



### BRIEF



A labourer shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote, during the fourth phase of UP Assembly polls, in Pilibhit district, Wednesday.

### Dismiss

**Kochi:** The Kerala High Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal against a single judge order upholding the re-appointment of Gopinath Ravindran as the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Kannur University, saying it was done in accordance with the law and that he was not "an usurper to the post".

### Disburse

**Kolkata:** The West Bengal government Wednesday began disbursement of compensation to consenting landowners in Deocha Pachami coal mining project area in Birbhum district and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee personally handed over compensation cheques and job appointment letters to six families concerned.

### Air exercise

**New Delhi:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in a three-week multilateral air exercise at Waddington in the UK from March 6 with a fleet of five Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA). The IAF said on Wednesday that 'Cobra Warrior 22' exercise is aimed at providing operational exposure and sharing best practices amongst the participating air forces.

### Mishap

**Agra (UP):** Three people were killed and five others injured as their van collided with a bus here, just a few kilometres away from the venue of a wedding function they were going to attend, police said on Wednesday.

**Weather**  
High 34 Low 17

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,063.25  
SENSEX 57,232.06

**BULLION**  
GOLD 50,152  
SILVER 64,269

## Rs 18,000 cr returned to banks from Vijay Mallya, others: Govt

**New Delhi, Feb 23:**

An amount of Rs 18,000 crore has been returned to banks from fugitive tycoons Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, the government has told the Supreme Court, which is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the wide scope of powers given to the Enforcement Directorate in connection to money laundering cases.

In India, 4,700 PMLA cases are being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the total proceeds of crimes pending before the court amounts to ₹ 67,000 crore, the Centre said. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar

## ED arrests Maha minister Nawab Malik

**Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Maharashtra Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik in a money-laundering case probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, his aides and the Mumbai underworld, officials said.

The 62-year-old NCP leader was taken into custody shortly before 3 PM after he was questioned for about six hours at the ED office in south Mumbai's Ballard Estate area. He was brought there by the agency at around 8 AM.

Malik raised a clenched fist, smiled and waved towards the waiting media



NCP leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik being taken for a medical test after his arrest by the Enforcement Director (ED) in connection with a money laundering case involving Dawood Ibrahim, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

personnel before he was taken away for a medical checkup by agency officials in a vehicle escorted by CRPF personnel and

local police. He told the media from inside the vehicle: "We will fight and we will win. Will expose all." Officials said his state-

### 'Will fight and win, won't bow down'

Maharashtra Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik, who was on Wednesday arrested in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of the Mumbai underworld, said he won't bow down. Will fight and win. Won't bow down, Malik said waving to waiting media as he stepped out of the ED office in south Mumbai after spending eight hours there. Will expose all, he said, before being taken by ED officials in a vehicle for medical check-up. The minister later tweeted a video clip of him making those remarks. His office also tweeted, Main jhukega nahil (won't bow down).

ment was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and he was arrested under the same provisions as he was "evasive" in his replies.

He will be produced in a court in Mumbai where the agency is expected to seek his custody for at least seven days. Malik's

alleged links to some property deals with those convicted for the Mumbai blasts are said to be under the radar of the federal probe agency and hence his questioning was necessitated. His party and NCP leaders had said he was taken by ED officials from his residence around 6 AM.

## 'Chh'garh govt's scheme in UP to solve stray cattle issue'

**Amethi (UP), Feb 23 (PTI):**

Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said if her party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, it will adopt the Chhattisgarh government's scheme to buy cow dung to deal with the menace of stray cattle.

Referring to a recent speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi wherein he promised voters that a new policy will be introduced after March 10 to tackle the issue of stray cattle in Uttar Pradesh, Vadra said



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra waves at the people, during a roadshow in support of Congress candidate Ashish Shukla for the UP Assembly elections, in Amethi, Wednesday.

she is happy that he 'copied' the Congress' sug-

gestion. Addressing a public

## 'Six vehicles set on fire'

**Hyderabad, Feb 23:**

meeting in Jagdishpur here, she said the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government has shown how to solve this issue.

"It (Chhattisgarh government) started buying cow dung from people for Rs 2 per kilogram. Initially people mocked this scheme. But then people started taking care of stray animals and sold cow dung to the government, which utilised it by giving it to self-help groups and by making vermicompost, fertiliser, gobar gas from it. The problem was solved," she said.

Six vehicles engaged in construction of a bridge were set on fire allegedly by some suspected Maoists in Bhadradi Kothagudem district bordering Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, police said. The incident happened in Dummugudem mandal and the police was informed about the incident by some locals, a senior police official said adding they were verifying into the matter.

## Naxalites set engine of goods train on fire



### Around 150 naxalites stopped the good's train near Bhansi station

**Dantewada, Feb 23:**

It was on the night of Tuesday at 9:00 pm, more than about 150 Naxalites set a good's train engine on Visakhapatnam - KK Railway Line on fire. This group of naxalites comprised of naxals from West Bastar division and Bhairamgarh Area Committee.

As per information in this regard, a train bearing No. KMRSL-2/G9 MU Loco No. 33400/41553 was carrying iron ore from NMDC's Bachel mine to Koraput and it was driven by Loco Pilot AK Patel and Asst. Loco Pilot RK Kumar. It was on reaching Bhansi railway station of Dantewada district, around more than 150 nax-

alites were found present on the track. The Naxalites have flashed banners on the railway track and in view of likely incident, applied emergency brakes and stopped the good's train.

No sooner the good's train halted, the naxalites took both the Loco pilots into arrest and seized their mobile and walkie-talkie. After this the Naxalites torched the engine of the good's train and ran away towards the jungle. The place where the Naxalites torched the engine, there many a times the bogies of trains have got derailed. On Tuesday night also the armed Naxalite had come and left many brochures and naxal literature at the site of the incident mentioning with charges of loss to farmers, labourers, tribals, women and action against Muslim in the name of Nava Bharat. The Naxalites have also called for nation-wide strike on Feb 23-24.

## Man sentenced to 20 years RI

**Balod, Feb 23:**

A special court has sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for abducting and raping a five-year-old girl in Balod district.

Special POCSO judge Mukesh Kumar Patre on Tuesday convicted Ramkumar Salam (25), a resident of Bhainsbod under Balod police station limits, of charges under the Protection of

### About the verdict

The accused was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3,500 was imposed on him. According to the prosecution, in November 2021, accused Salam abducted the minor girl and sexually exploited her. The child returned home and narrated the entire incident to her parents. Taking swift action in the case, the police arrested Salam immediately and the chargesheet was produced in the court within 48 hours of the incident.

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and IPC, special public prosecutor Channu Lal Sahu said.

The accused was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3,500 was imposed on him, he said.

According to the prosecution, in November 2021, Salam abducted the minor girl and sexually exploited her. The child returned home and narrated the entire incident to her parents.

## 'Dynasts ignored problems of Muslim women because of vote bank politics'

**Barabanki (UP), Feb 23 (PTI):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hit out at rivals, saying they only bothered about "vote-bank politics" and did not pay attention to the "mountain-like" problems faced by Muslim women due to evil practices like triple talaq. Addressing an election rally for Barabanki and Ayodhya districts, he claimed that the opposition parties are rattled as

the poor people, who have benefited from various welfare schemes including free ration during coronavirus pandemic, are carrying the BJP's victory flag. Increasing the safety and dignity of daughters has always been the priority of the double-engine government, the prime minister said and highlighted the large-scale recruitment of women in Uttar Pradesh Police as well as in the paramilitary forces and the army.

## No end to Lalu's troubles

**Ranchi, Feb 23 (PTI):**

More troubles are likely for the ailing RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, incarcerated in the Rs 950 crore fodder scam and now undergoing treatment in Rajendra Prasad Institute of Medical Science here, as the Enforcement Directorate may confiscate assets created by those convicted in the scandal in line with the directions to CBI by a special court.

The former Bihar chief minister was earlier this week sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court here in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore from Doranda treasury.

The special court directed CBI to provide a copy of the judgment, the FIR and the charge sheet of the fodder scam case to the ED for necessary action.

In the judgment delivered on February 21, CBI special judge Sudhanshu Kumar Shashi said "I find that the properties/assets created from the proceeds of the crime by the convicts and dead accused persons of this case could not be identified."

He said it may be a subject for investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

# LIC IPO

## Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.\*
- Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.

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

### DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.

OR

- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:

**NSDL:** [https://nsdl.co.in/Open\\_NSDL\\_Demat\\_Account.php](https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php)  
**CDSL:** <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/html/citigroupglobalbscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfi.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpimfi.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the RHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or an exemption from such registration. No public offering or sale of securities in the United States is contemplated.

Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

**Har Pal Aapke Saath**



## Banned tablets, injections worth Rs 50 lakh seized

**Main accused of inter-state gang of smugglers arrested from Odisha**

Raipur, Feb 23:

The Raipur Police has succeeded in nabbing the main accused of inter-state gang and smuggler from Odisha involved in supplying of banned tablets and drugs in the state and this is 5th major action against drug smugglers. It is notable here that few days back the Narcotics Cell



had nabbed 3 from near Lotus Hospital, in Rajatalab in Raipur and seized large quantity of 'Ganja', 'Charas', and psychotropic tablets from their possession.. When the police held in-

terrogation with the accused, then the accused disclosed name of Tapas Kumar Parida and Samir Kumar of Odisha and purchasing it from them. On this a 10-member team was dispatched to

Odisha and there they tried to get in touch with the accused as customers and gained their confidence. The team with strategy sent one of their persons to purchase banned tablets from the

gang and managed to arrest the main accused involved in it.

When both the accused were interrogated, they accepted about selling of banned tablets and injections roaming in their vehicles in Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring states.

The police seized total 5630 pieces of Nitrosen (10); 26,400 pieces of 'Gulkan' - banned injection; cash of Rs 10000 and all items worth Rs 50 lakhs. Case has been filed against the accused in Kotwali Thana and further action is in process.

## Five accused arrested in two different cases



Raipur: The Narcotics Cell of Raipur Police has taken another major action and seized 18 Kg 'Ganja' during a search and in another case, seized banned psychotropic tablets worth lakhs. Along with this the police arrested total five accused including two inter-state smugglers.

The Narcotics Cell of capital police got information on Wednesday morning that two persons are waiting along with 'Ganja' at New Bus Stand in Bhatagaon and are likely to move to

**Police seizes 18 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.50 lakh and banned Nitro tablets**

some place. On this as per instructions from senior officers, a combined team of Cyber Cell, Narcotics Cell and Tikrapara Thana police staff reached the site and arrested the two accused.

When the team members tried to inquire about details of the above two persons, they tied to run away and were caught after chas-

ing them. The two accused arrested are Mahendra Sriwas and Lalu Sriwas R/o Katni (MP). When the combined team members conducted search of the two, they found 18 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.50 lakh in their possession.

In another action, the Police seized banned Nitro-10 tablets and a total of 1070 pieces of Nitro Tablets were seized from three accused and in this case Anil Dadsena alias Golu R/o Khadan Basti Daganiya, Tannu Agrawal R/o Odisha and Amjad Khan R/o Odisha.

## 371 Kg 'Ganja', Gold jewellery worth Rs 29 lakh seized



Rajnandgaon: The Rajnandgaon Police has got a major breakthrough in its action against drug smugglers and narcotics and nabbed a person with 371 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 22.26 lakh, 57 'tola' gold worth Rs 29 lakh and cash of Rs 12.48 lakh from his residence.

SP Rajnandgaon Santosh Singh making disclosure in this regard informed that it was on tip of an informer that the Police conducted raid in the house of history-sheeter Pukhraj Verma, of Tulsipur and seized huge quantity of drugs from his residence. For this the police formulated a strategy and then took to heels.

As per the strategy, on intervening night of Feb 22-23, the Police conducted raid in the house of Pukhraj Verma and

seized 371 Kg 'Ganja' and it was illegally and secretly hidden in his house and it is estimated to cost around Rs 22.26 lakh in the market.

**Gold worth Rs 29 lakh seized:** Along with 'Ganja' the Police also seized gold jewellery worth Rs 29 lakh from his residence and cash of Rs 12 lakhs, totaling around Rs 63 lakhs. The Police seized the entire lot in a plastic bag.

SP Santosh Singh informed that accused Pukhraj Verma too has been arrested and he is already having 13 different crime cases registered against himself including that of murder, theft, beating, scolding and others. The Kotwali Police Rajnandgaon took this action formulating a well-planned strategy.

## SANT-SAMAGAM



Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated 'Sant-Samagam' at ongoing Rajim Maghi Punni Mela in the presence of 'Sadhus-Sants' and performed prayers in the temple of Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan and offered prayers on the banks of Mahanadi and sought blessings for people of the state.

## Summer vacation to be cut short to bridge the learning gap of students

Raipur, Feb 23: State Government's Education Department has decided to cut short the duration of summer vacation, in order to compensate the learning loss of the students. Parents and students are happy with this decision of the department. It is noteworthy that the school education has been in a disarray for a long time due to COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused major learning loss for the students. Keeping in view this loss, Education Department has decided to cut short the duration of summer vacations so as to bridge the learning gap for students. Parents and children have welcomed this decision of the Education Department. Meanwhile, teachers will be teaching the students while keeping in mind the learning loss during pandemic. This would help the students to participate in the next class with full enthusiasm. Efforts will be made to ensure 100% attendance of the students, but it will not be made compulsory. The time table of the schools will be prepared according to the season to avoid any inconvenience.

## Traders are also covid warriors: Smriti Irani

Raipur, Feb 23: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed Union Minister Shrimati Smriti Irani called upon the business community of the country to upgrade & modernise its existing business format under Digital India mission of PM Narendra Modi to live up to the expectations to meet global challenges. She was delivering a keynote address to top 150 trade leaders of the country who gathered at New Delhi for their two days National Traders Conference organised by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed that

speaking at the Conference Mrs. Irani lauded the role of CAIT for consolidating the business community and imparting them awareness to adopt and accept new & innovative ways of conducting business activities. She said that traders of the country have given sacrifices every time whenever it was needed whether it was freedom struggle movement or socio economic development of the country or meeting the dire need of providing daily consumables to the people of India during the covid pandemic in last two years even at the cost of their own sufferings. She called upon the trade leaders to document the traders who have served the country in various capacities whether economic, social, religious, educational or in any other field. The traders of India have a legacy of serving the country. Refereeing Bhamashah and Lala Lajpat Rai, she recalled various other people who did not leg behind in providing crucial support. She equated the traders as "Covid Warriors" as well.

## BJP to gherao Minister over Users' charge today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would gherao the Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Daharia on February 24 seeking withdrawal of Users' Charge from public. According to the information received, the BJP would hold demonstration under the leadership of Raipur City BJP President Shrichand Sundrani and Leader of Opposition in Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) Meenal Choubey to register protest against the increase in Users' charge from people by the Raipur Municipal Corporation. BJP have chalked out a strategy in this regard to gherao Minister Daharia. BJP would also raise the issue of promise the Congress had made in the election manifesto to reduce the Property Tax by 50% but no steps have been taken. Instead of reducing the Property Tax, the Congress government has now imposed User's Charge on Public which would be opposed, the BJP leaders stated. Choubey said that while the entire development works have been carried out through Raipur Smart City Limited fund, the RMC is unnecessarily creating financial burden for the Public by imposing Users' charge. All the BJP office-bearers as well as BJP Corporators have been asked to be present during the demonstration.

## Air passengers increased by more than 7000



**50 new additional flights**

Raipur, Feb 23: As the effect of corona infection dropped, the movement of air passengers has also started increasing. In the last seven days, the movement of passengers from Raipur airport has increased by more than seven thousand. Also, there was of more than 50 additional flights in these seven days. According to the information received from the aviation officials, a total of 38,608 air

passengers boarded from Swami Vivekananda Airport in the period from February 14 to February 20. This is 24 percent more than the previous week. Similarly, the movement of flights has also been 314, which is 20 percent more than its previous week. Aviation officials said that with the reduction of corona infection, now due to the relief given in the rules, air passengers have also started increasing. Due to the increase in the number of passengers, now the airlines have also started making new plans. As per

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), traders are also demanding to start air service from Raipur to Surat and Jaipur. For this, proposals have also been given to airlines. Trade organizations said that air travelers will get more benefits as soon as flights start for these areas. In the last fifteen days, in the month of February, a total of 69,830 air passengers have flown from Raipur Airport. These days, due to the increase in the number of passengers, the number of flights is also being increased by the airlines. Along with this, plans are being made to start flying to new areas in the coming days. New atc tower will start soon. The construction of new ATC at Swami Vivekananda Airport is nearing its completion and it is about to start soon. As soon as it starts, the facilities of air travelers will increase further.

## Science based poster exhibition will encourage students: Uikey

**Governor launches 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' program**

Raipur, Feb 23:

Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey participated in the program "Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate: Celebration of Science for All" organised in the auditorium of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University under the aegis of Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Culture and Office, Government of India under the Amrit Festival of Independence. She inaugurated the science and technology based poster exhibition. Governor Ms. Uikey congratulated Raipurians for being selected in the above event being organised in 75 cities of the country and while addressing the program said that from February 22 to 28, students through various activities and competitions based on science and technology. Along with this, common people will get very important information. The poster exhibition organised to know



and understand the glory and glorious history of India in the field of science will not only encourage the students but will also contribute in the field of science and technology. She said that in the challenging times of Covid-19, people understood the usefulness and importance of science, when the scientists of the country prepared medical equipment at cheap rates. After doing quick research, the vaccine of Covid was prepared in the country itself. This success of Indian scientists is commendable and inspirational, which will attract youth to work in the field of science and technology. Governor Ms. Uikey said that Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University has created such an environment in the last few years, due to which the interest of youth towards science has increased and research work is being done continuously. She appreciated the work done by the students of the university for renewable energy and waste management and expressed confidence that in future also the students would do continuous re-

search in the field of science and would bring laurels to the country and the state. Rajendra Singh Sangwan, Director, CSIR-HRDC made a gradual mention of the growing scope and progress of science since human origin. He said that human curiosity has encouraged new research work in the field of science, which is continuing continuously. With the increasing interest in science of our young generation, we should be hopeful that in the future India will have many such discoveries and researches, which will benefit and make the whole world proud.

The Vice Chancellor of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Dr. K.L. Verma also addressed the program. Governor Ms. Uikey visited the science exhibition along with the Vice Chancellor and Professors of the University. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey was honoured by the university management with a shawl-shripal and a memento. University professors and students were present in the program.

## License will be cancelled on not filing GST returns

Raipur, Feb 23: Traders who do not file returns will be strictly punished. Even the GST license of such people will be cancelled. GST officials said that frequent notices are also being sent to such traders. In this notice, they are being advised to file the return. Now even after this, if any trader is negligent, then the process of canceling his license will be done.

Strict action is also being taken by the department against the GST evaders. As per information in the financial year 2021-22 till January, the department has caught GST evasion of Rs 589.43

crore from 191 cases in the state. Out of this, recovery of Rs 224.48 crores has also been done. Similarly, in the financial year 2020-21 till January, out of total 151 cases, GST evasion of Rs 300.25 crore took place. Out of this, 289.41 crore has been recovered. According to the new rules of GST, now the GST officers can take recovery action without giving any notice. If wrong information is being given by the taxpayer in his return file. These days the department is seriously looking into such cases. This rule has been implemented from the month of January this year.

## The Queer youth of Chh'garh in film 'Badhaai Do' share experience

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 23: Homosexuality has been a subject of shame, ridicule, and oppression in films. The scenario is gradually changing after the decriminalization of Section 377 from the penal code in 2018. Since then, a few movies have tried to tackle the otherwise taboo subject head-on - often using humor as a sweetener. The latest in the series of such movies is "Baadhai Do", starring Rajkumar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar,

which talks about the practice of lavender marriage/ marriage of convenience (moc) between a gay man and lesbian. While the movie is winning hearts and doing good business at the box office, Chhattisgarh has its share of representation too.

Raipur-based Sidhant and Ankit Das can be seen making an appearance on screen. Both of them have been active in the state capital Raipur for the promotion of LGBTQ+ rights. Many in Raipur have seen



Ankit Das (front), Sidhant along with Director Harshvardhan Kulkarni 'Badhaai Do' on set Dehradun.

them performing flash-mobs for awareness, now the entire country is set to

witness them. Sidhant says that it is a matter of great delight that queer

people have finally been given a chance to play queer roles, even a little bit of screen time matters a lot. Ankit says that it was very fulfilling for him to be able to present the culture of Pride on the big screen. Through this film, we are sharing our culture of joy and resilience with millions of viewers in India and abroad.

The prime message both of them wished to convey was that being different is not a crime. It is very natural to be born as a person with nonbinary gender

identity or with alternative sexualities. As a society, we must embrace and encourage everyone for being their true self. Despite decriminalization, queer persons are far from being accepted as equal and respectable members of family and society. Though it is only a matter of time for homosexual couples to get legal recognition of their communion like marriage, we must strive towards it. After all, only an inclusive society can optimize its human resources and progress.

# Akbar inaugurates office of Balodabazar TOA

Vehicle owners in Chhattisgarh have the facility to pay the tax of their vehicles in bulk

Raipur, Feb 23:

State Transport and Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar gave important gift to Balodabazar-Bhatapara district during his one-day stay. He inaugurated the new office of Balodabazar Truck Owners Association (TOA) located at Risda bypass in the district headquarters. Along with this, he announced land reservation for Permanent District Transport Officer and New Transport Office at District Headquarter Balodabazar. Addressing the general public, Transport Minister Mohammad Akbar said that transport also plays an important role in development. Every possible initiative is being taken to streamline and strengthen the transport system in the state. In this episode, a new facility has been provided by the Chhattisgarh Transport Department for the vehicle owners on the vehicle portal. Under this, vehicle owners can pay the tax of their vehicles in



bulk. Similarly, another facility has been given by the Transport Department for the vehicle owners on the vehicle portal. Under this, vehicle owners can get permission online by paying fees for over-dimension vehicles. Apart from this, an important scheme named Tuhar Sarkar Tuhar Dwar is being operated by the Chhattisgarh Transport Department. Under this, people are being provided the benefits of 22 transport related services sitting at home. Transport Minister

Akbar also counted the important achievements of the State Government during this period. He said that the general public should get the direct benefits of the schemes of the government. That is why Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Bhumiless Krishi Mazdoor Yojana have been started. Today, through Godhan Nyay Yojana, it is working to make millions of families financially empowered by purchasing cow dung. Along with this,

we are moving towards organic agriculture with the use of vermi compost, which is also playing its important role in environmental balance. Similarly, where earlier seven forest produce were purchased in support price. We have increased that to 61. The Government of India has also felicitated the state of Chhattisgarh with 11 national awards, praising it. Chhattisgarh alone contributes to the purchase of about 78 percent of forest produce in India. On this

occasion, Parliamentary Secretary and Raipur West MLA, Vikas Upadhyay, Farmers Welfare Council President, Surendra Sharma, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Text Book Corporation, Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Shri Hitendra Thakur, Balodabazar Truck Owners Association President, Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Raipur Bastar Koraput President of Transport Association, Sukhdev Singh Sidhu, President of Chamber of Commerce, Jugal Kishore Bhattar, Senior citizens of the city, Vidyabhushan Shukla, Sudhir Agrawal, Ashok Jain, Gaurav Prasad Singh, Rajiv Lochan Shukla, District Panchayat member Parmeshwar Yadu, Mrs. Sumitra Dhritalhare, Janpad Panchayat member, Aryan Shukla, Corporator Rupesh Thakur including other public representatives and citizens were present in large numbers. The program was conducted by Mr. Gambhir Thakur.

