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# CENTRAL Chronicle



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## BRIEF



Family member of a student looks through a telescope on display at an exhibition during the science festival at Guru Nanak Dev University, in Amritsar, Thursday.

## Crackdown

Rishikesh: The district administration on Thursday began removing beach camps being run illegally along the banks of the Ganga in Shivpuri tourist area here in violation of the NGT guidelines. Around 20 such beach camps have been removed so far, Narendra Nagar SDM Devendra Singh Negi said. The action was taken on the orders of Tehri Garhwal District Magistrate Iva Shrivastava.

## Judicial custody

Mumbai: A special PMLA court here on Thursday sent Igbal Kaskar, the brother of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, in 14-day judicial custody in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the activities of Ibrahim and his aides. The Enforcement Directorate, which is conducting a money laundering probe into the underworld-linked property and hawala deals, had last Friday placed Kaskar under arrest after taking him custody from the Taloja jail neighbouring Navi Mumbai, where he was lodged in connection with multiple extortion cases against him.

## Booked

Alibaug: Police in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Thursday said they have registered an offence against two owners of a construction firm for allegedly cheating several people to the tune of Rs 61 lakh by luring them into investing in their projects and schemes. The case against the two accused, identified as Yogendra Hajari Pandey and Shashikant Yogendra Pandey, owners of Vighnaharta Civil Construction Pvt Ltd, was registered at Roha police station on Monday, a release issued by the police said.

## Rescued

Ranchi: Five girls and a boy, who were allegedly trafficked from Jharkhand's Sahibganj and Godda districts, were rescued from Delhi, an official statement said here on Thursday. Earlier this week, five girls trafficked from Gumla district had been rescued from Delhi after a tip-off to Integrated Resource-cum-Rehabilitation Centre (IRRC) on its toll-free number. Nodal Officer, IRRC, Nachiketa said one of the rescued children, Seema Kumari (name changed), was sold four times in Delhi by her brother-in-law after being brought to the national capital.

## Weather

High 34 Low 19

## MARKET

NIFTY 16,247.95

SENSEX 54,529.91

## BULLION

GOLD 51,930

SILVER 66,295

## WORLD ON EDGE OF WORLD WAR

## Russia wages war on Ukraine

Kyiv, Feb 24 (AP):

Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, hitting cities and bases with airstrikes or shelling, as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee.

Ukraine's government said Russian tanks and troops rolled across the border and accused Moscow of unleashing a full-scale war that could rewrite the geopolitical order and whose fallout already reverberated around the globe.

In announcing a major military operation, Russian President Vladimir Putin deflected global condemnation and cascading new sanctions and chillingly referred to his country's nuclear arsenal as he threatened any foreign country attempting to interfere with con-



Ukrainian military truck burns at an air defence base in the aftermath of an apparent Russian strike in Mariupol, Ukraine, Thursday.

sequences you have never seen. Sirens rang out in Ukraine's capital and people massed in train sta-

tions and took to roads, as the government said the former Soviet republic was seeing a long-anticipi-

pated invasion from the east, north and south and reported more than 40 soldiers had been killed and

### MARKET MAYHEM

#### Investors lose Rs 13.44 lakh crore

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

Investor wealth worth over Rs 13.44 lakh crore was wiped off on Thursday as the domestic equity markets tumbled along with global risk assets, after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine.

Amid intensifying rout in the global financial markets, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,702.15 points or 4.72 per cent to end at 54,529.91.

"Equities witnessed a free fall with markets around the globe down more than 5 per cent, while Russian markets were down more than 30 per cent as Russia invaded Ukraine after weeks of conflict," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. Nifty saw a steep fall of

cessant foreign fund outflows also weighed on the markets. On a net basis, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 3,417.16 crore on Wednesday, data available with stock exchanges showed.

Brent Crude oil prices surged past the USD 100-a-barrel mark amid geopolitical worries. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 7.92 per cent to USD 104.51 per barrel.

"Any reaction from NATO / US armies is only going to worsen the situation further. Advice trades to remain with negative bias while investors need to keep calm and patience to tide over the current situation," Khemka added.

The carnage on Dalal Street eroded investor wealth worth Rs 13,44,488.54 crore, taking the total market capitalisation (m-cap) to Rs 2,42,24,179.79 crore on the BSE. The m-cap of BSE-listed companies stood at Rs 2,55,68,668.33 crore at the end of trading on Wednesday. Traders said in-

800 points as sentiments soured over intense military assault by Russia. Sellers outpaced buyers as volatility intensified on the day of monthly F&O expiry. All the sectoral indices were in red, with the majority of the sectors down almost 5-8 per cent.

"Sentiments took a hit with Nifty now down by 13 per cent from its high of 18,604. Markets are likely to remain under pressure given the escalation of Russia-Ukraine conflict into a war-like situation.

"Any reaction from NATO / US armies is only going to worsen the situation further. Advice trades to remain with negative bias while investors need to keep calm and patience to tide over the current situation," Khemka added.

## Retro Tax dispute settlement

### India pays Cairn Rs 7,900 cr

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The Indian government has paid Cairn Energy Plc Rs 7,900 crore to refund taxes it had collected to enforce a retrospective tax demand, ending a seven-year-old dispute that had tarred the country's image as an investment destination.

The company, which is now known as Capricorn Energy PLC, in a statement said it has received "net proceeds of USD 1.06 billion", of which nearly 70 per cent will be returned to the shareholders.

The tax department had used a 2012 legislation, which gave it powers to go back 50 years and slap capital gains levies wherever

ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India, to seek Rs 10,247 crore in taxes from Cairn.

Cairn had in 2006-07 reorganised its India business, which comprised operations of prolific Rajasthan oilfields, prior to its listing on stock exchanges. While the company sold majority holding in the India unit to Vedanta in 2011, it was in 2014 slapped with the tax demand notice over alleged capital gains made on the reorganisation.

The British firm contested the demand, saying all taxes due were duly paid when the reorganisation, which was approved by all statutory authorities, took place.

### 'Oppn driven by 'vote bank' politics not country's interest'

Amethi (UP), Feb 24 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked opposition parties, saying guided by "vote bank and dynastic politics", they have always sacrificed the interest of the country and the poor.

Modi also questioned the "silence" of rivals over the court's recent verdict on Ahmedabad blasts, saying, "Being hostage to vote bank politics, they would even not hesitate to insult the army or the police".

Modi was addressing a rally for nine constituencies

court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment.

Modi started the day with the election rally in Amethi and later went to Prayagraj for his second public meeting. At the Prayagraj rally, PM Modi said two crore people visited Mecca and around one crore visited Vatican City in Rome in 2019. These countries had given facilities for the visiting devotees, he said.

"But, if we do the same in India, these people see this through the lens of communism," he said attacking the rivals.

of Amethi and neighbouring Sultanpur.

The prime minister's remarks came days after a special court in Ahmedabad sentenced to death 38 members of the terror outfit Indian Mujahideen in the 2008 serial blasts case. The



court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment.

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"But, if we do the same in India, these people see this through the lens of communism," he said attacking the rivals.

## CANINE SHOW



A dog performs during a canine show for the ongoing Bihar Police week at Gandhi Maidan, in Patna, Thursday.

### Bharat Biotech working on TB vaccine

Hyderabad, Feb. 24 (PTI):

Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech International Limited is in the process of bringing out a vaccine against tuberculosis and soon the firm will sign a MoU with another firm for technology. "Our honourable Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has got an agenda of 2025 for the eradication of tuberculosis. I think we are in that direction. But we don't have the technology so we are partnering with somebody else. On that matter we should be announcing soon," Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech in panel discussion as part of BioAsia 2022 said.

## ELGAR CASE

### NIA opposes plea of Varavara Rao seeking review of order refusing them default bail

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday sought that the Bombay High Court dismiss a petition filed by poet Varavara Rao and two other activists, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, seeking a review of an earlier order of the HC that refused to grant them default bail.

While Rao is currently out on medical bail, the other two activists are lodged in jail.

The NIA said through the petition, the accused are seeking to alter the observation made by the HC after verification of record and hearing of the case.

er Biman Banerjee said the request for calling the assembly session at 2 AM was a case of a simple typographical error where PM became AM.

If the session is indeed called at 2 AM at night, it will mean legislators will have to literally burn the midnight oil as well as Governor Dhankar who would have to give his opening speech at that odd hour.

In a tweet, Dhankar said that finding the timing of the session "after midnight somewhat odd," he had called the state Chief Secretary for urgent consultation before noon Thursday. However, "there was usual compliance failure," he complained.

## FIRST OF SORTS

### Bengal Govt summons Assembly session at 2 AM

#### ■ Acting on a typo in the state government's recommendation!

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI):

In what may be a first of sorts in legislative history, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar on Thursday summoned West Bengal's legislature for a session past mid-night at 2 AM on March 7.

Dhankar said he was merely acting on the recommendation of the Mamata Banerjee-led cabinet which he described as unusual, though both state government officials as well as the state's speak-

ers are seeking to alter the observation made by the HC after verification of record and hearing of the case.

The applicants ought to have approached the appellate court in appeal instead of this court by introducing fresh arguments and seeking default bail which has been already decided by this court as unsustainable, the NIA said. Once the matter has been adjudicated and dismissed by this court, the applicants cannot come up with the same prayer under the guise of review.

# Women practice floriculture at Gauthan; grow Ophelia's favourite 'Daisy'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: Ophelia expresses her feelings with the help of flowers in Shakespeare's drama Hamlet. This is where Flower Etiquette began in human civilization. The flowers became symbols of different moods. One such flower in Hamlet is the Daisy, which emerged as a symbol of innocence and went on to become a symbolic representation of the aesthetic market in Europe.

The market of flowers has also grown in India and its main part is Daisy, which is locally known as Gulbahar. Gauthans in the state are also taking interest in this field. This year in Damoda Gauthan, the women SHG planted daisies in half an acre of land. SHG President Yogita Deshmukh informed that they were told by the officials of the District Panchayat and Horticulture Department



that there is a lot of potential in floriculture too. Marigold flowers are plentiful in the district and have a good market, but new varieties of flowers should also be tried. The women were detailed about Gulbahar.

The SHG decided to grow it and are selling the flowers in the market of Durg. Yogita further informed that Gulbahar has a very good market demand. She added that they have sold the first batch of

flowers in the market and will continue practicing floriculture. They are happy with their successful experiment.

Giving information in this regard, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that as per the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure has given instructions to conduct different activities in every Gauthan. In this sequence, initiatives are

being made to produce those items which have good demand in the market. Women of Damoda's group deserve appreciation for this new experiment.

He added that they are emphasizing on such experiments in which the local markets are dependent on the supplies from other states. Such products are being identified and innovations are being done accordingly. Giving more information in this

regard, Assistant Development Extension Officer, Durg district, Ruchi Verma said that the daisy flowers are least affected due to weeds.

This flower is stronger than other flowers. Since it is also sold in the market of Durg, such innovations can be useful for women. SHG President Yogita stated that the name of their group is Jai Ambe Group and they are also producing vermicompost. They have earned Rs 30000 from it.

"Small service is true service while it lasts. Of humblest friends, bright creature! scorn not one: The daisy, by the shadow that it casts, Protects the lingering dewdrop from the sun", says William Wordsworth while mentioning the beauty of daisy in the poem "To a Child". Though the women in Damoda are working at a small scale, the hope behind this initiative is very big.

# DMC takes action against shops displaying items on road



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: On the instructions of Durg Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and under the guidance of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the anti-encroachment team of the Corporation removed hoardings, posters and sign boards that were being displayed outside the shop and in turn obstructing the traffic outside the shop.

On Thursday action was taken near the New Bus Stand, Pachri para and station road where the shops had displayed items outside the shop almost on the road. Action was taken against about 90 shopkeepers who kept goods on the road beyond the permitted limit. In this action that took about two hours, the team warned that if the encroachment is found again, the goods will be confiscated. When the team landed at the aforementioned venue to take action, the shopkeepers voluntarily started removing the goods displayed. In the meantime, other shopkeepers who could not pack their goods, were

made aware of the need to remove their belongings.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi told the shopkeepers that though they were given time to remove all the goods kept outside the shop this time but if the same happens again the things shall be confiscated and fine would be imposed for encroachment. Encroachment in-charge Durgesh Gupta, flying squad Shiv Sharma, market in-charge Than Singh Yadav, Bhawan Sahu, Shashikant Yadav were present along with the team.

## Rs 2000 fine imposed against four people for possessing banned plastic items

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: On the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, action was taken by the corporation against those using single use plastic items. Action was taken at the "ahata" in Urla, Agrasen Square and surrounding areas. Liquor operators were also fined for using disposable plastic items and fine was imposed.

The items were confiscated and warning was given not to use single use plastic items. The commissioner has appealed to all the traders, businessmen that the use of polythene



During the action, in-charge market officer Thansing Yadav, Assistant Market I n - C h a r g e Ishwar Verma, Shashi Yadav and Bhuvandas Sahu were present.

The businessmen from whom the fine was collected included Rs 500 from Soumya Dona Patal, Rs 500 from Arvind Gupta Ahata Urla, Rs 500 from Rakesh Sahu General Stores, Rs 500 from Rajput Breakfast Center, Agrasen Square adding to a total fine of Rs 2000.

has an adverse effect on health and public interest, so stop using polythene, and has warned that legal action will be taken against them if more banned polythene items are found during the investigation.

They will be able to stay in the hostel till the allotment of the house. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the building on Thursday. He gave necessary instructions to the PWD officers regarding the facilities like furni-



ture and maintenance in the building.

The Collector said that the building was very beautiful and it would be convenient for the officials to stay here. With regard to the land-

scaping for its premises, he instructed to plant Conocarpus saplings. He added that greenery creates a pleasant atmosphere for the people.

The Collector appreciated the construction of

room, kitchen, gallery etc, so that the officers will get a good housing to stay till the house is allotted.

He added that the maintenance of the building will be done by PWD. It will be operated according to the rules. It needs to be mentioned here that the building has been constructed on G+3 pattern. It has a ground floor and three upper floors.

The Collector informed that along with the inauguration of the Transit Hostel, the Chief Minister will also inaugurate the infrastructure attached to the district hospital and the Prayas Hostel.

## Construction labours suffering exploitation: HS Mishra

Central Chronicle News



HS Mishra

records related to the workers, he alleged.

Mishra said that according to the need, the builders hire masons, centering workers, carpenters, plumbers and porters. In the labor law, it is mandatory to make payment of such labourers through banks. But almost all builders pay the salary in cash, from where the exploitation begins.

The builders never think about providing employment card, salary slip, identity card and safety equipment. Even when a laborer is fired without prior notice, the final payment, leave and bonus are not being paid as per the

rules.

Whatever documents builders keep with them related to laborers and employees are mostly fake and bogus. He said that being a member of the Provident Fund Board, he along with his team would visit the work sites of different builders in a phased manner.

If they find violation of labor laws, they will ask the builder to ensure compliance of the concerned. If required, further complaints will be made to Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Labour Commissioner, ESI Commissioner and other concerned authorities.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity), Government of India has launched Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) "CHUNAUTI 3.0 - Advancing Digital Applications with Special Focus on Accessibility on February 10, 2022.

CHUNAUTI 3.0 is focused on identifying and supporting promising startup working towards digital transformation & accessible products/solutions enabling equitable &

inclusive growth. The last date for applying is set for March 10, 2022.

NGIS is focused on 12 tier-II & tier-III locations in the country that include Agartala, Bhilai, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Dehradun, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Mohali, Patna and Vijayawada. It aims to support 300 start-ups/entrepreneurs/SMEs in the field of IT/IteS/ESDM for 3 years.

129 startups have been selected through CHU-

NAUTI 2.0. Startups pan-India can apply and become NGIS beneficiary. Each startup under this scheme becomes eligible for financial incentives including monthly stipend & get upto rupees 25 lakh as seed investment along with world class mentoring, networking & market connect.

Each NGIS location has a dedicated chief mentor along with a mentor pool and knowledge partners.

STPI

Host

## International academia acknowledges BSP doctors

For saving thousands of lives COVID patients with their sincere innovative efforts.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: The doctors of the well-known hospital of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center have brought its name to the international horizon with their research paper. This is a large and important study of its kind which found a place in the prestigious journal by Indian Chest Society.

Internationally acclaimed publication House Wolter Kluwer acknowledged this COVID pandemic article. This achievement brought lots of laurels to the entire BSP fraternity.

BSP doctors were acknowledged by international academia. Research paper was approved for publication as an original research paper by the Indian Chest Society

"Journal of Advanced Lung Health". The topic of this research paper is "A Retrospective Observational Study of Utility of Non-rebreathing Mask (NRM) in Moderate to Severe Hypoxic Covid-19 Pneumonia".

This large study was carried out by Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and his dedicated team. In all the three waves of covid pandemic, high concentration oxygen mask was used more, so during the fulminant 2nd wave.

Director-in-Charge of the BSP, Anirban Dasgupta, congratulated the author of this research paper, Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and the entire medical team including Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. This

conclusion. This innovative effort was led methodically by Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory medicine) and his PG students Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. The doctors of JLN hospital could save lives of many serious patients with their sincere efforts.

Director-in-Charge of the BSP, Anirban Dasgupta, congratulated the author of this research paper, Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and the entire medical team including Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. This

research work whole heartedly supported by Executive Director (Medical & Health Services) Dr SK Issar, CMO Dr M Ravindranathan and CMO Dr Pramod Binayake. It is noteworthy that such moderate-to-severe Covid-19 pneumonia patients, who were oxygen deficient and may succumb to respiratory failure, subse-

quently require a non-invasive or invasive ventilator. Availability of ventilator was a major challenge specially during the second wave. Accepting this, doctors of JLN Hospital and RC tried this innovative idea with their expertise. The sick patients were given oxygen through those NRM mask instead of normal face mask. Those re-

breathing masks played a pivotal role in saving lives of numerous Covid patients. Oxygen reservoir mask also significantly reduced the need of ventilators.

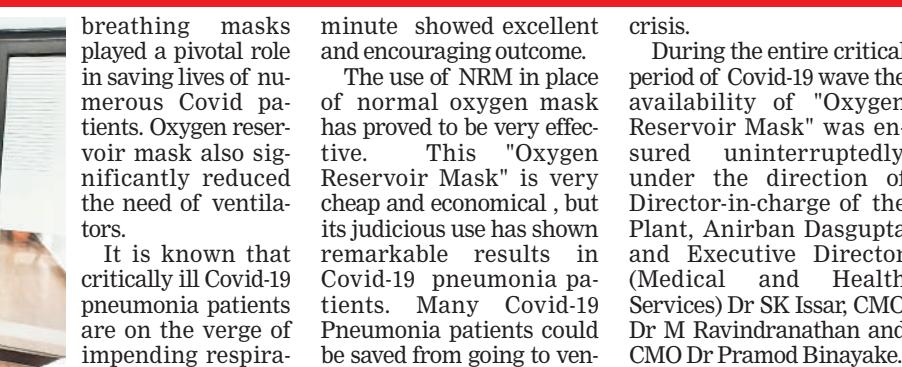
It is known that critically ill Covid-19 pneumonia patients are on the verge of impending respiratory failure. On the contrary those patients who are on ventilator support, their prognosis is mostly worse to grave. So the critical decision to prevent them from ventilation is of clinical significance.

It became clear from this study that those patients who were timely provided oxygen through those NRMs, which deliver oxygen from 10 to 15 liters per

minute showed excellent and encouraging outcome.

The use of NRM in place of normal oxygen mask has proved to be very effective. This "Oxygen Reservoir Mask" is very cheap and economical, but its judicious use has shown remarkable results in Covid-19 pneumonia patients. Many Covid-19 pneumonia patients could be saved from going to ventilators. This study proves overall benefit to the medical world in days to come from this research paper.

Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO & HOD of medicine department and his department were extremely supportive during this pandemic. Dr AB Banerjee, Dr Sonali Trivedi and Dr Raunak Das and all PG students of hospital played a significant role during this





# Singh Deo inaugurates Virology Lab in Durg

Through video conferencing

RT-PCR testing facility is now available at 12 government laboratories of the state

RT-PCR testing is being done in all nine government medical colleges, AIIMS Raipur and virology lab in Baikunthpur

Balodabazar, Janjir, Dantewada and Jashpur districts to get virology labs soon

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 24: Health and Family Welfare and



Medical Education Minister TS Singh Deo on Thursday launched Virology Lab for Covid-19 RT-PCR testing in Durg through video conferencing. With the inauguration of this lab, RT-PCR testing facility is now available at 12 government laboratories of the state. This will help increase number of daily RT-PCR tests besides speeding up turnaround time for results.

Durg (City) MLA Arun Vora, Health Department Principal Secretary Dr.

Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Health Services Director Mr. Neeraj Bansod, National Health Mission Director Dr. Priyanka Shukla, Durg Collector Sarveshwar Bhure, State Nodal Officer of Virology Lab Dr. Kamlesh Jain and medical experts of Microbiology Department of AIIMS Raipur and Raipur Medical College also joined the virtual launch programme.

RT-PCR is the most reliable and accurate test for detecting active Covid-

19 infection. RT-PCR testing facility has already been started in all government medical colleges of the state and Korea district headquarter, Baikunthpur. Now, the number of daily tests will increase with the commencement of RT-PCR testing facility in Durg. Besides, this new facility will help in early identification of Covid-19 patients and provide them timely treatment", said Health Minister Mr. TS Singh Deo on the occasion.

He added that the work of setting up virology labs in Balodabazar, Jashpur, Dantewada and Janjir is also in progress and RT-PCR testing facility will start in these districts at the earliest. MLA Mr. Arun Vora expressed his gratitude to the Health Minister Mr. Singh Deo for setting up Virology Lab in Durg.

at Columbia Institute of Pharmacy.

On the occasion the students of Columbia Global School visited the Central Instrument Lab and DST FIST supported instruments & had been cleared their doubts related to the research activities.

The Secretary Harjeet Singh Hura, Dr. Amit Roy and other faculty members were also present.

This information was given by Dr. Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Principal Investigator of DST FIST Government of India Project.



& on the topic "Training of Pharmaceutical Sophisticated instruments for science popularization among school students" was celebrated

Ayushman camps underway in village panchayats



Konta, Feb 24: Sukma district administration is conducting Ayushman registration of villagers by organizing camps in village panchayats. In this sequence, today Ayushman registration of villagers of village Panchayat Burkalka of Konta block was done for getting health card made through Ayushman camp in village Bhejji, High School. Through Ayushman card, now villagers will be able to avail free treatment facility as per eligibility in government or private hospitals registered under other health schemes including Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme, Chief Minister Special

Health Assistance Scheme.

"Apke Dwar Ayushman Abhiyan" under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme, Ayushman cards of all eligible beneficiaries are being made free of cost in

District Hospital, Primary Health Center, Community Health Center and Common Choice Center. Villagers who have not yet made Ayushman cards, they must get all the members of their family registered through the nearest choice center or health center or camp.

## Naga sadhus take out 'Peshwai' performing feats



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 24: Naga sadhus and ascetics from various akhadas took out Peshwai invoking Lord Dattatreya on their arrival at Rajim Maghi Punni Mela, here. The rituals of Peshwai, started by worshiping weapons from Peshwai Dattatreya temple, moving towards Dattatreya Temple, Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, Pt Shyamacharan Shukla

Chowk, VIP Marg, Atal Ghat finally reaching pandal located at Lomash Rishi Ashram, where Lord Dattatreya was established after worshiping according to rituals.

During the Peshwai, the sadhus performed feats with weapons and to see the above akhadas and to get the blessings of the Naga-sadhus, crowd of devotees thronged along the roads with devotion and showered flowers on

them. Keeping in view the security and arrangements of the people present and the passing procession of the sadhus, elaborate arrangements were made by the police administration.

Mahamandaleshwar Umeshanand Giri Maharaj in Peshwai, Digambar, Janakpuri Maharaj, Gopal Giri, Thanapati Haridwar, Bishambhar Bharti Chhattisgarh Mahant Ramgiri Haryana, Mahant Gokulgiri Lomash Rishi Ashram, Chandan Bharati, Sanatpuri, Thanapati Kamleshwan Saraswati Bhopal, Satyanand Maharaj, Sachidanand Maharaj, Ravigiri Kartikpuri Pakhanjpur and many other saints were present. On this occasion, OSD Culture Department Girish Bissa, Accounts Officer Pathak were also present.

**Saransh Patel from KPS emerges as a NTSE National Qualifier in 2021**

Raipur, Feb 24:

Saransh Patel from Krishna Public School (KPS), Kamal Vihar, Dunda proved his hard work and dedication with his performance at National level by qualifying in National Talent Search Examination Level -II 2021. This year Saransh Patel from KPS has qualified in the second level of NTSE which was conducted by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). He has been awarded with the NTSE scholarship of Rs.1250 monthly for class 11th and 12th, Rs.2000 monthly for Undergraduate and Postgraduate and PhD scholarship according to UGC norms. National Talent Search Examination is a national level exam for granting scholarships to class Xth meritorious students. It is conducted in two stages which contain first round SAT and MAT. The sole purpose of this examination is to award scholarships to eligible and potential candidates to pursue their higher education in the field of Science and Social studies.

Saransh Patel from KPS emerges as a NTSE National Qualifier in 2021

**CM to unveil various development works worth Rs 353.56 cr**

**For Bilaspur on Feb 25th**

**Newly-built Tifra flyover worth Rs 107.49 crore to be inaugurated on the occasion**

**Vyapar Vihar Smart Road, Maharan Pratap Chowk-Tarabahar Chowk Smart Road and 264 houses built for police employees will also be inaugurated**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Feb 24: During his visit to Bilaspur on February 25th, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate

lay foundation of 97 development works worth nearly Rs 353 crore 56 lakh, as a gift to the people of Bilaspur.

On the occasion, Chief Minister will inaugurate 62 works worth Rs 277 crore 31 lakh and perform Bhoopujan of 35 works worth Rs 76 crore 25 lakh.

Major development works to be inaugurated by Chief Minister on the occasion include Tifra flyover newly-built at the cost of Rs.107 crore 49 lakh at Maharan Pratap Chowk on Bilaspur-Raipur Road, Academy building, roads and boundary walls constructed in Bilaspur University at the cost of Rs.36 crore 56 lakh, 264 houses built for police personnel at Tifra at the cost of Rs.28 crore 48 lakh, Vyapar Vihar Smart Road constructed by Bilaspur Smart City Limited at the cost of Rs.26 crore 83 lakh from Maharan Pratap Chowk to Tarabahar Chowk and the Planetarium built in

Vyapar Vihar at a cost of Rs.6 crore 77 lakh.

Likewise, the development works for which Chief Minister Mr. Baghel will perform Bhoopujan in Bilaspur are as follows- automatic multi-level car parking to be built in old bus stand, Bilaspur at the cost of Rs.10 crore 89 lakh, GIS solution system to be established in Bilaspur smart city at the cost of Rs.9 crore 99 lakh, construction of 3.5 kms long two-lane road from Mangala Bhainsajhar to Deendayal Colony, Lokhandi Railway Gate at the cost of Rs.5 crore 61 lakh, renovation work of 9 roads in Kota development block under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to be done at the cost of Rs.4 crore 85 lakh and installation of hybrid solar power system to convert existing street and auxiliary lights into dual feed with solar provision for various roads in Bilaspur at the cost of Rs.3 crore 77 lakh.

## Minister Akbar distributes new ration card

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Feb 24: Forest, Transport, Housing and Environment Minister Mohammad Akbar attended the new ration card distribution program organised in village Panchayat Bidaura, Singhapur and Daihandih of District Panchayat Sahaspur Lohara during his Kabirdham stay. He distributed new ration cards to about 683 beneficiaries of 90 dependent villages of 42 gram panchayats in the new ration card distribution program organized in gram panchayats Bidaura, Singhapur and Daihandih. Akbar said in the program that we had promised to make ration cards for all the families of the state, whether they are below or above the poverty line. After the formation of the new government in Chhattisgarh in the year 2018, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohammad Akbar, he ful-

filled his promise in the very first year by making a universal PDS scheme.

Now in the last three years, it is coming to the fore that in the present circumstances now the members of the family are increasing, and they also need new ration cards. Our government took cognizance of this problem of the village-family and made way for making new ration cards for the growing families. He also said

that even after this, if someone's ration card has not been made, then he can also apply. According to the eligibility, they will also get a new ration card.

Similarly, in the new ration card distribution program organized in Daihandih Gram Panchayat, a total of 227 beneficiaries were distributed new ration cards. There was happiness in the faces of the beneficiaries after receiving the new

ration card from Minister Mohammad Akbar.

Expressing happiness, he told that after marriage, he was separated from his family in the present circumstances. The beneficiaries also thanked the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and the Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar. Addressing during the distribution of ration cards, he said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel,

## Action against illegal plotting by administration

Balod, Feb 24: Various illegal plotting areas of Balod city, here fell under the grip of a joint team of administration along with the break squad, who took action against through demolition. Village and town investment officer Prateek Dixit said that complaints were being received continuously regarding such illegal plotting, in which complaints of plotting being done and sold without colonizer act and without town and country planning was received.

