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# CENTRAL Chronicle

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**BRIEF****Militant arrested**

**Siliguri (WB):** A suspected Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) militant was arrested in Siliguri on Friday morning, police said. The man was arrested from Khatpara area of the city by the North Bengal Special Task Force of police, they said. The arrested, a resident of Srimampur Assam's Kokrajhar, was part of a KLO group that has been operating in Siliguri, they added.

**Earthquake hits**

**Shimla:** A moderate intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.4 shook Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala on Friday afternoon, the meteorological department here said. There was no report of any casualty or damage to property due to the quake, it said. The earthquake's epicentre was at a depth of 10 km in Chakban Bhagsunath village of Dharamshala, the department said, adding that tremors were felt in and around the district at 12.59 pm.

	<b>Weather</b>
	High 34
	Low 19
	<b>MARKET</b>
NIFTY	16,658.40
SENSEX	55,858.52
	<b>BULLION</b>
GOLD	50,301
SILVER	60,036

## AI planning to operate two flights to Bucharest to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Air India is planning to operate two flights to Romanian capital Bucharest on Friday to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine due to a Russian military offensive, senior government officials said.

Indian nationals who have reached the Ukraine-Romania border by road will be taken to Bucharest by officials of the Indian government so that they can be evacuated in the two Air India flights, they added.

The Ukrainian airspace was closed for civil aircraft operations by the country's authorities on Thursday morning and therefore, the evacuation flights are operating out of Bucharest.

The two Air India flights will depart from Bucharest on Saturday, the officials said. Air India did not respond to PTT's request for comments on the development. The Indian embassy in Ukraine on Friday said it is working to establish evacuation routes from Romania and Hungary.

"At present, teams are getting in place at the following check points: Chop-Zahony Hungarian border near Uzhhorod, Porubne-Siret Romanian border near Chernivtsi," it said.



A student holds a placard during a prayer session for world peace, amid Russian military invasion of Ukraine, in Chennai, Friday.

**Govt to bear cost of evacuation of Indians**

**New Delhi:** The government is making efforts to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine through its land border crossings with its neighbouring countries and they would then be brought back home, official sources said on Friday. They said evacuation flights for the Indians are being arranged and the transportation cost will be completely borne by the government. "The government of India is organising evacuation flights for Indians in Ukraine. The cost will be completely borne by the government for this evacuation," said a source privy to the development.

**Cabinet Committee on Security likely to meet again**

**New Delhi:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is likely to meet again on Saturday amid the Russian offensive against Ukraine, sources in the government said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had chaired a meeting of the CCS on Thursday night after Russia launched its attack on Ukraine. He also spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and called for an immediate cessation of violence while stressing that India attaches the highest priority to the safe exit and return of its citizens from Ukraine. The proposed meet of the key cabinet panel comes amid New Delhi's efforts to evacuate Indian citizens from the battle zone.

Indian nationals, especially students, living closest to these border checkpoints are advised to depart in an organised manner in coordination with teams from the

Ministry of External Affairs to actualise this option, the embassy said.

## Russian military takes strategic airport near Kyiv

'Russia ready to hold talks 'any moment' once Ukrainian Army lays down arms'

Kyiv, Feb 25 (AP):

The Russian military says it has taken control of a strategic airport just outside the Ukrainian capital and cut Kyiv off from the west.

The airport in Hostomel has a long runway capable of accommodating heavy transport planes. Its seizure allows Russia to airlift troops directly to Kyiv's outskirts. Hostomel is just 7 kilometers (4 miles) northwest of Kyiv.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Friday that the Russian airborne forces used 200 helicopters to land in Hostomel.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said that Moscow is ready for talks at "any moment" with Ukraine once the Ukrainian military respond positively to President Vladimir Putin's call, end their resistance and lay down their arms.

Lavrov made the remarks following talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Sergey Peresada and Foreign Minister of the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) Vladislav Deinego, the state-run TASS news agency reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties with leaders of DPR and LPR on February 21, recognising the two regions of Ukraine as independent. We are ready to



A man inspects the damage at a building following a rocket attack on the city of Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday.

**Russia presses invasion to outskirts**

**Kyiv, Feb 25 (AP):** Russia pressed its invasion of Ukraine to the outskirts of the capital Friday after unleashing airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending in troops and tanks from three sides in an attack that could rewrite the global post-Cold War security order. Explosions sounded before dawn in Kyiv and gunfire was reported in several areas, as Western leaders

scheduled an emergency meeting and Ukraine's president pleaded for international help to fend off an attack that could topple his democratically elected government, cause massive casualties and ripple out damage to the global economy. Among the signs that the Ukrainian capital was increasingly threatened, the military said Friday that a group of Russian spies and saboteurs was seen in a district on the outskirts of Kyiv, and police told people not to exit a subway station in the city center because there was gunfire in the area. Elsewhere in the capital, soldiers established defensive positions at bridges, and armored vehicles rolled down the streets, while many residents stood uneasily in doorways of their apartment buildings.

Vladimir Putin signed treaties with leaders of DPR and LPR on February 21, recognising the two regions of Ukraine as independent. We are ready to hold talks at any moment, once the Ukrainian Armed Forces respond to our president's call, end their resistance and lay down their arms.

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# Collector inspects flyover construction sites on National Highway



## Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: On Friday, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the work of flyovers being constructed on national highway between Kumhari to Supela. He directed the officers to get the construction work completed at its earliest while maintaining quality. In Kumhari, he directed the officials to complete the work of second arch and

start the work of second lane so that traffic movement is not obstructed.

Thereafter, Collector inspected the flyover at Dabrapara. The construction agency officials informed him that 90 percent of the work will be completed by the month of July this year. During the inspection of the Power House flyover, the Collector instructed the officials to get the construction of drains completed before

the commencement of rainy season.

During the inspection in Chandra-Maurya Supela, he highlighted the traffic problems and asked the officials to make arrangements including diversion. Collector said that full care should be taken of the parking facilities in Kumhari, Powerhouse and Supela. He also directed the officials for beautification of the spots.

He added that ensuring

free traffic movement on this route should be the top priority. He instructed to make necessary preparations and speed up the construction work by deploying sufficient manpower. Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, NH Executive Engineer Rao and other officers were present.

Collector also inspected the site for the proposed railway under bridge at

Supela. He discussed with the railway officials to start its alignment and construction. With the construction of an under bridge at Supela, thousands of citizens of Bhilai will get relief from waiting at the level railway crossing.

He asked the officials to ensure that lesser number of trees are cut for construction. Alternative traffic movement arrangements should be made during construction works. An under bridge is to be built in Kugda also. He asked the officials to make proper arrangements for traffic movement during the construction work.

The traffic movement on the Kugda route has increased to great extent. With the construction of Kugda under bridge, people will get great relief. SDM Brijesh Kshatriya was also present during inspection.

of the officers came out in the form of "Walk for Justice".

OA PSP President and SEFI Chairman Narendra Kumar Banchore again urged the management to resolve this burning issue without delay. It is not justified to keep more than 1600 officers agitated. The Officers Association is hopeful that the management will understand these issues and provide a just and equitable solution at the earliest.

# OA calls 'Walk for Justice' for pay-fixation of Junior Officers



## Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: On the call of PSP Officers Association, a campaign "Walk for Justice" was conducted on Friday to support the demand for pay fixation of Junior Officers of 2008 and 2010 batch.

All the officers of PSP spontaneously cooperated in this campaign to rectify the injustice done to the junior officers and provide them justice. During

the General Shift of the plant, more than 900 officers reached their respective offices and workplaces by walking.

The "Walk for Justice" organised on Friday is a message to awaken the management on behalf of every officer to provide justice to the junior officers who are facing injustice for the last 14 years. The management has so far been lax in resolving this issue, and the resultant resentment and pain

## Practical exams for Computer at SSMV from February 26

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: As per the directions of Hemchand Yadav University Durg, the annual practical exams of Computer Department is starting from February 26, 2022. The schedule for the exam for different classes will be as follows: BCA (I) Programming in C Language on February 26, 2022; BSc (II) Software HTML and C++ on February 26, 2022; BSc (III) Visual Basic and DBMS on February 26, 2022; BCA (I) Web Technology and E Commerce/Visual Basic on February 28, 2022; B Com (I) PC S/W &

Multimedia on February 28, 2022; BCA (II) Programming in C++ and Visual C++ on March 03, 2022; B Com (II) HTML and RDBMS on March 07, 2022; B Com (III) Visual Basic/Project on March 08, 2022; BCA (II) Linux on March 09, 2022; BCA (I) PC Software on March 10, 2022; BCA (II) DBMS on March 11, 2022; BCA (III) Project on March 11, 2022; BCA (III) Prog in Python (New Course)/Programming in Java (old Course) on March 12, 2022; and BCA (III) Dot.Net Tech (New Course)/Multi Media Tools and Applications (Old Course) on March 14, 2022.

### Practical exams for Psychology at St Thomas from Mar 17

Bhilai, Feb 25: The Psychology annual practical exams at St Thomas College, for both private and regular candidates will be on the following days: BA (I) March 07, 2022; BA (II) March 09, 2022; BA (III) March 09, 2022; MA (Previous) March 10 & 11, 2022; MA (Final) March 12 & 14, 2022. Reporting time is 10:00 hrs. Schedule of batches will be given in students group.

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Chhattisgarh Government is working on a war footing for conservation of ponds and recharge of underground water. Big ponds existed in dilapidated condition in Kumhari. The water was polluted and the ponds were dying. It was decided to work on big schemes for their protection and accordingly, the works were launched. All the projects are expected to be completed before the rainy season.

Large infrastructures are being established in Kumhari Municipal Council with an investment of Rs 100 crore. Collector Dr. Sarveshwar

Narendra Bhure inspected these projects on Friday. He inspected the construction work of Kugda Under Bridge and Chandaniya pond. The work of pond beautification is being done at a cost of Rs 1.78 crore. This will also recharge the underground water and improve the beauty of this pond. Devotees conduct chhath puja at this pond. Collector asked the officers that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has instructed that people should get better civic facilities. Along with pure drinking water, clean environment should also be made available, he said.

Collector also inspected the construction work of DMC pond. During the last

visit of the Collector, the condition of this pond was very bad. There was only a little water left and that too was polluted. The government accepted the proposal sent for the beautification of the pond. Government is spending Rs 3.73 crore on this pond.

STP plant has been installed to treat the water. A 'view point' is being built from where the beautiful view of the pond will be visible. After completion, beauty of the pond will increase manifold. Rs 5.32 crore has been approved for beautification of Janjgiri pond. This will beautify the pond and also recharge the ground water. Collector gave detailed instructions regarding its construction work. Along with this, he also gave instructions for developing parks at Parsada, Janjgiri and other places. He instructed CMO Jitendra Kushwaha to keep a constant watch on basic facilities like drinking water etc. It is worth mentioning that work will soon be done on a big scheme for drinking water supply in Kumhari. SDM Brijesh Kshatriya was also present. Collector also inspected newly constructed Tehsil building in Bhilai-3. Commissioner Kirtiman Rathore was also present.

## Kumhari getting facelift with Rs 100 crore projects

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: The Commissioner of Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation Prakash Sarve on Friday conducted surprise inspection of the offices in Zone No 2 and Zone No 3. On finding an employee absent at office, the Commissioner has given instructions to issue show cause notices. The commissioner without any intimation reached the Vaishali Nagar zone office, and first checked the complaint register for drinking water and took briefing on redressal of the complaints. He also gave instructions to maintain the register. Thereafter he inspected the Lok Sewa Kendra and interacted with the beneficiaries present there who had mostly come to get the Aadhar card made, name, date of birth, mobile number and other errors corrected. The commis-

## BMC Commissioner conducts surprise inspection of zone office

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sioner directed that Divyani, pregnant women, women arriving with small children and elderly people should get their Aadhar card made on priority basis. In case of overcrowding, he asked to get the cards made on priority basis and after the set maximum number of cards instead of returning the applicants take the applications and call them on a date. The municipal commissioner also inspected other departments of the office, during which

Department, recovery of property tax, timely attendance of employees from Zone Commissioner Aisha Lahare. He said that in view of the upcoming summer season, all the zones should issue toll free numbers for the problem of drinking water and solve the problems on this basis, so that people do not need to come to the corporation office regarding the problems. The commissioner took stock of the Slum Health Camp organised in Jawahar Nagar. He spoke to the doctor and inquired about the availability of medicines, and he also took feedback from the patients. The Corporation Commissioner also reached 18 number road near Anganwadi and Dhanwantri Medical Store of Supela Hospital and inquired about the stock of medicines and the demand for generic medicines and the demand for surgical items.

## BSP's Education Deptt observes Lord Baden Powell day

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Lord Baden Powell Day was celebrated at Sector 08 on February 22, 2022 under the auspices of Scouts and Guides of SAIL-BSP's Education department. Shikha Dubey, GM (Education), BSP was the Chief Guest while Chief District Commissioner for Scouts RJ Raju graced the occasion as Special Guest. The Guests were welcomed with scarves. Flag etiquette and flag prayer was followed by the Flag song.

Shikha Dubey, GM (Education), BSP garlanded the photo of Lord Baden Powell. In her address Dubey urged the students to keep the values of Scouts and Guides to the international level.

He also highlighted the achievements of Scouts and Guides of BSP's Education department.

Student Pooja Verma gave a brief on the life of Lord Powell. All students and teachers took part in the Sarvadharma prayer reciting messages and shlokas. The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Sheetal Chandra Sharma, Teacher. Commissioner, Guide. All principals of different schools and DOC Scouts and Guides were present on the occasion. The programme was coordinated by Keertilata Deshmukh while the compering was done by Dr Sheetal Chandra Sharma, Teacher.

## Devotional music eve organised ahead of Mahashivratri

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Carrying forward its tradition, Bol Bum Seva and Kalyan Samiti is celebrating the festival of Mahashivratri in a grand manner this year also. They take out a grand marriage procession of Lord Shiva, who according to the vedic scriptures married Goddess Parvathi on Mahashivratri.

The festivities began with a musical evening on Thursday. Devotees enjoyed the bhajans during this event which continued till late night. This colorful event was held at Agrasen Bhawan in New Khursipar Bhajan Maestro Manoj of Delhi and his team conducted the bhajan sandhya. Bol Bum Seva and Kalyan Samiti President Daya Singh said that, like last year, this year also a grand concert was organized. The main attraction of this

event was the magnificent tableau of Bhole Baba and Maa Parvati. From Shiva-Parvati marriage to Tandava dance were beautifully displayed. Apart from this, the character of Sudama was also depicted in the tableaux.

Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal was present as the chief guest. He appreciated the event and appealed to the people to attend the marriage procession of Bhole Baba. Ratanlal Agarwal presided over the pro-

gramme. Congratulating the organisers for the successful event, he appreciated the programme and hoped that this year's event will be more magnificent and splendid. MIC member Lakshmi pati Raju, Councilor Rakesh Sen, Bhojraj Sinha, Mahesh Verma, Shyam Sunder Rao, Veena Chandrakar, Piyush Mishra, Laxmi Sahu, Girija Banchar, Lakshmi Diwakar, Sarita Baghel, Pinky Sahu, Smita Dodke, Mukesh Agarwal were

present as special guests. Shakuntala Sahu, Vinod Chelak and other BJP councilors were also present. Suman Kannoje compered the programme.

President Daya Singh further informed that during the musical evening, Holi of flowers was played with Lord Shri Krishna and Radha Rani. The artists beautifully played the characters of Radha Krishna. All the devotees were mesmerized and took a holy dip in the ocean of devotion in the musical evening of Shiva-Parvati. Daya Singh added that all the people who attended the sangeet-evening continued to dance throughout the programme. He appealed all the citizens to attend the marriage procession of Bhole Baba which will be taken out on March 01 on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Organizing Committee

President Daya Singh said that people from all sections including administration, doctors, lawyers, police, businessmen and women are excited about this event. Every year, all sections of the society are invited in the event. They have assured to attend Bhole Baba Ki Baarat on March 1. On

Thursday, invitation cards were distributed among traders of textile, grain, bullock, electronics and other sectors.

Youth Wing President Prashant Kumar, Vivek Kaushal, Rakesh Prashad, Pramod Singh and Women's Wing President Manju Mishra, Pushpa Singh, Sunita Devi, Rajwinder Kaur, Tarini Sharma, Bilotin Jaiswal, Hemlata Bisai, Saraswati Yadav, Laxmi Chauhan and other members of the committee are visiting door-to-door to invite the people in this grand devotional event.

## CL Dewangan accorded warm farewell, Dr Prashant Srivastava is new Registrar

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Dean of Student Welfare, Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, Dr Prashant Srivastava will now take over the additional responsibility of Registrar of the University. University Registrar, Dr CL Dewangan, after having been promoted as Regional Additional Director, Higher Education Department, Raipur Division will hand over the charge to Dr Prashant Srivastava on February 28. The order on this account has been issued by the Higher Education Department, Chhattisgarh Government the other day. A farewell was given to Dr Dewangan where all the officials of the University including the Vice Chancellor Dr Aruna Palta were present. Vice Chancellor Dr Palta described the tenure of Registrar, Dr Dewangan as satisfactory and described him

guidance of Vice Chancellor Dr Aruna Palta, and support from all the officers and employees, every effort will be made in the interest of the students and the progress of the university. It is noteworthy that Professor of Geology, Dr Prashant Srivastava has taught in famous American universities under the US India Fulbright Fellowship. He has received Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship and Post Doctoral Research Award of UGC. In the farewell ceremony, Deputy Registrar of the University, Rajendra Chauhan, Assistant Registrar, Dr Sumit Agarwal, Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi, Sports Officer, LP Verma and NSS Coordinator, Dr RP Agrawal and on behalf of the staff Dr Bhawna Parbat, Yogesh Soni, Dr Manju Tirupati, Manpreet Kaur shared their memories. All the employees were also present on this occasion.



**Dr Prashant Srivastava**

as a simple, efficient and cooperative administrator. Expressing satisfaction over his three years tenure in Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, Dr Dewangan expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Palta for her guidance and cooperation. Dr Dewangan also thanked all the officials and employees of the university for their cooperation that helped him conduct his duties smoothly. The newly appointed Registrar-in-Charge, Dr Prashant Srivastava said that under the



event was the magnificent tableau of Bhole Baba and Maa Parvati. From Shiva-Parvati marriage to Tandava dance were beautifully displayed. Apart from this, the character of Sudama was also depicted in the tableaux.

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Organizing Committee

# ED, IT may target Ch'garh after UP polls: CM

● Cong to return to power in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Punjab



Navab Malik.

He said that there is no place for lack of consent in Modi-led government. Instead of treating the Opposition parties as part of democratic system, they treat them as enemies and it is the central insti-

tutions through which the score is settled. He anticipated that no sooner the UP elections are over, ED and IT may head towards Chhattisgarh.

Speaking further CM Baghel informed that the fourth leg of polls in UP has been completed and BJP is facing serious challenges of returning to power. Baghel believes that BJP is already out just after the fourth leg of polling in UP. CM Baghel claimed that Congress will return to power in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and would again come back to power in Punjab as well. He said that as per

the reports, there is lot of anger of people towards BJP. Citing about the Ukraine attack and problems to students from the state, CM said that students in large number are stuck in Ukraine and bringing them back safely tops priority. He informed that a nodal officer has been appointed in Delhi and he is constantly in touch and co-ordinating with the Foreign Ministry. As to how much will be loss on the economy, it is difficult to say at present, but after the UP polls there are chances that there will be massive hike in petrol and diesel prices.

## Annual report of CPSC presented before Governor



Raipur, Feb 25: The twentieth annual report (year 2020-21) of the commission was presented by the Chairman of Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission, Mr. Taman Singh Sonwani, to Governor Ms. Anusuya Uike at Raj Bhavan here. The Governor inquired about the activities of the Public Service Commission in detail. On this occasion members of the commission Mr. Sukrit Lal Saw, Dr. Motilal Bachkar, Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma, Dr. Sarita Uike, Secretary Mr. Jeevan Kishore Dhruv and Controller of Examination Mrs. Arti Wasnik were present.

## AWARENESS PROG.



The members of 'Pink-Gast' organised an awareness programme for promotion of various services provided by the new team formed for safety of women by the Raipur Police.

## ICICI Foundation is continuously supporting the govt: Singh Deo



### In mobilizing resources to deal with Corona

### ICICI Foundation provided machines for Virology Labs at Jashpur, Balodabazar, Dantewada and Janjir

Raipur, Feb 25: ICICI Foundation is cooperating in setting up of virology labs in four district headquarters of the state.

Virology Lab of Raipur Medical College.

Expressing his gratitude to ICICI Foundation for this cooperation, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo said that ICICI Bank has been supporting the state government since its inception in the fight against Corona. Even before this, ICU beds, oxygen extractor, dialysis machines and other resources have been provided by them in Covid hospitals. In the Corona period, resources of about Rs 6 crore have been provided by the ICICI Foundation and the bank. He said that the infrastructure of health services all over the world is changing due to the corona pandemic. Due to this global pandemic, major changes have taken place in the health sector

systems in a very short time. Health Minister Singh Deo said that in Chhattisgarh also all kinds of resources are being increased continuously for better medical facilities. He expressed the hope that the support of ICICI Foundation would continue to be provided in the future also for the strengthening of health services in the state.

Principal Secretary of Health Department Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Director of Health Services Mr. Neeraj Bansod and Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla joined the program online. During this, State Nodal Officer of Virology Lab Dr. Kamlesh Jain and senior officials of ICICI Bank were also present.

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has directed all the departmental secretaries to add maximum number of beneficiaries to the schemes run by their departments. He asked to complete the works of the general public related to the implementation of the schemes within the time-frame. Jain reviewed important schemes and programmes of the government by holding a meeting of secretaries of various departments through video conferencing at Mantralaya here today.

He directed the officers to ensure disposal of cases under the Public Service Guarantee Act within a time-limit. Jain asked the Revenue Department to expeditiously resolve other revenue cases including mutation, demarcation, di-



vision, diversion, providing new loan book and land ownership rights to agricultural lease holders in rural areas. He also directed to take action against the officials who are negligent in these works. He asked the Secretary, Revenue Department to take immediate action for simplification of the trans- feres.

The Chief Secretary gave instructions to make arrangements for freeholding of industrial land and land of urban bodies and to make arrangements for on-

line monitoring at the government level to solve the problems related to revenue, health, police, electricity and urban bodies. He asked to count OBCs in urban areas with the help of public representatives. Jain also reviewed the implementation of home delivery of all public utility services of the government.

Campaign for construction of toilets in all government schools of the state and additional purchase agreements with under-construction ethanol units attended the meeting.

## Golden Jubilee conference of insurance employees from today

### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union will be organising 50th annual golden jubilee conference of insurance employees from February 26 to 28 at Dudhadhari Satsang bhawan, Raipur.

On completion of 50 years of divisional organisation of insurance employees, the preparation for organising the golden jubilee conference is going on with much enthusiasm. Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union, General Secretary, Com. Surendra Sharma said that leaders of national and regional level insurance employees union along with Raipur division will participate in the event. In the conference the central government decision to release LIC IPO will be strongly opposed.

# CM unveils key projects for Bilaspur

**Inauguration of the much-awaited Tifra fly over-bridge, Vyapar Vihar and the Planetarium built at the cost of Rs 107.49 crore**

**CM inaugurates-lays foundation of 97 development works worth Rs 353.56 crore**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today inaugurated the 1620-meter long Tifra Flyover Bridge, Vyapar Vihar Smart Road and a planetarium built at the cost of Rs 107.49 crores in Bilaspur- the 'Nyaydhani' of Chhattisgarh. In the programme organized at



Lal Bahadur Shastri Ground of Bilaspur today, 97 development works worth nearly Rs 353.56 crore were unveiled. This includes inauguration of 62 works worth Rs 277

crore 31 lakh and bhoomipujan of 35 works worth Rs 76 crore 25 lakh.

Major development works, which were inaugurated today in Bilaspur at hands of Chief Minister

wall constructed in the Bilaspur University premise at the cost of Rs.36 crore 56 lakh, 264 houses built for police personnel in Tifra at the cost of Rs.28 crore 48 lakh, the Smart Road from Vyapar Vihar Smart Road, Maharana Pratap Chowk to Tarbhar Chowk constructed by Bilaspur Smart City Limited at the cost of Rs.26 crore 83 lakh, and the Planetarium built at Vyapar Vihar at the cost of Rs.6 crore 77 lakh.

Likewise, the works for which Chief Minister Mr. Baghel performed Bhoomi Puja in Bilaspur are as follows- automatic multi-level car parking to be built in old bus stand, Bilaspur at the cost of Rs.10 crore 89 lakh, GIS solution system to be established in Bilaspur smart city at the cost of Rs. 9 crore 99 lakh, construction of 3.5 kms long two-lane

road from Mangala Bainsajhar to Deendayal Colony, Lokhandi Railway Gate at the cost of Rs. 5 crore 61 lakh, renovation work of 9 roads in Kota development block under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to be done at the cost of Rs. 4 crore 85 lakh and installation of hybrid solar power system to convert existing street and auxiliary lights into dual feed with solar provision for various roads in Bilaspur at the cost of Rs.3 crore 77 lakh.

Tifra Flyover Bridge will solve the problem of traffic jam in the city

1620 meters long Tifra Fly Over Bridge from Tifra to Late Jamuna Prasad Verma College has been constructed by Urban Administration and Development Department at the cost of Rs.107 crore 49 lakh. An over bridge was constructed on this railway

crossing earlier as well, but it could not solve the problem of traffic jam around the square and on the bridge. Inauguration of this new flyover bridge will reduce the traffic congestion in Maharana Pratap Chowk and Tifra end, which will make commuting easier convenient for people who take NH 130.

**Inauguration of Vyapar Vihar Smart Road**

Chief Minister also inaugurated a well-equipped smart road built by Bilaspur Smart City Limited

from Maharan Pratap Chowk to Tarbhar Chowk in Bilaspur city at the cost of about Rs 26 crore 83 lakh. The area, being largest commercial center of the division, has always witnessed constant traffic jams. Construction of this Four Lane Smart Road here will facilitate in smooth movement of trucks and goods carrier vehicles.

**Inauguration of Planetarium—center of entertainment and knowledge**

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel has also inaugurated Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Planetarium, built by Bilaspur Smart City Limited over three and a half acres of land at the cost of Rs 6 crore 77 lakh. The city folks will get a glimpse of celestial view in this planetarium, besides the important information regarding science and astronomy. This planetarium has a 4K Single Technology Projector and a seating capacity of 200 people. Moreover, an 'Oxyzone' has also been developed in the Planetarium premises.

Bilaspur Smart City Limited has also built an approach road for the convenience of visitors here.

## CS reviews works of CRIDC



**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain reviewed the works of Chhattisgarh Road and Infrastructure Development Corporation (CRIDC) Limited at Mantralya (Mahanadi Bhawan) here today. The Chief Secretary has given instructions to the officers to complete all the approved works within the time-limit. He said that the quality of every road construction work must be checked. The Chief

Secretary also said that the Superintendent Engineer, Chief Engineer and Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department should review the works of their area weekly.

The Chief Secretary has also directed to get the physical verification done from the concerned bank for the work being carried out on loans obtained from various banks under CRIDC. It was informed in the meeting that loans worth about Rs 5 thousand 225 crore have been taken

from various banks.

The financial status of loan-wise sanctioned works was also reviewed in the meeting. Officials of the Public Works Department informed that the CRIDC has given administrative approval for 496 works and seven works of them have been divided and separate tenders have been invited.

In this way, out of the tender amount of Rs 4 thousand 353 crore 71 lakh for 503 works, Rs 3 thousand 612 crore is the contract amount. The meeting was also attended by Public Works Department Secretary Siddharth Komal Pareeshi, CRIDC Managing Director and other senior officers of Public Works Department.

## Helpline for board exams is getting quick solution

### To the problems of the students

Raipur, Feb 25: The problems of the students are being resolved quickly on the helpline toll free number 18002334363 set up for the board examination conducted by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. On 24th February, 147 phone calls were received in helpline toll free number and all the problems raised by the students through phone calls were resolved. Students, parents, teachers can get solutions by raising their problems on this toll free number from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm. Students from remote areas of Chhattisgarh state, Jashpur, Korba, Bastar,

Narayanpur, Kawardha and other districts are also asking questions. Parents and teachers, assistant central of officers, central officers are also constantly raising problems like exam admit card etc. Stress related problems were solved by psychiatrist Dr Sonia Parial in the helpline today. The Deputy Secretary and Assistant Professors of the Board resolved the other subject related problems of the students. Some students and parents showed enthusiasm towards offline examinations and welcomed the examinations. Some students also questioned the safety and precautionary measures against corona infection at the time of examination, which were resolved by the experts.

## BJP gherao Minister Daharia over User Charges



Raipur, Feb 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers on Thursday gheraoed the Minister for Urban Administration Dr Shiv Daharia to register protest against User Charge from the residents against the residential properties here. BJP workers during the demonstration also raised demand to fulfil the promise to reduce the Property Tax by 50% as made to the people in the election manifesto.

Mahila Morcha members led the demonstration which created panic among Police force.