# QIP Centre for CU Bilaspur

Bilaspur, Feb 23:

Guru Ghasidas University (GGU) has achieved new heights in the field of academics, research and investigation. As a result of the active and dedicated efforts of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, the University is making steady progress in academic work. With the vision of Vice-Chancellor, Professor AK Chakrawal, the university is moving towards setting new standards.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has provided a Quality Improvement Program (QIP) center to the School of Studies in Engineering and Technology, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a central university), Bilaspur. This is the second QIP center in Chhattisgarh after NIT Raipur. Admissions will be conducted from academic session 2022-23. The main objective of QIP is to upgrade the expertise and capabilities of the faculty members of diploma level and degree level institutes. This QIP center will enhance the research activities of the School of



Engineering and Technology in particular and of the University in general. With the great effort of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, within a short span of time, GGV has been provided a QIP center by AICTE. This QIP center will provide an opportunity to the faculty members of AICTE affiliated Polytechnic Colleges and Engineering Colleges/Universities across the country to pursue M.Tech. and Ph.D. program, thereby improving the standard and quality of technical education in the institutions. This center will also be allowed to conduct a maximum of 20 short-term courses of one week or two weeks duration for the benefit of faculty members of engineer-

ing institutes, for which AICTE will provide financial assistance to this center. In addition, AICTE will offer 15000/- per month to faculty members for pursuing Ph.D. and Rs 5000/- for pursuing M.Tech. In addition to the contingency amount, AICTE will also provide financial assistance to the University for running the QIP Centre. Vice-Chancellor has thanked AICTE for providing QIP center to GGV. HVC also congratulated the Registrar, Prof. Shaileendra Kumar, Dean, Prof. TV Arjunan, the Coordinator, Dr. M. Chakradhar Rao, Co-coordinator, Dr. Amit Jain and the entire faculty fraternity of the School of Engineering and Technology.

## One arrested with illicit liquor



The Khairagarh Police arrested the youth involved in illicit sale and transportation of liquor from Dharampura chowk in city on Sunday. A combined team of police officers under leadership of TI Khairagarh Thana Nilesh Pandey is conduct-

ing raid against the illicit liquor sellers and transporters. On Sunday, it was on tip from an informer the Police team reached Dharampura Chowk and nabbed the accused Ramesh Verma S/o Manrakhan Verma (42), R/o Godari with illicit liquor. The accused was carrying 42 quarter bottles of country liquor and cash of Rs 3360 in the dickey of his bike bearing No. CG 08 NS 1378. When inquired he accepted his crime and it was under section 34 (2) of Excise Act he was arrested and produced in the court and sent on judicial remand.

## Kunbi community took out rally to make state polythene free

Raipur, Feb 23:

To save the environment and to make the state polythene free, Kunbi Community has started the initiative. It started on Sunday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Veer Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The people of the community took a pledge that they would not use polythene and would make the people of all the society aware about using cloth bags. After taking the resolution, the Kunbi community took out a bike rally. In this, women

participated enthusiastically by riding a bike, giving the message of women empowerment. Under the leadership of Chhattisgarh Kunbi Community Mahasangathan, a goodwill awareness bike rally was taken out from Telibandha, Marine Drive on Sunday. State President Ranjit Bhau Muneshwar flagged off the rally. The

rally reached the statue of Veer Shivaji at Tatyapara Chowk via Ghari Chowk. The rally reached Bharat Mata Chowk by garlanding the statue of Mother India. After garlanding the statue of Mother India, the rally ended at the social building in Gondwara. The people of the community appealed to take the good thoughts of Chhatrapati Shivaji

participated enthusiastically by riding a bike, giving the message of women empowerment. Under the leadership of Chhattisgarh Kunbi Community Mahasangathan, a goodwill awareness bike rally was taken out from Telibandha, Marine Drive on Sunday. State President Ranjit Bhau Muneshwar flagged off the rally. The

Maharaj to the people through Sadbhavana rally. Cloth bags were distributed at various places on the rally route. In the rally, senior members of the society SS Brahmankar, JN Godhunde, State Secretary of Kunbi Community Mahasangathan Amit Doye, Sanjay Brahmankar, Durg District President Madan Kuthe, Bhatapara President Prem Bhau Bohare, Dr. Sudhir Tichkule, besides Bilaspur, Mahasamund President and State Women President Sarita Gendekar presided over the rally.

## Three arrested under gambling act



Khairagarh, Feb 23: Three gamblers were arrested on charges of gambling under Jalbandha thana area here on Monday. A combined team of Cyber Cell and Police Chowki Jalbandha conducted raid on Feb 20 in Jalbandha area and nabbed three accused Ranjit Sahu AS/O Khorbahara Sahu (55), R/O Kukurmuda; Dinesh Verma, S/O Shivcharan Verma (30), R/O Pavantara Jalbandha and Trilok Jain S/o Preetamchand Jain

(35), R/o Pavantara and seized cash of Rs 17900 and six motorcycles and 2 piece mobiles. The police arrested all three accused under section 13 of Gambling Act and produced them in the court of SDM Khairagarh. In the above action, SI Pawan Patwa, Munnalal Bhandekar, head constable Balram Singh, from Cyber team- Manish Manikpuri, Manish Verma, Avadh Kishore Sahu gave valuable cooperation.

## Renovation of Manikeshwar Shiva Temple underway

Devotees from three states make presence



Konta, Feb 23: The two-day 16th renovation of Sri Sri Manikeshwar Shiva Temple Konta and Gayatri Pragma Peeth in Konta Nagar, situated on the banks of Triveni Sangam, was started with Kalash Yatra at 4 pm on Sunday evening. The Kalash Yatra, passing through the main road, was established back in the courtyard of the temple. On the second day, from 08 a.m. on 21.02.22, Jalabhishek in Gayatri temple, after worship, performed Navkundiya Gayatri Mahayagya in Manikeshwar temple premises. It was com-

pleted at 03 pm with the completion of the ceremony. After that Bhandara was successfully organized by Manikeshwar Samiti Konta. The 500-year-old Sri Sri Manikeshwar Shiva Temple, Konta and Gayatri Pragma Peeth is considered a center of

faith for the city. Under the aegis of Shiv Mandir Committee, every festival of Sanatan Dharma is celebrated jointly by law. Every Monday, the entire Konta is transformed into a devotional atmosphere with Bhajan Kirtan. Crowd of devotees gathered for faith in Kalash Shobha Yatra

This year also, on the first day of the two-day 16th restoration anniversary celebration of Sri Sri Manikeshwar temple, under the supervision of learned Brahmins on behalf of Gayatri Shaktipeeth Sukma, hundreds of women took out the Kalash Shobha Yatra in

Konta Nagar by law from the Shiva temple premises. Hundreds of women and men participated in the Kalash Yatra. During this, the atmosphere of the entire Konta city remained devotional due to the annals of Gayatri Mata. During this, the temple complex resonated with the chants of Har Har Mahadev of the devotees. Gayatri Pragma Peeth's pundits in Shiv Mandir courtyard also offered prayers in Nav Kundali Gayatri Mahayagya program by men and women. After that Shiv Mandir Committee organized Bhandara from 3 pm onwards. In which hundreds of devotees of Konta Nagar received prasad as blessings.

## Sports is beneficial for all: Kashyap

Concludes cricket tournament



Kondagaon, Feb 23: In the finals of Cricket tournament in Puspal, Karanpur defeated Hasel and won the first prize of Rs 1000 and runner's up team won the cash prize of Rs 501. The chief guest of the concluding function was MLA Narayanpur and Chairman Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board (CHDB) Chandan Kashyap. Addressing the players he said that sports is very much beneficial for all, as it teaches discipline, patience, ability to work and play with team-spirit and develops self-confidence and provides scope to de-

velop and better one's performance with double the efforts. If one regularly practices sports than one not only become more active, but remains healthy, both in mind and body, he added. During this Sarpanch Sobi Ram Kashyap, Sunder Kashyap, Sukhran Poyam, Mardapal Block President,

Varun Setia MLA's rep Jagdev Baghel, Mehatar Nag, Anuk Mandavi, Bhuwan Yadav, Hemdhar Vaidya, Shri Ram Baghel, Aagya Ram Baghel, Chowk Ram Baghel, Gadan Ram Baghel, Ramesh Mandavi, Baliram Sori, Umesh Yadav, Shal Kashyap, Mahadev Kashyap and others were present.

## One-week online FDP organized at CU

Bilaspur, Feb 23:

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering & Technology, GGV organized the inaugural ceremony of AICTE Teaching and Learning Academy (ATAL) Sponsored one-week online Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Sustainable Construction Materials and Technologies in virtual mode at 9:30 am on Feb 21. The FDP commenced on Feb 21 and continued till Feb 25.

During the inauguration, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. AK Chakrawal participated as the Chief Guest and delivered the presidential address. Prof. Nemkumar Banthia, Professor and President of Canada Research, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada participated as the guest of honour and delivered the keynote address at the inaugural technical session. Registrar, Prof. Shaileendra Kumar, Convener & Co-respondent, Prof. T.V. Arjunan, Dean, SOS Engineering &

Technology, Ashish Kumar Parashar, Head, Civil Engineering, and the Co-Coordinator, Rochak Pandey, Assistant Professor were also present on this occasion. During the inauguration ceremony, the Coordinator, Dr. M. Chakradhar Rao gave information about the FDP. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Deans of various Schools of Studies, Heads of various departments, and faculty members of School of Engineering and Technology. About 150 faculty members and re-

search scholars from different parts of the country attended the inauguration. After the inauguration, Prof. Nemkumar Banthia delivered the inaugural technical address on Adaptive, Functional and Bio-mimicking Fibers for Modern Fiber Reinforced Concrete. Dr. Subhasis Pradhan, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, BITS Pilani and Dr. Dinkar P., Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bhubaneswar gave technical talks after the inaugural technical talk.

## Around 21.63 lakh people have availed the services

In 1497 haat-bazaars of the state

Raipur, Feb 23:

Chief Minister Haat-Bazaar Clinic Scheme is being implemented in every district and every development block of Chhattisgarh. Under this scheme, people are being provided eight kinds of OPD-based services and various test facilities in Haat-Bazaars, and those diagnosed with ailments are also being provided free medicines as well. In case of major ailments, patients are referred to high-level health centers for better medical treat-

ment. Under this scheme, a number of medical facilities are being provided to the people of rural areas, through 356 dedicated branding vehicles and medical teams. So far, as many as 21 lakh 62 thousand 751 people have availed the health check-up and treatment facilities provided by medical teams of Health Department in the Haat-bazaars of the forests and rural areas of Chhattisgarh. Nearly 19 lakh 60 thousand 270 patients have been provided free medicines after health checkup at these Haat-Bazaar clinics. It is noteworthy that till January 2022, Health

Department has organized 64 thousand 401 Haat-Bazaar clinic camps in 1497 haat-bazaars across the state. Besides the free health-checkup, treatment, consultation and medicines, various test facilities including that of Malaria, HIV, VDRL, Diabetes, Anemia, TB, Leprosy, High Blood Pressure and Eye problems are being provided in the Mobile Medical units (under Haat-Bazaar Clinic Scheme). Here, facility of vaccination for infants and health checkup of pregnant women are also being provided. Under this scheme launched in year 2019, so far 04 lakh 90 thousand

143 people have been tested for hypertension, 03 lakh 40 thousand 649 people have been tested for diabetes, 02 lakh 20 thousand 336 people have been tested for malaria, 01 lakh 03 thousand 831 people for Anemia and 66 thousand 24 people have been tested for eye problems. In these Haat-Bazaar clinics, TB test of 20 thousand 563 people, leprosy test of 06 thousand 340 people and HIV test of 12 thousand 639 people have also been conducted. Meanwhile, medical examination of 39 thousand 733 pregnant women, vaccination of 11 thousand 871 babies have been done in Haat-Bazaar clinics.



## BRIEF

### Revamped

**New Delhi:** Delhi government's official website is soon going to be available in a revamped form, bringing together portals of different departments on a single platform. Currently, the website having links of government departments fails to open despite repeated attempts. There are some other portals like that of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) which pose problems when a user tries to get any information.

### Sick

**Bikaner:** Ninety-six people, including children, fell sick after consuming food served at a marriage function in Bikaner district's Sridungargarh area. They complained of pain in the abdomen and vomiting after consuming snacks, juice and other items at the function. They were rushed to a nearby hospital for primary treatment, and nearly 24 of them were later admitted to the PBM Hospital.

### Associate

**Jammu:** An alleged associate or over ground worker of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, was arrested by the police and a grenade recovered here. The timely arrest of the suspect foiled the terrorists' plan to carry out a grenade attack in the winter capital Jammu. Shakir Ahmad Naikoo, a resident of Harpora village of south Kashmir's Shopian district, was picked up on specific information.

### Held

**Gurugram:** The Gurugram police busted an interstate gang of vehicle lifters from Jaipur, who had recently allegedly killed a cab driver in order to rob his car. The arrested accused are identified as gang leader Vishal, a resident of Delhi, his girlfriend Rekha, Vinod, Jitu, Ravi and Rahul, residents of Muana village in Jaipur.

### Fake

**Guwahati:** A former police officer turned militant of Meghalaya who is also dabbling in politics was arrested by Assam Police in Guwahati with fake Indian currency notes. Two of his aides were also arrested in the operation carried out by Basistha Police Station of the city. Spl squad and an EPGD team from Basistha PS busted a FICN scam 3 persons, Champion Sangma, Gohancher Sangma and Cherman Momin all residents of Meghalaya.

### Rescued

**Pune:** A leopard struggling to stay afloat in a 50-foot deep well has been rescued in the nick of time thanks to a swift operation involving volunteers and Forest officials in Parner tehsil of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra. The male big cat was rescued from the well in Alkuti village after a three-hour operation involving members of Wildlife SOS, officials of the state forest department, and villagers.

## Chandigarh residents at few places still face power outages



A traffic cop directing traffic as traffic lights not functioning due to outage in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

**Chandigarh, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Residents of some parts of Chandigarh continued to face power outages on Wednesday with electricity supply remaining disrupted after the employees of the electricity department went on a three-day strike against privatisation. Harried residents of Chandigarh, which is the country's first planned

city, blamed the city administration for remaining a mute spectator, leaving them in lurch as the power outages crippled the city. Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari sought intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the matter, saying there is chaos and anarchy and all essential services have come to a standstill. "Dear

@AmitShah ji Chandigarh has been without electricity for 36 hours. There is chaos & anarchy. All Essential Services are at a standstill. @ChandigarhAdmn has miserably failed to address the situation. Chandigarh is an Union Territory. Kindly intervene," said Tewari in a tweet on Wednesday. The Chandigarh administration on Tuesday had invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act, banning strikes by the electricity department for six months.

There were, however, reports that electricity supply was getting restored at some places. The outage since Monday night forced government hospitals in the union territory to reschedule elective surgeries, besides adversely affecting residential, industrial and commercial areas in the city.

## We are alert, prepared for any potential threats: Army chief

**Bengaluru, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane on Wednesday said that the Indian Army is committed to maintain peace and stability at the country's borders, and is alert and prepared for any potential threats.

Pointing at the changes in the way in which battles are fought today, he said the army has increased its efficiency with new weaponries and modern equipment.

The Army Chief was speaking after presenting the prestigious 'President's Colours', or 'Nishan' as popularly known in the Army, to four Parachute battalions here. "The Indian army



Special Force of Army Battalion conduct parachute parade during President's Colours event, at Parachute Regiment Training Center (PRTC), in Bengaluru, Wednesday.

today is going through a challenging time, you are well aware of the developments at our borders. The army is committed to

maintain peace and stability at our borders. I want to definitely say that we are alert and prepared for any potential threats,"

## DEMANDING JUSTICE



ABVP members protest demanding justice for Lavanya, a minor who committed suicide allegedly after forced conversion, at Athwagat in Surat, Gujarat.

## Harish Rawat claims video shows ballot tampering

**Dehradun, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Congress general secretary Harish Rawat has posted a video on social media that purportedly shows one person at an Army centre ticking and signing several postal ballot papers.

Sharing the video on his Twitter handle and Facebook, Rawat said, "Sharing a short video for everyone's information. It shows how one man at an army centre is ticking and signing several ballot papers. Will the Election Commission take cognisance of this?"

When asked about the tweet, Rawat's spokesman Surendra Kumar refused to disclose the source of the video but claimed that it is from Uttarakhand.

The party has not made a formal complaint to the Election Commission in



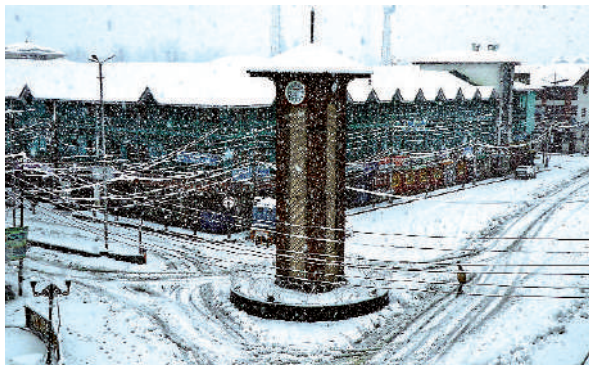
Video shot shared by Harish Rawat alleges ballot tampering.

this regard yet but it can take suo motu cognisance of it, he said. The Congress leaders termed it as a "mockery of democracy" and urged the Election Commission to take cognisance of the video and act against the guilty. The state Congress has retweeted Rawat's tweet.

Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Pritam Singh said, "In this video that makes a mockery of democracy, a man at an army centre is seen ticking and signing several postal ballot papers in favour of the party of his choice." The Election Commission should take cognisance of it and act against the guilty, Singh said. Reacting to the tweet, the BJP termed it the Congress' frustration, saying the party is doing it as it can see its defeat in the recently held Assembly polls.

"The Congress is resorting to such tactics as it is aware that it has failed to mislead people. In the face of its imminent defeat the party which was talking earlier about manipulation of EVMs is now talking about ballot papers. It

## Heavy snowfall throws life out of gear in Srinagar



Snowfall in Srinagar on Wednesday.

**Srinagar, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Life was thrown out of gear in Kashmir on Wednesday as most areas of the valley received snowfall - the season's first heavy fall in the plains - disrupting flight

and railway operations and leading to the closure of the vital Srinagar-Jammu national highway, officials here said.

Most areas of the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall which started in the night and

was going on when last reports came in, they said. The areas in the higher reaches of the Union Territory received very heavy snowfall - around two feet or more, they said.

The officials said Srinagar - the summer capital of the union territory - recorded about eight inches of snow till Wednesday. The authorities have pressed men and machinery into service to clear the snow off the roads, many of which, such as those leading to hospitals and other vital installations, are being cleared on priority, the officials said. The bad weather affected the flight operations to and fro the Kashmir valley.

## 'Priyanka's slogan, Maurya's switch no impact on polls'

RPN did not make direct comment on Congress functioning

**Kushinagar, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Former Union minister RPN Singh, who recently crossed over to the BJP, said the ladki hoon' slogan coined by his old party will have no effect on the assembly polls, claiming that the Congress tickets have gone only to the wives of its leaders. He also dismissed the impact of UP minister and Other Backward Class leader Swami Prasad Maurya switching over to the Samajwadi Party and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has breached caste barriers with development schemes guided by the inclusive mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas.

Once a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh aka RPN said the Congress



BJP leader RPN Singh during door to door campaign in Kushinagar.

now does not exist as a party or an ideology. Asked about Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Ladki hoon, lad sakti hoon (I am girl and can fight) slogan, he mocked that a poster girl from that campaign had herself switched to the BJP. Every person gives a slogan in the election. If

the Congress has given a slogan it will have no effect in the election because the tickets have been given to the wives of Congress leaders," he told PTI in an interview at his ancestral home. RPN belongs to the erstwhile princely state of Padrauna and is the son of former Union Minister CPN Singh. He was elected

## Manipur wants change: Ibobi Singh

**Imphal, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Former Chief Minister and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh feels Manipur is ripe for a change of government as people are "fed up" with the current dispensation.

The ruling BJP's "divisive politics" both at national and state level are unlikely to succeed in any of the five states going to the polls, Singh told PTI in an interview.

"I believe that the people of Manipur are fed up with BJP. It is just that they have not been able to express it openly. The BJP has been telling lies and making hollow promises.

They have not converted any of their promises into action," he claimed. Asserting that BJP's



Former Manipur CM Ibobi Singh during a rally for Congress.

"systematic policy and plan both at national and state level" of indulging in divisive politics will not succeed, the veteran Congress leader said, "We will get to know about it with the outcome of the five state elections and in 2024 general elections. People are fed up with them."

Citing the example of the Framework Agreement signed in 2015 between the Centre and Naga rebel group NSCN (IM), he pointed out that the deal has not yielded a final outcome. Singh added that it was a case of keeping people in the dark, which in turn has led to erosion of trust.

"It's been so long that the agreement was signed but no one knows what is in it. Neither have they shared with the public nor have they completed the talks...I believe that even the Naga people have lost trust in the BJP and its ability to solve the issue," he said.

When asked how confident is the Congress of coming back to power after the upcoming state assembly election, Singh said, "Out of the total candidates that we have put up (53), we know the potential of each one and we strongly believe in the winning capability of 40-45 of them."

However, he said, "In case if we fall short of majority, there will be post-poll alliance with like-minded parties."

## Two more held in Bajrang Dal activist murder case

**Shivamogga, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Two more persons were arrested in the Bajrang Dal activist murder case in Shivamogga, where district authorities have extended the prohibitory orders till Friday.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Wednesday that he has ordered an inquiry against the policemen posted in two police stations in this district headquarters town, in the backdrop of the incident.