Many spots have been identified and action has been started, and for the first time the admin-

istration team has come out to jointly take action against illegal plotting, he said. According to information, even before this, there were complaints about illegal plotting many times but no action of any kind was seen. Simultaneously the plots have



also been sold and according to the information received, the plots in Kundru Para where the action has been taken was not sold and plotting is also being done in Roshan Nagar where, the administration will take a joint action.

## Folk songs and dances leave audience spellbound

**Central Chronicle News**

Rajim, Feb 24: The cultural programmes in the Rajim Maghi Punni Mela at the cultural platform No. 2 enthralled the audience and wonderful presentation was made by the folk artists.

The people visiting the fair, also enjoyed the cultural programmes. Lekhpal Sahu of Lokmanch Barbahra Gariyaband brought the state's cultural richness before the audience and the singer Madhri Bhatta kept the audience spellbound with Chhattisgarhi hit songs 'Bahi bana diya na re bundela...', 'Aarpa pairi ke dhaar.' and others. Another singer Tamradhwaj Sahu also thrilled the audience through his song 'Vah re mor pakadi maina...'. Suresh Nirmalkar of Diparapara through

'Uma shankar Manasmandli' presented excerpts from the Epic Ramayana related to 'Tulsi kriti'. Rakesh Sahu of Rajkanta Panduka made the atmosphere propitious with his 'Faag-song'. The Pandwani singer from Ninwa Tilda-Durga Sahu also gave wonderful performance of a song. Kuleshwar Dhirilahare of Sendar sang 'mangal-bhajan'.

The welcome dance was presented by Chadrahas Sahu of Semara Raipur. The programme was conducted by Manoj Sen and Durgesh Tiwari. Convener Purshotam Chandrakar informed that on Friday, 'Madhurima Manas Mandli' Pawan Chandra Rakar Mahasundam; Jagrata Iqbal Khan Navapara; Satnam Mangal Bhajan Party, Chandraprakash Market, Baraula Belar; Jasgit Jhanki-Homan Yadu Champaran Raipur; Looknacha Chaituram Tarak-Chaiyaha Tarrighat will be giving presentation.



Rajim, Feb 24: School students in large number from Fingeshwar, Churra, Gariyaband, Mainpur and Deobhog block of district gave colourful dance performance of Chhattisgarhi culture and the amount of enthusiasm among students was highly appreciable.

Even the parents came along with their students to see them dressed in colourful attire.

**Tug-of-war was centre of attraction**

The 'Tug-of-War' competition among students was the centre of attraction for all and in this all school students took part. In this govt HS School Chhuhya students viz. Nitish Dhruv, Manish Kumar, Tejeshwar, Thakeshwar, Samir, Hunay, Devendra, Raju Patel came first. The students of Govt HS School Rajim came second and in the Girl's category- students of High School Basin viz. Dumeshwari Sahu, Vaishnavi, Mamta, Bhoomika, Pushpa, Kuleshwar, Tikeshwari, Yamuna. The third was won

them. Keeping in view the security and arrangements of the people present and the passing procession of the sadhus, elaborate arrangements were made by the police administration.

Mahamandaleshwar Umeshanand Giri Maharaj in Peshwai, Digambar, Janakpuri Maharaj, Gopal Giri, Thanapati Haridwar, Bishambhar Bharti Chhattisgarh Mahant Ramgiri Haryana, Mahant Gokulgiri Lomash Rishi Ashram, Chandan Bharati, Sanatpuri, Thanapati Kamleshwan Saraswati Bhopal, Satyanand Maharaj, Sachidanand Maharaj, Ravigiri Kartikpuri Pakhanjpur and many other saints were present. On this occasion, OSD Culture Department Girish Bissa, Accounts Officer Pathak were also present.

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# Forest Deptt seizes teak wood worth lakhs kept hidden in forest

Konta, Feb 24:

The team of forest department has recovered teak log and shells from Penta beat of Dornapal forest range in Konta block of Sukma. Giving information, Dornapal Forest Department Range Officer Laxman Negi said that after getting information about illegal harvesting of teak timber and hiding it in the forests of village Penta, a team made preparations for the raid and left for the forest of village Penta. Taking quick action, the Forest Department has recovered logs of teak from the spot. The estimated amount of recovered Sagon Chiran is 150000 lakhs and the amount of log is 300000 lakhs. The above action has been taken by Penta Revenue Forest Area.

According to DFO Sagar Jadhav, Forest Divisional Officer of Sukma district, this type of action will continue and the mafia involved in illegal trade of teak will be cracked down. In the said action, Forest



## About the arrest

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid at the house of Srivas, a habitual offender, and recovered gold ornaments weighing around 6.4 kg. The estimated market value of the seized valuables is around Rs 3.5 crore. During the interrogation, the accused admitted to having committed a theft at a jewellery shop in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, Pal said, adding that Srivas was earlier arrested in connection with separate incidents of burglary.

Department Dornapal Range Officer Laxman Negi, Range Assistant Dharmendra Singh, Beat Guard Sukhchand Nag, Arun Nag, Keshav, Kawasi Somadu, Smt. Kamala Markam, Hadma Podiam, Hadma Sori, Forest

Department staff have got great success.

Police arrest burglar, recover over six kg stolen gold jewellery Kawardha, Feb 24: Police have arrested a man from Kabirdham district for his alleged involvement in several inci-

dents of burglary, and recovered from his house more than six kilograms of gold jewellery worth around Rs 3.5 crore, a senior official said on Thursday.

The accused, Lokesh Srivas, was arrested on Wednesday, he said.

"Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid at the house of Srivas, a habitual offender, and recovered gold ornaments weighing around 6.4 kg," Inspector General of police (Durg range), O P Pal, said.

"The estimated market value of the seized valuables is around Rs 3.5 crore," he said.

During the interrogation, the accused admitted to having committed a theft at a jewellery shop in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, Pal said, adding that Srivas was earlier arrested in connection with separate incidents of burglary.

He had committed burglaries in Rajnandgaon and Durg districts of Chattisgarh in the past, police said.

Villagers have been compelled to visit the forest department for the last 3 months, and resentment is growing between the villagers on this issue.

The villagers have given an ultimatum to Hari Suraj Bali Sinha, Range Officer of North Bortalao, to issue NOC within three days and in the event of delay by the Forest Department, the villagers have made preparations to block Bore Talao road. Range Officer Shri Sinha meanwhile has assured to complete the process of NOC within three days. The Panchayat got a lease of



Dongargarh, Feb 24:

Netam told that with the approval of funds for the deepening of Dabri built in 2001, employment will be available to about 500 people. An amount of Rs 20 lakh is to be approved by the government under MNREGA. The departmental process will be completed as soon as the NOC is issued by the Forest Department. As soon as the NOC is issued, employment oriented work of about Rs 20 lakh will be approved by the District Panchayat for Dabri deepening work under MNREGA. Former district member Manoj

have said that NOC has been demanded by the villagers for the deepening work and the departmental process will be completed within 3 days.

# 'Divyang' students distributed ancillary equipments



Kondagaon, Feb 23:

Panchayat member Hemlal Baghel, BCC President Makdi Shankar Lal Mandavi, Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Makdi Hemlal Vatti were present.

The ancillary equipments were distributed in the presence of BEO Jagmohan Bhoyar and Block Resource Co-ordinator Tahir Khan by BRP Soumya Dewangan to 'Divyang' students studying in block Makdi.

In this programme, Janpad President Motibai Netam, Janpad V-P Gautam Sahu, District

# Embezzlement of Rs 8 cr in toilet construction work come to fore

In Janpad Panchayat Fingeswar

Fingeswar, Feb 24:

An embezzlement of Rs 08 crore in toilet construction work in Janpad Fingeswar has been received. According to information received, toilet construction work was approved under Swachh Bharat Mission in Fingeswar, Janpad Panchayat of Gariaband district, in which all 72 Gram Panchayats of Janpad Fingeswar were declared and fraudulent verification was done.

35,246 toilets have been approved by the government and a total of 42,29,52,000 (at the rate of 12,000 per toilet) (Forty two crore twenty nine lakh rupees) has

been approved but in all 72 gram panchayats of Fingeswar Janpad Panchayat, more than 7,000 toilets have not been built and 7,000 toilets amounting to 8,40,00,000 (Eight crore twenty lakh rupees) have been fraudulently withdrawn.

For which all 72 Gram Panchayats of Fingeswar Janpad Panchayat have been

given a fake O.D.F. certificate and embezzled of 08 crores by withdrawing the amount by fake verifications too. Fake verification report has been prepared by the technical team of Janpad Panchayat Fingeswar, and for the proper operation of SBM, the government has set criteria at many levels so that the correct operation

and monitoring and monitoring of the works can be done, for which the government has appointed a coordinator so that the toilet construction work under the SBM mission.

Along with this, the criteria for physical verification of toilet construction has also been set, under which the technical team will physically verify and authenticate the toilets of each beneficiary of each Gram Panchayat, but in the Janpad Panchayat Fingeswar, toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, the physical verification of the construction work has been forged, not even 7,000 toilets built have been built and certified by the technical team.

# Former CM afraid of MLA Daleswar Sahu: Tikesh

Dongargaon, Feb 23:

Janpad President Tikesh Sahu coming down heavily against the former CM Raman Singh charged that probably he is afraid of MLA Dongargaon Daleswar Sahu because due to increasing popularity of MLA, Raman Singh and entire BJP is facing problems and are living in fear.

This statement came in context of statement by former CM Raman Singh against MLA with charges to pass on grants aid to nearby family members and near & dear ones and saying that if he is poor, we can give him amount of Rs 5000. On this Janpad President Tikesh Sahu said that these days Daleswar Sahu is a big figure in the region and since BJP is not having

any alternative, they are passing all such statements at the behest of former CM and trying to create confusion in the mind of people and trying to tarnish image of MLA Daleswar Sahu. But he said that the people of region are well-aware of such practices and no reasons why it has remained failure in its strategies so far.

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# Three injured as SUV hits a bike, moped

Dongargaon, Feb 23:

The number of vehicle accidents is on the rise under Dongargaon thana and there is not a single day when there is no accident taking place for vehicles passing through the city's corridor. At one place where the traffic pressure is increasing each day, on the other, the road-side shops are also one of the major reasons. In the state corridor on Tuesday, a high-speed SUV bearing No. CG 04 AQ 9823 coming from Ambagarh Chowki dashed two on bike coming from opposite direction. In this the two on bike and one from SUV



got seriously injured. It is learnt that this SUV was booked for 'Mohalla Police' and it was taking accused to Rajnandgaon court. The injured were taken to CHC Dongargaon and from where after first

aid, were referred to Medical College Rajnandgaon. In this accident, one bike rider Bisnath S/o Dularu Goud (37), R/o Pangari, got injuries in his hand, leg, head and face and the 18

yr old Naina got injuries in both her legs. Both of them were on the bike. Another person Reena Chandravanshi on a moped is reported to be four months pregnant and had received lots of injuries and she was directly referred to District Hospital Rajnandgaon. It is notable here that with increasing pressure of traffic each day, the lacuna on part of the district administration and traffic police has come to fore and due to which many accidents are taking place. Though sanction for road widening was done about six months back, but so far no action has been taken at ground-level.

It should be known that keeping in mind the remaining days of the end of the financial year, continuous efforts are being made by the Nagar Panchayat administration to recover the amount of outstanding

# Employees doing door-to-door tax collection

In Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha

Dhamdha, Feb 24:

In Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha, all types of taxes are being collected by all the assistant revenue inspectors of the body, and the employees

are going door to door in their allotted wards, collecting dues and current property tax.

It should be known that keeping in mind the remaining days of the end of the financial year, continuous efforts are being made by the Nagar Panchayat administration to recover the amount of outstanding

taxes according to the target. For percentage recovery, strict action has been directed by SDM Dhamdha in the review meeting, and the employees of the body are engaged in the work of recovery during office hours from 10 am to 5 pm.

In this regard, revenue in-charge Dnyaneshwar

Devdas said that the demand for recovery in the body is 93 lakh, out of which 43 lakh has been recovered, and about 50 lakh is due, which is to be recovered by March 31. The Cooperation has appealed to all the citizens to ensure to pay their taxes responsibly by 31st March in the Nagar Panchayat.

# Collector takes stock of damage to property of villagers



Gurela, Pendra, Marwahi, Feb 24:

Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary took stock of damage caused by herd of wild tuskers in Gram Katra and Gram Samdarri (Chuktipani) of Marwahi forest area here on Monday. She met the villages and inquired about their health and took information about loss to their goods and crops. She directed the officers of the Forest department to analyse about the loss and the compensation to be made and release the amount to the affected persons immediately. CEO Janpad Panchayat Marwahi was directed to provide works related to levelling of land and well construction to affected people under MGNREGA and also provide benefit to them under 'Sujala Yojana' and schemes of the Horticulture department. It is notable here that this herd of wild tuskers few days back have caused massive damage to door and utensils of Mohitram Yadav in Gram Chuktipani, apart from damaging the crop of tomato and banana. The paddy crop of Indraprat Yadav was also damaged. Similarly the tuskers caused damage to houses and crops of Amar Singh, Phul Singh, Jai Mangal in Gram Katra. During this inspection SDM Hiteshwari Baghe, CEO Janpad Panchayat Rahul Gautam, Forest Ranger Daroga Singh Marwahi were present.

Whereas the Authorized Officers of Union Bank of India, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice of the following borrowers/guarantors/ mortgagors calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notices within 60 days from the date of the notices.

The Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, Notices are hereby given to the borrowers/guarantor(s)/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that Authorized Officer has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned dates.

The Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for the amounts and interests and incidental expenses and costs and charges thereon as mentioned below.

A	Name of the Borrowers	Description of Secured Assets
A. M/S Alisia Medical Agency	Prop. Ved Prakash Deewangan S/o Mahesh Chandra Deewangan(Borrower)	E.M. Of Residential And Building Over Khasara No 207/20 Part, P.H No 26, Ward 47 At Bahtarai Road, Beside Geetanjali City, Phase-1, Infront Of Pratham Hospital, Bilaspur C.G. 495001, Area 1110 Sq.Ft. Bounded by, In North- Rasta, In South- Land of Tiwari, In East-Sellers Plot, In West- Sellers Plot.
B. M/s. Shri P.J Stone Prop. Mr. Pramod Kumar Jain S/o Mr. Surendra Kumar Jain (Guarantor)	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Outstanding (in Rs.) 3. Date of Possession	1. 10.08.2021 2. ₹ 15,54,085.00 3. (as on 26.04.2021) + interest & other exp.
C. M/s. Surendra Kumar Jain & Others, To the West: House of Sahu & Others, To the North: Road, To the South : House of Sushil Sharma		3. 18.02.2022
D. Central Bank of India, Landlords- Smt. Urmila Shukla W/o Late Ashok Shukla & Others, C/o Tikrapara Raipur Road, Kanker (C.G.) Bhatapara Branch.	1. 05.08.2021 2. ₹ 19,85,192.42 3. (as on 05.08.2021) + interest & other exp.	3. 23.02.2022

# Awareness created among youth about blood donation



## By Yuwa Sansthan in Gram Narmada

Addressing the programme, Vijay Verma said that youths are the future of the country and as & when the Yuwa Sansthan will be in need of something, they will always stand together with Yuwa Group. In this programme, District Panchayat 'sabhapati' Vipal Sahu, Ramesh Sriwas, Santosh Yadu, Kamdev Janghel, Sarpanch Dongendra Sori, Narendra Soni, Manoj Sahu, Pulendra Janghel, Pilaram and President Yuwa Sansthan Dr Sharad Vaishnav and youth in large number were present.



Our Bank branch premises is going to be shifted to New Premises at Tikrapara, Dist-Kanker (C.G.). We would request all our valued customers to vacate the lockers allotted to them within two months from the date of this publication so as to avoid any damages to your goods kept inside the locker availed. You also have the option to surrender the Locker as per your desire. Your cooperation is highly appreciated. Please contact branch in case you have any queries.

This programme was or-

ganised to organise all the members of the organisation and youths of rural areas and bring awareness about blood donation among them. The main objective of this institution is to provide blood free of cost to needy patients on time and create awareness

## BRIEF

## Robbers

**■ Amritsar:** Eight persons including a woman were arrested for allegedly being involved in multiple crimes, including five bank robberies in two districts. Besides Rs 28 lakh cash, four pistols, five rifles, 20 live cartridges, a car and two motorcycles were seized from them. The accused were identified as Kajal, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Singh, Sandeep Singh, Manjot Singh, Kulwinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Kishanpreet Singh.

## Racket

**■ New Delhi:** With the arrest of three people, the CGST unearthed a cartel allegedly running 54 bogus firms registered in Delhi-NCR region that were engaged in fake invoicing and circular trading. Searches and inspections were conducted across locations spread across Delhi that were engaged in fake invoicing and circular trading. The Commissionate received a tip-off that certain bogus firms were created solely for the purpose.

## Injured

**■ Guwahati:** A drug peddler, one suspected dacoit and an alleged car thief were injured in police firing in different districts when they allegedly tried to flee from custody. The three incidents were reported from Hailakandi, Dibrugarh and Dhemaji districts. During interrogation, a person told that two people supplied the drugs. He led the police team to arrest the persons.

## Vandalism

**■ Gangtok:** Two people were arrested in connection with the vandalism at Tashiling Secretariat in Gangtok. Abel Rai and Josher Rai, residents of Moonsong in West Bengal's Kalimpong district, were arrested from Singtam in East Sikkim, they said. The duo was caught on CCTV while vandalising the secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, the ministers and the heads of all the government departments, police said.

## Buggies

**■ New Delhi:** The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) made it mandatory to get a third party insurance, akin to that of vehicles, for owners and caretakers of horses, mares or horse-drawn buggies to be used for ceremonial purposes, civic authorities said. The decision was approved by the SDMC standing committee following a court order last year.

## Arrested

**■ Hyderabad:** A 28-year-old labourer was arrested here for allegedly raping and killing a woman rag-picker with whom he was in a relationship. The body was found in an unused police outpost near here on February 21. After verifying the CCTV footage in the area, the police said the labourer had accompanied the woman (35) on that date. Interrogation of the man revealed that he had taken her to the outpost under the pretext of talks.

## 'Ensure speedy clearance of student credit card applications'

## Mamata appeals to banks



**West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issues a credit card to a student, in the presence of State Education Minister Bratya Basu at Netaji Indoor Stadium, in Kolkata, Thursday.**

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged all state-owned banks to ensure speedy clearance of student credit card applications, while reiterating that her government will be the guarantor for each credit recipient. Banerjee, while presiding over a programme

on the distribution of student credit cards, said that her government has already issued such cards to 5,000 students, and sanctioned 20,000 more.

Under the state government scheme, students can avail education loans of up to Rs 10 lakh for a simple interest over 15 years. The chief minister said that her government has

allocated Rs 5,042 crore for the scheme.

"Cooperative banks are already performing their roles. I urge all state-owned banks to come forward with the same spirit. Please ensure speedy clearance of the proposals."

The government stands as the guarantor for each credit recipient. Hence, the sanctioned amount is guaranteed money. There will be no defaulter," she said.

Banerjee said the TMC government is committed to ensuring better facilities and amenities for school and college students.

She said that 77 lakh female students have already come under the ambit of the Kanyashree scheme, and nine lakh class 11 and 12 students have received smartphones and tablets.

## ANTI-SMOG GUN



An anti-smog gun is used to spray water to curb air pollution, at Civil Line area in Gurugram, Thursday.

## Peace, Naga talks top poll agendas in Manipur's Ukhral

### ■ People choosing candidates based on their credentials

Ukhral, Feb 24 (PTI):



A freshly painted mural of Naga rebel leaders Late Khodao Yanthan, Late Isak Chishi Swu and Thuingaleng Muivah with hands holding up Naga flags in the background draws attention to the northern boundary wall of a mini stadium here. Hanging from the top right corner is a BJP flag tied to a post and on the left is that of Naga People's Front. The frame mirrors the current election mood in this small hill town where people are gearing up to choose a candidate to represent them in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly but with the lingering effect of the unfin-

ished talks between the Centre and NSCN (IM) under the Framework Agreement signed in 2015, serving as a reminder of the violent past that this northeastern part of Manipur had witnessed during the Naga insurgency. Worthem, a middle-aged man who runs a book shop in Ukhral's landmark Wino Bazaar, says people

here are desperate for long-lasting peace and development, and he would be voting with that in mind when polling takes place on March 5 in the second phase. "Yes, there has been a perceptible change and there is peace after the Framework Agreement was announced but there is still that shadow of the past,

As for Agrippa J, in his mid-twenties, who returned to his home state leaving behind a corporate job in Bengaluru to start his own business of opening a food court during the pandemic, there is a curiosity to know what has been agreed under the Framework Agreement.

## Uproar in Rajasthan Assembly over state BJP chief comment

Jaipur, Feb 24 (PTI):

Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia's controversial remarks on women triggered an uproar in state assembly on Thursday, with women MLAs of the ruling Congress demanding an apology from him. The House was adjourned for half-an-hour over Poonia's remarks. Talking to reporters after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot presented the Budget for the year 2022-23 on Wednesday, Poonia had said, "It seems to be a 'daubed up' budget. It seems like a dark-complexioned bride has been taken to a beauty parlour and presented after a good makeup." Earlier in the day, Poonia released a



video apologizing for his remark. "I was giving reaction to the budget during which I spontaneously spoke a few words. Usually, I do not use such words. If my words have hurt someone's sentiments, then I humbly apologize," he said in a video statement. But the members of the houses apparently wanted an apology in the House.

After reassembling, Speaker CP Joshi asked members to maintain the dignity of the House and protest in a democratic manner. He also banned banners and plaques in the House. As soon as the Zero Hour began at 12 noon following the question hour on Thursday, Women and Child Development minister Mamta Bhupesh raised objections to the remark and demanded an apology from Poonia, an MLA, in the House. Women MLAs of the Congress party also showed plaques which read 'Mahila ka Apman Nahi Sahega Rajasthan'.

Bhupesh also entered the well of the House followed by other women MLAs of the ruling party in the state.

## WhatsApp group admins not liable for objectionable posts: Kerala HC

Kochi, Feb 24 (PTI):



The administrators or creators of a WhatsApp group cannot be held vicariously liable for any objectionable content posted on it. The court said that as held by the Bombay and Delhi High Courts, "the only privilege enjoyed by the admin of a WhatsApp group over other members is that he can either add or delete any of the members

from the group". "He does not have physical or any control otherwise over what a member of a group is posting thereon. He cannot moderate or censor messages in a group."

"Thus, Creator or Administrator of a WhatsApp group, merely acting in that capacity, cannot be vicariously held liable for any objectionable content posted by a member of the group," the Kerala HC said. In the instant matter, the petitioner had created a WhatsApp group called 'FRIENDS' and he had made two other persons also as admins along with him and one of them posted in the group a porn video depicting children engaged in sexually explicit act.

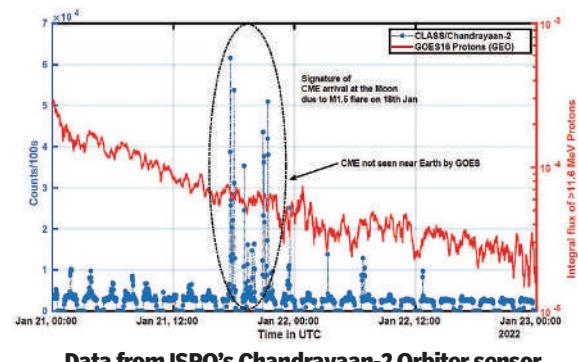
## Chandrayaan-2 detects solar proton events

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

A Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS), a payload on-board Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, has detected solar proton events which significantly increase the radiation exposure to humans in space, the Indian Space Research Organisation has said.

The instrument on January 18 also recorded coronal mass ejections (CMEs), a powerful stream of ionised material and magnetic fields, which reach the Earth a few days later, leading to geomagnetic storms and lighting up the polar sky with auroras, the ISRO said.

"Such multi-point observations help us understand the propagation and its impact on different



Data from ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter sensor.

planetary systems," it said.

When the sun is active, spectacular eruptions called solar flares occur that sometimes also spew out energetic particles (called solar proton events or SPEs) into interplanetary space.

Most of these are high energy protons that impact space systems and

significantly increase radiation exposure to humans in space. They can cause ionisation on large scales in the earth's middle atmosphere, the space agency said.

Many intense solar flares are accompanied by CMEs, a powerful stream of ionised material and magnetic fields, which reach the earth a few days

later, leading to geomagnetic storms and lighting up the polar sky with auroras.

Solar flares are classified according to their strength. The smallest ones are A-class, followed by B, C, M and X. Each letter represents a 10-fold increase in energy output. This means that an M class flare is 10 times more intense than C-class flare and 100 times intense than B-class flare, the ISRO said.

Within each letter class there is a finer scale from 1 to 9 - a M2 flare is twice the strength of M1 flare.

Recently, there were two M-class solar flares. One flare (M5.5) spewed out energetic particles into interplanetary space and the other flare (M1.5) was accompanied by a CME, the space agency said.

Many intense solar flares are accompanied by CMEs, a powerful stream of ionised material and magnetic fields, which reach the earth a few days

## 'King Momo' wasn't part of traditional Goa Carnival

Panaji, Feb 24 (PTD):



The mythological 'King Momo' was not a part of the traditional Goa Carnival festivities and the character came into existence much later when float parades became an integral part of the popular event, according to a cultural expert.

The concept of float parades was started by the Goa tourism department in 1970s when the character of King Momo was also formally introduced, a tourism department official said. The four-day carnival will begin in Goa on Saturday when the first float parade would be held in the state capital Panaji.

For this year's celebration, South Goa resident Emiliano Dias will be King Momo to lead the float parade. There was no King Momo earlier, it was more of people's participation,

said. During the Portuguese era (before 1961), the floats never existed. People used to go around on bullock carts, he said. This later took the shape of floats and various commercial establishments started sponsoring the event, said Alvares.

The traditional carnival was marked by theatre art form 'Khel', which was a kind of satirical play. It used to be a humorous depiction of what was happening in the political field," he said.

The play was staged in different places, like a church square or an area in front of someone's house, he recalled.

"People used to sit in a circular pattern and watch the play. It was up to the artists to use their talent and creative imagination to generate interest among the people," he added.

Mizoram's main opposition party Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) has filed a complaint with the state Lokayukta, asking the anti-corruption ombudsman to probe the alleged shareholding and availing of profit from a government contract by Assembly Speaker Lalriniana Sailo.

Sailo, however, denied the allegation and claimed that he has not received any money illegally.

The development came within hours of ZPM and Congress legislators staging a walkout during the ongoing budget session of the assembly in protest against Sailo presiding over the session amid the graft charge. The ZPM, in

its complaint, alleged that Sailo has pocketed Rs 10 crore from a contract for blacktopping a 13-km-long Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road between Khawzawl and Ngaiaw village in Khawzawl district.

The matter recently

came to light when the contractor Coleen Lalsangpui and her manager informed NGOs that

Sailo had taken Rs 10 crore from the contract, it said.

The opposition party also accused the speaker of misusing his power.

"It is illegal for an elected representative of the people to avail profit from a contract. This is a clear manifestation of bringing disgrace on public office and we take strong exception to it," ZPM said in its complaint. Earlier, all 11 members of opposition Congress and ZPM staged a walkout during the ongoing budget session in protest against Sailo presiding over the session.

The opposition members demanded an explanation from the speaker and said they would not be present in the session until the speaker proves his innocence.

Lokayukta complaint over graft charge against Mizoram speaker

Aizawl, Feb 24 (PTD):

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The opposition members demanded an explanation from the speaker and said they would not be present in the session until the speaker proves his innocence.

## BRIEF

## Critical

■ London: The India-UK partnership in tackling climate change was the theme of India Day in Parliament as leaders from the field of politics, business and the arts gathered for the 4th annual UK-India Parliamentary Lunch at House of Lords in London. UK Cabinet Office minister and president of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow Alok Sharma highlighted the "critical" role of India in achieving the global sustainability targets in his address.

## Discuss

■ Kathmandu: Nepal's Parliament will start discussion on the contentious USD 500 million Millennium Corporation Challenge (MCC) programme of the US which was tabled in the lower house on Sunday for ratification amid vociferous protests against the grant assistance. As per the notice issued by the House of Representative Secretariat, MCC Compact has been included as one of the agendas for discussion on Sunday.

## Blown

■ Berlin: Police in Germany said that a truck driver likely fell to his death after being blown off a bridge during a storm earlier this week. The 53-year-old's body was found below the Ambach Valley highway bridge by a passer-by. Authorities initially investigated the death as a possible suicide. Further evidence showed the driver had probably stopped to tighten a tarpaulin on his truck when he was caught by a strong gust of wind and fell.

