv, Ukraine.

counter peaceful exercises of perceived resistance from civilian populations," says the message, addressed to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

The note, signed by Bathsheba Nell Crocker, US ambassador to the UN in Geneva, warns a Russian invasion of Ukraine could bring with it abuses such as kidnappings or torture, and could target political dissidents and religious and ethnic minorities, among oth-

ers. Russia has placed more than 150,000 troops near Ukraine's borders in recent weeks, the United States and Western allies have estimated.

Moscow denies it plans to attack its neighbor, but is seeking a guarantee that Ukraine will never join NATO and that the Western alliance will remove forces from Eastern Europe, demands the West has refused. A US official said that Biden's assertion that Putin

has made the decision to roll Russian forces into Ukraine was based on intelligence that Russian front-line commanders have been given orders to begin final preparations for an attack. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the sensitive intelligence.

The United States and many European countries have charged for weeks that Putin has built up the forces he needs to invade Ukraine a westward-looking democracy that has sought to move out of Russia's orbit and is now trying to create pretexts to invade. Western nations have threatened massive sanctions if Putin does. US officials defended their decision to hold off on their planned financial punishments of Russia ahead of any invasion, after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called passionately Saturday for the West to do more.



Palestinian cadets of al-Rebat college for Law and Police Science take part in exercises in Gaza city on Monday.

India, France to strengthen international law of sea

● Agree to coordinate, adapt to 'new challenges'

Paris, Feb 21 (PTI):



EAM S Jaishankar meets with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris.

India and France have declared that they are attached to the international law of the sea and will coordinate their positions in multilateral bodies and negotiations to strengthen it and adapt to "new challenges", amidst China's aggressive muscle flexing in the Indo-Pacific.

According to a roadmap signed by the two countries on the blue economy and ocean governance during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's bilateral talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, India and France nurture a high quality dialogue on maritime security, which enables them to raise strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific.

"This partnership marks a significant step-forward in India-France cooperation for maritime security," according to the roadmap re-

leased by the Ministry of External Affairs.

India and France will hold discussions on the development and strengthening of marine protected areas throughout the world, particularly as part of the negotiations on the future biodiversity global framework. India and France are maritime nations with dynamic maritime economy

sectors like marine technology and scientific research, fisheries, port and shipping, to name a few. Possessing vast exclusive economic zones, their fate is closely linked to the sea and the ocean, according to the roadmap. India and France are attached to international law of the sea and its compliance across all seas and oceans.

"So as to strengthen international law of the sea and adapt to new challenges, they will coordinate their positions in multilateral bodies and negotiations, whether it concerns the International Seabed Authority, the International Maritime Organisation, regional sea conventions dealing with maritime affairs and where they are both Parties, or the International Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), among others," according to the roadmap. China, which has been behaving aggressively in the South China Sea, had rejected a ruling by an international tribunal in the Hague in 2016 in a case brought by the Philippines against Chinese claims to rights in the South China Sea. The ruling came from

an arbitration tribunal constituted under the UNCLOS. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

Beijing is also involved in a maritime dispute with Japan over the East China Sea. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade. Under the roadmap, India and France have also agreed to organise a bilateral dialogue on the blue economy and ocean governance to exchange views on their priorities, share their best practices and support ongoing and future cooperation.

The dialogue will play a driving role in the formulation, organisation and follow-up of cooperation projects in the four pillars of the partnership of institutional, economic, infrastructures, scientific and academic, it said.

Forex-starved Sri Lanka runs out of cash to buy fuel

Colombo, Feb 21 (PTI):

Sri Lankan government on Monday admitted that it has run out of cash to buy fuel as pumps in most filling stations across the country have run dry, exacerbating the deepening foreign-exchange crisis that has crippled the island nation's economy.

The fuel shortage has led to long queues at understocked pumps across the country.

Gammanpila reckoned that the only way out of this mess is by hiking the retail prices of fuel.

The minister also urged the government to reduce the customs duty on fuel imports in order to pass the benefits to the public.

Earlier this month, Sri Lanka bought 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel and petrol from India's oil major Indian Oil Corporation to meet the urgent energy requirements in the economic crisis worsened by depleted foreign reserves.

Messengers delivering threats to Hong Kong civil society

Hong Kong, Feb 21 (AFP):

Covert meetings, whispered threats, and mysterious phone calls – warnings of reprisals by authorities from shadowy messengers are hounding Hong Kong's civil society as China flattens a pro-democracy movement. Unlike the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong long hosted a vibrant landscape of citizens' groups who cultivated rights advocacy, union mobilisation and civil disobedience as a key fabric of the once-outspoken city. But a national security law imposed by Beijing in

2020 to snuff out dissent has knee-capped the sector, leaving people fearful that the law's vaguely defined crimes will be used to target their work.

More than 50 civil society groups specialising on issues ranging from labour to education have since announced their closure or been shuttered after national security arrests.

Often the pre-emptive shutdowns came after staff were subjected to a shadowy campaign of threats and intimidation, according to five people AFP spoke to with firsthand knowledge.

The warnings typically arrived via phone calls and messages from so-called "middlemen", who assumed a conversational tone while revealing knowledge of each recipient's personal life. Some came face to face.

Veteran NGO worker Mario — using a pseudonym due to fears for his safety — said his colleagues received disconcerting messages from several middlemen last summer. "They would tell you different stories but at some point the conversation would reach the same conclusion: you must shut down," he told AFP. A

month after first contact, Mario's organisation made the decision to close.

Hong Kong's civil society groups have in recent years been labelled "anti-China elements" by officials and state media. Beijing has made clear it believes they were a key part of democracy protests that exploded in 2019 with huge rallies and frequent clashes with police.

The national security law's vague language, combined with the middlemen's warnings, suddenly made the threat of lengthy jail terms very real for people like Mario.

Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the "Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021" (RB-IOS) by integrating the three erstwhile Ombudsman Schemes applicable for banks, non-banking financial companies and non-bank system participants. The RB-IOS provides cost-free redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by the Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the RE. The RB-IOS adopts a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach for all complaints against any RE. It is therefore no longer necessary for a complainant to identify under which Ombudsman scheme/office he/she should file complaint with the Ombudsman.

Complaints received at RBI against the REs not covered under the RB-IOS are redressed at the Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI. Any complaint against an RE can be filed through one of the following modes:

- Online - through the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal of RBI on <https://cms.rbi.org.in> → File a complaint
- Email – rccpc@rbi.org.in in the form as specified in Annexure 'A' in the RB-IOS.
- Physical complaint (letter/post) in the form as specified in Annexure 'A' in the RB-IOS to "Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre, 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, Sector -17, Central Vista, Chandigarh – 160017"

Please visit <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or contact on toll-free number – 14448 (9:30 am to 5:15 pm on Monday to Friday (excluding National Holidays) for more information including names of entities covered under RB-IOS and CEPCs.

Appeal against decision of RBI-Ombudsman

Appeal against the decision of RBI-Ombudsman can be filed online on CMS portal at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> → File an Appeal or sent to the Appellate Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, 1st Floor, Amar Building, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 (E-mail aaos@rbi.org.in) within 30 days of receipt of the communication of the RBI-Ombudsman's decision, only if the complaint is closed under the appealable Clauses of RB-IOS.

Important Information

Note 1: Before lodging any complaint under the RB-IOS/CEPC, the complainant must approach the concerned bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant with the grievance. If the grievance is not redressed within 30 days or if complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant, he/she can approach the RBI-Ombudsman/CEPC. The complainants can approach the RBI-Ombudsman anytime within one year of receipt of such reply from the concerned bank / NBFC / system participant. In case no reply is received from the bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant, RBI-Ombudsman can be approached anytime within one year and one month from the date of representation to the entity.

Note 2: The complainant MUST indicate his/her name, address and present contact number in the written/email complaint.

**DAU SHRI VASUDEV CHANDRAKAR KAMDHENU
VISHWAVIDYALAYA ANJORA, DURG (C.G.)**

E-mail: eeckv04@gmail.com
Website: www.cgv.ac.in
Mob. No: 9584026963

Date 21/02/2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Manual)

Percentage rate Manual Tender for the following works are invited from Contractors and firms Registered with Chhattisgarh Unified Registration System. The document can be purchased from office of the Executive Engineer, DSVCKV, Anjora Durg from date 04/03/2022 at 10:AM to date 10/03/2022 at 2:00 PM hours.

S. No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lakh)	Cost of Tender form (In Rs.)	Class	Time Allowed	Tender Cell
1	Construction of Extension of Examination Hall at college of dairy science & food technology, Raipur	8.54	0.17	Rs. 1000/- in the form of DD/Pay order	D & above	3 Months Including rainy season	3rd Call
2	Construction of Main Gate at veterinary college, Bilaspur	13.40	0.27	Rs. 2000/- in the form of DD/Pay order	D & above	3 Months Including rainy season	3rd Call
3	Extension of Poultry Farm at Anjora, Durg	19.01	0.38	Rs. 2000/- in the form of DD/Pay order	D & above	3 Months Ic rainy season	1st Call
4	Construction of Poultry Farm & Hatchery Unit at Veterinary Polytechnic Surajpur	19.78	0.40	Rs. 2000/- in the form of DD/Pay order	D & above	3 Months Including rainy season	2nd Call

Note:- 1 Amendment in tender if any will only be uploaded on the websites of DSVCKV, Anjora, Durg Websites: www.cgv.ac.in and shall not be published in any Newspaper or inform by mail to any contractor.
2. Tender form duly filled can be reach in office of the Executive Engineer, DSVCKV, Anjora, Durg. Through speed post up to at 17:00 hours, on 11-03-2022.
3. Physical opening of Tender document at 2:00PM on 17-03-2022 and opening of Financial Bid at 2:00PM on 24/03/2022 at o/o the E.E., D.S.V.C.K.V. Anjora, Durg.
4. Any other information can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, D.S.V.C.K.V. at Anjora, Durg during the office Hours.

Executive Engineer
DSVCKV, Anjora, Durg

S-31539/1



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI

Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Need clarity on crypto

Launching a strong attack on Cryptocurrency, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said that banning cryptocurrency is perhaps the most advisable choice open to India. The comments are significant in the context of an ongoing debate whether to ban crypto currencies or not. The deputy governor narrated different factors to highlight the concerns caused by private cryptocurrencies in the financial system. This is perhaps the first time an RBI top official is openly making a call to ban Cryptocurrencies. The central government needs to make its policy clear regarding treatment of crypto ecosystem and digital rupee system and not left common people confused. Fraud and financial crimes are often reported across India regarding cryptocurrencies or tokens. There has to be clarity and no different voices from ministry of finance and RBI. In the past, the RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has highlighted the concerns associated with the Cryptocurrencies saying these instruments are harmful to the macroeconomic stability. The Union government has announced 30 percent tax on private digital assets from the next fiscal year, but has so far refused to make cryptocurrencies legal or illegal. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that the central bank will be ready to launch its blockchain-based central bank digital currency (CBDC), the digital rupee, before March 2023. However, RBI clarified that the central bank is also open to other technologies. Blockchains are only one type of distributed ledger technology (DLT). In most cases, it is considered to be a permissionless platform. But for the central bank to remain in control of the digital rupee and the notion that most banks would like to prevent their competitors from peeking at their liquidity strategies, it would need a permissioned system for its upcoming CBDC. RBI is currently only working with agencies within the ecosystem. This may work for a wholesale digital rupee where the number of transactions are likely to be limited. However, for a retail digital rupee, which has to serve the needs of nearly 1.4 billion Indians, a single node to validate transactions would create a bottleneck and clog up the system.

Shaktikanta Das recently took a dig at crypto saying there is no underlying asset, not even a tulip. Ogier de Busbecq was the ambassador of the Holy Roman Emperor to the Sultan of Turkey. The Sultan sent with Ogier, the first tulip seeds and bulbs to Vienna. He planted the same. These bulbs started getting distributed to Antwerp, Amsterdam, Netherlands, etc. The tulips grew remarkably well in the Netherlands. Compared to the existing flowers that were available in Europe at the time, the tulip had a very intense saturated color. This made it a favorite of Dutch nobles who used it as a status symbol. Trade of grown tulips, tulip bulbs, seeds took off like crazy. There were futures contracts that florists entered with tulip growers before the tulip was even planted. First formal futures exchange was set up where traders met in the bars & taverns to discuss prices and trades. However, schemes like these can't last unless someone was ultimately willing to pay such high prices and take possession of the bulbs. Starting February 1637, tulip traders could no longer find new buyers willing to pay such high prices for their bulbs. As the market realised this, the demand for tulips crashed overnight, and prices plummeted. Many people were left holding contracts to purchase tulips at prices now 10x higher than those on the open market, while others had possession of bulbs now worth a fraction of the price they had originally bought them for. Such speculative bubbles show up from time to time like the dotcom bubble of the 90s or housing prices in 2008. Key to avoiding them is to stop investing just because prices are rising. Invest in assets that you believe in, not because you feel someone else will pay more.