Underlining the need to audit the performance of Kote and Doddapete police stations in Shivamogga, he said, "We need to ascertain how many police officers and personnel were there in these two police stations in the past five



A police drone handler set up a drone for surveillance of the riot-affected areas after section 144 was imposed in Shivamogga, Wednesday.

years and how they monitored these accused (those eight arrested) who have a huge criminal past."

He warned that "irresponsible" police officers will not be spared, which led to "the incidents". Shivamogga

Superintendent of Police BM Laxmi Prasad said six people have been booked in connection with the murder of the 28-year-old Harsha, who was stabbed with lethal weapons by a group of people here on Sunday night.

BRIEF

Lake

Karbala: Iraq's Razza Lake was once a tourist attraction known for its beautiful scenery and an abundance of fish that locals depended on. Now, dead fish litter its shores and the once-fertile lands around it have turned into a barren desert. Razza Lake is seeing a significant decline in water levels and has been hit by pollution and high levels of salinity.

Taken

Colombo: Sri Lanka has taken "substantial steps" with a view to "accountability, restorative justice and meaningful reconciliation" related to human rights and reconciliation, Foreign Minister GL Peiris said, as he briefed India-based diplomats ahead of 49th session of UNHRC. Peiris addressed the 83 Heads of Mission accredited to Sri Lanka who are based in New Delhi through virtual session and shared information on measures.

Blocking

Beirut: Canadian authorities are preventing a Canadian woman and a child detained in a camp in Syria from returning home to get life-saving medical treatment, contradicting policies that allow such repatriations, a prominent rights group said. Human Rights Watch identified the two gravely ill Canadians as Kimberly Polman, 49, and a child under age 12.

Deal

Manila: The Philippines signed a 32 billion-peso (624 million) deal to purchase 32 Black Hawk helicopters in the largest military aircraft acquisition contract under outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, defense officials said. Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana signed the deal with Janusz Zakrecki, president of Poland-based aerospace manufacturer PZL Mielec, to acquire the S-70i Black Hawks, which can be used for troop transport.

Advices

Brussels: European Union member countries agreed that they should further facilitate tourist travel into the 27-nation bloc for people who are vaccinated against the coronavirus or have recovered from COVID-19. The European Council is recommending that EU nations next month lift all testing and quarantine requirements for people who received vaccines authorised in the EU or approved by the World Health Organisation.

Chinese, Nepalese held in illegal loan scheme targeting Indians



Kathmandu, Feb 23 (PTI):

Two Chinese and more than 100 Nepali nationals have been arrested in Nepal for their involvement in running an online fraud loan scheme targeting Indians, police said on Wednesday. Nepal Police said in a press release that they arrested two Chinese and 115 Nepali nationals in two separate raids conducted in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts in Kathmandu valley on Monday and Tuesday for their involvement in fraudulent cyber activities.

Acting on a tip-off, Kathmandu Metropolitan Police Range first detained a group of 37 individuals, including a Chinese from Old Baneshwor on Monday night. The Chinese national, identified as Chang Hu bao, operated illegal business activities targeting Indians with the help of Nepali youth. "They had officially registered the company called Lewan Group to provide IT services for business houses in the capital, police said. The Nepali nationals arrested from

Kathmandu include 23 boys and 13 girls. After their arrest, the police also busted a larger racket in Sano Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district from where they arrested 80 people, including a Chinese national named Wang Zinao in the second raid carried on a three-storey office building. The arrested Nepalese from Bhaktapur include 47 girls and 32 boys. A total of 48 laptops and 14 desktop PCs were also confiscated from the office. The Chinese nationals, who reportedly started the business one and a half months ago from Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, used to lend short term loans to the Indians with 2.5 to 3.5 per cent interest rates online. They provided loans amounting to Rs 3,000 to 30,000 to the borrowers in India, who were required to submit the photo copies of their ration card and contact number.

Ukraine's economy is another victim of Russia's 'hybrid war'

Kyiv, Feb 23 (AP):

One by one, embassies and international offices in Kyiv closed. Flight after flight was cancelled when insurance companies balked at covering planes arriving in Ukraine. Hundreds of millions of dollars in investment dried up within weeks. With Russian troops encircling much of the country, Ukrainian businesses large and small no longer plan for the future they can barely foresee what will happen week to week. It is Ukraine, not Russia, where the economy is eroding the fastest under the threat of war. Even before Russian troops rolled into rebel-held areas in the country's east and Russian President Vladimir Putin

US last week offered USD 1 billion loan guarantee



Vendors wait for customers at their fruit market stall in downtown Kyiv, Ukraine.

recognised the independence of the separatist region, Ukraine was the biggest loser in the agonizing, slow-motion aggression. Why is it that we are suffering consequences already? And Russia, who is actually threatening the whole world, in Europe, is not suffering any consequences? asked Andrey Stavnitser, CEO of the port operator TIS Group. The squeezing of Ukraine's economy is a

Roofs ripped off houses as another cyclone hits Madagascar



People outside ruined homes in Mananjary, Madagascar.

Cyclone Emnati crashed into the southeastern coast of Madagascar in the early hours of Wednesday, ripping roofs off houses and raising fears of flooding and food shortages in a region still recovering from the destruction inflicted by another tropical storm just weeks ago. More than 30,000 people were moved to safe accommodation before Emnati arrived and Madagascar's National Office for Risk and Disaster Management esti-

mated more than 250,000 people could be impacted by the latest cyclone. There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from Emnati, but local authorities reported extensive damage to houses and other buildings in at least one southeastern city. Madagascar, an island off the east coast of Africa renowned for its wildlife

and unspoiled natural treasures, has now been hit by four major tropical storms in the last month, killing nearly 200 people already and compounding issues of food insecurity. A drought in the south of the country left around 400,000 at risk of starvation last year, according to the UN World Food Program. A string of aid agencies warned that Emnati will be a double blow for the eastern and southeastern regions that were hit by Cyclone Batsirai early this month. Batsirai ultimately left more than 120 people dead and displaced 143,000. More than 20,000 houses were destroyed or damaged by Batsirai, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said, and more than 21,000 people remain displaced.

CLOISONNE ARTIFACTS



Japanese Emperor Naruhito, left, and Empress Masako look at cloisonne artifacts in the collection of the San-no-Maru Museum at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

South Korea's presidential race puts misogyny in spotlight

Seoul, Feb 23 (AP): As South Korea enters a bitter presidential race, Hong Hee-jin is one of many young women who feel that the country's politics has become dominated by discrimination against women, even outright misogyny. Women are being treated like they don't even have voting rights, the 27-year-old office worker in the capital, Seoul, said. For years, South Korean women have made slow but steady progress in the workplace as they confronted an entrenched culture of male chauvinism and harassment. But this extremely tight presidential race, which culminates March 9, has exposed the fragility of what's been won.

UN slams 'aggressive' formula milk marketing

Report did not name specific companies industry systematically deploys aggressive marketing strategies, spending up to \$5 billion a year to sway parents' decisions on how to feed their in- Geneva, Feb 23 (AFP): The United Nations slammed baby formula makers Wednesday for "unethical" marketing strategies, accusing them of aggressively targeting expecting parents and health workers and putting shareholder interests before children's health. It is widely recognised that breastfeeding carries huge health benefits. But countries' failure to crack down on the marketing of breast milk substitutes means far too many children are still being reared on formula, the World Health Organization and the UN children's agency Unicef warned, in a new report. It found that the \$55-billion formula milk

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGINEERING WORK

(1) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-82-21-22. Date: 18.02.2022. Name of Work: (1) Construction of RUB at KM. 800/21-23 in lieu of manned level crossing No. 403 between Baikunth - Silyari section in Howrah - Mumbai main line (by Pushing Technique). (2) Construction of RUB at KM. 802/21-23 in lieu of manned level crossing No. 404 between Baikunth - Silyari section in Howrah - Mumbai main line (by Pushing Technique). (3) Construction of RUB at KM. 814/14-16 in lieu of manned level crossing No. 407 between Silyari - Mandhar section in Howrah - Mumbai main line (by Pushing Technique). Tender Value: ₹ 29,48,42,992/-. Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 16,24,200.00. Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hours on 17.03.2022. Opening of Tender: 11.00 hours on 17.03.2022. For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEN(Co.)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.reps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Engineer (Line-1)/PR/IR/Engg/154 Raipur. South East Central Railway @ @social

Impending Iran nuclear deal alarms Israel

Jerusalem, Feb 23 (AP): While the world's attention has been focused on Ukraine, the Biden administration also has been racing with world powers toward restoring the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran. After months of negotiations in Vienna, the various sides have indicated a new deal is close, perhaps in the coming days. But instead of the longer, stronger agreement originally promised by the US, the deal is expected to do little more than reinstate the original pact, whose key restrictions on Iranian nuclear activity expire in a few years. This modest accomplishment appears to be the best the Biden administration can hope for at a time when it is restrained by Congress at home, and overwhelmed abroad with the Ukraine crisis and longer-term challenges such as China and climate change. But it is setting off alarm bells in Israel, whose leaders have grown increasingly vocal in their condemnation of a deal they fear will not prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The emerging deal, as it seems, is highly likely to create a more violent, more volatile Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said this week, repeating his threat that Israel is not bound by the deal and is prepared to attack Iran if needed.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st CALL) System Tender No. : 93346/NIT No. : 31/SAC/2021-22, Bemetera, Dated : 21.02.2022 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 14.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK AND REPAIR OF WASTE WEIR OF LUK DIVERSION SCHEME AND REMODELLING AND LINING OF CANAL, CONSTRUCTION OF 03 NOS. VRB, 03 NOS. FALL AND REPAIR OF 01 NO. AT STRUCTURE IN BLOCK SAJA DISTRICT BEMETERA. Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 117.78 Lakhs The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 28.02.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards. NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. Executive Engineer Water Resources Division, Bemetera (C.G.) For, Superintending Engineer Shivnath Circle, Durg (C.G.) G-68050/1

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (2nd Call) System Tender No. : 93343/NIT No. : 05/SAC/2021-22, Kasdol, Dated : 21.02.2022 Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 14.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :- Name of Work : REMODELLING AND C. LINING FROM R.D.0 TO 18600 M OF DY. 1, R.D.0 TO 2640 M OF DY. 4, R.D.0 TO 2580 M OF DY. 10, R. D.0 TO 2040 M OF DY.11, 2760 M IN PATCHES OF DY.12, 4890 M IN PATCHES OF DY.14, R.D.0 TO 3330 M OF DY.21, R.D.1050 TO 1980 M OF DY. 25, R.D.0 TO 2160 M OF HASUWA MINOR OF DY 1 AND R.D.0 TO 2400 M OF GIDHOURI MINOR ,R.D.0 TO 1500 M OF PULENI MINOR,R.D.0 TO 4530 M OF PULENI SUB MINOR OF DY. 4, CONSTRUCTION OF UNDER GROUND CANAL 1500M OF CHICHOLI MINOR OF DY.25, CONSTRUCTION OF 28 NO.STRUCTURE (12 NO.V.R.B.,3 NO.D.C.,5 NO.H.R.,07 NO.FALL,1 NO.FALL CUM V.R.B.), 159 NOS.OUTLETS OF CHICHOLI MINOR OF JONK DIVERSION SCHEME OF BALODABAZAR-BHATAPARA DISTRICT. Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 2387.96 Lakhs The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 28.02.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards. NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Water Resources Division, Kasdol for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.) G-68079/1

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY No. Sr. DMM/SECR/R Date: 18.02.2022

TENDER NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: SL, Tender Notice No., Name of Work, Closing. Includes details for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing Commissioning of Control and Relay Panel for 132/25 Kv AC TSS& Shunt Capacitor Bank.

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

Table with 5 columns: क्र., निविदा क्र./सिस्टम नम्बर, योजना का नाम, अनुमानित राशि (राशि रु. (अंश लाख में)), अमानत राशि (राशि रु. में). Lists various engineering works and their estimated costs.



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 142

## Cashless is digital jail

Canadian lawmakers have voted to extend the emergency powers that police can invoke to quell any potential restart of blockades by those opposed to COVID-19 restrictions. Lawmakers in the House of Commons voted 185 to 151 to affirm the powers. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said earlier that the powers were still needed despite police ending the occupation of the nation's capital by truckers over the weekend and police ending border blockades before that. The self-styled Freedom Convoy shook Canada's reputation for civility. Canadian government had morally lectured India during the farmer's protest, but is now acting in much more aggressive way to deal with protestors. But the main lesson for political movements in other countries from Canadian government measures is that cashless society is digital jail for citizens. The political activists in India should be thankful that the central and state governments in India did not invoke such financial sanctions on them, as cashless society is limited to urban areas only. The emergencies act in Canada 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 move to a cashless society, which has been accelerated by COVID-19 restrictions, makes it almost impossible to function in society without a bank account and a credit card. You can't purchase many services with cash anymore. When some local shop's wireless service went down and they couldn't process digital payments, people offered to pay with cash. They didn't know what to do. Like many businesses, some shops in developed countries aren't set up to handle physical money. And that's assuming you have large cash reserves to begin with, as you can't withdraw money from a frozen bank account. Before the cashless society, you could probably still participate in society, albeit with some inconvenience, without a bank account.

Not so in 2022. Now, without a working bank account, you can't pay for a telephone or internet. You can't make car payments, rent, or travel. You also can't exercise most basic rights from freedom of speech to freedom of assembly. You can't even pay a lawyer to defend you. Think of it as digital jail. There may be no bars, but you are far from free. We need to adjust our assessment of government action to the realities of our new world. The government doesn't need to break down your door anymore to effectively remove you from society. They can do it with the press of a button. It also drives home just how powerful technology has made governments and the businesses that gatekeep our digital world. When they work together, whether it is to financially de-platform a political group or shut down disfavoured speech, there is literally no way to escape their reach, nowhere to hide. And when they act without due process, there is no way to defend yourself. The same technology that lets us buy dinner with a few clicks from bed also means the government can unperson us with a few clicks. The fact that weaponizing the financial system against nonviolent protestors and their distant supporters was the government's tool of first resort should worry anyone who understands the role of civil disobedience in democracy. We don't yet know how wide the government and the banks will cast their electronic dragnet, but the potential reach is enormous, which means the potential for overreach is significant. But one thing is already clear; that in an interconnected digital world, our freedom depends more than ever on the wisdom, good intentions, and forbearance of government and big business.

## Trekking risks

This week, a trekker who fell at least 200 feet into a gorge at Nandi Hill, about 60 km from Bengaluru, was rescued by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the national and state disaster response forces. The 19-year-old victim from Delhi studying in an engineering college in Bengaluru fell into the gorge and got trapped. A few days ago, Kerala Forest Department had registered a case against trekker Babu, a youth who was recently rescued after being stranded in Kerala's Kurumbachi hills for nearly 48 hours. Babu and his friends have been charged for unauthorised trekking. Babu, along with his friends, went up the Kurumbachi hills in Cheradu, Palakkad district of Kerala on February 7. On their way down, Babu was exhausted and slipped on the rocks, ending up in a cavity in the hill. Being active and nature enthusiast is good, but breaking laws and taking risk is not good behaviour. Trekking is one of the best ways to get in touch with nature and enjoy the beautiful world around you. Trekking is an adventure sports which involves some kind of risk. One need to take proper precautions or it could be fatal. People should undertake trekking as well as hiking only after consulting a physical trainer and completing a formal course.

Statistics say that the outdoors is now nearly 70 percent of all leisure, vacation based travel, globally. This has massive ramifications in a country like India, where guidelines are available, but actual regulation, monitoring and implementation are abysmal. A hugely improved economy, increased and better road networks, the aviation revolution, internet and accessibility and a heightened need for fulfilment, aided by increased economic ability, have helped catapult adventure holidays to the fore. This is especially true for commercial trekking in places like Himalaya, an activity that has grown to four or five times its industry size over the last decade. India's adventure travel industry began with a handful of outdoorsmen and women but has grown to include shady travel agencies in absence of laws. With no regulatory barriers to entry, no checks and balances, individuals with no background in the adventure space began launching adventure travel companies. With no safety oversight, people are taking up adventure activities like trekking and raising possibilities of mishaps. The centre shall tell state governments to enact regulations for adventure sports, including trekking.

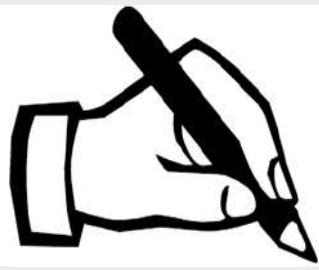
Central Chronicle welcomes articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: [editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity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

## TRADITIONAL CARPET SHOP



Traditional carpets are displayed at a shop in Tozeur in the Djerid region of south west Tunisia.

## Integrating learning, actualising inclusion with digital university

**RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI**

The education system has to be inclusive, dynamic and evolving so as to meet the ever-increasing needs and aspirations of a diverse group of learners. It should be able to embrace advancements in the field to remain current and relevant. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a great enabler as well as a great disabler in this context, if we catch up with ICT, it becomes an enabler and if we lag behind, it becomes a disabler. Digital or virtual education is emerging as a most-potent mode of the teaching-learning world over, especially after the corona pandemic. Learning loss owing to the closure of educational institutions was mitigated to a considerable extent due to online learning. In spite of limitations of high bandwidth internet connectivity and electronic gadgets, online learning helped avoid academic sessions becoming zero, and precious years of students were saved. The corona pandemic prompted University Grants Commission (UGC) to increase percentage of online teaching components from 20 to 40. Several universities resorted to Learning Management System (LMS) customised by the INFLIBNET. In the process, teachers and students developed skills in online teaching-learning to a large extent. UGC uploaded a draft regulation on blended learning for suggestions from academia and permitted universities to offer online programmes. The Ministry of Education launched several ICT initiatives for improving equity, access, quality and GER. These include,

SWAYAM, ARPIT, SWAYAMPRAKSHA, NPTEL, NDL, e-PG Pathshala, Shodhganga, e-Shodhsindhu, e-Yatra, Shodh Shuddhi, Spoken Tutorials, Virtual Labs, VIDWAN etc. There is a need felt now to accelerate and scale up the above-mentioned and new efforts for leveraging the benefits of virtual learning.

Anticipating the future growth trajectory of the learning system, the central government announced several initiatives on 17th May, 2020 itself. These included the launch of PM e-Vidya programme for multimode access to digital education encompassing Diksha (one nation-one digital platform), one class-one channel (upto class-XII), special e-Contents for the differently-abled student community and use of radio, community radio and podcast and e-Tutoring for higher education. All this amply demonstrates that the government has been preparing for a big push with respect to digital learning, which eventually happened on 1st February, 2022 with the announcement made by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman for establishing a digital university. She informed that this university is intended to provide access to world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experiences to students across the country at their "hands". It will be set-up on a networked hub and spoke model. In this model, the knowledge will originate from a centralised hub and will digitally travel to spokes (smaller locations) for use. Here, the hub refers to the best public universi-

ties and institutions in India and the spokes refer to individual learners who will be beneficiaries of the digital mode of delivery of knowledge. This digital university will comply with ISTE standards for the use of technology in teaching-learning. The catch point is that each hub needs to develop a cutting-edge ICT system. The beauty of plan is that the knowledge originating at the hubs will be in different Indian languages.

Modes of instruction in a digital or virtual university range from distance learning to live, interactive classes where students communicate with a teacher. In an asynchronous learning environment, the students are given the assignments from the self-paced courses to be completed within a timeframe. Students complete the assignments at their own pace and the interactions are limited to discussion boards, blogs, wikis etc. Oppositely, synchronous online study happens in real-time, where by teachers and students all interact online simultaneously. This happens either through text, video, audio or in all modes. In addition to the scheduled class time, there are usually additional assignments to be completed. Therefore these lessons are socially constructed. In my view, the proposed digital university should embrace all three models of online learning to meet the needs of diverse sections of the student community dwelling in a wide-range of socio-economic contexts. An added advantage is that students can graduate from their homes without ever dislocating themselves. Moreover, online resources function as a library, and with the facility for creating online study materials, the requirement of textbooks is also met with.

However, the caution is that it becomes extremely difficult to keep the learners' attention at the optimum level in the online learning ecosystem, making synchronous learning extremely difficult. Teachers have to find technology-enabled creative ways to keep students' attention focussed on the screen as they are in the comfort zone of their home environment.

Individualising lessons and short breaks can help students to stay engaged. Moreover, in a synchronous learning environment, teachers and students have to be extremely disciplined and focused in order to avoid learning loss and make it as interactive as offline learning. Digital learners can be effectively engaged through gamification that provides learning material as games to bring clarity and enjoyment to students learning experience. Gamification can also assist students to increase their intrinsic motivation for accomplishing desired learning goals.

Thus, a digital university is a huge opportunity for the nation to integrate learning, actualise digital inclusion, and build the future of rich and poor alike. However, the mandate of the digital university should not be restricted to converting traditional course materials into digital forms and their delivery in online mode. Delivery of contents amounts only to having a set of data or information without knowing what to do with it. Analysis, synthesis, inference drawing, firming-up conclusions, application potential and validation of the knowledge created, and mid-course correction complete the learning cycle. How to ensure this, is the biggest challenge in online learning. Creative use of hybrid learning models may help overcome this deficiency. Hybrid learning, as understood, is not merely a mode of delivery of knowledge in a mix of online and offline learning environments. It is actually an appropriate blending of pedagogies for capacity building of learners like lecturing, tutorial, group discussion, debate, students' seminar, home assignment, dissertation, internship, case study, policy formulation, project evaluation, field study, survey, excursion, use of virtual labs etc. Digital University, if conceptualised and nurtured carefully, has the potential to transform current learning system as envisaged in National Education Policy.

(Raghavendra P Tiwari is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Picnic season

The picnic season is on full swing. A picnic is a meal taken outdoors as part of an excursion, especially in scenic surroundings, such as parks, lakeside or other places. Picnickers use plates and cups made of plastic to serve food, water, tea and so on. And also it is often seen in picnics that people play music very loudly. What can cause noise pollution? People should avoid playing music loudly and also clean their picnic area before they leave. There is no need to upset the ecosystem with a large amount of junk left over after a picnic. Also, bins should be used to dump garbage, instead of littering the picnic spots. People should avoid using paper cups, plates, plastic spoons, forks which are used only once and thrown away. These are harmful to the environment. One can carry reusable cloth napkins instead of paper towels and tissue. And enjoy an eco-friendly picnic without doing any harm to the environment.