## Claims

■ Abuja: Dozens of Nigerian soldiers were killed and wounded in recent attacks in Nigeria's insecure northeast region, according to Islamic State group, which said its West Africa members carried out the assaults. The attacks using explosives targeted soldiers on patrol at various checkpoints in Borno state, killing and wounding more than 30 soldiers.

## Shooting

■ Houston: An East Texas deputy constable was killed in US and a suspect wounded in shootings in a Houston shopping mall. The shootings happened in the PlazaAmericas mall in southeastern Houston.

# Ukraine situation leaves Baltics wondering about security



The monument of Red Latvian Riflemen stands in Riga, Latvia.

Vilnius, Feb 24 (AP):

Viewed from Paris, London and Washington, the events unfolding in Ukraine may seem like a new Cold War taking shape in Europe. From the Baltic countries, it looks much worse in terms of security.

To Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, particularly those old enough to have lived under Soviet control, Russia's belligerence toward Ukraine has

some worried that they could be the next target. The tensions have brought back memories of mass deportations and oppression.

"My grandparents were sent away to Siberia. My father was persecuted by the KGB. Now I live in a free democratic country, but it seems that nothing can be taken for granted," said Jaujus Kazlauskas, a 50-year-old teacher in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital. All three Baltic coun-

tries were seized and annexed by Stalin during World War II before gaining independence again with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. They joined NATO in 2004, putting themselves under the military protection of the US and its Western allies. Ukraine is not part of NATO.

The Baltic countries and Poland, also a NATO member, have been among the loudest advocates for powerful sanctions against Moscow and NATO reinforcements on the alliance's eastern flank. Baltic government leaders in recent weeks have shuttled to European capitals, warning that the West must make Russian President Vladimir Putin pay for attacking Ukraine, or else his tanks will keep rolling toward other parts of the former Soviet empire.

"The battle for Ukraine is a battle for Europe.

## Turk-Pak stealth jet to be new challenge for India



Model of TF-X stealth jet was displayed at Singapore.

US aware of Imran's Russia visit

Washington: As Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's made a maiden visit to Moscow, the US has communicated its position to Islamabad on Russia's "renewed invasion" of Ukraine.

Islamabad, Feb 24 (PTI):

Close allies, Pakistan and Turkey are collaborating on the development of a fifth generation (stealth) fighter jet, a media report said. The aircraft will be comparable to India's 5th generation AMCA stealth fighter project by HAL and will challenge security of India if AMCA is not developed in time.

Temel Kotil, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) told Aaj News channel that Turkey and Pakistan were collaborating on the project.

Air Vice-Marshal Dr Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector Research, Innovation &

Commercialisation (RIC) at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) confirmed that the two countries were building a fighter jet called the TF-X, the Business Recorder, a Pakistani financial daily newspaper had reported. TF-X is claimed to be su-

perior to Rafale, HAL Tejas as well as Russian made Sukhoi 30 used by Indian Air Force.

This is a fifth-generation fighter aircraft for which Pakistan and Turkey are now collaborating, Riaz said, adding the NUST has previously conducted similar projects in collaboration with the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and Pakistan Air Force.

The officials did not further divulge any more details on the fighter jet and its development.

TF-X, a stealth twin-engine all-weather air superiority fighter in development by Turkish Aerospace Industries, is expected to make its first flight in the next three years, according to media reports.

The situation is no longer an emergency, therefore the federal go-

## US drops name of Trump's 'China Initiative' after criticism

Washington, Feb 24 (AP):

The Justice Department is scrapping the name of a Trump-era initiative intended to crack down on economic espionage by Beijing but criticised as unfairly targeting Chinese professors at American colleges because of their ethnicity.

The decision to abandon the China Initiative, announced by the department's top national security official, follows a months-long review undertaken after charges that the program chilled academic collaboration and contributed to anti-Asian bias.

The department also endured high-profile setbacks in individual crimi-

nal prosecutions that resulted in the last year in the dismissal of multiple criminal cases against academic researchers.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said the department will be relentless in defending our country from China, but no longer will group its investigations and prosecutions under the China Initiative label, in part out of recognition of the threats facing the US from Russia, Iran, North Korea and others beyond China. I'm convinced that we need a broader approach, one that looks



across all of these threats and use all of our authorities to combat them, he told reporters before a speech in which he planned to lay out the changes.

The program was established in 2018 under then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions as a way to thwart what officials said were aggressive efforts by China to steal American intellectual property and to spy on American industry and research.

Olsen told reporters he believed the initiative was prompted by genuine national security concerns. He said he did not believe investigators had targeted professors on the basis of ethnicity, but he also said he had to be responsive to concerns he heard, including from Asian American groups.

## Opposition party to choose new leader in April

Madrid, Feb 24 (AP):

cused Casado of political espionage.

The leader of Spain's main opposition party, Pablo Casado, will remain in charge of the Popular Party until early April, when party members are expected to choose a new leadership following an ugly internal clash that, according to early surveys, has benefited the conservatives' rivals in the far right.

In a meeting that stretched until on Thursday, Casado resisted pressure from senior party members to resign immediately following a public exchange of accusations of corruption with a PP rising star, who in turn accused Casado of political espionage.

In a statement, the party announced that Casado would not run to lead the party again.

The meeting came a day after Casado's No 2, Teodoro García Egea, stepped down as the party's secretary-general and the calls for Casado to follow him mounted, even from PP members who had been his fierce supporters until hours earlier.

The turmoil in Spain's traditional conservative political force promises to mostly benefit the far-right Vox party, according to political observers and polls by newspapers.

## WAT PHO TEMPLE



A man wearing a face mask walks around Wat Pho temple in Bangkok on Thursday.

## Trudeau revokes emergency powers as blockades end

Toronto, Feb 24 (AP):

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced he is removing emergency powers police can use after authorities ended the blockades at the borders and the occupation in Ottawa by truckers and others opposed to COVID-19 restrictions.

Trudeau said the 'threat continues' but the acute emergency that included entrenched occupations has ended. His government invoked the powers last week and lawmakers affirmed the powers late Monday.

The situation is no longer an emergency, therefore the federal go-

vernment will be ending the use of the emergencies act,' Trudeau said. 'We are confident that existing laws and bylaws are sufficient.'

The emergencies

act allows authorities to declare certain areas as no-go zones. It also allows police to freeze truckers' personal and corporate bank accounts and compel tow truck companies to haul away vehicles.

The trucker protest grew until it closed a handful of Canada-US border posts and shut down key parts of the capital for more than three weeks.

But all border blockades have now ended and the streets around the Canadian Parliament are quiet.

'We were very clear that the use of the emergencies act would be limited in time,' Trudeau said.

Trudeau had warned earlier this week there were some truckers just outside Ottawa who might be planning further blockades or occupations. His public safety minister also said there was an attempt to block a border crossing in British Columbia over the weekend.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
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**"ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना"**

नि.क्र. 154,155,156,157,158,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,170,171,172,173,174 / नि.प्र. / जोनेयर / डी-डब्ल्यू-एस.एम. / लो-स्प.ए.या.या. / सुकमा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्भाव संकेतीय भी पंजीयन शर्कारी देकेदारों से जल-जीवन मिशन के तहत एकल ग्राम योजनानाम्रत निविदित शेषालय अनुसार पाईप लाइन विस्तार, उच्च स्तरीय जलांतरणीय घरेलू नक्कलेशन प्रदाय आदि कार्यों हेतु प्रपत्र "ए" में ऑनलाइन Online निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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स.क्र. 154 93110 पुजारीपाल / छिन्दगढ़ 40.18

स.क्र. 155 93111 मुताकिशोली / कोण्टा 27.75

स.क्र. 156 93113 अरलांडोंग / कोण्टा 14.08

स.क्र. 157 93114 बुरकापाल / कोण्टा 59.56

स.क्र. 158 93161 दुलेल / कोण्टा 31.29

स.क्र. 159 93164 जंगमपाल / छिन्दगढ़ 32.09

स.क्र. 160 93165 तिमाहुर / कोण्टा 16.78

स.क्र. 161 93166 कुमालोग / छिन्दगढ़ 115.16

स.क्र. 162 93167 टेडमाटोल / कोण्टा 36.57

स.क्र. 163 93168 जंगराला / छिन्दगढ़ 55.70

स.क्र. 164 93169 सूरामपुर / कोण्टा 53.42

स.क्र. 165 93170 सिरसटी / सुकमा 57.39

स.क्र. 166 93171 मैलासूर / कोण्टा 23.43

स.क्र. 167 93172 सीतापाल / छिन्दगढ़ 44.77

स.क्र. 168 93173 कंगालतांग / कोण्टा 20.65

स.क्र. 169 93174 मेटापुडा / कोण्टा 18.84

# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Ukraine's folly on nuclear weapons

Amid Russian attack on Ukraine, it is imperative to view policy of nuclear deterrence. India is now a nuclear weapons power to avoid the situation facing Ukraine now and earlier faced by countries such as Iraq. Modern-day Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky said recently, has 'no security'. History will note Ukraine's folly of giving up nuclear weapons. Three decades ago, the newly independent country of Ukraine was briefly the third-largest nuclear power in the world. Thousands of nuclear arms had been left on Ukrainian soil by Moscow after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. But in the years that followed, Ukraine made the decision to completely denuclearize. In exchange, the US, the UK and Russia would guarantee Ukraine's security in a 1994 agreement known as the Budapest Memorandum. Now, that agreement is front and centre again. It is clear that Ukrainians knew they weren't getting the exactly legally binding, really robust security guarantees they sought. But they were told at the time that the United States and Western powers so certainly at least the United States and Great Britain take their political commitments really seriously. This is a document signed at the highest level by the heads of state. So, the implication was Ukraine would not be left to stand alone and face a threat should it come under one. Russia just glibly violated it. And there's a mechanism of consultations that is provided for in the memorandum should any issues arise, and it was mobilized for the first time on March 4, 2014. So, there was a meeting of the signatories of the memorandum that was called by Ukraine and it did take place in Paris. And the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, who was in Paris at the time, simply did not show up. So, he wouldn't even come to the meeting in connection with the memorandum.

Ukrainian engineers had conceived some of the Soviet Union's deadliest weapons, too. The SS-18 missile, nicknamed 'Satan' and built to strike targets up to 16,000 kilometres away, was designed and manufactured in Yuzhmash, at the time a closed city in Ukraine. After years of negotiation, Ukraine ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons in 1994, and in subsequent years returned warheads to Russia and destroyed missile silos, a process that took until 2001 to complete. Ukraine's nuclear disarmament was, from its earliest days, the subject of intense domestic debate. In 1993, the country's parliament voted to maintain possession of some nuclear weapons. That vote was overruled by Ukraine's then-president Leonid Kravchuk. That decision, controversial at the time, has more recently been called a 'capitulation' by Yuri Kostenko, a politician who was involved in the nuclear decommissioning. In a recent book about the disarmament, he called the consequences for the country 'catastrophic,' lamenting Ukraine's descent back toward 'the status of a colony in a new Russian empire.' Only one of Ukraine's nuclear missile silos was partly preserved at Pervomaisk, kept open to visitors as a museum piece next to the underground command centre, where computer terminals and a red telephone to Moscow are a tangible reminder of the fire-power once kept here. Perhaps Ukraine should have followed the model of Britain, which has maintained four ballistic missile submarines and a modest number of warheads, not enough to turn earth to cinder, but 'enough for the whole world to know that they have nuclear weapon. The Ukraine government now regrets its belief about non-proliferation agenda led by US and allies and facing the consequences.

## India's chess population

At just 16 years old, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa is now the youngest chess player ever to defeat Magnus Carlsen in his long reign as world champion. The two faced off in an online tournament that had featured 16 elite players. Praggnanandhaa is a grandmaster from India who is commonly referred to simply as Pragg. Pragg is the youngest person to defeat Carlsen since he became world champion, a streak that extends back to 2013, as World Chess notes. Magnus Carlsen, earned the title of Grandmaster at the age of 13 years. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, lovingly called 'Prag', was actually ahead of the current world champion, when Carlsen was at a similar age. Prag became a Grandmaster (GM) at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days, taking young Indian chess players to new heights. The chess prodigy was felicitated at his school, Velammal School Mogappair in Chennai. India has the largest active chess population with over thousands of players registered as having played a tournament. The vast majority of those players are young and many are still in school.

Remarkably, this happened without much government support. But a closer look at those numbers reveals how one state has played a pivotal role in India's chess story. The country's first International Master, Manuel Aaron, grew up in Tamil Nadu. The first grandmaster (Viswanathan Anand), the first female grandmaster (Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi), and the first International Arbiter are all from Chennai. The origin of Chess in India dates back to 6th Century AD. In modern times, individual efforts, mainly in cities made chess popular in society. Yet, it took India 38 years to get its first Grandmaster (GM) after the title was officially introduced in 1950 by The Fide Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), the governing body of international Chess. Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to receive this prestigious title in 1988. Because of the game's cerebral nature, where one is not required to be present in person. This game also has an overpowering online presence where one can compete with high ranked players. It gives the flexibility to choose the quality of the opponent based on their world ranks. The royal game is gaining traction amongst Indians, and its popularity is on a rising slope. This will not only aid in the onboarding of some of the best minds but also create a conducive environment for sponsorships to flood in and take the game to an altogether different level.

## STRAWBERRY PICKING



A Palestinian farmer picks strawberries for export at a farm near Erez crossing in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip.

## India and Pakistan can future-proof their threatened rivers

MEDHA BISHT



A shift in perspective can future-proof the Indus Water Treaty. If they had known in the fifties what climate change would do to rivers, would India and Pakistan have signed the Indus Water Treaty? It's this question the Indian government has triggered in the wake of its 12th report on water resources. A re-negotiation of the Indus Water Treaty may be looming, following an August 2021 parliamentary report published by the Indian government. The Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters is planning to visit Pakistan in March to attend the annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission. The report, prepared by the 12th standing committee, worries that climate change is largely ignored by the Treaty, which was agreed based on the knowledge and 'technological imperatives' available at the time it was negotiated, the 1950s. These concerns, along with a recently-released report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), highlight a need for climate change adaptation. While the WMO report considers Integrated Water Resource Management a panacea for long-term wellbeing and security, it notes that many countries still remain off-track when it comes to the sustainable management of water resources.

The Treaty allocates the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India. But it has also granted India the right to certain non-

consumptive uses of water on western rivers which includes generating hydroelectricity through run of the river dams, navigation and fishing, when certain conditions are met. The focus on the Indus Basin is heavily tilted towards western rivers, where building hydrological structures is a priority concern for India. India has dismissed Pakistani reservations over dam development as a tactic to delay construction. When India and Pakistan have bilateral disputes over water, they have tended to revolve around hydro-power projects and rationing water. As a result, vital concerns such as water quality or nutrition security remain largely obfuscated. The stakes are high: if the next major development in the Indus Water Treaty is mishandled, the worst-case scenario could see water conflicts between India and Pakistan become a pressing reality. However, if both countries can keep border claims aside and focus on joint development, a cooperative framework that adapts to contemporary issues can emerge. The challenge will be finding a way to facilitate this partnership.

Moving from rationality to relationality for rivers. To achieve a stronger Indus Water Treaty, both states must shift from acting based on the rationality of water, and focus instead on its relationality. This means moving from water sharing (rationality) to benefit sharing (relationality). Rationality has a singular focus on volumetric allocation of water, and relationality expands the definition of water from surface water (water quantity), to water quality, preservation of wetlands and biodiversity, soil erosion, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, and nature-based solutions. Doing so may help spur a different approach. The rivers covered by the Treaty are diverse, flowing through different ecoclimatic zones. The precipitation rates are different across the lower, middle and upper basins, some rivers are snow-fed, and the impacts of cli-

mate change are felt differently across the region. The climate-related threats have been especially emphasised by Pakistan, international institutions and environmentalists. Such threats, dubbed 'minimum environmental flows', could reduce the flow of a river by 30-40 percent in future. The Indus Basin has faced a range of ecological issues, including siltation, water logging, the shifting of water tables, water contamination, groundwater extraction, flood management problems, and uncertainty over precipitation patterns.

These concerns are overlaid by changing demographics in India and Pakistan, increased urbanisation, and rising demands on the agricultural and industrial sectors. This has contributed to making both countries, particularly Pakistan, among the most water stressed in the world. Maintaining and ensuring environmental flows will be a tall challenge unless a compromise between water resource development and maintenance of the river is agreed. In light of these concerns, a three-pronged approach that reframes the Indus Water Treaty through a relational lens may be most effective. Leaders in India and Pakistan will need to shape a different approach, one that no longer sees water as an instrument for winning bargaining games. If they can't, a trust deficit, water nationalism, and the securitisation of water could all contribute to escalating tensions, interstate and intrastate. Both countries could also benefit from focusing more on a sub-basin level instead of managing the area with a singular holistic approach. Interventions at the sub-basin level that can account for contextual factors, such as the socio-economic composition of the area and the existing hydrology, would make the action more effective.

However, to truly bring the Indus Water Treaty into the present, its governance must be critically examined. The Treaty highlights many times the scope of cooperation and shared gov-

ernance (in Articles 4, 5 and 7). Translating these words in the Treaty into more tangible action would greatly increase the bargaining range between India and Pakistan. For example, Article 4 emphasises the use of communication channels regarding areas of concern across eastern and western rivers. It also tasks signatories with avoiding measures which cause direct or indirect harm to the other. Article 5 also outlines key areas that can foster cooperation between India and Pakistan, such as collaborating to prevent river erosion, promoting river protection, and treatment of sewage and industrial water at the source point. Article 7 outlines the possibility of optimum river development through a consultative data-sharing process for issues relating to drainage works.

A 2021 study found flood management, water quality, minimum environmental flows, exploitation of groundwater with the absence of a regulatory mechanism, were the primary concerns in Pakistan Punjab. Alternatively, priorities which emerged from India were regulating the excessive exploitation of groundwater, reflection on cropping patterns, shifting water tables and shifting river course and water quality. While these value preferences stemmed primarily from the Ravi sub-basin, they offer novel ways of approaching the Indus Water Treaty and Indus Basin in general. This not only necessitates alternative ways of undertaking suitable interventions to manage the Indus Basin, but also demands that a relational approach to the rivers and the ecosystem of the Indus Basin become a priority concern for both India and Pakistan. This will not only help us critically engage with what 'water' means, but also open up new pathways for benefit sharing mechanisms to future-proof the Indus Water Treaty.

(Medha Bisht is senior assistant professor at Department of International Relations at South Asian University, New Delhi.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### War situation

Since 2019 whole world has been fighting with the deadliest COVID-19. But gradually it becomes an endemic. After the massive vaccination drive people have obtained the immunity to prevent the virus. But after this cold chaos the whole world is again going to unstable. Again the nation clashes has begun in the different parts of the world. The Russia-Ukraine conflict again has taken up the headlines. The Russian troops have attacked in the different part of the Ukraine. Since 1991 when the USSR broke into 15 new countries, Ukraine is one of them, the new Russia has been trying to occupy Ukraine. When the president of the Russia Putin, partially successfully occupied Ukraine in 2014, the Ukrainians impeached the then president Yanukovich. After the election again the new Ukrainian government became enemy of Russia. The Ukrainian government wanted to join NATO and became an independent European country. But the Russian president warned Ukraine government on before taking this type of decision. At last in 2022 the Russia has deployed their military forces against Ukraine. This incident recently again slowly has divided the world into two parts. The USA and other European country have warned Russia and have imposed sanction after attack. Probably this incident will lead us to witness a dangerous World War like situation during the days ahead.

Aditya Nath, Tezpur

### TV people

India is full of people who come to TV and other media platforms and advise the citizens on various topics. While delivering their so-called 'gyans', they forgot to look at themselves. In recent years, there were plenty who came and vanished and out of these so many I have figured out four people whom I have clubbed as a worrisome foursome. The first case is actor Shahrukh Khan. His son is a druggie who was recently caught red-handed by the Narcotics department but Shahrukh Khan is never shy of giving lessons on BYJU (an online learning portal). Had he given his son proper education and morals his son would not have gone haywire. The second case is Shilpa Shetty Kundra, whose husband Raj Kundra was arrested by cops for making porn movies but his veteran actress is so bold to appear in front of the TV screen to give lectures on yoga and culture. Sounds crazy. The third case is actor Salman Khan who is guilty of endangering blackbuck hunting but he teaches his fans and followers about being Human. The last one is Aamir Khan, a man who always feels insecure in India but over the years has earned name, fame and fortune in India. In a TV show titled 'Satyamev Jayate', he addressed many social issues of various communities of the nation, even not shying away from criticizing Hindu's rituals and beliefs. The funny part about that person is what he preached about marriage and family life on his TV show, he violated all the advice by going for three marriages. India is incredible and there are many like the above mentioned worrisome foursome who make the great country more incredible!

Julie, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kapil Komireddi@kapskom

India is being scolded for not subscribing to tutorials on 'values' by folks who only days ago seized and distributed Afghanistan's cash to Americans and who still maintain a torture warehouse in Guantanamo. This must strike even critics of the Modi regime as sanctimonious.



Dhruva@ad\_jaishankar

General rule: People lecturing Indians about what why relations with Russia are not in Indian interests do their cause a disservice. Equally, Russians lecturing Indians about Indian relations with the West do themselves a disservice (cf. Lavrov on Indo-Pacific).

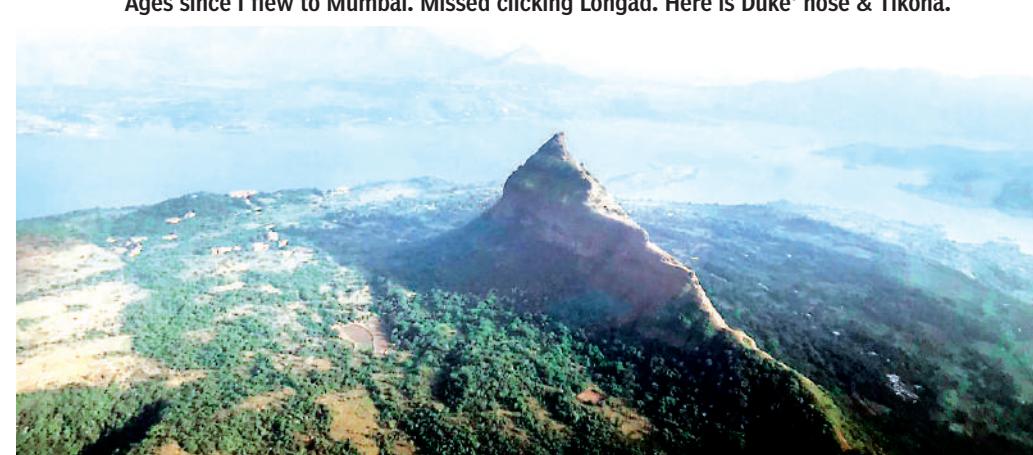


Shilpa@godbole\_shilpa

The fastest way to get the spouse to fix or get fixed an electronic device is to announce (to someone else), whilst the spouse is within earshot that you are buying a new device to replace the old one. Voila! Chances are before you finish the sentence the device will get fixed.

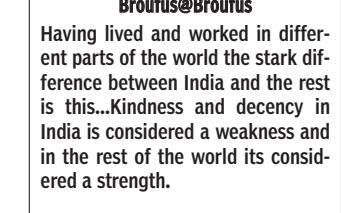
Nitin Welde@nitinwelde

Ages since I flew to Mumbai. Missed clicking Lohagad. Here is Duke' nose & Tikona.



Aparajita@Aparajita\_2018

My husband had me watch almost all Govinda movies for the first time. Found myself laughing much, with the goofy plots and silly humor. As against the inelegant comedies being produced often these days, they are a clean, comedic gem. A genre unto themselves. Unmissable indeed.



## BRIEF

## Capex



**New Delhi:** Euler Motors on Thursday said it plans to invest Rs 200 crore in the next 12 months to ramp up its production capacity. CEO Saurav Kumar said our investments in capacity expansion are effort towards fulfilling demand and expanding market footprint.

## Acquire

**New Delhi:** Auto component major Bharat Forge on Thursday said it will acquire JS Autocast Foundry India. The company, along with its subsidiary, BF Industrial Solutions, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire JS Autocast Foundry India (JS Auto). Established in 2004, JS Auto is supplier of machined ductile iron castings for wind, hydraulic, off-highway and automotive applications. Sales have grown at CAGR of 17.7 percent.

## Drones



**Chennai:** Garuda Aerospace, the city-based drone start-up, is aiming to manufacture six lakh drone besides creating six lakh jobs by 2025 under its Kisan Drone initiative. CEO Aghneshwar Jayaprakash said that most manufacturing dedicated towards Kisan drones.

## Partners

**New Delhi:** Hero Electric on Thursday said it has joined hands with IDFC FIRST Bank for vehicle finance. The collaboration allows Hero Electric customers to avail an instant loan on KYC with low processing fees and down payment.

## Acquires



**New Delhi:** CollegeDekho has acquired its peer firm GetMyuni for about Rs 50 crore in a mix of cash and equity deal, a move that will aid the company's revenue growth. CollegeDekho CEO Ruchir Arora told PTI.

## Raises

**New Delhi:** Niyo, the consumer neo-banking platform, on Thursday said it has raised USD 100 million (about Rs 750 crore) from a group of private equity firms led by Accel and Lightrock India. The company will use the funds to accelerate its mission to transform banking in India, and to provide convenient and hassle-free financial services to digital native customers.

## Indian economy poised for recovery, but high crude prices worrisome

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI):

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday said that the Indian economy is now poised for recovery but high crude oil price is a cause for concern. The banking sector in the country is stable, capital is available and credit offtake is poised to take off, he said at a webinar organised by Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

"We are not unique to the phenomenon of uncertain growth and high inflation due to the pandemic. Developed countries are also facing the same problem," he said.

The budget for 2022-23 has been made keeping in mind that the price of crude oil will be around USD 75 per barrel. But due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the price of Texas crude is now USD 96 per barrel.



V Anantha Nageswaran

"Its impact on the Indian economy will depend how long this high price will remain," Nageswaran said. According to him, inflation and purchasing power is a worldwide problem. This has been due to rise in shipping costs, high container costs and high oil prices.

In India inflation rates are hovering around 5.2 per cent at the moment. "But, I feel it should remain within four to six per cent in the next fiscal

which the RBI is targeting," he said. The CEA said the market has begun to correct in India. "Activity levels in some industries have crossed the pre-pandemic levels. But the services sector is yet to recover". Regarding private sector investment scenario, he said it is yet to pick up due to the pandemic cloud which is still there. It will pick up when consumption levels increase.

"But the capital expenditure plan in the budget is higher in 2022-23. This has been done to fill in the void. In fact, capital expenditure by the states have also increased" Nageswaran said. On lower allocation towards MNREGA in the budget, he said it is a demand-driven programme. "It has been done hoping that economy will recover and the demand for MNREGA funds will drop.

## GSK, MS Dhoni team up for 6 in 1 vaccination awareness campaign

**Mumbai, Feb 24:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's legendary former cricket captain and a devoted father, now teams up with GSK to raise awareness about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination. As part of the campaign, MS Dhoni features in a newly released video which draws a parallel with hitting a six in cricket and explains how the 6 in 1 vaccination for infants provides protection against six diseases in one injection. The tagline of the campaign encapsulates the key benefits of the combination vaccine: less injections, less pain. Speaking about his involvement in the campaign, India's former international cricket captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni said, "As parents, my wife and I look for ways to give our daughter a good foundation for life. We have always

believed that vaccination is an essential component of that foundation. However, watching my daughter go through the pain due to multiple injections during infancy was difficult for us both. I was eager to join GSK in raising awareness about 6 in 1 vaccination. Combination vaccination means that infants get the same kind of protection but with fewer injections. Less pain for them. And I am sure all parents would agree - less pain for us too!" Speaking about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination, Dr. Rashmi Hegde, Executive Vice President - Medical Affairs, G l a x o S m i t h K i n e Pharmaceuticals Limited, said, "Every child should be vaccinated in a timely manner. Vaccines build children's immune memory and help to protect them from diseases.

## Himalaya Men launches new campaign addressing pimple concern

**Mumbai, Feb 24:**

Himalaya Wellness Company, one of India's leading wellness brands, unveils a new campaign positioning Himalaya MEN Pimple Clear Neem Face Wash as the most effective solution for men's pimples, with the power of nature and science. With the offering of "Ladkonke pimple kasahi solution", the campaign prompts young boys to choose the right solution for solving their pimple problems, instead of experimenting with weird suggestions.

The commercial opens with a group of friends returning to their dressing room after a cricket match, with the focus on a boy with pimples. A

friend is seen playfully teasing him about how a girl at the match was looking at him, and the boy says that she was actually looking at his pimples, while he looks into the mirror worried. His friends then go on to give him various suggestions like applying soap and popping the pimple. Then Rishabh Pant joins the group and tells them that there is only one right solution for men's pimples, and introduces Himalaya MEN Pimple Clear Neem Face Wash, which is specially formulated for men's skin and helps manage pimples effectively.