Avoiding 'sea blindness'

Supreme Commander of the armed forces, President Ram Nath Kovind is reviewing the Indian Navy's fleet. INS Visakhapatnam and submarine INS Vela are part of the 12th Presidential Fleet Review. The 12th Presidential Fleet Review kicked off with a 21-gun salute. Towards the end of last year, the Indian Navy had inducted two 'potent' indigenously built platforms INS Visakhapatnam and INS Vela. In a backdrop to this, it is the right time to ponder over how our seas touch each of our lives, including those living in the hinterland. Avoiding 'sea blindness' is paramount in defence policy despite threat at land borders. Trade and cultural exchange throughout known history has been transacted through the sea routes. The seas have traditionally been highways for commerce and exploration. Maritime trade and commerce are economic activities, which need a safe and conducive environment to thrive. It is this requirement, which led to the development of navies. The Cholas had a powerful navy up until the 13th century, which allowed them to trade and establish their influence right up to Southeast Asia.

The largest temple in the world, the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, bears testimony to this fact. India was discovered by the west through the sea route by Vasco Da Gama in 1498. The imperialistic designs of European powers remained in check till the time there was a credible navy guarding the Indian shores. The decline of Maratha naval power in the mid 18th century allowed the European powers, particularly the British to flex their muscles. The subsequent conquest and plunder of the great Indian subcontinent by the British also took place through the high seas. Thus, it becomes amply clear that through the ages, the presence of capable naval forces had allowed us to flourish and the 'sea blindness' resulting in weakening of naval power led to the ultimate conquest, downfall and exploitation of the Indian subcontinent. Indian Navy is mandated to ensure the safety of the nation's maritime trade through the protection of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). This remains the Indian Navy's primary military mission.

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

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

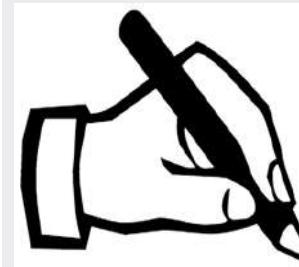
VINTAGE THEME



A woman in vintage attire for theme of Rockabilly Festival, which features vintage cars and motorcycles and rock and roll music concerts in Immokalee, Florida, US.

Free goods and services from nature benefits humans

URBASHI PRADHAN



It was the month of November two years ago. One could feel the chill in the air. Dal Bahadur, a beekeeper from Turuk, Sikkim was harvesting honey from his traditional hive. He has some five traditional hives and harvests honey twice a year, in April and November. This, he says is sufficient for his family and to occasionally gift friends and relatives. As one may wonder, bees cannot forage in the cold weather then how do they sustain through the cold and harsh winter season of the hills? To answer this, Dal Bahadur seals the entrance of the hive with cow dung to keep the hive warm and always leaves behind some honey in the honeycomb for the bees to survive and to see the next spring. He says, 'This is all I need to do for the bees, in return I get honey for free.' These 'free goods and services' that we obtain from nature, in academic parallel are known as 'ecosystem services'. Honey is just one of them. Humans derive ecosystem services in many forms. From clean drinking water, medicinal plants, regulation of climate, the timber we use for building our homes, to natural vistas and related recreational activities we carry out in the wild, which we the city dwellers may be familiar with, are all part of the ecosystem services provisioned by nature.

Around one-third of our diet is, in

fact, made up of animal pollinated plants. This too is another form of ecosystem service provided by insects and animals. There are nearly 170,000 Forest Fringe Villages (FFVs) that are located in the proximity of forest areas. Forests are an important and integral part of the socio-economic and cultural lives of the people living in these villages. It is estimated that around 275 million Indians directly depend on forests for various ecosystem services, which ensures food, shelter and security. These ecosystem services that range from edible flora and fauna to freshwater sources also contribute to the nutritional requirement of the rural communities that live inside or closer to the forest. They also help people in maintaining good social relations. About 150 wild plant species, which are essential for many rural subsistence households, are consumed in India, Malaysia and Thailand as sources of emergency foods. These plants or plant products are either eaten raw or cooked and processed using fuelwood, which is derived from the forests too. In addition to the food for human consumption, the processing of cattle feed also requires fuelwood. Therefore, fuelwood is one of the most important ecosystem services people derive from forests.

India is also home to approximately 535 million livestock and 38 percent of them are dependent on forests for fodder as they either graze in the forested area or are stall-fed. Dry fodder is also collected by rural communities and is used for mulching and manure produced from cattle sheds is used in their agricultural fields. In fact, livestock rearing contributes to about 3.7 percent of agricultural household income in India. Therefore, fodder becomes an important ecosystem service to sustain the socio-eco-

nomic well-being of rural communities. The livestock provides animal protein in various forms, such as milk and milk products and also meat. Wild game is another form of food and ecosystem service provisioned by the forests. Although the staple source of animal meat for most Indians is poultry, fish, goats, pigs and cows, there are communities that also consume wild game, ranging from porcupines to snakes, insects, frogs and toad, birds and in cases large mammals too. But why? Why do they have to eat wild meat? Why can't they just restrict to eating poultry and other options that are available? Answering this question may not be that simple, as substituting wild meat with other options available in the market which are 'accepted' by the urbanised mass may not be an option for many living in the forests or in its vicinity, as consuming wild-game is not just food for them, it is a part of the culture and identity for a large number of people living in and around the forest areas.

In many cases, hunting and sharing meat amongst fellow tribal folks also ensure their social standing and good relations. In general, eating or killing wild animals is not considered acceptable by the law in India which also reflects popular public sentiment. However, research papers that have looked at the sociocultural aspects of hunting emphasise that the culture and social part of hunting need to be addressed before putting a blanket ban on hunting. In fact, in most of the tribal communities, wild meat is only for subsistence and we should be able to distinguish between subsistence hunting and illegal hunting/poaching. Local communities have been living with nature since time immemorial and have a deeper sense of connection. They have their own

ways of celebrating, thanking and bargaining with nature. Water sources are often worshipped by local communities, people feel better when in scenic, natural places like the hills, breathing in the fresh air away from bustling cities. This sense of connection with nature is also a cultural ecosystem service that nature provides. Breaking this connection abruptly may disrupt human-nature connection and harmony, endangering both parties.

With immense human-induced pressure on the ecosystem and the services it provisions, an alarming decrease of pollinators has affected the pollination of numerous wild and cultivated plants. The unpredictable weather pattern, increased frequencies of pest attacks like that of recent locust attacks in parts of western India, rapid decline in numbers of pollinators like bees, birds and animals have a cascading effect on the ecosystem, economies and societies. The total forest and tree cover of India is around 807,276 sq km or 24.56 percent of the total geographical area of our nation. What's more encouraging is that forest cover in the hill districts of the nation stands at 284,006 sq km, which is 40.30 percent of the total geographical area of these districts. This area has increased by 544 sq km (0.19 percent) in 140 hill districts of the country. As people become more aware of the need for living a healthier, happier life, positive change is bound to happen. We can all contribute to it by making those who are not aware of the ecosystem services provisioned by forests, aware of our interdependence and reliance on nature.

(Urbashi Pradhan is post-doctoral fellow with Biodiversity Collaborative at National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bankers service

Bankers, both from public and private sectors, have been diligently discharging their duties since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic by making available banking services. Having been categorized as an essential service, Indian bankers have been serving customers when many offices were shut. Alongside the health and sanitation workers and police who are ensuring the safety of the population, the bankers are also serving the citizens by keeping the wheels of the economy moving thereby taking care of their livelihood aspects. According to some estimates about 2000 bankers had already succumbed to Covid 19 infection since its advent. Despite their critical role in the economy, the government did not accede to their demand to classify bankers as Frontline Workers (FLWs) which would have entitled them to vaccination on a priority basis. As bank branches have to remain open it is only logical to strengthen their morale by taking care of their health concerns and safety needs. They should have been treated at par with health workers and security personnel as they are also continually exposed to various sources of infections from sundry customers. Another demand of the bankers was to reduce transaction hours. In a nationalized bank branch, 14 bankers tested positive in the branch in a single day. Social media was abuzz with similar mass infections in branches across the country thereby highlighting risks lurking in branches. Alternate Delivery Channels like Cash Recyclers, Internet Banking and Mobile Banking like Unified Payment Interface (UPI) exist to provide banking services continuously even if restrictions are imposed on branch banking. It is high time the nation acknowledged the yeoman's service rendered by bankers during the pandemic by bestowing upon them the status of a Covid warrior.

Rajiv, via email

Ageing asset

Elderly people are assets not only to the family but to society as a whole. We need to reform our approach towards elderly persons by bringing care closer to where they live, and where it costs less to deliver and does more good. We must stop looking at ageing in terms of loss and dependency, and rather learn to capitalize on its promise by investing in age-friendly communities with integrated services. We need to invest in research that is focused on interventions and strategies that promote and promise better health, improved financial security and dignity in life for aged persons. Acknowledging seniors' contributions will help to make ours a more age-inclusive society that does not pit one generation against the other. It will also be a more accurate reflection of how most of us engage with each other in our everyday life. Turning the 'problem' of the elderly into a 'solution' needs to be demonstrated in a sustained manner. It is time we re-imagined ageing as an asset, and not as a burden.

Ranganathan, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Sandeep@sandeep_PT

Justice is not revenge. Revenge is not justice. Civilized societies run on the idea of justice, not revenge. Justice delivered is not celebrated by vile aggression, but with a sense of closure and peace. Uncivilized brutes only seek revenge, & more revenge after revenge.



Lalit Singh@drllitsingh
Why would officers run an academy unless they decide to quit services? In reality, most academies are run by those who could not succeed! I think there is lot of merit in them guiding aspirants because failure teaches you what success can never do.

Kunal Singh
@d_extrovert

On Iran nuclear agreement, on Paris climate change agreement, on Diego Garcia/Chagos ownership, on entering a deal with Taliban, the West has consistently violated the so called rules-based order. But let's talk about India's position on Ukraine, which frankly doesn't even matter.

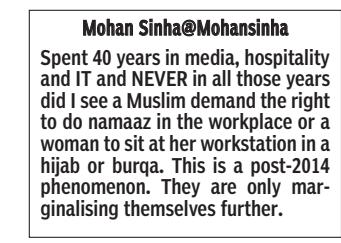


Waraich A@anwaraich
Yearning for spring ????



Ambreen@Ambreenzaidi

A friend who wears a hijab, her daughter in class 9, told her that some girls want to show solidarity to the other girls in hijab in school, so they'll also wear. My friend gave 2 tight slaps &told her to focus on studies &decide on Hijab/burqa when she finishes her education! #Proud.



Mohan Sinha@Mohansinha
Spent 40 years in media, hospitality and IT and NEVER in all those years did I see a Muslim demand the right to do namaz in the workplace or a woman to sit at her workstation in a hijab or burqa. This is a post-2014 phenomenon. They are only marginalising themselves further.

BRIEF

Targets



Mumbai: Shadowfax Technologies aims to have 75 per cent of its fleet in electric vehicles by 2024 and full electrification by 2026 for long-term growth goals. CEO Abhishek Bansal said it is also participating in NITI Aayog project, 'Shoonya-Zero Pollution Mobility'.

Acquires

New Delhi: AiDash on Monday announced the acquisition of geospatial and AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered farming solutions provider Neurafarms.ai. With the acquisition of Neurafarms.ai, AiDash strengthens its product line and adds valuable talent to its team, according to a statement. The company did not disclose the size of the acquisition.

Tie-up

New Delhi: Tata Power has collaborated with RWE Renewable GmbH to explore potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India. Tata Power CEO Praveer Sinha said we expect India's offshore wind industry will gain a real momentum.

Recycling

New Delhi: Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) on Wednesday said it has inked a partnership with CERO, a scrap-plate and steel recycling facility owned by Mahindra MSTC Recycling. The partnership offers robust support and hassle-free service to owners, helping them to scrap their end-of-life (ELV) commercial vehicles and replace them with new BharatBenz trucks.

Enter

Mumbai: Non-banking financial company (NBFC) Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL) on Monday said it is planning to enter the gold loan business in the first half of the financial year 2022-23. The lender aims to build a gold loan book size of Rs 8,000 crore and expand its network with 1,500 branch locations over the next five years. Currently, it operates in two major verticals secured MSME loans and affordable housing finance.