Parilina, via email

### Saluting Sun

It is appropriate to perform one of our ancient yogic practices of Surya Namaskar or Sun Salutation regularly. At a time when the entire world is suffering from the relentless onslaught of the Coronavirus, it is all the more significant that we train ourselves to practise Surya Namaskar for the body to withstand any kind of health hazard. Performing Surya Namaskar daily provides a lot of health benefits. It reduces tension, improves blood circulation, regulates breathing, and stimulates the central nervous system. It also helps to gain spiritual knowledge and wisdom, calms our mind and enables us to think clearly. Another important benefit of performing this yoga early in the morning is that during that time the ultraviolet rays are not harsh, and as a result, the skin doesn't get overexposed to the sun.

Ranganathan, via email

### Overcrowded

I like to bring it to your notice that the Covid protocol is still not followed in the city buses across India. Putting the safety of passengers at risk, private bus operators take overcrowded trips to various locations. The passengers in those buses hardly wear masks, making it easier for the deadly virus and its variants to spread. We are aware that the virus is spreading fast. So, to protect the masses, the government should make the Covid-19 regulations stricter. I request people also to be aware of the situation.

Jyotish, via email

### Request

Many citizens go for morning and/or evening walks to keep themselves fit, and healthy. However, walking briskly with masks is a big problem that walkers face, and this is unhealthy too. Given this, we request the authorities to allow morning and evening walkers to do their exercises, without a mask in non-crowdy places. This would be of great help. The authorities may fix designated timings like up to 9.30 am in the mornings and from 4 pm onwards in the evenings.

Disha, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Umang Kalra@umkalra**

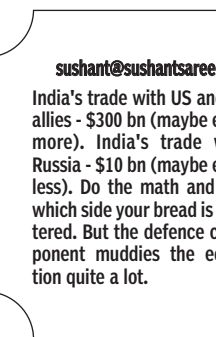
I once met an Indian kid in Edinburgh with the fakesst fake accent I've ever heard, repeatedly insisting that his name is 'Warren' even when I kept being like dude I'm Indian tell me your real name. Then I heard from someone else his name was Varun and I cried.

**Nikita@glorious\_gluten**

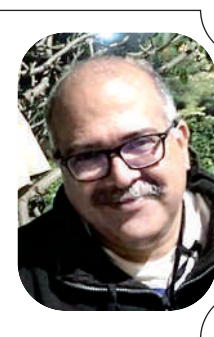
My neighbour recently asked me "akeli rehti ho toh itna samaan kiske liye khareed rahi ho" while I was buying vegetables. Love how the mere existence of single women is a threat to thekedars of the institution of family.

**Vir Das@thevirdas**

I have a simple rule. If we don't know each-other, are seated together on a flight, and you're holding your phone a foot away from your face talking on speakerphone. I'm joining the call and saying hi to the person on the other line.

**sushant@sushantsareen**

India's trade with US and its allies - \$300 bn (maybe even more). India's trade with Russia - \$10 bn (maybe even less). Do the math and see which side your bread is buttered. But the defence component muddies the equation quite a lot.

**Lavanya@LavanyaBallal**

Ancestral home, more than 200 years old.

**Maj Gen YashMor@YashMor5**

This is indeed serious issue. Wonder why no one really knows why the delay? Thousands have cleared tests and awaiting joining instructions. Many have become overage. Heartbreaking for young boys and their families. Many of us don't realise what it is to be a soldier in Army.

**Gaurav Sabnis@gauravsabnis**

Most bread rolls around the world either aren't soft enough for your fingers to meet in the middle, like a kaiser roll. And if they are soft, they are too soft to spring back, like a burger or hot dog bun. Hoagie breads in US are the least worst alternative to Bombay pav.12







## Alia glows in pristine white as she promotes 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in capital

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt looked every-inch gorgeous dressed in a pristine white saree as she was seen promoting her forthcoming film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in the capital.

Alia made heads turn on Tuesday as she was seen promoting the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming film on Tuesday. Dressed in mesh white saree, the actress was clicked posing for the shutter-bugs next to a bright red vintage car.

The 28-year-old also did a signature 'namaste' pose from the film for the cameras. She completed her look with nude make-up, orange lips and a small bindi.

'Gangubai Kathiawadi' tells the tale a young girl named Ganga who becomes Gangubai, a madame in the red light area of Kamathipura. It is loosely based on the true story of Ganga Harjivandas, popularly known as Gangubai Kothewali, whose life was documented in the book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai' written by S. Hussain Zaidi. The film is scheduled to release on February 25.

## Sanjay Dutt announces next film, tags astrologer

Bollywood superstar Sanjay Dutt took to social media to announce his next movie -- 'Ghuchchadhi' -- that went on floors on Tuesday.

Dutt posted a picture on Twitter which shows him practising yoga in a garden. In the tweet, Dutt tagged Balu Munnangi, an astrologer, from whom he has taken advice.

"Thank you @balu\_munnangi for bringing your energy to this new beginning. Appreciate your presence," Dutt wrote.

Besides 'Ghuchchadhi', which is being directed by Binoy Gandhi, the actor will also be seen as 'Adheera' in Yash starer 'KGF Chapter 2' slated to release on April 14.

He also has 'Shamshera' and 'Toolsidas Junior' in the pipeline.



## Vidhi sticks strong with her ambitions

Sony Entertainment Television's show 'Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye' narrates the story of love and ambition going hand-in-hand. Soumya Verma, a budding writer played by Vidhi Pandya, breaks the shackles of patriarchy to achieve her dream of becoming a writer in Armaan Oberoi's (played by Vijayendra Kumeria) company. The steps being taken by Soumya to not give in and pursue her dreams has been highly appreciated by the audience.

The upcoming episode includes a plan by Armaan to win Soumya back and manipulate her. Contrary to Harshvardhan's suggestions to forget Soumya, Armaan continues to believe that he can tame her. On the other hand, Malini is upset with Soumya for turning down a great proposal because she wants to become her idol instead of marrying him.

Soumya, in her pursuit to clear things out with Armaan and explain the reasons behind her rejection, finds herself back in his office. To her surprise, he hires her and instructs to keep their personal and professional lives separate. At the same time, their proposal rejection angle is being aired on media as Soumya is shown as someone who plays cheap tricks because of rejecting Armaan's marriage proposal.

Armaan begins to ignore Soumya as per his plan, following which she visits his office and further follows him to a cafe where she's defended by Armaan when Sushma insulted her. Will be move of Armaan make Soumya see him in a different light?

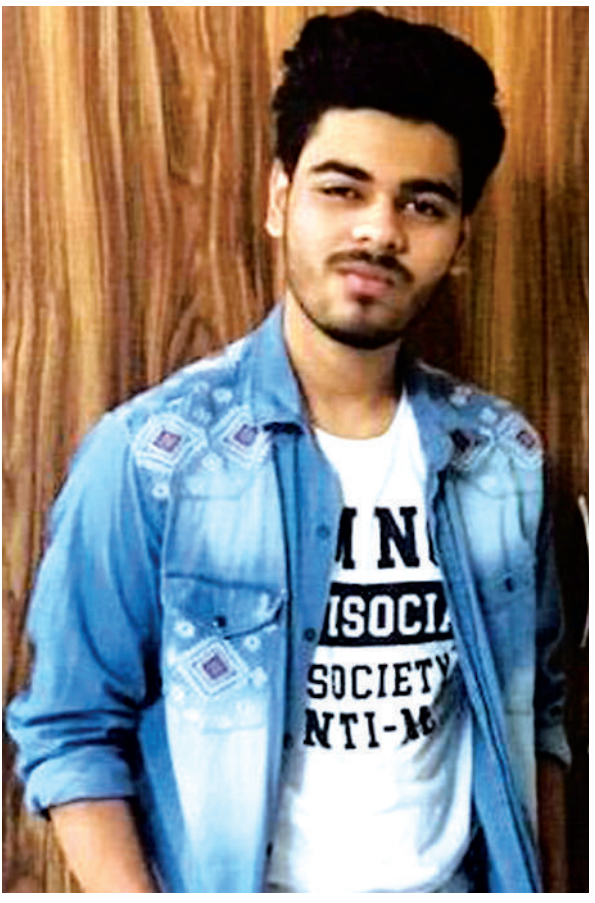
Watch Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye every Monday to Friday at 9:00 P.M., only on Sony Entertainment Television.



## Shabir Ahluwalia to play new lead in 'Beyond Dreams'

Star Bharat has been entertaining its viewers by bringing in highly entertaining content over the last few months. In addition to the ongoing popular shows such as RadhaKrishn, Tera Mera Saath Rahe, Haathi Ghoda Paal Ki Jai Kanhaiya Laal Ki, and the recently announced show Woh Toh Hai Albel, the channel is all set to bring in another show produced by none other than the entertainer of Indian Television shows Yash Patnaik's 'Beyond Dreams' that will see television handsome hunk Shabir Ahluwalia playing the main lead.

While confirming the news, sources close to the show said, "It feels great to take on a new journey with Star Bharats' upcoming new show and we couldn't think of anyone but Shabir to be well suited for the character. Shabirs' role in the show is one of the most significant and powerful roles. The character has a great contribution to the show and I am sure that the people are going to love the character. It's his first stint with the channel and he is looking forward to this journey." The show is slated to go on-air in March. Tune in to watch Shabir Ahluwalia come and entertain you on your screens only on Star Bharat.



## King of Hearts: Ayush Saxena is inspired by Shah Rukh Khan

Actor Ayush Saxena known for featuring in television shows like 'Rudrakal' and 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', enjoys playing comic characters.

He says: "As an actor I'm always open to essaying different characters that are challenging and promising, be it a positive or a negative role. But personally I really enjoy portraying comedy roles in the show. I want to make my audience laugh and overcome their stress while watching me. I want them to fall in love with my on screen character."

Ayush also featured in Bollywood movie 'Khajoor Pe Atke'. He shares his memorable experience while playing a romantic role.

"In 'Rudrakal', I essayed a romantic character Vivek. I really enjoyed it. As I'm all inspired by Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, who is the romantic king of our entertainment industry. It was really a memorable experience."

## HOROSCOPE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24

<b>Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18</b> Today, you will battle clutter! You clean up and organise, and actually find the process therapeutic. You will also solve problems in a jiffy. There are decisions to be made, and Ganesha suggests that you research carefully before you make up your mind.	<b>Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20</b> All the dieting that you have been undergoing will finally begin to show results, with compliments galore coming your way from your friends. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are likely to be high. A bright and beautiful day waits, says Ganesha.	<b>Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20</b> You will remain undecided today, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesha. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself, unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships.	<b>Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21</b> The planets are not well disposed towards you today, fears Ganesha. There are strong chances of crossing swords with someone, getting into a serious personality clash. Not good is come out of it. You may simply end in alienating those who are otherwise well disposed towards you. Later in the day the situation will ease out.
<b>Gemini: May 22 - June 21</b> You have been aching to arrange a family reunion or get-together at your house. Well, today is the perfect day to do it. And why just family? You are also likely to invite some of your close friends and important business associates over to your place. Your spouse will enjoy the company of your loved ones.	<b>Cancer: June 22 - July 22</b> You are likely start the day in the best of spirits today. Your enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be infectious, and you will be able to lift the mood wherever you go. However, your enthusiasm can be short-lived and pummelled under the weight of some bad news, leaving you distraught. Take a break in case you feel stressed out, advises Ganesha.	<b>Leo: July 23 - Aug 23</b> "Show me the money!" Well, you might as well be saying that aloud, because today, you are going to be heard. Ganesha foresees a fruitful day in money matters. Even professionally, you come to terms with enjoying the power of money. It is a good day for a bit of splurging, especially on those you love.	<b>Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22</b> You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesha. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.
<b>Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23</b> Gloom may settle upon you today when you face your financial situation, Libra. You may have had a lot of bills to pay, and thus your coffers could be a bit low for your liking. Still, this is only temporary, and it probably feels good to have the bills out of the way. Find something inexpensive, like reading, to keep you busy and get your mind off it. You're probably doing fine!	<b>Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22</b> It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner. If you do not let the generosity burn a hole through your pocket, you may have an overall satisfying day, says Ganesha.	<b>Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31</b> The artist in you will shine today, and how, says Ganesha. You'll be content with your possessions, which will have been preserved over long years. Later in the day, your focus may shift to renovating or decorating your home by adding artifacts and furniture.	<b>Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20</b> Don't be surprised if you get unexpected success in your financial dealings, it's all on the cards! You will be pliant, more than the usual, and will be sensitive to and understanding of others' problems, says Ganesha. For those pursuing studies, academic growth is certain.

## CROSSWORD

223

**ACROSS**

- Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- Summit
- Confess (2 wds.)
- Preacher's word
- Inner being
- Awaken
- Bount
- Newt, e.g.
- Storage spot
- Transplant
- NH time zone
- Guys' dates
- Skier's surface
- Dieter's unit
- Pain in a hearing organ
- Intense anger
- Acapulco coin
- Express score
- Incite
- Drinking tube
- Genesis location
- Business gp.
- Actor Richard \_\_\_\_\_

**DOWN**

- Computer fodder
- Give forth
- Come together
- Deep blue
- Mule's father
- Roughest
- Army mascot
- Pass, as time
- Lecturers
- Triumphed
- Naked
- Consumes
- Jaunty
- Da Vinci's "\_\_\_\_ Lisa"
- Food fish
- Untruths
- Subside
- Havana export
- Moved upward
- Minimum
- Fragrant wood
- Feet parts
- Bert's buddy
- Assoc.
- Go-getter
- Spray cans
- Songbird
- More transparent
- December 24 and 31
- Tibetan monk
- Scheduled
- Self-\_\_\_\_\_
- On a ship
- Secluded valley
- Petty quarrel
- Farm tower
- Wheel shaft
- Fish feature
- Medical "at once!"
- One \_\_\_\_\_ time (2 wds.)
- Maiden name indicator

**SOLUTION 222**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104





BRIEF



A labourer shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote, during the fourth phase of UP Assembly polls, in Pilibhit district, Wednesday.

Dismiss

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal against a single judge order upholding the re-appointment of Gopinath Ravindran as the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Kannur University...

Disburse

Kolkata: The West Bengal government Wednesday began disbursement of compensation to consenting landowners in Deocha Pachami coal mining project area...

Air exercise

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in a three-week multilateral air exercise at Waddington in the UK from March 6...

Mishap

Agra (UP): Three people were killed and five others injured as their van collided with a bus here, just a few kilometres away from the venue of a wedding function...

Weather: High 34 Low 17. MARKET: NIFTY 17,063.25 SENSEX 57,232.06. BULLION: GOLD 50,152 SILVER 64,269

Rs 18,000 cr returned to banks from Vijay Mallya, others: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 23: An amount of Rs 18,000 crore has been returned to banks from fugitive tycoons Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi...

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED arrests Maha minister Nawab Malik

Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Maharashtra Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik in a money-laundering case probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim...



NCP leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik being taken for a medical test after his arrest by the Enforcement Director (ED) in connection with a money laundering case involving Dawood Ibrahim, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

personnel before he was taken away for a medical checkup by agency officials in a vehicle escorted by CRPF personnel and local police. He told the media from inside the vehicle: "We will fight and we will win. Will expose all."

'Will fight and win, won't bow down'

Maharashtra Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik, who was on Wednesday arrested in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of the Mumbai underworld, said he won't bow down. Will fight and win. Won't bow down, Malik said waving to waiting media...

ment was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and he was arrested under the same provisions as he was "evasive" in his replies.

He will be produced in a court in Mumbai where the agency is expected to seek his custody for at least seven days. Malik's

alleged links to some property deals with those convicted for the Mumbai blasts are said to be under the radar of the federal probe agency and hence his questioning was necessitated. His party and NCP leaders had said he was taken by ED officials from his residence around 6 AM.

'Chh'garh govt's scheme in UP to solve stray cattle issue'

Amethi (UP), Feb 23 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said if her party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, it will adopt the Chhattisgarh government's scheme to buy cow dung to deal with the menace of stray cattle.



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra waves at the people, during a roadshow in support of Congress candidate Ashish Shukla for the UP Assembly elections, in Amethi, Wednesday.

Referring to a recent speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi wherein he promised voters that a new policy will be introduced after March 10 to tackle the issue of stray cattle in Uttar Pradesh, Vadra said

she is happy that he 'copied' the Congress' suggestion. Addressing a public

'Six vehicles set on fire'

Hyderabad, Feb 23:

meeting in Jagdishpur here, she said the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government has shown how to solve this issue.

Six vehicles engaged in construction of a bridge were set on fire allegedly by some suspected Maoists in Bhadradri Kothagudem district bordering Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, police said. The incident happened in Dummugudem mandal and the police was informed about the incident by some locals, a senior police official said adding they were verifying into the matter.

Naxalites set engine of goods train on fire



Around 150 naxalites stopped the good's train near Bhansi station

Dantewada, Feb 23:

It was on the night of Tuesday at 9:00 pm, more than about 150 Naxalites set a good's train engine on Visakhapatnam - KK Railway Line on fire. This group of naxalites comprised of naxals from West Bastar division and Bhairamgarh Area Committee.

alits were found present on the track. The Naxalites have flashed banners on the railway track and in view of likely incident, applied emergency brakes and stopped the good's train.

No sooner the good's train halted, the naxalites took both the Loco pilots into arrest and seized their mobile and walkie-talkie. After this the Naxalites torched the engine of the good's train and ran away towards the jungle. The place where the Naxalites torched the engine, there many a times the bogies of trains have got derailed. On Tuesday night also the armed Naxalite had come and left many brochures and naxal literature at the site of the incident mentioning with charges of loss to farmers, labourers, tribals, women and action against Muslim in the name of Nava Bharat. The Naxalites have also called for nation-wide strike on Feb 23-24.

Man sentenced to 20 years RI

Balod, Feb 23:

A special court has sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for abducting and raping a five-year-old girl in Balod district.

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and IPC, special public prosecutor Channu Lal Sahu said.

The accused was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3,500 was imposed on him.

According to the prosecution, in November 2021, accused Salam abducted the minor girl and sexually exploited her. The child returned home and narrated the entire incident to her parents. Taking swift action in the case, the police arrested Salam immediately and the chargesheet was produced in the court within 48 hours of the incident.

'Dynasts ignored problems of Muslim women because of vote bank politics'

Barabanki (UP), Feb 23 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hit out at rivals, saying they only bothered about "vote-bank politics" and did not pay attention to the "mountain-like" problems faced by Muslim women due to evil practices like triple talaq. Addressing an election rally for Barabanki and Ayodhya districts, he claimed that the opposition parties are rattled as

No end to Lalu's troubles

Ranchi, Feb 23 (PTI):

the poor people, who have benefited from various welfare schemes including free ration during coronavirus pandemic, are carrying the BJP's victory flag. Increasing the safety and dignity of daughters has always been the priority of the double-engine government, the prime minister said and highlighted the large-scale recruitment of women in Uttar Pradesh Police as well as in the paramilitary forces and the army.

More troubles are likely for the ailing RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, incarcerated in the Rs 950 crore fodder scam and now undergoing treatment in Rajendra Prasad Institute of Medical Science here, as the Enforcement Directorate may confiscate assets created by those convicted in the scandal in line with the directions to CBI by a special court.

The former Bihar chief minister was earlier this week sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court here in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore from Doranda treasury.

The special court directed CBI to provide a copy of the judgment, the FIR and the charge sheet of the fodder scam case to the ED for necessary action.

In the judgment delivered on February 21, CBI special judge Sudhanshu Kumar Shashi said "I find that the properties/assets created from the proceeds of the crime by the convicts and dead accused persons of this case could not be identified."

He said it may be a subject for investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

LIC IPO Advertisement: LIC IPO Reservation for Policyholders. To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria: Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies... Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022. DEMAT Account Opening: Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account. NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open\_NSDL\_Demat\_Account.php. CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx.

Har Pal Aapke Saath









# Story Telling Competition in Gurukul Public School

Central Chronicle News

**Kawardha, Feb 23:** Story telling competition was held at Gurukul Public School, Kawardha for classes 4 and 5th students. The objective of the event was to build up confidence in the children to stand in front of others and tell a story. All the students from different sections participated in this competition in a very great zeal and enthusiastic way.



Chandra Shekhar Sharma Bureau Chief Central Chronicle.

They judged the performance of the students on the basis of the given criteria- Pronunciation, Fluency, Voice Modulation and Gesture.

and Urvi Chandravanshi (4th D) from class 5 first position Hriday Agarwal (5th C), second position Divyanshi Sahu (5th A), third position Ipsita Jain (5th A) and consolation prizes were given to Anamika Patel (5th B) Alia Khan (5th D) further Subhadra Sahi incharge of classes 4 and 5 congratulated all the winners and appreciated their wonderful performance.

The winner of this competition were from 4th class first position Komal Mahant (4th-F), second position Sarthak Tiwari (4th C), 3rd position Atika Fatima (4th B) and consolation prizes were given to Aarakshya Sahu (4th B).

At last Chairman Mahavir Jain, Secretary Atul Deshlahara, Treasurer Santosh Bothra, V.K. Shrivastava (Principal) and Mrs. Sonali Patra (Vice Principal) congratulated all the students for their mesmerizing performance.

# HC stays triple talaq order of Sharia court

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 23:** The Chhattisgarh High Court in Bilaspur has stayed a triple talaq order passed against a woman by a Sharia court operating in Raipur whose validity has also been challenged by her, the petitioner's counsel said on Tuesday.

A single bench of Justice P Sam Koshy on Monday ordered a stay on the effect and operation of the impugned order till the next date of hearing, said the counsel for the woman petitioner, Devershi Thakur.

The woman had filed a petition in the HC challenging the validity of 'Idara-E Shariya Islami Court' operating in Chhattisgarh' capital Raipur and a triple talaq order passed by it against her.

The Sharia court in January this year in a ruling granted triple talaq (a practice of instant divorce now banned under the law) to the woman (on basis of her husband's pronouncement) following which she filed a writ petition in the HC against the order, he said.

The woman argued that no opportunity was provided by the Sharia

court to present her side, which was a violation of the right to life provided under the Constitution, Thakur said.

"Through the present petition, the petitioner had challenged the existence of the 'Idara-E Shariya Islami Court' which is in violation of the constitution, fundamental rights to life and liberty and the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986," said Thakur.

The petitioner had complained at a women's police station here against her husband and in-laws, but the counselling at the 'One Stop

Sakhi Centre' (which takes up women-related issues) failed to bring about a rapprochement between the two sides. An FIR was subsequently registered at the police station against the woman's husband and in-laws.

However, the respondent/husband proceeded with triple talaq pronouncement and the Sharia court passed its order without providing an opportunity to the woman to present her side, Thakur said. The Centre enacted a law in 2019 which made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.