Rahul Panchal, General Manager-Marketing, Himalaya Wellness

## New age tech cos going public, ESG landscape key challenges

Sebi has attempted to provide uniform standard



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Thursday said the increasing trend of new age technology companies, which are generally loss making, accessing public market is a key challenge to the capital markets.

In addition, the flourishing landscape of ESG (environment, social, gover-

nance) investments is another major challenge to the capital markets due to absence of uniform ESG evaluation matrices, he said.

Also, the regulator is in the process of notifying the detailed modalities for the proposed Social Stock Exchange, a platform for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations so that they can raise capital.

Tyagi made these remarks at a SEBI-NISM Research Conference on 'Investing in recovery: challenges and opportunities for Indian securities markets'.

In the current financial year, new age tech companies (NATCs) have raised about Rs 43,283 crore through IPOs till date.

## Rupee plummets 102 paise at 75.63 per USD, gold soars Rs 1,656

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

The rupee tanked 102 paise to close at 75.63 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday as riskier assets took a hit after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine. Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows, heavy selling in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.02 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.75 against the greenback. The local unit finally finished at 75.63, down 102 paise from the previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.74 per cent higher at 96.90.

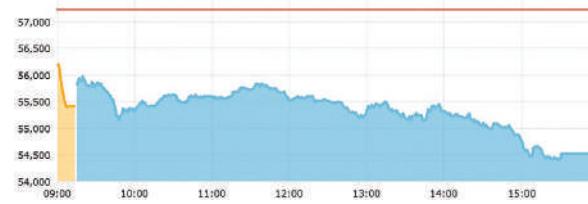
This was also the seventh straight session of decline for both the indices. On the Sensex chart, all 30 shares suffered heavy losses, with IndusInd Bank, M&M and Bajaj Finance shedding as much as 8 per cent. Russian troops launched wide-ranging military at-

## Sensex tanks over 2,700 pts in line with global meltdown

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

S&P BSE SENSEX 54,529.91 -2702.16 -4.72%

24 Feb 22 | 16:00 | Close



tacks on Ukraine on Thursday after Moscow cast aside international sanctions and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen". Globally, stocks plunged and oil prices surged by more than USD 5 per barrel amid intensifying Ukraine crisis, which experts believe may roil the global economy. Market benchmarks in Europe and Asia fell by as much as 4 per cent. Brent crude oil jumped above USD 100 per barrel for the first time since 2014 on unease about

possible disruption of supplies from Russia. "Ukraine is under attack from Russian forces. The threat of severe sanctions on Moscow is now at its highest level, sending equity markets tumbling globally. Sentiment is driving market direction, which will lead to a large sell-off," said Leonardo Pellegrini, Equity Strategy, Julius Baer.

Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 3,417.16 crore in the Indian capital markets on Wednesday, exchange data showed.

## Vedanta Aluminium launches 'Restora'

New Delhi, Feb 24:

minimum post assessment by an independent, global verification assurance firm.

Vedanta Aluminium Business, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, launched 'Restora', its low carbon, 'green' aluminium brand, today.

The company unveiled two product lines - Restora (low-carbon aluminium) and Restora Ultra (ultra-low carbon aluminium) under the brand.

Vedanta Aluminium is the first major non-ferrous Indian metals producer to manufacture low carbon products (primary aluminium) for customers worldwide, exhibiting a strong step towards its commitment of achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050. Both products have been verified as low-carbon aluminium and is amongst the lowest in the world.

## Govt expects to complete evaluation under semiconductor scheme



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The government will undertake a detailed evaluation of applications it has received in response to the mega semiconductor scheme and expects to complete the entire process and sign agreements with companies in the next 8-10 months, according to Union

Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav. Vaishnav said he is happy with the response that came in with a short period of time, when the ministry invited applications under the Rs 76,000 crore semiconductor programme.

The government is con-

fident of seeing one of the big global players in semi-

conductor industry coming in the next round, Vaishnav told PTI in an interview.

He asserted that many other players too are "seriously evaluating" India's semiconductor programme, and that the ministry is in discussions with several companies.

Eight locations have been shortlisted already, and it is for the investors to take a final call, he said.

"About eight locations are shortlisted already. And of course, the investor has to take the final decision. So getting the entire supply chain in place, the chemicals, all that stuff, clean water, and everything else... we are focusing purely on execution," he explained.

German Luxury carmaker BMW on Thursday said it has launched the all-electric MINI 3-Door Cooper SE in India priced at Rs 47.2 lakh (ex-showroom). Available as a completely built-up unit (CBU), all units of the first lot were sold out during the pre-launch booking in Q4 2021.

MINI India will be delivering the cars to the pre-launch customers from March 2022, the automaker said. Bookings for the next phase of deliveries will start from March 2022, it added. "Ten years into the country, MINI India is proud to bring the first all-electric car in the compact premium segment. In line with our 'Digital First' strategy, it is also the first series model exclusively

available for booking on the MINI Online Shop and was completely sold out during the pre-launch booking phase itself," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said while launching the model. The MINI 3-Door Cooper SE combines

MINI's inventive spirit and iconic design with instant torque, zero emissions and a low centre of gravity that enhances its legendary go-kart feeling, he added. "The MINI 3-Door Cooper SE will play a significant role in inspiring creative individuals and trendset-

ters to drive the silent revolution," Pawah said.

With 184 hp/135 kW and a maximum torque of 270 Nm, the electric MINI sprints from 0-100 km in 7.3 seconds.

It is powered with a battery capacity of 32.6 kWh and a driving range

of up to 270 km.

BMW drives in all-electric MINI Cooper SE



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday called on domestic businesses to look at ways and means to support each other in manufacturing and promote local firms like companies do in South Korea and Japan. Suggesting three points, the minister said that Korea and Japan do not import Indian steel and purchase steel from their own players.

I think there is a need for shared responsibility amongst companies to address social and environmental challenges and support each other in domestic manufacturing. Look at Korea, they just do not allow Indian steel manufacturer to export to Korea, that's the nationalistic spirit there. "Japanese companies do not allow Indian steel in Japan. They will buy a USD 100 per tonne costlier steel but local Japanese steel. Many of you may have faced such barriers which are not government barriers that even I cannot fight 'G to G' (government to government). But it comes out of the spirit of nationalism. I think we in India also should look at ways

and means to support each other, encourage each other and promote our own domestic brothers and sisters," he said while addressing the CII Manufacturing Conclave 2022. Goyal also suggested big companies to integrate with MSMEs and ensure timely payment, and train young minds to get into manufacturing. Talking about the National Single Window System (NSWS), he expressed "disappointment" that businesses are not using this platform adequately. "When I see the number of people who have registered or people who are taking approvals on it (NSWS), I get a little disappointed," he said, urging the industry to use the platform and suggest where they are facing problems.

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and means to support each other, encourage each other and promote our own domestic brothers and sisters

## Will work towards making Hyderabad the movie capital of India: Rana Daggubati



Rana Daggubati, who spoke at the pre-release event of 'Bheemla Nayak', stated that he will work towards the development of the movie industry and would collaborate to make Hyderabad the movie capital of India.

As Rana spoke at the event, he expressed that he had worked with multiple personalities in the movie industry, but Pawan Kalyan was really special. "My upcoming movies will have Pawan Kalyan's influence", the Bhallaladeva from 'Baahubali' said.

Lauding the ministers of Telangana, who were present at the event, Rana thanked the government of Telangana for being understanding, regarding the problems faced by the movie industry. "I thank Kalvakunta Rama Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and the Telangana government for being helpful. Your positive approach towards the Telugu movie industry will help us grow. I promise to myself, to work towards making Hyderabad the movie capital of India", Rana said. Slated for its release on February 25, the pre-release event of Pawan and Rana-starrer 'Bheemla Nayak' took place in the Yousufguda grounds in Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

Telangana's IT Minister KT Rama Rao and Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav were invited as the chief guests by the makers of 'Bheemla Nayak'. KTR, who spoke at the event conveyed his best regards to the 'Bheemla Nayak' team.

Earlier on Thursday, the IT Minister of Telangana, KTR took to his Twitter, as he wrote, "Took a break from my routine to greet my brothers @PawanKalyan\_guru & @MusicThaman & director Sagar Chandra for their upcoming movie #BheemlaNayak. Lovely to meet some brilliant musicians such as Padmasri Mogilaiah Garu & Sivamani Garu".



## 'Baal Shiv' artists convey Mahashivratri greetings

Mahashivratri is one of the largest and most significant sacred festivals of India. According to Hindu mythology, Mahashivratri translates to the Great Night of Shiva because it is the night when Mahadev performs his heavenly dance known as the Tandav. It is also said to be the day that marks the marriage of Mahadev and Devi Parvati. This year the festival will take place on March 1st. To commemorate the Mahashivratri celebrations, &TV's Baal Shiv artists Aan Tiwari (Baal Shiv), Mouli Ganguly (Mahasati Anusuya), and Siddharth Arora

(Mahadev) talk about the significance and celebration of the festival. Talking about Mahashivratri celebrations viddhi, Mouli Ganguly, essaying Mahasati Anusuya's character, shares, "Mahashivratri is one of the most revered and sacred festivals, celebrated across the country. It is the darkest night of the month to celebrate the grace of Lord Shiva. It is a night to self-realize introspect to overcome hurdles that hinder our success and achieve spiritual growth. It is an opportunity to disperse limitedness." Tune to watch Baal Shiv every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm, only on &TV!

## HOROSCOPE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

For a moment, it seems that you're swamped with problems. But you are brave enough to deal with any ugly issue that crops up suddenly. Ganesha hints at a romantic evening, which may just be time together in a jacuzzi, or simply preparing a meal together. Pure ecstasy!

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

You will have an emotionally turbulent day. In the afternoon, you will be extra touchy about what others think of you. But by evening, your aesthetic sensibilities will overcome your insecurity and you will be back to your cheerful self after being witness to an exquisite display of performing arts. In fact, you may even want to propose to your sweetheart.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

It's not the Olympics, but for those associated with sports, today, you may come across the opportunity to stake your claim to fame. Also, expect the unexpected and be prepared for a lot of different turn of events in the afternoon. Ganesha can tell that you are brimming to the top with energy and enthusiasm in the evening.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

A productive and fruitful day awaits you, says Ganesha. You are likely to meet up with old friends, or pretty scandalously, hook up with an ex-lover. Expect to be the Queen Bee at social gatherings. Enjoy the buzz.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Let's hope you aren't afraid of heights, Cancer, because today could have you climbing several rungs on the corporate ladder. It seems your hard work over these last few months has paid off. Don't hesitate to accept the challenge that's offered to you.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

A long, drab, dull day awaits you, says Ganesha. Business may not see any major loss today. Later, perhaps, you may feel lost and want to be left alone. The thought of people abandoning you may cross your mind many times. But don't lose heart – every new day brings with it new tidings, says Ganesha.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 19

Since you want to examine things and carry out some research, you will get all the required equipment ready today. You will also be very irritable, and anyone posing a hurdle will face your wrath. Ganesha advises you to be more caring and considerate about the needs of your near and dear ones.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have a inspiring assembly day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Today, your superiors at work are going to trust you with your own fate, assigning work and cleverly getting it done without having to move a muscle. Incidentally, you will put in efforts to get along well with those around you, and unknowingly impress many by dint of your stupendous management skills, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 20

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have a inspiring assembly day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

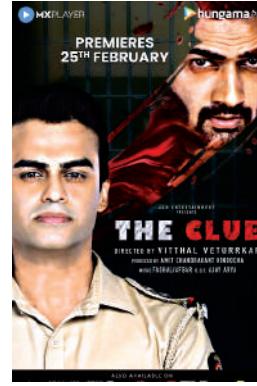
### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

For this one day, you will be the master of your own fate, assigning work and cleverly getting it done without having to move a muscle. Incidentally, you will put in efforts to get along well with those around you, and unknowingly impress many by dint of your stupendous management skills, says Ganesha.

## 'The Clue' web series to premiere today

Web series "The Clue" will stream on Hungama play from 25th February.

MX player and many other reputed OTT platforms will also be streaming this series simultaneously. It's the first season of 6 episodes. The clue web series has been directed by Vithal Vetturkar, made under the banner of Amit C Hindocha's ACH Entertainment pvt. Ltd. with Darshan Jatania as the co producer of the web series. Amrit Dolaawat, Rahul Jain, Raj Kapse, Kalyanji Jana, Ankita Parmar and other artist have acted in the web series. Kulwinder Chane of Durg district has also

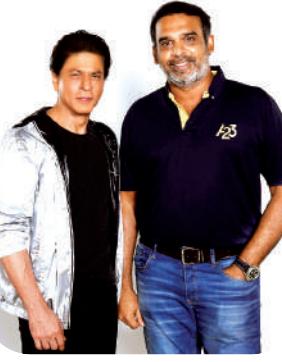


acted in the web series. Before this director Vithal Vetturkar has directed Hindi films, web series and Hindi songs which have been very successful and has given opportunity to many artist from small towns in his projects.

## Shah Rukh Khan to feature in 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign

Head Digital Works, India's premier online skill gaming company, today announced that it has roped in Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan as the Brand Ambassador for its online multi-gaming platform - A23 (www.a23.com). The Baadshah of Bollywood will feature in A23's 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign along with a first of its kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases A23's all new multi-gaming platform which includes various games of skill such as rummy, fantasy sports, carom and pool, with more to come.

"I am delighted to represent a pioneering brand like A23 and also be a part of India's first of its kind



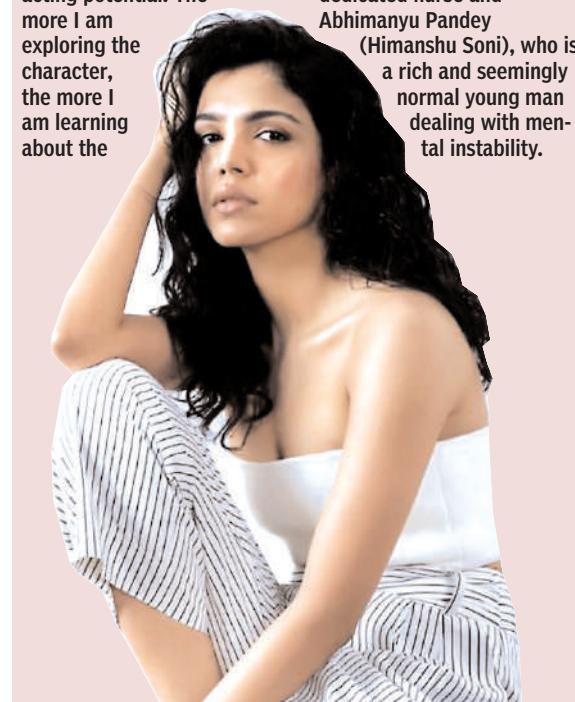
online gaming campaign that proactively initiates the messaging of responsible gaming. A23 has always aimed at providing a premium but inclusive platform for skill gaming enthusiasts. Just like any other form of entertainment, I would urge all online gamers to indulge at their leisure, but responsibly" commented Shah Rukh Khan on his association with A23.

**The more I explore the character, more I learn about the craft: Himanshu Soni**



Actor Himanshu Soni who plays Abhimanyu Pandey is getting a lot of appreciation for his role in the show 'Aggar Tum Na Hote'. Himanshu has played a variety of roles in shows like Buddha, Rajon ka Raja, Neeli Chatri wale and Radha Krishna.

He says: "I have always done a variety of shows and I make it a point not to repeat myself as an actor. I'm getting a great response for this show and it has given me an opportunity to explore my acting potential. The more I am exploring the character, the more I am learning about the



## Shriya Pilgaonkar wraps up shoot of 'Crackdown 2' in Kashmir

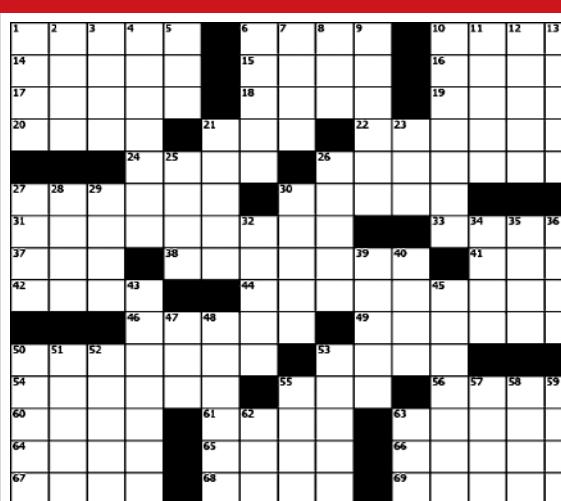
Actress Shriya Pilgaonkar has wrapped the shooting for Apoorva Lakhia's espionage thriller series 'Crackdown' Season 2 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Shriya says, "The shoot of 'Crackdown' Season 2 has been really exciting. We were all happy with the audience response to Season 1 and this time we've taken it a notch higher. She added: "Since I play a double agent, my character has an interesting arc in this season and I got to do a whole lot more action this time which wasn't easy to do especially in the cold weather but the beautiful locations we filmed in made it all even more thrilling." "From the

sand dunes in Jaisalmer to the snow-clad mountains in Kashmir, it's always fun to work with Apoorva Lakhia, Saqib and the team."

Featuring Saqib Saleem and Shriya in lead roles followed by Ankur Bhatia, Mohammed Iqbal Khan, and Waluscha De Sousa Khanna in pivotal roles. Shriya is known for her impeccable character portrayals in 'Fan', 'The Game', 'House Arrest', 'Beecham House' and 'Mirzapur'. The actress awaits the announcement of exciting projects. She has 6 projects releasing this year.

## CROSSWORD



## Mayank Agarwal set to captain Punjab Kings in IPL 2022



**New Delhi:** India batter Mayank Agarwal is likely to captain Punjab Kings in the upcoming Indian Premier League. Agarwal, who is part of the Indian Test team, was one of the two players retained by Punjab Kings alongside young pacer Arshdeep Singh ahead of the mega auction earlier this month. A formal announcement is expected soon. "In all likelihood, Mayank will captain the side. The announcement is expected later this week," an IPL source told PTI. Punjab, who went into the auction with the maximum purse, made good use of the money by getting the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada and buying back left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar and explosive Tamil Nadu batter Shahrukh Khan. Dhawan's name as captain was also doing the rounds but the management was keen on Agarwal as the leader even before the auction.

## Casino used morphed images for promotion: Tendulkar

**Mumbai:** Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said he would initiate legal action against a casino for using his morphed images to promote itself on social media. It is learnt that Tendulkar's images were used to promote 'Big Daddy' casino, which is located in Goa. "While my legal team will be taking the required action, I felt it was important for me to share this information with everyone," the legendary right-handed batter posted on his Twitter page. "It has come to my notice that there are multiple ads being shown on social media platforms, with a morphed photo showing me endorsing a casino," he further said. The 48-year-old Tendulkar, who has numerous records under his belt and also been a former national captain, stressed that he was pained to see his images being used to mislead people.

## Rishabh Pant joins D2H as its Brand Ambassador

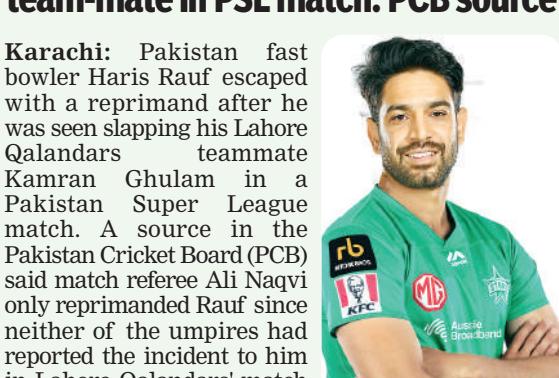


**New Delhi:** Star cricketer Rishabh Pant was on Thursday named as the new brand ambassador of D2H, a direct broadcast satellite service provider owned by Dish TV. Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication of D2H for the next two years. Speaking on the partnership, Pant said, "D2H is a large DTH brand with a long record of disruptive innovation in the industry. It is wonderful to be associated with D2H and looking forward to working closely with the team to take it to greater heights." Commenting on the association, Anil Dua, Executive Director & Group CEO, Dish TV India Ltd said, "We are delighted to have Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador for our D2H brand. Our brands are our biggest strength."

## IPL 2022 set to be held in four venues in Mumbai and Pune

**New Delhi:** The matches of the upcoming Indian Premier League will be held in four venues across two cities - Mumbai and Pune, according to a report. While 55 matches will be held in Mumbai across three venues - Wankhede Stadium, DY Patil and Brabourne Stadium, Pune's MCA International Stadium will play host to 15 games, cricbuzz.com reported. All the IPL teams are set to play four games each at the Wankhede and DY Patil Stadium and three apiece at Brabourne and Pune, according to the report. While the BCCI is yet to finalise the starting date of IPL 2022, the lucrative T20 tournament is expected to start in the last week of March. The venues for the playoffs are also yet to be decided and a decision is expected to be taken in the IPL governing council meeting scheduled for Thursday.

## Haris Rauf reprimanded for slapping team-mate in PSL match: PCB source



**Karachi:** Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf escaped with a reprimand after he was seen slapping his Lahore Qalandars teammate Kamran Ghulam in a Pakistan Super League match. A source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said match referee Ali Naqvi only reprimanded Rauf since neither of the umpires had reported the incident to him in Lahore Qalandars' match against Peshawar Zalmi. Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi and some other ex players, however, felt that Rauf was out of line. I don't think it was an incident that should have happened in a match with the world watching, it doesn't leave a good impression even if Haris didn't mean it, Afridi said. I hope Haris learns from this incident because it was in bad taste and in future if he repeats it he will be in big trouble, he added.

# Wanted some space, says Kohli on stepping down as RCB skipper

**Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):**

Virat Kohli, who had stepped down as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper after the 2021 IPL season, said he took that call to give himself some space and manage his workload.

Kohli had announced his decision to leave IPL captaincy after saying that T20 World Cup will be his last tournament as India skipper in the shortest format.

He was later removed as ODI captain before he quit the leadership role in five-day format.

"I'm not someone who holds onto things more than I should. Even if I know I can do a lot more, if I'm not going to enjoy the process, I'm not going to do it," Kohli, one of the modern day greats, said on "The RCB Podcast" about dropping the captain's armband.

The former RCB and India skipper asserted that it is very difficult for people to understand what a cricketer thinks while taking such decisions.

"Because it's very difficult for people to understand your decisions unless they are in your situation. From the outside, people have their own ex-



pectations Oh! How did that happen? We are so shocked," added Kohli, who is on the verge of playing his 100th Test.

"There's nothing to be shocked about. I explain to people, I wanted some space and I wanted to manage my workload and the story ends there."

Right from the inaugu-

ral IPL till last season, RCB have never won the cash-rich tournament.

Rubbishing all the conversations that people had about his decision, Kohli cleared the air saying, "There was actually nothing at all. I keep my life very simple and basic, when I wanted to make a decision, I made a decision

and I announced it. I didn't want to think about it and contemplate it for another year. That would've done nothing to me, nothing to the environment I'm part of. Quality of life is something very important to me. And the quality of cricket is something very important to me.

"Over a period of time, you want to do what you're doing day-in-and-day-out and you want to do as much as you can, but at the end of the day, you have to realize that quality is far more important than quantity," stressed Kohli.

The elegant top order batter also stressed that he has always been himself.

"Quantity in hard work but quality in execution. That is the key. If you go for quantity in execution, then you're going to get burnt out. If I can't be myself in my everyday life and I can't be myself on the field, I will change something.

"Because that is who I am. That is the reason I am where I am. And that is the reason why people can connect to me at a certain level. My loved ones, people who are close to me, my friends they connected to me because of that factor, because I've always been myself," he signed off.

## Medvedev beats Andujar to move closer to top tennis ranking



**Acapulco, Feb 24 (AP):**

Daniil Medvedev and Rafael Nadal had comfortable wins on Wednesday at the Mexican Open and a rematch of their epic five-set final at the Australian Open appears to be on the horizon.

Medvedev took another step toward top spot in the ATP rankings with a dominant 6-1 6-2 second-round victory over Pablo Andujar while Nadal cruised past Stefan Kozlov 6-0 6-3.

If Medvedev beats Yoshihito Nishioka in the quarterfinals and Nadal does the same

against Tommy Paul, the two players will meet again in the semifinals less than a month after the Spaniard rallied to win the final at Melbourne for his record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

Paul advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-6(6) 2-6, 7-5 with a win over Dusan Lajovic and Nishioka progressed after rallying to beat Taylor Fritz 3-6 6-4 6-2.

The 26-year-old Medvedev is trying to replace Novak Djokovic atop the rankings and could achieve that goal if he wins the title in Acapulco.

He needed just over an hour to beat Andujar the morning after defending champion Alexander Zverev was kicked out of the Mexican Open for violently smashing his racket on the umpire's chair moments after losing a doubles match.

"If I do it's going to mean a lot, there would be a lot of statistics mentioned, since when this or since when that's going to be fun, but first I have to achieve it, it's my main goal to win as many matches as possible in the next few weeks," Medvedev said.

## India avoid whitewash against NZ

**Queenstown, Feb 24 (PTI):**

Harmanpreet Kaur struck a much-needed half-century to get back among the runs as the Indian women's cricket team finally managed to beat New Zealand in the series-ending fifth ODI for a consolatory six-wicket win here on Thursday.

The Indian bowlers, who under-performed prior to the game, finally got their act together to limit New Zealand to 251 for nine in 50 overs.

India chased the down the target in 46 overs courtesy Harmanpreet's 63 off 66 balls and Smriti Mandhana's 71 off 84 balls. Skipper Mithali Raj remained unbeaten on 57 off 66 balls.

Having lost the one off T20 and first four ODIs, India badly needed a win to gain some momentum going into the ODI World Cup next month.

The spinners, who struggled to provide the breakthroughs, shared seven wickets among themselves on Thursday.

Deepti Sharma,



Harmanpreet Kaur has been under a bit of pressure to retain her spot in the Indian XI.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Sneh Rana took two wickets each while pacer Meghna Singh too was impressive in the five overs she bowled.

Star batter Mandhana, who had missed the first three ODIs and the T20 due to an extended stay in quarantine, also got some valuable time in the middle.

The ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year collected nine fours in her 84-ball effort. Harmanpreet must be relieved after scoring her first fifty in

close to 12 months.

She was dropped from the previous game after a prolonged lean patch and came under heavy criticism from former players including ex captain Diana Edulji.

She used the sweep shot effectively to collect a bunch of boundaries before using a pull shot to reach the half-century.

The Indian team needs to be consistent with performances like they put on Thursday if it is to challenge for the world title.

Star India batter Smriti Mandhana said it was important from the team's perspective that Harmanpreet Kaur found form ahead of the Women's World Cup and the struggling bowling unit needs to build on the performance it produced in the fifth ODI against New Zealand here on Thursday.

Harmanpreet scored her first half century in close to 12 months to help India chase down 251 rather comfortably. Mandhana, who missed the first three ODIs due to quarantine requirements, struck 71 and skipper Mithali Raj remained unbeaten on 57.

"It has been a tough month for us as a team and for the three of us who were in quarantine (Renuka and Meghna Singh being the other two). It is good to be back in the open air, play some

## It was important that Harman got runs: Mandhana

**Queenstown, Feb 24 (PTD):**

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"It has been a tough month for us as a team and for the three of us who were in quarantine (Renuka and Meghna Singh being the other two). It is good to be back in the open air, play some



cricket and contribute for India," said Mandhana in the post match press conference. Mandhana revealed that she joined the team later in New Zealand due to "personal problems" and that is why she completed the MIQ much later after the rest of the team.

The bowling proved to be the weakest link in the series India lost 1-4 with the visitors unable to defend even 270. On Thursday, it was another impressive batting performance as India chased

down the target in 46 overs. "We needed a good base to chase 250 and that is what we were looking for. Batting first, we are getting good scores around 250. Of course we are not getting the wins. It is something we are working on, defending totals.

"We will get better. That is the talk in the camp and I am sure it will happen in the World Cup," said the southpaw.

India open their World Cup campaign against Pakistan on March 6.

## Women's WC to go ahead with 9 players a side in case of COVID outbreak

**Dubai, Feb 24 (PTD):**

With an aim to conduct an uninterrupted tournament, the ICC on Thursday said all matches at the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand could be played with nine players in case of a COVID-19 outbreak.

The nine-player-a-side game is already in place in the ICC guidelines related to playing conditions and has been in effect since the U-19 World Cup in the West Indies, where India won the title for a record fifth time.

The ICC official also didn't rule out rescheduling of games if needed.

"We'll be asking teams to show maximum flexibility and we'll be as flexible as possible if the need arises to fulfil our objective, which is to get the games on," he said. The tournament begins on March 4 with the opening match between hosts New Zealand and West Indies in Mount Maunganui.

Tetley was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"And if they had female substitutes from within

their management team,

we would allow two substitutes to play - non-batting, non-bowling - to enable a game to take place."