Transaction

New Delhi: Online travel marketplace Wego on Monday said it has signed a definitive agreement with homegrown e-commerce major Flipkart to acquire Cleartrip's Middle East business. The transaction also The Walmart-owned e-commerce major last year had announced he acquisition of travel booking portal Cleartrip.

FM asks banks to be more customer-friendly

Mumbai, Feb 21 (PTI):



Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said banks need to focus more on being customer-friendly so that the process of availing credit becomes more hassle-free for borrowers.

However, the minister made it clear that banks do not have to be lenient on credit underwriting standards by taking any adverse risks on a proposal.

At a meeting between industry representatives and the finance minister, a startup founder in the baking business suggested for credit to be available hassle-free, to which largest lender SBI's Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said a startup's worries are more on the equity side and assured full support in lending if sufficient equity is on the table.

Later, he also made a mention of the government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Stressing that the person asking the question is a woman operating an innovative enterprise, Sitharaman had a few suggestions for the banking community and also spoke out against their attitude.

"Initially, Mr Khara gave a very bland answer.

And then after being prompted somewhat, he went into talking about a scheme which has a lot of government support, the CGTMSE," she said.

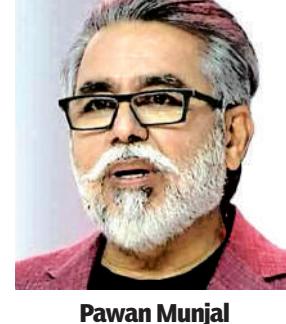
"Banks will have to be a lot more customer friendly. Not to the extent of taking adverse risks which you don't need to take, but you need to be a lot more friendly to customers," the minister said.

Khara said the focus is on increasing the reliance on end-to-end digitalisation of the process, which will ensure a hassle-free experience.

He said in the next two months, the bank will go fully digital for lending. Also, provided there is credible cashflow visibility available to a bank, the credit growth to small businesses can touch that of personal loans over time.

Biz need to adapt to new models, unconventional thinking

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):



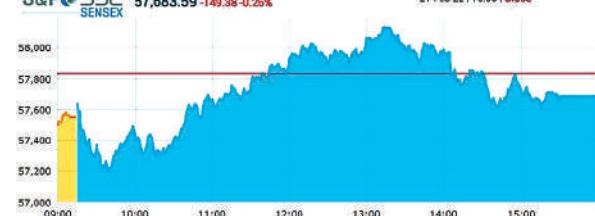
Pawan Munjal

Organisations need to adapt to new models and unconventional thinking going ahead as a volatile and uncertain environment has undermined the effectiveness of traditional ways of operating businesses, Hero MotoCorp Chairman and CEO Pawan Munjal said on Monday.

Munjal, who is the recipient of this year's AIMA JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award, noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant unprecedented challenges and uncertainties in the supply chain call for sea changes in operating procedures. In the recent past, the incredibly volatile and uncertain environment has undermined the effec-

tiveness of long term forecasting and traditional strategic planning. The change in the world ecosystem has been disruptive, pushing people, organisations and economies to the brink. Thus, achieving goals now requires a sea change in our models of operations, Munjal stated in his keynote address.

Sensex, Nifty suffer 4th straight loss with weak global cues



Mumbai, Feb 21 (PTD):

Domestic equity gauges Sensex and Nifty logged their fourth straight session of fall on Monday as participants remained cautious over lingering geopolitical tensions in eastern Europe.

Tracking deep losses on Asian bourses, the BSE Sensex dived around 700 points in the opening session but staged a recovery to briefly trade in the positive zone as market jitters

were calmed by hopes of talks between the US and Russia over the Ukraine crisis. The Sensex finally ended 149.38 points or 0.26 per cent lower to settle at 57,683.59, while the broader NSE Nifty slipped 69.65 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,206.65. Of the Sensex constituents, 21 shares ended in the red, with Sun Pharma, TCS and ITC emerging as top laggards.

In contrast, IT majors Wipro and Infosys were major gainers. Elsewhere

Nagpur, Feb 21:

Beauty of hair is applicable to both male and female. It is very much necessary to take proper care of our hair to keep it healthy. In today's competitive era people are lacking in healthy self-care.

Mental and physical stress, consumption of inappropriate diet, unhealthy sleep pattern, high consumption of fast food and pollution leads to damage of hair. As people suffer with hair problems, they start searching for effective hair oils. Looking at this need, 'Baidyanath Ayurved' has done a lot of research on effective herbs with their modern analytical studies like HPTLC etc and come out with an excellent hair nourishing oil formula "Baidyanath Mahabhringraj Tel". Baidyanath Mahabhringraj oil comprises Bhringraj as the main ingredient and total of 15



authentic Ayurvedic herbs. It is an excellent formula to treat hair related problems.

Rupee rises 11 paise at 74.55 against USD, gold declines Rs 212

Mumbai, Feb 21 (PTI): Rising for the fifth straight day, the rupee extended gains by 11 paise to close at 74.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday on the back of a weak dollar and softer crude oil prices amid hopes of a diplomatic solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The local unit opened strong at 74.51 to a dollar and later spurted to the day's high of 74.35 as crude oil traded below USD 95 per barrel.

The rupee later gave up some of the gains due to losses in the domestic equity markets and forex outflows, before finally finishing at 74.55.

The local currency had closed at 74.66 against the greenback on Friday.

SEA asks edible oil players to reduce minimum retail price



New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTD):

Stating that domestic edible oil prices are showing no sign of easing in view of global developments, industry body SEA on Monday appealed to its members to reduce MRP on edible oils by Rs 3.5/kg around Diwali in November 2021. India, which meets more than 60 per cent of its edi-

dible oil demand through imports, has taken several steps like reducing import duty on palm oils, imposing stock limits in the last few months, to keep domestic retail prices under check.

Despite these proactive efforts of the government, all-India average retail prices continue to

rule higher than the year-ago period's. "These prices are showing no immediate signs of moderating and some exporting countries like Indonesia have also started regulating exports of palm oil by way of licensing," the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said in a statement.

India's largest mobile operator Reliance Jio Infocomm will land the multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives, according to a statement on Monday.

Further, tensions in the Black Sea region between Russia and Ukraine is adding fuel to the fire into the sunflower oil complex which comes from that region. Inclement weather in Brazil on account of La Niña has also reduced soya crop drastically in Latin America, it added.

The high capacity and high-speed IAX system

SINGAPORE AIR SHOW



Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas of the Indian Air Force made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, participates in the Singapore Air Show 2022.

HGS wins contract from UKHSA

Bangalore, Feb 21:

Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS) announced that its subsidiary HGS UK Limited has been selected by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to provide critical customer support to UK citizens for an initial period of two years, with an option to extend further. The partnership is already underway having launched earlier last week, and the contract could be worth up to £211 million (Rs. 2,100 crores) across the term of the contract, employing over 2,000 Work@Home positions across the UK.

The UKHSA is responsible for NHS Test & Trace and this contract will assist with future contact tracing needs for Covid-19 and other health security risks such as a large

flu outbreak or new pandemic. The advertised cost of the contract is the maximum that can be spent, and the total could be less. Over the last decade, HGS has developed and grown its partnership with the UK government, with this becoming its biggest-ever win in the public sector to date, drawing on a foundation of excellence created by the UK business delivering existing public sector campaigns across the country.

HGS has been successfully operating in the UK market for over 10 years. While revenues for year ended March 21 were approx. GBP 67 million, in the nine months ended Dec 21, HGS UK more than doubled their revenues to GBP 87 million.

Our public sector business has been a key part of this success story with some marquee clients.

Domestic air traffic to cross pre-COVID levels in next 2 months

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTD):

The number of daily air passengers is expected to cross pre-COVID levels in the next two months, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Monday and also urged states to reduce tax on jet fuel to boost the country's aviation sector.

During the pre-COVID times, domestic airlines carried around 4 lakh passengers per day and the number began climbing up after second wave but again declined after the emergence of Omicron infections late last year.

Airlines were allowed to operate at full capacity from October 18, 2021. "In November, December, we started hitting numbers of 3.8 to 3.9 lakh passengers per day. We were almost back to pre-COVID levels... with Omicron, number of travellers tanked... we fell to

which the industry can function to ensure that all our players survive and all of them get some decent market share and some levels of revenue".

Speaking at an event organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA), Scindia said that the traffic was at 3.5 lakh.

"All things remaining equal, in the next 2 months or so, you should see us crossing pre-COVID levels in terms of daily passengers... that will herald new demand, new capacity levels of revenue".

Last month, domestic airlines carried 64.08 lakh passengers, a decline of 17.14 per cent compared to the year-ago period. In

Telecom cos take initiatives for better connectivity

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTD):

Major telecom companies in India have taken initiatives for better connectivity using undersea cables.

India's largest mobile operator Reliance Jio Infocomm will land the multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives, according to a statement on Monday.

Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has joined the 'SEA-ME-WE-6' undersea cable consortium in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast-growing digital economy.

The high capacity and high-speed IAX system



will connect Hulhumale directly with world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

Jio's IAX project will land in the Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives, the statement said.

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional

landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The India-Europe-Xpress (IEEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.

IEEX is expected to be ready for service end-2023, while IEAX will be ready for service in mid-2024.



Always dreamt of acting in a college life story: Lakshay Khurana

Actor Lakshay Khurana is seen playing the lead role Dhanush, in the TV show 'Chikko - Yeh Ishq Nachaye'. He says he always wanted to act in a college drama. He says: "Being an actor I always wanted to act for a college story. And with this show I'm living one of my dream roles. I always enjoyed watching movies like 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', 'Main Hoon Na' and 'Student of the Year'. So, finally I'm doing something like that makes me feel so delighted. I'm sure the show will help me to connect with the youth audiences too." Lakshay reveals his onscreen role has different shades and he enjoys acting for it. "I always wanted to challenge myself as an artist. And my current role Dhanush actually has different shades. He is a very sweet guy. In college, he believes he is the best. So, he has this attitude and is cool. He is very sharp and topper in college. 'He is excellent in everything, even in sports. But at home, he is very soft. He has a lot of pressure to prove himself to his mom. His mom compares him to his dad. At home, he is pressured and not very confident the way he is in college. So it is very fun acting for such a role." Lakshay earlier made his acting debut after featuring in the show, 'Meri Hanikarak Biwi' back in 2019. And was seen in the TV show 'Naagin Bhagya Ka Zehreela Khel', in a negative character.

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ko Dosti Anokhi' with its heartwarming narrative gives a fresh perspective towards the precious relationships we hold sacred in our lives. The slice of life drama takes the viewers on beautiful journey of an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra (played by Rajendra Gupta) finding his lost sense of life's purpose through a young stranger-turned-friend Purvi (played by Ismeet Kohli). As they juggle through different worldviews and experiences to forge a sweet and iron-clad camaraderie, the show brings forth the nuanced facades of human emotions. Playing a pivotal role in the friendship of the two polar opposites individuals, will be the character of Kaashi played by the talented actor turned producer Sahil Phull. Actor Sahil Phull has gained popularity for the varied roles portrayed on screen and, once again, the actor is all set to impress the audience in a new avatar. A tour guide by profession, Kaashi is an orphan but the thought of it never affected him as he received immense love from Jagannath and Kusum Mishra who raised him as their own. With a happy go lucky attitude, Kaashi has been that one person who is always willing to help everybody and that's how he got the name - Banaras Ka Robinhood. While he loves Jagannath and Kusum immensely and can go to any extreme for them, he leaves no stone unturned to tease Jagannath and affectionately calls him 'Khadoos'.

Tune into 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' every Monday to Friday at 9.30pm only on Sony Entertainment Television!



Sahil expresses his excitement of working with Rajendra Gupta

Vaani Kapoor Hoping that it's my best year in cinema



Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, who is all set to be seen again in the big ticket action spectacle 'Shamshera', is hoping that 2022 is her best year in Hindi cinema. She says: "I'm hoping that it's my best year in cinema. I'm still getting love from 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', a film that will always be supremely special for me. It is hugely gratifying for any artist to be validated with a lot of positivity for the work that you do and it happened to me and I couldn't be happier. "I wish to get the same love from people for what I have done in 'Shamshera'." About her performance in the Karan Malhotra directorial, Vaani says: "I have put myself out there in a big way and you will know what I mean when you see the film. It's been a fulfilling experience to push myself so much for a movie. "So, here's hoping that after 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', 'Shamshera' too will be a film that people see and say that I can be trusted to do anything on screen, that I would never back down from being part of a novel vision and that I would always try to reinvent myself into doing something new." 'Shamshera' is all set to release on July 22. She has been paired opposite Ranbir Kapoor and Vaani is hoping that this year turns out to be the best year of her career. 'Shamshera' is being produced by Yash Raj Films and will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

HOROSCOPE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Fortune favours the brave, and who knows it better than you? Your performance may come under scrutiny, but your bosses will come away pleased as punch. Want to make some money? Ganesh points to real estate and the construction business.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesh. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesh advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you. Only Ganesh does, and he is sporting a knowing smile.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Forget the weather. Today, the only thing shining bright are your chances of spending some quality time with your near and dear ones. Going along these lines, Ganesh wonders how long it has been since you last did the same. So, make the most of this lucky day. Chances are that you shall make new friends, who might turn out to be very supportive in the future. Ganesh wishes you the very best on this eventful day.