# CPI leader Manish Kunjam listens to problem of villagers



Central Chronicle News

**Konta, Feb 23:** National President of Tribal Mahasabha and former MLA Manish Kunjam reached Kistaram village of Konta block. All the villagers of Kistaram reached the weekly local market, as soon as the villagers got information about their sudden arrival in the nearby area, Manish Kunjam gathered

the villagers and got apprised of the public problems of the panchayat.

Villagers said that there are facing water problem. Further the villagers said that no one is getting old age pension, some people were getting it earlier. The villagers have said the need to build a street in the panchayat. After listening to the problem of Kistaram Gram Panchayat, Manish

Kunjam immediately informed Sukma District Collector Vineet Nandanwar about the problem of hand pump through telephone.

Collector Nandanwar has asked to take immediate cognizance in this regard and discuss with the concerned department. AISF State President Mahesh Kunjam, Kosa Sodi Sarpanch was present on this occasion.

# Sikh men, women in large number attend 'Shabad Kirtan'

Organised at Nanak Sagar

Central Chronicle News

**Pithora, Feb 23:** In the 'Kirtan Samagam' of Sikh Samaj in district's Nanak Sagar, the Sikh men and women in large number were present in the 'Shabad Kirtan' programme. The first 'guru' of Sikhs - Guru Gurunank Devji during his journey from Amarkantak to Puri has stopped at Nanak Sagar and with this the Sikh people have got loyalty and faith towards it.

After discussions on developing world-level 'Gurudwara' at this place, now the work of construction is going to start. On Sunday, at Nanak Sagar, a massive 'Shabad Kirtan' and 'Langar' was organised by the people of Sikh Samaj and in this the 'jatha' from Raipur per-



formed 'Shabad Kirtan' from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and after this the 'Langar' was thrown open for all.

The members of Gurudwara Nirman Samiti and office bearers informed that now on occasion of every 'Poonima', 'Shabad

Kirtan' and 'Langar' will be organised. In this 'Kirtan' programme, President State Minorities Commission Mahendra Singh Chabda, President Station Road Gurudwara Niranjan Singh Khanuja, working president Surendra Singh Chabda, President Gurudwara Baba Budhaji Harkrishna Singh Rajput, Rinku Oberoi from Raipur, Devendra Singh Anand from Delhi, head of Nanak Sagar Gadhuljhar Gurudwara Committee Harjinder Singh Harju, Mahipal Singh, Gurudwara Committee Basna - Manjit Singh Saluja, Lal Singh, Manjit Singh Chabda, Romi Saluja from Saraipali, Jagjit Singh Mata from Pithora, Kulwant Singh Khanuja and Sikh brethren from Basna, Saraipali, Pithora, Sankara, Bagbaha, Sarangarh, Khairiyar

Road of Mahasamund district were present in large number.

**People thronging in large number:**

Right since the news about Nanak Sagar has come to fore, the devotees of Sikh Samaj are coming to pay obeisance to Guruji here in large number, not only from state, but from other parts of country and seeking blessings for peace and prosperity.

A woman from Raipur suffering with paralysis had come to this place with blessings to cure herself and two youths brought her on a chair and took her upto the programme.

**Sampat Agrawal present whole-day**

In the 'Shabad Kirtan' programme organised at Nanak Sagar, the founder of 'Neelanchal Sewa Samiti' Sampat Agrawal was present the whole day with due respect and faith.

# School children deprived of sports facilities

As sports stadiums is being encroached upon

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Feb 23:** In order to carry out sports activities in various Gram Panchayats of Dongargarh block, half of the mini stadium was constructed years ago by the state government, but due to the negligence of the responsible staff and the people's representatives, in today's situation all the stadiums have reached a state of disrepair without any use.



Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Kolhapuri for the last 20 years people's representatives have been trying to remove the encroachment from time to time, but due to lack of administrative support, the encroachment could not be removed till date.

Meanwhile the stadium built in LB Nagar is in dilapidated condition without any use Sarpanch Tulsi Hira Soni informed that there is ample field space available for sports in LB Nagar area, but the stadium is in a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance and improper use.

Apart from this, a mini stadium can also be constructed by constructing a compound in the plains located in Kanya Higher Secondary School. For

this, it has been stated on behalf of the Chairman Block Congress Committee LB Nagar, Hira Soni that the MLA and the local administration should prepare a proposal and send it.

According to Kaval Nirmalkar, the young Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Musra, the stadium was constructed to promote sports activities among the youth and children, but it is not maintained by the Panchayat due to lack of adequate facilities for operation and maintenance of the stadium.

The construction of the mini stadium at Mudhia was declared complete by the department after completing half of it and the field is surrounded by thorny bushes, and due to

the lack of proper access roads, cricketers face great difficulty in getting around in this occasionally used ground and the stadium is in a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance.

Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Mudhia Dinesh Verma said that in the past this stadium used to come under the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Mohara, but in today's situation it comes under Gram Panchayat Mudhia.

According to the information received, the stadium has not been transferred to the Gram Panchayat by the department till date, due to which the Panchayat is not officially considering the maintenance and use of this stadium.

# Challan proceedings start as preparation for cleanliness survey 2022 begins

Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Feb 23:** Under mission Sanitation Survey 2022, District Collector Kuldeep Sharma has directed all the Municipal Corporations, Nagar Palika Parishads, Nagar Panchayats to work while being aware of cleanliness.

Acting on the use of banned plastic bags on the instructions of the Collector, 23 shops were inspected by the civic team under Municipal Corporation Chirmiri, where challan proceedings were taken on the use of banned single use plastic. A challan of Rs 15 hundred has been imposed on 6 shops by the team.

Along with challaning action on the sale and use of banned plastics, spot fines for throwing garbage in public places, recovery of user charges are being taken. Door-to-door garbage collection, source segregation, home

composting is being done through cleanliness didis in all the bodies and panchayats and people are being made aware about cleanliness by appointing brand ambassadors.

Along with cleaning the ponds, drains, accessible toilets, the major squares and squares of the city have been marked and the Amrit Mahotsav Tiraha and Chauraha have been made. Wide publicity is also being done through wall painting, and public Munadi.

In the cleanliness survey 2021, the first rank in the state among the cities with a population of 50 thousand to 01 lakh and in the Municipal Corporation Chirmiri, which secured the third position in the National Zone, special attention is being paid to cleanliness to stay on the top position in 2022 as well.

Chirmiri also got 01 star rank in GFC in the last survey. The same Nagar Palika Parishad,

Manendragarh, got the first rank in the state and the national zone ninth in the population of 25 thousand to 50 thousand.

Similarly, Nagar Palika Parishad Baikunthpur, which secured 6th position in State and National Zone in a body with a population of 25 thousand to 50 thousand, got 03 stars in GFC. It was also ranked 102 out of 133 cities.

Nagar Palika Parishad Shivpur-Charcha got 102nd rank in State and National Zone in cities with population less than 25 thousand. In the cities with population less than 10 thousand, Nagar Panchayat Jhagrakhand got the first rank in the state and 87 in the national zone.

In the State and National Zone, Nagar Panchayat Khongapani got 77th rank and Nagar Panchayat Nai Leatheri got 109th rank.

# DWFwu annual meeting for regularisation concludes

Central Chronicle News

**Birkoni, Feb 23:** The annual body meeting of Daily Wage Forest Workers Union Pt. No. 548 of district Mahasamund concluded here calling the need of regularisation of daily wagers.

All the daily wage earners expressed concern about them not regularise as per the promise to regularize the daily wage earners in the public manifesto of the present State government. As per information, a order was issued two and a half years ago to set up a committee for regularization, but the process is still to begin.

It was also said that due to lack of budget, salary has not been paid to the daily wage earners since last month, and in the coming days the retired officers, employees in the forest department general/g.c.

State Minor Forest Produce Association/g. c. Work has been made available in the State Forest Development Corporation, which is not fair. On this occasion, State General Secretary Ramkumar Sinha, State Executive Member, President Janaklal Sahu Sanat Bhoi, Dashrath Yadav and a large number of office bearers were present.

**Form No. URC-2**  
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh that Swargiya Usha Devi Educational Society is registered as per Section 20 of Society Registration Act, 1960.

2. The principal objects of the proposed Company are as follows:

To carry on the activities of promoting, setting up, establishing, franchising, developing and running educational institutions like schools, colleges, coaching institutes, study centers, oral coaching classes where in professional, technical, vocational or higher education in every field of science, commerce, arts, management, engineering, law, banking, insurance, finance, medicine, hospitality, tourism, computers, or any other type of education be imparted by conducting regular, part time and weekend classes as well as organize conferences, seminars, workshops, educational update and exchange information relating knowledge without profit motive.

3. A copy of the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed Company may be inspected at the office at C/o Tagore Group of Institution, Turkadhi Bypass Road, Sakri, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh- 495001.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to CRC, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6,7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050 within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its registered office.

For, SWARGIYA USHA DEVI EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Sd/- Sd/-  
Kavita Vishwakarma Deepak Singh Rajput  
Vice-Secretary Vice President  
Sd/- Sd/-  
Rajnish Singh  
Treasurer  
Sd/- Sd/-  
Sukant Vishwakarma Reema Singh Rajput  
Secretary Vice-President  
Date: 24/02/2022  
Place: Bilaspur

**ADITYA BIRLA Finance Ltd.**  
(A part of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.)  
Regd. Office: Indian Rayen Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266 | (T) +91 22 43567100 | (Toll Free) 1800 270 7000 | CIN: U02990G191PL0064603 | www.adityabirlafinance.com

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that w.e.f. 20th May, 2022, Aditya Birla Finance Limited, Raigarh Branch, shall be relocating its following premises -

From: To:  
Closing Premises Address: New Office Address:  
3rd Floor, Rahul Complex, 1st Floor, Rahul Complex,  
Jagatpur, O. P. Jindal Road, Jindal Road, Jagatpur,  
Raigarh, Raigarh,  
Chhattisgarh - 496001 Chhattisgarh - 496001

For ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LTD.

Place : Raigarh Sd/-  
DOP : 24th February, 2022 Authorized Signatory

## BRIEF

### Revamped

**New Delhi:** Delhi government's official website is soon going to be available in a revamped form, bringing together portals of different departments on a single platform. Currently, the website having links of government departments fails to open despite repeated attempts. There are some other portals like that of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) which pose problems when a user tries to get any information.

### Sick

**Bikaner:** Ninety-six people, including children, fell sick after consuming food served at a marriage function in Bikaner district's Sridungargarh area. They complained of pain in the abdomen and vomiting after consuming snacks, juice and other items at the function. They were rushed to a nearby hospital for primary treatment, and nearly 24 of them were later admitted to the PBM Hospital.

### Associate

**Jammu:** An alleged associate or over ground worker of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, was arrested by the police and a grenade recovered here. The timely arrest of the suspect foiled the terrorists' plan to carry out a grenade attack in the winter capital Jammu. Shakir Ahmad Naikoo, a resident of Harpora village of south Kashmir's Shopian district, was picked up on specific information.

### Held

**Gurugram:** The Gurugram police busted an interstate gang of vehicle lifters from Jaipur, who had recently allegedly killed a cab driver in order to rob his car. The arrested accused are identified as gang leader Vishal, a resident of Delhi, his girlfriend Rekha, Vinod, Jitu, Ravi and Rahul, residents of Muana village in Jaipur.

### Fake

**Guwahati:** A former police officer turned militant of Meghalaya who is also dabbling in politics was arrested by Assam Police in Guwahati with fake Indian currency notes. Two of his aides were also arrested in the operation carried out by Basistha Police Station of the city. Spl squad and an EGPD team from Basistha PS busted a FICN scam 3 persons, Champion Sangma, Gohancher Sangma and Chherian Momin all residents of Meghalaya.

### Rescued

**Pune:** A leopard struggling to stay afloat in a 50-foot deep well has been rescued in the nick of time thanks to a swift operation involving volunteers and Forest officials in Parner tehsil of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra. The male big cat was rescued from the well in Alkuti village after a three-hour operation involving members of Wildlife SOS, officials of the state forest department, and villagers.

## Chandigarh residents at few places still face power outages



A traffic cop directing traffic as traffic lights not functioning due to outage in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Chandigarh, Feb 23 (PTI):

Residents of some parts of Chandigarh continued to face power outages on Wednesday with electricity supply remaining disrupted after the employees of the electricity department went on a three-day strike against privatisation. Harried residents of Chandigarh, which is the country's first planned

city, blamed the city administration for remaining a mute spectator, leaving them in lurch as the power outages crippled the city. Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari sought intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the matter, saying there is chaos and anarchy and all essential services have come to a standstill. "Dear

@AmitShah ji Chandigarh has been without electricity for 36 hours. There is chaos & anarchy. All Essential Services are at a standstill. @ChandigarhAdmn has miserably failed to address the situation. Chandigarh is an Union Territory. Kindly intervene," said Tewari in a tweet on Wednesday. The Chandigarh administration on Tuesday had invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act, banning strikes by the electricity department for six months.

There were, however, reports that electricity supply was getting restored at some places. The outage since Monday night forced government hospitals in the union territory to reschedule elective surgeries, besides adversely affecting residential, industrial and commercial areas in the city.

## We are alert, prepared for any potential threats: Army chief

Bengaluru, Feb 23 (PTI):

Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane on Wednesday said that the Indian Army is committed to maintain peace and stability at the country's borders, and is alert and prepared for any potential threats.

Pointing at the changes in the way in which battles are fought today, he said the army has increased its efficiency with new weaponries and modern equipment.

The Army Chief was speaking after presenting the prestigious 'President's Colours', or 'Nishan' as popularly known in the Army, to four Parachute battalions here. "The Indian army



Special Force of Army Battalion conduct parachute parade during President's Colours event, at Parachute Regiment Training Center (PRTC), in Bengaluru, Wednesday.

today is going through a challenging time, you are well aware of the developments at our borders. The army is committed to

maintain peace and stability at our borders. I want to definitely say that we are alert and prepared for any potential threats,"

## DEMANDING JUSTICE



ABVP members protest demanding justice for Lavanya, a minor who committed suicide allegedly after forced conversion, at Athwajet in Surat, Gujarat.

## Harish Rawat claims video shows ballot tampering

Dehradun, Feb 23 (PTI):

Congress general secretary Harish Rawat has posted a video on social media that purportedly shows one person at an Army centre ticking and signing several postal ballot papers.

Sharing the video on his Twitter handle and Facebook, Rawat said, "Sharing a short video for everyone's information. It shows how one man at an army centre is ticking and signing several ballot papers. Will the Election Commission take cognisance of this?"

When asked about the tweet, Rawat's spokesman Surendra Kumar refused to disclose the source of the video but claimed that it is from Uttarakhand.

The party has not made a formal complaint to the Election Commission in



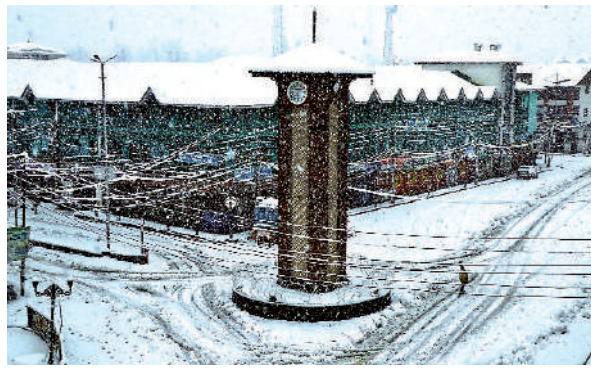
Video shot shared by Harish Rawat alleges ballot tampering.

this regard yet but it can take suo motu cognisance of it, he said. The Congress leaders termed it as a "mockery of democracy" and urged the Election Commission to take cognisance of the video and act against the guilty. The state Congress has retweeted Rawat's tweet.

Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Pritam Singh said, "In this video that makes a mockery of democracy, a man at an army centre is seen ticking and signing several postal ballot papers in favour of the party of his choice." The Election Commission should take cognisance of it and act against the guilty, Singh said. Reacting to the tweet, the BJP termed it the Congress' frustration, saying the party is doing it as it can see its defeat in the recently held Assembly polls.

"The Congress is resorting to such tactics as it is aware that it has failed to mislead people. In the face of its imminent defeat the party which was talking earlier about manipulation of EVMs is now talking about ballot papers. It

## Heavy snowfall throws life out of gear in Srinagar



Snowfall in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Srinagar, Feb 23 (PTI):

Life was thrown out of gear in Kashmir on Wednesday as most areas of the valley received snowfall - the season's first heavy fall in the plains - disrupting flight

and railway operations and leading to the closure of the vital Srinagar-Jammu national highway, officials here said.

Most areas of the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall which started in the night and

was going on when last reports came in, they said. The areas in the higher reaches of the Union Territory received very heavy snowfall - around two feet or more, they said.

The officials said Srinagar - the summer capital of the union territory - recorded about eight inches of snow till Wednesday. The authorities have pressed men and machinery into service to clear the snow off the roads, many of which, such as those leading to hospitals and other vital installations, are being cleared on priority, the officials said. The bad weather affected the flight operations to and fro the Kashmir valley.

## 'Priyanka's slogan, Maurya's switch no impact on polls'

RPN did not make direct comment on Congress functioning

Kushinagar, Feb 23 (PTI):

Former Union minister RPN Singh, who recently crossed over to the BJP, said the ladki hoon' slogan coined by his old party will have no effect on the assembly polls, claiming that the Congress tickets have gone only to the wives of its leaders. He also dismissed the impact of UP minister and Other Backward Class leader Swami Prasad Maurya switching over to the Samajwadi Party and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has breached caste barriers with development schemes guided by the inclusive mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas.

Once a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh aka RPN said the Congress



BJP leader RPN Singh during door to door campaign in Kushinagar.

now does not exist as a party or an ideology. Asked about Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Ladki hoon, lad sakti hoon (I am girl and can fight) slogan, he mocked that a poster girl from that campaign had herself switched to the BJP. Every person gives a slogan in the election. If

the Congress has given a slogan it will have no effect in the election because the tickets have been given to the wives of Congress leaders," he told PTI in an interview at his ancestral home. RPN belongs to the erstwhile princely state of Padrauna and is the son of former Union Minister CPN Singh. He was elected

## Manipur wants change: Ibobi Singh

Imphal, Feb 23 (PTI):

Former Chief Minister and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh feels Manipur is ripe for a change of government as people are "fed up" with the current dispensation.

The ruling BJP's "divisive politics" both at national and state level are unlikely to succeed in any of the five states going to the polls, Singh told PTI in an interview. "I believe that the people of Manipur are fed up with BJP. It is just that they have not been able to express it openly. The BJP has been telling lies and making hollow promises.

They have not converted any of their promises into action," he claimed. Asserting that BJP's



Former Manipur CM Ibobi Singh during a rally for Congress.

"systematic policy and plan both at national and state level" of indulging in divisive politics will not succeed, the veteran Congress leader said, "We will get to know about it with the outcome of the five state elections and in 2024 general elections. People are fed up with them."

Citing the example of the Framework Agreement signed in 2015 between the Centre and Naga rebel group NSCN (IM), he pointed out that the deal has not yielded a final outcome. Singh added that it was a case of keeping people in the dark, which in turn has led to erosion of trust.

"It's been so long that the agreement was signed but no one knows what is in it. Neither have they shared with the public nor have they completed the talks...I believe that even the Naga people have lost trust in the BJP and its ability to solve the issue," he said.

When asked how confident is the Congress of coming back to power after the upcoming state assembly election, Singh said, "Out of the total candidates that we have put up (53), we know the potential of each one and we strongly believe in the winning capability of 40-45 of them."

However, he said, "In case if we fall short of majority, there will be post-poll alliance with like-minded parties."

## Two more held in Bajrang Dal activist murder case

Shivamogga, Feb 23 (PTI):

Two more persons were arrested in the Bajrang Dal activist murder case in Shivamogga, where district authorities have extended the prohibitory orders till Friday.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Wednesday that he has ordered an inquiry against the policemen posted in two police stations in this district headquarters town, in the backdrop of the incident.

Underlining the need to audit the performance of Kote and Doddapete police stations in Shivamogga, he said, "We need to ascertain how many police officers and personnel were there in these two police stations in the past five



A police drone handler set up a drone for surveillance of the riot-affected areas after section 144 was imposed in Shivamogga, Wednesday.

years and how they monitored these accused (those eight arrested) who have a huge criminal past."

He warned that "irresponsible" police officers will not be spared, which led to "the incidents". Shivamogga

Superintendent of Police BM Laxmi Prasad said six people have been booked in connection with the murder of the 28-year-old Harsha, who was stabbed with lethal weapons by a group of people here on Sunday night.

BRIEF

Lake

Karbala: Iraq's Razzaza Lake was once a tourist attraction known for its beautiful scenery and an abundance of fish that locals depended on. Now, dead fish litter its shores and the once-fertile lands around it have turned into a barren desert.

Taken

Colombo: Sri Lanka has taken "substantial steps" with a view to "accountability, restorative justice and meaningful reconciliation" related to human rights and reconciliation, Foreign Minister GL Peiris said.

Blocking

Beirut: Canadian authorities are preventing a Canadian woman and a child detained in a camp in Syria from returning home to get life-saving medical treatment, contradicting policies that allow such repatriations.

Deal

Manila: The Philippines signed a 32 billion-peso (624 million) deal to purchase 32 Black Hawk helicopters in the largest military aircraft acquisition contract under outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte.

Advises

Brussels: European Union member countries agreed that they should further facilitate tourist travel into the 27-nation bloc for people who are vaccinated against the coronavirus or have recovered from COVID-19.

Chinese, Nepalese held in illegal loan scheme targeting Indians



Kathmandu, Feb 23 (PTI):

Two Chinese and more than 100 Nepali nationals have been arrested in Nepal for their involvement in running an online fraud loan scheme targeting Indians.

Nepal Police said in a press release that they arrested two Chinese and 115 Nepali nationals in two separate raids conducted in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts.

Acting on a tip-off, Kathmandu Metropolitan Police Range first detained a group of 37 individuals, including a Chinese from Old Baneshwor on Monday night.

The Chinese national, identified as Chang Hu bao, operated illegal business activities targeting Indians with the help of Nepali youth.

Kathmandu include 23 boys and 13 girls. After their arrest, the police also busted a larger racket in Sano Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district from where they arrested 80 people.

The arrested Nepalese from Bhaktapur include 47 girls and 32 boys. A total of 48 laptops and 14 desktop PCs were also confiscated from the office.

The Chinese nationals, who reportedly started the business one and a half months ago from Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, used to lend short term loans to the Indians with 2.5 to 3.5 per cent interest rates online.

They provided loans amounting to Rs 3,000 to 30,000 to the borrowers in India, who were required to submit the photo copies of their ration card and contact number.