Keeping the pandemic scenario in mind, all teams have been allowed to take along three extra players as travelling reserves, who can be brought in the 15-member main squad should there be a COVID casualty.

The ICC official also didn't rule out rescheduling of games if needed.

## AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers: India clubbed with Cambodia, Afghanistan and Hong Kong



**New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTD):**

The Indian team was on Thursday drawn alongside Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Cambodia in Group D of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup in China in 2023. The Blue Tigers had made it to the final round of the qualifiers after finishing third in Group E in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup Joint Qualifiers.

six group winners and the

five best second-placed

teams will earn a ticket to

the AFC Asian Cup in

China in 2023. The Blue

Tigers had made it to the

final round of the qualifi-

cators after finishing third

in Group E in the sec-

ond round of the 2022

FIFA World Cup and 2023

AFC Asian Cup Joint Qualifiers.

## Fixtures

June 8: India vs Cambodia

June 11: Afghanistan vs India

June 14: India vs Hong Kong.

"Draws can always be good or bad. But we need to do our job," head coach Igor Stimac said after the draw.

Commenting about the teams in the group, Stimac urged everyone to "take it seriously to get the job done."

"Afghanistan have always been a difficult opponent. They come with players who have experience playing in international leagues."

"Hong Kong will also be strengthened with their three players from Brazil, maybe one each from the UK, and New Zealand join them, along with a host of others who play abroad. But we need to justify our position as a pot 1 team," the head coach said.

## CM BAGHEL PRAYS FOR PEACE



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel offers prayer at the Gorakhnath Temple, in Gorakhpur, Thursday.

## NSE Academy inks pact with IIM, Raipur

## For collaboration as knowledge partner

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

NSE Academy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), on Thursday said it has joined hands with Indian Institute of Management, Raipur to collaborate in the area of joint certification programmes in finance and financial technologies.

Under this collaboration, both the institutions will offer market defining, several long term and short terms programmes for working professionals and organisations willing

to build leadership capabilities in the area of finance and financial technologies.

These programmes will offer an overall development to the participants and groom them to face the global challenges. These programmes will be offered in both online and hybrid mode and certified by both the institutions.

"NSE has always been at the forefront of driving innovation in the Indian BFSI sector. Our collaboration with a premium institution like the Indian Institute of Management, Raipur will build a solid foundation for professionals aspiring to build careers and upskill them-

selves in areas of financial services and related technologies," Vikram Limaye, MD and CEO of NSE, said.

Abhilash Misra, Chief Executive Officer of NSE Academy, said the collaboration with IIM Raipur will add to NSE Academy's integral role in developing competitive skillsets for finance professionals along with regular upskilling required for the talent pool to be future ready.

IIM Raipur Director Bharat Bhasker said the collaboration will lead to human resource development in the country by providing better trained financial managers.

## 'Rs 19,111 cr assets attached out of total fraud by Mallya, Nirav Modi &amp; Choksi'

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The timely attachment of proceeds of crime has led to the attachment of assets worth over Rs 19,000 crore out of the "total fraud of over Rs 22,500 crore by three fugitive offenders Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

These figures were mentioned in the note submitted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in the apex court, which is hearing arguments on a batch of petitions concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

While advancing his submissions in the matter on Thursday, Mehta, who

is appearing for the Centre, told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that he had yesterday referred to the attachment of assets worth over Rs 18,000 crore of these three persons.

It is submitted that timely attachment of proceeds of crime has led to attachment of assets worth of Rs 19,111.20 crore out of total fraud of Rs 22,585.83 crore by three fugitive offenders namely Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, Mehta has said in his note filed before the bench, which also comprised Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar.

It is said that out of the attached proceeds of crime from these three individuals, assets of Rs 15,113.91 crore have already been returned to the public sector banks by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the relevant provision of the PMLA through the order of the court.

The note further said that assets worth Rs 335.06 crore have been confiscated to the Government of India i.e. 66.91 per cent of a total loss to the banks in these 3 cases has been returned back to them by the ED.

It is pertinent to mention here that SBI has already recovered cash of Rs 7,975.27 crore by selling a part of assets returned to it by the ED. The process of liquidation of other restituted assets by the banks is continuing, Mehta has said in his note.

The arguments in the matter would continue next week. Some of these petitions have challenged the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA.

Prathamesh came across a video on hand transplant surgery on Facebook and inquired about it in the comments, following which a hospital got in touch with the family, she said. The hands of the accident victim were flown from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in a charter flight on February 10.

The organ was carefully preserved in special solutions and packed on ice for transportation, it was stated. A large team of doctors

comprising surgeons from plastic, hand, microvascular orthopaedic departments and anaesthesiologists participated in the complex 13-hour surgery, it was stated.

The surgery was very challenging, said Nilesh Satbhai, head of the department, senior consultant, Plastic, Hand and Reconstructive microsurgery & Transplant Surgery at Global Hospital, Parel.

The recipient limb on the left side was severely scarred and damaged. Due to primary crush a partial transplant was done on the right side. We transplanted only the index,

## Aditya Thackeray debuts in UP poll campaign, calls for Yogi's ouster

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

has fielded Arti Kol.

In invoking

Shiv Sena founder and grandfather B a l Thackeray he hit out at the BJP for spreading hatred among communities in the name of religion and

dubbing farmers, who had protested against the now-repealed farm laws as "Maoists, extremists and terrorists".

"Shiv Sena founder

Balasaheb Thackeray always said politics should

be for the welfare of the people. This is reflected in the politics of Shiv Sena.



Aditya Thackeray

Governance is not about religion, but about the welfare of the people," the 31-year-old Thackeray scion said.

Thackeray, son of Maharashtra Chief Minister U d d h a v Thackeray, is being projected as the next generation leader of the Shiv Sena and is taking keen interest in the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal elections.

Shiv Sena had fielded 60 candidates in the Uttar Pradesh elections. However, 41 are in fray as the Election Commission

had rejected the candidature of 19.

Thackeray, the minister for Tourism and Environment in the Maharashtra government, regretted that Shiv Sena was part of the NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi which he said had committed a string of mistakes.

He said the people had given an overwhelming mandate to the BJP in 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections and the general elections in 2019.

"The BJP never fulfilled the promises it made, but only spread hatred and fear. It only talks about the state being in danger. This is the land of Shri Ram. There is no danger here," Thackeray said.

## HIJAB ROW

## Sikh girl told to remove turban by Bengaluru college

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (PTI):

the students about the Court order when the educational institution reopened on February 16.

However, the deputy director of pre-university education during his visit to the college earlier this week, on finding a group of girls in hijab, informed them about the Court order, asked them to abide by it.

These girls demanded that no girls including the Sikh should be allowed to wear religious symbols. The college then got in touch with the Sikh girl's father informing him about the court order and the need to abide by it.

According to sources, the girl's family is said to be of the stand that their daughter will not remove the turban and is taking legal opinion, with High Court and government order not mentioning about Sikh turban.

As protests for and against the hijab intensified in different parts of Karnataka and turned violent in some places, the government had declared a holiday for all high schools and colleges in the state from February 9, they were however reopened on February 16, following the High Court order.

## KALASH YATRA



Women carry vessels filled with water from the Yamuna river during Kalash Yatra before the beginning of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, in Agra, Thursday.

## Weapons dropped by drone along IB recovered

Jammu, Feb 24 (PTI):

Police recovered a huge quantity of weapons dropped by a drone along the International Border in RS Pura sector here, officials said. A search operation was launched by the special operations group (SOG) of the police following information about a drone activity and dropping of weapons by Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Force (TRF) at the behest of ISI in RS Pura-Arnia area in Jammu district, a senior police officer said. The operation led to the recovery of one pistol with two magazines and 70 rounds,

three detonators, three remote-controlled IEDs, three bottles of explosives, one bundle of cortex wire, two-timer IEDs and six grenades at Treva village of Arnia sector, the officials said.

ONLINE PENSION SERVICES  
Defence Ministry signs MoU with CSC e-Governance

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

statement noted.

"For these pensioners, the service centres will become an interface for SPARSH and provide an effective medium for pensioners to perform profile update requests, register grievances and seek redressal, digital annual identification, pensioner data verification or simply fetch detailed information regarding their monthly pension," it mentioned.

SPARSH has been designed keeping defence pensioners at the centre, who will be given a completely transparent view of their pension account, through an online portal, it stated.

## 22-year-old accident victim gets hand from brain dead Guj man

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTD):

A 28-year-old brain dead man's hands were transported to Mumbai from Gujarat's Ahmedabad to be transplanted to a man who lost his hand in a freak accident. Prathamesh Tawde (22) lost his left hand and three fingers of his right hand in an accident at a tyre factory in Mumbai in April last year.

Prathamesh's hands had gotten trapped in a machine and he sustained burns over his forearms and thighs due to hot rubber. His left hand was amputated at distal forearm level and he lost three fin-

gers of his right hand in the accident. After undergoing primary treatment at a hospital in suburban Bhandup, the teen was registered for a hand transplant two months ago and was on the waiting list.

On February 9, the Tawde family received a call from the hospital that a pair of limbs were being donated in Ahmedabad, where a man who met with a motorcycle accident, was announced brain dead and his family had decided to donate his hands and internal organs.

We had to relocate from Vaibhavwadi (Sindhudurg

district) to Diva (a suburb in Thane) for his treatment. Since then (April 2021), we have been here, Prathamesh's sister Shraddha (21) said.

Prathamesh came across a video on hand transplant surgery on Facebook and inquired about it in the comments, following which a hospital got in touch with the family, she said. The hands of the accident victim were flown from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in a charter flight on February 10.

The organ was carefully preserved in special solutions and packed on ice for transportation, it was stated. A large team of doctors

comprising surgeons from plastic, hand, microvascular orthopaedic departments and anaesthesiologists participated in the complex 13-hour surgery, it was stated.

In hand transplant, the bones are fixed first, followed by repair of the blood vessels. This is followed by the repair of the muscles, tendons and nerves. The skin is then adjusted to cover all the wounds and give it a proper shape. A crossmatch between the donor and the recipient is a crucial decision maker in the process of hand transplants, Dr Satbhai explained.

middle and ring fingers to the hand, without disturbing or damaging the patient's original thumb and little finger. This is more difficult to do than a standard forearm level transplant, he said.

In hand transplant, the bones are fixed first, followed by repair of the blood vessels. This is followed by the repair of the muscles, tendons and nerves. The skin is then adjusted to cover all the wounds and give it a proper shape. A crossmatch between the donor and the recipient is a crucial decision maker in the process of hand transplants, Dr Satbhai explained.



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# CENTRAL Chronicle



Bilaspur, Friday, February 25, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

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## BRIEF



Family member of a student looks through a telescope on display at an exhibition during the science festival at Guru Nanak Dev University, in Amritsar, Thursday.

## Crackdown

Rishikesh: The district administration on Thursday began removing beach camps being run illegally along the banks of the Ganga in Shivpuri tourist area here in violation of the NGT guidelines. Around 20 such beach camps have been removed so far, Narendra Nagar SDM Devendra Singh Negi said. The action was taken on the orders of Tehri Garhwal District Magistrate Iva Shrivastava.

## Judicial custody

Mumbai: A special PMLA court here on Thursday sent Igbal Kaskar, the brother of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, in 14-day judicial custody in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the activities of Ibrahim and his aides. The Enforcement Directorate, which is conducting a money laundering probe into the underworld-linked property and hawala deals, had last Friday placed Kaskar under arrest after taking him custody from the Taloja jail neighbouring Navi Mumbai, where he was lodged in connection with multiple extortion cases against him.

## Booked

Alibaug: Police in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Thursday said they have registered an offence against two owners of a construction firm for allegedly cheating several people to the tune of Rs 61 lakh by luring them into investing in their projects and schemes. The case against the two accused, identified as Yogendra Hajari Pandey and Shashikant Yogendra Pandey, owners of Vighnaharta Civil Construction Pvt Ltd, was registered at Roha police station on Monday, a release issued by the police said.

## Rescued

Ranchi: Five girls and a boy, who were allegedly trafficked from Jharkhand's Sahibganj and Godda districts, were rescued from Delhi, an official statement said here on Thursday. Earlier this week, five girls trafficked from Gumla district had been rescued from Delhi after a tip-off to Integrated Resource-cum-Rehabilitation Centre (IRRC) on its toll-free number. Nodal Officer, IRRC, Nachiketa said one of the rescued children, Seema Kumari (name changed), was sold four times in Delhi by her brother-in-law after being brought to the national capital.

## Weather

High 34 Low 19

## MARKET

NIFTY 16,247.95

SENSEX 54,529.91

## BULLION

GOLD 51,930

SILVER 66,295

## WORLD ON EDGE OF WORLD WAR

## Russia wages war on Ukraine

Kyiv, Feb 24 (AP):

Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, hitting cities and bases with airstrikes or shelling, as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee.

Ukraine's government said Russian tanks and troops rolled across the border and accused Moscow of unleashing a full-scale war that could rewrite the geopolitical order and whose fallout already reverberated around the globe.

In announcing a major military operation, Russian President Vladimir Putin deflected global condemnation and cascading new sanctions and chillingly referred to his country's nuclear arsenal as he threatened any foreign country attempting to interfere with con-



Ukrainian military truck burns at an air defence base in the aftermath of an apparent Russian strike in Mariupol, Ukraine, Thursday.

sequences you have never seen. Sirens rang out in Ukraine's capital and people massed in train sta-

tions and took to roads, as the government said the former Soviet republic was seeing a long-anticipi-

pated invasion from the east, north and south and reported more than 40 soldiers had been killed and

dozens wounded. A full-

scale war in Europe has begun, Ukrainian presi-

dential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said. Russia is not only attacking Ukraine, but the rules of normal life in the modern world.

## MARKET MAYHEM

### Investors lose Rs 13.44 lakh crore

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

Investor wealth worth over Rs 13.44 lakh crore was wiped off on Thursday as the domestic equity markets tumbled along with global risk assets, after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine.

Amid intensifying rout in the global financial markets, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,702.15 points or 4.72 per cent to end at 54,529.91.

"Equities witnessed a free fall with markets around the globe down more than 5 per cent, while Russian markets were down more than 30 per cent as Russia invaded Ukraine after weeks of conflict," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. Nifty saw a steep fall of

cessant foreign fund outflows also weighed on the markets. On a net basis, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 3,417.16 crore on Wednesday, data available with stock exchanges showed.

Brent Crude oil prices surged past the USD 100-a-barrel mark amid geopolitical worries. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 7.92 per cent to USD 104.51 per barrel.

"Sentiments took a hit with Nifty now down by 13 per cent from its high of 18,604. Markets are likely to remain under pressure given the escalation of Russia-Ukraine conflict into a war-like situation.

"Any reaction from NATO / US armies is only going to worsen the situation further. Advice trades to remain with negative bias while investors need to keep calm and patience to tide over the current situation," Khemka added.

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## Retro Tax dispute settlement

### India pays Cairn Rs 7,900 cr

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The Indian government has paid Cairn Energy Plc Rs 7,900 crore to refund taxes it had collected to enforce a retrospective tax demand, ending a seven-year-old dispute that had tarred the country's image as an investment destination.

The company, which is now known as Capricorn Energy PLC, in a statement said it has received "net proceeds of USD 1.06 billion", of which nearly 70 per cent will be returned to the shareholders.

The tax department had used a 2012 legislation, which gave it powers to go back 50 years and slap capital gains levies wherever

ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India, to seek Rs 10,247 crore in taxes from Cairn.

Cairn had in 2006-07 re-organised its India business, which comprised operations of prolific Rajasthan oilfields, prior to its listing on stock exchanges. While the company sold majority holding in the India unit to Vedanta in 2011, it was in 2014 slapped with the tax demand notice over alleged capital gains made on the reorganisation.

The British firm contested the demand, saying all taxes due were duly paid when the reorganisation, which was approved by all statutory authorities, took place.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked opposition parties, saying guided by "vote bank and dynastic politics", they have always sacrificed the interest of the country and the poor.

Modi also questioned the "silence" of rivals over the court's recent verdict on Ahmedabad blasts, saying, "Being hostage to vote bank politics, they would even not hesitate to insult the army or the police".

Modi was addressing a rally for nine constituencies

court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment.

Modi started the day with the election rally in Amethi and later went to Prayagraj for his second public meeting. At the Prayagraj rally, PM Modi said two crore people visited Mecca and around one crore visited Vatican City in Rome in 2019. These countries had given facilities for the visiting devotees, he said.

"But, if we do the same in India, these people see this through the lens of communism," he said attacking the rivals.

Modi was addressing a rally for nine constituencies

## BJP MLA threatens to quit

Kheda (Guj), Feb 24 (PTI):

BJP MLA from Gujarat's Kheda district Kersisinh Solanki threatened to resign alleging inaction by police following an alleged assault on his father. On Thursday, Solanki, who represents the Matan constituency, withdrew his decision after meeting Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Solanki told reporters on Wednesday night that he would resign as MLA if the BJP government in the state did not transfer the district's in-charge Superintendent of Police Arpita Patel and two policemen attached to the Limbasi police station.

Four persons attacked his father on February 8 following a minor dispute, he alleged.

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# Women practice floriculture at Gauthan; grow Ophelia's favourite 'Daisy'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: Ophelia expresses her feelings with the help of flowers in Shakespeare's drama Hamlet. This is where Flower Etiquette began in human civilization. The flowers became symbols of different moods. One such flower in Hamlet is the Daisy, which emerged as a symbol of innocence and went on to become a symbolic representation of the aesthetic market in Europe.

The market of flowers has also grown in India and its main part is Daisy, which is locally known as Gulbahar. Gauthans in the state are also taking interest in this field. This year in Damoda Gauthan, the women SHG planted daisies in half an acre of land. SHG President Yogita Deshmukh informed that they were told by the officials of the District Panchayat and Horticulture Department



that there is a lot of potential in floriculture too. Marigold flowers are plentiful in the district and have a good market, but new varieties of flowers should also be tried. The women were detailed about Gulbahar.

The SHG decided to grow it and are selling the flowers in the market of Durg. Yogita further informed that Gulbahar has a very good market demand. She added that they have sold the first batch of

flowers in the market and will continue practicing floriculture. They are happy with their successful experiment.

Giving information in this regard, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that as per the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure has given instructions to conduct different activities in every Gauthan. In this sequence, initiatives are

being made to produce those items which have good demand in the market. Women of Damoda's group deserve appreciation for this new experiment.

He added that they are emphasizing on such experiments in which the local markets are dependent on the supplies from other states. Such products are being identified and innovations are being done accordingly. Giving more information in this

regard, Assistant Development Extension Officer, Durg district, Ruchi Verma said that the daisy flowers are least affected due to weeds.

This flower is stronger than other flowers. Since it is also sold in the market of Durg, such innovations can be useful for women. SHG President Yogita stated that the name of their group is Jai Ambe Group and they are also producing vermicompost. They have earned Rs 30000 from it.

"Small service is true service while it lasts. Of humblest friends, bright creature! scorn not one: The daisy, by the shadow that it casts, Protects the lingering dewdrop from the sun", says William Wordsworth while mentioning the beauty of daisy in the poem "To a Child". Though the women in Damoda are working at a small scale, the hope behind this initiative is very big.

# DMC takes action against shops displaying items on road



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: On the instructions of Durg Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and under the guidance of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the anti-encroachment team of the Corporation removed hoardings, posters and sign boards that were being displayed outside the shop and in turn obstructing the traffic outside the shop.

On Thursday action was taken near the New Bus Stand, Pachri para and station road where the shops had displayed items outside the shop almost on the road. Action was taken against about 90 shopkeepers who kept goods on the road beyond the permitted limit. In this action that took about two hours, the team warned that if the encroachment is found again, the goods will be confiscated. When the team landed at the aforementioned venue to take action, the shopkeepers voluntarily started removing the goods displayed. In the meantime, other shopkeepers who could not pack their goods, were

made aware of the need to remove their belongings.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi told the shopkeepers that though they were given time to remove all the goods kept outside the shop this time but if the same happens again the things shall be confiscated and fine would be imposed for encroachment. Encroachment in-charge Durgesh Gupta, flying squad Shiv Sharma, market in-charge Than Singh Yadav, Bhawan Sahu, Shashikant Yadav were present along with the team.

## Rs 2000 fine imposed against four people for possessing banned plastic items

Central Chronicle News



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: On the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, action was taken by the corporation against those using single use plastic items. Action was taken at the "ahata" in Urla, Agrasen Square and surrounding areas. Liquor operators were also fined for using disposable plastic items and fine was imposed.

The items were confiscated and warning was given not to use single use plastic items. The commissioner has appealed to all the traders, businessmen that the use of polythene

During the action, in-charge market officer Thansing Yadav, Assistant Market I n - C h a r g e Ishwar Verma, Shashi Yadav and Bhuvandas Sahu were present.

The businessmen from whom the fine was collected included Rs 500 from Soumya Dona Patal, Rs 500 from Arvind Gupta Ahata Urla, Rs 500 from Rakesh Sahu General Stores, Rs 500 from Rajput Breakfast Center, Agrasen Square adding to a total fine of Rs 2000.

has an adverse effect on health and public interest, so stop using polythene, and has warned that legal action will be taken against them if more banned polythene items are found during the investigation.

They will be able to stay in the hostel till the allotment of the house. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the building on Thursday. He gave necessary instructions to the PWD officers regarding the facilities like furni-



ture and maintenance in the building.

The Collector said that the building was very beautiful and it would be convenient for the officials to stay here. With regard to the land-

scaping for its premises, he instructed to plant Conocarpus saplings. He added that greenery creates a pleasant atmosphere for the people.

The Collector appreciated the construction of

room, kitchen, gallery etc, so that the officers will get a good housing to stay till the house is allotted.

He added that the maintenance of the building will be done by PWD. It will be operated according to the rules. It needs to be mentioned here that the building has been constructed on G+3 pattern. It has a ground floor and three upper floors.

The Collector informed that along with the inauguration of the Transit Hostel, the Chief Minister will also inaugurate the infrastructure attached to the district hospital and the Prayas Hostel.

## Construction labours suffering exploitation: HS Mishra

Central Chronicle News



HS Mishra

records related to the workers, he alleged.

Mishra said that according to the need, the builders hire masons, centering workers, carpenters, plumbers and porters. In the labor law, it is mandatory to make payment of such labourers through banks. But almost all builders pay the salary in cash, from where the exploitation begins.

The builders never think about providing employment card, salary slip, identity card and safety equipment. Even when a laborer is fired without prior notice, the final payment, leave and bonus are not being paid as per the

rules.

Whatever documents builders keep with them related to laborers and employees are mostly fake and bogus. He said that being a member of the Provident Fund Board, he along with his team would visit the work sites of different builders in a phased manner.

If they find violation of labor laws, they will ask the builder to ensure compliance of the concerned. If required, further complaints will be made to Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Labour Commissioner, ESI Commissioner and other concerned authorities.

are deprived of minimum wages and benefits of ESI, PF, etc. The labourers are deprived of annual bonus and other benefits. The builders do not maintain

CHUNAUTI 3.0 to deepen Digital Inclusion through Digital Accessibility Solutions

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity), Government of India has launched Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) "CHUNAUTI 3.0 - Advancing Digital Applications with Special Focus on Accessibility on February 10, 2022.

CHUNAUTI 3.0 is focused on identifying and supporting promising startup working towards digital transformation & accessible products/solutions enabling equitable &

inclusive growth. The last date for applying is set for March 10, 2022.

NGIS is focused on 12 tier-II & tier-III locations in the country that include Agartala, Bhilai, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Dehradun, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Mohali, Patna and Vijayawada. It aims to support 300 start-ups/entrepreneurs/SMEs in the field of IT/IteS/ESDM for 3 years.

129 startups have been selected through CHU-

NAUTI 2.0. Startups pan-India can apply and become NGIS beneficiary. Each startup under this scheme becomes eligible for financial incentives including monthly stipend & get upto rupees 25 lakh as seed investment along with world class mentoring, networking & market connect.

Each NGIS location has a dedicated chief mentor along with a mentor pool and knowledge partners.

## International academia acknowledges BSP doctors

For saving thousands of lives COVID patients with their sincere innovative efforts.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 24: The doctors of the well-known hospital of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center have brought its name to the international horizon with their research paper. This is a large and important study of its kind which found a place in the prestigious journal by Indian Chest Society.

Internationally acclaimed publication House Wolter Kluwer acknowledged this COVID pandemic article. This achievement brought lots of laurels to the entire BSP fraternity. BSP doctors were acknowledged by international academia. Research paper was approved for publication as an original research paper by the Indian Chest Society.

"Journal of Advanced Lung Health". The topic of this research paper is "A Retrospective Observational Study of Utility of Non-rebreathing Mask (NRM) in Moderate to Severe Hypoxic Covid-19 Pneumonia".

This large study was carried out by Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and his dedicated team. In all the three waves of covid pandemic, high concentration oxygen mask was used more, so during the fulminant 2nd wave.

Director-in-Charge of the BSP, Anirban Dasgupta, congratulated the author of this research paper, Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and the entire medical team including Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. This

conclusion. This innovative effort was led methodically by Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory medicine) and his PG students Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. The doctors of JLN hospital could save lives of many serious patients with their sincere efforts.

Director-in-Charge of the BSP, Anirban Dasgupta, congratulated the author of this research paper, Dr Trinath Dash, Joint Director (Respiratory Medicine) and the entire medical team including Dr Karthik Tippurapu, Dr Sarvendra Vikram Singh and Dr Koustav Roy. This

research work whole heartedly supported by Executive Director (Medical & Health Services) Dr SK Issar, CMO Dr M Ravindranathan and CMO Dr Pramod Binayake. It is noteworthy that such moderate-to-severe Covid-19 pneumonia patients, who were oxygen deficient and may succumb to respiratory failure, subse-

quently require a non-invasive or invasive ventilator. Availability of ventilator was a major challenge specially during the second wave. Accepting this, doctors of JLN Hospital and RC tried this innovative idea with their expertise. The sick patients were given oxygen through those NRM mask instead of normal face mask. Those re-

breathing masks played a pivotal role in saving lives of numerous Covid patients. Oxygen reservoir mask also significantly reduced the need of ventilators.

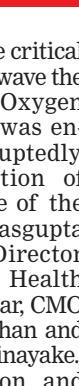
It is known that critically ill Covid-19 pneumonia patients are on the verge of impending respiratory failure. On the contrary those patients who are on ventilator support, their prognosis is mostly worse to grave. So the critical decision to prevent them from ventilation is of clinical significance.

It became clear from this study that those patients who were timely provided oxygen through those NRMs, which deliver oxygen from 10 to 15 liters per

minute showed excellent and encouraging outcome.

The use of NRM in place of normal oxygen mask has proved to be very effective. This "Oxygen Reservoir Mask" is very cheap and economical, but its judicious use has shown remarkable results in Covid-19 pneumonia patients. Many Covid-19 pneumonia patients could be saved from going to ventilators. This study proves overall benefit to the medical world in days to come from this research paper.

Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO & HOD of medicine department and his department were extremely supportive during this pandemic. Dr AB Banerjee, Dr Sonali Trivedi and Dr Raunak Das and all PG students of hospital played a significant role during this





# Singh Deo inaugurates Virology Lab in Durg

Through video conferencing

RT-PCR testing facility is now available at 12 government laboratories of the state

RT-PCR testing is being done in all nine government medical colleges, AIIMS Raipur and virology lab in Baikunthpur

Balodabazar, Janjir, Dantewada and Jashpur districts to get virology labs soon

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 24: Health and Family Welfare and



Medical Education Minister TS Singh Deo on Thursday launched Virology Lab for Covid-19 RT-PCR testing in Durg through video conferencing. With the inauguration of this lab, RT-PCR testing facility is now available at 12 government laboratories of the state. This will help increase number of daily RT-PCR tests besides speeding up turnaround time for results.

Durg (City) MLA Arun Vora, Health Department Principal Secretary Dr.

Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Health Services Director Mr. Neeraj Bansod, National Health Mission Director Dr. Priyanka Shukla, Durg Collector Sarveshwar Bhure, State Nodal Officer of Virology Lab Dr. Kamlesh Jain and medical experts of Microbiology Department of AIIMS Raipur and Raipur Medical College also joined the virtual launch programme.

RT-PCR is the most reliable and accurate test for detecting active Covid-

19 infection. RT-PCR testing facility has already been started in all government medical colleges of the state and Korea district headquarter, Baikunthpur. Now, the number of daily tests will increase with the commencement of RT-PCR testing facility in Durg. Besides, this new facility will help in early identification of Covid-19 patients and provide them timely treatment", said Health Minister Mr. TS Singh Deo on the occasion.

He added that the work of setting up virology labs in Balodabazar, Jashpur, Dantewada and Janjir is also in progress and RT-PCR testing facility will start in these districts at the earliest. MLA Mr. Arun Vora expressed his gratitude to the Health Minister Mr. Singh Deo for setting up Virology Lab in Durg.