Addressing the demonstration, the Raipur MLA Brijmohan Agrawal said that the Congress has started looting people of Chhattisgarh which was

created by BJP as soon it got an opportunity to rule here.

Raipur City BJP President Shrichand Sundrani said that the BJP would keep on raising public issues against the state government. BJP spokesperson Sanjay Shrivastava said that BJP would continue to struggle for weaker section of society.

Leader of Opposition in Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) Meenal Choubey too attacked the RMC Administration over the hike in User Charges from the people.

Apart from BJP office-bearers, the Corporators in RMC were also present during the demonstration here.

## Capacity Development Project launched by Sasaholi Tilda

Kharora, Feb 25: In order to prevent migration and provide employment opportunities to youth, social service organization Sasaholi Tilda (Navra) has launched the "Capacity Development Project of Community Organizations to Improve the Socio-Economic Situation in India due to the Impact of Covid-19".

In the last years, due to the pandemic spread all over the world, all the countries have been affected very badly socio-economically, mainly the families of the working class who earn their livelihood by doing daily wages.

Among these laborers, a main class is also of migrant laborers whose number is in lakhs, have faced the most due to the pandemic.

## OBITUARY

Veerchand Dhariwal



Raipur: Veerchand Dhariwal, R/o Sadar Bazar, Raipur, breathed his last here on Friday. He was 82. The final rites were performed at Marwari crematorium. He was younger brother of Late Suganchand, Late Padamchand and elder brother of Late Inderchand Dhariwal, Nirmal Chand Dhariwal and father of Director Inder General Store Bhilai-Camp-2 and Dhariwal Sales Enterprises Dumartara-Raipur - Jitendra, Abhay Dhariwal.

Keeping in view the condition of these workers and with the aim of providing employment opportunities for the workers around them, the project by the European Union and WHH, under Capacity Development Project was launched. Initially, this scheme is to be implemented in three states, in which the target of benefiting 2 lakh 50 thousand people in Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh has been kept under this program.

In Chhattisgarh this project is being operated by social service organization Sasaholi Tilda. Three districts of Chhattisgarh Dhamtari, Gariaband and Mahasamund have been selected, in which efforts will be made to outreach 50 thousand people. The

objective of this project is mainly based on 4 points, in which the first task is to conduct training programs related to skill development of workers and unemployed youth, marginal and small farmers, women and semi-skilled workers in women's groups, and according to their ability.

It includes recruiting them in nearby industries, providing employment opportunities and helping those who want to establish their entrepreneurship and work for their development. The project has been started on January 1, 2022; this project is to be implemented in three districts of Chhattisgarh for four years, in which the ratio of participation of women will be as equal to that of men.

## First edition of ECE lecture series organized in CU

**Central Chronicle News**

Bilaspur, Feb 25: Guru Ghasidas University (A Central University) Bilaspur, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, School of Studies in Engineering and Technology organized the First Edition of "ECE Lecture Series".

In today's scenario of changing technologies and creation of new opportunities, students pursuing a degree in engineering are quite uncertain about which field to make their career in. Keeping this situation in mind, the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, School of Studies in Engineering and Technology, Guru Ghasidas University (A Central University)

Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) successfully organized the first lecture of its kind, "ECE Lecture Series" aimed at helping the students and in guiding them through the alumni of the department in choosing the best possible career path, clearing their doubts and providing them with an insight into the current technologies being used in the industry. The speaker of this session, Mrs. Prashasti Pankaj, Student Coordinator and final year student of ECE department welcomed everyone at the meeting. Thereafter, Prof. T.V. Arjunan, Dean SOS (E.T.) addressed the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting.

After that, Dr. Soma Das, Head of ECE Department and Convener of this program informed everyone about the program and Mrs. Bhavna Shukla, Assistant Professor ECE and the Coordinator of the program thanked everyone for conducting this series. Prof. Shailesh Kumar, Patron and Registrar of the program, took out some valuable time to welcome the speakers and talked about the recent developments in the University and assured that our University will reach new heights in the coming future. In the context of the program, the Chief Patron of this lec-

ture series and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakravall appreciated the program with his valuable words and highlighted the importance of alma mater with regard to the university. He emphasized the value that an alumnus adds to the university and also shared his own experience. Mrs. Praveena Rajput, Assistant Prof. ECE and the Coordinator of the program thanked everyone for conducting this series. Our first speaker Mr. Deepak Verma shared his experiences with everyone and informed the students about the scope of ECE in India and the future opportunities. He motivated the students to make a career out of their interest after doing self-evaluation and he then cleared many doubts of the stu-

dents related to their career. Our second speaker of the day, Mr. C. H. Nandipati presented on his thoughts on having the right mindset and emphasized on the upcoming and current technologies used in the industry. He then shared the strategies behind cracking competitive exams and the right ways to build an attractive resume. More than 200 students attended the meeting and got information about opportunities in ECE. Feedback taking on a form was started for every student to know about the quality of program conducted and future topics on which webinars should be conducted. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Smt. Pragati Patharia, Assistant Prof. ECE.

## Gariyaband Police launches new 'Raksha team'

### 'Tumhar Sangwari Tumhar Rakhwari'

**Central Chronicle News**

Gariyaband, Feb 25: Police, Raipur Range Dr. Anand Chhabra, Gariyaband and Superintendent of Police, Gariyaband J.R. Thakur, and with the vision of the safety of women and to earn the trust of women "Raksha Team" was launched in Chhattisgarh, and it was flagged off in the hands of Governor, Anusuya Uike, Home Minister Tamradhaj Sahu, Rajim MLA Amitesh Shukla, District Collector Namrata Gandhi and other public representatives. An eight member team has been constituted for the defense team in the district and the officer-in-

charge of the defense team, is Ms. Nisha Sinha, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Gariyaband, assisted by Inspector Vedavati Dari and team. The defense team will have a four wheeler vehicle, through which patrolling will be done from time to time in the schools, around the college, temples, gardens, tourist places etc. places and prompt action will be taken on receipt of complaints related to women.

The main objective of "Defense Team" is to give information about self-defense to girls and women, to make women aware of police procedure and legal rights, to earn the trust of women towards the police so that they can reach the police station and present their side fearlessly.

Chhattisgarh on Thursday felt the heat of high-level competition as Tamil Nadu scored 308 runs for just 4 wickets on day one of the Ranji Trophy Cricket match at Guwahati. B. Inderjeet and B. Aparajit scored centuries to put the Tamil Nadu in commanding position. While B. Inderjeet scored 127s, B. Aparajit was unbeaten on 101 at close of play on day one. Ace batter Shahrukh Khan was also unbeaten on 28 with the team total being 308 runs for 4 wickets. Ajay Mandal claimed two wickets for Chhattisgarh whereas Sumit Ruiker also claimed one wicket for the team whereas the other bowlers failed to restrict the strong Tamil Nadu.

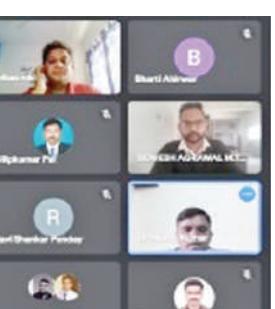
## Tamil Nadu scores 308 runs for 4 in Ranji Trophy



Raipur, Feb 24: Visiting Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Bilaspur. An online guest lecture was organized by the Department of Pharmacy in Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. The guest speaker was Dr. Vikas Jain, Chief Scientific Manager, Biocon Biopharmaceuticals, Bangalore. He delivered a lecture on the topic "Generic Drug Development: Clinical Perspective". Dr. Vikas

Jain is a highly skilled and technical professional with over 17 years of industrial experience in R&D. More than 75 UG PG and PhD students along with faculty members participated in the session. During the interaction with the faculty and students, Dr. Jain spoke at length on various ways to develop generic drugs and had a

detailed discussion on regulatory requirements from controlling agencies. Dr. Jain also emphasized on skill development and knowledge in various sectors of pharmaceutical industry. He also spoke about new and highly potential areas where students can consider future careers like Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacometrics. The simple explanation of the topic was appreciated and found to be highly interesting and informative. Dr. Bharti Ahirwar, Head, Department of Pharmacy, thanked Dr. Vikas Jain for his excellent lecture and hoped that the students would be benefited by such lectures and would help them to decide their future professional career.



### On clinical perspectives in CU

Jain is a highly skilled and technical professional with over 17 years of industrial experience in R&D. More than 75 UG PG and PhD students along with faculty members participated in the session. During the interaction with the faculty and students, Dr. Jain spoke at length on various ways to develop generic drugs and had a

# Thadpathra to be developed as tourist destination

Gaurella-Marwahi, Feb 25: Village Panchayat Thadpathra of Gaurela block, will be developed as a tourist destination, as per the instructions of District Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary who reached Thadpathra and discussed with the local Baiga tribals, the potential of the village site to be developed into a future tourist spot. Thadpathra would establish its identity as a tourist destination in the times to come, the Collector said and asked the Chief Executive Officer of Janpad Panchayat Gaurela to prepare an estimate for developing Thadpathra as a tourist destination.

The Collector asked to develop the proposed tourist place according to tribal culture, so that urban tourists can have a pleasant experience of the natural environment



here. The collector discussed with the local tribals and appealed for their cooperation in developing Thadpathra as a tourist destination. The Collector also inspected the Anganwadi Center, Sub Health Center and School of the Gram Panchayat Thad Pathra and took stock of the

arrangements for cleanliness, drinking water, toilets etc. there.

The Collector gave instructions to build a kitchen garden and a compound in the school premises and inquired about the attendance of teachers and children and inspected the attendance register. She herself tast-

ed the food served in the Anganwadi and school and checked the quality by tasting the food herself. Collector Ms. Choudhary also inspected the construction of road from Thadpathra to Keno Vachi under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and directed the concerned officer to pay special attention to its quality and complete it in the next three months.

The Collector also visited the silk center and fisheries center in village Girwar and the land selected for horticulture development in Sarabahara and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers. During the inspection, Chief Executive Officer Shri Yashpal Singh, Assistant Director Horticulture Shri TR. Dinkar and other officials were present.

## Air Force Recruitment guidance program organized in Simga Balak School



Simga, Feb 25: A Indian Air Force Recruitment Guidance Program was organized under the joint aegis of Air Force Selection Center Bhopal and District Employment Office Balodabazar in Boys High school, Simga. BR Patel, District Employment Officer, and Manorama Bhagat presided over the programme and as special guests, Skill Development Department representative Kunjan Kumar Pandey and Principal of the institution Mr. J.L. Gardner were present. Sergeant Amit Kumar Corporal RP Singh from Airman Selection Center Bhopal was present as guide. Sergeant Amit Kumar, while first throwing light on the history of the Air Force, said that the Air Force was formed on 08.10.1932 and after independence in 1948 and 1965 has shown its prowess during the wars of 1971 and 1999, and during the Air Strike and Surgical

Strike, the force has proved its strength to the whole world. He informed the students in detail about the educational physical and mental qualifications for recruitment in the Air Force. On this occasion B. R. Patel Assistant Director asked the students to make Air Force a part of their career in future, while District Employment Officer Manorama Bhagat and other officials briefed the students about the selection procedure. On this occasion Lecturer A. O. Sharma, Kuldeep Sahu, Bhumika Kaushik, Sadna Yadav, Kuldeepak Sahu, Dr. Vijay Kaushal, Gajendra Sahu, Durgesh Indoreia, Digeshwar Dhruv, Pankaj Kurre, Preeta Vaidya Khomeshwar Deshlehra, Pooja Yadav, Shubham Singh were present. The program was thanked by the principal of the institution, Mr. J.L. Mali. A large number of students were present on the occasion.

## World Thinking Day celebration held at DAVPS Bacheli

Bacheli, Feb 25:

The glorious birth anniversary of Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife Lady Olave Baden Powell founder of the Girl Guides Movement was celebrated with great honour by the DAVians of Bacheli.

At the very outset the Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma lighted the lamp and paid ceremonial homage by garlanding the Portrait of Lord Baden Powell. Thereafter, the Scout and Guide Incharge



Dhamtari, Feb 25:

The State and District Administration had, instructed the vaccination against Covid 19, for children of age group 15-17, but the target is far away from the mark, as more than 22000 of children of the above age group are yet to be vaccinated. The health department has to take long strides to com-

plete the target and officials are finding the target, tough to be accomplished, owing to the time period.

Here it takes a mention that the district recorded more than 31 thousand 371 positive patients to the pandemic of the century, which also includes children. According to reports, the target for vaccinating children in num-

bars was 48 thousand 396, of which 35 thousand 494 have been given the first dose, while only 25 thousand 994 children were administered the second and final dose. The children left to be inoculated for both the first and second dose of the diseases are posing threat as the third wave of the diseases is yet to wrap itself to extinction.

Mrs. Jolly Thomas, addressed the gathering with a short review of the life of Lord Baden Powell and Lady Olave Baden Powell.

Scouts and Guides, Cubs and Bulbuls of DAV Public School, Bacheli along with the teaching faculty participated in the celebration which was also observed as "World Thinking Day". The celebration ended by commemorating the inspiring quotes of Lord Baden Powell - "The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness in the lives of others".

### What officer says

In vaccination speed and target completion, Dhamtari district is on an upper scale, and in order to safeguard against the disease both Covid guidelines and vaccination for children are being done and followed. Dr. JP Diwan-Nodal Officer.

## Workshop organized to develop schools as model schools



Sukma, Feb 25: With the aim of developing the schools of the district as model schools, a workshop was organized by selecting institutions under all the 27 clusters, here at Swami Vivekananda Auditorium Sukma, in which discussions were held on making each school a model school under the cluster. In this workshop, Block Resource Coordinator Alfred Suna, Assistant Development Block Education Officer Praful Daniel and all the cluster coordinators and teachers of all the selected schools were present. Along with this, program leader of Piramal Foundation-NITI Ayog Mustafizur Rahman, Gandhi Fellow Yogita and Kajal also participated. Keeping in mind the need to work on two dimen-

sion model, each school was divided into two parts in the workshop. In the first part, various group activities were done regarding educational arrangements and activities, in which activities based on classroom process, children's parliament, intellectual development activities, visual reading, children's fair were performed. In the second part, activities focused on the basic facilities of the school like arrangement and management of smart class, building as learning aid, science lab, and library were discussed. In the workshop, all the cluster coordinators and teachers were motivated to guide on how the ideal school should be and to realize the concept of ideal school in all the schools of the district.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all General Public that my client 1 Shri Pradeep Gandhi S/o Late Shri Sohba Lal Gandhi 2 Smt Kirti Gandhi W/o Shri Pradeep Gandhi both R/o 23 State Bank Colony, Rajnandgaon, Tehsil & Dist. Rajnandgaon C.G. are the owners of the property House No HIG 85, Land Kh No 4251 (part), Total Area 375.00 sq mtr or 4030 sq ft situated at Maupi Purana, Near Hotel Babyon, CGHB Colony, P.H No 67, RIC Raipur, 1, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur C.G received above said property from CGHB by Registered Lease Deed registered in the office of registrar Raipur under Book No 1, Grant No 47885 page 01 of 4 dated 07.01.2010.

The above said Original Title Deed has been lost by them & could not find it anywhere. That by virtue of this General Public Notice, it is hereby acquaint to General Public, Person Individual, Banks, Financial Institutions, Societies, Boards, Corporations, Authorities that they haven't misused the above said Original Title deed anywhere & not mortgaged the above said Original Title deed to any General Public, Person Individual, Banks, Financial institutions, Societies, Boards, Corporations, Authorities. It is also informed that the said Previous Original Sale Deed is held hostage etc. by any person, moneylender, institution or body. Who himself will be responsible for the same and will be held responsible in future for any such transaction my party or their legal heirs or their future transferees will not be held responsible.

That they are taking the advance/loan facility & going to mortgage the above said property to Union Bank of India. If anyone has any claim or objection in Mortgaging the above said property, can object in writing within 07 days from the date of publication of this General Notice with relevant proofs & compatible documents supporting the claim, at my office. After that my client will not be liable to any such objection & will be free to Mortgage the above said property.

Rajpur C.G.  
Dated : 25.02.2022  
Nitin Kedia Advocate  
Shop No 62, Bhakt Mata Karma Parivar  
RDA Building, New Rajendra Nagar  
Raipur C.G. Cell No. 9993239853, 9425515881

### NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, NITIN SONI S/o RAJENDRA KUMAR SONI resident of MIG-II/159, Sec-1, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar Raipur (C.G.) have changed my old name NITIN SONI S/o RAJENDRA KUMAR SONI, So in future I should be recognized by my new name that is NITIN KUMAR S/o RAJENDRA KUMAR SONI in all Government and other documents.

**NITIN KUMAR**  
MIG-II/159, Sec-1,  
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar  
Raipur (C.G.) Pin- 492010

# Farmers agitate against electricity board alleging power cuts and extortion



Fingeshwar, Feb 25: Angry farmers surrounded Kaundkera electricity department along with Congress President Rupesh Sahu, and demanded the removal of two employees and smooth power supply. Fingeshwar Block Congress Committee President Rupesh Sahu said that JE Lokesh Thakur extorts lakhs of rupees in the name of getting electricity theft and BJP-minded office-bearers are defaming the image of the Congress government.

Sahu also said that there is anger among the farmers regarding corruption in the electricity department, due to this

outrage; a large number of farmers of the area are demanding the dismissal of JE and removal of two employees. At the same time, the villagers said that the officials of the electricity department warn the consumers by showing the fear of fake lawsuits by the employ-

ees, due to which there is a lot of resentment in the rural areas.

Along with this, the farmers said that they have been taken of Rs 6000 for temporary connection against the employees of the electricity department and for the survey, employee Panna Block President Rupesh Sahu further said that, no

matter who is the government, injustice will not be tolerated, this is the core ideology of our party. Rupesh Sahu Ramgulal Sahu Dongar Singh Markam Karim Khan Komal Sahu Tarighat Durga Prasad Sinha Mukesh Bharti Dekeshwar Tandon Bhagirathi Sinha Tikam Tarak Rohit Sahu Devi Sahu Dev Prasad Baghel Devendra Sahu Skumar Gupta Moti Lal Sahu Chatu Mandal Mookesh Mandal Sanat Tikeshwar Manager Kasale Hemu Sahu Kiran Tandon Ramkumar Sharma Pritam Kosre and other Congress workers and officials were present along with the villagers.

## Vice-Chancellor pay visit to the Department of Physical Education

ission, the Vice-Chancellor released the book "History of Physical Education" written by Assistant Professor, Dr. Surendra Kumar and Assistant Professor, Dr. Mahesh Singh Dhapola. In his remarks, Shri Chakrawal congratulated and appreciated the activities and achievements of the department. During this, Professor Vishan Singh Rathore, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the Department, Dr. Sanjita Sardar, Head of the Department of Physical Education, and all other professors and students of the Department were present.

Bilaspur, Feb 25: The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Alok Kumar Chakrawal visited the Department of Physical Education. During this, he met and interacted with the students of the department and he also visited the university grounds where he also inspected the practical classes of the department. On this occa-



Regional Office: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6. Phone: +91-79-26421671-75

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued demand notice on the date mentioned against the account stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s), having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules 2002 on the date mentioned against the loan account. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for the amounts, interest, costs and charges thereon. The borrowers' borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of borrower(s) & Loan Account No.	Description of property mortgaged (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on Date of Demand Notice
Mr. Sanjay Chopda Mrs. Shaalu Chopda 851/2480	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Flat No. LIG/103, Block No. 09, First Floor, Kabir Nagar, CGHB Raipur, Tahsil and District Raipur- 492001, Rakba 35.80 sq. mtr. and bounded by: North: Flat No. 104, East: Flat No. 102, West: Open, South: Open	26.11.2021	23.02.2022	Rs. 7,54,101.52
Mr. Sukhjinder Singh Mrs. Jagwant Kaur Samrah 851/2324	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at CH-99, Slice-II, Veer Sawarkar Nagar Hirapur, Raipur- 492099, Rakba 387.36 sq. ft. and bounded by: North: Core House-124, East: Core House-100, West: Core House-98, South: Road	02.11.2021	22.02.2022	Rs. 11,01,981.46

Place: Raipur  
Date: 26/02/2022

Authorised Officer  
Bandhan Bank Limited

## BRIEF

## Exam

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Administrative Services (Main) Examination 2021 will be conducted on March 20 and 21. Secretary of the Rajasthan State Public Service Commission HL Atal said that after detailed deliberations in the full commission meeting, the schedule of RAS (Main) Examination 2021 was decided.

## Leakage

**Noida:** Suspected leakage of PNG in Noida triggered panic in several residential sectors of the city adjoining the national capital, prompting the district administration to seek a report from the cooking gas distribution company IGL. Indraprastha Gas Limited, the supplier of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in the area, however, said its officials inspected the gas pipeline network.

## Rescued

**Jammu:** Two persons were trapped in flash-floods in river Tawi in Jammu, prompting police to launch an operation to rescue them. They said police acted after information was received at police station Bagh-e-Bahu regarding some people getting trapped in the flash-floods. Special police teams were constituted which swung into action swiftly and put in strenuous efforts, along with the help of teams of SDRF Jammu, to rescue.

## Booked

**Pune:** Pune police have registered an offence against seven Army personnel, including two officers, after a Naik-rank staffer accused them of allegedly attacking him, keeping him in confinement and harassing him physically and mentally. A defence statement, however, termed the complaint filed against the military personnel as "ill-motivated". Police said the alleged incident had taken place on July 6 last year with complaint.

## Inquiry

**Gurugram:** Haryana government has constituted a new enquiry committee to probe findings of one of its committees constituted earlier to probe administrative corruption. The fact came to light in an MCG house meeting, where the issue of alleged non-payment of bills of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste collection agency Pragati was raised. Municipal Commissioner Mukesh Ahuja informed that there were accusations.

## Duped

**Vidisha:** A man has cheated a woman in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh by claiming to be from PMO and promising to facilitate her medical student daughter's return from Ukraine. Shockingly, when the complainant called state government's general helpline seeking help for her stranded daughter, she was allegedly asked to contact "Ukraine police station." Vaishali Wilson, woman, lodged complaint with police station.

## Congress urges Chouhan to restore old pension scheme

### For MP Govt employees

Bhopal, Feb 25 (PTI)



Jaivardhan Singh

Congress leader Jaivardhan Singh on Friday said he has appealed to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to restore the old pension scheme for state government employees like Rajasthan did earlier this week. Speaking to reporters, Singh said the Congress will vociferously raise the issue and it will be a major poll plank in the 2023 state Assembly polls if the demand is not met. I have written to Shivraji regarding restoration of the old pension scheme. We are going to vociferously raise this issue in the budget session of the Assembly. Our leader Kamal Nathji is going to raise this issue and it

would be a major poll plank in the 2023 MP assembly polls if the demand is not met, Singh said. State government employees play a key role in the development of the state. They are feeling insecure with the new pension policy that came into force in 2005, he said. This is their reasonable demand, which should be met. The Congress will stand behind the employees (num-

bering in lakhs), who want restoration of the old pension scheme, the Congress MLA said.

Singh said he had raised this issue in the last budget session as well but was told that there was no proposal to restore the old pension scheme for employees hired since 2005. The budget session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly will begin on March 7. In a populist budget, the Congress government in Rajasthan announced the restoration of the old pension scheme for its employees appointed on and after January 1, 2004. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in his budget speech said that after 2004, a provision of contributory pension was done under the national pension scheme, but this has created a sense of insecurity among the state employees for post-retirement life.

## PROTEST BY MLA



RJD MLA Mukesh Raushan protest against decision to use helicopters to spot illegal liquor shops, during Budget session of Bihar Assembly, in Patna, Friday.

## Chanu's village still waits for drinking water supply

### Many children go to private schools in faraway places



Situation of village Nongpok Kakching in Manipur.

**Nongpok Kakching, Feb 25 (PTI):** The silver dust after the euphoria of the Tokyo Olympics success of Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has long settled in this tiny village made famous by the weightlifter. Now, as election fever hits here too, the roadside camps of candidates belonging to parties such as Congress, BJP and JD(U) gather dust every time a vehicle passes through the pot-hole-riddled single lane inter-village road. For the locals, the upcoming assembly polls are the last opportunity before another cycle of "neglect" sets off, to remind all those who made tall promises while felicitating Chanu to deliver, with drinking water supply and poor road condition topping the litany of woes. "In our village, we don't have drinking water supply, not even pipelines. So,

doesn't even have a single pipeline," lamented Mayanglambam Kennedy, president of Bright Star Union (BSU), a local youth club.

Like Chanu's family, others also buy drinking water with an average monthly bill of around Rs 500-Rs 700 depending on the number of members. They depend on water from community ponds and a nearby stream for other purposes. The village, which has around 85 households with nearly 300 voters comes under the Lamla constituency where five candidates belonging to BJP, Congress, Republican Party of India (Athawale), JD (U) and an Independent are in the fray. It goes to polls in the first phase on February 28.

While the thirst for drinking water supply hasn't been quenched so far, another issue that Tombi wants the next government to address as a top priority is improvement in the condition of the road that leads to Nongpok Kakching. The court granted liberty

## Former WB chief secy challenges transfer of CAT proceedings

### HC reserves order

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI)



Alapan Bandyopadhyay

to the parties for file short written submission by Saturday.

Bandyopadhyay had moved the Kolkata bench of CAT to challenge the proceedings initiated against him in a matter related to not attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of cyclone 'Yaas' at the Kalaikunda Air Force

Station on May 28 last year. The proceedings were initiated by the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievance and Pensions. Advocate Kartikey Bhatt, appearing for Bandyopadhyay, argued that the transfer order was passed in complete violation of the principles of natural justice, equity and fair play as he was not even granted a right to file his written objections and the Centre's plea was allowed on the very first day of its listing.

He argued that convenience of the officer has to be considered while issuing the order and the petitioner ordinarily and permanently resides in Kolkata and the entire cause of action occurred within the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Bench of CAT.

## Defeating BJP main aim: Bihar's Govt partner says in UP

Ballia, Feb 25 (PTI)



Mukesh Sahani addressing a rally in Ballia.

Mukesh Sahani, whose Vikashheel Insaan Party is an ally of the BJP in Bihar, has said that ousting the BJP from power in Uttar Pradesh is his main goal and called upon his party workers to support strong contenders from among the SP, BSP or the Congress in seats where they do not have a candidate.

"Our fight is with Delhi and our main goal is to provide reservation to the Nishad community."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah make the promise in every election, but they forget about it once election gets over,"

Sahani, a minister in the Bihar government, said.

"When we oust the Yogi Adityanath government

strong contenders from among the SP, BSP and the Congress in the seats where there is no candidate of our party," Sahani said. He said he has full confidence that once defeated in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will be compelled to give reservation to the Nishad community before the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

He said his party will oppose the BJP in 2024 if it fails to provide reservation to the community.

In response to a question, he said his party

joined the fray in Uttar Pradesh just five months ago and was putting up a strong fight. "Our party had declared candidates for 102 seats, but the nominations of many of our candidates were cancelled. Now we are contesting on 55-56 seats," he said.

## Railways' solar power plant shortlisted for international award

Jabalpur, Feb 25 (PTI)



Solar panels near Bina railway station in MP.

Railways to promote the use of green energy, he said.

The International Union of Railways recently shortlisted this green initiative of the Indian Railways for an award in 'Best Use of Zero-Carbon Technology Category', he said, adding that the other two which are in the race

## Kathua set to become J-K's bamboo industry hub

Jammu, Feb 25 (PTI)



Bamboo artisans in Kathua.

Kathua has seen the rise of 19 bamboo units of co-operative societies, of which eight were sanctioned during the financial year 2021-22, thanks to the region's distinct topography and geo-climatic conditions that offer an environment conducive for bamboo plants, officials said.

"The Shivalik range of hills along the Jammu-Patankot highway in Kathua has a good concentration of bamboo plants. It has immense potential for generating income and employment in the district," a senior officer said.

Under the financial support scheme, the department has so far opened 19 bamboo units of cooperative societies, including eight during the financial

year 2021-22, the officials said.

The department has sent nine local bamboo artisans to Assam for a 21-day capacity building and skill development training in bamboo craft, they said.

After getting trained in Assam, they are expected to act as catalysts by imparting training to the other interested local arti-

sants. According to the assistant director of Kathua handicrafts department, bamboo clusters will be

opened in Dewal and Billawar under the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) for which survey is being conducted and camps organised to register artisans. Bamboo is also called as 'wonder

plant', 'green gold', 'emperor of grasses' and 'woods of the poor' because it is used by the people in their everyday life.

"From the past several years, bamboo is closely interwoven with the life of people in Kathua in several ways. It is used as a construction material besides for the production of everyday utilities such as basket, chair, table, brush, almirah, bed and decorative items. The people also earn their livelihood by selling a number of bamboo artifacts," a unit holder said.

The department of handicrafts, Kathua, has one advanced and three elementary bamboo training centres. It also has a bamboo common facility centre and a showroom for exhibition of artifacts, they added.

The Indian Railways' solar power plant set up near Bina station in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh has been shortlisted for an international award, an official said on Friday. The area where the plant operates falls under the West Central Railway (WCR).

"The solar power plant having an installed capacity of 1.7 megawatt has been operating since the last one-and-a-half years, supplying electricity directly to the traction system used to run trains," WCR's chief public relations officer, Rahul Jaipuriyar, told PTI.