Ukraine's economy is another victim of Russia's 'hybrid war'

Kyiv, Feb 23 (AP):

US last week offered USD 1 billion loan guarantee



Vendors wait for customers at their fruit market stall in downtown Kyiv, Ukraine.

One by one, embassies and international offices in Kyiv closed. Flight after flight was cancelled when insurance companies balked at covering planes arriving in Ukraine.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in investment dried up within weeks. With Russian troops encircling much of the country, Ukrainian businesses large and small no longer plan for the future they can barely foresee what will happen week to week.

It is Ukraine, not Russia, where the economy is eroding the fastest under the threat of war. Even before Russian troops rolled into rebel-held areas in the country's east and Russian President Vladimir Putin

recognised the independence of the separatist region, Ukraine was the biggest loser in the agonizing, slow-motion aggression. Why is it that we are suffering consequences already? And Russia, who is

actually threatening the whole world, in Europe, is not suffering any consequences? asked Andrey Stavnitser, CEO of the port operator TIS Group.

CLOISONNE ARTIFACTS



Japanese Emperor Naruhito, left, and Empress Masako look at cloisonne artifacts in the collection of the San-no-Maru Museum at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

South Korea's presidential race puts misogyny in spotlight

Seoul, Feb 23 (AP):

As South Korea enters a bitter presidential race, Hong Hee-jin is one of many young women who feel that the country's politics has become dominated by discrimination against women, even outright misogyny.

Women are being treated like they don't even have voting rights, the 27-year-old office worker in the capital, Seoul, said.

For years, South Korean women have made slow but steady progress in the workplace as they confronted an entrenched culture of male chauvinism and harassment.

UN slams 'aggressive' formula milk marketing

Report did not name specific companies



Geneva, Feb 23 (AFP): The United Nations slammed baby formula makers Wednesday for "unethical" marketing strategies, accusing them of aggressively targeting expecting parents and health workers.

It is widely recognised that breastfeeding carries huge health benefits. But countries' failure to crack down on the marketing of breast milk substitutes means far too many children are still being reared on formula.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGINEERING WORK

(1) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-82-21-22, Date: 18.02.2022. Name of Work: (1) Construction of RUB at KM. 800/21-23 in lieu of manned level crossing No. 403 between Baikunth - Silyari section in Howrah - Mumbai main line (by Pushing Technique).

Roofs ripped off houses as another cyclone hits Madagascar



People outside ruined homes in Mananjary, Madagascar.

Antananarivo, Feb 23 (AP):

Cyclone Emnati crashed into the southeastern coast of Madagascar in the early hours of Wednesday, ripping roofs off houses and raising fears of flooding and food shortages in a region still recovering from the destruction inflicted by another tropical storm just weeks ago.

more than 250,000 people could be impacted by the latest cyclone.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from Emnati, but local authorities reported extensive damage to houses and other buildings in at least one southeastern city.

Madagascar, an island off the east coast of Africa renowned for its wildlife

and unspoiled natural treasures, has now been hit by four major tropical storms in the last month, killing nearly 200 people already and compounding issues of food insecurity.

A string of aid agencies warned that Emnati will be a double blow for the eastern and southeastern regions that were hit by Cyclone Batsirai early this month. Batsirai ultimately left more than 120 people dead and displaced 143,000. More than 20,000 houses were destroyed or damaged by Batsirai, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said, and more than 21,000 people remain displaced.

Impending Iran nuclear deal alarms Israel

Jerusalem, Feb 23 (AP):

While the world's attention has been focused on Ukraine, the Biden administration also has been racing with world powers toward restoring the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran.

After months of negotiations in Vienna, the various sides have indicated a new deal is close, perhaps in the coming days. But instead of the longer, stronger agreement originally promised by the US, the deal is expected to do little more than reinstate the original pact, whose key restrictions on Iranian nuclear activity expire in a few years.

This modest accomplishment appears to be the best the Biden administration can hope for at a time when it is restrained by Congress at home, and overwhelmed abroad with the Ukraine crisis and longer-term challenges such as China and climate change.

Attack Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The emerging deal, as it seems, is highly likely to create a more volatile, more volatile Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said this week, repeating his threat that Israel is not bound by the deal and is prepared to attack Iran if needed.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st CALL)

System Tender No. : 93346/NIT No. : 31/SAC/2021-22, Bemetera, Dated : 21.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 14.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK AND REPAIR OF WASTE WEIR OF LUK DIVERSION SCHEME AND REMODELLING AND LINING OF CANAL, CONSTRUCTION OF 03 NOS. VRB, 03 NOS. FALL AND REPAIR OF 01 NO. AT STRUCTURE IN BLOCK SAJA DISTRICT BEMETERA.

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 117.78 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 28.02.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

Executive Engineer Water Resources Division, Bemetera (C.G.) For, Superintending Engineer Shivnath Circle, Durg (C.G.)

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (2nd Call)

System Tender No. : 93343/NIT No. : 05/SAC/2021-22, Kasdol, Dated : 21.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 14.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : REMODELLING AND C.C. LINING FROM R.D.0 TO 18600 M OF DY. 1, R.D.0 TO 2640 M OF DY. 4, R.D.0 TO 2580 M OF DY. 10, R. D.0 TO 2040 M OF DY.11,2760 M IN PATCHES OF DY.12,4890 M IN PATCHES OF DY.14,R.D.0 TO 3330 M OF DY.21,R.D.1050 TO 1980 M OF DY. 25, R.D.0 TO 2160 M OF HASUWA MINOR OF DY 1 AND R.D.0 TO 2400 M OF GIDHOURI MINOR ,R.D.0 TO 1500 M OF PULENI MINOR,R.D.0 TO 4530 M OF PULENI SUB MINOR OF DY. 4, CONSTRUCTION OF UNDER GROUND CANAL 1500M OF CHICHOLI MINOR OF DY.25, CONSTRUCTION OF 28 NO. STRUCTURE (12 NO.V.R.B.,3 NO.D.C.,5 NO.H.R.,07 NO. FALL,1 NO.FALL CUM V.R.B.), 159 NOS.OUTLETS OF CHICHOLI MINOR OF JONK DIVERSION SCHEME OF BALODABAZAR-BHATAPARA DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 2387.96 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 28.02.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Water Resources Division, Kasdol for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY No. Sr. DMM/SECR/R Date: 18.02.2022

TENDER NOTICE SL. Tender Notice No. Name of Work Closing

Table with 4 columns: SL, Tender Notice No., Name of Work, Closing. Row 1: 01, Sr.DMM/SECR/Raipur Tender No. 96225100, Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing Commissioning of Control, 19.03.2022 10:30 AM

& Relay Panel for 132/25 Kv AC TSS& Shunt Capacitor Bank including specification for all Numerical type Protection Relays for Tractor Transformer, 25 KV Shunt Capacitor Bank and Transmission line for 25 KV AC TSS on Indian Railways (Suitable for control of three Bays, Five feeder CBs, Ten BMs, two Bus coupler Interruptors and two nos shunt capacitor bank) as per RDSO Spec. No. T/SPC/PSI/ PROCT/6071 with A&C Slip No. 1 or latest. And Dismantling of existing Control and Relay panel (Enclosure with Annexure A) from RDSO approved source.

1. For more information Pls visit, website (www.ireps.gov.in). 2. Any other queries related to tender contract to office of Sr.DMM/SECR/ Raipur DRM Railway complex Near RVH colony WRS/Raipur, Pin- 492008 (C.G) on working Day Monday-Friday 9.30 ti 6.00 pm and Phone No- 0771-2252258/975287790.

Sr. Divl. Material Manager S.E.C. Railway/Raipur

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्वयमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु आमंत्रित (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 मि.मी. व्यास के HDPE वाइपे एंड 20 मि.मी व्यास के कंयोजिट वाइपे एवं 80 मि.मी. व्यास के यू. पी.वी.सी. पाइप 6&10kg/cm², रेशारस सिलिट प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, विडाम, इन्टरनेशनल टैरिफिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेजिस्टर, धरेतु, नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ड्रायल नल सक्ति स्वीकृत शेड्यूल अनुसार।

Table with 6 columns: क्र., निविदा क्र./दिनांक/सिस्टम नम्बर, योजना का नाम, अनुमानित प्रमाण (राशि रु. (दशम लाख में)), अमरुत (राशि रु. में). Rows include various water supply projects with details on dates and amounts.

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 08.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विधिपत्र, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वयमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर देकी जा सकती है। कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) G-68055/1



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 324

## Cashless is digital jail

Canadian lawmakers have voted to extend the emergency powers that police can invoke to quell any potential restart of blockades by those opposed to COVID-19 restrictions. Lawmakers in the House of Commons voted 185 to 151 to affirm the powers. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said earlier that the powers were still needed despite police ending the occupation of the nation's capital by truckers over the weekend and police ending border blockades before that. The self-styled Freedom Convoy shook Canada's reputation for civility. Canadian government had morally lectured India during the farmer's protest, but is now acting in much more aggressive way to deal with protestors. But the main lesson for political movements in other countries from Canadian government measures is that cashless society is digital jail for citizens. The political activists in India should be thankful that the central and state governments in India did not invoke such financial sanctions on them, as cashless society is limited to urban areas only. The emergencies act in Canada 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 move to a cashless society, which has been accelerated by COVID-19 restrictions, makes it almost impossible to function in society without a bank account and a credit card. You can't purchase many services with cash anymore. When some local shop's wireless service went down and they couldn't process digital payments, people offered to pay with cash. They didn't know what to do. Like many businesses, some shops in developed countries aren't set up to handle physical money. And that's assuming you have large cash reserves to begin with, as you can't withdraw money from a frozen bank account. Before the cashless society, you could probably still participate in society, albeit with some inconvenience, without a bank account.

Not so in 2022. Now, without a working bank account, you can't pay for a telephone or internet. You can't make car payments, rent, or travel. You also can't exercise most basic rights from freedom of speech to freedom of assembly. You can't even pay a lawyer to defend you. Think of it as digital jail. There may be no bars, but you are far from free. We need to adjust our assessment of government action to the realities of our new world. The government doesn't need to break down your door anymore to effectively remove you from society. They can do it with the press of a button. It also drives home just how powerful technology has made governments and the businesses that gatekeep our digital world. When they work together, whether it is to financially de-platform a political group or shut down disfavoured speech, there is literally no way to escape their reach, nowhere to hide. And when they act without due process, there is no way to defend yourself. The same technology that lets us buy dinner with a few clicks from bed also means the government can unperson us with a few clicks. The fact that weaponizing the financial system against nonviolent protestors and their distant supporters was the government's tool of first resort should worry anyone who understands the role of civil disobedience in democracy. We don't yet know how wide the government and the banks will cast their electronic dragnet, but the potential reach is enormous, which means the potential for overreach is significant. But one thing is already clear; that in an interconnected digital world, our freedom depends more than ever on the wisdom, good intentions, and forbearance of government and big business.

## Trekking risks

This week, a trekker who fell at least 200 feet into a gorge at Nandi Hill, about 60 km from Bengaluru, was rescued by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the national and state disaster response forces. The 19-year-old victim from Delhi studying in an engineering college in Bengaluru fell into the gorge and got trapped. A few days ago, Kerala Forest Department had registered a case against trekker Babu, a youth who was recently rescued after being stranded in Kerala's Kurumbachi hills for nearly 48 hours. Babu and his friends have been charged for unauthorised trekking. Babu, along with his friends, went up the Kurumbachi hills in Cheradu, Palakkad district of Kerala on February 7. On their way down, Babu was exhausted and slipped on the rocks, ending up in a cavity in the hill. Being active and nature enthusiast is good, but breaking laws and taking risk is not good behaviour. Trekking is one of the best ways to get in touch with nature and enjoy the beautiful world around you. Trekking is an adventure sports which involves some kind of risk. One need to take proper precautions or it could be fatal. People should undertake trekking as well as hiking only after consulting a physical trainer and completing a formal course.

Statistics say that the outdoors is now nearly 70 percent of all leisure, vacation based travel, globally. This has massive ramifications in a country like India, where guidelines are available, but actual regulation, monitoring and implementation are abysmal. A hugely improved economy, increased and better road networks, the aviation revolution, internet and accessibility and a heightened need for fulfilment, aided by increased economic ability, have helped catapult adventure holidays to the fore. This is especially true for commercial trekking in places like Himalaya, an activity that has grown to four or five times its industry size over the last decade. India's adventure travel industry began with a handful of outdoorsmen and women but has grown to include shady travel agencies in absence of laws. With no regulatory barriers to entry, no checks and balances, individuals with no background in the adventure space began launching adventure travel companies. With no safety oversight, people are taking up adventure activities like trekking and raising possibilities of mishaps. The centre shall tell state governments to enact regulations for adventure sports, including trekking.

## TRADITIONAL CARPET SHOP



Traditional carpets are displayed at a shop in Tozeur in the Djerid region of south west Tunisia.

## Integrating learning, actualising inclusion with digital university



RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI



The education system has to be inclusive, dynamic and evolving so as to meet the ever-increasing needs and aspirations of a diverse group of learners. It should be able to embrace advancements in the field to remain current and relevant. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a great enabler as well as a great disabler in this context, if we catch up with ICT, it becomes an enabler and if we lag behind, it becomes a disabler. Digital or virtual education is emerging as a most-potent mode of the teaching-learning world over, especially after the corona pandemic. Learning loss owing to the closure of educational institutions was mitigated to a considerable extent due to online learning. In spite of limitations of high bandwidth internet connectivity and electronic gadgets, online learning helped avoid academic sessions becoming zero, and precious years of students were saved. The corona pandemic prompted University Grants Commission (UGC) to increase percentage of online teaching components from 20 to 40. Several universities resorted to Learning Management System (LMS) customised by the INFLIBNET. In the process, teachers and students developed skills in online teaching-learning to a large extent. UGC uploaded a draft regulation on blended learning for suggestions from academia and permitted universities to offer online programmes. The Ministry of Education launched several ICT initiatives for improving equity, access, quality and GER. These include,

SWAYAM, ARPIT, SWAYAMPRAKHA, NPTEL, NDL, e-PG Pathshala, Shodhganga, e-Shodhsindhu, e-Yatra, Shodh Shuddhi, Spoken Tutorials, Virtual Labs, VIDWAN etc. There is a need felt now to accelerate and scale up the above-mentioned and new efforts for leveraging the benefits of virtual learning.

Anticipating the future growth trajectory of the learning system, the central government announced several initiatives on 17th May, 2020 itself. These included the launch of PM e-Vidya programme for multimode access to digital education encompassing Diksha (one nation-one digital platform), one class-one channel (upto class-XII), special e-Contents for the differently-abled student community and use of radio, community radio and podcast and e-Tutoring for higher education. All this amply demonstrates that the government has been preparing for a big push with respect to digital learning, which eventually happened on 1st February, 2022 with the announcement made by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman for establishing a digital university. She informed that this university is intended to provide access to world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experiences to students across the country at their 'hands'. It will be set-up on a networked hub and spoke model. In this model, the knowledge will originate from a centralised hub and will digitally travel to spokes (smaller locations) for use. Here, the hub refers to the best public universi-

ties and institutions in India and the spokes refer to individual learners who will be beneficiaries of the digital mode of delivery of knowledge. This digital university will comply with ISTE standards for the use of technology in teaching-learning. The catch point is that each hub needs to develop a cutting-edge ICT system. The beauty of plan is that the knowledge originating at the hubs will be in different Indian languages.

Modes of instruction in a digital or virtual university range from distance learning to live, interactive classes where students communicate with a teacher. In an asynchronous learning environment, the students are given the assignments from the self-paced courses to be completed within a timeframe. Students complete the assignments at their own pace and the interactions are limited to discussion boards, blogs, wikis etc. Oppositely, synchronous online study happens in real-time, whereby teachers and students all interact online simultaneously. This happens either through text, video, audio or in all modes. In addition to the scheduled class time, there are usually additional assignments to be completed. Therefore these lessons are socially constructed. In my view, the proposed digital university should embrace all three models of online learning to meet the needs of diverse sections of the student community dwelling in a wide-range of socio-economic contexts. An added advantage is that students can graduate from their homes without ever dislocating themselves. Moreover, online resources function as a library, and with the facility for creating online study materials, the requirement of textbooks is also met with.

However, the caution is that it becomes extremely difficult to keep the learners' attention at the optimum level in the online learning ecosystem, making synchronous learning extremely difficult. Teachers have to find technology-enabled creative ways to keep students' attention focussed on the screen as they are in the comfort zone of their home environment.

Individualising lessons and short breaks can help students to stay engaged. Moreover, in a synchronous learning environment, teachers and students have to be extremely disciplined and focused in order to avoid learning loss and make it as interactive as offline learning. Digital learners can be effectively engaged through gamification that provides learning material as games to bring clarity and enjoyment to students learning experience. Gamification can also assist students to increase their intrinsic motivation for accomplishing desired learning goals.

Thus, a digital university is a huge opportunity for the nation to integrate learning, actualise digital inclusion, and build the future of rich and poor alike. However, the mandate of the digital university should not be restricted to converting traditional course materials into digital forms and their delivery in online mode. Delivery of contents amounts only to having a set of data or information without knowing what to do with it. Analysis, synthesis, inference drawing, firming-up conclusions, application potential and validation of the knowledge created, and mid-course correction complete the learning cycle. How to ensure this, is the biggest challenge in online learning. Creative use of hybrid learning models may help overcome this deficiency. Hybrid learning, as understood, is not merely a mode of delivery of knowledge in a mix of online and offline learning environments. It is actually an appropriate blending of pedagogies for capacity building of learners like lecturing, tutorial, group discussion, debate, students' seminar, home assignment, dissertation, internship, case study, policy formulation, project evaluation, field study, survey, excursion, use of virtual labs etc. Digital University, if conceptualised and nurtured carefully, has the potential to transform current learning system as envisaged in National Education Policy.

**(Raghavendra P Tiwari is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda.)**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Picnic season

The picnic season is on full swing. A picnic is a meal taken outdoors as part of an excursion, especially in scenic surroundings, such as parks, lakeside or other places. Picnickers use plates and cups made of plastic to serve food, water, tea and so on. And also it is often seen in picnics that people play music very loudly. What can cause noise pollution? People should avoid playing music loudly and also clean their picnic area before they leave. There is no need to upset the ecosystem with a large amount of junk left over after a picnic. Also, bins should be used to dump garbage, instead of littering the picnic spots. People should avoid using paper cups, plates, plastic spoons, forks which are used only once and thrown away. These are harmful to the environment. One can carry reusable cloth napkins instead of paper towels and tissue. And enjoy an eco-friendly picnic without doing any harm to the environment.

Parilina, via email

### Saluting Sun

It is appropriate to perform one of our ancient yogic practices of Surya Namaskar or Sun Salutation regularly. At a time when the entire world is suffering from the relentless onslaught of the Coronavirus, it is all the more significant that we train ourselves to practise Surya Namaskar for the body to withstand any kind of health hazard. Performing Surya Namaskar daily provides a lot of health benefits. It reduces tension, improves blood circulation, regulates breathing, and stimulates the central nervous system. It also helps to gain spiritual knowledge and wisdom, calms our mind and enables us to think clearly. Another important benefit of performing this yoga early in the morning is that during that time the ultraviolet rays are not harsh, and as a result, the skin doesn't get overexposed to the sun.

Ranganathan, via email

### Overcrowded

I like to bring it to your notice that the Covid protocol is still not followed in the city buses across India. Putting the safety of passengers at risk, private bus operators take overcrowded trips to various locations. The passengers in those buses hardly wear masks, making it easier for the deadly virus and its variants to spread. We are aware that the virus is spreading fast. So, to protect the masses, the government should make the Covid-19 regulations stricter. I request people also to be aware of the situation.

Jyotish, via email

### Request

Many citizens go for morning and/or evening walks to keep themselves fit, and healthy. However, walking briskly with masks is a big problem that walkers face, and this is unhealthy too. Given this, we request the authorities to allow morning and evening walkers to do their exercises, without a mask in non-crowdy places. This would be of great help. The authorities may fix designated timings like up to 9.30 am in the mornings and from 4 pm onwards in the evenings.

Disha, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Umang Kalra@umkaira

I once met an Indian kid in Edinburgh with the fakesst fake accent I've ever heard, repeatedly insisting that his name is 'Warren' even when I kept being like dude I'm Indian tell me your real name. Then I heard from someone else his name was Varun and I cried.

Nikita@glorious\_gluten

My neighbour recently asked me "akeli rehti ho toh itna samaan kiske liye khareed rahi ho" while I was buying vegetables. Love how the mere existence of single women is a threat to thekedars of the institution of family.



Vir Das@thevirdas

I have a simple rule. If we don't know each-other, are seated together on a flight, and you're holding your phone a foot away from your face talking on speaker-phone. I'm joining the call and saying hi to the person on the other line.

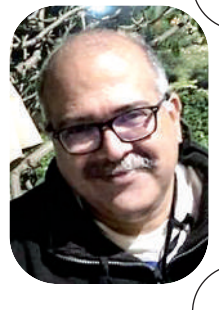
Lavanya@LavanyaBallal

Ancestral home, more than 200 years old.



sushant@sushantsareen

India's trade with US and its allies - \$300 bn (maybe even more). India's trade with Russia - \$10 bn (maybe even less). Do the math and see which side your bread is buttered. But the defence component muddies the equation quite a lot.



Maj Gen YashMor@YashMor5

This is indeed serious issue. Wonder why no one really knows why the delay? Thousands have cleared tests and awaiting joining instructions. Many have become overage. Heartbreaking for young boys and their families. Many of us don't realise what it is to be a soldier in Army.

Gaurav Sabnis@gauravsabnis

Most bread rolls around the world either aren't soft enough for your fingers to meet in the middle, like a kaiser roll. And if they are soft, they are too soft to spring back, like a burger or hot dog bun. Hoagie breads in US are the least worst alternative to Bombay pav.12

## BRIEF

### Raises



■ **New Delhi:** Shipy has raised USD 25 million in a Series-B round co-led by A91 Partners and Z3 Partners with existing investors Info Edge and Sequoia Capital India's Surge. CEO Soham Chokshi said our mission is enabling customers to achieve logistics excellence.

### Divests

■ **New Delhi:** Adani Enterprises Ltd on Wednesday announced divestment of its entire stake in DC Development Hyderabad Pvt Ltd and Naida Data Center (NDCL) to AdaniConnex Pvt Ltd. Consequently, DC Development Hyderabad and NDCL have ceased to be wholly-owned subsidiaries of the company, a filing said.