## National Science Week held at Columbia

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 24: As a part of National Science Week and Azadi kaa Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) as well as to commemorate the discovery of the Raman effect by Dr. C V Raman who was conferred Nobel prize in the year 1930 & as per the directives of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, National Science Week based on the theme 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'



at Columbia Institute of Pharmacy.

On the occasion the students of Columbia Global School visited the Central Instrument Lab and DST FIST supported instruments & had been cleared their doubts related to the research activities.

The Secretary Harjeet Singh Hura, Dr. Amit Roy and other faculty members were also present.

This information was given by Dr. Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Principal Investigator of DST FIST Government of India Project.

& on the topic "Training of Pharmaceutical Sophisticated instruments for science popularization among school students" was celebrated

This information was given by Dr. Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Principal Investigator of DST FIST Government of India Project.

Health Assistance Scheme.

"Apke Dwar Ayushman Abhiyan" under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme, Ayushman cards of all eligible beneficiaries are being made free of cost in

District Hospital, Primary Health Center, Community Health Center and Common Choice Center. Villagers who have not yet made Ayushman cards, they must get all the members of their family registered through the nearest choice center or health center or camp.

Konta, Feb 24: Sukma district administration is conducting Ayushman registration of villagers by organizing camps in village panchayats. In this sequence, today Ayushman registration of villagers of village Panchayat Burkalka of Konta block was done for getting health card made through Ayushman camp in village Bhejji, High School. Through Ayushman card, now villagers will be able to avail free treatment facility as per eligibility in government or private hospitals registered under other health schemes including Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme, Chief Minister Special

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## Ayushman camps underway in village panchayats



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them. Keeping in view the security and arrangements of the people present and the passing procession of the sadhus, elaborate arrangements were made by the police administration.

Mahamandaleshwar Umeshanand Giri Maharaj in Peshwai, Digambar, Janakpuri Maharaj, Gopal Giri,

Thanapati Haridwar, Bishambhar Bharti Chhattisgarh Mahant Ramgiri Haryana, Mahant Golukgiri Lomash Rishi Ashram, Chandan Bharati, Sanatpuri, Thanapati Kamleshanagar Saraswati Bhopal, Satyanand Maharaj, Sachidanand Maharaj, Ravigiri Kartikpuri Pakhanjpur and many other saints were present. On this occasion, OSD Culture Department Girish Bissa, Accounts Officer Pathak were also present.

During the Peshwai, the

sadhus performed feats with weapons and to see the above akhadas and to get the blessings of the Naga-sadhus, crowd of devotees thronged along the roads with devotion and showered flowers on

Chowk, VIP Marg, Atal Ghat finally reaching pandal located at Lomash Rishi Ashram, where Lord Dattatreya was established after worshiping according to rituals.

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## BRIEF

## Robbers

**■ Amritsar:** Eight persons including a woman were arrested for allegedly being involved in multiple crimes, including five bank robberies in two districts. Besides Rs 28 lakh cash, four pistols, five rifles, 20 live cartridges, a car and two motorcycles were seized from them. The accused were identified as Kajal, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Singh, Sandeep Singh, Manjot Singh, Kulwinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Kishanpreet Singh.

## Racket

**■ New Delhi:** With the arrest of three people, the CGST unearthed a cartel allegedly running 54 bogus firms registered in Delhi-NCR region that were engaged in fake invoicing and circular trading. Searches and inspections were conducted across locations spread across Delhi that were engaged in fake invoicing and circular trading. The Commissionate received a tip-off that certain bogus firms were created solely for the purpose.

## Injured

**■ Guwahati:** A drug peddler, one suspected dacoit and an alleged car thief were injured in police firing in different districts when they allegedly tried to flee from custody. The three incidents were reported from Hailakandi, Dibrugarh and Dhemaji districts. During interrogation, a person told that two people supplied the drugs. He led the police team to arrest the persons.

## Vandalism

**■ Gangtok:** Two people were arrested in connection with the vandalism at Tashiling Secretariat in Gangtok. Abel Rai and Josher Rai, residents of Moonsong in West Bengal's Kalimpong district, were arrested from Singtam in East Sikkim, they said. The duo was caught on CCTV while vandalising the secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, the ministers and the heads of all the government departments, police said.

## Buggies

**■ New Delhi:** The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) made it mandatory to get a third party insurance, akin to that of vehicles, for owners and caretakers of horses, mares or horse-drawn buggies to be used for ceremonial purposes, civic authorities said. The decision was approved by the SDMC standing committee following a court order last year.

## Arrested

**■ Hyderabad:** A 28-year-old labourer was arrested here for allegedly raping and killing a woman rag-picker with whom he was in a relationship. The body was found in an unused police outpost near here on February 21. After verifying the CCTV footage in the area, the police said the labourer had accompanied the woman (35) on that date. Interrogation of the man revealed that he had taken her to the outpost under the pretext of talks.

## 'Ensure speedy clearance of student credit card applications'

## Mamata appeals to banks



**West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issues a credit card to a student, in the presence of State Education Minister Bratya Basu at Netaji Indoor Stadium, in Kolkata, Thursday.**

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged all state-owned banks to ensure speedy clearance of student credit card applications, while reiterating that her government will be the guarantor for each credit recipient. Banerjee, while presiding over a programme

on the distribution of student credit cards, said that her government has already issued such cards to 5,000 students, and sanctioned 20,000 more.

Under the state government scheme, students can avail education loans of up to Rs 10 lakh for a simple interest over 15 years. The chief minister said that her government has

allocated Rs 5,042 crore for the scheme.

"Cooperative banks are already performing their roles. I urge all state-owned banks to come forward with the same spirit. Please ensure speedy clearance of the proposals."

The government stands as the guarantor for each credit recipient. Hence, the sanctioned amount is guaranteed money. There will be no defaulter," she said.

Banerjee said the TMC government is committed to ensuring better facilities and amenities for school and college students.

She said that 77 lakh female students have already come under the ambit of the Kanyashree scheme, and nine lakh class 11 and 12 students have received smartphones and tablets.

## ANTI-SMOG GUN



An anti-smog gun is used to spray water to curb air pollution, at Civil Line area in Gurugram, Thursday.

## Peace, Naga talks top poll agendas in Manipur's Ukhral

### ■ People choosing candidates based on their credentials

Ukhral, Feb 24 (PTI):



A freshly painted mural of Naga rebel leaders Late Khodao Yanthan, Late Isak Chishi Swu and Thuingaleng Muivah with hands holding up Naga flags in the background draws attention to the northern boundary wall of a mini stadium here. Hanging from the top right corner is a BJP flag tied to a post and on the left is that of Naga People's Front. The frame mirrors the current election mood in this small hill town where people are gearing up to choose a candidate to represent them in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly but with the lingering effect of the unfin-

ished talks between the Centre and NSCN (IM) under the Framework Agreement signed in 2015, serving as a reminder of the violent past that this northeastern part of Manipur had witnessed during the Naga insurgency. Worthem, a middle-aged man who runs a book shop in Ukhral's landmark Wino Bazaar, says people

here are desperate for long-lasting peace and development, and he would be voting with that in mind when polling takes place on March 5 in the second phase. "Yes, there has been a perceptible change and there is peace after the Framework Agreement was announced but there is still that shadow of the past,

there is still that uncertainty. What if the Nagas don't get what they have been demanding?" he said. The long wait for the talks to conclude is beginning to tell on the patience of Abam Chahonghao, who mans the ticket sales counter of private passenger bus service between Ukhral and the state's capital Imphal. "We are hoping that it will be concluded soon but we have been waiting for over five years now and are getting tired and we don't know where it is headed," he lamented.

As for Agrippa J, in his mid-twenties, who returned to his home state leaving behind a corporate job in Bengaluru to start his own business of opening a food court during the pandemic, there is a curiosity to know what has been agreed under the Framework Agreement.

## Uproar in Rajasthan Assembly over state BJP chief comment

Jaipur, Feb 24 (PTI):

Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia's controversial remarks on women triggered an uproar in state assembly on Thursday, with women MLAs of the ruling Congress demanding an apology from him. The House was adjourned for half-an-hour over Poonia's remarks. Talking to reporters after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot presented the Budget for the year 2022-23 on Wednesday, Poonia had said, "It seems to be a 'daubed up' budget. It seems like a dark-complexioned bride has been taken to a beauty parlour and presented after a good makeup." Earlier in the day, Poonia released a



video apologizing for his remark. "I was giving reaction to the budget during which I spontaneously spoke a few words. Usually, I do not use such words. If my words have hurt someone's sentiments, then I humbly apologize," he said in a video statement. But the members of the houses apparently wanted an apology in the House.

After reassembling, Speaker CP Joshi asked members to maintain the dignity of the House and protest in a democratic manner. He also banned banners and plaques in the House. As soon as the Zero Hour began at 12 noon following the question hour on Thursday, Women and Child Development minister Mamta Bhupesh raised objections to the remark and demanded an apology from Poonia, an MLA, in the House. Women MLAs of the Congress party also showed plaques which read 'Mahila ka Apman Nahi Sahega Rajasthan'.

Bhupesh also entered the well of the House followed by other women MLAs of the ruling party in the state.

## WhatsApp group admins not liable for objectionable posts: Kerala HC



Kerala High Court

Kochi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The administrators or creators of a WhatsApp group cannot be held vicariously liable for any objectionable content posted on it. The court said that as held by the Bombay and Delhi High Courts, "the only privilege enjoyed by the admin of a WhatsApp group over other members is that he can either add or delete any of the members

from the group". "He does not have physical or any control otherwise over what a member of a group is posting thereon. He cannot moderate or censor messages in a group."

"Thus, Creator or Administrator of a WhatsApp group, merely acting in that capacity, cannot be vicariously held liable for any objectionable content posted by a member of the group," the Kerala HC said. In the instant matter the petitioner had created a WhatsApp group called 'FRIENDS' and he had made two other persons also as admins along with him and one of them posted in the group a porn video depicting children engaged in sexually explicit act.

"Such multi-point observations help us understand the propagation and its impact on different

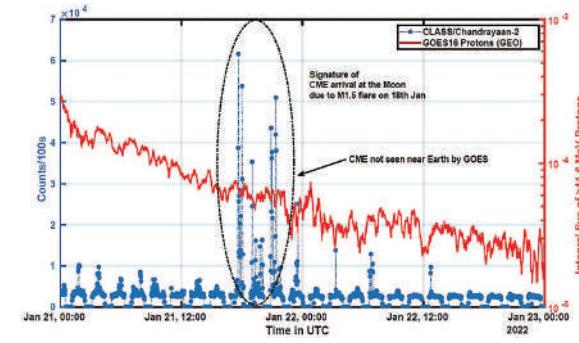
## Chandrayaan-2 detects solar proton events

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

A Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS), a payload on-board Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, has detected solar proton events which significantly increase the radiation exposure to humans in space, the Indian Space Research Organisation has said.

The instrument on January 18 also recorded coronal mass ejections (CMEs), a powerful stream of ionised material and magnetic fields, which reach the Earth a few days later, leading to geomagnetic storms and lighting up the polar sky with auroras, the ISRO said.

"Such multi-point observations help us understand the propagation and its impact on different



Data from ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter sensor.

planetary systems," it said.

When the sun is active, spectacular eruptions called solar flares occur that sometimes also spew out energetic particles (called solar proton events or SPEs) into interplanetary space.

Most of these are high energy protons that impact space systems and

significantly increase radiation exposure to humans in space. They can cause ionisation on large scales in the earth's middle atmosphere, the space agency said.

Many intense solar flares are accompanied by CMEs, a powerful stream of ionised material and magnetic fields, which reach the earth a few days

later, leading to geomagnetic storms and lighting up the polar sky with auroras.

Solar flares are classified according to their strength. The smallest ones are A-class, followed by B, C, M and X. Each letter represents a 10-fold increase in energy output. This means that an M class flare is 10 times more intense than C-class flare and 100 times intense than B-class flare, the ISRO said.

Within each letter class there is a finer scale from 1 to 9 - a M2 flare is twice the strength of M1 flare.

Recently, there were two M-class solar flares. One flare (M5.5) spewed out energetic particles into interplanetary space and the other flare (M1.5) was accompanied by a CME, the space agency said.

## 'King Momo' wasn't part of traditional Goa Carnival

Panaji, Feb 24 (PTD):



The mythological 'King Momo' was not a part of the traditional Goa Carnival festivities and the character came into existence much later when float parades became an integral part of the popular event, according to a cultural expert.

The concept of float parades was started by the Goa tourism department in 1970s when the character of King Momo was also formally introduced, a tourism department official said. The four-day carnival will begin in Goa on Saturday when the first float parade would be held in the state capital Panaji. The festivities are held every year before the 40-day lent period of the Christian community. The Goa tourism department invites applications from

people who desire to be 'King Momo' and conducts auditions before making the final selection.

For this year's celebration, South Goa resident Emiliano Dias will be King Momo to lead the float parade. There was no King Momo earlier, it was more of people's participation,

said. During the Portuguese era (before 1961), the floats never existed. People used to go around on bullock carts, he said. This later took the shape of floats and various commercial establishments started sponsoring the event, said Alvares.

The traditional carnival was marked by theatre art form 'Khel', which was a kind of satirical play. It used to be a humorous depiction of what was happening in the political field," he said.

The play was staged in different places, like a church square or an area in front of someone's house, he recalled.

"People used to sit in a circular pattern and watch the play. It was up to the artists to use their talent and creative imagination to generate interest among the people," he added.

## Lokayukta complaint over graft charge against Mizoram speaker

Aizawl, Feb 24 (PTD):

Mizoram's main opposition party Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) has filed a complaint with the state Lokayukta, asking the anti-corruption ombudsman to probe the alleged shareholding and availing of profit from a government contract by Assembly Speaker Lalriniana Sailo.

Sailo, however, denied the allegation and claimed that he has not received any money illegally.

The development came within hours of ZPM and Congress legislators staging a walkout during the ongoing budget session of the assembly in protest against Sailo presiding over the session amid the graft charge. The ZPM, in

its complaint, alleged that Sailo has pocketed Rs 10 crore from a contract for blacktopping a 13-km-long Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road between Khawzawl and Ngaiaw village in Khawzawl district.

The matter recently came to light when the contractor Coleen Lalsangpui and her manager informed NGOs that

Sailo had taken Rs 10 crore from the contract, it said.

The opposition party also accused the speaker of misusing his power.

"It is illegal for an elected representative of the people to avail profit from a contract. This is a clear manifestation of bringing disgrace on public office and we take strong exception to it," ZPM said in its complaint. Earlier, all 11 members of opposition Congress and ZPM staged a walkout during the ongoing budget session in protest against Sailo presiding over the session. The opposition members demanded an explanation from the speaker and said they would not be present in the session until the speaker proves his innocence.

## BRIEF

## Critical

■ London: The India-UK partnership in tackling climate change was the theme of India Day in Parliament as leaders from the field of politics, business and the arts gathered for the 4th annual UK-India Parliamentary Lunch at House of Lords in London. UK Cabinet Office minister and president of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow Alok Sharma highlighted the "critical" role of India in achieving the global sustainability targets in his address.

## Discuss

■ Kathmandu: Nepal's Parliament will start discussion on the contentious USD 500 million Millennium Corporation Challenge (MCC) programme of the US which was tabled in the lower house on Sunday for ratification amid vociferous protests against the grant assistance. As per the notice issued by the House of Representative Secretariat, MCC Compact has been included as one of the agendas for discussion on Sunday.

## Blown

■ Berlin: Police in Germany said that a truck driver likely fell to his death after being blown off a bridge during a storm earlier this week. The 53-year-old's body was found below the Ambach Valley highway bridge by a passer-by. Authorities initially investigated the death as a possible suicide. Further evidence showed the driver had probably stopped to tighten a tarpaulin on his truck when he was caught by a strong gust of wind and fell.

## Claims

■ Abuja: Dozens of Nigerian soldiers were killed and wounded in recent attacks in Nigeria's insecure northeast region, according to Islamic State group, which said its West Africa members carried out the assaults. The attacks using explosives targeted soldiers on patrol at various checkpoints in Borno state, killing and wounding more than 30 soldiers.

## Shooting

■ Houston: An East Texas deputy constable was killed in US and a suspect wounded in shootings in a Houston shopping mall. The shootings happened in the PlazaAmericas mall in southeastern Houston.

# Ukraine situation leaves Baltics wondering about security



The monument of Red Latvian Riflemen stands in Riga, Latvia.

Vilnius, Feb 24 (AP):

Viewed from Paris, London and Washington, the events unfolding in Ukraine may seem like a new Cold War taking shape in Europe. From the Baltic countries, it looks much worse in terms of security.

To Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, particularly those old enough to have lived under Soviet control, Russia's belligerence toward Ukraine has

some worried that they could be the next target. The tensions have brought back memories of mass deportations and oppression.

"My grandparents were sent away to Siberia. My father was persecuted by the KGB. Now I live in a free democratic country, but it seems that nothing can be taken for granted," said Jaujus Kazlauskas, a 50-year-old teacher in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital. All three Baltic coun-

tries were seized and annexed by Stalin during World War II before gaining independence again with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. They joined NATO in 2004, putting themselves under the military protection of the US and its Western allies. Ukraine is not part of NATO.

The Baltic countries and Poland, also a NATO member, have been among the loudest advocates for powerful sanctions against Moscow and NATO reinforcements on the alliance's eastern flank. Baltic government leaders in recent weeks have shuttled to European capitals, warning that the West must make Russian President Vladimir Putin pay for attacking Ukraine, or else his tanks will keep rolling toward other parts of the former Soviet empire.

"The battle for Ukraine is a battle for Europe.

# WAT PHO TEMPLE



A man wearing a face mask walks around Wat Pho temple in Bangkok on Thursday.

## Turk-Pak stealth jet to be new challenge for India



Model of TF-X stealth jet was displayed at Singapore.

### US aware of Imran's Russia visit

**Washington:** As Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's made a maiden visit to Moscow, the US has communicated its position to Islamabad on Russia's "renewed invasion" of Ukraine.

Islamabad, Feb 24 (PTI):

Close allies, Pakistan and Turkey are collaborating on the development of a fifth generation (stealth) fighter jet, a media report said. The aircraft will be comparable to India's 5th generation AMCA stealth fighter project by HAL and will challenge security of India if AMCA is not developed in time.

Temel Kotil, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) told Aaj News channel that Turkey and Pakistan were collaborating on the project.

Air Vice-Marshal Dr Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector Research, Innovation &

Commercialisation (RIC) at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) confirmed that the two countries were building a fighter jet called the TF-X, the Business Recorder, a Pakistani financial daily newspaper had reported. TF-X is claimed to be su-

perior to Rafale, HAL Tejas as well as Russian made Sukhoi 30 used by Indian Air Force.

This is a fifth-generation fighter aircraft for which Pakistan and Turkey are now collaborating, Riaz said, adding the NUST has previously conducted similar projects in collaboration with the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and Pakistan Air Force.

The officials did not further divulge any more details on the fighter jet and its development.

TF-X, a stealth twin-engine all-weather air superiority fighter in development by Turkish Aerospace Industries, is expected to make its first flight in the next three years, according to media reports.

The situation is no longer an emergency, therefore the federal go-

## Trudeau revokes emergency powers as blockades end

Toronto, Feb 24 (AP):

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced he is removing emergency powers police can use after authorities ended the blockades at the borders and the occupation in Ottawa by truckers and others opposed to COVID-19 restrictions.

Trudeau said the 'threat continues' but the acute emergency that included entrenched occupations has ended. His government invoked the powers last week and lawmakers affirmed the powers late Monday.

The situation is no longer an emergency, therefore the federal go-

vernment will be ending the use of the emergencies act,' Trudeau said. 'We are confident that existing laws and bylaws are sufficient.'

The emergencies act allows authorities to declare certain areas as no-go zones. It also allows police to freeze truckers' personal and corporate bank accounts and compel tow truck companies to haul away vehicles.

The trucker protest grew until it closed a handful of Canada-US border posts and shut down key parts of the capital for more than three weeks.

But all border blockades have now ended and the streets around the Canadian Parliament are quiet.

'We were very clear that the use of the emergencies act would be limited in time,' Trudeau said.

Trudeau had warned earlier this week there were some truckers just outside Ottawa who might be planning further blockades or occupations. His public safety minister also said there was an attempt to block a border crossing in British Columbia over the weekend.

## US drops name of Trump's 'China Initiative' after criticism

Washington, Feb 24 (AP):

The Justice Department is scrapping the name of a Trump-era initiative intended to crack down on economic espionage by Beijing but criticised as unfairly targeting Chinese professors at American colleges because of their ethnicity.

The decision to abandon the China Initiative, announced by the department's top national security official, follows a months-long review undertaken after charges that the program chilled academic collaboration and contributed to anti-Asian bias.

The department also endured high-profile setbacks in individual crimi-



nal prosecutions that resulted in the last year in the dismissal of multiple criminal cases against academic researchers.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said the department will be relentless in defending our country from China, but no longer will group its investigations and prosecutions under the China Initiative label, in part out of recognition of the threats facing the US from Russia, Iran, North Korea and others beyond China. I'm convinced that we need a broader approach, one that looks

across all of these threats and use all of our authorities to combat them, he told reporters before a speech in which he planned to lay out the changes.

The program was established in 2018 under then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions as a way to thwart what officials said were aggressive efforts by China to steal American intellectual property and to spy on American industry and research.

Olsen told reporters he believed the initiative was prompted by genuine national security concerns. He said he did not believe investigators had targeted professors on the basis of ethnicity, but he also said he had to be responsive to concerns he heard, including from Asian American groups.

## Opposition party to choose new leader in April

Madrid, Feb 24 (AP):

cused Casado of political espionage.

The leader of Spain's main opposition party, Pablo Casado, will remain in charge of the Popular Party until early April, when party members are expected to choose a new leadership following an ugly internal clash that,

according to early surveys, has benefited the conservatives' rivals in the far right. In a meeting that stretched until on Thursday, Casado resisted pressure from senior party members to resign immediately following a public exchange of accusations of corruption with a PP rising star, who in turn ac-

In a statement, the party announced that Casado would not run to lead the party again.

The meeting came a day after Casado's No 2, Teodoro García Egea, stepped down as the party's secretary-general and the calls for Casado to follow him mounted, even from PP members who had been his fierce supporters until hours earlier. The turmoil in Spain's traditional conservative political force promises to mostly benefit the far-right Vox party, according to political observers and polls by newspapers.

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

### लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

Phone No. 07723-223731, E-mail : eepb-mah-cg@nic.in

#### निविदा संशोधन सूचना क्र. 1

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 413 (ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88182), जी. नं. 65766, 581 (ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 91067), 595 (ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 91486), जी. नं. 67336 में पंजीयी भी निविदाकार के भाग न लेने के कारण से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

Bid Due Date	02 March, 2022 17:30:00 PM IST
Physical Doc Submission End Date	07 March, 2022 17:30:00 AM IST
Bid Open Date for Envelope	08 March, 2022 10:30:00 AM IST
"A" & "B" (Scheduled)	

निविदा की शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

#### कार्यपालन अभियंता

### लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड-सुकमा, छ.ग.

(जिला, जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, जिला - सुकमा)

#### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

### लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड-सुकमा, छ.ग.

(जिला, जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, जिला - सुकमा)

#### ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना

नि.क्र. 154,155,156,157,158,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,170,171,172,173,174 / नि.प्र. / जोनेयर / डी-डब्ल्यू-एस.एम. / लो-स्पॉष-या-या / सुकमा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्भुत संकाय श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से जल-जीवन मिशन के तहत एकल ग्राम योजनानाम्रत निविदित शेषालय अनुसार पाईप लाइन विस्तार, उच्च स्तरीय जलांतरणीय घरेलू नवकनेशन प्रदाय आदि कार्यों हेतु प्रपत्र "ए" में ऑनलाइन Online निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

संख्या	निविदा सूचना क्रमांक	सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमति लागत (लाख में)
1	154	93110	पुजारीपाल / छिन्दगढ़	40.18
2	155	93111	मुताकिशोली / कोण्टा	27.75
3	156	93113	अरलांपेंट / कोण्टा	14.08
4	157	93114	बुरकापाल / कोण्टा	59.56
5	158	93161	दुलेल / कोण्टा	31.29
6	159	93164	जंगमपाल / छिन्दगढ़	32.09
7	160	93165	तिमारुमर / कोण्टा	16.78
8	161	93166	कुमालेगं / छिन्दगढ़	115.16
9	162	93167	टेडमाटेल / कोण्टा	36.57
10	163	93168	जंगराला / छिन्दगढ़	55.70
11	164	93169	सूरामपुर / कोण्टा	53.42
12	165	93170	सिरसटी / सुकमा	57.39
13	166	93171	मेलासूर / कोण्टा	23.43
14	167	93172	सीतापाल / छिन्दगढ़	44.77
15	168	93173	कंगालतांग /	

# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 325

## Ukraine's folly on nuclear weapons

Amid Russian attack on Ukraine, it is imperative to view policy of nuclear deterrence. India is now a nuclear weapons power to avoid the situation facing Ukraine now and earlier faced by countries such as Iraq. Modern-day Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky said recently, has 'no security'. History will note Ukraine's folly of giving up nuclear weapons. Three decades ago, the newly independent country of Ukraine was briefly the third-largest nuclear power in the world. Thousands of nuclear arms had been left on Ukrainian soil by Moscow after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. But in the years that followed, Ukraine made the decision to completely denuclearize. In exchange, the US, the UK and Russia would guarantee Ukraine's security in a 1994 agreement known as the Budapest Memorandum. Now, that agreement is front and centre again. It is clear that Ukrainians knew they weren't getting the exactly legally binding, really robust security guarantees they sought. But they were told at the time that the United States and Western powers so certainly at least the United States and Great Britain take their political commitments really seriously. This is a document signed at the highest level by the heads of state. So, the implication was Ukraine would not be left to stand alone and face a threat should it come under one. Russia just glibly violated it. And there's a mechanism of consultations that is provided for in the memorandum should any issues arise, and it was mobilized for the first time on March 4, 2014. So, there was a meeting of the signatories of the memorandum that was called by Ukraine and it did take place in Paris. And the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, who was in Paris at the time, simply did not show up. So, he wouldn't even come to the meeting in connection with the memorandum.

Ukrainian engineers had conceived some of the Soviet Union's deadliest weapons, too. The SS-18 missile, nicknamed 'Satan' and built to strike targets up to 16,000 kilometres away, was designed and manufactured in Yuzhmash, at the time a closed city in Ukraine. After years of negotiation, Ukraine ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons in 1994, and in subsequent years returned warheads to Russia and destroyed missile silos, a process that took until 2001 to complete. Ukraine's nuclear disarmament was, from its earliest days, the subject of intense domestic debate. In 1993, the country's parliament voted to maintain possession of some nuclear weapons. That vote was overruled by Ukraine's then-president Leonid Kravchuk. That decision, controversial at the time, has more recently been called a 'capitulation' by Yuri Kostenko, a politician who was involved in the nuclear decommissioning. In a recent book about the disarmament, he called the consequences for the country 'catastrophic,' lamenting Ukraine's descent back toward 'the status of a colony in a new Russian empire.' Only one of Ukraine's nuclear missile silos was partly preserved at Pervomaisk, kept open to visitors as a museum piece next to the underground command centre, where computer terminals and a red telephone to Moscow are a tangible reminder of the fire-power once kept here. Perhaps Ukraine should have followed the model of Britain, which has maintained four ballistic missile submarines and a modest number of warheads, not enough to turn earth to cinder, but 'enough for the whole world to know that they have nuclear weapon. The Ukraine government now regrets its belief about non-proliferation agenda led by US and allies and facing the consequences.

## India's chess population

At just 16 years old, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa is now the youngest chess player ever to defeat Magnus Carlsen in his long reign as world champion. The two faced off in an online tournament that had featured 16 elite players. Praggnanandhaa is a grandmaster from India who is commonly referred to simply as Pragg. Pragg is the youngest person to defeat Carlsen since he became world champion, a streak that extends back to 2013, as World Chess notes. Magnus Carlsen, earned the title of Grandmaster at the age of 13 years. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, lovingly called 'Prag', was actually ahead of the current world champion, when Carlsen was at a similar age. Prag became a Grandmaster (GM) at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days, taking young Indian chess players to new heights. The chess prodigy was felicitated at his school, Velammal School Mogappair in Chennai. India has the largest active chess population with over thousands of players registered as having played a tournament. The vast majority of those players are young and many are still in school.

Remarkably, this happened without much government support. But a closer look at those numbers reveals how one state has played a pivotal role in India's chess story. The country's first International Master, Manuel Aaron, grew up in Tamil Nadu. The first grandmaster (Viswanathan Anand), the first female grandmaster (Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi), and the first International Arbiter are all from Chennai. The origin of Chess in India dates back to 6th Century AD. In modern times, individual efforts, mainly in cities made chess popular in society. Yet, it took India 38 years to get its first Grandmaster (GM) after the title was officially introduced in 1950 by The Fide Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), the governing body of international Chess. Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to receive this prestigious title in 1988. Because of the game's cerebral nature, where one is not required to be present in person. This game also has an overpowering online presence where one can compete with high ranked players. It gives the flexibility to choose the quality of the opponent based on their world ranks. The royal game is gaining traction amongst Indians, and its popularity is on a rising slope. This will not only aid in the onboarding of some of the best minds but also create a conducive environment for sponsorships to flood in and take the game to an altogether different level.