This solar power plant is the first of its kind initiative of the Indian

to win this award are railways of east Japan and South America.

The International Union of Railways, a worldwide railway organisation based in France, will give international sustainable railway awards in various categories in June 2022, Jaipuriyar said.

## BRIEF

## Divorce

**Los Angeles:** Kim Kardashian has asked a court to ignore Ye's attempts to slow down their divorce and end their marriage as soon as possible. She filed documents in Los Angeles Superior Court in US saying Ye, who legally changed his name from Kanye West, in his own recent filing, began adding conditions to the divorce that would mean changing the couple's prenuptial agreement, and is seeking protections that are unnecessary.

## Tribute

**Lahore:** A prestigious Pakistani institution here held a special concert to pay a musical tribute to legendary Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar. The rendition of the music legend's iconic songs resonated through the Bukhari Auditorium of Government College University (GCU) Lahore. The college's Nazir Ahmad Music Society organised concert to pay a tribute to the late singer. Society's in charge Kanita said music knows no boundaries.

## Juror

**New York:** A judge said that she'll question a juror under oath during a rare post-verdict evidentiary hearing about the answers he gave during jury selection for the criminal trial of Ghislaine Maxwell after he told news outlets that he didn't recall being asked about prior abuse. US District Judge Alison J Nathan said in a written order that she'll question juror March 8 at a public court hearing. She had rejected a request by Maxwell's attorneys.

## Fined

**Harare:** A retired US Army soldier was fined USD 400 and given a suspended jail sentence for attempting to carry a gun and ammunition onto a plane in Zimbabwe. Retired Sgt Maj Ronald Leon Johnson had been held in the renowned Chikurubi Prison for more than a week after he was arrested at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe Airport in the capital, Harare.

## Putin waves nuclear sword in confrontation with West



Warsaw, Feb 25 (AP):

It has been a long time since the threat of using nuclear weapons has been brandished so openly by a world leader, but Vladimir Putin has just done it, warning in a speech that he has the weapons available if anyone dares to use military means to try to stop Russia's takeover of Ukraine.

The threat may have been empty, a mere baring of fangs by the Russian president, but it was noticed. It kindled visions of a nightmarish outcome in which Putin's ambitions in Ukraine could lead to a nuclear war through accident

or miscalculation.

As for military affairs, even after the dissolution of the USSR and losing a considerable part of its capabilities, today's Russia remains one of the most powerful nuclear states. Putin said, in his pre-invasion address. Moreover, it has a certain advantage in several cutting-edge weapons. In this context, there should be no doubt for anyone that any potential aggressor will face defeat and ominous consequences should it directly attack our country. By merely suggesting a nuclear response, Putin put into play the disturbing possibility that the current fighting in Ukraine might

eventually veer into an atomic confrontation between Russia and the United States. That apocalyptic scenario is familiar to those who grew up during the Cold War, an era when American school children were told to duck and cover under their desks in case of nuclear sirens. But that danger gradually receded from the public imagination after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when the two powers seemed to be on a glide path to disarmament, democracy and prosperity. Before that, even young people understood the terrifying idea behind the

strategy of mutual assured destruction — MAD for short — a balance in nuclear capabilities that was meant to keep hands off each side off of the atomic trigger, knowing that any use of the doomsday weapons could end in the annihilation of both sides in a conflict. And amazingly, no country has used nuclear weapons since 1945, when President Harry Truman dropped bombs on Japan in the belief that it was the surest way to end World War II quickly. It did, but at a loss of about 200,000 mostly civilian lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Around the world, even today, many regard that as a crime against humanity and question if it was worth it. For a brief time after the war, the United States had a nuclear monopoly. But a few years after, the Soviet Union announced its own nuclear bomb and the two sides of the Cold War engaged in an arms race to build and develop increasingly more powerful weapons over the next few decades.

## COVID-19 response of Hong Kong and Singapore compared

Singapore, Feb 25 (AP):

Rivals Singapore and Hong Kong have become pandemic polar opposites, the former opting to live with the coronavirus and reopen to the world while the latter doubles down on zero-Covid and its international isolation.

For decades the two cities have jostled to be Asia's premier international business hub, offering low taxes, dependable legal systems and seamless global connections.

Both adopted strict suppression tactics when the pandemic emerged, closing borders to keep infections low within their densely populated territories. Now they present competing visions as they manage the

highly transmissible Omicron variant — with Hong Kong floundering under soaring infections while Singapore offers a pandemic exit strategy. In the heart of Singapore's financial district, analyst Camille Chautard sipped a coffee on a bench at Raffles Place during the busy lunchtime rush hour. "Now that it seems the new variant is less deadly, or at least the infections are less severe, it's probably a good time for Singapore to lead the way in the region and open up," she told AFP.

Earlier this week, health minister Ong Ye Kung said Singapore was moving closer towards normalcy, noting that "Omicron poses less of a risk". Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam

had a starkly different message. Announcing compulsory testing for all 7.4 million residents, the tightest social distancing rules to date and plans to isolate all those infected, she said the city must "win the war". (Singapore) is miles ahead of Hong Kong in terms of dealing with these waves and especially mitigating the impact of the pandemic," Karen Grepin, a public health expert at the University of Hong Kong, told AFP. The differences were clear on the streets this week. In Singapore, children are back in class, residents are free to gather in hawker centres or enjoy post-work drinks, and people fly in and out for business or pleasure.

Canada has become the first country to authorize use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine. Canadian regulators said Medicago's two-dose vaccine, now dubbed Covifenz, can be given to adults ages 18 to 64, but said there's too little data on the shots in people 65 and older.

The decision was based on a study of 24,000 adults that found the vaccine was 71% effective at preventing COVID-19 although that was before the omicron variant emerged. Side effects were mild, including fever and fatigue.

Medicago uses plants as living factories to grow virus-like particles, which mimic the spike protein that coats the coronavirus.

## PET FESTIVAL



A Sugar Glider sits on a bar ahead of a pet festival at a shopping mall in Banda Aceh, Indonesia on Friday.

## Sri Lanka to remain neutral in Russia-Ukrainian conflict

Colombo, Feb 25 (PTD):

economic impact on the island nation, which is already facing an acute forex crisis.

We are watching the situation (in Ukraine), but won't take sides. Each can have their own reasons... Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombage told reporters here.

He said the economic impact on Sri Lanka would be "severe" from the conflict. We will have to pay more for our fuel and gas, our tea market will get affected, Colombage said.

## Canada authorises first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine

Toronto, Feb 25 (AP):



GlaxoSmithKline, is added to the shots.

While numerous COVID-19 vaccines have been rolled out around the world, global health authorities are looking to additional candidates in hopes of increasing the worldwide supply.

Quebec City-based Medicago is developing plant-based vaccines against multiple other diseases, and the COVID-19 vaccine may help spur more interest in this new method of medical manufacturing. The virus-like particles platform allows Covifenz to be stored at normal refrigeration conditions from 2 degrees Celsius (35.6 degrees Fahrenheit) to 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Two doses of the vaccine are given in

tramuscularly 21 days apart. Covifenz gives the Canadian government an opportunity to drive COVID immunization from a home-developed vaccine. Its approval is a welcome event as 'one of our government's top priorities has been to reverse the 40-year decline faced by Canada's biomanufacturing sector,' Francois-Philippe Champagne, the country's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, said in a statement. Before Covifenz's approval, the Canadian government locked in mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna for 2022 and 2023. It has also signed supply contracts with Medicago, Novavax, Sanofi-GSK and others.

## For Taiwan, Russia's invasion of Ukraine feels far away



Taipei, Feb 25 (AP):

As Russia presses ahead with its attack on

drawn comparisons to Taiwan, another place that could face an invasion by its larger neighbour China. While similarities exist Taiwan is a democracy that has resisted threats from a more powerful authoritarian government the differences are much greater. For many on the island, the war in Ukraine, and war in general, feels far away. I think our situation is not very similar to Ukraine's, whether it's political or in terms of

think it's that dangerous. Taiwan, an island of 23 million people about 160 km (100 miles) off China's eastern coast, is self-ruled, but claimed by China.

## कार्यपालिय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, सजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

०७७४४-२२४०३०(०)

E-mail -eeraj-phe-cg@nic.in

//ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट//

//निविदा आमत्रण सूचना//

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र — “ए” में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजनानांदगांव के विभिन्न विकासखंडों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में UPVC/HDPE पाईप लाइन जोड़ने विधाने, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार सुधार कार्य, स्थीर रुम, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार के चारों ओर बांझेझावल निर्माण, सबर्निंग रुप का प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य, विद्युत विभाग (CSPDCL) से इलेक्ट्रिक कनेक्शन, इलेक्ट्रोलॉजीनेटर रुम, घरों एवं सामाजिक संस्थानों में कार्यरत नल कनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि एवं अन्य समर्पण कार्य, टेरिटंग, ०३ माह का द्राघल रन, ०६ माह तक संचालन संधारण का कार्य (सम्पूर्ण कार्य समाप्ती सहित, संलग्न शेड्युल अनुसार) की मुहरबंद निविदा दिनांक २१.०२.२०२२ से ऑन लाइन पर आमित की जाती है। उपरोक्त कार्य के निविदा की सामाचर शब्द, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा निपत्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक २८.०२.२०२२ से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है तथा निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक ११.०३.२०२२ (शाम ५:३० बजे) तक है।

क्र.	निविदा	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकासखंड	ग्राम / योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लाख में
1	485	93456	डोंगरगांव	जामसराकला, परना	128.74
2	486	93457	डोंगरगांव	पैरी, टेका	134.15
3	487	93458	डोंगरगांव	कोहका (मोहड़), बेंगड़ी, कविराज टोलांगांव	164.60
4	488	93459	मानपुर	खरां, दोबा, पेंदुर	102.07
5	489	93461	मानपुर	घोटिया	114.23
6	490	93462	मानपुर	हन्ई कलकला, कोटटी, कनेली	74.13
7	491	93463	मानपुर	अड़जाल, मांडी	84.60
8	492	93465	मानपुर	खेरकट्टा, परलझारी, घोटिया	97.78
9	493	96466	मानपुर	मिवांग, एटर्गांव, वाको	111.06
10	494	93467	पांचाल फड़की	खवास फड़की, नवांगांव	129.63
11	495	93468	छुरिया	थैलीटोला	55.11
12	496	93469	छुरिया	सदकलांगांव	62.80
13	497	93471	राजनांदगांव	अमलींडीह	41.05
14	498	93471	राजनांदगांव	बरगाही (क)	92.79
15	499	93472	राजनांदगांव	बोईरडीह	70.67
16	500	93473	राजनांदगांव	बहरामा	

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

G-68134/2

## Two dead as earthquake strikes Sumatra



Kajai, Feb 25 (AP):

the island's north at a depth of 12 kilometres (7.5 miles), about 70 kilometres from the town of Bukittinggi in West Sumatra province, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Agustino's hometown in Agam district is another 40 kilometres from Bukittinggi. "I noticed there was an earthquake because my kids' toys fell over. I panicked because there were also my in-laws in the house and they are quite old and sick," Agustino said of the first tremor that was recorded at 5.0 by USGS. "We all fled our home (after the first quake)," Yudi Prama Agustino, 36, told AFP. "I have a one-year-old baby, so in panic I pushed the stroller out of the house." The quake hit

At least two people died when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra island on Friday, with residents shelling loved ones to safety as buildings crumbled around them. The quake came just minutes after a less violent tremor as terrified residents had begun evacuating their houses.

"We all fled our home (after the first quake)," Yudi Prama Agustino, 36, told AFP. "I have a one-year-old baby, so in panic I pushed the stroller out of the house." The quake hit

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking CIN-U40108CG2003SC015820 GST No. 22AADD5737EIN OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (C&L) Block-4, Near CSPCL Dispensary, Durgapur, Raipur (C.G.) Website- www.spcce.co.in e-mail- cechh@spcce.in Ph. No. 0771-2574221				
ED/C&L/Works/EE-1/TR-544/2022 NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders for following EHV work on labour contract basis:				

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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 144

## Be ready for high prices

Oil prices surged past USD 100 a barrel to hit their highest level for more than seven years after Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine. Global shares fell on worries of the possible impact of the conflict, but US tech stocks rebounded in late trading. Russia is the second biggest exporter of crude oil, and is also the world's largest natural gas exporter. Brent crude eased from USD 105 to USD 98 a barrel. Now, more than ever, there are concerns about oil and gas supply from one of the world's top producers. Price of fuels like petrol, diesel, CNG and LPG set to rise steeply once final round of assembly election ends in five states of India. Indians have to be ready to face high prices. Some have compared the situation with the 1973 Yom Kippur war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states. The war led to the Arab oil embargo for the Western world, which led to a sharp and shockingly high rise in prices compared to which this week's USD 104 for Brent couldn't even compare. In 1973, oil prices practically quadrupled over a few months. This week, they continued on an already established path, a path that, until now, had little to do with Russia. Demand for oil was so strong that prices would have to go further still to start affecting demand in any significant way. Just how high prices would need to go we have yet to see. But he also wrote that this was unlikely to happen because OPEC plus would step in to help. It was an interesting supposition in light of what OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia and with the UAE its staunch ally, has been doing over the past year: Both the energy minister of Saudi Arabia and his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates spoke recently to the media, signalling they had no intention to change anything about the OPEC plus pact and the schedule of adding 400,000 bpd to the monthly total production. Whatever happens in Ukraine, it does not seem to be sitting on the top of OPEC ministers' minds. To them, the global oil market is not in a deficit, and they are doing fine with output additions.

This stance is in contrast with the stance of consuming countries and the International Energy Agency which makes for truly interesting times in the oil world. As the world scrambled to establish a pathway toward a 'new normal' during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020, hope for a better, greener future blossomed. The unexpected interruption to the status quo and the hitherto unstoppable momentum of the carbon-based global economy seemed to present an unmissable opportunity to redirect the world's trajectory away from mutually assured industrial destruction to a greener, cleaner pathway wherein the goals set by the Paris climate accord were well within reach. The World Economic Forum argued that it was the perfect window for a 'great reset' of the current capitalist system to achieve unprecedented international cooperation for sustainable development around the world. Although high oil prices have the potential to incentivise new investment in oil and gas projects, renewables could ultimately benefit from the current situation. Rather than directly challenging renewables and slowing the energy transition, many energy industry analysts believe that the current high prices and the associated financial windfall could lead governments and oil majors to play the long game and further increase their investments in renewable energy, but it will take time, till then people will have to face high prices.

## Human trafficking narrative

The Supreme Court has dismissed a special leave petition which sought a stay on the release of Sanjay Leela Bhansali movie 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' starring actor Alia Bhatt. A Bench comprising Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice JK Maheshwari dismissed the special leave petition filed by a man named Babuji Shah claiming to be Kathiawadi's adopted son challenging Bombay High Court's order refusing to stay the release of the film. Advocate C Aryama Sundaram, representing Sanjay Leela Bhansali, dealt with the claim of the petitioners that the names of victims of assault could not be published. A teary-eyed Justice Banerjee said that she had respect for women who are pushed into prostitution. Recounting her days as head of the West Bengal Legal Services Authority and Chair of the Calcutta High Court Legal Aid Committee, she said, 'I had once come across a trafficked woman and I still get goosebumps. A 14 year old girl who could not manage meals was with an aunt who could not feed her. Then she was called to Mumbai for a job in a restaurant. She agreed to go to Mumbai to eat four square meals. Clients wanted to have unprotected relations with her. One of the clients took pity on her and then she was taken to a journalist and sent to an NGO. She contracted HIV too. She caught my hand and said,

'What wrong did I do?' This is the plight of a lot of people there. I don't look down upon any one' 'But I did not reveal the name of the victim or the village name,' she added. This proceeding shows emotional side of Supreme Court judge. This week, five girls and a boy, who were allegedly trafficked from Jharkhand's Sahibganj and Godda districts, were rescued from Delhi. The real Gangubai was a victim of human trafficking and later in life tried to improve her situation. Conviction rate in human trafficking cases has been consistently declining over the past four years, according to official data. Experts say inadequate support for victims is the primary reason for this, as more and more of them are turning hostile which is leading to a high number of acquittals in such cases. The film is an adaptation of chapters from Hussain Zaidi's book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai'. It is hoped that the bollywood film stories put human trafficking, particularly of minors in correct perspective in society rather than sensational narration.

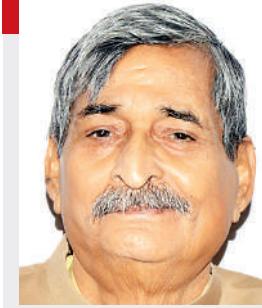
## LOOKING THROUGH TELESCOPE



Students look through a telescope during the festival of SCoPE for All (Science Communication Popularization and its Extension) at Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab.

## Reasons for thousands of Indian students studying in Ukraine

RK SINHA



The situation of war between Russia-Ukraine remains unceasing. Russia has attacked Ukraine. Due to this troublesome situation, a mounting challenge has also arisen in front of India. Thousands of Indian students pursue medical, dental, nursing, and other professional courses in Ukraine. In light of war between Russia and Ukraine, they want to leave and return home safely. The question is how many flights and land vehicles will have to be sent to bring such a large sum of Indian youths studying in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine? This is being discussed by the government at the top level and plans for the journey are being undertaken. Undoubtedly, this work needs to be done on a priority basis. Now that Air India is not owned by the Government of India, it remains to be seen how far the government's talks with the new owner of Air India, i.e. Tata Group, have reached to bring the stranded Indians home from Ukraine. In such a situation, when Russia has deployed 1.25 million fully-equipped soldiers for the war with Ukraine, will the Government of India take the services of airlines other than Air India for this vital mission?

If we start from the year 2014 itself, then India has utilized all available resources to bring back Indians trapped in other countries safely. During the Afghanistan crisis, thousands of our citizens were brought back safely. Indian Air Force and Air India aircraft

continued to bring Indians home from Afghanistan. They were brought to Delhi or other parts of the country via Tajikistan and Qatar. Before this, five Indians, who had been in jail in Togo since 2013, were safely released and brought home. Similarly, in 2015, the Government of India, taking prompt action, brought thousands of Indians stranded in Yemen to their homeland safely. They were taken to Djibouti from the Indian Navy warship INS Sumitra. These people were brought back to India by four planes from Djibouti. These are all examples of recent times which prove that India is capable of bringing back its citizens stranded in other countries. The Government of India is not ready to show its complacency like the previous governments in such situations.

Meanwhile, the central and state governments have to urgently consider why such a large number of Indian students go to Ukraine. Every year the Government of India has to spend billions of rupees in foreign exchange due to their going there or to other countries to study. After all, when will we be able to open a sufficient number of colleges in our country which provide high standard degrees of medical, engineering and other courses. One must also think long and hard about the level of education in India and why it is so that every year lakhs of students go abroad for quality education? Why are we not able to provide good

faculty and other facilities in our educational institutions? Before proceeding, we must take a look at some statistics. During 2018-19 from India, 6.20 lakh students went outside India to study. These figures have been published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In 2017-18, 7.86 lakh students went outside the country. Most of them go to other countries only to get a Bachelor's degree. That results in a massive outflow of foreign exchange. It is understandable if Indian students enrol in universities like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or Colorado in the US for specific research etc. Everyone knows that some of America's universities have established themselves as the best educational institutions in the world due to their excellent faculty and other facilities. The same can be said about universities like Oxford and Cambridge in Britain.

In some institutions, even Nobel laureates teach. Thus, there is no harm in enrolling in them. Our premier educational institutions like IIT and Delhi University also attract many foreign students. Many students come to Delhi University from African countries like Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, Fiji, etc. The President of the African nation of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika, was a student of Shri Ram College of Commerce and Delhi School of Economics of Delhi University. The 36th Prime Minister of Nepal, Baburam Bhattarai, studied at the Capital's School of Architecture and Planning (SPA). The students studying here have contributed immensely to the construction of skyscrapers, highways, flyovers, bridges, etc., in the country. It was established in 1959. These places also witness a flock of students from Iran, Singapore, Malaysia, African countries. There is no problem if foreigners come to India's best Delhi universities and our youth go to world-class

institutions. But, if Indian youth start moving abroad for courses like hotel management, MBA, or general Bachelor's degree, then it will be considered a serious matter.

It should be known that we will be able to stop the youth from going out of India to study only when we have excellent educational institutions here. Indian students particularly look to pursue medical education in Ukraine. This is primarily because the tuition fees of private medical colleges back home are more expensive than those of the medical colleges in Ukraine. Other than being recognised by the World Health Council, the Ukrainian medical degrees are recognised by the Indian Medical Council, Pakistan Medical, and Dental Council, European Council of Medicine and General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Ukraine not only offers a low-cost MBBS education to the students but the cost of living here is also much affordable than in other countries of the west. The students can live in Ukraine comfortably without being stressed about their financial condition. The Russia-Ukraine war is giving us an opportunity to learn a lot. Surely, we will be able to get our citizens out of Ukraine. Our present government has that capability and might. But we will have to arrange the best education in our own country so that our youth can get admission to good colleges and universities. We have to connect our meritorious youth to the field of education. They also need to be inspired to become teachers and help to provide better facilities. Apart from this, adequate emphasis will also have to be given to research-related work. India needs to open its eyes and strive to improve its academic standards to retain the country's youth and prevent brain drain.

(RK Sinha is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Street food

In most cities and towns though people go and have their food from hotels and restaurants many prefer having a snack or drink at food stalls, kiosks and vendors who cater delicious food items at no extra cost. The items made are often tasty and food lovers like to please their taste buds by indulging themselves at these vendors stalls on the street, tasting a variety of food of their choice. Though many of these are well maintained and gourmet-friendly some fail, especially because of lack of hygiene and also because food safety tips are not followed faithfully. In foreign countries, street food has been a part of city life and as rules, regulations and norms adhere to complaints regarding food poisoning, health problems and as such is less. In India, the streets of our towns and cities are studded and abuzz with street food vendors and stalls and foodies and tourists often make a beeline to these stalls to have a taste of the authentic taste of the food prepared there. They also swear that except for most of the street food vendors most maintain hygiene and cater fresh food, unlike costly restaurants, because for a street food vendor it is his livelihood and will never risk that with his business. Recently 'Eat Street - a night food court initiative', was inaugurated by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The Eat Street project was developed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.40 crore for the public to relish quality food at night. The food court will start its service at 10.30 pm after all the other hotels and restaurants in the city are closed. These street food hubs will be at the main centres of the city for the people to enjoy authentic quality food in a good and pleasant atmosphere. With the support of VMC, Eat Street is designed in a typical foreign style.

M Pradyu, via email

### Fraud in banks

A few days ago a General Manager of Bank due to misappropriation as well as connivance with fraudulent persons. Off and on frauds come into light and the modus operandi is same but every time name of party is different and fraud amount is different. The attitude of these officials are not upto the mark. They are not capable even to handle their seat and they are so much irresponsible that they do not care for the grievances of common man and one more grievance starts that why the common man had sent the representation for redressal of the problem. Sometimes even months are passed when you get the reply. Even the courts had passed structures against such erring officials and I quote it for ready Jammu and Kashmir High court commented that working of govt officials is not better than 'Kumbhkar' who is linked to non functioning of the departments and the same is applicable to the officials who are posted at Head Office of the banks. Punjab and Haryana high court commented that govt officials are meant to serve the public and not to rule the public and same is approved to Officials posted at Head Office of the bank. Allahabad high court delivered the judgement on the medical arrangements and commented that govt is running on Ram Bharose which is very much applicable to officials posted at Head Office of a bank. Punjab and Haryana high court commented on drug cases in Punjab where the government had not taken any action since long and commented that govt is in deep slumber and same is applicable to officials posted at Head Office of a bank who do not reply to letters of a common man not for months but even in some cases for years. If the frauds are to be prevented there is need of improvement in the functioning at Head Office level.

Yash Pal Kalhan, Jalandhar

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Priyashmita@priyashmita

When you use a bad event, to diss others (not related to that bad event), then you don't really care about the bad happening. You just use an excuse to diss people. So don't make it like u care. When u don't, u speak of others unrelated to it.



Aditya@AdityaRajKaul

India's non-alignment stance may sometimes be frustrating but is often a strategically correct course in conflict. Europeans questioning India's silence on Russian aggression should look back to see if they spoke against Pakistani terror in Kashmir or China's aggression in Galwan.



Harsh@harshmadhusudan

Let there be no doubt. What has happened will make life more difficult for Indian diplomacy. It is high time we turbocharge our defense indigenisation. We cannot have completely normal relations with both Russia and the US/EU/JP the way things are going: whoever's fault it maybe.

Shreela Roy@sredits

This beauty has been handed down by three generation.



Natasha@natashamalpani

35 years ago, we couldn't have imagined: -startups would be acquiring mature companies. -startups creating new categories of demand could list as multibillion dollar companies. -the war for talent would lead to rethinking the way we work. the future is here, and it's in india ?

N. C. Asthana@NcAsthana

Political expedience means leaders in govt can't afford to tell the dumb in the public that their expectations are both unrealistic and extra-legal. That too during elections? However, it does not change the harsh legal reality. Govt rules over duffers but need not tell them so.

## BRIEF

## Supply



# Oil retreats, still above USD 100

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

International oil prices retreated from an over seven-year high but was still above USD 100 a barrel and continue to pose threat to India's inflation rate and current account deficit. While there are no supply concerns as the oil route remained open, consumers will feel the pinch when PSU oil firms start passing on the increase in international rates through a revision in petrol and diesel prices, which have been on a pause for over three-and-a-half-months in view of elections in Uttar Pradesh and four other states.

The government is "closely monitoring the situation" and will "take appropriate steps as and when required", a top official said. Brent crude oil surged past USD 105 per barrel on Thursday for the first time since August 2014, following



Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It however retreated and fell to USD 101 on Friday. It was trading at USD 101.93 a barrel at 1330 hrs. The spike was a result of fears in the market of Russian supplies to Europe and rest of the world being impacted, a trader said adding the risk premium on the oil price right now is around USD 10-15. Industry sources said the gap between the retail selling price of petrol and diesel and the cost is well over Rs 10 per litre,

which when passed on after completion of the elections next month would result in a spike in the inflation rate that is already above the RBI's tolerance level of 6 per cent. Besides, high oil prices risk impacting the current account deficit as India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and will have to pay extra because of higher prices. Morgan Stanley said higher oil prices are negative for India, which is the world's third-largest oil importer. Great

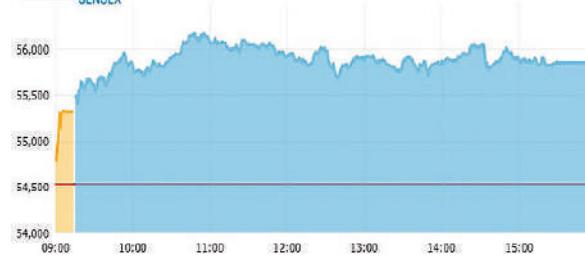
Eastern Energy Corp Ltd (GEECL) chief executive Prashant Modi said the availability of hydrocarbons is expected to become a major issue worldwide. "This is particularly concerning for a nation like India, which is heavily dependent on imports for its hydrocarbon requirements," he said. "This crisis is again a reminder that we need to urgently build a conducive policy environment in India to boost domestic production of oil and gas."

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuit Ratings & Research, said, "As the global economy witnesses a drop in headwinds from the Covid pandemic, new geopolitical risks emerge from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and if turns out to be a prolonged affair, crude oil prices are likely to stay above USD 100 over the near term."

# Sensex, Nifty rebound tracking recovery in global peers

Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTD):

S&amp;P BSE SENSEX



nosedived 815 points.

Spooked by the Ukraine crisis, foreign institutional investors further offloaded shares worth a net Rs 6,448.24 crore in the Indian capital markets on Thursday, exchange data showed.

Asian shares edged significantly higher on Friday, driven by a US rebound, as more sanctions were announced against Russia for its military actions in Ukraine. France's CAC 40 edged up 0.6% in early trading to 6,562.96, while Germany's DAX rose 0.2% to 14,083.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gained

1.2% to 7,295.52.

But US futures augured a less upbeat start for New York markets, with the future for the benchmark S&P 500 down 1.2% while the contract for the Dow industrials was 1% lower. In Asian trading, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 surged 2.0% to finish at 26,476.50. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost some of its earlier gains to close 0.1% higher at 6,997.80. South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.1% to 2,676.76. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.6% to 22,767.18, while the Shanghai Composite rose 0.6% to 3,451.41.

## As rupee rebounds 32 paise, gold falls Rs 1,274

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):



The rupee recovered 32 paise to 75.28 in early trade on Friday tracking positive domestic equities and stronger Asian peers.

The local currency opened on a strong note at 75.31 to a dollar at the interbank foreign exchange market and inched higher to 75.28, registering a gain of 32 paise over its previous close.

Forex traders said markets will continue to remain volatile, and investors continued to keep a watch on the latest developments in eastern Europe.

On Thursday, the rupee tanked 99 paise to close at 75.60 against the US dollar, as riskier assets took a hit after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine. Paring previous

gains, gold prices in the national capital on Friday declined by Rs 1,274 to Rs 50,913 per 10 gram reflecting overnight fall in international market along with rupee appreciation.