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesh. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it. Try your hands at creative things as there is a good chance that you may come home bragging about the results.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesh predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

CROSSWORD

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

This day you are likely to be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesh sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end. In spite of an initial lack of focus, you will be able to sort out your affairs and find that everything turns out in your favour.

Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imagination, innovation and motivation to further your enterprise, advises Ganesh. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesh. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time.

ACROSS

- Teddy
- Hemingway's nickname
- Rooster's walk
- Top
- Sinister
- Run after
- Head cook
- Soak through
- Ceremonial events
- Not lying
- Most transparent

DOWN

- Regrets
- Lumberjacks' tools
- Branch of math
- Purpose
- Mete (out)
- Large spoon
- Even score
- George Gershwin's brother
- Self-____ (confident)
- Barnyard bird
- Always, in verse
- Theater platform
- Mexican treat
- Blinding light

221

Patriot Allen

Brother's daughter

Pavarotti, e.g.

Calendar abbr.

Gown

Declared

Navigate

Picked up the tab

Stir up

Skill

Vane letters

Defeated one

Body powder

Double-reed instrument

Emotional state

Walk through water

Desperate

Clapton or Idle

Smell

Barbie's beau

SOLUTION 220

C	U	R	D	M	A	R	S	S	P	A	A
A	S	I	E	S	A	R	I	A	A	M	O
R	E	P	R	E	S	E	L	E	T	A	T
E	R	E	S	E	E	N	T	E	A	T	A
S	A	T	E	N	T	E	N	T	E	A	T
C	A	I	R	O	D	T	C	R	F	A	S
A	M	I	N	S	F	R	E	S	T	I	P
M	I	N	S	F	R	E	S	T	I	L	P
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E	N	T	E	N	T	E	N	T	E	E	A
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High-voltage drama this week in &TV



This week, crime takes centre stage across all &TV shows, where some are kidnapped while others are put behind bars. About &TV's 'Baal Shiv' upcoming Sati Dahan track, Mahadev (Siddharth Arora) in 'Baal Shiv' shares, "Sati goes against her father, Prajapati Daksh (Tejaswini), to marry Shiv (Siddharth Arora) because of which he does not invite the couple to Yagna despite Sati being his favourite daughter. Due to her parental bond, Sati ignores the social etiquette and her husband's suggestion to not attend the Yagna, and she joins the ceremony alone. However, she is humiliated and insulted by her father for marrying Shiva. Unable to bear Mahadev's and her insult, Sati walks into the sacrificial fire and immolates herself, leaving Mahadev angry. Will Mahadev's uncontrollable anger result in destruction?"

Watch 'Baal Shiv' at 8:00 pm, 'Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?' at 9:30 pm, 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan' at 10:00 pm and 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai' at 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV.



Samantha's first look from 'Shakuntalam' shows her as an enchantress



'India clear about World Cup team combination'

Kolkata, Feb 21 (PTI):

Finding the perfect combination can be tricky and there is no set formula, but India head coach Rahul Dravid says he and skipper Rohit Sharma are pretty clear about the team for the T20 World Cup in Australia in less than eight months' time.

The former captain, who took over from Ravi Shastri after India's group stage exit in last year's T20 World Cup in UAE, will have his first big challenge in Australia. Dravid said he and Rohit understand what should be the team combination for the mega-event. "I think we have got a fair idea between Rohit and myself and the selectors and the management," Dravid said after their 17-run win over the West Indies in the third T20I that ensured a 3-0 clean sweep here on Sunday.

"I don't think there's a set formula to it. But we're pretty clear about the balance and the combination (for the T20 World



Indian Head Coach Rahul Dravid congratulates Harshal Patel after winning the T20 series against West Indies.

Cup)... We are just structuring a little bit of the team around it and also balancing individual workloads as well.

"We have got a pretty fair idea of the kind of skills we're looking for in Australia, with the kind of guys who are in running. Not everything is set in stone but we want to give everyone a fair chance to stake their claim for those spots," he added.

The T20I series against West Indies was India's first in a packed calendar in the build-up to the

World Cup and they next take on Sri Lanka in an identical three-match rubber in four days' time.

In the absence of some Team India regulars like opener KL Rahul, and pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, India gave opportunities to youngsters such as Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan to stake their claim in the World Cup-bound squad.

With Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant being given a 10-day bio-bubble rest, India also tried out

Shreyas Iyer, while Kishan doubled up as the wicket-keeper in the third and final T20I. Dravid said the whole process was about having the backups ready.

"In the times that we live in, it's never easy... I don't think there's a timeframe when you can actually say that okay, now this is the team you want to freeze on. You don't want to cast your net too wide. We don't also want to restrict ourselves to just 15 players. We want to give players opportunities, ensure that by the time we

get to the World Cup, some of our guys have played at least 10-15-20 games," Dravid explained.

"It gives Rohit a chance to play them, bowl them in positions that he wants to, but he also has to be balanced with the fact that we need to have a few backups of people in case of an injury," he added.

Dravid said the youngsters would not be judged on one series or one bad game. "This is a tough format. We are asking them to play high risk cricket. We're asking them to play shots all the time. And we don't judge them on a few games. It's not the way, it's done."

"We try to give people as much as possible consistent runs. We're trying to give them opportunities to play and not judge them on a game to game basis or on one series."

In the absence of an unfit Pandya, India have tried out the likes of Venkatesh Iyer and Shardul Thakur and it's the former who has impressed the head coach.

Dubai, Feb 21 (PTI): India claimed the top spot in the ICC men's T20 International Team Rankings on Monday, riding on their 3-0 series sweep over the West Indies at home. Rohit Sharma's men eased to a 17-run victory over the West Indies in the third and final T20I of the series on Sunday in Kolkata and in the process, clinched an emphatic 3-0 clean sweep.

The triumph helped India catapult England at the top of the T20 team rankings, with the side now matching the top rating of 269. India last attained the number one

spot back in 2016, a reign that lasted a little over two months. While England and India both have the same rating across 39 international matches in the current rankings period (269), India has a total of 10,484 points, 10 more than England's 10,474.

According to a statement issued by the ICC, Pakistan (rating of 266), New Zealand (255) and South Africa (253) complete the top five list, while current world champions Australia (249) remain in sixth after their 4-1 series victory over Sri Lanka. West Indies (235) are placed seventh, followed

by Afghanistan (232), Sri Lanka (231) and Bangladesh (231).

Prior to the recently-concluded contests against the West Indies, India had whitewashed New Zealand 3-0 at home in November last year.

The men's T20 Players Rankings are yet to be updated. According to the last updated list, only two Indians — KL Rahul and Virat Kohli — feature in the top 10. While Rahul is placed fourth in the T20 batting chart, Kohli is at the 10th spot. However, no Indian features in the top 10 bowlers and all-rounders' list.

Alcaraz overcomes Schwartzman to win Rio Open



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain holds up his trophy after winning the final match of the Rio Open tennis tournament against Diego Schwartzman of Argentina, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

was a key element of Sunday's final. Both players had their quarterfinals and semifinals on Saturday due to heavy

rain falling in Rio during the week. Schwartzman had threatened not to play his semifinal match against countryman

Francisco Cerundolo if he didn't have enough time to rest after a lengthy quarterfinal against Spain's Pablo Andujar.

Apex Council meeting

BCCI to decide on resumption of C K Nayudu Trophy; LOC formation for 2023 WC

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

The fate of C K Nayudu Trophy and Senior Women's T20, which were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be decided and the Local Organising Committee for 2023 ODI World Cup is likely to be formed when the BCCI Apex Council meets virtually on March 2. The C K Nayudu Trophy for U-25 cricketers and Women's Senior T20 event had to be postponed last month due to rising cases of COVID-19. Ranji Trophy too was postponed but with the case load coming down, the BCCI decided to organ-

ise the premier domestic event from February 17.

The first round was completed on Sunday. The 14-point agenda for the meeting includes the organisation of these two domestic events with COVID-19 situation getting better across the country.

Also on the agenda, which is in PTI's possession, is the formation of LOC for the 2023 ODI World Cup. The T20 World Cup last year could not take place in India due to the pandemic but the BCCI is looking forward to hosting another major ICC event next year. Appointment of GM -

Game Development will also be finalised after Dhiraj Malhotra left the role last month.

Education start-up Byju's contract as Indian cricket team sponsor is set to end on March 31 and there will be a discussion on that too. Byju's had replaced Oppo as the team sponsor in July 2019.

The allotment for the five-match T20 series against South Africa in June will also be decided.

Central contracts of men and women cricketers will be ratified and so will be the first-of-its-kind sexual harassment policy of the BCCI.

Strandja Memorial Boxing

Sumit stuns world silver-medallist

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Indian boxer Sumit Kundu (75kg) upset world championship silver-medallist Dzhambulat Bichamov of Russia to enter the second round but three others lost their opening bouts in the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Competing in only his second senior international tournament, reigning national champion Sumit prevailed 5-0 over his opponent on Sunday to set up a clash with Ukraine's Oleksandr Khlyzniak.

However, Narender Berwal (+92kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Lakshya

Ishika Chaudhary, midfielder Namita Toppo, striker duo of Sangita and Rawinder Kaur.

Hockey India selectors also named five stand-by players — Rashmita Minz, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Sonika, Mariana Kujur and Aishwarya Rajesh Chauhan — for the double-header. Commenting on the team, chief coach Janneke Schopman said:

"We are excited to kick off our home Pro League games vs Spain. We had two good training weeks after our return from Oman and I believe the selected 22 players will be ready to show what they can against Spain."

Shikha will face reigning Asian champion Dina Zholaman from Kazakhstan in the 54kg category, while Nitu (48kg) and Anamika (50kg) are the other two Indian women who will begin their campaign.

Spain arrives for FIH Pro League tie against India

Bhubaneswar, Feb 21 (PTI): Spain men's hockey team arrived here on Monday ahead of their two-legged FIH Pro League tie against Olympic bronze medalist India to be played at the city's Kalinga Stadium on February 26 and 27. Having lost both their opening matches against England earlier this month, world no. 9 Spain will look to register their first win in this season's Pro League.

"We are not too concerned about the losses against England. We have just started, we've played only two matches, so I wouldn't put too much emphasis on winning or losing yet. We were really competitive in our opening matches, and will try to play our brand of hockey against India," Spain head coach Max Caldas said.

Off-spinner Daniel lone new face in Sri Lanka team for T20Is against India

Colombo, Feb 21 (PTI):

Off-spinner Ashian Daniel is the lone new face in an 18-member Sri Lanka squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series in India, the country's cricket board said on Monday. All-rounder Dasun Shanaka was named the captain of the team that is largely similar to the one that played Australia in a five-match series there.

The visitors, though, will be without the services of batter Avishka Fernando, seamer Nuwan Thushara and spinner Ramesh Mendis as the trio returns home after suffering injuries during the just-concluded tour of Australia, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a release. Sri

Lanka, who suffered a 1-4 loss to Australia, will begin their tour of India with the first T20I in Lucknow on February 24, with the other two matches scheduled in Dharamsala on February 26 and 27.

There was no room for middle-order batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa, who has again been ignored owing to fitness issues, even though his performance has been decent.

Daniel has been rewarded for his excellent List A form. Daniel's inclusion is, however, subject to ministerial approval, the release said.

The team also boasts of Pathum Nissanka, who was the most successful batter in Australia, scoring 184 runs.

In Rani's absence, Savita to lead Indian women in FIH Pro League

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Seasoned goalkeeper Savita was on Monday named captain of the 22-member Indian team for the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League tie against Spain in Bhubaneswar this month.

In the absence of Rani Rampal, who is still recovering from an injury in Bengaluru, Savita will continue to lead the side, while defender Deep Grace Ekka will be her deputy in the two-leg tie against Spain on February 26 and 27. Under the leadership of Savita, the Indian women finished third in the Asia Cup in

Muscat, Oman last month. The 22-member squad will have a new face in young Jharkhand forward Sangita Kumari, who will make her debut next weekend. The team has three goalkeepers in Savita, Rajani Etimarpur and

Bichu Devi Khairbam, who is an addition to the squad. Four players have been added to the Indian team from the Asia Cup squad.