### Ropes



■ **New Delhi:** Beverage major Coca-Cola has signed Bollywood heartthrob Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador for Thums Up. Earlier, Khan was associated with rival cola brand, Pepsi, for a long period of time. It will have integrated campaign across mediums.

### Partnership

■ **Mumbai:** Pricol Limited on Wednesday announced a strategic technology partnership with Sibros Technologies to deliver deep connected vehicle solutions in the domestic and ASEAN markets. The California-based Sibros provides Over-the-Air (OTA) connected vehicle software systems for OEMs worldwide.

### Maldives



■ **New Delhi:** Tata group's realty firm Tata Housing on Wednesday announced an investment of USD 36 million (around Rs 270 crore) to develop two luxury residential projects in Maldives. MD-CEO Sanjay Dutt said it will be pride of Male City and Maldives Citizens.

### Unicorn

■ **New Delhi:** Hasura announced that it has secured USD 100 million in funding round led by Greenoaks with participation from existing investors Nexus Venture Partners, Lightspeed Venture Partners and Vertex Ventures. The round 'Series C' brings the total capital raised by Hasura to USD 136.5 million and the company's valuation to USD 1 billion, placing it in the 'unicorn' league. It will accelerate research and development.

# Advertisers will put disclaimers for 'highly risky' cryptos

## ■ Celebrity endorsers asked to do due diligence

**Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**



Advertisers will have to prominently carry a disclaimer for crypto products and non-fungible tokens mentioning that these products are "unregulated and can be highly risky", according to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Besides, the self-regulatory has said that such advertisements should mention that there may be no regulatory recourse for any loss from such transactions.

All Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs), which are commonly referred to as crypto or Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), will have to put the disclaimer in a

"prominent and unmistakable" way in campaigns for products and services.

The announcement of the guidelines, done after consultations with industry stakeholders, government and financial regulators as well, comes as the advertising for the controversial products and services is on the upswing.

The government is yet to come out with a law on such assets but has proposed a tax on gains made from such transactions

which has been welcomed by the crypto players as a move to legitimise the industry, while the RBI has been firm in calling for a complete ban on such activities saying they are a threat to financial stability. "Advertising of virtual digital assets and services needs specific guidance, considering that this is a new and as yet an emerging way of investing. Hence, there is a need to make consumers aware of the risks and ask them to

proceed with caution," ASCI chairman Subhash Kamath said.

The guidelines say advertisers will have to carry the disclaimer - "crypto products and NFTs are unregulated and can be highly risky. There may be no regulatory recourse for any loss from such transactions" - in a prominent way.

A fifth of the advertising space in print or static ad should be devoted to the disclaimer, while in a video, it should be placed at the end against a plain background with a voice over reading out the text at normal speed, the ASCI said.

The disclaimer must remain on screen for at least five seconds in video ads, while for long format ads of over two minutes it should be placed both in the starting and end of the ad.

## Rupee rallies 25 paise at 74.59 against USD, gold falls Rs 126

**Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**

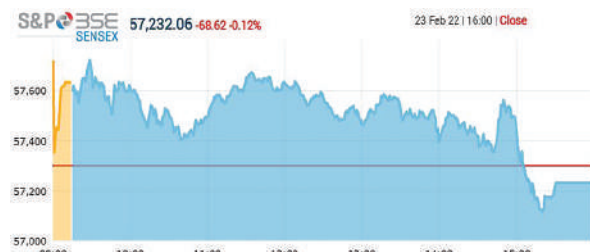
The rupee appreciated by 25 paise to 74.59 against the US dollar on Wednesday due to a pull-back in the greenback and crude oil prices after Western countries imposed several sanctions on Russia for sending troops into separatist-held regions in Ukraine.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.64 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.54 and a low of 74.73.

The rupee was quoted at 74.59 at 1530 hrs, registering a gain of 25 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated by 29 paise to close at 74.84 against the US currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.17 per cent to 95.86.

## Sensex, Nifty log 6th straight day of loss amid lingering Ukraine crisis



**Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty extended their losing streak to the sixth session on Wednesday as lingering Ukraine crisis continued to dent investor sentiment.

The Sensex closed 68.62 points or 0.12 per cent lower at 57,232.06 and the Nifty ended 28.95 points or 0.12 per cent down at 17,063.25.

For better part of session, both indices traded in the positive territory tracking mostly higher Asian peers as investors hoped that Western sanctions on Russia might soften Vladimir Putin's defiant tone and leave some room to avoid war.

The Sensex breadth was equally divided between gains and losses.

NTPC, L&T, Nestle and ICICI Bank shares dropped the most on the index.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses closed mostly higher, hoping that war in Ukraine can be avoided after the US, Japan and European powers imposed sanctions on Russia. Stocks closed lower on Wall Street on Tuesday after Russia sent forces into Ukraine's eastern regions, escalating tensions.

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London rose 0.4 per cent to 7,523.96 and Frankfurt's DAX gained 0.7 per cent to 14,798.01. The CAC in Paris added 0.9 per cent to 6,845.85.

## ITI Mutual Fund launches ITI Conservative Hybrid Fund

**Mumbai, Feb 23:**

ITI Mutual Fund has announced the launch of 'ITI Conservative Hybrid Fund' and the NFO opened on February 21, 2022 and closes on March 07, 2022. The fund will invest into an array of high quality Debt Instruments and also into leading Nifty50 Index stocks. The fund will be jointly managed by Vikrant Mehta and Pradeep Gokhale. The Fund seeks to generate regular income through investments in debt & money market instruments, along with capital appreciation through limited exposure to equity and equity related instruments. However, there can be no assurance that the investment objective of the scheme will be realized. Announcing the launch of the NFO, George Heber Joseph, Chief Executive Officer and

Chief Investment Officer, ITI Mutual Fund says, "We are quite thrilled to offer ITI Conservative Hybrid fund to investors and we believe it has a very high potential to attract money from investors who are predominantly investing in traditional savings products. The fund will have minimum 75% of the exposure towards high quality debt securities and the remaining balance will be invested in equity & equity related instruments of companies belonging to NIFTY50 Index. Equity exposure will range between 10%-25% of the AUM and will be dynamically managed to give investors a smooth investment experience. This can be a wonderful value added product for distributors to help them onboard a new investor into mutual fund universe and provide them a Ready, Steady and Growth experience."

## Maruti Suzuki drives in new Baleno starting at Rs 6.35 lakh

■ **Manual version delivers fuel efficiency of 22.3 km per litre**

**New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday launched the all new version of its premium hatchback Baleno priced between Rs 6.35-9.49 lakh (ex-show-room).

The manual trims of the model are priced between Rs 6.35 lakh and Rs 8.99 lakh while the automatic variants (with auto gear shift technology) are tagged between Rs 7.69 lakh and Rs 9.49 lakh. Speaking at the launch, MSI Managing Director and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said the auto major along with its vendor partners has invested



Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa during the launch of the new Maruti Suzuki Baleno car, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

around Rs 1,150 crore on the development of the all new Baleno. "With focus on technology and innovation, the new-age Baleno is set to re-energise the premium hatchback segment with several first-in segment features. The new-age technology and features along with fresh look, premium interi-

ors and special focus on safety will take the customer experience to a new high," he noted.

He further said: "Based on Baleno's popularity and customer feedback, we are now aiming to take it to the next level. New age Baleno is our approach towards the new future."

## India can do USD 0.5 trillion green energy exports

■ **It took RIL 15 years to become USD 1 billion company**

**New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**



As India shapes its energy transition to cleaner fuels, billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Wednesday said technological advancements will make India a global new energy leader, exporting half a trillion dollars worth of clean energy in two decades.

Ambani, who is helming a transition to green hydrogen production at its oil-dominant conglomerate, said India is today one of the most attractive opportunities for renewable energy investment anywhere in the world. But

the transition to clean, emission-free energy cannot happen overnight and India's dependence on coal and imported oil will continue for the next 2 to 3 decades, he said. "But, we must have a plan to eliminate that in the next 2-3 decades," he said. "Hence, in the near and medium-term, we will have to follow low-carbon, and no-carbon strategies of development." And technology will help lower the costs of

new and clean energy, he said speaking at Asia Economic Dialogue.

Ambani said the climate crisis is an existential crisis and energy transition will determine geopolitical transition in the 21st century. Europe overtook India and China to emerge as the world leader when wood was replaced with coal. Similarly, with the emergence of oil, the US and West Asia outgrew others.

"When India becomes not only self-sufficient in green and clean energy, but also a large exporter, it will help India emerge as a global power," he said.

This transition will create green jobs as well as result in massive foreign exchange savings.

## Office space rented at about Rs 16 cr per year at record

**New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Max group firm Max Ventures & Industries Ltd (MaxVIL) has completely leased 1.05 lakh square feet space in its office complex at Okhla in the national capital and will earn a rental income of around Rs 16 crore annually.

MaxVIL, which is one of the three listed companies of the USD 4-billion Max Group, said in a statement that the first phase of its commercial project 'Max House', comprising 1.05 lakh square feet, is now 100 per cent leased out to big domestic and international clients. Max House is the company's second commercial real estate offering by Max Estates, which is a subsidiary of MaxVIL. "Average rental rate for Max House Phase 1 now stands at around Rs 125 per square feet per month," the statement said.

## PM inaugurates Garuda Aerospace Kisan Drone Manufacturing Facilities

■ **Flags off Kisan Drone Yatra in 100 Indian villages**

**New Delhi, Feb 23:**



of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Garuda's 110,000 sq feet manufacturing facility in Gurgaon set under a strategic partnership with Dfsys Solutions is equipped with Advanced Design and Prototype testing capabilities. The 2.5-acre facility is a hub for drone software design,

hardware structural testing, type certification, and manufacturing capacity of 40 drones per day. It is to be noted that 33 Anti Drone systems procurement order from MOD is being manufactured at this facility. Garuda's proposed Chennai Plant is located on a 20-acre facility where mass volume manufacturing capacity of 100 drones per day and manufacturing of 1,00,000Kisaan drones are being planned over the next 2 years. The site is also the proposed RPTO (Remote Pilot Training) Facility which aims to train aspiring drone pilots. Over 100 students and aspiring drone pilots welcomed the Prime Minister for the event at Agni College of Technology, OMR, Chennai.

## Femina Miss India 2022 exclusively partners with Moj to host digital auditions

**Mumbai, Feb 23:**

Femina Miss India has exclusively partnered with Moj, India's number one short video app, to provide a digital platform for aspirants to showcase their talent and participate in the prestigious contest. The selection process of the state representatives will entail an online registration process inviting specific audition video task submissions only via the Moj App.

Miss India Organization translates its scouting operations into the digital media space, in pursuit of beauty ambassadors. Powered by a dynamic format, VLCC presents Femina Miss India 2022 is rooted in its vision to empower the youth and repre-

sent the best of Indians talents at international platforms. The pageant in its virtual format for the second time now, has launched a nationwide hunt effective 14th February 2022 to select representatives each from the 28 states and a representative from Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir besides a collective representative from the Union Territories making for a total of 31 finalists.

To participate, every applicant needs to download the Moj App, create a profile and upload three audition videos that will include an introduction, talent showcase and a rampwalk. Once completed, the applicant will need to log onto [www.missindia.com](http://www.missindia.com) and fill in the requisite details.

## India Ratings pegs FY-22 GDP growth at 8.6%

■ **Disaggregated data tell different story about economy**

**Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**



India Ratings has revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to 8.6 per cent from the consensus 9.2 per cent projected earlier.

The National Statistical Organisation (NSO), which has forecast 9.2 per cent real GDP growth for the year, will release the second advance estimate of national income on Monday. According to an India Ratings analysis, NSO is likely to peg the FY22 real gross domestic product growth at Rs 147.2 lakh crore. This translates into a GDP growth rate of

8.6 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent forecast in the first advance estimate released on January 7, 2022.

The major reason for the likely downward revision is the upward revision of FY21 GDP to Rs 135.6 lakh crore in the first revised estimate of national income for FY21, which was released on January 31, 2022, the agency said.

As a result, GDP for FY21 is improved to (-) 6.6 per cent from the provisional estimate of (-) 7.3 per cent released on May 31,

2021. Besides this, the second revised estimate of national income for FY20 stood at 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent projected earlier while the third estimate retained FY19 growth at 6.5 per cent.

The growth rates of GDP drivers from the demand side namely private final consumption expenditure, government's final consumption expenditure, gross fixed capital formation have undergone a change due to these revisions, and quarterly GDP growth numbers are also expected to undergo a change this year.

As FY20 growth has been revised downwards, the agency now expects GDP growth of all the four quarters of FY20 to be lower than present estimates.

## BharatPe sacks co-founder Grover's wife over fin irregularities

**New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**



**Madhuri Jain Grover**

BharatPe has sacked its head of controls Madhuri Jain Grover - wife of embattled co-founder Ashneer Grover - for alleged financial irregularities ranging from producing fake invoices to billing the company for personal beauty treatment and trips abroad.

While a company spokesperson confirmed the termination, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said BharatPe has cancelled all the 244 invested and 56 vested employee stock options (ESOPs).

Madhuri Grover did not immediately respond to an email sent seeking her

comments. She was last month sent on leave with-in days of her husband announcing a three-month leave of absence following allegations of using abusive language against Kotak Mahindra Bank staff and fraudulent practices. Ashneer Grover has denied all allegations.



## Alia glows in pristine white as she promotes 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in capital

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt looked every-inch gorgeous dressed in a pristine white saree as she was seen promoting her forthcoming film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in the capital.

Alia made heads turn on Tuesday as she was seen promoting the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming film on Tuesday. Dressed in mesh white saree, the actress was clicked posing for the shutterbugs next to a bright red vintage car.

The 28-year-old also did a signature 'namaste' pose from the film for the cameras. She completed her look with nude make-up, orange lips and a small bindi.

'Gangubai Kathiawadi' tells the tale of a young girl named Ganga who becomes Gangubai, a madame in the red light area of Kamathipura. It is loosely based on the true story of Gangubai Harjivandas, popularly known as Gangubai Kothewali, whose life was documented in the book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai' written by S. Hussain Zaidi. The film is scheduled to release on February 25.

## Sanjay Dutt announces next film, tags astrologer

Bollywood superstar Sanjay Dutt took to social media to announce his next movie -- 'Ghuchchadhi' -- that went on floors on Tuesday.

Dutt posted a picture on Twitter which shows him practising yoga in a garden. In the tweet, Dutt tagged Balu Munnangi, an astrologer, from whom he has taken advice.

Dutt also has 'Shamshera' and 'Toolsidas Junior' in the pipeline.



"Thank you @balu\_munnangi for bringing your energy to this new beginning. Appreciate your presence," Dutt wrote.

Besides 'Ghuchchadhi', which is being directed by Binoy Gandhi, the actor will also be seen as 'Adheera' in Yash starer 'KGF Chapter 2' slated to release on April 14.

He also has 'Shamshera' and 'Toolsidas Junior' in the pipeline.

## Vidhi sticks strong with her ambitions

So Entertainment Television's show 'Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye' narrates the story of love and ambition going hand-in-hand. Soumya Verma, a budding writer played by Vidhi Pandya, breaks the shackles of patriarchy to achieve her dream of becoming a writer in Armaan Oberoi's (played by Vijayendra Kumeria) company. The steps being taken by Soumya to not give in and pursue her dreams has been highly appreciated by the audience.

The upcoming episode includes a plan by Armaan to win Soumya back and manipulate her. Contrary to Harshvardhan's suggestions to forget Soumya, Armaan continues to believe that he can tame her. On the other hand, Malini is upset with Soumya for turning down a great proposal because she wants to become her idol instead of marrying him.

Soumya, in her pursuit to clear things out with Armaan and explain the reasons behind her rejection, finds herself back in his office. To her surprise, he hires her and instructs to keep their personal and professional lives separate. At the same time, their proposal rejection angle is being aired on media as Soumya is shown as someone who plays cheap tricks because of rejecting Armaan's marriage proposal.

Armaan begins to ignore Soumya as per his



plan, following which she visits his office and further follows him to a cafe where she's defended by Armaan when Sushma insulted her. Will be move of Armaan make Soumya

see him in a different light? Watch Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye every Monday to Friday at 9:00 P.M., only on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Shabir Ahluwalia to play new lead in 'Beyond Dreams'

Star Bharat has been entertaining its viewers by bringing in highly entertaining content over the last few months. In addition to the ongoing popular shows such as RadhaKrishn, Tera Mera Saath Rahe, Haathi Ghoda Paal Ki Jai Kanhaiya Laal Ki, and the recently announced show Woh Toh Hai Albel, the channel is all set to bring in another show produced by none other than the entertainer of Indian Television shows Yash Patnaik's 'Beyond Dreams' that will see television handsome hunk Shabir Ahluwalia playing the main lead.

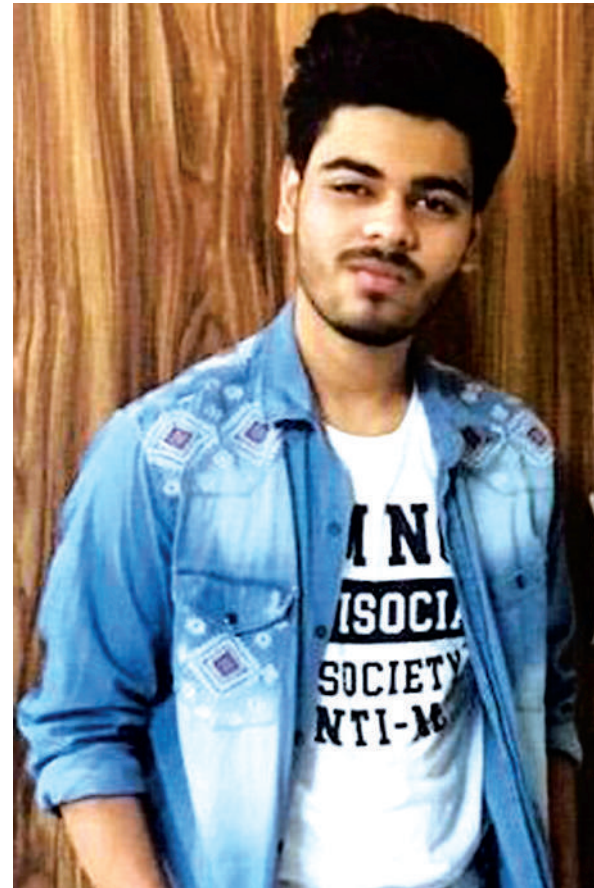
While confirming the news, sources close to the



show said, "It feels great to take on a new journey with Star Bharat's upcoming new show and we couldn't think of anyone but Shabir to be well suited for the character. Shabir's role in the show

is one of the most significant and powerful roles. The character has a great contribution to the show and I am sure that the people are going to love the character. It's his first stint with the channel

and he is looking forward to this journey." The show is slated to go on-air in March. Tune in to watch Shabir Ahluwalia come and entertain you on your screens only on Star Bharat.



## King of Hearts: Ayush Saxena is inspired by Shah Rukh Khan

Actor Ayush Saxena known for featuring in television shows like 'Rudrakal' and 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', enjoys playing comic characters.

He says: "As an actor I'm always open to essaying different characters that are challenging and promising, be it a positive or a negative role. But personally I really enjoy portraying comedy roles in the show. I want to make my audience laugh and overcome their stress

while watching me. I want them to fall in love with my on screen character."

Ayush also featured in Bollywood movie 'Khajoor Pe Atke'. He shares his memorable experience while playing a romantic role.

"In 'Rudrakal', I essayed a romantic character Vivek. I really enjoyed it. As I'm all inspired by Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, who is the romantic king of our entertainment industry. It was really a memorable experience."

## HOROSCOPE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Today, you will battle clutter! You clean up and organise, and actually find the process therapeutic. You will also solve problems in a jiffy. There are decisions to be made, and Ganesha suggests that you research carefully before you make up your mind.

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

All the dieting that you have been undergoing will finally begin to show results, with compliments galore coming your way from your friends. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are likely to be high. A bright and beautiful day waits, says Ganesha.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You have been aching to arrange a family reunion or get-together at your house. Well, today is the perfect day to do it. And why just family? You are also likely to invite some of your close friends and important business associates over to your place. Your spouse will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You are likely start the day in the best of spirits today. Your enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be infectious, and you will be able to lift the mood wherever you go. However, your enthusiasm can be short-lived and pummelled under the weight of some bad news, leaving you distraught. Take a break in case you feel stressed out, advises Ganesha.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Gloom may settle upon you today when you face your financial situation, Libra. You may have had a lot of bills to pay, and thus your coffers could be a bit low for your liking. Still, this is only temporary, and it probably feels good to have the bills out of the way. Find something inexpensive, like reading, to keep you busy and get your mind off it. You're probably doing fine!

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner. If you do not let the generosity burn a hole through your pocket, you may have an overall satisfying day, says Ganesha.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You will remain undecided today, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesha. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself, unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

"Show me the money!" Well, you might as well be saying that aloud, because today, you are going to be heard. Ganesha foresees a fruitful day in money matters. Even professionally, you come to terms with enjoying the power of money. It is a good day for a bit of splurging, especially on those you love.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

The artist in you will shine today, and how, says Ganesha. You'll be content with your possessions, which have been preserved over long years. Later in the day, your focus may shift to renovating or decorating your home by adding artifacts and furniture.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

The planets are not well disposed towards you today, fears Ganesha. There are strong chances of crossing swords with someone, getting into a serious personality clash. Not good is come out of it. You may simply end in alienating those who are otherwise well disposed towards you. Later in the day the situation will ease out.