He added that traders and investors continue to reassess the situation surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as further sanctions against Russia.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 52,187 per 10

gram in the previous trade. Silver also plummeted by Rs 2,219 to Rs 64,809 per kg, compared with the previous close of Rs 67,928 per kg.

The rupee appreciated by 34 paise to close at 75.26 against the US dollar on Friday in line with regional currencies, following a retreat in crude oil prices and a rebound in domestic equities.

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot prices for 24 carat gold in Delhi fell Rs 1,274 reflecting overnight decline in COMEX gold prices along with rupee appreciation."

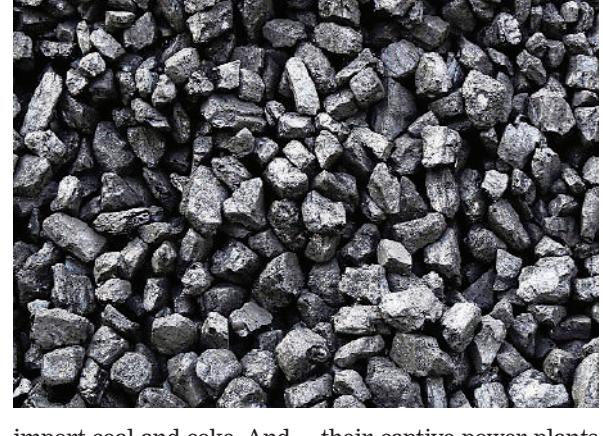
According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfill their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the non-power sector.

"This (Russia-Ukraine)

military conflict, which has increased energy prices globally, will reduce the propensity to import coal by power plants and will further hamper the supply of fuel to captive power plants and industries like steel, aluminium from state-owned Coal India, ICPPA said on Friday.

According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfill their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the non-power sector.

"This (Russia-Ukraine) crisis has increased energy prices globally and that reduces the propensity to



import coal and coke. And it will further complicate the matter and it is going to hamper supplies to both CPPPs and industries from Coal India," ICPPA Secretary General Rajiv Agarwal told PTI.

The industries like aluminum, cement, steel, sponge-iron, paper, fertilizer, chemical, rayon and

their captive power plants (CPPPs) are mostly dependent on domestic coal.

"From the last six-seven months we (CPPPs) have been getting a very low supply of coal. Because of this crisis power plants... will have lower propensity to import and hence they will pressurise the system to give more and more coal

to them by rail mode. That will stop or delay operationalisation of normalcy in rade supply to CPPPs and industries," Agarwal said.

The yearly supply of coal to the non-power sector is just eight per cent and still the non-regulated sector (NRS) is facing fuel shortages.

This adverse supply situation that started around August/September last year became further arduous as coal stock at many plants plunged below critical level.

The demand-supply ratio had shown signs of improvement during November. However, the supply to the NRS consumers, including CPPPs, has plummeted once again despite October-March being the highest production months for Coal India Ltd.

The industries like aluminum, cement, steel, sponge-iron, paper, fertilizer, chemical, rayon and

## Russia-Ukraine crisis to further hamper coal supply

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

Ministry mulling PLI

scheme for chemical sector

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

Chemicals and

Fertilisers Minister

Mansukh Mandaviya on

Friday said the ministry is

planning to bring produc-

tion linked incentive (PLI)

scheme for the chemical

sector to boost domestic

production and exports.

Addressing a seminar,

the minister said the gov-

ernment has launched PLI

schemes for different sec-

tors to make Indian self-re-

liant.

"We are thinking how to

bring PLI scheme in the

chemical sector. We have

started working in this di-

rection," said Mandaviya,

who heads the health min-

istry as well.

Last year, the govern-

ment launched a PLI

scheme for 13 sectors with

commitments of financial

outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh

crore in the 5 years start-

ing 2021-22. Mandaviya

was addressing a seminar

'Industry Connect 2022:

The minister said the sec-

tor has an important role to

play in helping the coun-

try become a USD 5 tril-

lion economy.

The chemical and petro-

chemical sector provides

raw materials to many in-

dustries, he added.

Mandaviya emphasised

on the need to make India

a global manufacturing

hub for meeting domestic

demand as well as exports.

The minister said the sec-

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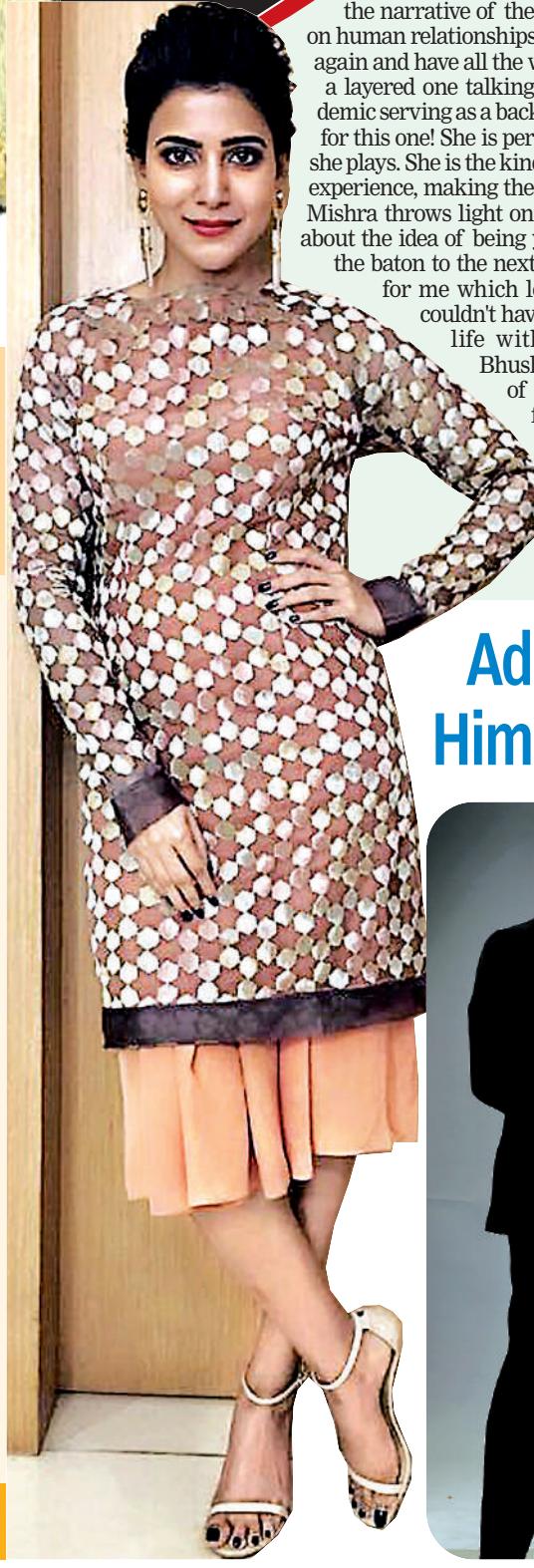
lion economy.

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## Wrestler Babita Phogat all set to join Kangana Ranaut's 'Lock Upp'



## Samantha Ruth Prabhu's absorbs insights of 'Will'

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's recent Instagram story reveals her insights on actor Will Smith's book titled 'Will'. The 'Majili' actress is not only a fitness freak but also a bookworm.

In her latest social media posts, Samantha has given her insights on 'Will', which is quite relatable for the struggle the actress has been undergoing in her personal life.

Samantha shared a quote from the popular book which reads, "Over the past thirty years, like all of us, I have dealt with failure, loss, humiliation, divorce, and death."

"I've had my life threatened, my money is taken away, my privacy invaded, my family disintegrated and every single day, still got up, mixed concrete, and laid another brick. No matter what you're going through, there is always another brick sitting right there in front of you, waiting to be laid."

"The only question is, are you going to get up and lay it?"

The actress also reviewed the book, as she wrote, "Work hard, learn from your setbacks, self-reflect, reinvent yourself and never ever give up. Oh, and a sense of humour helps. What a lovely and fascinating book, Will."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has always been actively sharing inspiring quotes and discussions on social media.

But, ever since her personal setback (divorce) was revealed, most of her fans and followers have been trying to dissect her social media activity.

**A** wrestler Babita Phogat is all set to be locked up inside Kangana Ranaut's 'Lock Upp'. After TV actress Nisha Rawal, Poonam Pandey and stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui, Babita is the fourth contestant on the fearless reality show.

Babita says, 'I am very excited to get into a show like 'Lock Upp' because I have never done a show like this which is live for 24 hours. So I am very glad and excited at the same time to be a part of this show.'

'With this show, people will get to know what I am. Previously the audience has known me from the film 'Dangal'. So, now people will get to know my real personality, my likes, and dislikes, and how I am in my real life as a person.' Babita Phogat won India's first gold medal in women's wrestling at 2014 Commonwealth Games. She won silver medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2010 Commonwealth Games, and a bronze medal at the 2012 World Wrestling Championships and later foray into politics in 2019.

'Lock Upp' will be hosted by Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. The show involves 16 celebrities from all walks of life locked in jail for months without the amenities and they will compete with each other for getting the basic comforts.

'Lock Upp' will be streaming from February 27 on ALTBalaji and MX Player.

## Taapsee Pannu on working with Anubhav Sinha, Sudhir Mishra for upcoming anthology film

**A**ctress Taapsee Pannu talks about reuniting with filmmaker Anubhav Sinha for one of the short films which is part of his anthology movie.

Anubhav Sinha has brought together filmmakers Sudhir Mishra and Hansal Mehta for an anthology film with the pandemic as a backdrop. The film will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Sinha's production house Benaras Mediaworks. Taapsee shares her experience of working with Anubhav Sinha again after 'Thappad' and 'Mulk' and also unveils the concept of the short film directed by Sudhir Mishra with pandemic as a backdrop.

Taapsee says: "The story is unique and never done before, it's a socio political drama that spans across two generations with the pandemic as the backdrop. I couldn't be more thrilled to be working with a brilliant filmmaker like Sudhir Sir who is so solid with his craft." And mostly it feels like homecoming working again with Anubhav Sir and

Bhushan Sir. Anubhav Sir knows how to channel the best in me. Being surrounded by masterful filmmakers like these is a blessed experience," she adds. Anubhav Sinha shares about

the narrative of the film which is layered and focuses on human relationships. He is happy to work with Taapsee again and have all the words of appreciation for her. "The narrative is a layered one talking about human relationships against the pandemic serving as a backdrop. I am so glad to be reuniting with Taapsee for this one! She is perceptive and brings her own to every character she plays. She is the kind of actor who infuses her roles with a lived-in experience, making the story even more relatable." Director Sudhir Mishra throws light on his short film and reveals: "This is a film about the idea of being young, about how one generation passes the baton to the next. Personally, this is one of those stories for me which leaves an indelible mark on you and I couldn't have asked for a better team to bring it to life with." On the other hand producer

Bhushan Kumar says that with the team of Anubhav, Sudhir, Taapsee, this film has a gripping storyline which make it a perfect project.



## Satish Kaushik wins 'Best Supporting Actor' award

Veteran actor and filmmaker Satish Kaushik showed the level of his talent and the value of his experience last year when he made a smashing return to direction after seven years with the Pankaj Tripathi-led social biographical comedy Kaagaz. Kaushik not only directed, produced and wrote this story of a farmer, who was declared dead on official papers, and is fighting to prove his existence in the legal system, but he also acted in it as Advocate Sadharam Kewat. The film received widespread acclaim and now he has the laurels to show for it.

At the recently concluded Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022, Kaushik was bestowed with the award in the category of Best Supporting Actor for his stint in Kaagaz. An elated Kaushik was over the moon as he rushed to the stage to collect his trophy and got emotional on getting the honor.

Kaushik is now in full swing and up next, he has a wide slate of releases coming. He has the web series Guns & Gulaab with Raj & DK that also features Rajkummar Rao. Other than that, he has a Netflix original film titled Thar, another web series with Amazon Prime Video titled Guilty Minds, and films Sharmajee Namkeen and Chhatriwali.



## Adorable Couple—Bhagyashree & Himalay on reality show 'Smart Jodi'



What all can you do for the one you love? We bring to you one couple who does everything for each other. The much-talked-about Jodi of Star Plus' upcoming show Smart Jodi – film Maine Pyar Kiya fame Actress Bhagyashree Patwardhan Dassani & Husband Himalay Dassani is one couple that can always bring a smile to anyone's face.

Ever since the promos featuring Bhagyashree and her husband have been released fans across the nation are waiting to know more about their love story and marriage journey. Bhagyashree is from the Marathi royal family of Sangli in Maharashtra. Excited about her latest television stint Bhagyashree says "Smart Jodi is one of the most exciting concepts I have come across on small screen and hence Himalay and I decided to be part of it. I have refused multiple TV opportunities before because I couldn't connect with them; the concept of Smart Jodi attracted my attention. You will see the real side of each couple and couples of all age groups will relate to the show and its concept. Lastly, I am glad to associate with Star Plus as it's a promising channel delivering some inspiring and unconventional content to today's India. Can't wait to share my life story with my fans."

## HOROSCOPE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

This day will play an important part in your future! The much-needed funds for business or education may fall your way today. Your seamless happiness will reflect in the playful mood in which you will interact with your loved ones. Ganesh is satisfied with your priorities.

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Meditation will be the order of the day. Your need to find inner peace is likely to push you to look inward and explore the alternate school of thought. You are likely to get inclined towards the mystical and the metaphysical. There may be a few health issues; Ganesh, however, wants you to understand that a certified doctor is still a better bet than a witch doctor.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

It's not let yourself get sucked into participating in idle gossip. Gemini. There will be rumors flying today, and you'd be well advised to take cover. While it's true that there is some truth to the gossip, the embellishments to the story have blown everything out of proportion. Feelings are likely to get hurt. If you don't want yours to be among them, steer clear of the water cooler.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesh. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Meditation will be the order of the day. Your need to find inner peace is likely to push you to look inward and explore the alternate school of thought. You are likely to get inclined towards the mystical and the metaphysical. There may be a few health issues; Ganesh, however, wants you to understand that a certified doctor is still a better bet than a witch doctor.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesh. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from drowning it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts. Work and friends will help you cheer up later in the day.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesh. If you notice people bending any bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off. If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesh, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights. Especially those in the media shall hit upon a new level in their imaginative capabilities.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

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

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Ganesh says the day will be eventful and full of excitement. Differences in opinion might just crop up at work, but don't let them dampen your spirit. A romantic, candlelit dinner with your beloved could be the high point of your day. You are set to make an impact on your near and dear ones.

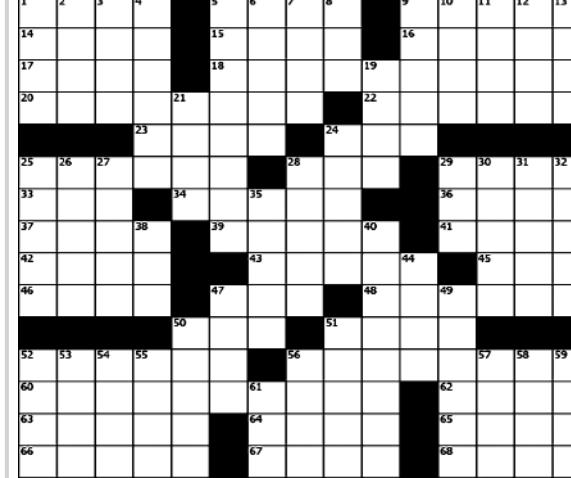
### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 20

You will be particularly warm and intimate to your friends and family members. Ganesh says that you will miss no opportunity to show them how much they mean to you. Your superiors and, back at home, your elders are likely to be unusually benign and well disposed towards you.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

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

## CROSSWORD

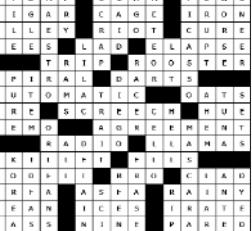


### ACROSS

- Mats
- Healing plant
- Hobo
- Gone
- Songstress \_\_\_\_\_ Turner
- O'Donnell of TV
- Solidifies
- Competition
- Newspaper issues
- Cold era (2 wds.)
- Blunders
- Large primate
- Rock's \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers
- Naval rank (abbr.)
- Sudden wind
- Look at
- Auto type
- Poker stake
- Apply asphalt
- Positive responses
- Read quickly
- Equal

- Depart
- River embankment
- Comforted
- Freon, e.g.
- Aunt's husband
- Remains behind
- Belief
- Railroad station
- Discontinue
- Sieve
- Stable morsels
- Festive event
- Horned animals, for short
- Combine
- Bullwinkle, for one
- Tightly stretched
- Likewise
- Mix
- Shipped
- Cleopatra's river
- Icicle's spot
- Gush
- Sunbathes
- Media mogul \_\_\_\_\_ Turner

### SOLUTION 224



**Tan Kim Her returns as India's badminton doubles coach**



**New Delhi:** Malaysia's Tan Kim Her returned for a second stint as the doubles coach of the Indian badminton team after the Sports Ministry on Friday approved his appointment for a five-year period till the 2026 Asian Games. The 50-year-old, who was India's doubles coach from 2015 to 2019, was tipped to take over the position which was left vacant following the departure of Denmark's 2012 Olympic silver medallist Mathias Boe after the Tokyo Games. It was reported in December last year that Tan is likely to join the Indian coaching set-up with the Badminton Association of India waiting for an approval from the Ministry. During his first stint, Tan had played a vital role in the rise of Indian doubles players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy as they made breakthroughs on the Tour, besides winning individual silver and team gold at Commonwealth Games in 2018.

### No bio-bubble for India-Denmark Davis Cup tie?

**New Delhi:** The upcoming Davis Cup tie between India and Denmark won't be held within a bio-bubble but appropriate COVID-19 protocols will be followed during the March 4-5 contest, home team skipper Rohit Rajpal said on Friday. India will host Denmark on the lush green grass court of Delhi Gymkhana Club for the World Group I tie. There is a sharp dip in COVID-19 cases in the country and that must have encouraged the DGC and All India Tennis Association (AITA) officials to look for a less stricter arrangements although it remains a referee's choice. "As of now, there is no indication that the tie will be held under bio-bubble. In the previous ties, we were in enclosed environment, staying and eating separately," Rajpal said in a media interaction. "However, appropriate COVID-19 behaviour will be followed."

### Medvedev new No 1 in tennis

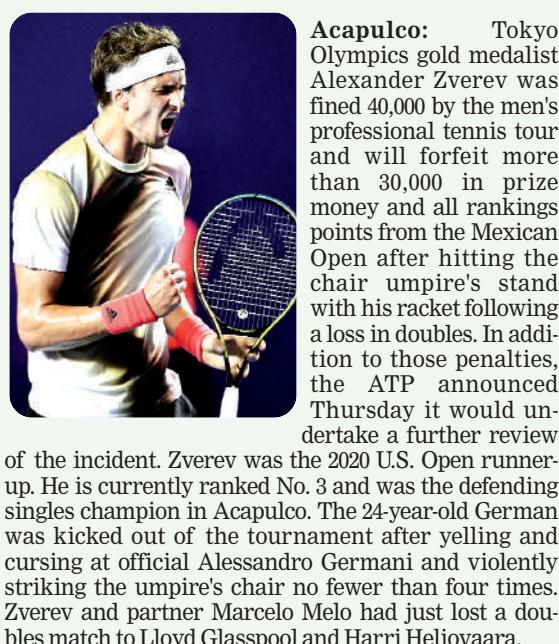


**Dubai:** Novak Djokovic will fall from No. 1 in the ATP rankings and be replaced by Daniil Medvedev after losing 6-4, 7-6 (4) to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Championships. Djokovic's latest stay atop the rankings began on Feb. 3, 2020, and his total of 361 weeks there are the most for any man since the tour's computerized rankings began in 1973. On Monday, Medvedev will move up from No. 2 for the first time and become the 27th man to reach No. 1. He won the U.S. Open last September and was the Australian Open runner-up each of the past two years. Djokovic congratulated Medvedev on Twitter, saying the Russian was very deserving of the No. 1 spot. Medvedev is the first man other than Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Andy Murray to be No. 1 since Feb. 1, 2004.

### Kerala Blasters face Chennai in do-or-die battle

**Vasco:** There will be no room for error for Kerala Blasters FC as they look to strengthen their semifinal chances when they take on Chennaiyin FC in a crucial Indian Super League clash here on Saturday. Kerala lost to league leaders Hyderabad in their last outing to remain in fifth place with 27 points from 17 games. Mumbai City FC are fourth with 28 in their kitty, and the Islanders take on FC Goa on Saturday in a late kickoff, meaning Kerala would want to keep them on their toes with a victory earlier in the day. Hyderabad are already through to the semis, making it a fight for the remaining three spots. Jamshedpur FC have an advantage as they are seated second with 31 points, but with two games in hand.

### Zverev fined \$40K, loses prize money, points for outburst



**Acapulco:** Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev was fined 40,000 by the men's professional tennis tour and will forfeit more than 30,000 in prize money and all rankings points from the Mexican Open after hitting the chair umpire's stand with his racket following a loss in doubles. In addition to those penalties, the ATP announced Thursday it would undertake a further review of the incident. Zverev was the 2020 U.S. Open runner-up. He is currently ranked No. 3 and was the defending singles champion in Acapulco. The 24-year-old German was kicked out of the tournament after yelling and cursing at official Alessandro Germani and violently striking the umpire's chair no fewer than four times. Zverev and partner Marcelo Melo had just lost a doubles match to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliovaara.

# IPL UNVEILS NEW FORMAT FOR 2022

**10 teams divided in two groups of five; each team to play 14 games**



**New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):**

The 2022 Indian Premier League will see a tweak in format as 10 teams will be divided into groups of five but the number of matches per side will remain 14. As per groupings released by BCCI on Friday, group A comprises Mumbai Indians, KKR, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Supergiants. The group B will have Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans. Over the years, the IPL has been an eight-team affair where each team played each other twice at the round robin league stage to complete 14 games. However this group league format is not new in IPL as it was once used a decade back when Pune Warriors and Kochi Tuskers Kerala were part of the league.



### Ready Reckoner for Format

The rows and columns of the groups (A and B) has been done as per IPL performances -- number of titles and number of finals reached. Firstly, the groupings have been done as per IPL performance where group A has MI (Team 1) with five titles as first team. Correspondingly, in group B, the first team is CSK (Team 2) which has four titles. Team 3 is again placed in group A and that is KKR with two titles and the corresponding Team 4 placed in group B is SRH with a sole title. Team 5 again in group A is Rajasthan Royals (1 title) and its corresponding Team 6 in group B is RCB, which has played three finals. Team 7 in group A is DC, which has one final appearance and two play-offs while corresponding Team 8 in group B is Punjab Kings with one final appearance. Newcomers, Lucknow Super Giants is Team 9 in group A and Gujarat Titans is corresponding team 10 in group B.

Each team plays the other teams in its group twice, which makes it eight matches. The balance six games they play against the five teams in the other group. So for MI from group A will play two games CSK which is its equivalent team in group B and one match against the other four teams. Similarly KKR, the second placed team in A plays SRH in group B twice and all other teams once. This is how teams attain (8+6) 14 group league games.

## Erwee ton gives South Africa flying start in 2nd Test



**Christchurch, Feb 25 (AP):**

Sarel Erwee responded to a challenge leveled by his captain with a maiden century for South Africa

on Friday against New Zealand on the first day of the second test.

Erwee's 108 helped South Africa to 238-3 at stumps and gave it insula-

tion against a setback late in the day when Erwee and Aiden Markram's (42) wickets fell within the space of three balls. Temba Bavuma was 22 not out at stumps and Rassie van der Dussen 13.

Proteas captain Dean Elgar threw down the challenge to his fellow batsmen Friday when he chose to bat on winning the toss on the same ground on which the tourists were dismissed for 95 and 111 in losing the first test loss by an innings and 276 runs.

Elgar made 41 in an opening stand with Erwee which was worth as much as South Africa's second-innings total in the first test and which was its first century partnership for the first wicket in 34 tests.

With a fine sense of timing, Erwee reached his first half century just before lunch and his century in the over before tea, after exactly four hours at the crease.

I think it means a bit to me but I think it means a bit more to the team and my family back home, Erwee said.

It's nice to be in this position but there's still a lot of work to do.

## Chanu wins gold in Singapore



**Singapore, Feb 25 (PTI):**

Star Indian lifter Mirabai Chanu qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the 55kg weight category on Friday by clinching the gold in the Singapore Weightlifting International here.

Competing in the 55kg weight class for the first time, Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium in an uncompetitive field.

The second placed lifter -- Australia's Jessica

Sewastenko's best effort was 167kg (77kg+90kg), a whopping 24kg less than Chanu's.

Elly Cassandra Englebert of Malaysia finished third with a best effort of 165kg (75kg+90kg).

Having pulled out of the world championships in December, this was Chanu's first competitive event since the historic Tokyo Games performance last year, when she bagged India's first silver medal in weightlifting at the Olympics.

## 2nd T20I: Confident India eyeing 11th straight win



**Dharamsala, Feb 25 (PTI):**

A reinvigorated India will look to pocket their second series win as many weeks and build on the gains made from a drastic change in their batting approach in the second T20 International against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

India were forced to look in the mirror after their early exit from the T20 World Cup last year but four months later, they look a transformed unit with a bunch of youngsters being tried out in various positions and

roles. It is still early days but the Rohit Sharma-led side has already figured out the core group of players that will travel to Australia for the World Cup Down Under later this year. Young opener Ishan Kishan got a massive dose of confidence in the series opener on Thursday after his struggles against the West Indies. Finding strike rotation tough in the preceding series, Kishan was able to overcome that weakness against the Sri Lankan bowlers besides flaunting the strokeplay he is known for in the IPL. There is no

time to settle in a T20 game and India have finally realised that, allowing them to post 180 plus totals regularly. It would take a special effort from Sri Lanka to end India's 10-match winning streak in the spiritual home of Dalai Lama. With a misfiring top-order and absence of frontline spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga, Sri Lanka struggled to compete in the first game.

Even skipper Dasun Shanaka bowling after a while did not help as Indians looked unstoppable with the bat.

**2017 World Cup SF loss to India had a big impact on Australia: Lanning**



**Christchurch, Feb 25 (PTD):**

Skipper Meg Lanning on Friday said the loss to India in the semifinals of the 2017 Women's World Cup had a huge impact on the Australian team as it effected a change in the side's playing style and approach. Favourites Australia had succumbed to a surprise 36-run loss to eventual runners-up India in the semifinal. The Australian bowlers had no answer to senior India batter Harmanpreet Kaur, who smashed an unbeaten 171 of 115 balls.

## Men seek consistency, Women look to maintain winning momentum against Spain

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 25 (PTI):**

Consistency will be key for the Indian men's hockey team, while the women's side would look to build on the momentum gained from a fantastic debut when the two take on Spain in their respective FIH Pro League campaign ties here on Saturday. The Indian men, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, started their FIH Pro League campaign on a rousing note, beating France 5-0 before being shocked 2-5 by the same team in the return leg. Against South Africa, India registered 10-2 wins in the two matches. Both the ties were played in Potchefstroom, South Africa. But the result against world no.12 France in the second match of the

### Match Timings

India Women vs Spain 5pm.

India Men vs Spain 7.30pm.

two-leg tie was way below expectations for India, ranked fifth in the world. The Indians were caught off guard by the ever-improving Frenchmen in all aspects of the game in the second match, much to the surprise of the eight-time Olympic champions.

**Indian women look to continue winning momentum**

With a rousing start to their Pro League campaign, the Indian women are confident of upsetting world no.7 Spain in the upcoming two matches of the event, which they are treating as a perfect launchpad to prepare the side for two key tournaments this year -- the World Cup and the

Hangzhou Asian Games. Playing for the first time in the tournament, the Indian women beat China 7-1 and 2-1 in their opening two-leg tie in Muscat, Oman earlier this year. India captain Savita said that playing against top teams in the FIH Pro League will be a fair assessment of their game ahead of an important 2022, which also has the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

"It will give us a fair idea about our strengths and weaknesses ahead of an important season," Savita had said. "The Pro League is an important tournament for the World Cup and we have already qualified for the World Cup but every match in the Pro League will give us an idea on the grey areas we need to work upon.

# No direct impact of Russia-Ukraine crisis on India

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

There is no direct impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on India in terms of bilateral trade but a surge in oil prices poses considerable risk to the economy, an analyst report said on Friday. International oil prices which have surged past USD 100 per barrel "pose risks to external stability and currency movement," a Bank of Baroda Economics Research report said.

Russia has launched military operations against Ukraine, stoking fears of significant disruption in the region, including loss of life. The West is ramping up financial sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine. The economic impact on the

rest of the world is likely to come from higher commodity prices, boosting inflation but hurting growth-stagflation-like.

"But if hostilities and tensions escalate to the point where Russia is excluded from the Western payments and fast-messaging systems, as was Iran, a severe stagflation shock could result from an interruption of energy supplies," Invesco said in a report.

Russia supplies Europe with 40 per cent of its gas, half its solid fuel including coal and about a quarter of its oil.