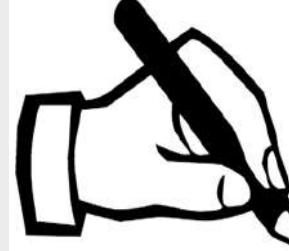
## STRAWBERRY PICKING



A Palestinian farmer picks strawberries for export at a farm near Erez crossing in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip.

## India and Pakistan can future-proof their threatened rivers

MEDHA BISHT



A shift in perspective can future-proof the Indus Water Treaty. If they had known in the fifties what climate change would do to rivers, would India and Pakistan have signed the Indus Water Treaty? It's this question the Indian government has triggered in the wake of its 12th report on water resources. A re-negotiation of the Indus Water Treaty may be looming, following an August 2021 parliamentary report published by the Indian government. The Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters is planning to visit Pakistan in March to attend the annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission. The report, prepared by the 12th standing committee, worries that climate change is largely ignored by the Treaty, which was agreed based on the knowledge and 'technological imperatives' available at the time it was negotiated, the 1950s. These concerns, along with a recently-released report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), highlight a need for climate change adaptation. While the WMO report considers Integrated Water Resource Management a panacea for long-term wellbeing and security, it notes that many countries still remain off-track when it comes to the sustainable management of water resources.

The Treaty allocates the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India. But it has also granted India the right to certain non-

consumptive uses of water on western rivers which includes generating hydroelectricity through run of the river dams, navigation and fishing, when certain conditions are met. The focus on the Indus Basin is heavily tilted towards western rivers, where building hydrological structures is a priority concern for India. India has dismissed Pakistani reservations over dam development as a tactic to delay construction. When India and Pakistan have bilateral disputes over water, they have tended to revolve around hydro-power projects and rationing water. As a result, vital concerns such as water quality or nutrition security remain largely obfuscated. The stakes are high: if the next major development in the Indus Water Treaty is mishandled, the worst-case scenario could see water conflicts between India and Pakistan become a pressing reality. However, if both countries can keep border claims aside and focus on joint development, a cooperative framework that adapts to contemporary issues can emerge. The challenge will be finding a way to facilitate this partnership.

Moving from rationality to relationality for rivers. To achieve a stronger Indus Water Treaty, both states must shift from acting based on the rationality of water, and focus instead on its relationality. This means moving from water sharing (rationality) to benefit sharing (relationality). Rationality has a singular focus on volumetric allocation of water, and relationality expands the definition of water from surface water (water quantity), to water quality, preservation of wetlands and biodiversity, soil erosion, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, and nature-based solutions. Doing so may help spur a different approach. The rivers covered by the Treaty are diverse, flowing through different ecoclimatic zones. The precipitation rates are different across the lower, middle and upper basins, some rivers are snow-fed, and the impacts of cli-

mate change are felt differently across the region. The climate-related threats have been especially emphasised by Pakistan, international institutions and environmentalists. Such threats, dubbed 'minimum environmental flows', could reduce the flow of a river by 30-40 percent in future. The Indus Basin has faced a range of ecological issues, including siltation, water logging, the shifting of water tables, water contamination, groundwater extraction, flood management problems, and uncertainty over precipitation patterns.

These concerns are overlaid by changing demographics in India and Pakistan, increased urbanisation, and rising demands on the agricultural and industrial sectors. This has contributed to making both countries, particularly Pakistan, among the most water stressed in the world. Maintaining and ensuring environmental flows will be a tall challenge unless a compromise between water resource development and maintenance of the river is agreed. In light of these concerns, a three-pronged approach that reframes the Indus Water Treaty through a relational lens may be most effective. Leaders in India and Pakistan will need to shape a different approach, one that no longer sees water as an instrument for winning bargaining games. If they can't, a trust deficit, water nationalism, and the securitisation of water could all contribute to escalating tensions, interstate and intrastate. Both countries could also benefit from focusing more on a sub-basin level instead of managing the area with a singular holistic approach. Interventions at the sub-basin level that can account for contextual factors, such as the socio-economic composition of the area and the existing hydrology, would make the action more effective.

However, to truly bring the Indus Water Treaty into the present, its governance must be critically examined. The Treaty highlights many times the scope of cooperation and shared gov-

ernance (in Articles 4, 5 and 7). Translating these words in the Treaty into more tangible action would greatly increase the bargaining range between India and Pakistan. For example, Article 4 emphasises the use of communication channels regarding areas of concern across eastern and western rivers. It also tasks signatories with avoiding measures which cause direct or indirect harm to the other. Article 5 also outlines key areas that can foster cooperation between India and Pakistan, such as collaborating to prevent river erosion, promoting river protection, and treatment of sewage and industrial water at the source point. Article 7 outlines the possibility of optimum river development through a consultative data-sharing process for issues relating to drainage works.

A 2021 study found flood management, water quality, minimum environmental flows, exploitation of groundwater with the absence of a regulatory mechanism, were the primary concerns in Pakistan Punjab. Alternatively, priorities which emerged from India were regulating the excessive exploitation of groundwater, reflection on cropping patterns, shifting water tables and shifting river course and water quality. While these value preferences stemmed primarily from the Ravi sub-basin, they offer novel ways of approaching the Indus Water Treaty and Indus Basin in general. This not only necessitates alternative ways of undertaking suitable interventions to manage the Indus Basin, but also demands that a relational approach to the rivers and the ecosystem of the Indus Basin become a priority concern for both India and Pakistan. This will not only help us critically engage with what 'water' means, but also open up new pathways for benefit sharing mechanisms to future-proof the Indus Water Treaty.

(Medha Bisht is senior assistant professor at Department of International Relations at South Asian University, New Delhi.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### War situation

Since 2019 whole world has been fighting with the deadliest COVID-19. But gradually it becomes a pandemic. After the massive vaccination drive people have obtained the immunity to prevent the virus. But after this cold chaos the whole world is again going to unstable. Again the nation clashes has begun in the different parts of the world. The Russia-Ukraine conflict again has taken up the headlines. The Russian troops have attacked in the different part of the Ukraine. Since 1991 when the USSR broke into 15 new countries, Ukraine is one of them, the new Russia has been trying to occupy Ukraine. When the president of the Russia Putin, partially successfully occupied Ukraine in 2014, the Ukrainians impeached the then president Yanukovich. After the election again the new Ukrainian government became enemy of Russia. The Ukrainian government wanted to join NATO and became an independent European country. But the Russian president warned Ukraine government on before taking this type of decision. At last in 2022 the Russia has deployed their military forces against Ukraine. This incident recently again slowly has divided the world into two parts. The USA and other European country have warned Russia and have imposed sanction after attack. Probably this incident will lead us to witness a dangerous World War like situation during the days ahead.

Aditya Nath, Tezpur

### TV people

India is full of people who come to TV and other media platforms and advise the citizens on various topics. While delivering their so-called 'gyans', they forgot to look at themselves. In recent years, there were plenty who came and vanished and out of these so many I have figured out four people whom I have clubbed as a worrisome foursome. The first case is actor Shahrukh Khan. His son is a druggie who was recently caught red-handed by the Narcotics department but Shahrukh Khan is never shy of giving lessons on BYJU (an online learning portal). Had he given his son proper education and morals his son would not have gone haywire. The second case is Shilpa Shetty Kundra, whose husband Raj Kundra was arrested by cops for making porn movies but his veteran actress is so bold to appear in front of the TV screen to give lectures on yoga and culture. Sounds crazy. The third case is actor Salman Khan who is guilty of endangering blackbuck hunting but he teaches his fans and followers about being Human. The last one is Aamir Khan, a man who always feels insecure in India but over the years has earned name, fame and fortune in India. In a TV show titled 'Satyamev Jayate', he addressed many social issues of various communities of the nation, even not shying away from criticizing Hindu's rituals and beliefs. The funny part about that person is what he preached about marriage and family life on his TV show, he violated all the advice by going for three marriages. India is incredible and there are many like the above mentioned worrisome foursome who make the great country more incredible!

Julie, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kapil Komireddi@kapskom

India is being scolded for not subscribing to tutorials on 'values' by folks who only days ago seized and distributed Afghanistan's cash to Americans and who still maintain a torture warehouse in Guantanamo. This must strike even critics of the Modi regime as sanctimonious.



Dhruva@ad\_jaishankar

General rule: People lecturing Indians about what why relations with Russia are not in Indian interests do their cause a disservice. Equally, Russians lecturing Indians about Indian relations with the West do themselves a disservice (cf. Lavrov on Indo-Pacific).

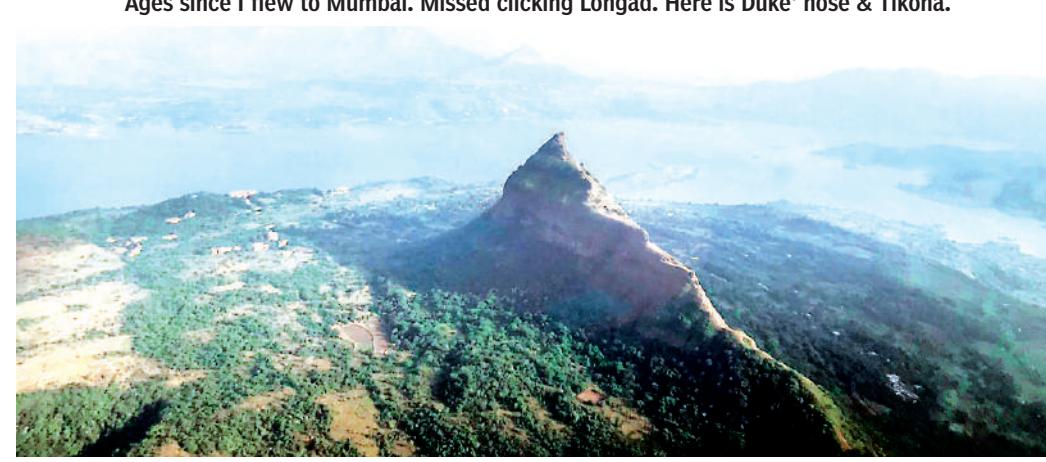


Shilpa@godbole\_shilpa

The fastest way to get the spouse to fix or get fixed an electronic device is to announce (to someone else), whilst the spouse is within earshot that you are buying a new device to replace the old one. Voila! Chances are before you finish the sentence the device will get fixed.

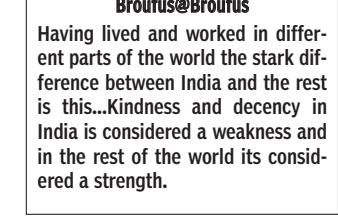
Nitin Welde@nitinwelde

Ages since I flew to Mumbai. Missed clicking Lohagad. Here is Duke' nose & Tikona.



Aparajita@Aparajita\_2018

My husband had me watch almost all Govinda movies for the first time. Found myself laughing much, with the goofy plots and silly humor. As against the inelegant comedies being produced often these days, they are a clean, comedic gem. A genre unto themselves. Unmissable indeed.



## BRIEF

## Capex



**New Delhi:** Euler Motors on Thursday said it plans to invest Rs 200 crore in the next 12 months to ramp up its production capacity. CEO Saurav Kumar said our investments in capacity expansion are effort towards fulfilling demand and expanding market footprint.

## Acquire

**New Delhi:** Auto component major Bharat Forge on Thursday said it will acquire JS Autocast Foundry India. The company, along with its subsidiary, BF Industrial Solutions, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire JS Autocast Foundry India (JS Auto). Established in 2004, JS Auto is supplier of machined ductile iron castings for wind, hydraulic, off-highway and automotive applications. Sales have grown at CAGR of 17.7 percent.

## Drones

**Chennai:** Garuda Aerospace, the city-based drone start-up, is aiming to manufacture six lakh drone besides creating six lakh jobs by 2025 under its Kisan Drone initiative. CEO Aghneshwar Jayaprakash said that most manufacturing dedicated towards Kisan drones.

## Partners

**New Delhi:** Hero Electric on Thursday said it has joined hands with IDFC FIRST Bank for vehicle finance. The collaboration allows Hero Electric customers to avail an instant loan on KYC with low processing fees and down payment.

## Acquires

**New Delhi:** CollegeDekho has acquired its peer firm GetMyuni for about Rs 50 crore in a mix of cash and equity deal, a move that will aid the company's revenue growth. CollegeDekho CEO Ruchir Arora told PTI.

## Raises

**New Delhi:** Niyo, the consumer neo-banking platform, on Thursday said it has raised USD 100 million (about Rs 750 crore) from a group of private equity firms led by Accel and Lightrock India. The company will use the funds to accelerate its mission to transform banking in India, and to provide convenient and hassle-free financial services to digital native customers.

## Indian economy poised for recovery, but high crude prices worrisome

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI):



V Anantha Nageswaran

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday said that the Indian economy is now poised for recovery but high crude oil price is a cause for concern. The banking sector in the country is stable, capital is available and credit offtake is poised to take off, he said at a webinar organised by Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

"We are not unique to the phenomenon of uncertain growth and high inflation due to the pandemic. Developed countries are also facing the same problem," he said.

The budget for 2022-23 has been made keeping in mind that the price of crude oil will be around USD 75 per barrel. But due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the price of Texas crude is now USD 96 per barrel.

In India inflation rates are hovering around 5.2 per cent at the moment. "But, I feel it should remain within four to six per cent in the next fiscal

which the RBI is targeting," he said. The CEA said the market has begun to correct in India. "Activity levels in some industries have crossed the pre-pandemic levels. But the services sector is yet to recover". Regarding private sector investment scenario, he said it is yet to pick up due to the pandemic cloud which is still there. It will pick up when consumption levels increase.

"But the capital expenditure plan in the budget is higher in 2022-23. This has been done to fill in the void. In fact, capital expenditure by the states have also increased" Nageswaran said. On lower allocation towards MNREGA in the budget, he said it is a demand-driven programme. "It has been done hoping that economy will recover and the demand for MNREGA funds will drop.

## GSK, MS Dhoni team up for 6 in 1 vaccination awareness campaign

**Mumbai, Feb 24:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's legendary former cricket captain and a devoted father, now teams up with GSK to raise awareness about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination. As part of the campaign, MS Dhoni features in a newly released video which draws a parallel with hitting a six in cricket and explains how the 6 in 1 vaccination for infants provides protection against six diseases in one injection. The tagline of the campaign encapsulates the key benefits of the combination vaccine: less injections, less pain. Speaking about his involvement in the campaign, India's former international cricket captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni said, "As parents, my wife and I look for ways to give our daughter a good foundation for life. We have always

believed that vaccination is an essential component of that foundation. However, watching my daughter go through the pain due to multiple injections during infancy was difficult for us both. I was eager to join GSK in raising awareness about 6 in 1 vaccination. Combination vaccination means that infants get the same kind of protection but with fewer injections. Less pain for them. And I am sure all parents would agree - less pain for us too!" Speaking about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination, Dr. Rashmi Hegde, Executive Vice President - Medical Affairs, G l a x o S m i t h K i n e Pharmaceuticals Limited, said, "Every child should be vaccinated in a timely manner. Vaccines build children's immune memory and help to protect them from diseases.

## Himalaya Men launches new campaign addressing pimple concern

**Mumbai, Feb 24:**

Himalaya Wellness Company, one of India's leading wellness brands, unveils a new campaign positioning Himalaya MEN Pimple Clear Neem Face Wash as the most effective solution for men's pimples, with the power of nature and science. With the offering of "Ladkonke pimplas kasahi solution", the campaign prompts young boys to choose the right solution for solving their pimplasproblems, instead of experimenting with weird suggestions.

The commercial opens with a group of friends returning to their dressing room after a cricket match, with the focus on a boy with pimples. A

friend is seen playfully teasing him about how a girl at the match was looking at him, and the boy says that she was actually looking at his pimples, while he looks into the mirror worried. His friends then go on to give him various suggestions like applying soap and popping the pimple. Then Rishabh Pant joins the group and tells them that there is only one right solution for men's pimples, and introduces Himalaya MEN Pimple Clear Neem Face Wash, which is specially formulated for men's skin and helps manage pimples effectively.

Rahul Panchal, General Manager-Marketing, Himalaya Wellness

## New age tech cos going public, ESG landscape key challenges

Sebi has attempted to provide uniform standard



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Thursday said the increasing trend of new age technology companies, which are generally loss making, accessing public market is a key challenge to the capital markets.

In addition, the flourishing landscape of ESG (environment, social, gover-

nance) investments is another major challenge to the capital markets due to absence of uniform ESG evaluation matrices, he said.

Also, the regulator is in the process of notifying the detailed modalities for the proposed Social Stock Exchange, a platform for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations so that they can raise capital.

Tyagi made these remarks at a SEBI-NISM Research Conference on 'Investing in recovery: challenges and opportunities for Indian securities markets'.

In the current financial year, new age tech companies (NATCs) have raised about Rs 43,283 crore through IPOs till date.

## Rupee plummets 102 paise at 75.63 per USD, gold soars Rs 1,656

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):

The rupee tanked 102 paise to close at 75.63 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday as riskier assets took a hit after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine. The 30-share BSE gauge plunged about 2,850 points during the session before closing at 54,529.91, registering a massive fall of 2,702.15 points or 4.72 per cent. Likewise, the NSE barometer Nifty nosedived 815.30 points or 4.78 per cent to end at 16,247.95.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.02 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.75 against the greenback. The local unit finally finished at 75.63, down 102 paise from the previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.74 per cent higher at 96.90.

## Govt expects to complete evaluation under semiconductor scheme



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The government will undertake a detailed evaluation of applications it has received in response to the mega semiconductor scheme and expects to complete the entire process and sign agreements with companies in the next 8-10 months, according to Union

Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav. Vaishnav said he is happy with the response that came in with a short period of time, when the ministry invited applications under the Rs 76,000 crore semiconductor programme.

The government is confident of seeing one of the big global players in semi-

conductor industry coming in the next round, Vaishnav told PTI in an interview.

He asserted that many other players too are "seriously evaluating" India's semiconductor programme, and that the ministry is in discussions with several companies.

Eight locations have been shortlisted already,

and it is for the investors to take a final call, he said.

"About eight locations are shortlisted already. And of course, the investor has to take the final decision. So getting the entire supply chain in place, the chemicals, all that stuff, clean water, and everything else... we are focusing purely on execution," he explained.

## BMW drives in all-electric MINI Cooper SE

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):



German Luxury carmaker BMW on Thursday said it has launched the all-electric MINI 3-Door Cooper SE in India priced at Rs 47.2 lakh (ex-showroom). Available as a completely built-up unit (CBU), all units of the first lot were sold out during the pre-launch booking in Q4 2021.

MINI India will be delivering the cars to the pre-launch customers from March 2022, the automaker said. Bookings for the next phase of deliveries will start from March 2022, it added. "Ten years into the country, MINI India is proud to bring the first all-electric car in the compact premium segment. In line with our 'Digital First' strategy, it is also the first series model exclusively

available for booking on the MINI Online Shop and was completely sold out during the pre-launch booking phase itself," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said while launching the model. The MINI 3-Door Cooper SE combines

MINI's inventive spirit and iconic design with instant torque, zero emissions and a low centre of gravity that enhances its legendary go-kart feeling, he added. "The MINI 3-Door Cooper SE will play a significant role in inspiring creative individuals and trendsetters to drive the silent revolution," Pawah said. With 184 hp/135 kW and a maximum torque of 270 Nm, the electric MINI sprints from 0-100 km in 7.3 seconds. It is powered with a battery capacity of 32.6 kWh and a driving range of up to 270 km.

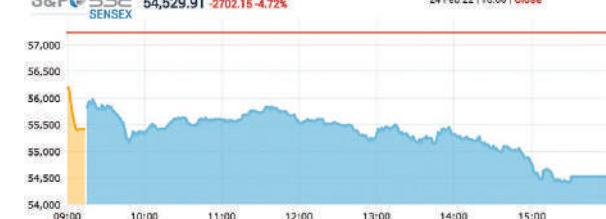
## Home isolation guidelines for vulnerable population

Delhi, Feb 24:

Today NISHTHA, a health system strengthening project supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Jhpiego, and the Indian Association for Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM), a non-profit organization of epidemiologists, launched new home isolation guidelines for vulnerable and marginalized groups in India. Marginalized and vulnerable groups such as the urban poor, tribal populations, pregnant and lactating women, children, people with mental illnesses, persons with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community have traditionally faced an inequitable distribution of health serv-

## Sensex tanks over 2,700 pts in line with global meltdown

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):



tacks on Ukraine on Thursday after Moscow cast aside international sanctions and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen". Globally, stocks plunged and oil prices surged by more than USD 5 per barrel amid intensifying Ukraine crisis, which experts believe may roil the global economy. Market benchmarks in Europe and Asia fell by as much as 4 per cent. Brent crude oil jumped above USD 100 per barrel for the first time since 2014 on unease about

possible disruption of supplies from Russia. "Ukraine is under attack from Russian forces. The threat of severe sanctions on Moscow is now at its highest level, sending equity markets tumbling globally. Sentiment is driving market direction, which will lead to a large sell-off," said Leonardo Pellegrini, Equity Strategy, Julius Baer.

Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 3,417.16 crore in the Indian capital markets on Wednesday, exchange data showed.

## Vedanta Aluminium launches 'Restora'

New Delhi, Feb 24:

minimum post assessment by an independent, global verification assurance firm.

With Restora, Vedanta Aluminium will address the fast-growing global demand for low carbon aluminium, driven by greater climate consciousness.

The company unveiled two product lines – Restora (lowcarbon aluminium) and Restora Ultra (ultra-low carbon aluminium) under the brand. Vedanta

Aluminium is the first major non-ferrous Indian metals producer to manufacture low carbon products (primary aluminium) for customers worldwide, exhibiting a strong step towards its commitment of achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050. Both products have been verified as low-carbon alu-

minum.

MINI's inventive spirit and iconic design with instant torque, zero emissions and a low centre of gravity that enhances its legendary go-kart feeling, he added. "The MINI 3-Door Cooper SE will play a significant role in inspiring creative individuals and trendsetters to drive the silent revolution," Pawah said. With 184 hp/135 kW and a maximum torque of 270 Nm, the electric MINI sprints from 0-100 km in 7.3 seconds. It is powered with a battery capacity of 32.6 kWh and a driving range of up to 270 km.

and means to support each other, encourage each other and promote our own domestic brothers and sisters," he said while addressing the CII Manufacturing Conclave 2022. Goyal also suggested big companies to integrate with MSMEs and ensure timely payment, and train young minds to get into manufacturing. Talking about the National Single Window System (NSWS), he expressed "disappointment" that businesses are not using this platform adequately. "When I see the number of people who have registered or people who are taking approvals on it (NSWS), I get a little disappointed," he said, urging the industry to use the platform and suggest where they are facing problems.



Piyush Goyal

spirit there. "Japanese companies do not allow Indian steel in Japan. They will buy a USD 100 per tonne costlier steel but local Japanese steel. Many of you may have faced such barriers which are not government barriers that even I cannot fight 'G to G' (government to government). But it comes out of the spirit of nationalism. I think we in India also should look at ways

## Will work towards making Hyderabad the movie capital of India: Rana Daggubati



Rana Daggubati, who spoke at the pre-release event of 'Bheemla Nayak', stated that he will work towards the development of the movie industry and would collaborate to make Hyderabad the movie capital of India.

As Rana spoke at the event, he expressed that he had worked with multiple personalities in the movie industry, but Pawan Kalyan was really special. "My upcoming movies will have Pawan Kalyan's influence", the Bhallaladeva from 'Baahubali' said.

Lauding the ministers of Telangana, who were present at the event, Rana thanked the government of Telangana for being understanding, regarding the problems faced by the movie industry. "I thank Kalvakunta Rama Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and the Telangana government for being helpful. Your positive approach towards the Telugu movie industry will help us grow. I promise to myself, to work towards making Hyderabad the movie capital of India", Rana said. Slated for its release on February 25, the pre-release event of Pawan and Rana-starrer 'Bheemla Nayak' took place in the Yousufguda grounds in Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

Telangana's IT Minister KT Rama Rao and Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav were invited as the chief guests by the makers of 'Bheemla Nayak'. KTR, who spoke at the event conveyed his best regards to the 'Bheemla Nayak' team.

Earlier on Thursday, the IT Minister of Telangana, KTR took to his Twitter, as he wrote, "Took a break from my routine to greet my brothers @PawanKalyan\_guru & @RanaDaggubati & @MusicThaman & director Sagar Chandra for their upcoming movie #BheemlaNayak. Lovely to meet some brilliant musicians such as Padmasri Mogilaiah Garu & Sivamani Garu".



## 'Baal Shiv' artists convey Mahashivratri greetings

Mahashivratri is one of the largest and most significant sacred festivals of India. According to Hindu mythology, Mahashivratri translates to the Great Night of Shiva because it is the night when Mahadev performs his heavenly dance known as the Tandav. It is also said to be the day that marks the marriage of Mahadev and Devi Parvati. This year the festival will take place on March 1st. To commemorate the Mahashivratri celebrations, &TV's Baal Shiv artists Aan Tiwari (Baal Shiv), Mouli Ganguly (Mahasati Anusuya), and Siddharth Arora

(Mahadev) talk about the significance and celebration of the festival. Talking about Mahashivratri celebrations viddhi, Mouli Ganguly, essaying Mahasati Anusuya's character, shares, "Mahashivratri is one of the most revered and sacred festivals, celebrated across the country. It is the darkest night of the month to celebrate the grace of Lord Shiva. It is a night to self-realize introspect to overcome hurdles that hinder our success and achieve spiritual growth. It is an opportunity to disperse limitedness." Tune to watch Baal Shiv every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm, only on &TV!

## HOROSCOPE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

For a moment, it seems that you're swamped with problems. But you are brave enough to deal with any ugly issue that crops up suddenly. Ganesha hints at a romantic evening, which may just be time together in a jacuzzi, or simply preparing a meal together. Pure ecstasy!

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

You will have an emotionally turbulent day. In the afternoon, you will be extra touchy about what others think of you. But by evening, your aesthetic sensibilities will overcome your insecurity and you will be back to your cheerful self after being witness to an exquisite display of performing arts. In fact, you may even want to propose to your sweetheart.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

It's not the Olympics, but for those associated with sports, today, you may come across the opportunity to stake your claim to fame. Also, expect the unexpected and be prepared for a lot of different turn of events in the afternoon. Ganesha can tell that you are brimming to the top with energy and enthusiasm in the evening.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

A productive and fruitful day awaits you, says Ganesha. You are likely to meet up with old friends, or pretty scandalously, hook up with an ex-lover. Expect to be the Queen Bee at social gatherings. Enjoy the buzz.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Let's hope you aren't afraid of heights, Cancer, because today could have you climbing several rungs on the corporate ladder. It seems your hard work over these last few months has paid off. Don't hesitate to accept the challenge that's offered to you.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

A long, drab, dull day awaits you, says Ganesha. Business may not see any major loss today. Later, perhaps, you may feel lost and want to be left alone. The thought of people abandoning you may cross your mind many times. But don't lose heart – every new day brings with it new tidings, says Ganesha.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Since you want to examine things and carry out some research, you will get all the required equipment ready today. You will also be very irritable, and anyone posing a hurdle will face your wrath. Ganesha advises you to be more caring and considerate about the needs of your near and dear ones.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have a inspiring assembly day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Today, your superiors at work are going to trust you with your own fate, assigning work and cleverly getting it done without having to move a muscle. Incidentally, you will put in efforts to get along well with those around you, and unknowingly impress many by dint of your stupendous management skills, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have a inspiring assembly day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

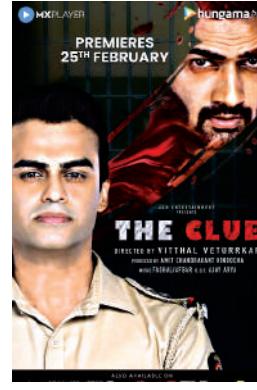
### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

For this one day, you will be the master of your own fate, assigning work and cleverly getting it done without having to move a muscle. Incidentally, you will put in efforts to get along well with those around you, and unknowingly impress many by dint of your stupendous management skills, says Ganesha.

## 'The Clue' web series to premiere today

Web series "The Clue" will stream on Hungama play from 25th February.