Besides Bichu Devi, other three additional players are defender

Ishika Chaudhary, midfielder Namita Toppo, striker duo of Sangita and Rawinder Kaur.

Hockey India selectors also named five stand-by players — Rashmita Minz, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Sonika, Mariana Kujur and Aishwarya Rajesh Chauhan — for the double-header. Commenting on the team, chief coach Janneke Schopman said:

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Sumit stuns world silver-medallist



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OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST 41





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CENTRAL Chronicle

Bilaspur, Tuesday, February 22, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

PAGE 11

www.centralchronicle.in



BRIEF



Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone poses for photos, as she arrives for the success party for her movie Gehraiyan, in Mumbai.

Three die

Azamgarh: Three people died and around 10 hospitalised after they consumed countrymade liquor bought from a government vend here, an official said on Monday. Azamgarh District Magistrate Amrit Tripathi said the incident took place on Sunday evening. Three people died after consuming countrymade liquor bought from the shop in Mahul nagar panchayat under the Ahrula police station area.

Elected

New Delhi: Senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra has been elected as the chairperson of the Bar Council of India for the sixth time, the council said in a press release. Besides Mishra, senior advocate S Prabakaran was elected as the vice-chairperson of the BCI, the apex body of lawyers, in an election held on February 6. The tenure of the newly elected office-bearers will start from April 17, 2022, and they will hold their respective offices till April 17, 2025, BCI Secretary Srimanta Sen said on Monday.

ED charge sheet

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a charge sheet before a Mumbai court in connection with its money laundering probe linked to a Red Sanders smuggling case. The charge sheet was filed in a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai on February 15 against four people, including Badshah Majid Malik, the alleged kingpin, it said in a statement. The court took its cognisance of February 18, it said. Malik was arrested by the ED in December last year after the agency carried out raids at his premises in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district.

Electrocution

Faridabad: Two band artists died of electrocution in the Tigaon area here, police said on Monday. The incident took place in Junhera village late on Sunday night during a marriage function, they said. The deceased have been identified as Akbar (25) and Atru (45), both residents of Sohna town in Haryana. Akbar and Atru were holding umbrella lights when a band was accompanying a marriage party.

Weather

High 33 Low 15

MARKET

NIFTY 17206.65

SENSEX 57683.59

BULLION

GOLD 50,033

SILVER 63,651

FODDER SCAM

Lalu gets 5-yr jail

Fined Rs 60 lakh

Ranchi, Feb 21 (PTI)

A special CBI court on Monday sentenced RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh on him in connection with the Rs 139 crore fodder scam where the Doranda treasury allegedly embezzled.

The court pronounced the sentence on the quantum of sentence after virtually hearing arguments.

"Lalu Prasad has been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment while a penalty of Rs 60 lakh has also been imposed on him. Apart from Prasad, five years imprisonment each was announced by the Court for five convicts, four years each for 32 convicts and three years each for three convicts," CBI counsel BMP Singh told PTI.

"Fine imposed on convicts ranges from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 crore," Singh said adding that the high-



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav speaks to the media outside RJD leader Rabri Devi's residence after special CBI court sentenced 5 years imprisonment and a fine of rupees 60 lakhs, to RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav in 5th fodder scam case, in Patna, Monda.

est amount of Rs 2 crore penalty was imposed on supplier Tripurari Mohan Prasad.

After his conviction in Rs 139.35 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case, the fifth and final one against him in the multi-crore fodder scam on

February 15, the ailing 73-year old former Bihar chief minister was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail and then shifted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on health grounds.

The ebullient leader suf-

About the case....

After Lalu's conviction in Rs 139.35 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case, the fifth and final one against him in the multi-crore fodder scam on February 15, the ailing 73-year old former Bihar chief minister was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail and then shifted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on health grounds.

The ebullient leader suffers from multiple ailments, including renal problems.

fers from multiple ailments, including renal problems.

In jail since December 2017, Prasad served most of his sentence period at the RIMS. He was taken to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in January last year

after his health condition deteriorated.

Prasad's counsel said they will appeal this order in the High Court. He (Lalu) has already completed 36 months of his jail term".

Prasad had earlier been sentenced to 14 years in jail in four other fodder scam cases. The final case was related to withdrawals of Rs 139.35 crore from Doranda treasury during his tenure as the chief minister of undivided Bihar.

Of the 99 accused in the case, 24 were acquitted.

The CBI had examined 575 witnesses in the case, and filed charge sheet against 170 people. However, only 99 accused, including Prasad, faced trial which had commenced in 1996.

In the course of the 22-year-long trial, 55 accused died, while eight turned government approvers. As many as six accused are still absconding.

developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against COVID-19, for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It has not been included in the country's vaccination drive. "The DCGI on Monday granted restricted EUA to Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group, subject to certain conditions, official sources said on Monday.

However, the government has not taken a decision yet on vaccinating those aged below 15 years.

The health ministry recently had said additional need for vaccination and inclusion of population for vaccination is examined constantly.

The DCGI's approval comes after the Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the CDSCO on February 14 recommended granting restricted EUA to Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group after deliberating on Biological E's application.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Corbevax, which is India's first indigenously

"Based on the no objection certificate, Biological E has initiated the clinical study in October 2021 and has evaluated the available safety and immunogenicity results of the ongoing phase 2/3 study, which indicated that the vaccine is safe and immuno-

genic.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

DCGI gives nod to Corbevax for 12-18-yr-olds

New Delhi, Feb 21:

The Drugs Controller General of India has granted restricted emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group, subject to certain conditions, official sources said on Monday.

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Lakhimpur violence

Slain farmers' kin moves SC against Mishra's bail

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI)

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging grant of bail by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers on October 3 last year. Three family members of the farmers who were killed in the violence have sought a stay on the February 10 bail order of the Lucknow

bench of the high court saying the verdict was unsustainable in eyes of law as there has been no meaningful and effective assistance by the state to the court in the matter contrary to object of first Proviso to Section 439 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which provides that in grave offences notice of bail application should ordinarily be given to the Public Prosecutor; said the plea which has been filed by Jagjeet Singh, Pawan Kashyap and Sukhwinder Singh through lawyer Prashant Bhushan.

Online courses

New Delhi: Aiming to disseminate traditional Indian knowledge, including about its art, architecture, timeless epics and Vedas, among the world community, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations will soon start new online courses, and a dedicated portal is likely to be launched on April 2, ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabuddhe said on Monday. Addressing a press conference at Azad Bhawan here to share details about the Ministry of External Affairs' plans to hold celebrations under the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', he also said that a three-day crafts fair 'Coalescence', will be hosted in the city from February 23-25, wherein artists and craftspeople from 11 states will showcase traditional art forms.

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the Sunday night killing, with the police saying efforts were on to nab the rest of the suspects at the earliest, even as the government appealed for

the funeral procession of the deceased Harsha that took place amid tight security, even as several vehicles were torched and damaged while there were reports of some shops being ransacked.

Bajrang Dal activist stabbed to death in K'taka

■ Funeral procession turns violent



Vehicles set on fire by rioters during a procession, as tension spreads in Karnataka's Shivamogga town over the murder of a member of right-wing outfit Bajrang Dal on Sunday night, in Shivamogga, Monday.

'Union Budget will be of great help in implementing NEP'

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Union Budget for 2022-23 will be of great help in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) on the ground and asserted that the decision to set up a National Digital University can solve the problem of shortage of seats in educational institutions in the country.

Addressing a webinar on the positive impact of the Union Budget 2022-23, Modi said the budget focuses on five aspects related to the education sector — universalisation of quality education, skill



Prime Minister Modi addresses a webinar highlighting positive impact of Union Budget on education sector, through video conferencing, in New Delhi, Monday.

development, urban planning and design, internationalisation and AVG (Animation Visual Effects Gaming Comic).

Asserting that the digital connectivity is what kept the education system running in this time of global pandemic, Modi also noted that the digital

divide is rapidly shrinking in India.

"Digital university is an innovative and unprecedented step that has the potential of fully addressing the problem of seats in the universities. I call upon the education ministry, UGC and AICTE and all the stakeholders of the

Digital University to work with speed on the project. I emphasised on the need to keep international standards in mind while creating institutes," he said. "It was digital connectivity that kept the country's education system going during the pandemic."

'BJP govt left cow helpless, uses it only for politics'



that every village in his state has a cowshed while in UP the government uses the animal only for politics. Baghel also accused the BJP of dragging religion into politics. For them, religion is in danger when elections approach, Baghel said.

The chief minister said his government buys cow dung at Rs 2 per kg. The Congress will implement this system in Uttar Pradesh if voted to power in the Assembly polls, he said, adding that gaushalas will be built in every village of the state.

Terming the BJP anti-farmer, Baghel alleged that a son of the BJP's Union minister drove a car over farmers, apparently referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.



Students participate in a rally on International Mother Language Day, in Agartala, Monday.

BORDER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Centre approves Rs 13,020 crore

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI): The government has approved Rs 13,020 crore for the continuation of the central sector umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) during the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The decision will strengthen infrastructure for improving border management, policing and guarding, an official statement said. The Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah is committed to improving border infrastructure and management, it said. The BIM

scheme will help in the creation of infrastructure such as border fence, border flood lights, technological solutions, border roads and border outposts (BOPs) and company operating bases to secure India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

India's border with Pakistan is 3,323 km long, including about 775 km of Line of Control. The length of border is 4,096 km with Bangladesh, 3,488 km with China, 1,751 km with Nepal, 699 km with Bhutan, 1,643 km with Myanmar.

BANK GRAND CASE

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Former Chairman and Managing Director of ABG Shipyard Ltd. Rishi Agarwal appeared before the CBI on Monday for questioning in connection with the Rs 22,848 crore alleged banking fraud, the biggest such case registered by the central agency, officials said. The CBI had questioned him last week as well and would continue to record his statement in the coming days on various aspects of alleged diversion of funds as pointed out in the forensic audit conducted by banks, they said. The central probe agency had registered an FIR in the

matter on February 7, 2022 on a complaint filed by SBI 17 months ago on August 25, 2020. The agency has also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwin 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. Immediately after filing the FIR, the CBI had conducted searches at 13 locations on February 12. Officials claimed they had

received several "incriminating documents" such as books of accounts of the accused borrower company, which were being scrutinised. The bank had first filed a complaint on November 8, 2019 on which the central investigation agency had sought some clarifications on March 12, 2020.

The bank filed a fresh complaint in August that year. After "scrutinising" for over one-and-a-half years, the CBI acted on the complaint, filing an FIR on February 7, 2022. Officials said the matter was big with voluminous data and records as 28 banks were involved and needed verification before moving with an FIR.

MARKET

NIFTY 17206.65

SENSEX 57683.59

BULLION

GOLD 50,033

SILVER 63,651

Two-day training on 'nava-jatan' held

For heads of institutions, teachers from 3 'Sankuls'

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Feb 21: Two-day training programme on 'Nava Jatan' with assistance of Ajim Premji Foundation was organised for all the institutional heads and teachers of Govt HS School Ganiyari along with 'Sankul' trio- Adseena, Ganiyari and Asounda by the School Education department under Tilda block.

First teacher Daulat D h u r a n d h a r , Laxminarayan Sahu and Ravi Dheewar presented 'saraswati vandana', national song and anthem and formally inaugurated the training programme and after which the skilled trainers were welcomed.

On this occasion 'Sankul' in-charge Nodal Principal Kripalita Toppo motivating the teachers said that in the present day context compensating for the loss to students in studies is a big challenge and it is possible to meet up the same on war-footing.

In this the biggest challenge will be that of teacher and to which the



teachers through their hard work and commitment would make all possible efforts.

The main objective of training is to re-develop the interest and shortage in study-level due to corona pandemic in the schools and fulfill the same in short period.

Two-day training prog on 'Nindanatmak Parikshan' and Upcharatmak Shiksha:

Kamla Vajpayee of Ajim Premji Foundation, along with Sankul coordinator trio- BP Verma, Adseena, Arvind Pushpkar Asounda and Dushyant Bandhe Ganiyari and other trainer under Nava Jatan programme highlighted on knowledge of

words, letters and spelling in language; alphabetical introduction, formation of words, pronunciation, good hand-writing; Algebra in Mathematics, identification of numbers, experiment based preliminary knowledge, categorisation as per IQ and on intricacies related to 'upcharatmak shiksha'.

They also delivered lecture on how to provide quality education on subject matter and motivated the teachers to impart education through education materials; using gadgets with modern techniques, through games and other novel methods.