So far, the US has not cut off Russia from the global payment system. "While there will be no direct impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on India in terms of bilateral trade, the surge in

oil prices as a result of the crisis poses considerable risks to the Indian economy," the BoB Economic Research report said.

Both the Union Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 and RBI's monetary policy that kept interest rates steady, came much before this crisis and did not factor in the impact of the crude price shock.

"Both the Budget and RBI hence took a conservative estimate of crude prices at USD 75 per barrel which is likely to be a challenge going forward," the report said. India imports more than 80 per cent of its total oil requirement and is the world's third-largest importer of crude oil. In FY21, India's oil imports totalled USD 82.7 billion.

## Heads of European missions in India stand in solidarity with Ukrainian envoy

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI): The heads of missions of European countries in India expressed solidarity with their Ukrainian counterpart on Friday, strongly condemning Russia's "unprovoked and unjustified" military attack on Ukraine. The envoys held a meeting here and extended their full support to Ukraine. Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan Ugo Astuto said the EU and its member states stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian Ambassador to India, Igor Polikha. "Heads of Mission of the EU & its Member States stand in solidarity with Ukraine Ambassador. EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked & unjustified military attack. EU is united in its solidarity with Ukraine & its people," Astuto said in a tweet.



A woman clicks picture of a wall mural created by artist Sanatan Dinda for the Behala Art Fest, in Kolkata, Friday.

# Terror funding: Court sends ex-NIA SP Negi, activist Khurram Parvez to jail

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The agency had arrested Negi, a former SP of the NIA, for allegedly leaking secret documents to an overground worker of the banned terror group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The case was filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including those related to terrorism and terror funding.

# Centre asks states, UTs to allow relaxation of Covid curbs

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Union Home Ministry on Friday asked states and union territories to consider relaxing Covid curbs for social, sports, entertainment, academic and religious events as well as night curfew hours in view of the substantial decline in the number of cases.

Issuing COVID-19 guidelines for March, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also suggested the implementation of a risk assessment based approach on the opening of economic activities as suggested by

the Union Health Ministry recently.

Accordingly, after a careful analysis of the local situation, relaxation in various activities may be considered, such as social, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious, festival related gatherings; night curfew; operations of public transport; shopping complexes, cinema halls, gyms, spas, restaurants and bars; opening of schools, colleges, offices, and other commercial activities, as mandated in the National Directives for COVID Management, should continue to be enforced.

He said states and UTs should continue with testing and surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and implementation of Covid appropriate behaviour for managing COVID-19.

In the guidelines, sent to chief secretaries of all states and UTs, the

home secretary also emphasised that the wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and ventilation in closed spaces, as mandated in the National Directives for COVID Management, should continue to be enforced.

I would, therefore, urge you to take necessary action in line with the aforesaid Ministry of

## Naxals kill STF jawan during his medical leave

Bijapur, Feb 25 (PTI): A 26-year-old jawan of the Chhattisgarh police's Special Task Force (STF), who was on a month-long medical leave and undergoing treatment in his native village in Bijapur district of the state, was allegedly killed by Naxals, an official said on Friday.

The incident took place in Reddy Road area late Thursday night and preliminary investigation suggests that the jawan was severely thrashed before being strangulated to death, the senior police official said. The deceased STF jawan was identified as Arjun Kudiyam, a resident of Dhanora village located under Gangaloor police station limits.

# I-T dept raids Shiv Sena corporator

Mumbai/New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Income Tax department on Friday conducted searches at the premises of Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant Jadhav in Mumbai on charges of tax evasion, officials said.

A team of tax department officials is undertaking the raids against Jadhav, also the chairman of the BMC standing committee, since early morning, they said. His wife Yamini Jadhav is the party MLA from the Byculla seat.

The teams are at the Byculla residence of Jadhav, who chairs the Standing Committee of the richest civic body in the country, regarding an alleged under reporting of assets in his election affidavit, the officials said.

Jadhav heads the committee which sees a bulk of the expenditure of the



Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The I-T department action comes weeks ahead of elections to the civic body. The raids come close on the heels of the arrest of Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik in an alleged money laundering case by the Enforcement Department. The Shiv Sena and NCP have alleged that the Opposition leaders are

being targeted by the central agencies with a view of destabilise the Maharashtra government. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has dismissed such charges as baseless.

# India, Japan to hold annual joint military drill in K'taka from Feb 27-Mar 10

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

India and Japan will conduct the annual joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian 2022" in Belgaum, Karnataka, from February 27 to March 10, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"In the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, this exercise with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation," the ministry's statement

said.

The Japanese forces arrived at Belgaum on Friday to take part in this exercise, it noted.

India, Japan, the US and Australia are part of the Quad group that has been formed to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free from any malignant influence of China.

The scope of Dharma Guardian exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban and urban terrain, the statement said.

Combat experienced

troops of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces are participating in the exercise this year, it noted.

The 12-day-long exercise schedule includes house interventions drills, raid on terrorist hideouts in semi urban terrain, combat first aid, unarmed combat and close quarter combat firing where both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely

threats, it mentioned.

The joint field training exercises, joint combat discussions and joint demonstrations will culminate with a two day validation exercise scheduled on March 8 and March 9, it said.

"Special emphasis is being laid on enhancing tactical skills to fight global terrorism and on enhancing inter-operability between the forces and to promote Army to Army relations," the statement read. The annual exercise has been taking place since 2018, it added.

# Non-Congress govts kept UP backward, forced people to migrate, says Rahul



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting for UP Assembly elections, in Amethi, Friday.

Accusing PM Modi of helping only big industrialists, he said the billionaires do not give employment. "It is small and

medium traders and farmers who generate employment and this section,

which is the backbone of job givers, has been broken," he said, adding that

in these circumstances there will be no jobs for the youth, even for those with proper education.

Saying that the PM Modi had promised two crore jobs to the youth, he asked, "Why is he not speaking about it in electioneering this time?" People are well aware of his "lies" now, said the former Congress president attacking PM Modi.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the voters will have to make up their mind whether they want politics of development or the one that entangles them in a "fake web of religion and caste". Referring to her visit to a locality in Lucknow recently, the Congress leader said she there met some children,

who were qualified but unemployed.

"Have you brought up your children so that they do not have any future and that they continue to get a sack of foodgrain and remain dependent on it.

This is a conspiracy of these political parties to keep you poor, keep your stomachs empty so that your emotions could be exploited by them," the Congress leader alleged. This is the government of the rich and there is no hearing of the poor, she added.

"When there is harassment, neither Akhilesh Yadav nor Mayawati come out of their homes, leave alone Yogi and Modi. They make the father of an accused stand with them on

the dais," she said referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

"Their minister's son killed farmers. Change these circumstances," she said, stressing that people should tell parties either to work for development or leave.

Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in the violence last October. The farmers were mowed down by cars allegedly carrying by BJP workers. Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish was arrested in the case.

The Congress leaders also spoke about the development and infrastructure building that took place in Amethi during the Congress-led UPA government in the past.



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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Bilaspur, Saturday, February 26, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh



PAGE 11

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## BRIEF



Indian army soldiers patrol near the Line of Control (LOC), in Akhnoor, about 65kms from Jammu, Friday.

## Operational readiness

**New Delhi:** Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari on Friday asked commanders to ensure operational readiness of all platforms, weapon systems and assets. "He stressed on the need for root cause analysis of all accidents and incidents, improving maintenance practices to boost mission effectiveness besides maintaining impregnable physical and cyber security at all times," the Defence Ministry's statement said. The IAF Chief was addressing the Western Air Command's Commanders Conclave, which ended on Thursday. "He praised Western Air Command for the quantum of flying carried out and urged all commanders to continue their efforts towards providing a safe operational flying environment," the statement noted.

## Militant arrested

**Siliguri (WB):** A suspected Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) militant was arrested in Siliguri on Friday morning, police said. The man was arrested from Khalpara area of the city by the North Bengal Special Task Force of police, they said. The arrested, a resident of Srirampur Assam's Kokrajhar, was part of a KLO group that has been operating in Siliguri, they added.

## Earthquake hits

**Shimla:** A moderate intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.4 shook Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala on Friday afternoon, the meteorological department here said. There was no report of any casualty or damage to property due to the quake, it said. The earthquake's epicentre was at a depth of 10 km in Chakban Bhagsunath village of Dharamshala, the department said, adding that tremors were felt in and around the district at 12.59 pm.

## Terrorists killed

**Srinagar:** Two terrorists and a civilian were killed during an encounter between security forces and the ultras in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, police said. Acting on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in the Amshipora area of Shopian in south Kashmir, the security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation, a police official said. The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists hiding in the area fired upon the forces, who retaliated, he added. Two terrorists were killed in the encounter, the official said.

Weather	High 34 Low 19
Market	NIFTY 16,658.40 SENSEX 55,858.52
Bullion	GOLD 50,301 SILVER 60,036

## AI planning to operate two flights to Bucharest to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Air India is planning to operate two flights to Romanian capital Bucharest on Friday to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine due to a Russian military offensive, senior government officials said.

Indian nationals who have reached the Ukraine-Romania border by road will be taken to Bucharest by officials of the Indian government so that they can be evacuated in the two Air India flights, they added.

The Ukrainian airspace was closed for civil aircraft operations by the country's authorities on Thursday morning and therefore, the evacuation flights are operating out of Bucharest.

The two Air India flights will depart from Bucharest on Saturday, the officials said. Air India did not respond to PTI's request for comments on the development. The Indian embassy in Ukraine on Friday said it is working to establish evacuation routes from Romania and Hungary.

"At present, teams are getting in place at the following check points: Chop-Zahony Hungarian border near Uzhhorod, Porubne-Siret Romanian border near Chernivtsi," it said.

### CBI arrests ex-NSE GOO Anand Subramanian over irregularities

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

The CBI has arrested former NSE group operating officer Anand Subramanian after expanding its probe into a co-location scam in the exchange following "fresh facts" in a Sebi report that referred to a mysterious yogi guiding the actions of former CEO Chitra Ramkrishna, officials said on Friday.

Subramanian was taken into custody late Thursday night in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, they said.

He was questioned for days in Chennai early this week during which he was found evasive in his responses to the sleuths which prompted the Central Bureau of



A student holds a placard during a prayer session for world peace, amid Russian military invasion of Ukraine, in Chennai, Friday.

#### Govt to bear cost of evacuation of Indians

**New Delhi:** The government is making efforts to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine through its land border crossings with its neighbouring countries and they would then be brought back home, official sources said on Friday. They said evacuation flights for the Indians are being arranged and the transportation cost will be completely borne by the government. "The government of India is organising evacuation flights for Indians in Ukraine. The cost will be completely borne by the government for this evacuation," said a source privy to the development.

#### Cabinet Committee on Security likely to meet again

**New Delhi:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is likely to meet again on Saturday amid the Russian offensive against Ukraine, sources in the government said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had chaired a meeting of the CCS on Thursday night after Russia launched its attack on Ukraine.

He also spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and called for an immediate cessation of violence while stressing that India attaches the highest priority to the safe exit and return of its citizens from Ukraine. The proposed meet of the key cabinet panel comes amid New Delhi's efforts to evacuate Indian citizens from the battle zone.

Indian nationals, especially students, living closest to these border checkpoints are advised to depart in an organised manner in coordination with teams from the

Ministry of External Affairs to actualise this option, the embassy said.

## Russian military takes strategic airport near Kyiv

'Russia ready to hold talks 'any moment' once Ukrainian Army lays down arms'

Kyiv, Feb 25 (AP):

The Russian military says it has taken control of a strategic airport just outside the Ukrainian capital and cut Kyiv off from the west.

The airport in Hostomel has a long runway capable of accommodating heavy transport planes. Its seizure allows Russia to airlift troops directly to Kyiv's outskirts. Hostomel is just 7 kilometers (4 miles) northwest of Kyiv.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Friday that the Russian airborne forces used 200 helicopters to land in Hostomel.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said that Moscow is ready for talks at "any moment" with Ukraine once the Ukrainian military respond positively to President Vladimir Putin's call, end their resistance and lay down their arms.

Lavrov made the remarks following talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Sergey Peresada and Foreign Minister of the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) Vladislav Deinego, the state-run TASS news agency reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties with leaders of DPR and LPR on February 21, recognising the two regions of Ukraine as independent. We are ready to



A man inspects the damage at a building following a rocket attack on the city of Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday.

#### Russia presses invasion to outskirts

**Kyiv, Feb 25 (AP):** Russia pressed its invasion of Ukraine to the outskirts of the capital Friday after unleashing airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending in troops and tanks from three sides in an attack that could rewrite the global post-Cold War security order. Explosions sounded before dawn in Kyiv and gunfire was reported in several areas, as Western leaders

scheduled an emergency meeting and Ukraine's president pleaded for international help to fend off an attack that could topple his democratically elected government, cause massive casualties and ripple out damage to the global economy. Among the signs that the Ukrainian capital was increasingly threatened, the military said Friday that a group of Russian spies and saboteurs was seen in a district of the outskirts of Kyiv, and police told people not to exit a subway station in the city center because there was gunfire in the area. Elsewhere in the capital, soldiers established defensive positions at bridges, and armored vehicles rolled down the streets, while many residents stood uneasily in doorways of their apartment buildings.

Vladimir Putin signed treaties with leaders of DPR and LPR on February 21, recognising the two regions of Ukraine as independent. We are ready to hold talks at any moment, once the Ukrainian Armed Forces respond to our president's call, end their resistance and lay down their arms.

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Bhati said she would file an affidavit on the legality of the cryptocurrency trade and added that the accused, who is seeking quashing of proceedings, has not been cooperating with the investigating agency after being granted bail by the court in 2019.

She said that 47 FIRs have been registered against the accused of duping people across the country and the issue involves a trade of 87,000 Bitcoin worth Rs 20,000 crore.

The bench ordered, We direct the petitioner to appear before the investigating officer of Directorate of Enforcement within two days and thereafter cooperate with the investigation as and when called upon to do so. The investigating officer shall file a fresh status report before this court on or before four weeks, indicating the progress of the investigation and whether

The advocate said that Bhardwaj has deliberately suppressed the fact that Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Patiala House Court through court notice had issued a proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused under section 82 of Criminal Procedure Code.

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# Collector inspects flyover construction sites on National Highway



## Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: On Friday, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the work of flyovers being constructed on national highway between Kumhari to Supela. He directed the officers to get the construction work completed at its earliest while maintaining quality. In Kumhari, he directed the officials to complete the work of second arch and

start the work of second lane so that traffic movement is not obstructed.

Thereafter, Collector inspected the flyover at Dabrapara. The construction agency officials informed him that 90 percent of the work will be completed by the month of July this year. During the inspection of the Power House flyover, the Collector instructed the officials to get the construction of drains completed before



the commencement of rainy season.

During the inspection in Chandra-Maurya Supela, he highlighted the traffic problems and asked the officials to make arrangements including diversion. Collector said that full care should be taken of the parking facilities in Kumhari, Powerhouse and Supela. He also directed the officials for beautification of the spots.

He added that ensuring

free traffic movement on this route should be the top priority. He instructed to make necessary preparations and speed up the construction work by deploying sufficient manpower. Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, NH Executive Engineer Rao and other officers were present.

Collector also inspected the site for the proposed railway under bridge at

Supela. He discussed with the railway officials to start its alignment and construction. With the construction of an under bridge at Supela, thousands of citizens of Bhilai will get relief from waiting at the level railway crossing.

He asked the officials to ensure that lesser number of trees are cut for construction. Alternative traffic movement arrangements should be made during construction works. An under bridge is to be built in Kugda also. He asked the officials to make proper arrangements for traffic movement during the construction work.

The traffic movement on the Kugda route has increased to great extent. With the construction of Kugda under bridge, people will get great relief. SDM Brijesh Kshatriya was also present during inspection.

of the officers came out in the form of "Walk for Justice".

OA BSP President and SEFI Chairman Narendra Kumar Banchore again urged the management to resolve this burning issue without delay. It is not justified to keep more than 1600 officers agitated. The Officers Association is hopeful that the management will understand these issues and provide a just and equitable solution at the earliest.

# OA calls 'Walk for Justice' for pay-fixation of Junior Officers



## Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: On the call of BSP-Officers Association, a campaign "Walk for Justice" was conducted on Friday to support the demand for pay fixation of Junior Officers of 2008 and 2010 batch.

All the officers of BSP spontaneously cooperated in this campaign to rectify the injustice done to the junior officers and provide them justice. During

the General Shift of the plant, more than 900 officers reached their respective offices and workplaces by walking.

The "Walk for Justice" organised on Friday is a message to awaken the management on behalf of every officer to provide justice to the junior officers who are facing injustice for the last 14 years. The management has so far been lax in resolving this issue, and the resultant resentment and pain

## Practical exams for Computer at SSMV from February 26

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: As per the directions of Hemchand Yadav University Durg, the annual practical exams of Computer Department is starting from February 26, 2022. The schedule for the exam for different classes will be as follows: BCA (I) Programming in C Language on February 26, 2022; BSc (II) Software HTML and C++ on February 26, 2022; BSc (III) Visual Basic and DBMS on February 26, 2022; BCA (I) Web Technology and E Commerce/Visual Basic on February 28, 2022; B Com (I) PC S/W &

Multimedia on February 28, 2022; BCA (II) Programming in C++ and Visual C++ on March 03, 2022; B Com (II) HTML and RDBMS on March 07, 2022; B Com (III) Visual Basic/Project on March 08, 2022; BCA (II) Linux on March 09, 2022; BCA (I) PC Software on March 10, 2022; BCA (II) DBMS on March 11, 2022; BCA (III) Project on March 11, 2022; BCA (III) Prog in Python (New Course)/Programming in Java (old Course) on March 12, 2022; and BCA (III) Dot.Net Tech (New Course)/Multi Media Tools and Applications (Old Course) on March 14, 2022.

### Practical exams for Psychology at St Thomas from Mar 17

Bhilai, Feb 25: The Psychology annual practical exams at St Thomas College, for both private and regular candidates will be on the following days: BA (I) March 07, 2022; BA (II) March 09, 2022; BA (III) March 09, 2022; MA (Previous) March 10 & 11, 2022; MA (Final) March 12 & 14, 2022. Reporting time is 10:00 hrs. Schedule of batches will be given in students group.

## Kumhari getting facelift with Rs 100 crore projects

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Chhattisgarh Government is working on a war footing for conservation of ponds and recharge of underground water. Big ponds existed in dilapidated condition in Kumhari. The water was polluted and the ponds were dying. It was decided to work on big schemes for their protection and accordingly, the works were launched. All the projects are expected to be completed before the rainy season.

Large infrastructures are being established in Kumhari Municipal Council with an investment of Rs 100 crore. Collector Dr. Sarveshwar

Narendra Bhure inspected these projects on Friday. He inspected the construction work of Kugda Under Bridge and Chandaniya pond. The work of pond beautification is being done at a cost of Rs 1.78 crore. This will also recharge the underground water and improve the beauty of this pond. Devotees conduct chhath puja at this pond. Collector asked the officers that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has instructed that people should get better civic facilities. Along with pure drinking water, clean environment should also be made available, he said.

Collector also inspected the construction work of DMC pond. During the last



visit of the Collector, the condition of this pond was very bad. There was only a little water left and that too was polluted. The government accepted the proposal sent for the beautification of the pond. STP plant has been installed to treat the water. A 'view point' is being built from where the beautiful view of the pond will be visible. After completion, beauty of the pond will increase manifold.

Rs 5.32 crore has been approved for beautifica-

tion of Janjgiri pond. This will beautify the pond and also recharge the ground water. Collector gave detailed instructions regarding its construction work. Along with this, he also gave instructions for developing parks at Parsada, Janjgiri and other places. He instructed CMO Jitendra Kushwaha to keep a constant watch on basic facilities like drinking water etc. It is worth mentioning that work will soon be done on a big scheme for drinking water supply in Kumhari. SDM Brijesh Kshatriya was also present. Collector also inspected newly constructed Tehsil building in Bhilai-3. Commissioner Kirtiman Rathore was also present.

## BMC Commissioner conducts surprise inspection of zone office

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: The Commissioner of Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation Prakash Sarve on Friday conducted surprise inspection of the offices in Zone No 2 and Zone No 3. On finding an employee absent at office, the Commissioner has given instructions to issue show cause notices. The commissioner without any intimation reached the Vaishali Nagar zone office, and first checked the complaint register for drinking water and took briefing on redressal of the complaints. He also gave instructions to maintain the register. Thereafter he inspected the Lok Sewa Kendra and interacted with the beneficiaries present there who had mostly come to get the Aadhar card made, name, date of birth, mobile number and other errors corrected. The commis-



sioner directed that Divyang, pregnant women, women arriving with small children and elderly people should get their Aadhar card made on priority basis. In case of overcrowding, he asked to get the cards made on priority basis and after the set maximum number of cards instead of returning the applicants take the applications and call them on a date. The municipal commissioner also inspected other departments of the office, during which

Department, recovery of property tax, timely attendance of employees from Zone Commissioner Aisha Lahare. He said that in view of the upcoming summer season, all the zones should issue toll free numbers for the problem of drinking water and solve the problems on this basis, so that people do not need to come to the corporation office regarding the problems. The commissioner took stock of the Slum Health Camp organised in Jawahar Nagar. He spoke to the doctor and inquired about the availability of medicines, and he also took feedback from the patients. The Corporation Commissioner also reached 18 number road near Anganwadi and Dhanwantri Medical Store of Supela Hospital and inquired about the stock of medicines and the demand for generic medicines and the demand for surgical items.

## BSP's Education Deptt observes Lord Baden Powell day

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Lord Baden Powell Day was celebrated at Sector 08 on February 22, 2022 under the auspices of Scouts and Guides of SAIL-BSP's Education department. Shikha Dubey, GM (Education), BSP was the Chief Guest while Chief District Commissioner for Scouts RJ Raju graced the occasion as Special Guest. The Guests were welcomed with scarves. Flag etiquette and flag prayer was followed by the Flag song.

Shikha Dubey, GM (Education), BSP garlanded the photo of Lord Baden Powell. In her address Dubey urged the students to keep the values of Scouts and Guides to the international level. He also highlighted the achievements of Scouts and Guides of BSP's Education department.

Student Pooja Verma gave a brief on the life of Lord Powell. All students and teachers took part in the Sarvadharma prayer reciting messages and shlokas. The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Sheetal Chandra Sharma, Teacher. Commissioner, Guide. All principals of different schools and DOC Scouts and Guides were present on the occasion. The programme was coordinated by Keertilata Deshmukh while the compering was done by Dr Sheetal Chandra Sharma, Teacher.

President Daya Singh further informed that during the musical evening, Holi of flowers was played with Lord Shri Krishna and Radha Rani. The artists beautifully played the characters of Radha Krishna. All the devotees were mesmerized and took a holy dip in the ocean of devotion in the musical evening of Shiva-Parvati. Daya Singh added that all the people who attended the sangeet-evening continued to dance throughout the programme. He appealed all the citizens to attend the marriage procession of Bhole Baba which will be taken out on March 01 on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Organizing Committee present as special guests. Shakuntala Sahu, Vinod Chelak and other BJP councilors were also present. Suman Kannoje compered the programme. President Daya Singh said that people from all sections including administration, doctors, lawyers, police, businessmen and women are excited about this event. Every year, all sections of the society are invited in the event. They have assured to attend Bhole Baba Ki Baarat on March 1. On Thursday, invitation cards were distributed among traders of textile, grain, bullion, electronics and other sectors.

Youth Wing President

Prashant Kumar, Vivek Kaushal, Rakesh Prashad, Pramod Singh and Women's Wing President Manju Mishra, Pushpa Singh, Sunita Devi, Rajwinder Kaur, Tarini Sharma, Hemlata Bisai, Saraswati Yadav, Laxmi Chauhan and other members of the committee are visiting door-to-door to invite the people in this grand devotional event.

event was the magnificent tableau of Bhole Baba and Maa Parvati. From Shiva-Parvati marriage to Tandava dance were beautifully displayed. Apart from this, the character of Sudama was also depicted in the tableaux.

Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal was present as the chief guest. He appreciated the event and appealed to the people to attend the marriage procession of Bhole Baba. Ratanlal Agarwal presided over the pro-

gramme. Congratulating the organisers for the successful event, he appreciated the programme and hoped that this year's event will be more magnificent and splendid. MIC member Lakshmi Pati Raju, Councilor Rakesh Sen, Bhojraj Sinha, Mahesh Verma, Shyam Sunder Rao, Veena Chandrakar, Piyush Mishra, Laxmi Sahu, Girija Banchar, Lakshmi Diwakar, Sarita Baghel, Pinky Sahu, Smita Dodke, Mukesh Agarwal were

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## Devotional music eve organised ahead of Mahashivratri

### Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 25: Carrying forward its tradition, Bol Bum Seva and Kalyan Samiti is celebrating the festival of Mahashivratri in a grand manner this year also. They take out a grand marriage procession of Lord Shiva, who according to the vedic scriptures married Goddess Parvathi on Mahashivratri.

The festivities began with a musical evening on Thursday. Devotees enjoyed the bhajans during this event which continued till late night. This colorful event was held at Agrasen Bhawan in New Khursipar. Bhajan Maestro Manoj of Delhi and his team conducted the bhajan sandhya. Bol Bum Seva and Kalyan Samiti President Daya Singh said that, like last year, this year also a grand concert was organized. The main attraction of this

event was the magnificent tableau of Bhole Baba and Maa Parvati. From Shiva-Parvati marriage to Tandava dance were beautifully displayed. Apart from this, the character of Sudama was also depicted in the tableaux.

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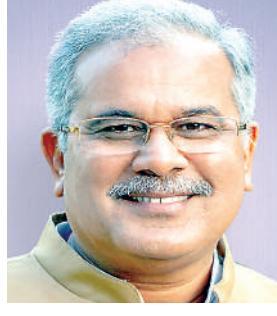
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Organizing

# ED, IT may target Ch'garh after UP polls: CM

● Cong to return to power in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Punjab



Navab Malik.

He said that there is no place for lack of consent in Modi-led government. Instead of treating the Opposition parties as part of democratic system, they treat them as enemies and it is the central insti-

tutions through which the score is settled. He anticipated that no sooner the UP elections are over, ED and IT may head towards Chhattisgarh.

Speaking further CM Baghel informed that the fourth leg of polls in UP has been completed and BJP is facing serious challenges of returning to power. Baghel believes that BJP is already out just after the fourth leg of polling in UP. CM Baghel claimed that Congress will return to power in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and would again come back to power in Punjab as well. He said that as per

the reports, there is lot of anger of people towards BJP. Citing about the Ukraine attack and problems to students from the state, CM said that students in large number are stuck in Ukraine and bringing them back safely tops priority. He informed that a nodal officer has been appointed in Delhi and he is constantly in touch and co-ordinating with the Foreign Ministry. As to how much will be loss on the economy, it is difficult to say at present, but after the UP polls there are chances that there will be massive hike in petrol and diesel prices.

## Annual report of CPSC presented before Governor



Raipur, Feb 25: The twentieth annual report (year 2020-21) of the commission was presented by the Chairman of Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission, Mr. Taman Singh Sonwani, to Governor Ms. Anusuya Uike at Raj Bhavan here. The Governor inquired about the activities of the Public Service Commission in detail. On this occasion members of the commission Mr. Sukrit Lal Saw, Dr. Motilal Bachkar, Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma, Dr. Sarita Uike, Secretary Mr. Jeevan Kishore Dhruv and Controller of Examination Mrs. Arti Wasnik were present.

The members of 'Pink-Gast' organised an awareness programme for promotion of various services provided by the new team formed for safety of women by the Raipur Police.

## AWARENESS PROG.



**ICICI Foundation is continuously supporting the govt: Singh Deo**



### In mobilizing resources to deal with Corona

**ICICI Foundation provided machines for Virology Labs at Jashpur, Balodabazar, Dantewada and Janjir**

Raipur, Feb 25: ICICI Foundation is cooperating in setting up of virology labs in four district headquarters of the state.

Virology Lab of Raipur Medical College.

Expressing his gratitude to ICICI Foundation for this cooperation, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo said that ICICI Bank has been supporting the state government since its inception in the fight against Corona. Even before this, ICU beds, oxygen extractor, dialysis machines and other resources have been provided by them in Covid hospitals. In the Corona period, resources of about Rs 6 crore have been provided by the ICICI Foundation and the bank. He said that the infrastructure of health services all over the world is changing due to the corona pandemic. Due to this global pandemic, major changes have taken place in the health sector

systems in a very short time. Health Minister Singh Deo said that in Chhattisgarh also all kinds of resources are being increased continuously for better medical facilities. He expressed the hope that the support of ICICI Foundation would continue to be provided in the future also for the strengthening of health services in the state.

Principal Secretary of Health Department Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Director of Health Services Mr. Neeraj Bansod and Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla joined the program online. During this, State Nodal Officer of Virology Lab Dr. Kamlesh Jain and senior officials of ICICI Bank were also present.

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has directed all the departmental secretaries to add maximum number of beneficiaries to the schemes run by their departments. He asked to complete the works of the general public related to the implementation of the schemes within the time-frame. Jain reviewed important schemes and programmes of the government by holding a meeting of secretaries of various departments through video conferencing at Mantralaya here today.