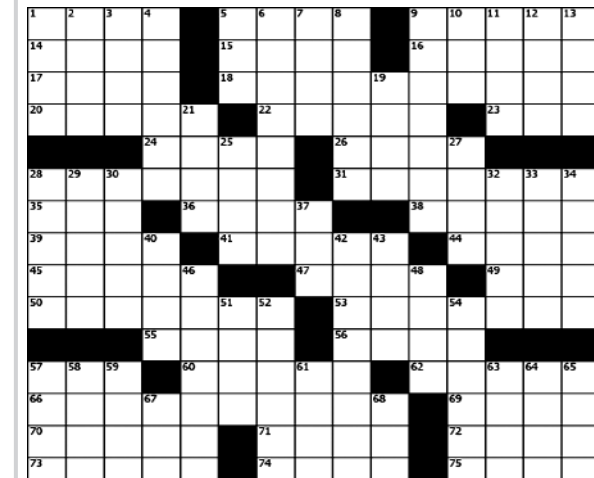
### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesha. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Don't be surprised if you get unexpected success in your financial dealings, it's all on the cards! You will be pliant, more than the usual, and will be sensitive to and understanding of others' problems, says Ganesha. For those pursuing studies, academic growth is certain.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- Summit
- Confess (2 wds.)
- Preacher's word
- Inner being
- Awaken
- Bount
- Newt, e.g.
- Storage spot
- Transplant
- NH time zone
- Guys' dates
- Skier's surface
- Dieter's unit
- Pain in a hearing organ
- Intense anger
- Acapulco coin
- Express score
- Incite
- Da Vinci's "\_\_\_ Lisa"
- Food fish
- Untruths
- Subside
- Havana export

- Renowned fighter
- Narrates again
- Opposite
- Authentic
- Change for a five
- Classified
- Pile up
- Fawn's fathers
- Detachment
- Way out
- Gladden
- Model \_\_\_ Macpherson
- \_\_\_ Fitzgerald of jazz
- Church table
- Medicinal amount
- Dissolve

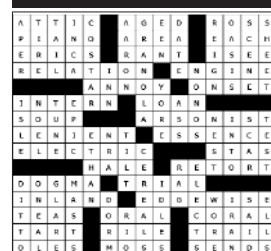
### DOWN

- Computer fodder
- Give forth
- Come together
- Deep blue
- Mule's father
- Roughest
- Army mascot
- Pass, as time
- Lecturers
- Triumphed
- Naked
- Consumes
- Jaunty
- Da Vinci's "\_\_\_ Lisa"
- Food fish
- Untruths
- Subside
- Havana export

## 223

- Moved upward
- Minimum
- Fragrant wood
- Feet parts
- Bert's buddy
- Change for a five
- Assoc.
- Go-getter
- Spray cans
- Songbird
- More transparent
- December 24 and 31
- Tibetan monk
- Scheduled
- Self-\_\_\_
- On a ship
- Secluded valley
- Petty quarrel
- Farm tower
- Wheel shaft
- Fish feature
- Medical "at once!"
- One \_\_\_ time (2 wds.)
- Maiden name indicator

### SOLUTION 222



**Promotional event**

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma with Indian cricketer and husband Virat Kohli during a brand promotional event, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

**Injured Deepak Chahar, Suryakumar Yadav ruled out of SL T20Is**

**Lucknow:** Deepak Chahar and Suryakumar Yadav will miss the upcoming T20I series against Sri Lanka at home because of injuries. The two players picked up on-field injuries during the third T20I against West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday. Chahar has sustained a right quadriceps injury while bowling his second over in India's last T20I fixture, and left the field after bowling 1.5 overs. Suryakumar, Player of the Series for the T20Is, was standing in the slips when he suffered a hairline fracture in his hand in the second innings after scoring a 31-ball 65 in the first innings. They will both now be at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for their recovery, a BCCI statement said.

**India eyes elusive medal at World Archery Para Championships**

**Dubai:** India's top para-archers, including Tokyo Paralympics bronze medallist Harvinder Singh, will return to action at the World Archery Para Championships that begins here on Wednesday. The nine-member Indian team arrived here after a two-month training camp at the Sports Authority of India Centre in Sonapat and the archers are confident of a good show at the showpiece. India has won medals in almost every single event since 2017, except in the World Championships. Harvinder won a gold in 2018 Asian Para Games and bronze in the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Harvinder, who turned his farm in Punjab's Ajitnagar into a target practice venue before winning a historic Paralympic bronze in Tokyo, is focused on getting his job done - shooting a perfect score and returning home with the elusive medal.

**Agarkar set to join Delhi Capitals as assistant coach**

**New Delhi:** Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar is set to join Delhi Capitals as assistant coach ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League season. Agarkar will join the franchise after completing his commentating duties in the home series against Sri Lanka starting February 24. The IPL is expected to begin in the last week of March. "He will be joining Delhi Capitals as assistant coach," an IPL source confirmed to PTI. Agarkar joining Delhi Capitals also ends speculation that he may join the Indian team as a bowling consultant. The 44-year-old played 26 Tests, 191 ODIs and four T20Is for India, taking an aggregate of 349 wickets. Delhi Capitals will be eyeing their maiden title this season after making the play-offs in the last three seasons.

**Praggnanandhaa finishes 11th in Airthings Masters, misses out on quarterfinals**

**Chennai:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated Russia's Vladislav Artemiev in the 15th and final round of the preliminary phase of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament, but missed out on qualifying for the quarterfinals. The 16-year-old started the final day of the preliminary rounds with a draw against German Vincent Keymer in round 13 before going down to Hans Moko Niemann (USA) in the next. His stirring win over world champion Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round caused a flutter but up-and-down performances pegged Praggnanandhaa back.

**Sri Lanka T20I series**

# India's chance to give more game time to claimants

**Lucknow, Feb 23 (PTI):**

With the number of claimants increasing heading into T20 World Cup, there will be no let-up in India's willingness to experiment or their intensity in the three-match T20 series against Sri Lanka, beginning here on Thursday.

Coming off a 3-0 white-wash of the West Indies, the in-form Indians will look to do an encore against the visiting Sri Lankans, and the Rohit Sharma-led squad has a realistic chance of achieving that.

But the endeavour to complete another clean sweep will not mean a climb-down from their keenness to give enough game time to as many players as possible in the lead-up to the World Cup, which will be held in Australia in October-November.

The absence of the team's established players, such as Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant as well as KL Rahul, in the upcoming three T20 Internationals will definitely translate into more opportunities for the likes of Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson.

Kohli not there means Shreyas Iyer will get a chance to settle down, play more overs, score some useful runs and stake a claim for one of the mid-



Mohammed Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Avesh Khan tune up for the T20I series against Sri Lanka.

dle-order slots, though the former India captain will come back to claim his number three spot heading into the World Cup.

The duo of Gaikwad and Iyer failed in the third T20Is against the West Indies and they would hope that they impress

against Sri Lanka.

One of the highlights over the last week was Venkatesh Iyer's ability to finish off matches and if he is able to continue in the same vein against the islanders, while managing to improve his bowling, the Indian team manage-

## Feels good to play for India after two months: Jadeja



**Lucknow, Feb 23 (PTI):**

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who is making a comeback to the Indian side after two months, expressed his delight after his first practice session

ahead of the opening T20I against Sri Lanka.

Jadeja missed India's last two series against South Africa and the West Indies as he was undergoing rehabilitation for a knee injury which he had

sustained during the home Test series against New Zealand last November.

"Good feeling to be back in the Indian team. Really looking forward to playing the T20 and Test series," Jadeja said in a video posted by BCCI. "I am feeling so good that finally after two month, I will be playing for India," he added.

The 33-year-old said he was eager to do his rehab properly. "I was keen to do my rehab properly. I have been working hard on my fitness in NCA. I am very excited for the series. I am playing after more than two months."

"I have been practising bowling, batting in Bengaluru. So I was in touch. Today, I felt very good after coming here for my first practice session."

India are slated to take on Sri Lanka in three T20Is starting here on Thursday, followed by a two-Test series.

## Mandhana, Jemimah among overseas players retained for 2022 Hundred

**London, Feb 22 (PTI):**

Indian stars Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues were among the overseas players retained by their respective franchises for the 2022 edition of the women's Hundred.

The three other Indian players - Harmanpreet Kaur, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma - who were part of the last edition have been released by their franchises and will be available for selection by other teams.

Rodrigues plays for the Northern Superchargers while Mandhana represents the Southern Brave in the 100-ball per innings match.

Birmingham Phoenix have released Shafali, London Spirit let go of Deepti Sharma while Manchester Originals did not retain Harmanpreet. Last time, Mandhana ag-



gregated 167 runs from seven innings at a strike rate of 133.60 before she flew back home to spend time with her family before the Indian team's tour of Australia. Her best was a 52-ball 78 against Welsh Fire, which was also her last match of the season.

**Match starts at 7PM IST.**

ment will have a world-class all-rounder at its disposal going into the show-piece Down Under.

Now that Suryakumar Yadav has been ruled out of the series alongside Deepak Chahar due to injuries, Venkatesh will assume added responsibility when it comes to batting in the back 10.

Spinner Ravi Bishnoi also impressed in his maiden T20I series and he will look to march ahead with the same momentum.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has come back into the team to bolster the bowling attack and, along with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Siraj, will comprise a formidable pace bowling unit.

Bhuvneshwar will take confidence from his fine showing against the West Indies, especially in the death overs.

As far as Sri Lanka are concerned, the side suffered a 1-4 defeat at the hands of Australia and was let down by batting time and again.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka would hope that their batting gets its act together against India.

The bowling will need to recover fast as star leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has been ruled out of the series after failing to recover from his COVID-19 infection.



## Medvedev, Nadal advance to second round at Mexican Open

**Acapulco, Feb 23 (AP):**

Daniil Medvedev continued his pursuit of the No. 1 ranking with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Benoit Paire to move into the second round at the Mexican Open. The 26-year-old Russian can overtake Novak Djokovic for top spot in the men's tennis rankings if he wins the title here.

Medvedev, who won the 2021 U.S. Open and was a runner-up to Rafael Nadal last month at the Australian Open, is playing in Mexico for the first time. It's not easy to come back after some rest and some time off competition, said Medvedev, who rallied from a break

down in the second set for victory.

I managed to fight until the end against a very tough opponent and I'm happy that I managed to win. He next plays Pablo Andujar, who beat Alex Hernandez 6-0, 6-1.

If he wins this tournament, or if he reaches the Acapulco final and Djokovic does not win the title at Dubai, The likely biggest challenge for Medvedev in Mexico could be fourth-seeded Nadal, who opened with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Denis Kudla. Nadal, who has won three titles in Acapulco (2005, 2013 and 2020), next faces Stefan Kozlov on Wednesday.

## Manika Batra eyeing more history at 2022 CWG, Asiad

**New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Back in the top-50 of world rankings after three years, star table tennis player Manika Batra wants to break the top-30 barrier in the near future and she knows she will have to work harder than ever to get there.

It is an important year for the 26-year-old who will defend her Commonwealth Games singles crown in Birmingham before travelling to Hangzhou to create more history at the Asian Games after winning a mixed doubles gold with Sharath Kamal in Jakarta in 2018. The 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast was a career defining moment for Manika who exceeded all expectations by winning as many as four medals, including gold in singles and team. She beat London Olympics bronze medallist Feng Tianwei twice in the



competition to etch her name in history books. Four years later, she feels she is a much improved player. "A lot changed for me after CWG. I have improved fitness wise and game wise significantly, especially in my movements, but this is not the end and need to keep working harder. Since I am tall, I had to work a lot on my strength and agility support my back and knees."

"This year, we have CWG and Asian Games. In my mind it is there I have to win but focus is on training," the

world number 49 told PTI.

Manika was recently involved in a legal battle which led to an indefinite suspension of the Table Tennis of Federation of India. She chose not to comment on the controversial subject but hoped that the suspension would not impact any player.

Recently signed by Adidas for its "Impossible is Nothing" campaign, Manika has also moved up to sixth and 10th in the doubles and mixed doubles rankings respectively.

## Time running out as Indian women look to avoid New Zealand clean sweep

**Queenstown, Feb 23 (PTI):**

India will be desperate to gain some momentum heading into the World Cup but for that, their bowlers will have to raise their game as they seek to stop New Zealand from completing a 5-0 white-wash in the fifth women's ODI here on Thursday.

Having lost all matches played here so far, including the lone T20I, the Mithali Raj-led side is finding it difficult to stem the rot and faces the ignominy of a one-sided series defeat days ahead of the World Cup.

The series defeat is India's fourth in the last one year, having lost to South Africa, England and Australia earlier.



While the batters did raise their game in the second and third ODIs with a much-improved performance, the bowling unit has let the team down throughout the series, something that Mithali admitted was a concern heading into the World Cup. "Definitely have been

trying a few combinations with the seam and spin attack. Bowling attack is a concern going into the World Cup," Mithali said. "We are adapting to the conditions and to the open ground and the breeze. We have not been

very consistent in our bowling spells."

The Indian team hasn't performed as a cohesive unit. While the bowlers failed to defend 270 plus targets in two games, the batters were unable to chase 276 and 192 in 20 overs in the fourth ODI. The fielding has also been sub-standard.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be delighted with how the series has panned out.

Their top batters have been impressive, with Amelia Kerr and Suzie Bates hitting a hundred each while Amy Satterthwaite has scored two fifties.

The lower-order has also shown it can finish games, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat in the third ODI.

**PARACHUTE PARADE**

**Soldiers of Special Force of Army Battalion conduct a parachute parade during the Presidents Colours event, at Parachute Regiment Training Center (PRTC), in Bengaluru, Wednesday.**

**POSCO COURT OBSERVATION****‘Saying I love you’ once not intentional insult to girl’s modesty’****Mumbai, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Saying "I love you" once to a girl is not an intentional insult to her modesty, at most it amounts to expressing a feeling of love, a special court here observed while acquitting a 23-year-old man booked under the POSCO Act. Special judge Kalpana Patil made the observation on Tuesday, and detailed order was made available on Wednesday.

As per the complaint lodged by the family of the 17-year-old victim, the accused had told the girl that he loved her near their residence in 2016. The complainant had further alleged that the accused had

stared and winked at the girl, and also threatened her mother. Based on the complaint, the Wadala TT police had booked the accused under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. However, the court acquitted the accused of all the charges, as there was no sufficient material to prove his guilt.

"According to the victim, on the day of the incident, the accused had said 'I love you' to her. It is not the case that the accused had repeatedly followed her and said 'I love you'," the court said. "A single incident of saying I love you to the victim will at the

most amount to expressing the feeling of love of accused towards the victim. It cannot be said that this act was done with an intention to insult the modesty of the victim," it added.

It also held that the prosecution has not brought on record an overt act of the accused that amounted to insult to the modesty of the victim. The prosecution has also not brought on record any evidence establishing that the accused had committed any act with respect to the victim with sexual intent, or that he had given any kind of threat to the victim or her mother, the court said. PTI AVI

**Imphal, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the government will hold peace talks with all Kuki militant groups and their issue will be resolved in the next five years. As the problem of Bodo militancy was solved in neighbouring Assam, no Kuki youth will have to carry arms anymore, Shah said in an election rally in Manipur's Churachandpur district.

Militant outfits such as Kuki National Organisation and United People's Front were demanding a separate state for the Kuki tribe in Manipur. The government

has signed a Suspension of Operation (SoO) with them. "Have confidence in us, we will talk to all Kuki organisations, and a new life will be given to all Kuki youths to enable them to join the development of the nation, of the hills and of Manipur under PM Modi," Shah said.

He claimed that the Bodoland issue was solved in Assam. "We have brought them (Bodo rebels) to the path of development and today, no Bodo youths have weapons in their hands. Instead, they have motorcycle keys, keys to industries and laptops," Shah said. The same has been done in Karbi areas and more than 9,500 people associated with

development, connectivity, infrastructure, sports and industries, Shah said. "During the time of the Congress, there were three Is - Instability, Insurgency and Inequality. During the BJP rule, the Is are Innovation, Infrastructure and Integration," the Union minister said.

He claimed that the Congress wanted the people of the hills and the valley to fight against each other to suit its politics, whereas the BJP has led both to the path of development. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to make Manipur the best sports hub in the country, free the youths from drugs and arms and make them

Olympic gold medal winners. The National Sports University is being set up in the state, while a decision has been made to establish one Khelo India centre in each of the 16 districts of the state to tap local talents and provide them with a platform, Shah said.

He said an 'Olympic Park' spread over 10 acres will be built to provide training facilities to state-level players so that they become international athletes. He said that in the last five years, the BJP government has worked hard to bring an end to violence in Manipur and make it an ideal state and in the next five years, it will be the best state in the whole region.

The Tamil Nadu urban civic polls turned out to be a huge opportunity for the ruling DMK to consolidate its position, and emerge stronger and larger in the political landscape, diminishing the arch rival AIADMK's image further after trouncing it in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and last year's Assembly elections.

**Chennai, Feb 23 (PTI):**

While achieving the intended target, the MK Stalin-led dispensation also relegated its archrival to not only a distant second but also grabbed the majority of voteshare with a 60 per cent plus score across different

local body formats. Chief Minister Stalin, also DMK President, asserted the sweeping victory was a "crowning moment" for the Dravidian model of governance.

The party has won a majority in all the 21 municipal corporations including the Greater Chennai Corporation and came out victorious in most of the 138 municipalities and 490 town panchayats.

The ruling party has won 952 wards in corporations, 2,360 in municipalities and 4,389 in town panchayats which includes the majority of voteshare in the home turf of AIADMK leaders including former Chief

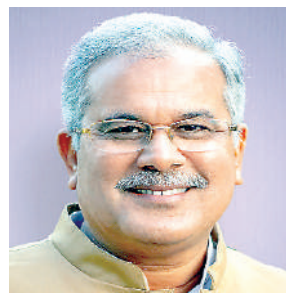
Ministers K Palaniswami (Edappadi, Salem district) and O Panner Selvam (Periyakulam, Theni district). While DMK's vote-share in corporations stood at 69.29 per cent, it was 61.41 per cent in municipalities, while the AIADMK, which was expected to put up a tough challenge, had to contend with scores of a measly 11.94 per cent and 16.60 per cent respectively.

The polls not only saw AIADMK's fortunes ebb dismally, after enjoying power for a decade, but also saw the BJP expand its presence, prompting the party workers to emphatically remark that

"The Lotus is blooming" in the Dravidian heartland.

The DMK's spectacular win is attributed largely to Stalin's governance during the nine months in office. "People entrusted the government to us after reposing faith in us. We have safeguarded that trust," Stalin said in a statement on Wednesday.

"People have completely rejected the opposition parties and their arguments. They had campaigned that we had offered attractive promises to win the assembly polls but not implemented any of them," he said. However, 70 per cent of the assurances have been implemented, he said.

**Amit Shah vows to end Kuki militancy problem in Manipur in 5 years****‘BJP govt’s free ration scheme only a lollipop, will stop after Mar 10’****Bhupesh Baghel****Barabanki, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said the ration that is given free of cost by the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is "only a lollipop" and it will be given only till March 10, after which it will stop.

Assembly polls in the state are being held in seven phases and results will be

declared on March 10. Addressing an election meeting here, Baghel, a Congress leader, said, "The ration which is given free of cost by the BJP government is only a lollipop and it will be given only till March 10, after which the BJP government will stop it." Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, "Almost half the election has passed, and now the prime minister says that you have eaten our salt and you have to show your loyalty. All governments do something or the other for their people. They (BJP) say that one has to show its loyalty." Of the seven phases, three have been completed and the fourth is on Wednesday. Baghel also claimed that the Congress is the only party that does not discriminate.

**HEAVY SNOWFALL**

**A snow-covered house after winter snowfall continued for the second at Rashel village, in Lahaul-Spiti, Wednesday.**

**SC dismisses plea seeking cancellation of offline board exams****New Delhi, Feb 23 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking cancellation of offline board examinations for classes 10 and 12 to be conducted by the CBSE and several other boards this year, saying such petitions give false hope and create confusion among students who are going to appear in these exams. The apex court observed that the petition is ill-advised and premature and the authorities are yet to take appropriate decision with regard to conducting exams of the various boards.

Such petitions give false hope to the persons who are going to appear in the examinations. Those students will be misled by

this petition. Let the authorities take decision. If the decision is wrong, challenge that decision. Here, you want to preempt everything, a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar told the lawyer appearing for the petitioners.

This creates not only false hopes, it creates confusion all over to students who are preparing, said the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar. The counsel appearing for the petitioners said that most of the state boards have not yet declared the dates for examinations. Whenever examination is due, they will declare those dates, what is the problem, the bench observed.

**ACIL DELAY HITS WELFARE PLAN****Over 40,000 tea garden workers in Assam battling for survival****Guwahati, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Over 40,000 tea garden workers in upper Assam are being allegedly forced to live in dilapidated homes without access to proper healthcare and education due to an over three-year delay in fulfilment of welfare promises made by their employer -- a major global conglomerate facing fraud and forgery charges.

The workers from adivasi communities are employed in 14 tea gardens of the 182-year-old Assam Company India Limited (ACIL), which was acquired by billionaire B R Shetty-owned BRS ventures in 2018 after approval from the National

Company Law Tribunal. The ACIL, however, refuted the allegations, saying the management was committed to improving the lives of workers and blamed the COVID-19 pandemic for the delay in the implementation of the proposed welfare plan.

BRS ventures acquired the stressed ACIL in 2018 after it submitted in the NCLT a resolution plan that along with the purchase money it will also spend Rs 150 crore within six months of acquisition for the welfare of garden workers.

The plan involved renovation of staff quarters, building a multi-specialty hospital, drinking water facilities, labourers wel-



**A woman on a raft in front of dilapidated staff quarters of tea garden workers of the Assam Company India Limited, in upper Assam, Wednesday.**

fare, gratuity and proper provident fund according to the Plantation Labour Act, 1951. This act becomes mandatory for the government and the private companies to adhere to it when they venture

into this sector. The workers claimed that they were given written assurances by the company about the elaborate welfare plan that it had chalked out for them and also included promoting

tourism in the region. However, abandoning their staff quarters and moving to higher land due to floods in the monsoon season and braving chilly winters inside their crumbling homes are a grim reality that they have to face every year.

Adding to their woes is the lack of fully-functioning community health centres and educational institutions for their children -- both assured by BRS ventures during the acquisition.

According to the leaders of unions representing the workers, BRS ventures, which is facing fraud and forgery charges in the UK and UAE, took over the tea gardens in 2018.

**Raj govt presents Budget with special focus on employment, health, education****Jaipur, Feb 23 (PTI):**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday presented the Budget for the year 2022-23, with the main focus on sectors like health, education, infrastructure, social security and tourism. Presenting the Budget in the Rajasthan Assembly, Gehlot during the almost three-hour-long speech announced the launch of the Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme with an aim to provide 100 days of employment in urban areas.

The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme is in the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment

Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), for which a Rs 800 crore budget has been proposed. Another major announcement in the budget is to implement the old pension scheme from next year for all employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004.

"We all know that the employees associated with government services should feel secure about the future, only then they can make their invaluable contribution towards good governance during the service period. Therefore, for all the employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004, I propose to implement the old pension scheme," he said. Gehlot also proposed to increase the health cover under the state govern-

ment's much ambitious Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per year per family. He also announced that IPD and OPD services will be free-of-cost in state-run hospitals.

For electricity consumers, 50 units free electricity for those using 100 units, Rs 3/per unit grant for all domestic consumers up to 150 units and Rs 2/unit grant for consumers of 150 to 300 units and above as per the slab. The state government will spend Rs 4,500 crore. "Like always, we have taken care of every section of the society in the Budget. Management of the corona crisis in the state has been appreciated across the world."