In the second session the BEO BL Dewangan being specially present

hailed the efforts made by teachers to impart education to students through online classes, 'Baltu-kebol', loudspeaker class, 'Mohalla class' and others. He said that despite all this what all academic, physical, mental and intellectual loss has been made to the students, cannot be fulfilled so easily.

Expressing concern over the distance which has taken place among students from books, he held the need to make improvement speedily adopting novel methods in their education level and try to bring back their studies back on track.

He also appealed all teachers to follow the instructions issued by the

education department and fulfill their responsibilities with due dedication and commitment and give minimum of six hours daily to students on daily basis.

He made an appeal to all teachers that students of today are future citizens and will be having burden on their shoulders for development of society, state and country. So in order to make them well-educated, dedicated citizens of the country, the entire responsibility lies on the shoulder of teachers and to which they should constantly introspect.

The two-day session was successfully conducted by teacher duo Daulat Dhurandhar and Laxminarayan Sahu. In the training Head Master Tukaram Chandrakar, Lakan Bharadwaj, Madhav Prasad Sahu, Anita Nag Parmar, Sheshnaryan Sharma, Manoj Yadu, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Vishnugiri Goswami, Topsingh Tandon, and heads of institutions and teachers from three Sankuls were present.

ing care of the health of the people by organizing medical camps, distribution of medicines to the needy and increasing health awareness. Sports competitions have been organized from time to time.

CRPF installed solar street light in inner village Godelguda to win the trust of the villagers

In this sequence, under the direction of Commandant Devendra Nath Yadav, in an innovative experiment, due to lack of electricity in village Godelguda, we have tried to remove the darkness of the lives of the villagers by installing solar lights with the courtesy of 74th



Corps. During this action, a large number of villagers and children were present

CRPF installs solar light in villages

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Feb 21: On the direction of Commandant Devendra Yadav of 74th Corps, along with anti-Naxal operations, civic action programs have also been conducted from time to time. Due to which the general public and the security forces get an opportunity to increase mutual coordination and the human face of the security forces is exposed to the public, while the general public also becomes aware that the security forces not only keep weapons but they are also common human beings like them. Such programs help in increasing the positivity and in reducing the negativity spread and being spread by the Naxalites.

From the Civic Action Program, the needy are made available by the same corps as per the convenience

From time to time, civic action programs have been organized by the Vahini, in which the distribution of essential goods to the villagers, tak-

Kunbi Samaj celebrates Shivaji's Jayanti

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Feb 21: The birth anniversary of 'Chatrapati' Shivaji Maharaj' was observed by Chhattisgarh Pradesh Kunbi Samaj Mahasanghatan (CPKSM), Bilaspur in Devarikhurd. In this the chief guest released the 'cloth bag' as symbol to make Chhattisgarh plastic-free as per inclination of Kunbi Samaj.

In the above programme chief guest was MLA Dr Krishnamurti Bandhi, President Kissan Morcha BP Singh, special guest of Samaj State President Ranjit Bhau Muneshwar, Patron Dheeraj Vankhede, District President Rajendra Shende, working president Ashok Patil,



Secretary Roopnarayan Sher, V-P Chhaya Varkad, Treasurer Mukesh Brahmakar and all other members of the society. Along with this a colourful cultural programme was also presented.

Strengthen the information system and work in mutual coordination: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 21: District Collector Kuldeep Sharma discussed law and order situation and gave instructions to maintain law and order in the region with mutual coordination and strengthening the information system.

The meeting held here was attended by CEO, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat, Additional Superintendent of Police Madhulika Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kavita Thakur, Sub-Divisional Officers of Police and District Administration officers. Talking on Section 107 of the Code of Criminal



Procedure, he said that the Executive Magistrate is empowered, if he receives information that is likely to cause a breach of the peace or to disturb the public peace or to do any wrongful act likely to

cause a breach of the peace, to order to such person to execute the bond in his discretion with or without security. In the meeting, the Collector said that in case of road accident, as soon as the information about the incident is received, the revenue and police administration should coordinate and take the person to the nearest medical center so that immediate medical facilities can be provided.

Along with this, he instructed to complete the process at the earliest in the case of death due to road accident and provide the grant amount of Rs.25 thousand to the near family members.

The Collector also instructed the police administration to conduct a mock drill exercise to deal with the law and order situation in the district. It is noteworthy that in the virtual meeting regarding law and order presided by the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of the state, the Collectors and Superintendents of Police of all the districts of the state were ordered to conduct the practice of mock drill.

Rural Postal Insurance provides good foundation: Sahu

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Feb 21: Rural Postal Life Insurance of Indian Postal Department is foundation for a family and its members, as with less of premium and more returns, every villager should try to avail benefit of the government's scheme'. The above are the words of Postal Superintendent Postal Deptt Mahasamund sub-division Surendra Sahu while speaking at the Rural Postal Life Insurance 'Mela Camp'



here on Sunday. He asked the rural postal employees to inform the villagers about the benefits of this insurance policy.

In the camp of Rural Postal Life Insurance, Sahu asked the postal employees to get account of villagers opened under 'Sukanya Samridhi' for children in the age-group of 0-10 yrs; to open PPF account of students and to

village and obtain the amount as well. The GoI has linked the country's largest network of Postal department with Banking System and by doing this is providing banking services to villagers in their village itself.

In this camp, the postal employees doing maximum business of insurance policy were also felicitated. The programme was conducted by Bagbhabra's Narendra Sahu and Dy. Postal Superintendent Praeen Banjara; Postal Assistant Ashok Sahu, postman Dinesh Turkane, 'dak-adhidarshak'. Hari Ram Nayak, Ravi Dhruv, Maniram Banjare and others gave valuable support.

motivate the villagers to invest into deposit schemes of the Postal Department. The Manager Indian Postal Bank affiliated with Indian Postal Department of GoI Pramod and Asst. Manager Amit Srivastava appealed the postal employees to ask the account holder of any bank to open their account in the post office in their

care, nutrition diet in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center, the Collector praised the entire health team and encouraged them to maintain quality. The NRC in-charge informed the Collector of 18 children admitted here. The collector talked to the children

7.6 kg. Section Medical Officer RK Raman informed that medical and nutrition facilities are provided to malnourished children in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center, under which blood transfusion of 3 children has also been done by the team of CHC Janakpur.

Nishi, 3.5 years old from Janakpur, Krishnapal, 2 years old from Chidaula and Jaideep, 11 months old from Udki village have undergone blood transfusion and have been kept in NRC. CEO Zilla Panchayat Kunal Dudawat, SDM and CEO Janpad Panchayat Bharatpur were also present.

Salary deduction of employees who fail to comply with office timings: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Feb 21: In Weekly deadline meeting conducted herein the Administrative Block District Collector Vineet Nandanwar has emphasized on the letter of adherence to the new office timings issued by the government and said that the head of the office himself will be responsible if any officer or employee in the office reaches office late or is absent without permission. He asked all the top officers to continuously inspect the various offices and along with this, strict instructions have been



given to deduct the salary of the officer's employees who reach the office late or absent without permission during the inspection. The Collector also

discussed the training of rural women to make dry mango powder and instructed the concerned officer to prepare the plan regarding the establishment

of fisheries center.

During the review of the Health Department, Shri Nandanwar inquired about the Covid vaccination, supply medical services and Ayushman card registration, and Noni E m p o w e r m e n t Assistance Scheme run by the Labor Department, and directed the concerned officer to identify girls above 18 years of age under the scheme.

CEO, District Panchayat Shri Devnarayan Kashyap, SDM Sukma, Ms. Preeti Durgam, All Deputy Collectors and key officers of all departments were present in the meeting.

RTI activists file complaint against Achouti 'Sachiv'

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Feb 21: RTI activist Mohan Patel R/o Charcha block Kurud district Dhamtari under the right to information act has sought details of basic work and expenditure in FY 2020-21 from PIO and Sachiv Gram Panchayat Achouti KK Sahu

applicant Mohan Patel through a letter under RTI Act 2005 and is openly violating the rules.

Mohan Patel said that under RTI Act 2005, no PIO has got the rights to ask any applicant about

the objective of seeking information about any department or institution and any person can avail information about the expenditure of public money paid to Gram Panchayat under RTI.

In this case Sachiv KK Sahu's complaint has been made to CEO District Panchayat Dhamtari, Janpad Panchayat Kurud and District Collector and SDM and demanded suspension of the Sachiv Achouti, failing which he warned to file a petition in the High Court in Bilaspur.

CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 322

Need clarity on crypto

Launching a strong attack on Cryptocurrency, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said that banning cryptocurrency is perhaps the most advisable choice open to India. The comments are significant in the context of an ongoing debate whether to ban crypto currencies or not. The deputy governor narrated different factors to highlight the concerns caused by private cryptocurrencies in the financial system. This is perhaps the first time an RBI top official is openly making a call to ban Cryptocurrencies. The central government needs to make its policy clear regarding treatment of crypto ecosystem and digital rupee system and not leave common people confused. Fraud and financial crimes are often reported across India regarding cryptocurrencies or tokens. There has to be clarity and no different voices from ministry of finance and RBI. In the past, the RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has highlighted the concerns associated with the Cryptocurrencies saying these instruments are harmful to the macroeconomic stability. The Union government has announced 30 percent tax on private digital assets from the next fiscal year, but has so far refused to make cryptocurrencies legal or illegal. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that the central bank will be ready to launch its blockchain-based central bank digital currency (CBDC), the digital rupee, before March 2023. However, RBI clarified that the central bank is also open to other technologies. Blockchains are only one type of distributed ledger technology (DLT). In most cases, it is considered to be a permissionless platform. But for the central bank to remain in control of the digital rupee and the notion that most banks would like to prevent their competitors from peeking at their liquidity strategies, it would need a permissioned system for its upcoming CBDC. RBI is currently only working with agencies within the ecosystem. This may work for a wholesale digital rupee where the number of transactions are likely to be limited. However, for a retail digital rupee, which has to serve the needs of nearly 1.4 billion Indians, a single node to validate transactions would create a bottleneck and clog up the system.

Shaktikanta Das recently took a dig at crypto saying there is no underlying asset, not even a tulip. Ogier de Busbecq was the ambassador of the Holy Roman Emperor to the Sultan of Turkey. The Sultan sent with Ogier, the first tulip seeds and bulbs to Vienna. He planted the same. These bulbs started getting distributed to Antwerp, Amsterdam, Netherlands, etc. The tulips grew remarkably well in the Netherlands. Compared to the existing flowers that were available in Europe at the time, the tulip had a very intense saturated color. This made it a favorite of Dutch nobles who used it as a status symbol. Trade of grown tulips, tulip bulbs, seeds took off like crazy. There were futures contracts that florists entered with tulip growers before the tulip was even planted. First formal futures exchange was set up where traders met in the bars & taverns to discuss prices and trades. However, schemes like these can't last unless someone was ultimately willing to pay such high prices and take possession of the bulbs. Starting February 1637, tulip traders could no longer find new buyers willing to pay such high prices for their bulbs. As the market realised this, the demand for tulips crashed overnight, and prices plummeted. Many people were left holding contracts to purchase tulips at prices now 10x higher than those on the open market, while others had possession of bulbs now worth a fraction of the price they had originally bought them for. Such speculative bubbles show up from time to time like the dotcom bubble of the 90s or housing prices in 2008. Key to avoiding them is to stop investing just because prices are rising. Invest in assets that you believe in, not because you feel someone else will pay more.

Avoiding 'sea blindness'

Supreme Commander of the armed forces, President Ram Nath Kovind is reviewing the Indian Navy's fleet. INS Visakhapatnam and submarine INS Vela are part of the 12th Presidential Fleet Review. The 12th Presidential Fleet Review kicked off with a 21-gun salute. Towards the end of last year, the Indian Navy had inducted two 'potent' indigenously built platforms INS Visakhapatnam and INS Vela. In a backdrop to this, it is the right time to ponder over how our seas touch each of our lives, including those living in the hinterland. Avoiding 'sea blindness' is paramount in defence policy despite threat at land borders. Trade and cultural exchange throughout known history has been transacted through the sea routes. The seas have traditionally been highways for commerce and exploration. Maritime trade and commerce are economic activities, which need a safe and conducive environment to thrive. It is this requirement, which led to the development of navies. The Cholas had a powerful navy up until the 13th century, which allowed them to trade and establish their influence right up to Southeast Asia.

The largest temple in the world, the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, bears testimony to this fact. India was discovered by the west through the sea route by Vasco Da Gama in 1498. The imperialistic designs of European powers remained in check till the time there was a credible navy guarding the Indian shores. The decline of Maratha naval power in the mid 18th century allowed the European powers, particularly the British to flex their muscles. The subsequent conquest and plunder of the great Indian subcontinent by the British also took place through the high seas. Thus, it becomes amply clear that through the ages, the presence of capable naval forces had allowed us to flourish and the 'sea blindness' resulting in weakening of naval power led to the ultimate conquest, downfall and exploitation of the Indian subcontinent. Indian Navy is mandated to ensure the safety of the nation's maritime trade through the protection of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). This remains the Indian Navy's primary military mission.