He directed the officers to ensure disposal of cases under the Public Service Guarantee Act within a time-limit. Jain asked the Revenue Department to expeditiously resolve other revenue cases including mutation, demarcation, di-



vision, diversion, providing new loan book and land ownership rights to agricultural lease holders in rural areas. He also directed to take action against the officials who are negligent in these works. He asked the Secretary, Revenue Department to take immediate action for simplification of the trans- feres.

The Chief Secretary gave instructions to make arrangements for freeholding of industrial land and land of urban bodies and to make arrangements for on-

line monitoring at the government level to solve the problems related to revenue, health, police, electricity and urban bodies. He asked to count OBCs in urban areas with the help of public representatives. Jain also reviewed the implementation of home delivery of all public utility services of the government.

Campaign for construction of toilets in all government schools of the state and additional purchase agreements with under-construction ethanol units attended the meeting.

## Resolve revenue cases within time-frame: CS

**CM asks CS to prepare an action plan**

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has given instructions to prepare an action plan for scientific and systematic use of cow urine in agriculture sector in Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister has directed Chief Secretary to prepare an action plan within two weeks regarding the possibilities of scientific use of cow urine in agriculture after holding discussion with the agricultural scientists, farmers using cow urine instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and experts of Kamdhenu University.

There is a gradual decrease in soil fertility with the continuous use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. Besides, excessive use of chemicals in agriculture

is also adversely affecting the health of the general public. The use of Vermi Compost and Super Compost manufactured in the Gauthams of the state has shown positive results. Chhattisgarh is heading towards organic and regenerative farming", said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Cow urine has a good fertilizer value and can be used as an alternative to toxic chemicals in agriculture. There are examples of successful use of cow urine in some places of the state itself, he added. Chief Minister Baghel also stressed on the need of collecting researches conducted in the country on this topic so far, before promoting the use of cow urine on a large scale.

## National voter awareness competition till March 15

### Competition in five categories

#### Collector directs officers for promotion

Raipur, Feb 25: In compliance of the letter of Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh Raipur, Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the officials regarding the promotion of National Voter Awareness Competition. The Collector has written

a letter to the Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Raipur and the Nodal Officer (SVEEP) and the Electoral Registration Officer in this regard.

The Collector informed that the Election Commission of India, New Delhi has launched a national campaign on the title "My Vote is My Future - Power of One Vote" based on voter awareness for all the citizens of the country to demonstrate the importance of each vote through

creativity. This competition has been proposed by the commission from 25 January to 15 March 2022 in 5 categories such as Quiz, Video Making, Poster Design, Singing and Slogan. Every participant interested in participating can send his/her creativity in the above categories directly to the Election Commission of India on the e-mail id: contest@eci.gov.in by the stipulated date. SVEEP District Nodal Officer, Mayank Chaturvedi has

asked the District Education Officer, Nagarjuna Government Science College and the officer-in-charge of Nalanda campus to make publicity regarding this competition through various mediums to ensure maximum participation. He also said that apart from notice boards of colleges and schools, the information of the said competition should be shared among various groups of teachers, principals and students.

## Coronavirus: 233 new cases in Ch'garh, one death

Raipur, Feb 25: Chhattisgarh on Thursday reported 233 new COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 11,50,323, while one death increased the toll to 14,023, an official said. The state's positivity rate stands at 0.91 per cent, he said. The re-

covery count reached 11,34,239 after 30 patients were discharged from hospitals and 430 others completed their home isolation during the day, due to which the state's active tally now stands at 2,061. "Raipur recorded 53 cases, followed by Balodabazar

38, Jashpur 17, Durg 16, Bilaspur 15, Raigarh eight, Korba five and Janjir-Champa three, among other districts. Three districts did not report any case during the day," the official said. As 25,671 swab samples were examined during the day, the

COVID-19 test count in the state went up to 1,70,27,981, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,50,323, new cases 233, death toll 14,023, recoveries 11,34,239, active cases 2,061, tests so far 1,70,27,981.

## Golden Jubilee conference of insurance employees from today

### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union will be organising 50th annual golden jubilee conference of insurance employees from February 26 to 28 at Dudhadhari Satsang bhawan, Raipur.

On completion of 50 years of divisional organisation of insurance employees, the preparation for organising the golden jubilee conference is going on with much enthusiasm. Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union, General Secretary, Com. Surendra Sharma said that leaders of national and regional level insurance employees union along with Raipur division will participate in the event. In the conference the central government decision to release LIC IPO will be strongly opposed.

Chief Guest of the function will be Com. V Ramesh, President, All India Insurance Employees Association. The event will be inaugurated by AIIEA, General Secretary, Com. Shrikant Mishra. Special Guests to be present on the occasion will be AIIEA, Treasurer, Com. BS. Ravi, CZIEA, General Secretary, Com. Dharamraj Patra, AIIEA, Vice President, Com. V Sanyal, CZIEA, President, Com. N Chakraborty and Regional Women Coordinator, Com. Usha Parginha will be present.

## 'Karmaanta-2022' day-1 goes live with a bang

### With the theme 'Decipher the Enigma'

Raipur, Feb 25: Indian Institute of Management Raipur kick started its flagship annual management and cultural fest Karmaanta-2022 on February 25 with the theme "Decipher the Enigma". The fest promises to be a Mega conclave of business acumen and cultural heritage and aims to emerge as the biggest and magnificent B-school event of the year. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, Guest of Honor Kavita Srivastava, Deputy general manager, Regional Head, Union Bank of India, Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur and Prof. R.K. Jana, Chairperson, Student Affairs Committee, IIM Raipur. Prof. R.K. Jana introduced the

guests to the proceedings of the event. He wished the participants the best for various competitions and advised them to make use of the platform to build a network of talented and ignited minds, which would be of great help in future. This was followed by a lamp lighting ceremony.

Dr. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur expressed his views on how management fests are a great avenue to learn with fun. He induced the students with enthusiasm to participate in the events and make the fest a great success. He encouraged everyone to be ready for the challenges of the hybrid business environment from new possibilities and models will arise. The Chief Guest Durga Shanker Mishra began his address by thanking IIM Raipur for the invitation. He shared that the country is changing, which presents an opportunity for the students

to develop a new India. India witnessed tremendous growth in the last decade. He gave the example of the Government of India providing housing to 1.12 crore Indians via the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission. He further added that India is the land of possibilities, from facing shortages of PPE Kits and other medical equipment, we have become the world's leading manufacturer and our products are now being supplied everywhere in the world. He continued that currently we are in, "Amrit-kaal"- The period of nectar and these upcoming years are the foundation years of development in the Vision 2047 and students will have to play a huge role in driving the economy and future of the country.

Students should identify their hidden potential and think out of the box to make living easy for themselves and others.

The Guest of Honor Kavita Srivastava motivated students to be aware of their goals, follow their heart and hook themselves through power which will lead to a positive life. One should respect their decision, mold it and use it for their self development. The inaugural ceremony was drawn to a close with a vote of thanks by Prof. R.K. Jana.

Day 1 witnessed panel discussions on the topic 'Brand Building' which was moderated by Prof. Damini Saini, Asst. Professor - HRM & Organizational Behavior, IIM Raipur. She gave a brief introduction to this interesting topic and initiated the discussion.

Vijay Mishra, President, H&R Johnson, India emphasized on the need to create segments and decide the target segment. Companies should continuously invest on building a brand to ensure a sustainable growth of the

business. Pareekh Jain, CEO, EIR said that the B2B industry is getting into brand management. Costs can be lowered by analyzing the brand performance. He also encouraged students to focus on personal branding as it will increase the chances of being hired by the top companies. Chetan Chichra, Director, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP highlighted the emergence of the huge wave of entrepreneurship in India.

Companies should create a disruption to survive the competition in the market. A brand should represent the values of an organization. Harsh Pannani, Consultant, Icrt shared his insights on perception management which creates a lot of impact in the mind of the consumers. Focus should be on the niche market and not on the larger market. Clearly defined categories and sub-categories will enable well-targeted brand positioning.

## Pamper yourself daily with nutrition of aromatic Kesar Bath





# Thadpathra to be developed as tourist destination

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 25: Village Panchayat Thadpathra of Gaurela block, will be developed as a tourist destination, as per the instructions of District Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary who reached Thadpathra and discussed with the local Baiga tribals, the potential of the village site to be developed into a future tourist spot. Thadpathra would establish its identity as a tourist destination in the times to come, the Collector said and asked the Chief Executive Officer of Janpad Panchayat Gaurela to prepare an estimate for developing Thadpathra as a tourist destination.

The Collector asked to develop the proposed tourist place according to tribal culture, so that urban tourists can have a pleasant experience of the natural environment



here. The collector discussed with the local tribals and appealed for their cooperation in developing Thadpathra as a tourist destination.

The Collector gave instructions to build a kitchen garden and a compound in the school premises and inquired about the attendance of teachers and children and inspected the attendance register. She herself tast-

ed the food served in the Anganwadi and school and checked the quality by tasting the food herself. Collector Ms. Choudhary also inspected the construction of road from Thadpathra to Keno Vachi under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and directed the concerned officer to pay special attention to its quality and complete it in the next three months.

The Collector also visited the silk center and fisheries center in village Girwar and the land selected for horticulture development in Sarabahara and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers. During the inspection, Chief Executive Officer Shri Yashpal Singh, Assistant Director Horticulture Shri TR. Dinkar and other officials were present.

## Air Force Recruitment guidance program organized in Simga Balak School



Simga, Feb 25: A Indian Air Force Recruitment Guidance Program was organized under the joint aegis of Air Force Selection Center Bhopal and District Employment Office Balodabazar in Boys High school, Simga. BR Patel, District Employment Officer, and Manorama Bhagat presided over the programme and as special guests, Skill Development Department representative Kunjan Kumar Pandey and Principal of the institution Mr. J.L. Gardner were present. Sergeant Amit Kumar Corporal RP Singh from Airman Selection Center Bhopal was present as guide. Sergeant Amit Kumar, while first throwing light on the history of the Air Force, said that the Air Force was formed on 08.10.1932 and after independence in 1948 and 1965 has shown its prowess in the wars of 1971 and 1999, and during the Air Strike and Surgical

Strike, the force has proved its strength to the whole world. He informed the students in detail about the educational physical and mental qualifications for recruitment in the Air Force. On this occasion B. R. Patel Assistant Director asked the students to make Air Force a part of their career in future, while District Employment Officer Manorama Bhagat and other officials briefed the students about the selection procedure. On this occasion Lecturer A. O. Sharma, Kuldeep Sahu, Bhumika Kaushik, Sadna Yadav, Kuldeepak Sahu, Dr. Vijay Kaushal, Gajendra Sahu, Durgesh Indoreja, Digeshwar Dhruv, Pankaj Kurre, Preeta Vaidya Khomeshwar Deshlehar, Pooja Yadav, Shubham Singh were present. The program was thanked by the principal of the institution, Mr. J.L. Mali. A large number of students were present on the occasion.

## World Thinking Day celebration held at DAVPS Bacheli

Bacheli, Feb 25:

The glorious birth anniversary of Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife Lady Olave Baden Powell founder of the Girl Guides Movement was celebrated with great honour by the DAVians of Bacheli.

At the very outset the Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma lighted the lamp and paid ceremonial homage by garlanding the Portrait of Lord Baden Powell. Thereafter, the Scout and Guide Incharge



## More than 22000 kids yet to be vaccinated for Covid-19

Dhamtari, Feb 25:

The State and District Administration had, instructed the vaccination against Covid 19, for children of age group 15-17, but the target is far away from the mark, as more than 22000 of children of the above age group are yet to be vaccinated.

The health department has to take long strides to complete the target and officials are finding the target, tough to be accomplished, owing to the time period.

Here it takes a mention that the district recorded more than 31 thousand 371 positive patients to the pandemic of the century, which also includes children. According to reports, the target for vaccinating children in num-

bbers was 48 thousand 396, of which 35 thousand 494 have been given the first dose, while only 25 thousand 994 children were administered the second and final dose. The children left to be inoculated for both the first and second dose of the diseases are posing threat as the third wave of the diseases is yet to wrap itself to extinction.

Mrs. Jolly Thomas, addressed the gathering with a short review of the life of Lord Baden Powell and Lady Olave Baden Powell.

Scouts and Guides, Cubs and Bulbuls of DAV Public School, Bacheli along with the teaching faculty participated in the celebration which was also observed as "World Thinking Day". The celebration ended by commemorating the inspiring quotes of Lord Baden Powell - "The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness in the lives of others".

## What officer says

In vaccination speed and target completion, Dhamtari district is on an upper scale, and in order to safeguard against the disease both Covid guidelines and vaccination for children are being done and followed. Dr. JP Diwan-Nodal Officer.

## Farmers agitate against electricity board alleging power cuts and extortion

Fingeshwar, Feb 25: Angry farmers surrounded Kaundkera electricity department along with Congress President Rupesh Sahu, and demanded the removal of two employees and smooth power supply. Fingeshwar Block Congress Committee President Rupesh Sahu said that JE Lokesh Thakur extorts lakhs of rupees in the name of getting electricity theft and BJP-minded office-bearers are defaming the image of the Congress government.

Sahu also said that there is anger among the farmers regarding corruption in the electricity department, due to this



outrage; a large number of farmers of the area are demanding the dismissal of JE and removal of two employees. At the same time, the villagers said that the officials of the electricity department warn the consumers by showing the fear of fake lawsuits by the employ-

ees, due to which there is a lot of resentment in the rural areas.

Along with this, the farmers said that they have been taken of Rs 6000 for temporary connection against the employees of the electricity department and for the survey, employee Panna

Chandrakar mishandles the consumers and farmers by consuming alcohol while on duty, they alleged.

Block President Rupesh Sahu further said that, no

matter who is the government, injustice will not be tolerated, this is the core ideology of our party. Rupesh Sahu Ramgulal Sahu Dongar Singh Markam Karim Khan Komal Sahu Tarighat Durga Prasad Sinha Mukesh Bharti Dekeshwar Tandon Bhagirathi Saha Tikam Tarak Rohit Sahu Devi Sahu Dev Prasad Baghel Devendra Sahu Skumar Saha Kiran Tandon Mukesh Mandal Bhagwat Sahu Sarpanch Deori Netram Sinha Dhaneshwar Sahu Digesh Sahu Deputy Sarpanch Jagmohan Yadav Manoj Sonwani Bhushan Sen Pritam Ghritlhare Shiv Sahu

ha yatra' will be taken out in the city in the evening and taking a de-tour of city it will conclude at Shri Vireshwar Mahadev Temple.

With 'Mahashivratri' falling on Tuesday, there will be combined recital of 'sunderkand' in city's ancient Lord Hanuman Temple from 8:00 pm and on the final day ie March 2, a massive 'Bhandara' will be organised and programme will conclude. President of the trust Ram Kumar Singh informed that this is the third year of organisation of this programme and in this people are enthusiastic about and preparations are going on in full swing.

## Vice-Chancellor pay visit to the Department of Physical Education

On occasion of Mahashivratri, five-day programme will be organised for 'Tapaswi' Sant Rukkh Baba Mahotsav in the city and preparations for this Mahotsav are in full swing. It is worthwhile to mention here that it is due to 'meditation' (Taap) by Baba the Goddess Narmada originating from Khaira (Chaknar), the Shiv devotees will carry sacred water from Narmada on Feb 26 and reach Khairagarh on foot. After this they will perform 'Jalabhishek' to Lord Shiva at 'Siddhpeeth' and with this will start the pro-



gramme. On Feb 27, the Ramayan Mandalis will be felicitated in the temple and on Feb 28, the sacred idol of Lord Shiva 'Parthiv Shivling' will be constructed amidst chanting of

# Closing ceremony of workshop on animal cell culture at CU

Bilaspur, Feb 25:

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) 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 Alok Kumar Chakrawal, the university is moving towards setting new standards.

The closing ceremony of the seven-day National Workshop organized from Feb 16 to 22 on Animal Cell Culture took place in Department of Biotechnology, Guru Ghasidas University. In



this workshop the participants were trained about various technical aspects and animal cell culture based experiments. Applications were received from different parts of the country in the workshop, out of which 30 participants were selected. Apart from laboratory based training, various eminent scientists from India and abroad have

delivered their expert lectures in this workshop. Vice-Chancellor has congratulated the participants and emphasized that there is a need to organize such workshops again and again to inculcate skills in the students. This will increase the employability of the students. Human health disorders are closely understood through cell culture based experiments, and many drugs and treatment modalities are assessed. Animal cell culture techniques are very useful for research development in the field of biomedical treatment. Many successes have been achieved in the testing and treatment of many diseases with this technology in the country and abroad. These diseases include cancer, diabetes, genetic diseases, infections, auto immune disorders etc. This workshop has received financial support from the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The coordinators and secretaries of this workshop were Dr. Dhananjay Shukla and Dr. Naveen Vishwakarma.

## Workshop organized to develop schools as model schools



Sukma, Feb 25: With the aim of developing the schools of the district as model schools, a workshop was organized by selecting institutions under all the 27 clusters, here at Swami Vivekananda Auditorium Sukma, in which discussions were held on making each school a model school under the cluster. In this workshop, Block Resource Coordinator Alfred Suna, Assistant Development Block Education Officer Praful Daniel and all the cluster coordinators and teachers of all the selected schools were present. Along with this, program leader of Piramal Foundation-NITI Aayog Mustafizur Rahman, Gandhi Fellow Yogita and Kajal also participated. Keeping in mind the need to work on two dimensions model, each school was divided into two parts in the workshop. In the first part, various group activities were done regarding educational arrangements and activities, in which activities based on classroom process, children's parliament, intellectual development activities, visual reading, children's fair were performed. In the second part, activities focused on the basic facilities of the school like arrangement and management of smart class, building as learning aid, science lab, and library were discussed. In the workshop, all the cluster coordinators and teachers were motivated to guide on how the ideal school should be and to realize the concept of ideal school in all the schools of the district.

## Dhanwantari Medical Shop to be shifted



Khairagarh, Feb 25:

The working of Dhanwantari Medical shop in city will now be operational at Community Development Samiti, near the Nagar Palika. It is notable here that the state government is operating Dhanwantari Medical Shops with objective to provide medicines at reasonable rates to common men. It was about two months back, this Dhanwantari Medical Shop was started in the new complex at Fateh Maidan of Nagar Palika. But since it was far away from the main road, the people were not having information about it and were not so keen to purchase medicines from there. All this was having adverse effect on sale of medicines.

So in order to make the shop more easily accessible to people, it was decided to shift the medical shop to main road and now it will be shifted into a shop at Community Development Samiti building near Nagar Palika. For this the Community Development Samiti is being shifted to Annapurna Bhawan opposite Nagar Palika.

## To Community devp Samiti Bhavan to boost business

For better sales of medicines, Nagar Palika administration had directed the Civil Hospital management to prescribe medicines available in Dhanwantari medical shop to the patients visiting the hospital. But this was not having any effect on the health department. CMO informed that the BMO has once again being asked to prescribe medicines to patients available at Dhanwantari Medical Shop, so that they can avail benefit and save money.

## BRIEF

## Exam

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Administrative Services (Main) Examination 2021 will be conducted on March 20 and 21. Secretary of the Rajasthan State Public Service Commission HL Atal said that after detailed deliberations in the full commission meeting, the schedule of RAS (Main) Examination 2021 was decided.

## Leakage

**Noida:** Suspected leakage of PNG in Noida triggered panic in several residential sectors of the city adjoining the national capital, prompting the district administration to seek a report from the cooking gas distribution company IGL. Indraprastha Gas Limited, the supplier of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in the area, however, said its officials inspected the gas pipeline network.

## Rescued

**Jammu:** Two persons were trapped in flash-floods in river Tawi in Jammu, prompting police to launch an operation to rescue them. They said police acted after information was received at police station Bagh-e-Bahu regarding some people getting trapped in the flash-floods. Special police teams were constituted which swung into action swiftly and put in strenuous efforts, along with the help of teams of SDRF Jammu, to rescue.

## Booked

**Pune:** Pune police have registered an offence against seven Army personnel, including two officers, after a Naik-rank staffer accused them of allegedly attacking him, keeping him in confinement and harassing him physically and mentally. A defence statement, however, termed the complaint filed against the military personnel as "ill-motivated". Police said the alleged incident had taken place on July 6 last year with complaint.

## Inquiry

**Gurugram:** Haryana government has constituted a new enquiry committee to probe findings of one of its committees constituted earlier to probe administrative corruption. The fact came to light in an MCG house meeting, where the issue of alleged non-payment of bills of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste collection agency Pragati was raised. Municipal Commissioner Mukesh Ahuja informed that there were accusations.

## Duped

**Vidisha:** A man has cheated a woman in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh by claiming to be from PMO and promising to facilitate her medical student daughter's return from Ukraine. Shockingly, when the complainant called state government's general helpline seeking help for her stranded daughter, she was allegedly asked to contact "Ukraine police station." Vaishali Wilson, woman, lodged complaint with police station.

## Congress urges Chouhan to restore old pension scheme

### For MP Govt employees

**Bhopal, Feb 25 (PTI):**



Jaivardhan Singh

Congress leader Jaivardhan Singh on Friday said he has appealed to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to restore the old pension scheme for state government employees like Rajasthan did earlier this week. Speaking to reporters, Singh said the Congress will vociferously raise the issue and it will be a major poll plank in the 2023 state Assembly polls if the demand is not met. I have written to Shivraji regarding restoration of the old pension scheme. We are going to vociferously raise this issue in the budget session of the Assembly. Our leader Kamal Nathji is going to raise this issue and it

would be a major poll plank in the 2023 MP assembly polls if the demand is not met, Singh said. State government employees play a key role in the development of the state. They are feeling insecure with the new pension policy that came into force in 2005, he said. This is their reasonable demand, which should be met. The Congress will stand behind the employees (num-

bering in lakhs), who want restoration of the old pension scheme, the Congress MLA said.

Singh said he had raised this issue in the last budget session as well but was told that there was no proposal to restore the old pension scheme for employees hired since 2005. The budget session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly will begin on March 7. In a populist budget, the Congress government in Rajasthan announced the restoration of the old pension scheme for its employees appointed on and after January 1, 2004. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in his budget speech said that after 2004, a provision of contributory pension was done under the national pension scheme, but this has created a sense of insecurity among the state employees for post-retirement life.

## PROTEST BY MLA



RJD MLA Mukesh Raushan protest against decision to use helicopters to spot illegal liquor shops, during Budget session of Bihar Assembly, in Patna, Friday.

## Chanu's village still waits for drinking water supply

### Many children go to private schools in faraway places



Situation of village Nongpok Kakching in Manipur.

**Nongpok Kakching, Feb 25 (PTI):** The silver dust after the euphoria of the Tokyo Olympics success of Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has long settled in this tiny village made famous by the weightlifter. Now, as election fever hits here too, the roadside camps of candidates belonging to parties such as Congress, BJP and JD(U) gather dust every time a vehicle passes through the pot-hole-riddled single lane inter-village road. For the locals, the upcoming assembly polls are the last opportunity before another cycle of "neglect" sets off, to remind all those who made tall promises while felicitating Chanu to deliver, with drinking water supply and poor road condition topping the litany of woes. "In our village, we don't have drinking water supply, not even pipelines. So,

doesn't even have a single pipeline," lamented Mayanglambam Kennedy, president of Bright Star Union (BSU), a local youth club.

Like Chanu's family, others also buy drinking water with an average monthly bill of around Rs 500-Rs 700 depending on the number of members. They depend on water from community ponds and a nearby stream for other purposes. The village, which has around 85 households with nearly 300 voters comes under the Lamla constituency where five candidates belonging to BJP, Congress, Republican Party of India (Athawale), JD (U) and an Independent are in the fray. It goes to polls in the first phase on February 28.

While the thirst for drinking water supply hasn't been quenched so far, another issue that Tombi wants the next government to address as a top priority is improvement in the condition of the road that leads to Nongpok Kakching. The court granted liberty

## Former WB chief secy challenges transfer of CAT proceedings

### HC reserves order

**New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):**



Alapan Bandyopadhyay

to the parties for file short written submission by Saturday.

Bandyopadhyay had moved the Kolkata bench of CAT to challenge the proceedings initiated against him in a matter related to not attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of cyclone 'Yaas' at the Kalaikunda Air Force

Station on May 28 last year. The proceedings were initiated by the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievance and Pensions. Advocate Kartikey Bhatt, appearing for Bandyopadhyay, argued that the transfer order was passed in complete violation of the principles of natural justice, equity and fair play as he was not even granted a right to file his written objections and the Centre's plea was allowed on the very first day of its listing.

He argued that convenience of the officer has to be considered while issuing the order and the petitioner ordinarily and permanently resides in Kolkata and the entire cause of action occurred within the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Bench of CAT.

## Defeating BJP main aim: Bihar's Govt partner says in UP

**Ballia, Feb 25 (PTI):**



Mukesh Sahani addressing a rally in Ballia.

Mukesh Sahani, whose Vikashheel Insaan Party is an ally of the BJP in Bihar, has said that ousting the BJP from power in Uttar Pradesh is his main goal and called upon his party workers to support strong contenders from among the SP, BSP or the Congress in seats where they do not have a candidate.

"Our fight is with Delhi and our main goal is to provide reservation to the Nishad community."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah make the promise in every election, but they forget about it once election gets over," Sahani, a minister in the Bihar government, said.

"When we oust the Yogi Adityanath government

strong contenders from among the SP, BSP and the Congress in the seats where there is no candidate of our party," Sahani said. He said he has full confidence that once defeated in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will be compelled to give reservation to the Nishad community before the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

He said his party will oppose the BJP in 2024 if it fails to provide reservation to the community.

In response to a question, he said his party

## Allegations against Malik appear to be well-founded: court



Nawab Malik gets taken to a hospital for his medical check-up.

**Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTI):**

Prima facie, there are reasonable grounds to believe that allegations against Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik are "well-founded", observed

Special judge RN Rokade, designated to

hear matters related to the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), also said that sufficient time is required to be granted for the investigation of the offence and Malik's custodial interrogation was necessary.

The court on Wednesday remanded Malik, a senior NCP leader, in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till March 3. Its detailed order was made available on Friday.

Malik was arrested by the ED on Wednesday in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

"When we oust the Yogi Adityanath government

## Kathua set to become J-K's bamboo industry hub

**Jammu, Feb 25 (PTI):**



Bamboo artisans in Kathua.

year 2021-22, the officials said.

The department has sent nine local bamboo artisans to Assam for a 21-day capacity building and skill development training in bamboo craft, they said.

After getting trained in Assam, they are expected to act as catalysts by imparting training to the other interested local arti-

sants. According to the assistant director of Kathua handicrafts department, bamboo clusters will be opened in Dewal and Billawar under the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) for which survey is being conducted and camps organised to register artisans.

Bamboo is also called as 'wonder plant', 'green gold', 'emperor of grasses' and 'woods of the poor' because it is used by the people in their everyday life.

"From the past several years, bamboo is closely

interwoven with the life of

people in Kathua in sever-

al ways. It is used as a con-

struction material besides

for the production of

everyday utilities such as

basket, chair, table, brush,

almirah, bed and decorative items. The people also

earn their livelihood by

selling a number of bam-

boo artifacts," a unit hold-

er said.

The department of

handicrafts, Kathua, has

one advanced and three el-

ementary bamboo train-

ing centres. It also has a

bamboo common facility

centre and a showroom for

exhibition of artifacts,

they added.

Jabalpur, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Indian Railways' solar power plant set up near Bina station in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh has been shortlisted for an international award, an official said on Friday. The area where the plant operates falls under the West Central Railway (WCR).

"The solar power plant having an installed capacity of 1.7 megawatt has been operating since the last one-and-a-half years, supplying electricity directly to the traction system used to run trains," WCR's chief public relations officer, Rahul Jaipuriyar, told PTI.

This solar power plant is the first of its kind initiative of the Indian

candidates in 55-odd seats in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will realise that the Nishad community does not support it anymore," he told reporters here.

"Removing the BJP

from power in the ongoing

Uttar Pradesh assembly

elections is the main aim.

We have asked our party

office-bearers to support

now we are contesting on

55-56 seats," he said.

## Railways' solar power plant shortlisted for international award



Solar panels near Bina railway station in MP.

Railways to promote the use of green energy, he said.

The International Union of Railways recently shortlisted this green initiative of the Indian Railways for an award in 'Best Use of Zero-Carbon Technology Category', he said, adding that the other two which are in the race

to win this award are railways of east Japan and South America.

The International Union of Railways, a worldwide railway organisation based in France, will give international sustainable railway awards in various categories in June 2022, Jaipuriyar said.

## BRIEF

## Divorce

**Los Angeles:** Kim Kardashian has asked a court to ignore Ye's attempts to slow down their divorce and end their marriage as soon as possible. She filed documents in Los Angeles Superior Court in US saying Ye, who legally changed his name from Kanye West, in his own recent filing, began adding conditions to the divorce that would mean changing the couple's prenuptial agreement, and is seeking protections that are unnecessary.