MX player and many other reputed OTT platforms will also be streaming this series simultaneously. It's the first season of 6 episodes. The clue web series has been directed by Vithal Vetturkar, made under the banner of Amit C Hindocha's ACH Entertainment pvt. Ltd. with Darshan Jatania as the co producer of the web series. Amrit Dolaawat, Rahul Jain, Raj Kapse, Kalyanji Jana, Ankita Parmar and other artist have acted in the web series. Kulwinder Chane of Durg district has also

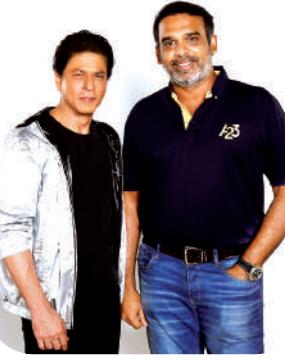


acted in the web series. Before this director Vithal Vetturkar has directed Hindi films, web series and Hindi songs which have been very successful and has given opportunity to many artist from small towns in his projects.

## Shah Rukh Khan to feature in 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign

Head Digital Works, India's premier online skill gaming company, today announced that it has roped in Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan as the Brand Ambassador for its online multi-gaming platform - A23 (www.a23.com). The Baadshah of Bollywood will feature in A23's 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign along with a first of its kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases A23's all new multi-gaming platform which includes various games of skill such as rummy, fantasy sports, carom and pool, with more to come.

"I am delighted to represent a pioneering brand like A23 and also be a part of India's first of its kind



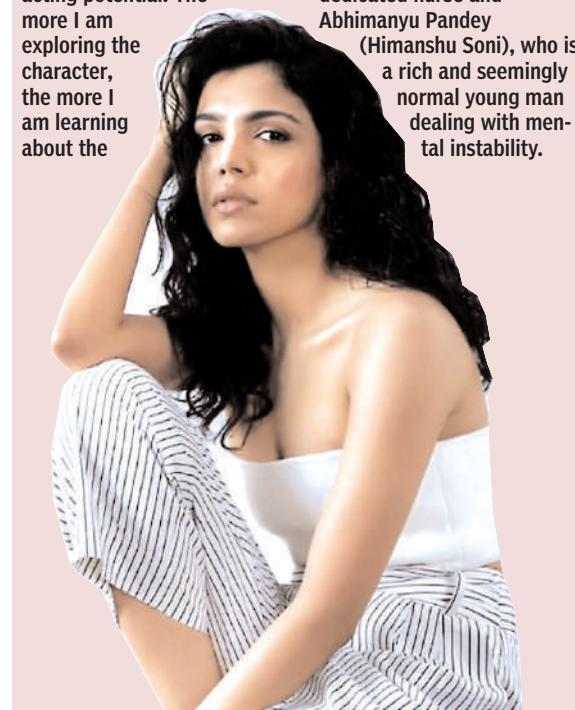
online gaming campaign that proactively initiates the messaging of responsible gaming. A23 has always aimed at providing a premium but inclusive platform for skill gaming enthusiasts. Just like any other form of entertainment, I would urge all online gamers to indulge at their leisure, but responsibly" commented Shah Rukh Khan on his association with A23.

## The more I explore the character, more I learn about the craft: Himanshu Soni



Actor Himanshu Soni who plays Abhimanyu Pandey is getting a lot of appreciation for his role in the show 'Aggar Tum Na Hote'. Himanshu has played a variety of roles in shows like Buddha, Rajon ka Raja, Neeli Chatri wale and Radha Krishna.

He says: "I have always done a variety of shows and I make it a point not to repeat myself as an actor. I'm getting a great response for this show and it has given me an opportunity to explore my acting potential. The more I am exploring the character, the more I am learning about the



## Shriya Pilgaonkar wraps up shoot of 'Crackdown 2' in Kashmir

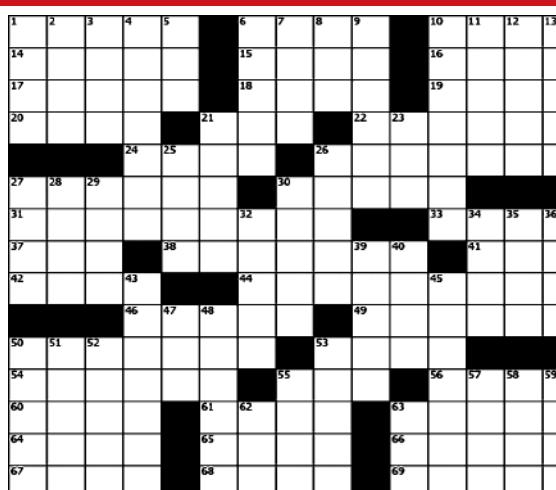
Actress Shriya Pilgaonkar has wrapped the shooting for Apoorva Lakhia's espionage thriller series 'Crackdown' Season 2 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Shriya says, "The shoot of 'Crackdown' Season 2 has been really exciting. We were all happy with the audience response to Season 1 and this time we've taken it a notch higher. She added: "Since I play a double agent, my character has an interesting arc in this season and I got to do a whole lot more action this time which wasn't easy to do especially in the cold weather but the beautiful locations we filmed in made it all even more thrilling." "From the

sand dunes in Jaisalmer to the snow-clad mountains in Kashmir, it's always fun to work with Apoorva Lakhia, Saqib and the team."

Featuring Saqib Saleem and Shriya in lead roles followed by Ankur Bhatia, Mohammed Iqbal Khan, and Waluscha De Sousa Khanna in pivotal roles. Shriya is known for her impeccable character portrayals in 'Fan', 'The Game', 'House Arrest', 'Beecham House' and 'Mirzapur'. The actress awaits the announcement of exciting projects. She has 6 projects releasing this year.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1. Walk heavily
- 2. Bridge term
- 10. Worshippers' seats
- 14. Havana expo
- 15. Zoo enclosure
- 16. Steel ingredient
- 17. Back street
- 18. Rampage
- 19. Heal
- 21. Lass's mate
- 22. Pass, as time
- 24. Stumble
- 26. Male chicken
- 27. Type of staircase
- 30. Small arrows
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_ transmission
- 33. Horse feed
- 37. Indignation
- 38. Shrill cry
- 41. Color
- 42. Audition tape

- 44. Accord
- 45. Car accessory
- 49. Andean animals
- 50. Frying pan
- 53. Building extensions
- 54. Early car (2 wds.)
- 55. Sis's sib
- 56. Clothed
- 60. Precinct
- 61. Floating
- 63. Drizzly
- 64. Slim
- 66. Frosts
- 67. Furious
- 68. Young lady
- 69. Innings number
- 70. Peeled

### DOWN

- 1. Go away!
- 2. Floor piece
- 3. Star
- 4. Conductor's title
- 5. Snoop
- 6. Remnant
- 7. Put down
- 8. Time past
- 9. Falling star
- 10. Artist Pablo \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Explode
- 12. Inferior
- 13. Show contempt
- 21. Pale purple
- 23. Parking area
- 25. Ewes' mates
- 26. Professional speedster

## 224

- 27. Declared
- 28. Uncontaminated
- 29. Ledger entry
- 30. San
- 32. Distinguishing quality
- 34. Attention-getting sound
- 35. Salad fish
- 36. Solidifies
- 39. Viola's kin
- 40. Hades
- 43. New \_\_\_\_\_, Louisiana
- 45. Lash thickener
- 47. 100%
- 48. Hold up
- 50. Little
- 51. "M\*A\*S\*H" locale
- 52. Notions
- 53. Delete
- 55. Existed
- 57. Deceiver
- 58. Poker word
- 59. Colored
- 62. Chem., e.g.
- 63. Pull apart

## SOLUTION 223



## Mayank Agarwal set to captain Punjab Kings in IPL 2022



**New Delhi:** India batter Mayank Agarwal is likely to captain Punjab Kings in the upcoming Indian Premier League. Agarwal, who is part of the Indian Test team, was one of the two players retained by Punjab Kings alongside young pacer Arshdeep Singh ahead of the mega auction earlier this month. A formal announcement is expected soon. "In all likelihood, Mayank will captain the side. The announcement is expected later this week," an IPL source told PTI. Punjab, who went into the auction with the maximum purse, made good use of the money by getting the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada and buying back left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar and explosive Tamil Nadu batter Shahrukh Khan. Dhawan's name as captain was also doing the rounds but the management was keen on Agarwal as the leader even before the auction.

## Casino used morphed images for promotion: Tendulkar

**Mumbai:** Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said he would initiate legal action against a casino for using his morphed images to promote itself on social media. It is learnt that Tendulkar's images were used to promote 'Big Daddy' casino, which is located in Goa. "While my legal team will be taking the required action, I felt it was important for me to share this information with everyone," the legendary right-handed batter posted on his Twitter page. "It has come to my notice that there are multiple ads being shown on social media platforms, with a morphed photo showing me endorsing a casino," he further said. The 48-year-old Tendulkar, who has numerous records under his belt and also been a former national captain, stressed that he was pained to see his images being used to mislead people.

## Rishabh Pant joins D2H as its Brand Ambassador

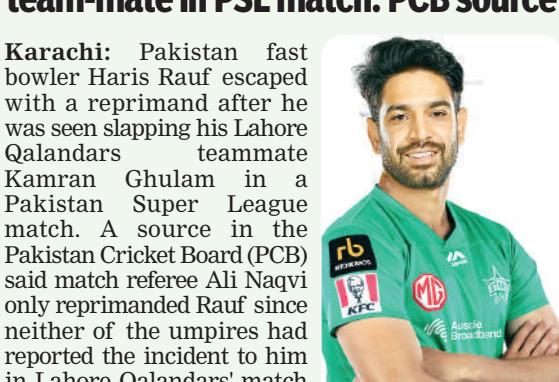


**New Delhi:** Star cricketer Rishabh Pant was on Thursday named as the new brand ambassador of D2H, a direct broadcast satellite service provider owned by Dish TV. Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication of D2H for the next two years. Speaking on the partnership, Pant said, "D2H is a large DTH brand with a long record of disruptive innovation in the industry. It is wonderful to be associated with D2H and looking forward to working closely with the team to take it to greater heights." Commenting on the association, Anil Dua, Executive Director & Group CEO, Dish TV India Ltd said, "We are delighted to have Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador for our D2H brand. Our brands are our biggest strength."

## IPL 2022 set to be held in four venues in Mumbai and Pune

**New Delhi:** The matches of the upcoming Indian Premier League will be held in four venues across two cities - Mumbai and Pune, according to a report. While 55 matches will be held in Mumbai across three venues - Wankhede Stadium, DY Patil and Brabourne Stadium, Pune's MCA International Stadium will play host to 15 games, cricbuzz.com reported. All the IPL teams are set to play four games each at the Wankhede and DY Patil Stadium and three apiece at Brabourne and Pune, according to the report. While the BCCI is yet to finalise the starting date of IPL 2022, the lucrative T20 tournament is expected to start in the last week of March. The venues for the playoffs are also yet to be decided and a decision is expected to be taken in the IPL governing council meeting scheduled for Thursday.

## Haris Rauf reprimanded for slapping team-mate in PSL match: PCB source



**Karachi:** Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf escaped with a reprimand after he was seen slapping his Lahore Qalandars teammate Kamran Ghulam in a Pakistan Super League match. A source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said match referee Ali Naqvi only reprimanded Rauf since neither of the umpires had reported the incident to him in Lahore Qalandars' match against Peshawar Zalmi. Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi and some other ex players, however, felt that Rauf was out of line. I don't think it was an incident that should have happened in a match with the world watching, it doesn't leave a good impression even if Haris didn't mean it, Afridi said. I hope Haris learns from this incident because it was in bad taste and in future if he repeats it he will be in big trouble, he added.

# Wanted some space, says Kohli on stepping down as RCB skipper

**Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTI):**

Virat Kohli, who had stepped down as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper after the 2021 IPL season, said he took that call to give himself some space and manage his workload.

Kohli had announced his decision to leave IPL captaincy after saying that T20 World Cup will be his last tournament as India skipper in the shortest format.

He was later removed as ODI captain before he quit the leadership role in five-day format.

"I'm not someone who holds onto things more than I should. Even if I know I can do a lot more, if I'm not going to enjoy the process, I'm not going to do it," Kohli, one of the modern day greats, said on "The RCB Podcast" about dropping the captain's armband.

The former RCB and India skipper asserted that it is very difficult for people to understand what a cricketer thinks while taking such decisions.

"Because it's very difficult for people to understand your decisions unless they are in your situation. From the outside, people have their own ex-



pectations Oh! How did that happen? We are so shocked," added Kohli, who is on the verge of playing his 100th Test.

"There's nothing to be shocked about. I explain to people, I wanted some space and I wanted to manage my workload and the story ends there."

Right from the inaugu-

ral IPL till last season, RCB have never won the cash-rich tournament.

Rubbishing all the conversations that people had about his decision, Kohli cleared the air saying, "There was actually nothing at all. I keep my life very simple and basic, when I wanted to make a decision, I made a decision

and I announced it. I didn't want to think about it and contemplate it for another year. That would've done nothing to me, nothing to the environment I'm part of. Quality of life is something very important to me. And the quality of cricket is something very important to me.

"Over a period of time, you want to do what you're doing day-in-and-day-out and you want to do as much as you can, but at the end of the day, you have to realize that quality is far more important than quantity," stressed Kohli.

The elegant top order batter also stressed that he has always been himself.

"Quantity in hard work but quality in execution. That is the key. If you go for quantity in execution, then you're going to get burnt out. If I can't be myself in my everyday life and I can't be myself on the field, I will change something.

"Because that is who I am. That is the reason I am where I am. And that is the reason why people can connect to me at a certain level. My loved ones, people who are close to me, my friends they connected to me because of that factor, because I've always been myself," he signed off.

## Medvedev beats Andujar to move closer to top tennis ranking



**Acapulco, Feb 24 (AP):**

Daniil Medvedev and Rafael Nadal had comfortable wins on Wednesday at the Mexican Open and a rematch of their epic five-set final at the Australian Open appears to be on the horizon.

Medvedev took another step toward top spot in the ATP rankings with a dominant 6-1 6-2 second-round victory over Pablo Andujar while Nadal cruised past Stefan Kozlov 6-0 6-3.

If Medvedev beats Yoshihito Nishioka in the quarterfinals and Nadal does the same

against Tommy Paul, the two players will meet again in the semifinals less than a month after the Spaniard rallied to win the final at Melbourne for his record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

Paul advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-6(6) 2-6, 7-5 with a win over Dusan Lajovic and Nishioka progressed after rallying to beat Taylor Fritz 3-6 6-4 6-2.

The 26-year-old Medvedev is trying to replace Novak Djokovic atop the rankings and could achieve that goal if he wins the title in Acapulco.

He needed just over an hour to beat Andujar the morning after defending champion Alexander Zverev was kicked out of the Mexican Open for violently smashing his racket on the umpire's chair moments after losing a doubles match.

"If I do it's going to mean a lot, there would be a lot of statistics mentioned, since when this or since when that's going to be fun, but first I have to achieve it, it's my main goal to win as many matches as possible in the next few weeks," Medvedev said.

## India avoid whitewash against NZ

**Queenstown, Feb 24 (PTI):**

Harmanpreet Kaur struck a much-needed half-century to get back among the runs as the Indian women's cricket team finally managed to beat New Zealand in the series-ending fifth ODI for a consolatory six-wicket win here on Thursday.

The Indian bowlers, who under-performed prior to the game, finally got their act together to limit New Zealand to 251 for nine in 50 overs.

India chased the down the target in 46 overs courtesy Harmanpreet's 63 off 66 balls and Smriti Mandhana's 71 off 84 balls. Skipper Mithali Raj remained unbeaten on 57 off 66 balls.

Having lost the one off T20 and first four ODIs, India badly needed a win to gain some momentum going into the ODI World Cup next month.

The spinners, who struggled to provide the breakthroughs, shared seven wickets among themselves on Thursday.

Deepti Sharma,



Harmanpreet Kaur has been under a bit of pressure to retain her spot in the Indian XI.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Sneh Rana took two wickets each while pacer Meghna Singh too was impressive in the five overs she bowled.

Star batter Mandhana, who had missed the first three ODIs and the T20 due to an extended stay in quarantine, also got some valuable time in the middle.

The ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year collected nine fours in her 84-ball effort. Harmanpreet must be relieved after scoring her first fifty in

close to 12 months.

She was dropped from the previous game after a prolonged lean patch and came under heavy criticism from former players including ex captain Diana Edulji.

She used the sweep shot effectively to collect a bunch of boundaries before using a pull shot to reach the half-century.

The Indian team needs to be consistent with performances like they put on Thursday if it is to challenge for the world title.

Star India batter Smriti Mandhana said it was important from the team's perspective that Harmanpreet Kaur found form ahead of the Women's World Cup and the struggling bowling unit needs to build on the performance it produced in the fifth ODI against New Zealand here on Thursday.

Harmanpreet scored her first half century in close to 12 months to help India chase down 251 rather comfortably. Mandhana, who missed the first three ODIs due to quarantine requirements, struck 71 and skipper Mithali Raj remained unbeaten on 57.

"It has been a tough month for us as a team and for the three of us who were in quarantine (Renuka and Meghna Singh being the other two). It is good to be back in the open air, play some

## It was important that Harman got runs: Mandhana

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"It has been a tough month for us as a team and for the three of us who were in quarantine (Renuka and Meghna Singh being the other two). It is good to be back in the open air, play some

cricket and contribute for India," said Mandhana in the post match press conference. Mandhana revealed that she joined the team later in New Zealand due to "personal problems" and that is why she completed the MIQ much later after the rest of the team.

The bowling proved to be the weakest link in the series India lost 1-4 with the visitors unable to defend even 270. On Thursday, it was another impressive batting performance as India chased

down the target in 46 overs. "We needed a good base to chase 250 and that is what we were looking for. Batting first, we are getting good scores around 250. Of course we are not getting the wins. It is something we are working on, defending totals.

"We will get better. That is the talk in the camp and I am sure it will happen in the World Cup," said the southpaw.

India open their World Cup campaign against Pakistan on March 6.

## Women's WC to go ahead with 9 players a side in case of COVID outbreak

**Dubai, Feb 24 (PTD):**

With an aim to conduct an uninterrupted tournament, the ICC on Thursday said all matches at the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand could be played with nine players in case of a COVID-19 outbreak.

The nine-player-a-side game is already in place in the ICC guidelines related to playing conditions and has been in effect since the U-19 World Cup in the West Indies, where India won the title for a record fifth time.

The ICC official also didn't rule out rescheduling of games if needed.

"We'll be asking teams to show maximum flexibility and we'll be as flexible as possible if the need arises to fulfil our objective, which is to get the games on," he said. The tournament begins on March 4 with the opening match between hosts New Zealand and West Indies in Mount Maunganui.

Tetley was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"And if they had female substitutes from within their management team, we would allow two substitutes to play - non-batting, non-bowling - to enable a game to take place."

Keeping the pandemic scenario in mind, all teams have been allowed to take along three extra players as travelling reserves, who can be brought in the 15-member main squad should there be a COVID casualty.

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## AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers: India clubbed with Cambodia, Afghanistan and Hong Kong



**New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTD):**

The Indian team was on Thursday drawn alongside Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Cambodia in Group D of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup final round qualifiers to be played in Kolkata in June this year.

The official draw ceremony was held at the Asian

Football Confederation (AFC) headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. India will play Cambodia on June 8, followed by matches against Afghanistan and Hong Kong on June 11 and Hong Kong on June 14. All matches will be played at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. The participating 24 teams have been divided into six groups. The

six group winners and the five best second-placed teams will earn a ticket to the AFC Asian Cup in China in 2023. The Blue Tigers had made it to the final round of the qualifiers after finishing third in Group E in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup Joint Qualifiers.

Commenting about the teams in the group, Stimac urged everyone to "take it seriously to get the job done."

"Afghanistan have always been a difficult opponent. They come with players who have experience playing in international leagues."

"Hong Kong will also be strengthened with their three players from Brazil, maybe one each from the UK, and New Zealand join them, along with a host of others who play abroad. But we need to justify our position as a pot 1 team," the head coach said.

### Fixtures

June 8:	India vs Cambodia
June 11:	Afghanistan vs India
June 14:	India vs Hong Kong.

"Draws can always be good or bad. But we need to do our job," head coach Igor Stimac said after the draw.

## CM BAGHEL PRAYS FOR PEACE



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel offers prayer at the Gorakhnath Temple, in Gorakhpur, Thursday.

## NSE Academy inks pact with IIM, Raipur

## For collaboration as knowledge partner

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

NSE Academy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), on Thursday said it has joined hands with Indian Institute of Management, Raipur to collaborate in the area of joint certification programmes in finance and financial technologies.

Under this collaboration, both the institutions will offer market defining, several long term and short terms programmes for working professionals and organisations willing

to build leadership capabilities in the area of finance and financial technologies.

These programmes will offer an overall development to the participants and groom them to face the global challenges. These programmes will be offered in both online and hybrid mode and certified by both the institutions.

"NSE has always been at the forefront of driving innovation in the Indian BFSI sector. Our collaboration with a premium institution like the Indian Institute of Management, Raipur will build a solid foundation for professionals aspiring to build careers and upskill them-

selves in areas of financial services and related technologies," Vikram Limaye, MD and CEO of NSE, said.

Abhilash Misra, Chief Executive Officer of NSE Academy, said the collaboration with IIM Raipur will add to NSE Academy's integral role in developing competitive skillsets for finance professionals along with regular upskilling required for the talent pool to be future ready.

IIM Raipur Director Bharat Bhasker said the collaboration will lead to human resource development in the country by providing better trained financial managers.

## 'Rs 19,111 cr assets attached out of total fraud by Mallya, Nirav Modi &amp; Choksi'

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The timely attachment of proceeds of crime has led to the attachment of assets worth over Rs 19,000 crore out of the "total fraud of over Rs 22,500 crore by three fugitive offenders Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

These figures were mentioned in the note submitted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in the apex court, which is hearing arguments on a batch of petitions concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

While advancing his submissions in the matter on Thursday, Mehta, who

is appearing for the Centre, told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that he had yesterday referred to the attachment of assets worth over Rs 18,000 crore of these three persons.

It is submitted that timely attachment of proceeds of crime has led to attachment of assets worth of Rs 19,111.20 crore out of total fraud of Rs 22,585.83 crore by three fugitive offenders namely Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, Mehta has said in his note filed before the bench, which also comprised Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar.

It is said that out of the attached proceeds of crime from these three individuals, assets of Rs 15,113.91 crore have already been returned to the public sector banks by the

## Delhi govt increases monthly honorarium, allowance

## Of Anganwadi workers, helpers

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

The Delhi government on Thursday decided to increase the monthly honorarium and allowance of Anganwadi workers and helpers who are on strike for the past several days. Women and Child Development minister Rajendra Pal Gautam said the increased honorarium and allowance will be paid to the Anganwadi workers and helpers from March.

Till now, Anganwadi workers were paid Rs 9,678 as honorarium and Rs 200 as communication allowance for maintaining mobile phones. The Delhi government has now raised the honorarium of

Anganwadi workers to Rs 11,220 besides increasing the conveyance and communication allowance to Rs 1,500, he said. The honorarium of helpers has been increased from Rs 4,839 to Rs 5,610. They will also get Rs 1,200 as conveyance and communication allowance, said the minister.

Gautam claimed that the total honorarium of Rs 12,720 for Anganwadi workers and Rs 6,810 for helpers will be the highest in the entire country. The minister appealed to the striking Anganwadi workers and helpers to join their duties and start distribution of nutrients to the women and children.

has fielded Arti Kol.

In invoking Shiv Sena founder and grandfather Bal Thackeray, he hit out at the BJP for spreading hatred among communities in the name of religion and

dubbing farmers, who had protested against the now-repealed farm laws as "Maoists, extremists and terrorists".

"Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray always said politics should be for the welfare of the people. This is reflected in the politics of Shiv Sena.

Governance is not about religion, but about the welfare of the people," the 31-year-old Thackeray scion said.

Thackeray, son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, is being projected as the next generation leader of the Shiv Sena and is taking keen interest in the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal elections.

Shiv Sena had fielded 60 candidates in the Uttar Pradesh elections. However, 41 are in fray as the Election Commission

had rejected the candidature of 19.

Thackeray, the minister for Tourism and Environment in the Maharashtra government, regretted that Shiv Sena was part of the NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi which he said had committed a string of mistakes.

He said the people had given an overwhelming mandate to the BJP in 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections and the general elections in 2019.

"The BJP never fulfilled the promises it made, but only spread hatred and fear. It only talks about the state being in danger. This is the land of Shri Ram. There is no danger here," Thackeray said.

## HIJAB ROW

## Sikh girl told to remove turban by Bengaluru college

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (PTI):

the students about the Court order when the educational institution reopened on February 16.

However, the deputy director of pre-university education during his visit to the college earlier this week, on finding a group of girls in hijab, informed them about the Court order, asked them to abide by it.

These girls demanded that no girls including the Sikh should be allowed to wear religious symbols. The college then got in touch with the Sikh girl's father informing him about the court order and the need to abide by it.

According to sources, the girl's family is said to be of the stand that their daughter will not remove the turban and is taking legal opinion, with High Court and government order not mentioning about Sikh turban.

As protests for and against the hijab intensified in different parts of Karnataka and turned violent in some places, the government had declared a holiday for all high schools and colleges in the state from February 9, they were however reopened on February 16, following the High Court order.

## KALASH YATRA



Women carry vessels filled with water from the Yamuna river during Kalash Yatra before the beginning of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, in Agra, Thursday.

## Weapons dropped by drone along IB recovered

Jammu, Feb 24 (PTI): Police recovered a huge quantity of weapons dropped by a drone along the International Border in RS Pura sector here, officials said. A search operation was launched by the special operations group (SOG) of the police following information about a drone activity and dropping of weapons by Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Force (TRF) at the behest of ISI in RS Pura-Arnia area in Jammu district, a senior police officer said.

The operation led to the recovery of one pistol with two magazines and 70 rounds, three detonators, three remote-controlled IEDs, three bottles of explosives, one bundle of cortex wire, two-timer IEDs and six grenades at Treva village of Arnia sector, the officials said.

ONLINE PENSION SERVICES  
Defence Ministry signs MoU with CSC e-Governance

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI):

statement noted.

"For these pensioners, the service centres will become an interface for SPARSH and provide an effective medium for pensioners to perform profile update requests, register grievances and seek redressal, digital annual identification, pensioner data verification or simply fetch detailed information regarding their monthly pension," it mentioned.

SPARSH has been designed keeping defence pensioners at the centre, who will be given a completely transparent view of their pension account, through an online portal, it stated.

## 22-year-old accident victim gets hand from brain dead Guj man

Mumbai, Feb 24 (PTD):

A 28-year-old brain dead man's hands were transported to Mumbai from Gujarat's Ahmedabad to be transplanted to a man who lost his hand in a freak accident. Prathamesh Tawde (22) lost his left hand and three fingers of his right hand in an accident at a tyre factory in Mumbai in April last year.

Prathamesh's hands had gotten trapped in a machine and he sustained burns over his forearms and thighs due to hot rubber. His left hand was amputated at distal forearm level and he lost three fin-

gers of his right hand in the accident. After undergoing primary treatment at a hospital in suburban Bhandup, the teen was registered for a hand transplant two months ago and was on the waiting list.

On February 9, the Tawde family received a call from the hospital that a pair of limbs were being donated in Ahmedabad, where a man who met with a motorcycle accident, was announced brain dead and his family had decided to donate his hands and internal organs.

We had to relocate from Vaibhavwadi (Sindhudurg

district) to Diva (a suburb in Thane) for his treatment. Since then (April 2021), we have been here, Prathamesh's sister Shraddha (21) said.

Prathamesh came across a video on hand transplant surgery on Facebook and inquired about it in the comments, following which a hospital got in touch with the family, she said. The hands of the accident victim were flown from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in a charter flight on February 10.

The organ was carefully preserved in special solutions and packed on ice for transportation, it was stated. A large team of doctors

comprising surgeons from plastic, hand, microvascular orthopaedic departments and anaesthesiologists participated in the complex 13-hour surgery, it was stated.

The surgery was very challenging, said Nilesh Satbhai, head of the department, senior consultant, Plastic, Hand and Reconstructive microsurgery & Transplant Surgery at Global Hospital, Parel. The recipient limb on the left side was severely scarred and damaged. Due to primary crush a partial transplant was done on the right side. We transplanted only the index,

middle and ring fingers to the hand, without disturbing or damaging the patient's original thumb and little finger. This is more difficult to do than a standard forearm level transplant, he said.

In hand transplant, the bones are fixed first, followed by repair of the blood vessels. This is followed by the repair of the muscles, tendons and nerves. The skin is then adjusted to cover all the wounds and give it a proper shape. A crossmatch between the donor and the recipient is a crucial decision maker in the process of hand transplants, Dr Satbhai explained.

statement noted.

The Ministry of Defence has signed a memorandum of understanding with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited to provide online pension services at over four lakh common service centres across the country, an official statement said on Thursday.

The MoU will provide last mile connectivity to pensioners, especially those who reside in remote areas of the country and those who do not have the means or technical wherewithal to log on to System for Pension Administration-Raksha (SPARSH), the ministry's