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

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

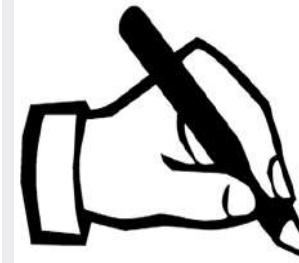
VINTAGE THEME



A woman in vintage attire for theme of Rockabilly Festival, which features vintage cars and motorcycles and rock and roll music concerts in Immokalee, Florida, US.

Free goods and services from nature benefits humans

URBASHI PRADHAN



It was the month of November two years ago. One could feel the chill in the air. Dal Bahadur, a beekeeper from Turuk, Sikkim was harvesting honey from his traditional hive. He has some five traditional hives and harvests honey twice a year, in April and November. This, he says is sufficient for his family and to occasionally gift friends and relatives. As one may wonder, bees cannot forage in the cold weather then how do they sustain through the cold and harsh winter season of the hills? To answer this, Dal Bahadur seals the entrance of the hive with cow dung to keep the hive warm and always leaves behind some honey in the honeycomb for the bees to survive and to see the next spring. He says, 'This is all I need to do for the bees, in return I get honey for free.' These 'free goods and services' that we obtain from nature, in academic parallel are known as 'ecosystem services'. Honey is just one of them. Humans derive ecosystem services in many forms. From clean drinking water, medicinal plants, regulation of climate, the timber we use for building our homes, to natural vistas and related recreational activities we carry out in the wild, which we the city dwellers may be familiar with, are all part of the ecosystem services provisioned by nature.

Around one-third of our diet is, in

fact, made up of animal pollinated plants. This too is another form of ecosystem service provided by insects and animals. There are nearly 170,000 Forest Fringe Villages (FFVs) that are located in the proximity of forest areas. Forests are an important and integral part of the socio-economic and cultural lives of the people living in these villages. It is estimated that around 275 million Indians directly depend on forests for various ecosystem services, which ensures food, shelter and security. These ecosystem services that range from edible flora and fauna to freshwater sources also contribute to the nutritional requirement of the rural communities that live inside or closer to the forest. They also help people in maintaining good social relations. About 150 wild plant species, which are essential for many rural subsistence households, are consumed in India, Malaysia and Thailand as sources of emergency foods. These plants or plant products are either eaten raw or cooked and processed using fuelwood, which is derived from the forests too. In addition to the food for human consumption, the processing of cattle feed also requires fuelwood. Therefore, fuelwood is one of the most important ecosystem services people derive from forests.

India is also home to approximately 535 million livestock and 38 percent of them are dependent on forests for fodder as they either graze in the forested area or are stall-fed. Dry fodder is also collected by rural communities and is used for mulching and manure produced from cattle sheds is used in their agricultural fields. In fact, livestock rearing contributes to about 3.7 percent of agricultural household income in India. Therefore, fodder becomes an important ecosystem service to sustain the socio-eco-

nomic well-being of rural communities. The livestock provides animal protein in various forms, such as milk and milk products and also meat. Wild game is another form of food and ecosystem service provisioned by the forests. Although the staple source of animal meat for most Indians is poultry, fish, goats, pigs and cows, there are communities that also consume wild game, ranging from porcupines to snakes, insects, frogs and toad, birds and in cases large mammals too. But why? Why do they have to eat wild meat? Why can't they just restrict to eating poultry and other options that are available? Answering this question may not be that simple, as substituting wild meat with other options available in the market which are 'accepted' by the urbanised mass may not be an option for many living in the forests or in its vicinity, as consuming wild-game is not just food for them, it is a part of the culture and identity for a large number of people living in and around the forest areas.

In many cases, hunting and sharing meat amongst fellow tribal folks also ensure their social standing and good relations. In general, eating or killing wild animals is not considered acceptable by the law in India which also reflects popular public sentiment. However, research papers that have looked at the sociocultural aspects of hunting emphasise that the culture and social part of hunting need to be addressed before putting a blanket ban on hunting. In fact, in most of the tribal communities, wild meat is only for subsistence and we should be able to distinguish between subsistence hunting and illegal hunting/poaching. Local communities have been living with nature since time immemorial and have a deeper sense of connection. They have their own ways of celebrating, thanking and bargaining with nature. Water sources are often worshipped by local communities, people feel better when in scenic, natural places like the hills, breathing in the fresh air away from bustling cities. This sense of connection with nature is also a cultural ecosystem service that nature provides. Breaking this connection abruptly may disrupt human-nature connection and harmony, endangering both parties.

With immense human-induced pressure on the ecosystem and the services it provisions, an alarming decrease of pollinators has affected the pollination of numerous wild and cultivated plants. The unpredictable weather pattern, increased frequencies of pest attacks like that of recent locust attacks in parts of western India, rapid decline in numbers of pollinators like bees, birds and animals have a cascading effect on the ecosystem, economies and societies. The total forest and tree cover of India is around 807,276 sq km or 24.56 percent of the total geographical area of our nation. What's more encouraging is that forest cover in the hill districts of the nation stands at 284,006 sq km, which is 40.30 percent of the total geographical area of these districts. This area has increased by 544 sq km (0.19 percent) in 140 hill districts of the country. As people become more aware of the need for living a healthier, happier life, positive change is bound to happen. We can all contribute to it by making those who are not aware of the ecosystem services provisioned by forests, aware of our interdependence and reliance on nature.

(Urbashi Pradhan is post-doctoral fellow with Biodiversity Collaborative at National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bankers service

Bankers, both from public and private sectors, have been diligently discharging their duties since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic by making available banking services. Having been categorized as an essential service, Indian bankers have been serving customers when many offices were shut. Alongside the health and sanitation workers and police who are ensuring the safety of the population, the bankers are also serving the citizens by keeping the wheels of the economy moving thereby taking care of their livelihood aspects. According to some estimates about 2000 bankers had already succumbed to Covid 19 infection since its advent. Despite their critical role in the economy, the government did not accede to their demand to classify bankers as Frontline Workers (FLWs) which would have entitled them to vaccination on a priority basis. As bank branches have to remain open it is only logical to strengthen their morale by taking care of their health concerns and safety needs. They should have been treated at par with health workers and security personnel as they are also continually exposed to various sources of infections from sundry customers. Another demand of the bankers was to reduce transaction hours. In a nationalized bank branch, 14 bankers tested positive in the branch in a single day. Social media was abuzz with similar mass infections in branches across the country thereby highlighting risks lurking in branches. Alternate Delivery Channels like Cash Recyclers, Internet Banking and Mobile Banking like Unified Payment Interface (UPI) exist to provide banking services continuously even if restrictions are imposed on branch banking. It is high time the nation acknowledged the yeoman's service rendered by bankers during the pandemic by bestowing upon them the status of a Covid warrior.

Rajiv, via email

Ageing asset

Elderly people are assets not only to the family but to society as a whole. We need to reform our approach towards elderly persons by bringing care closer to where they live, and where it costs less to deliver and does more good. We must stop looking at ageing in terms of loss and dependency, and rather learn to capitalize on its promise by investing in age-friendly communities with integrated services. We need to invest in research that is focused on interventions and strategies that promote and promise better health, improved financial security and dignity in life for aged persons. Acknowledging seniors' contributions will help to make ours a more age-inclusive society that does not pit one generation against the other. It will also be a more accurate reflection of how most of us engage with each other in our everyday life. Turning the 'problem' of the elderly into a 'solution' needs to be demonstrated in a sustained manner. It is time we re-imagined ageing as an asset, and not as a burden.

Ranganathan, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Sandeep@sandeep_PT

Justice is not revenge. Revenge is not justice. Civilized societies run on the idea of justice, not revenge. Justice delivered is not celebrated by vile aggression, but with a sense of closure and peace. Uncivilized brutes only seek revenge, & more revenge after revenge.



Lalit Singh@drllitsingh

Why would officers run an academy unless they decide to quit services? In reality, most academies are run by those who could not succeed! I think there is lot of merit in them guiding aspirants because failure teaches you what success can never do.

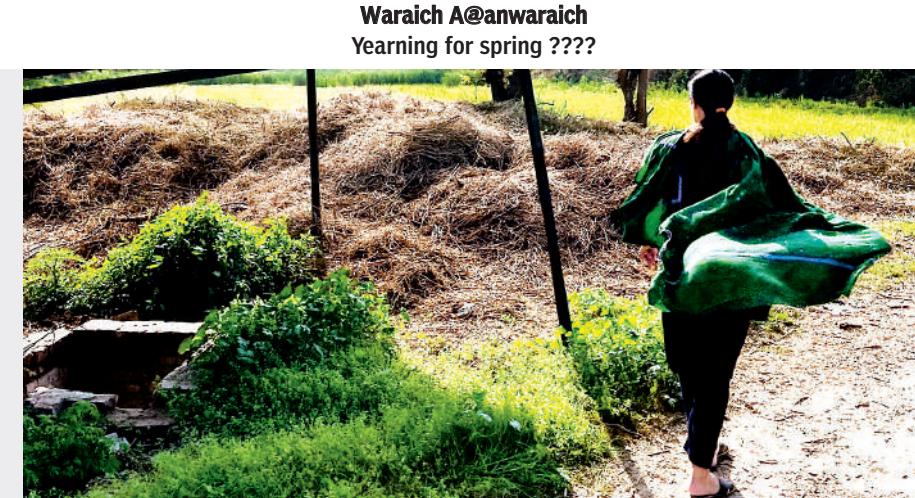
Kunal Singh @d_extrovert

On Iran nuclear agreement, on Paris climate change agreement, on Diego Garcia/Chagos ownership, on entering a deal with Taliban, the West has consistently violated the so called rules-based order. But let's talk about India's position on Ukraine, which frankly doesn't even matter.



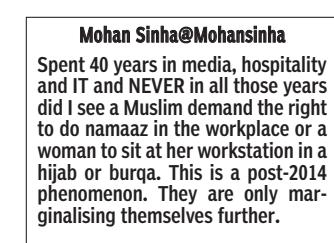
Waraich A@anwaraich

Yearning for spring ????



Ambreen@Ambreenzaid

A friend who wears a hijab, her daughter in class 9, told her that some girls want to show solidarity to the other girls in hijab in school, so they'll also wear. My friend gave 2 tight slaps &told her to focus on studies &decide on Hijab/burqa when she finishes her education! #Proud.



Mohan Sinha@Mohansinha

Spent 40 years in media, hospitality and IT and NEVER in all those years did I see a Muslim demand the right to do namaz in the workplace or a woman to sit at her workstation in a hijab or burqa. This is a post-2014 phenomenon. They are only marginalising themselves further.



Always dreamt of acting in a college life story: Lakshay Khurana

Actor Lakshay Khurana is seen playing the lead role Dhanush, in the TV show 'Chikoo - Yeh Ishq Nachaye'. He says he always wanted to act in a college drama. He says: "Being an actor I always wanted to act for a college story. And with this show I'm living one of my dream roles. I always enjoyed watching movies like 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', 'Main Hoon Na' and 'Student of the Year'. So, finally I'm doing something like that makes me feel so delighted. I'm sure the show will help me to connect with the youth audiences too." Lakshay reveals his onscreen role has different shades and he enjoys acting for it. "I always wanted to challenge myself as an artist. And my current role Dhanush actually has different shades. He is a very sweet guy. In college, he believes he is the best. So, he has this attitude and is cool. He is very sharp and topper in college. 'He is excellent in everything, even in sports. But at home, he is very soft. He has a lot of pressure to prove himself to his mom. His mom compares him to his dad. At home, he is pressured and not very confident the way he is in college. So it is very fun acting for such a role." Lakshay earlier made his acting debut after featuring in the show, 'Meri Hanikarak Biwi' back in 2019. And was seen in the TV show 'Naagin Bhagya Ka Zehreela Khel', in a negative character.