## Tribute

**Lahore:** A prestigious Pakistani institution here held a special concert to pay a musical tribute to legendary Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar. The rendition of the music legend's iconic songs resonated through the Bukhari Auditorium of Government College University (GCU) Lahore. The college's Nazir Ahmad Music Society organised concert to pay a tribute to the late singer. Society's in charge Kanita said music knows no boundaries.

## Juror

**New York:** A judge said that she'll question a juror under oath during a rare post-verdict evidentiary hearing about the answers he gave during jury selection for the criminal trial of Ghislaine Maxwell after he told news outlets that he didn't recall being asked about prior abuse. US District Judge Alison J Nathan said in a written order that she'll question juror March 8 at a public court hearing. She had rejected a request by Maxwell's attorneys.

## Fined

**Harare:** A retired US Army soldier was fined USD 400 and given a suspended jail sentence for attempting to carry a gun and ammunition onto a plane in Zimbabwe. Retired Sgt Maj Ronald Leon Johnson had been held in the renowned Chikurubi Prison for more than a week after he was arrested at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe Airport in the capital, Harare.

## Putin waves nuclear sword in confrontation with West



Warsaw, Feb 25 (AP):

It has been a long time since the threat of using nuclear weapons has been brandished so openly by a world leader, but Vladimir Putin has just done it, warning in a speech that he has the weapons available if anyone dares to use military means to try to stop Russia's takeover of Ukraine.

The threat may have been empty, a mere baring of fangs by the Russian president, but it was noticed. It kindled visions of a nightmarish outcome in which Putin's ambitions in Ukraine could lead to a nuclear war through accident

or miscalculation.

As for military affairs, even after the dissolution of the USSR and losing a considerable part of its capabilities, today's Russia remains one of the most powerful nuclear states. Putin said, in his pre-invasion address. Moreover, it has a certain advantage in several cutting-edge weapons. In this context, there should be no doubt for anyone that any potential aggressor will face defeat and ominous consequences should it directly attack our country. By merely suggesting a nuclear response, Putin put into play the disturbing possibility that the current fighting in Ukraine might

eventually veer into an atomic confrontation between Russia and the United States. That apocalyptic scenario is familiar to those who grew up during the Cold War, an era when American school children were told to duck and cover under their desks in case of nuclear sirens. But that danger gradually receded from the public imagination after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when the two powers seemed to be on a glide path to disarmament, democracy and prosperity. Before that, even young people understood the terrifying idea behind the

strategy of mutual assured destruction — MAD for short — a balance in nuclear capabilities that was meant to keep hands off each side off of the atomic trigger, knowing that any use of the doomsday weapons could end in the annihilation of both sides in a conflict. And amazingly, no country has used nuclear weapons since 1945, when President Harry Truman dropped bombs on Japan in the belief that it was the surest way to end World War II quickly. It did, but at a loss of about 200,000 mostly civilian lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Around the world, even today, many regard that as a crime against humanity and question if it was worth it. For a brief time after the war, the United States had a nuclear monopoly. But a few years after, the Soviet Union announced its own nuclear bomb and the two sides of the Cold War engaged in an arms race to build and develop increasingly more powerful weapons over the next few decades.

## COVID-19 response of Hong Kong and Singapore compared

Singapore, Feb 25 (AP):

Rivals Singapore and Hong Kong have become pandemic polar opposites, the former opting to live with the coronavirus and reopen to the world while the latter doubles down on zero-Covid and its international isolation.

For decades the two cities have jostled to be Asia's premier international business hub, offering low taxes, dependable legal systems and seamless global connections.

Both adopted strict suppression tactics when the pandemic emerged, closing borders to keep infections low within their densely populated territories. Now they present competing visions as they manage the

highly transmissible Omicron variant — with Hong Kong floundering under soaring infections while Singapore offers a pandemic exit strategy. In the heart of Singapore's financial district, analyst Camille Chautard sipped a coffee on a bench at Raffles Place during the busy lunchtime rush hour. "Now that it seems the new variant is less deadly, or at least the infections are less severe, it's probably a good time for Singapore to lead the way in the region and open up," she told AFP.

Earlier this week, health minister Ong Ye Kung said Singapore was moving closer towards normalcy, noting that "Omicron poses less of a risk". Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam

had a starkly different message. Announcing compulsory testing for all 7.4 million residents, the tightest social distancing rules to date and plans to isolate all those infected, she said the city must "win the war". (Singapore) is miles ahead of Hong Kong in terms of dealing with these waves and especially mitigating the impact of the pandemic," Karen Grepin, a public health expert at the University of Hong Kong, told AFP. The differences were clear on the streets this week. In Singapore, children are back in class, residents are free to gather in hawker centres or enjoy post-work drinks, and people fly in and out for business or pleasure.

Canada has become the first country to authorize use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine. Canadian regulators said Medicago's two-dose vaccine, now dubbed Covifenz, can be given to adults ages 18 to 64, but said there's too little data on the shots in people 65 and older.

The decision was based on a study of 24,000 adults that found the vaccine was 71% effective at preventing COVID-19 although that was before the omicron variant emerged. Side effects were mild, including fever and fatigue.

Medicago uses plants as living factories to grow virus-like particles, which mimic the spike protein that coats the coronavirus.

## PET FESTIVAL



A Sugar Glider sits on a bar ahead of a pet festival at a shopping mall in Banda Aceh, Indonesia on Friday.

## Sri Lanka to remain neutral in Russia-Ukrainian conflict

Colombo, Feb 25 (PTD):

economic impact on the island nation, which is already facing an acute forex crisis.

We are watching the situation (in Ukraine), but won't take sides. Each can have their own reasons... Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombage told reporters here.

He said the economic impact on Sri Lanka would be "severe" from the conflict. We will have to pay more for our fuel and gas, our tea market will get affected, Colombage said.

## Canada authorises first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine

Toronto, Feb 25 (AP):



GlaxoSmithKline, is added to the shots.

While numerous COVID-19 vaccines have been rolled out around the world, global health authorities are looking to additional candidates in hopes of increasing the worldwide supply.

Quebec City-based Medicago is developing plant-based vaccines against multiple other diseases, and the COVID-19 vaccine may help spur more interest in this new method of medical manufacturing. The virus-like particles platform allows Covifenz to be stored at normal refrigeration conditions from 2 degrees Celsius (35.6 degrees Fahrenheit) to 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Two doses of the vaccine are given in

tramuscularly 21 days apart. Covifenz gives the Canadian government an opportunity to drive COVID immunization from a home-developed vaccine. Its approval is a welcome event as 'one of our government's top priorities has been to reverse the 40-year decline faced by Canada's biomanufacturing sector,' Francois-Philippe Champagne, the country's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, said in a statement. Before Covifenz's approval, the Canadian government locked in mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna for 2022 and 2023. It has also signed supply contracts with Medicago, Novavax, Sanofi-GSK and others.

## For Taiwan, Russia's invasion of Ukraine feels far away



Taipei, Feb 25 (AP):

As Russia presses ahead with its attack on

drawn comparisons to Taiwan, another place that could face an invasion by its larger neighbour China. While similarities exist Taiwan is a democracy that has resisted threats from a more powerful authoritarian government the differences are much greater. For many on the island, the war in Ukraine, and war in general, feels far away. I think our situation is not very similar to Ukraine's, whether it's political or in terms of

think it's that dangerous. Taiwan, an island of 23 million people about 160 km (100 miles) off China's eastern coast, is self-ruled, but claimed by China.

## कार्यपालिय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, सजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

०७७४४-२२४०३०(०)

E-mail -eeraj-phe-cg@nic.in

//ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट//

//निविदा आमत्रण सूचना//

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र — “ए” में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजनानांदगांव के विभिन्न विकासखंडों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में UPVC/HDPE पाईप लाइन जोड़ने विधाने, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार सुधार कार्य, स्थीर रूप, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार के चारों ओर बांझेझावल निर्माण, सबर्नर्सिवल पंप का प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य, विद्युत विभाग (CSPDCL) से इलेक्ट्रिक कनेक्शन, इलेक्ट्रोलॉजिस्टर रूपाना, बलोरीनेटर रूप, धरों एवं सामाचरी संस्थानों में कार्यरत नल कनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि एवं अन्य समर्पण कार्य, टेरिटंग, ०३ माह का द्राघल रन, ०६ माह तक संचालन संधारणा का कार्य (सम्पूर्ण कार्य समाप्ती सहित, संलग्न शेड्युल अनुसार) की मुहरबंद निविदा एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 28.02.2022 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है तथा निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक 11.03.2022 (शाम ५:३० बजे) तक है।

क्र.	निविदा	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकासखंड	ग्राम / योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लाख में
1	485	93456	डोंगरगांव	जामसराकला, परना	128.74
2	486	93457	डोंगरगांव	पैरी, टेका	134.15
3	487	93458	डोंगरगांव	कोहका (मोहड़), बेंगड़ी, कविराज टोलांगांव	164.60
4	488	93459	मानपुर	खरों, दोखा, पेंदुर	102.07
5	489	93461	मानपुर	घोटिया	114.23
6	490	93462	मानपुर	हर्नी लकलका, कोंडटी, कनेली	74.13
7	491	93463	मानपुर	अड़जाल, मांडी	84.60
8	492	93465	मानपुर	खेरकट्टा, परलझारी, घोटिया	97.78
9	493	96466	मानपुर	मिवांग, एटर्गांव, वाको	111.06
10	494	93467	पांचाल फड़की	खवास फड़की, नवांगांव	129.63
11	495	93468	छुरिया	थैलीटोला	55.11
12	496	93469	छुरिया	सड़कलांगांव	62.80
13	497	93471	राजनांदगांव	अमलींडी	41.05
14	498	93471	राजनांदगांव	बरगाही (क)	92.79
15	499	93472	राजनांदगांव	बोर्डरीह	70.67
16	500	93473	राजनांदगांव	बहरामा	

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

G-68134/2

## Two dead as earthquake strikes Sumatra



A damaged house after a 6.2 magnitude earthquake in Kajai village, West Pasaman.

Jakarta, Feb 25 (AP):

At least two people died when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra island on Friday, with residents shelling loved ones to safety as buildings crumbled around them. The quake came just minutes after a less violent tremor as terrified residents had begun evacuating their houses.

"We all fled our home (after the first quake)," Yudi Prama Agustino, 36, told AFP. "I have a one-year-old baby, so in panic I pushed the stroller out of the house." The quake hit

the island's north at a depth of 12 kilometres (7.5 miles), about 70 kilometres from the town of Bukittinggi in West Sumatra province, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Agustino's hometown in Agam district is another 40 kilometres from Bukittinggi. "I noticed there was an earthquake because my kids' toys fell over. I panicked because there were also my in-laws in the house and they are quite old and sick," Agustino said of the first tremor that was recorded at 5.0 by USGS.

For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions, please visit our website [www.spcse.co.in/cspcl/tendernotices](http://www.spcse.co.in/cspcl/tendernotices).

-Sd- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (C & M) CSPCL, RAIPUR

PR/R/S/EM/WORKS/EE-1/TR-544/2022 Raipur Date- 24.02.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders for following EHV work on labour contract basis:

TR No

Name of work

EMD (Rs)

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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 326

## Be ready for high prices

Oil prices surged past USD 100 a barrel to hit their highest level for more than seven years after Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine. Global shares fell on worries of the possible impact of the conflict, but US tech stocks rebounded in late trading. Russia is the second biggest exporter of crude oil, and is also the world's largest natural gas exporter. Brent crude eased from USD 105 to USD 98 a barrel. Now, more than ever, there are concerns about oil and gas supply from one of the world's top producers. Price of fuels like petrol, diesel, CNG and LPG set to rise steeply once final round of assembly election ends in five states of India. Indians have to be ready to face high prices. Some have compared the situation with the 1973 Yom Kippur war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states. The war led to the Arab oil embargo for the Western world, which led to a sharp and shockingly high rise in prices compared to which this week's USD 104 for Brent couldn't even compare. In 1973, oil prices practically quadrupled over a few months. This week, they continued on an already established path, a path that, until now, had little to do with Russia. Demand for oil was so strong that prices would have to go further still to start affecting demand in any significant way. Just how high prices would need to go we have yet to see. But he also wrote that this was unlikely to happen because OPEC plus would step in to help. It was an interesting supposition in light of what OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia and with the UAE its staunch ally, has been doing over the past year: Both the energy minister of Saudi Arabia and his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates spoke recently to the media, signalling they had no intention to change anything about the OPEC plus pact and the schedule of adding 400,000 bpd to the monthly total production. Whatever happens in Ukraine, it does not seem to be sitting on the top of OPEC ministers' minds. To them, the global oil market is not in a deficit, and they are doing fine with output additions.

This stance is in contrast with the stance of consuming countries and the International Energy Agency which makes for truly interesting times in the oil world. As the world scrambled to establish a pathway toward a 'new normal' during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020, hope for a better, greener future blossomed. The unexpected interruption to the status quo and the hitherto unstoppable momentum of the carbon-based global economy seemed to present an unmissable opportunity to redirect the world's trajectory away from mutually assured industrial destruction to a greener, cleaner pathway wherein the goals set by the Paris climate accord were well within reach. The World Economic Forum argued that it was the perfect window for a 'great reset' of the current capitalist system to achieve unprecedented international cooperation for sustainable development around the world. Although high oil prices have the potential to incentivise new investment in oil and gas projects, renewables could ultimately benefit from the current situation. Rather than directly challenging renewables and slowing the energy transition, many energy industry analysts believe that the current high prices and the associated financial windfall could lead governments and oil majors to play the long game and further increase their investments in renewable energy, but it will take time, till then people will have to face high prices.

## Human trafficking narrative

The Supreme Court has dismissed a special leave petition which sought a stay on the release of Sanjay Leela Bhansali movie 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' starring actor Alia Bhatt. A Bench comprising Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice JK Maheshwari dismissed the special leave petition filed by a man named Babuji Shah claiming to be Kathiawadi's adopted son challenging Bombay High Court's order refusing to stay the release of the film. Advocate C Aryama Sundaram, representing Sanjay Leela Bhansali, dealt with the claim of the petitioners that the names of victims of assault could not be published. A teary-eyed Justice Banerjee said that she had respect for women who are pushed into prostitution. Recounting her days as head of the West Bengal Legal Services Authority and Chair of the Calcutta High Court Legal Aid Committee, she said, 'I had once come across a trafficked woman and I still get goosebumps. A 14 year old girl who could not manage meals was with an aunt who could not feed her. Then she was called to Mumbai for a job in a restaurant. She agreed to go to Mumbai to eat four square meals. Clients wanted to have unprotected relations with her. One of the clients took pity on her and then she was taken to a journalist and sent to an NGO. She contracted HIV too. She caught my hand and said,

'What wrong did I do?' This is the plight of a lot of people there. I don't look down upon any one' 'But I did not reveal the name of the victim or the village name,' she added. This proceeding shows emotional side of Supreme Court judge. This week, five girls and a boy, who were allegedly trafficked from Jharkhand's Sahibganj and Godda districts, were rescued from Delhi. The real Gangubai was a victim of human trafficking and later in life tried to improve her situation. Conviction rate in human trafficking cases has been consistently declining over the past four years, according to official data. Experts say inadequate support for victims is the primary reason for this, as more and more of them are turning hostile which is leading to a high number of acquittals in such cases. The film is an adaptation of chapters from Hussain Zaidi's book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai'. It is hoped that the bollywood film stories put human trafficking, particularly of minors in correct perspective in society rather than sensational narration.

## CENTRAL CHRONICLE, BILASPUR, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Street food

In most cities and towns though people go and have their food from hotels and restaurants many prefer having a snack or drink at food stalls, kiosks and vendors who cater delicious food items at no extra cost. The items made are often tasty and food lovers like to please their taste buds by indulging themselves at these vendors stalls on the street, tasting a variety of food of their choice. Though many of these are well maintained and gourmet-friendly some fail, especially because of lack of hygiene and also because food safety tips are not followed faithfully. In foreign countries, street food has been a part of city life and as rules, regulations and norms adhere to complaints regarding food poisoning, health problems and as such is less. In India, the streets of our towns and cities are studded and abuzz with street food vendors and stalls and foodies and tourists often make a beeline to these stalls to have a taste of the authentic taste of the food prepared there. They also swear that except for most of the street food vendors most maintain hygiene and cater fresh food, unlike costly restaurants, because for a street food vendor it is his livelihood and will never risk that with his business. Recently 'Eat Street - a night food court initiative', was inaugurated by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The Eat Street project was developed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.40 crore for the public to relish quality food at night. The food court will start its service at 10.30 pm after all the other hotels and restaurants in the city are closed. These street food hubs will be at the main centres of the city for the people to enjoy authentic quality food in a good and pleasant atmosphere. With the support of VMC, Eat Street is designed in a typical foreign style.

M Pradyu, via email

### Fraud in banks

A few days ago a General Manager of Bank due to misappropriation as well as connivance with fraudulent persons. Off and on frauds come to light and the modus operandi is same but every time name of party is different and fraud amount is different. The attitude of these officials are not upto the mark. They are not capable even to handle their seat and they are so much irresponsible that they do not care for the grievances of common man and one more grievance starts that why the common man had sent the representation for redressal of the problem. Sometimes even months are passed when you get the reply. Even the courts had passed structures against such erring officials and I quote it for ready Jammu and Kashmir High court commented that working of govt officials is not better than 'Kumbhkar' who is linked to non functioning of the departments and the same is applicable to the officials who are posted at Head Office of the banks. Punjab and Haryana high court commented that govt officials are meant to serve the public and not to rule the public and same is approved to Officials posted at Head Office of the bank. Allahabad high court delivered the judgement on the medical arrangements and commented that govt is running on Ram Bharose which is very much applicable to officials posted at Head Office of a bank. Punjab and Haryana high court commented on drug cases in Punjab where the government had not taken any action since long and commented that govt is in deep slumber and same is applicable to officials posted at Head Office of a bank who do not reply to letters of a common man not for months but even in some cases for years. If the frauds are to be prevented there is need of improvement in the functioning at Head Office level.

Yash Pal Kalhan, Jalandhar

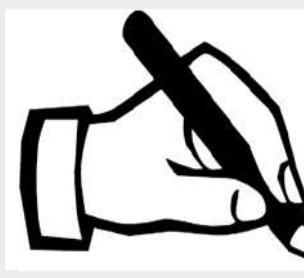
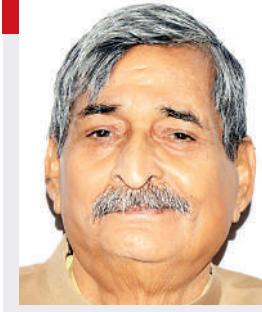
## LOOKING THROUGH TELESCOPE



Students look through a telescope during the festival of SCoPE for All (Science Communication Popularization and its Extension) at Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab.

## Reasons for thousands of Indian students studying in Ukraine

RK SINHA



The situation of war between Russia-Ukraine remains unceasing. Russia has attacked Ukraine. Due to this troublesome situation, a mounting challenge has also arisen in front of India. Thousands of Indian students pursue medical, dental, nursing, and other professional courses in Ukraine. In light of war between Russia and Ukraine, they want to leave and return home safely. The question is how many flights and land vehicles will have to be sent to bring such a large sum of Indian youths studying in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine? This is being discussed by the government at the top level and plans for the journey are being undertaken. Undoubtedly, this work needs to be done on a priority basis. Now that Air India is not owned by the Government of India, it remains to be seen how far the government's talks with the new owner of Air India, i.e. Tata Group, have reached to bring the stranded Indians home from Ukraine. In such a situation, when Russia has deployed 1.25 million fully-equipped soldiers for the war with Ukraine, will the Government of India take the services of airlines other than Air India for this vital mission?

If we start from the year 2014 itself, then India has utilized all available resources to bring back Indians trapped in other countries safely. During the Afghanistan crisis, thousands of our citizens were brought back safely. Indian Air Force and Air India aircraft

continued to bring Indians home from Afghanistan. They were brought to Delhi or other parts of the country via Tajikistan and Qatar. Before this, five Indians, who had been in jail in Togo since 2013, were safely released and brought home. Similarly, in 2015, the Government of India, taking prompt action, brought thousands of Indians stranded in Yemen to their homeland safely. They were taken to Djibouti from the Indian Navy warship INS Sumitra. These people were brought back to India by four planes from Djibouti. These are all examples of recent times which prove that India is capable of bringing back its citizens stranded in other countries. The Government of India is not ready to show its complacency like the previous governments in such situations.

Meanwhile, the central and state governments have to urgently consider why such a large number of Indian students go to Ukraine. Every year the Government of India has to spend billions of rupees in foreign exchange due to their going there or to other countries to study. After all, when will we be able to open a sufficient number of colleges in our country which provide high standard degrees of medical, engineering and other courses. One must also think long and hard about the level of education in India and why it is so that every year lakhs of students go abroad for quality education? Why are we not able to provide good

faculty and other facilities in our educational institutions? Before proceeding, we must take a look at some statistics. During 2018-19 from India, 6.20 lakh students went outside India to study. These figures have been published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In 2017-18, 7.86 lakh students went outside the country. Most of them go to other countries only to get a Bachelor's degree. That results in a massive outflow of foreign exchange. It is understandable if Indian students enrol in universities like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or Colorado in the US for specific research etc. Everyone knows that some of America's universities have established themselves as the best educational institutions in the world due to their excellent faculty and other facilities. The same can be said about universities like Oxford and Cambridge in Britain.

In some institutions, even Nobel laureates teach. Thus, there is no harm in enrolling in them. Our premier educational institutions like IIT and Delhi University also attract many foreign students. Many students come to Delhi University from African countries like Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, Fiji, etc. The President of the African nation of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika, was a student of Shri Ram College of Commerce and Delhi School of Economics of Delhi University. The 36th Prime Minister of Nepal, Baburam Bhattarai, studied at the Capital's School of Architecture and Planning (SPA). The students studying here have contributed immensely to the construction of skyscrapers, highways, flyovers, bridges, etc., in the country. It was established in 1959. These places also witness a flock of students from Iran, Singapore, Malaysia, African countries. There is no problem if foreigners come to India's best Delhi universities and our youth go to world-class

institutions. But, if Indian youth start moving abroad for courses like hotel management, MBA, or general Bachelor's degree, then it will be considered a serious matter.

It should be known that we will be able to stop the youth from going out of India to study only when we have excellent educational institutions here. Indian students particularly look to pursue medical education in Ukraine. This is primarily because the tuition fees of private medical colleges back home are more expensive than those of the medical colleges in Ukraine. Other than being recognised by the World Health Council, the Ukrainian medical degrees are recognised by the Indian Medical Council, Pakistan Medical, and Dental Council, European Council of Medicine and General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Ukraine not only offers a low-cost MBBS education to the students but the cost of living here is also much affordable than in other countries of the west. The students can live in Ukraine comfortably without being stressed about their financial condition. The Russia-Ukraine war is giving us an opportunity to learn a lot. Surely, we will be able to get our citizens out of Ukraine. Our present government has that capability and might. But we will have to arrange the best education in our own country so that our youth can get admission to good colleges and universities. We have to connect our meritorious youth to the field of education. They also need to be inspired to become teachers and help to provide better facilities. Apart from this, adequate emphasis will also have to be given to research-related work. India needs to open its eyes and strive to improve its academic standards to retain the country's youth and prevent brain drain.

RK Sinha is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP.

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Priyashmita@priyashmita

When you use a bad event, to diss others (not related to that bad event), then you don't really care about the bad happening. You just use an excuse to diss people. So don't make it like u care. When u don't, u speak of others unrelated to it.



Aditya@AdityaRajKaul

India's non-alignment stance may sometimes be frustrating but is often a strategically correct course in conflict. Europeans questioning India's silence on Russian aggression should look back to see if they spoke against Pakistani terror in Kashmir or China's aggression in Galwan.



Harsh@harshmadhusudan

Let there be no doubt. What has happened will make life more difficult for Indian diplomacy. It is high time we turbocharge our defense indigenisation. We cannot have completely normal relations with both Russia and the US/EU/JP the way things are going: whoever's fault it maybe.

Shreela Roy@sredits

This beauty has been handed down by three generations.



Natasha@natashamalpani

35 years ago, we couldn't have imagined: -startups would be acquiring mature companies. -startups creating new categories of demand could list as multibillion dollar companies. -the war for talent would lead to rethinking the way we work. The future is here, and it's in India?

N. C. Asthana@NcAsthana

Political expedience means leaders in govt can't afford to tell the dumb in the public that their expectations are both unrealistic and extra-legal. That too during elections? However, it does not change the harsh legal reality. Govt rules over duffers but need not tell them so.

## BRIEF

## Supply



## Oil retreats, still above USD 100

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

International oil prices retreated from an over seven-year high but was still above USD 100 a barrel and continue to pose threat to India's inflation rate and current account deficit. While there are no supply concerns as the oil route remained open, consumers will feel the pinch when PSU oil firms start passing on the increase in international rates through a revision in petrol and diesel prices, which have been on a pause for over three-and-a-half-months in view of elections in Uttar Pradesh and four other states.

The government is "closely monitoring the situation" and will "take appropriate steps as and when required", a top official said. Brent crude oil surged past USD 105 per barrel on Thursday for the first time since August 2014, following



Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It however retreated and fell to USD 101 on Friday. It was trading at USD 101.93 a barrel at 1330 hrs. The spike was a result of fears in the market of Russian supplies to Europe and rest of the world being impacted, a trader said adding the risk premium on the oil price right now is around USD 10-15. Industry sources said the gap between the retail selling price of petrol and diesel and the cost is well over Rs 10 per litre,

which when passed on after completion of the elections next month would result in a spike in the inflation rate that is already above the RBI's tolerance level of 6 per cent. Besides, high oil prices risk impacting the current account deficit as India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and will have to pay extra because of higher prices. Morgan Stanley said higher oil prices are negative for India, which is the world's third-largest oil importer. Great

## As rupee rebounds 32 paise, gold falls Rs 1,274

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

The rupee recovered 32 paise to 75.28 in early trade on Friday tracking positive domestic equities and stronger Asian peers.

The local currency opened on a strong note at 75.31 to a dollar at the interbank foreign exchange market and inched higher to 75.28, registering a gain of 32 paise over its previous close.

Forex traders said markets will continue to remain volatile, and investors continued to keep a watch on the latest developments in eastern Europe.

On Thursday, the rupee tanked 99 paise to close at 75.60 against the US dollar, as riskier assets took a hit after Russia launched military operations against Ukraine. Paring previous



gains, gold prices in the national capital on Friday declined by Rs 1,274 to Rs 50,913 per 10 gram reflecting overnight fall in international market along with rupee appreciation.

He added that traders and investors continue to reassess the situation surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as further sanctions against Russia.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 52,187 per 10

gram in the previous trade. Silver also plummeted by Rs 2,219 to Rs 64,809 per kg, compared with the previous close of Rs 67,928 per kg.

The rupee appreciated by 34 paise to close at 75.26 against the US dollar on Friday in line with regional currencies, following a retreat in crude oil prices and a rebound in domestic equities.

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot prices for 24 carat gold in Delhi fell Rs 1,274 reflecting overnight decline in COMEX gold prices along with rupee appreciation."

According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfill their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the non-power sector.

"This (Russia-Ukraine)

military conflict, which has increased energy prices globally, will reduce the propensity to import coal by power plants and will further hamper the supply of fuel to captive power plants and industries like steel, aluminium from state-owned Coal India, ICPPA said on Friday.

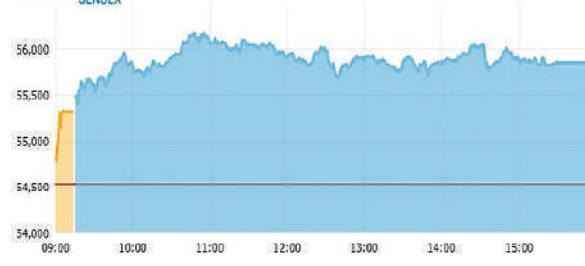
According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfill their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the non-power sector.

"This (Russia-Ukraine) crisis has increased energy prices globally and that reduces the propensity to

## Sensex, Nifty rebound tracking recovery in global peers

Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTD):

S&amp;P/BSE SENSEX



A day after suffering their worst session in about two years, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded up to 2.5 per cent on Friday, in line with higher global markets as the US and allies put up a united front to punish Russia with harsher sanctions over the Ukraine conflict.

Snapping their seven-day losing streak, the BSE Sensex climbed 1,328.61 points or 2.44 per cent to settle at 55,858.52, while the NSE Nifty went soared 410.45 points or 2.53 per cent to 16,658.40.

Barring HUL and Nestle, all Sensex shares closed with gains — with Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Tech Mahindra surging as much as 6.54 per cent.

On Thursday, the Sensex had crashed over 2,700 points — its biggest single-day plunge in about two years; and the Nifty had

nosedived 815 points.

Spooked by the Ukraine crisis, foreign institutional investors further offloaded shares worth a net Rs 6,448.24 crore in the Indian capital markets on Thursday, exchange data showed.

Asian shares edged significantly higher on Friday, driven by a US rebound, as more sanctions were announced against Russia for its military actions in Ukraine. France's CAC 40 edged up 0.6% in early trading to 6,562.96, while Germany's DAX rose 0.2% to 14,083.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gained

1.2% to 7,295.52.