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ko Dosti Anokhi' with its heartwarming narrative gives a fresh perspective towards the precious relationships we hold sacred in our lives. The slice of life drama takes the viewers on beautiful journey of an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra (played by Rajendra Gupta) finding his lost sense of life's purpose through a young stranger-turned-friend Purvi (played by Ismeet Kohli). As they juggle through different worldviews and experiences to forge a sweet and iron-clad camaraderie, the show brings forth the nuanced facades of human emotions. Playing a pivotal role in the friendship of the two polar opposites individuals, will be the character of Kaashi played by the talented actor turned producer Sahil Phull. Actor Sahil Phull has gained popularity for the varied roles portrayed on screen and, once again, the actor is all set to impress the audience in a new avatar. A tour guide by profession, Kaashi is an orphan but the thought of it never affected him as he received immense love from Jagannath and Kusum Mishra who raised him as their own. With a happy go lucky attitude, Kaashi has been that one person who is always willing to help everybody and that's how he got the name - Banaras Ka Robinhood. While he loves Jagannath and Kusum immensely and can go to any extreme for them, he leaves no stone unturned to tease Jagannath and affectionately calls him 'Khadoos'.

Tune into 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' every Monday to Friday at 9.30pm only on Sony Entertainment Television!



Sahil expresses his excitement of working with Rajendra Gupta

Vaani Kapoor Hoping that it's my best year in cinema



Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, who is all set to be seen again in the big ticket action spectacle 'Shamshera', is hoping that 2022 is her best year in Hindi cinema. She says: "I'm hoping that it's my best year in cinema. I'm still getting love from 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', a film that will always be supremely special for me. It is hugely gratifying for any artist to be validated with a lot of positivity for the work that you do and it happened to me and I couldn't be happier. "I wish to get the same love from people for what I have done in 'Shamshera'." About her performance in the Karan Malhotra directorial, Vaani says: "I have put myself out there in a big way and you will know what I mean when you see the film. It's been a fulfilling experience to push myself so much for a movie. "So, here's hoping that after 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', 'Shamshera' too will be a film that people see and say that I can be trusted to do anything on screen, that I would never back down from being part of a novel vision and that I would always try to reinvent myself into doing something new." 'Shamshera' is all set to release on July 22. She has been paired opposite Ranbir Kapoor and Vaani is hoping that this year turns out to be the best year of her career. 'Shamshera' is being produced by Yash Raj Films and will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

HOROSCOPE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Fortune favours the brave, and who knows it better than you? Your performance may come under scrutiny, but your bosses will come away pleased as punch. Want to make some money? Ganesh points to real estate and the construction business.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesh. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesh. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it. Try your hands at creative things as there is a good chance that you may come home bragging about the results.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesh advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you. Only Ganesh does, and he is sporting a knowing smile.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Forget the weather. Today, the only thing shining bright are your chances of spending some quality time with your near and dear ones. Going along these lines, Ganesh wonders how long it has been since you last did the same. So, make the most of this lucky day. Chances are that you shall make new friends, who might turn out to be very supportive in the future. Ganesh wishes you the very best on this eventful day.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesh predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

This day you are likely to be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesh sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end. In spite of an initial lack of focus, you will be able to sort out your affairs and find that everything turns out in your favour.

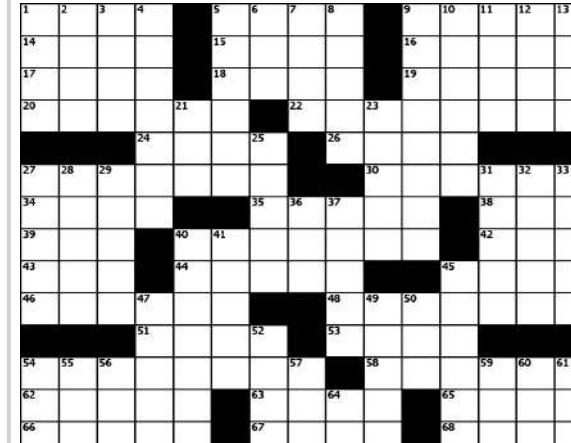
Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imagination, innovation and motivation to further your enterprise, advises Ganesh. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesh. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Teddy _____
- 5. Hemingway's nickname
- 9. Rooster's walk
- 14. Top
- 15. Sinister
- 16. Run after
- 17. Head cook
- 18. Soak through
- 19. Ceremonial events
- 20. Not lying
- 22. Most transparent
- 24. Regrets
- 26. Lumberjacks' tools
- 27. Branch of math
- 30. Purpose
- 34. Mete (out)
- 35. Large spoon
- 38. Even score
- 39. George Gershwin's brother
- 40. Self-_____ (confident)
- 42. Barnyard bird
- 43. Always, in verse
- 44. Theater platform
- 45. Mexican treat

DOWN

- 1. Johann Sebastian _____
- 2. Repeat
- 3. So be it!
- 4. Boxing official
- 5. Amoy
- 6. Street (abbr.)
- 7. Desserts
- 8. Greek vowel
- 9. Showed (a movie)
- 10. Desire to drink
- 11. Fixed price
- 12. Employs
- 13. _____ pilot
- 21. Hero sandwich
- 23. Depot
- 25. Chip dip
- 27. Goodbye (Fr.)
- 28. Actress Sophia _____
- 29. Blinding light

221

High-voltage drama this week in &TV



This week, crime takes centre stage across all &TV shows, where some are kidnapped while others are put behind bars. About &TV's Baal Shiv upcoming Sati Dahan track, Mahadev (Siddharth Arora) in Baal Shiv shares, "Sati goes against her father, Prajapati Daksh (Tejaspru), to marry Shiv (Siddharth Arora) because of which he does not invite the couple to Yagna despite Sati being his favourite daughter. Due to her parental bond, Sati ignores the social etiquette and her husband's suggestion to not attend the Yagna, and she joins the ceremony alone. However, she is humiliated and insulted by her father for marrying Shiva. Unable to bear Mahadev's and her insult, Sati walks into the sacrificial fire and immolates herself, leaving Mahadev angry. Will Mahadev's uncontrollable anger result in destruction?"

Watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 pm, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's first look poster from her upcoming mythology-based love saga is out now. Dressed in white, fairy-like attire, Samantha's first look from 'Shakuntalam' is no lesser than a beautiful painting. Unveiling the poster, Samantha wrote, "Presenting.. Nature's beloved.. the Ethereal and Demure.. 'Shakuntalam' from #Shaakuntalam." What shows her as an enchantress, has Samantha sitting on a rock, as she is surrounded by peacocks, deers, swans, and butterflies. The first look caters to one of Samantha's best looks, giving glimpse at the type of role she will play in the film. Based on a popular Indian play Shakuntala by Kalidasa, the film is written and directed by Gunasekhar. Malayalam actor Dev Mohan will reprise King Dushyant, while Allu Arjun's daughter Allu Arha will play Prince Bharata. Actor Kabin Duhan Singh will appear as King Asura, while other prominent actors will play important roles in the mythological movie. Being it Samantha Ruth Prabhu's first pan-India movie, all hopes are pinned on this visually creative mythological drama. The filming of 'Shaakuntalam' was completed a long time ago, and now the post-production work is underway. Neelima Guna is the producer, Mani Sharma is the composer, and 'Dil' Raju is the presenter.

Samantha's first look from 'Shakuntalam' shows her as an enchantress



31. Patriot _____ Allen

32. Brother's daughter

33. Pavarotti, e.g.

36. Calendar abbr.

37. Gown

40. Declared

41. Navigate

45. Picked up the tab

47. Stir up

49. Skill

50. Vane letters

52. Defeated one

54. Body powder

55. Double-reed instrument

56. Emotional state

57. Walk through water

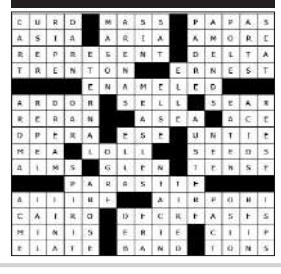
59. Desperate

60. Clapton or Idle

61. Smell

64. Barbie's beau

SOLUTION 220



LONG QUEUE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS



Students wait to submit verification forms at a counter of Patna University campus, in Patna, Monday.

UKRAINE CRISIS

'Efforts underway, arrangements made to get students back'



Narottam Mishra

Bhopal, Feb 21 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said the government was concerned about students from the state stranded in Ukraine, which is under the threat of an attack from neighbouring Russia. Queried on 60 students from Indore who are

stuck in Ukraine amid war fears, Mishra said Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also concerned and wants them to return to the state by February 22-23. "The Central government has issued an advisory on this. Arrangement of aircraft etc have been made to get the students back. Everyone is concerned about the situation, including Prime Minister, Chief Minister and state government," Mishra, who is the MP government spokesperson, said. The Indian Embassy in Ukraine had earlier issued an advisory asking Indian nationals to leave the east European nation temporarily if their stay was not essential.

Talking to reporters here on the sidelines of his weekly public interaction programme, Kumar also asserted that there was "nothing political" about his recent meeting with Prashant Kishor with whom he shared a "personal bond".

"He (Lalu) had to give up the Chief Minister's chair and install his wife in his

place. There have been many cases (related to fodder scam) and he has been convicted in many of these. There may be some more", said Kumar in response to queries about allegations that the ailing RJD supremo, on the wrong side of 70, was paying the price for his stout opposition to the BJP which now rules the Centre.

"I am not among those who had filed litigation against him", the JD(U) leader said, with a ghost of smile on his lips, adding "but he now has many people around him who were among litigants. One such person has been some time with him, some time with me and had even sought to make me a co-petitioner,

but I refused to be drawn into the matter".

The allusion was to Shivanand Tiwary, currently the RJD national vice president, who was among those on whose PIL the Patna High Court had ordered a CBI inquiry into fraudulent withdrawal from treasury of nearly Rs 1000 crore during Prasad's tenure as CM.

Tiwary had been with Samata Party, JD(U)'s previous avatar, before walking over to RJD which rewarded him with a ministerial berth in the Rabri Devi government. Later, he jumped back to the JD(U) and enjoyed a term in the Rajya Sabha but was expelled from the party in 2014. A few years later, he

was again accommodated by the RJD. Kumar was also asked about his much talked about meeting with Prashant Kishor whom he had inducted into the JD(U) and elevated to the post of national vice president some years back.

Kishor's outspokenness on a range of issues had left the JD(U) uneasy and his outbursts against the CM, who was then the party president as well, led to his expulsion. However, Kumar, often seen as one who did not easily forget slights, indicated that he was not bitter with the young political strategist who had "called me up a number of times while I was down with COVID".

NSE CO-LOCATION CASE

Probe shifts towards money trail, illicit gains

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

As a multi-agency probe into the NSE case gathers pace, the grant of preferential server and data access to select brokers and their suspected misuse are being investigated threadbare to unveil all quid pro quo arrangements in a highly-sophisticated scheme that worked like a cricket betting scandal, officials said on Monday.

While the bourse has said it has taken several steps over the years to strengthen its technology infrastructure, including as per regulatory orders, the officials said certain fresh disclosures call for a detailed probe into whether a select group of individuals in high positions had banded together to make illicit gains by facilitating the preferential trading slots, beginning over a

decade ago.

Even a split-second faster access is said to result in huge gains for a trader. The preferential access allegedly did not include just close proximity to the exchange servers but also provided faster and 'Tick-By-Tick' (TBT) data containing minute details about all trades and orders.

Explaining how the system worked, one of the senior officials said, "The best analogy to understand this highly-technical matter is cricket and betting."

"For a common investor or a broker trading on his or her normal terminal is like watching the live telecast of the match on television or in a stadium. But imagine your eyes and ears right behind every single player in the field, getting to know their moves and strategies on a real-time basis before anyone else,"

he added. He also countered an ongoing narrative that there was no loss to investors, saying the genuine investors were definitely on the losing side as this system was facilitating a select few to buy shares at a lower price and sell those at a higher price due to their faster access.

The difference may be very small for one individual investor, possibly just one rupee or a few paise per share, but when you look at the huge amount of trades running into lakhs and crores every day, the overall gains for the selected brokers could have run into hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees over a period of few years," he added. The issues under the scanner include possible pecuniary gains made by some top exchange officials and certain middlemen as also internal and external approvals for rollout and operation of controversial 'co-location' and sophisticated algorithm-based high frequency trading facilities.

The officials said the money trail at various levels, including to and from the concerned brokers' accounts, would be looked into, in addition to financial accounts of a large number of individuals who were directly or indirectly associated with the matter, especially between 2009 and 2016, from inside or outside the exchange.

MEA starts 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week' celebrations

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

The Ministry of External Affairs began its 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week' on Monday with its minister S Jaishankar saying the celebrations for 75 years of India's Independence are in line with the practice of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family)".

A series of commemorative events and activities will be organised by the MEA across the country as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week' from February 21 to 27. In his message on this occasion, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said the celebrations for 75 years of India's Independence are in line with the practice of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family)". A series of commemorative events and activities will be organised by the MEA across the country as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week' from February 21 to 27. In his message on this occasion, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said the celebrations for 75 years of India's Independence are in line with the practice of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family)". A series of commemorative events and activities will be organised by the MEA across the country as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week' from February 21 to 27. 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