But US futures augured a less upbeat start for New York markets, with the future for the benchmark S&P 500 down 1.2% while the contract for the Dow industrials was 1% lower. In Asian trading, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 surged 2.0% to finish at 26,476.50. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost some of its earlier gains to close 0.1% higher at 6,997.80. South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.1% to 2,676.76. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.6% to 22,767.18, while the Shanghai Composite rose 0.6% to 3,451.41.

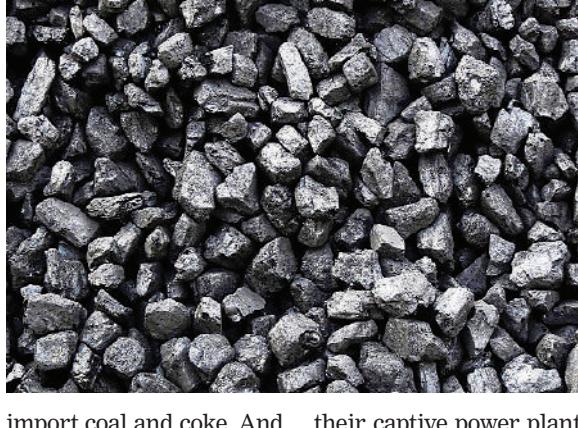
## Russia-Ukraine crisis to further hamper coal supply

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

The Russia-Ukraine military conflict, which has increased energy prices globally, will reduce the propensity to import coal by power plants and will further hamper the supply of fuel to captive power plants and industries like steel, aluminium from state-owned Coal India, ICPPA said on Friday.

According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfill their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the non-power sector.

"This (Russia-Ukraine) crisis has increased energy prices globally and that reduces the propensity to



import coal and coke. And it will further complicate the matter and it is going to hamper supplies to both CPPPs and industries from Coal India," ICPPA Secretary General Rajiv Agarwal told PTI.

The industries like aluminum, cement, steel, sponge-iron, paper, fertilizer, chemical, rayon and

their captive power plants (CPPPs) are mostly dependent on domestic coal.

"From the last six-seven months we (CPPPs) have been getting a very low supply of coal. Because of this crisis power plants... will have lower propensity to import and hence they will pressurise the system to give more and more coal

This adverse supply situation that started around August/September last year became further arduous as coal stock at many plants plunged below critical level.

The demand-supply ratio had shown signs of improvement during November. However, the supply to the NRS consumers, including CPPPs, has plummeted once again despite October-March being the highest production months for Coal India Ltd.

## Ministry mulling PLI scheme for chemical sector

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):



Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said the ministry is planning to bring production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the chemical sector to boost domestic production and exports.

Addressing a seminar, the minister said the government has launched PLI schemes for different sectors to make Indian self-reliant.

"We are thinking how to bring PLI scheme in the chemical sector. We have started working in this direction," said Mandaviya, who heads the health ministry as well.

Last year, the government launched a PLI scheme for 13 sectors with commitments of financial outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore in the 5 years starting 2021-22. Mandaviya was addressing a seminar 'Industry Connect 2022:

Industry and Academia Synergy' organised by his ministry in association with Central Institute of Petrotechical Engineering & Technology (CIPET) and FICCI. Mandaviya stressed on greater synergy among the government departments, CIPET, industry and academia for the holistic development of this "sunrise" sector.

The minister said the sector has an important role to play in helping the country become a USD 5 trillion economy.

The chemical and petrochemical sector provides raw materials to many industries, he added.

Mandaviya emphasised on the need to make India a global manufacturing hub for meeting domestic demand as well as exports.

## Union Minister of Steel inaugurates conference of ministers

## ■ Mines and Industries from States at Konark, Odisha

Konark, Feb 25: Ministry of Steel, Government of India is hosting a "Conference of Ministers of Mines and Industries from States" at Konark, Odisha on 25th and 26th Feb 2022 with the objective to provide the mineral-rich states an opportunity to present and deliberate on matters related to mining leases, environmental clearance of ongoing and new mining projects.

Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Minister of Steel, inaugurated the conference in the presence of Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble Minister of State for Steel, Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Minister for Steel & Mines, Odisha and Rajvardhan Singh, Minister of Industrial and Investment Promotion, Madhya

Pradesh. Senior officials from Central and State governments, Chairpersons of all CPSEs under Ministry of Steel were also present. Deliberations on the issues pertaining to mining, specific to steel sector, were conducted on the issues put forth by the Central and State governments leading to fruitful discussions which were welcomed by participating delegates. Highlighting the issues related to mining and steel making, officials from Ministry of Steel explained the

research to use plastic waste in steel-making is being explored by various companies. Reiterating the importance of effective Rehabilitation and Resettlement, he mentioned that only those companies which can leverage social capital positively and are ready to give back to the local population will be able to gain in the long run. Similarly, India can thrive only if a level-playing field is available for all players in the sector. A policy to encourage the secondary steel players is necessary to give direction to this vision. Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State for Steel, welcomed the discussions amongst the delegates during the nearly 5-hour long session wherein relevant inputs were received from all sides and emphasized that the issues which arose from the discussions needed attention and resolution.

policy support which is being extended by the Central government and detailed the support required from the State governments to facilitate business. Speaking on the occasion, the heads of the CPSEs thanked the cooperation of the state governments and mentioned that they looked forward to further the cooperation. Ram Chandra Prasad Singh reminded the gathering of PM's vision of creating wealth from waste. On these lines, he mentioned that

## FM holds meeting with hospitality, tourism sectors



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman conducts industry specific meeting in New Delhi on Friday.

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held a meeting with representatives from travel, tourism and hospitality sectors to discuss various credit related issues with them.

The meeting was also attended by senior finance ministry officials and heads of various public

sector banks (PSBs). "Along with the FM, the meeting was also attended by MoS Finance Shri @Dr Bhagwat Karad; Finance Secretary; Secretaries for Financial Services, Economic Affairs & Revenue; chiefs of PSBs & IBA, besides senior officials from @FinMinIndia," the finance ministry said in a tweet. It is to be noted that

Budget 2022-23 had proposed to open an additional Rs 50,000 crore window under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to support hospitality and related services sector.

"Hospitality and related services, especially those by micro and small enterprises, are yet to regain their pre-pandemic level of business. Considering

to a report by Crisil Ratings. Steady demand for both VAP (around one-third share of organised sector sales) and liquid milk (around two-thirds share) is likely to lead to 5.6 per cent growth next fiscal as well in line with the pre-pandemic trend, the report estimated.

Operating profitability, however, will be set back to the pre-pandemic level of 5.5 per cent in the next two fiscals from the peak of 6 per cent seen in fiscal 2021. This is due to high raw milk prices along with higher transportation and packaging costs even as dairies increasing retail product prices by 3-4 per cent across categories this year.

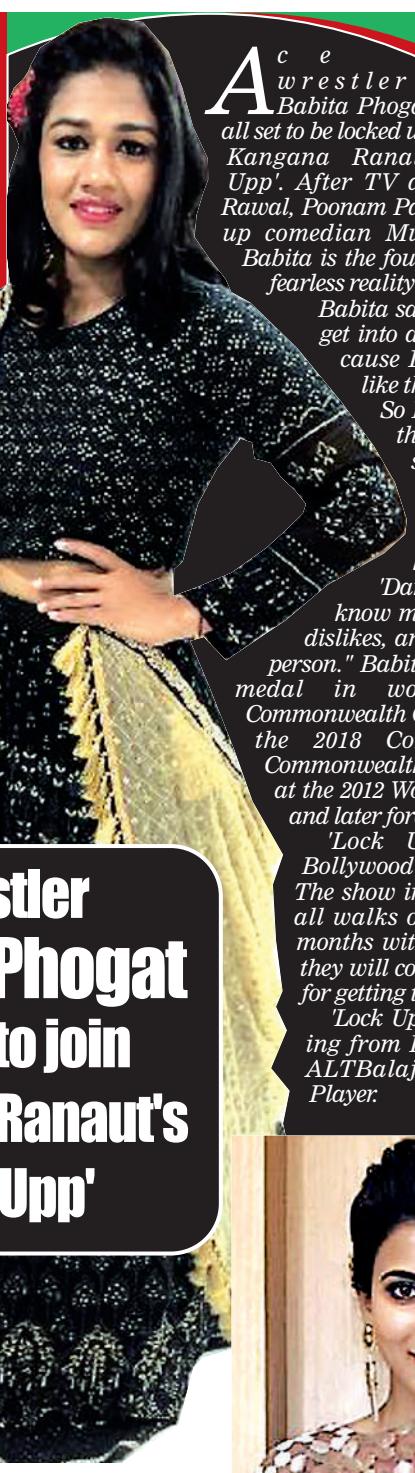
The organised dairy industry is likely to witness 12 per cent revenue growth this financial year to reach Rs 1.6 lakh crore, mainly due to recovery in demand for value-added products (VAPs), steady liquid milk sales and a hike in the retail price, a report said on



Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTD):

The organised dairy industry will rebound a solid 12 per cent year-on-year this fiscal to Rs 1.6 lakh crore, mainly due to recovery in demand for value-added products (VAPs), steady liquid milk sales and a hike in the retail price, a report said on

Friday. Revenue of India's organised dairy industry will rebound a solid 12 per cent year-on-year this fiscal to Rs 1.6 lakh crore, mainly due to recovery in demand for value-added products (VAPs), steady liquid milk sales and a hike in the retail price, a report said on



## Wrestler Babita Phogat all set to join Kangana Ranaut's 'Lock Upp'



## Samantha Ruth Prabhu's absorbs insights of 'Will'

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's recent Instagram story reveals her insights on actor Will Smith's book titled 'Will'. The 'Majili' actress is not only a fitness freak but also a bookworm.

In her latest social media posts, Samantha has given her insights on 'Will', which is quite relatable for the struggle the actress has been undergoing in her personal life.

Samantha shared a quote from the popular book which reads, "Over the past thirty years, like all of us, I have dealt with failure, loss, humiliation, divorce, and death."

"I've had my life threatened, my money is taken away, my privacy invaded, my family disintegrated and every single day, still got up, mixed concrete, and laid another brick. No matter what you're going through, there is always another brick sitting right there in front of you, waiting to be laid."

"The only question is, are you going to get up and lay it?"

The actress also reviewed the book, as she wrote, "Work hard, learn from your setbacks, self-reflect, reinvent yourself and never ever give up. Oh, and a sense of humour helps. What a lovely and fascinating book, Will."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has always been actively sharing inspiring quotes and discussions on social media.

But, ever since her personal setback (divorce) was revealed, most of her fans and followers have been trying to dissect her social media activity.

**A** wrestler Babita Phogat is all set to be locked up inside Kangana Ranaut's 'Lock Upp'. After TV actress Nisha Rawal, Poonam Pandey and stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui, Babita is the fourth contestant on the fearless reality show.

Babita says, "I am very excited to get into a show like 'Lock Upp' because I have never done a show like this which is live for 24 hours. So I am very glad and excited at the same time to be a part of this show."

"With this show, people will get to know what I am. Previously the audience has known me from the film 'Dangal'. So, now people will get to know my real personality, my likes, and dislikes, and how I am in my real life as a person." Babita Phogat won India's first gold medal in women's wrestling at 2014 Commonwealth Games. She won silver medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2010 Commonwealth Games, and a bronze medal at the 2012 World Wrestling Championships and later forayed into politics in 2019.

'Lock Upp' will be hosted by Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. The show involves 16 celebrities from all walks of life locked in jail for months without the amenities and they will compete with each other for getting the basic comforts.

'Lock Upp' will be streaming from February 27 on ALTBalaji and MX Player.

## Taapsee Pannu on working with Anubhav Sinha, Sudhir Mishra for upcoming anthology film

**A**ctress Taapsee Pannu talks about reuniting with filmmaker Anubhav Sinha for one of the short films which is part of his anthology movie.

Anubhav Sinha has brought together filmmakers Sudhir Mishra and Hansal Mehta for an anthology film with the pandemic as a backdrop. The film will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Sinha's production house Benaras Mediaworks. Taapsee shares her experience of working with Anubhav Sinha again after 'Thappad' and 'Mulk' and also unveils the concept of the short film directed by Sudhir Mishra with pandemic as a backdrop.

Taapsee says: "The story is unique and never done before, it's a socio political drama that spans across two generations with the pandemic as the backdrop. I couldn't be more thrilled to be working with a brilliant filmmaker like Sudhir Sir who is so solid with his craft." "And mostly it feels like homecoming working again with Anubhav Sir and

Bhushan Sir. Anubhav Sir knows how to channel the best in me. Being surrounded by masterful filmmakers like these is a blessed experience," she adds. Anubhav Sinha shares about

the narrative of the film which is layered and focuses on human relationships. He is happy to work with Taapsee again and have all the words of appreciation for her. "The narrative is a layered one talking about human relationships against the pandemic serving as a backdrop. I am so glad to be reuniting with Taapsee for this one! She is perceptive and brings her own to every character she plays. She is the kind of actor who infuses her roles with a lived-in experience, making the story even more relatable." Director Sudhir Mishra throws light on his short film and reveals: "This is a film about the idea of being young, about how one generation passes the baton to the next. Personally, this is one of those stories for me which leaves an indelible mark on you and I couldn't have asked for a better team to bring it to life with." On the other hand producer

Bhushan Kumar says that with the team of Anubhav, Sudhir, Taapsee, this film has a gripping storyline which make it a perfect project.



## Satish Kaushik wins 'Best Supporting Actor' award

**V**eteran actor and filmmaker Satish Kaushik showed the level of his talent and the value of his experience last year when he made a smashing return to direction after seven years with the Pankaj Tripathi-led social biographical comedy Kaagaz. Kaushik not only directed, produced and wrote this story of a farmer, who was declared dead on official papers, and is fighting to prove his existence in the legal system, but he also acted in it as Advocate Sadharam Kewat. The film received widespread acclaim and now he has the laurels to show for it.

At the recently concluded Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022, Kaushik was bestowed with the award in the category of Best Supporting Actor for his stint in Kaagaz. An elated Kaushik was over the moon as he rushed to the stage to collect his trophy and got emotional on getting the honor.

Kaushik is now in full swing and up next, he has a wide slate of releases coming. He has the web series Guns & Gulaab with Raj & DK that also features Rajkummar Rao. Other than that, he has a Netflix original film titled Thar, another web series with Amazon Prime Video titled Guilty Minds, and films Sharmajee Namkeen and Chhatriwali.



## Adorable Couple—Bhagyashree & Himalay on reality show 'Smart Jodi'



**W**hat all can you do for the one you love? We bring to you one couple who does everything for each other. The much-talked-about Jodi of Star Plus' upcoming show Smart Jodi – film Maine Pyar Kiya fame Actress Bhagyashree Patwardhan Dassani & Husband Himalay Dassani is one couple that can always bring a smile to anyone's face.

Ever since the promos featuring Bhagyashree and her husband have been released fans across the nation are waiting to know more about their love story and marriage journey. Bhagyashree is from the Marathi royal family of Sangli in Maharashtra. Excited about her latest television stint Bhagyashree says "Smart Jodi is one of the most exciting concepts I have come across on small screen and hence Himalay and I decided to be part of it. I have refused multiple TV opportunities before because I couldn't connect with them; the concept of Smart Jodi attracted my attention. You will see the real side of each couple and couples of all age groups will relate to the show and its concept. Lastly, I am glad to associate with Star Plus as it's a promising channel delivering some inspiring and unconventional content to today's India. Can't wait to share my life story with my fans."

## HOROSCOPE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

This day will play an important part in your future! The much-needed funds for business or education may fall your way today. Your seamless happiness will reflect in the playful mood in which you will interact with your loved ones. Ganesh is satisfied with your priorities.

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Meditation will be the order of the day. Your need to find inner peace is likely to push you to look inward and explore the alternate school of thought. You are likely to get inclined towards the mystical and the metaphysical. There may be a few health issues; Ganesh, however, wants you to understand that a certified doctor is still a better bet than a witch doctor.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

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

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesh. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Meditation will be the order of the day. Your need to find inner peace is likely to push you to look inward and explore the alternate school of thought. You are likely to get inclined towards the mystical and the metaphysical. There may be a few health issues; Ganesh, however, wants you to understand that a certified doctor is still a better bet than a witch doctor.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesh. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from drowning it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts. Work and friends will help you cheer up later in the day.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesh. If you notice people bending and bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off. If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesh, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights. Especially those in the media shall hit upon a new level in their imaginative capabilities.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

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

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Ganesh says the day will be eventful and full of excitement. Differences in opinion might just crop up at work, but don't let them dampen your spirit. A romantic, candlelit dinner with your beloved could be the high point of your day. You are set to make an impact on your near and dear ones.

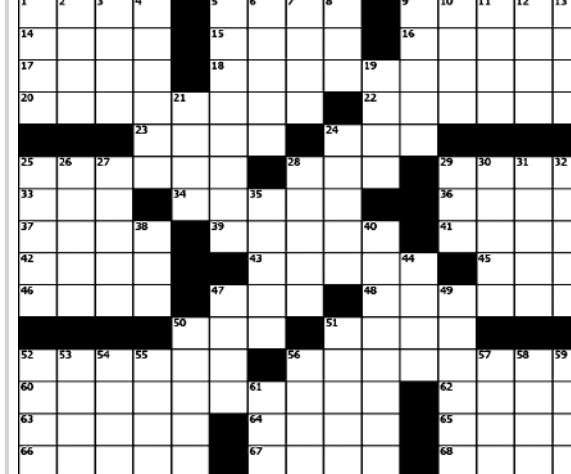
### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

You will be particularly warm and intimate to your friends and family members. Ganesh says that you will miss no opportunity to show them how much they mean to you. Your superiors and, back at home, your elders are likely to be unusually benign and well disposed towards you.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Mats
- Healing plant
- Hobo
- Gone
- Songstress \_\_\_\_\_ Turner
- O'Donnell of TV
- Solidifies
- Competition
- Newspaper issues
- Cold era (2 wds.)
- Blunders
- Large primate
- Rock's \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers
- Naval rank (abbr.)
- Sudden wind
- Look at
- Auto type
- Poker stake
- Apply asphalt
- Positive responses
- Read quickly
- Equal

- Green sauce
- Caustic substance
- Must have
- "In \_\_\_\_\_ We Trust"
- Most exceptional
- Wrestler's pad
- Trigonometry, e.g.
- Loafer ornament
- Least quiet
- Change
- California wine valley
- Consuming
- Other
- Toaster
- Rich cake
- Forest creature
- Stitches

### DOWN

- Book leaf
- Dazzled
- Artist Salvador
- Method
- Legal advisor
- Roaring beasts
- Responsibility
- Jug handle
- Small amount
- Italian city
- Floating
- Chinese dynasty
- Baseball's \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- Bites
- Deferred savings accts.
- Frank and Rice
- Colorado resort

### SOLUTION 224



**Tan Kim Her returns as India's badminton doubles coach**



**New Delhi:** Malaysia's Tan Kim Her returned for a second stint as the doubles coach of the Indian badminton team after the Sports Ministry on Friday approved his appointment for a five-year period till the 2026 Asian Games. The 50-year-old, who was India's doubles coach from 2015 to 2019, was tipped to take over the position which was left vacant following the departure of Denmark's 2012 Olympic silver medallist Mathias Boe after the Tokyo Games. It was reported in December last year that Tan is likely to join the Indian coaching set-up with the Badminton Association of India waiting for an approval from the Ministry. During his first stint, Tan had played a vital role in the rise of Indian doubles players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy as they made breakthroughs on the Tour, besides winning individual silver and team gold at Commonwealth Games in 2018.

### No bio-bubble for India-Denmark Davis Cup tie?

**New Delhi:** The upcoming Davis Cup tie between India and Denmark won't be held within a bio-bubble but appropriate COVID-19 protocols will be followed during the March 4-5 contest, home team skipper Rohit Rajpal said on Friday. India will host Denmark on the lush green grass court of Delhi Gymkhana Club for the World Group I tie. There is a sharp dip in COVID-19 cases in the country and that must have encouraged the DGC and All India Tennis Association (AITA) officials to look for a less stricter arrangements although it remains a referee's choice. "As of now, there is no indication that the tie will be held under bio-bubble. In the previous ties, we were in enclosed environment, staying and eating separately," Rajpal said in a media interaction. "However, appropriate COVID-19 behaviour will be followed."

### Medvedev new No 1 in tennis

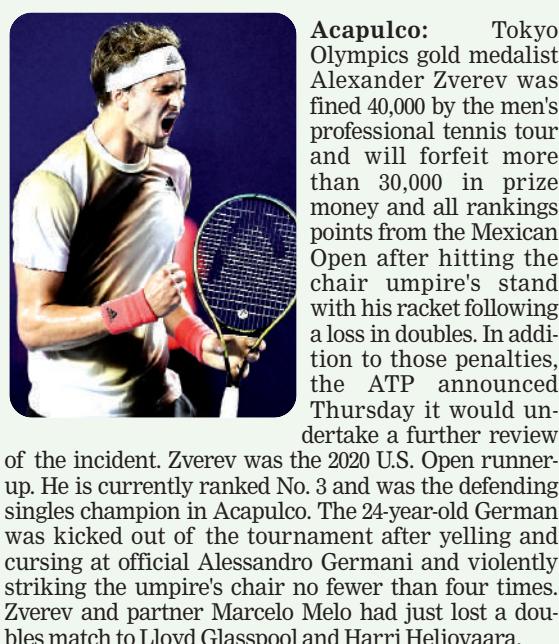


**Dubai:** Novak Djokovic will fall from No. 1 in the ATP rankings and be replaced by Daniil Medvedev after losing 6-4, 7-6 (4) to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Championships. Djokovic's latest stay atop the rankings began on Feb. 3, 2020, and his total of 361 weeks there are the most for any man since the tour's computerized rankings began in 1973. On Monday, Medvedev will move up from No. 2 for the first time and become the 27th man to reach No. 1. He won the U.S. Open last September and was the Australian Open runner-up each of the past two years. Djokovic congratulated Medvedev on Twitter, saying the Russian was very deserving of the No. 1 spot. Medvedev is the first man other than Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Andy Murray to be No. 1 since Feb. 1, 2004.

### Kerala Blasters face Chennai in do-or-die battle

**Vasco:** There will be no room for error for Kerala Blasters FC as they look to strengthen their semifinal chances when they take on Chennaiyin FC in a crucial Indian Super League clash here on Saturday. Kerala lost to league leaders Hyderabad in their last outing to remain in fifth place with 27 points from 17 games. Mumbai City FC are fourth with 28 in their kitty, and the Islanders take on FC Goa on Saturday in a late kickoff, meaning Kerala would want to keep them on their toes with a victory earlier in the day. Hyderabad are already through to the semis, making it a fight for the remaining three spots. Jamshedpur FC have an advantage as they are seated second with 31 points, but with two games in hand.

### Zverev fined \$40K, loses prize money, points for outburst



**Acapulco:** Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev was fined 40,000 by the men's professional tennis tour and will forfeit more than 30,000 in prize money and all rankings points from the Mexican Open after hitting the chair umpire's stand with his racket following a loss in doubles. In addition to those penalties, the ATP announced Thursday it would undertake a further review of the incident. Zverev was the 2020 U.S. Open runner-up. He is currently ranked No. 3 and was the defending singles champion in Acapulco. The 24-year-old German was kicked out of the tournament after yelling and cursing at official Alessandro Germani and violently striking the umpire's chair no fewer than four times. Zverev and partner Marcelo Melo had just lost a doubles match to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliovaara.

# IPL UNVEils NEW FORMAT FOR 2022

**10 teams divided in two groups of five; each team to play 14 games**



**New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):**

The 2022 Indian Premier League will see a tweak in format as 10 teams will be divided into groups of five but the number of matches per side will remain 14. As per groupings released by BCCI on Friday, group A comprises Mumbai Indians, KKR, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Supergiants. The group B will have Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans. Over the years, the IPL has been an eight-team affair where each team played each other twice at the round robin league stage to complete 14 games. However this group league format is not new in IPL as it was once used a decade back when Pune Warriors and Kochi Tuskers Kerala were part of the league.



### Ready Reckoner for Format

The rows and columns of the groups (A and B) has been done as per IPL performances -- number of titles and number of finals reached. Firstly, the groupings have been done as per IPL performance where group A has MI (Team 1) with five titles as first team. Correspondingly, in group B, the first team is CSK (Team 2) which has four titles. Team 3 is again placed in group A and that is KKR with two titles and the corresponding Team 4 placed in group B is SRH with a sole title. Team 5 again in group A is Rajasthan Royals (1 title) and its corresponding Team 6 in group B is RCB, which has played three finals. Team 7 in group A is DC, which has one final appearance and two play-offs while corresponding Team 8 in group B is Punjab Kings with one final appearance. Newcomers, Lucknow Super Giants is Team 9 in group A and Gujarat Titans is corresponding team 10 in group B.

Each team plays the other teams in its group twice, which makes it eight matches. The balance six games they play against the five teams in the other group. So for MI from group A will play two games CSK which is its equivalent team in group B and one match against the other four teams. Similarly KKR, the second placed team in A plays SRH in group B twice and all other teams once. This is how teams attain (8+6) 14 group league games.

## Erwee ton gives South Africa flying start in 2nd Test



**Christchurch, Feb 25 (AP):**

Sarel Erwee responded to a challenge leveled by his captain with a maiden century for South Africa

on Friday against New Zealand on the first day of the second test.

Erwee's 108 helped South Africa to 238-3 at stumps and gave it insula-

tion against a setback late in the day when Erwee and Aiden Markram's (42) wickets fell within the space of three balls. Temba Bavuma was 22 not out at stumps and Rassie van der Dussen 13.

Proteas captain Dean Elgar threw down the challenge to his fellow batsmen Friday when he chose to bat on winning the toss on the same ground on which the tourists were dismissed for 95 and 111 in losing the first test loss by an innings and 276 runs.

Elgar made 41 in an opening stand with Erwee which was worth as much as South Africa's second-innings total in the first test and which was its first century partnership for the first wicket in 34 tests.

With a fine sense of timing, Erwee reached his first half century just before lunch and his century in the over before tea, after exactly four hours at the crease.

I think it means a bit to me but I think it means a bit more to the team and my family back home, Erwee said.

It's nice to be in this position but there's still a lot of work to do.

## 2nd T20I: Confident India eyeing 11th straight win



**Dharamsala, Feb 25 (PTI):**

A reinvigorated India will look to pocket their second series win as many weeks and build on the gains made from a drastic change in their batting approach in the second T20 International against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

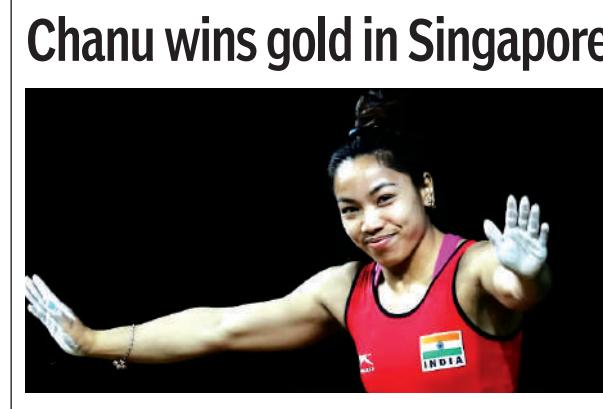
India were forced to look in the mirror after their early exit from the T20 World Cup last year but four months later, they look a transformed unit with a bunch of youngsters being tried out in various positions and

roles. It is still early days but the Rohit Sharma-led side has already figured out the core group of players that will travel to Australia for the World Cup Down Under later this year. Young opener Ishan Kishan got a massive dose of confidence in the series opener on Thursday after his struggles against the West Indies. Finding strike rotation tough in the preceding series, Kishan was able to overcome that weakness against the Sri Lankan bowlers besides flaunting the strokeplay he is known for in the IPL. There is no

time to settle in a T20 game and India have finally realised that, allowing them to post 180 plus totals regularly. It would take a special effort from Sri Lanka to end India's 10-match winning streak in the spiritual home of Dalai Lama. With a misfiring top-order and absence of frontline spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga, Sri Lanka struggled to compete in the first game.

Even skipper Dasun Shanaka bowling after a while did not help as Indians looked unstoppable with the bat.

**2017 World Cup SF loss to India had a big impact on Australia: Lanning**



### Men seek consistency, Women look to maintain winning momentum against Spain

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 25 (PTI):**

Consistency will be key for the Indian men's hockey team, while the women's

side would look to build on the momentum gained from a fantastic debut when the two take on Spain in their respective FIH Pro League campaign ties here on Saturday. The Indian men, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, started their FIH Pro League campaign on a rousing note, beating France 5-0 before being shocked 2-5 by the same team in the return leg. Against South Africa, India registered 10-2 wins in the two matches. Both the ties were played in Potchefstroom, South Africa. But the result against world no.12 France in the second match of the

### Match Timings

India Women vs Spain 5pm.  
India Men vs Spain 7.30pm.

two-leg tie was way below expectations for India, ranked fifth in the world. The Indians were caught off guard by the ever-improving Frenchmen in all aspects of the game in the second match, much to the surprise of the eight-time Olympic champions.

**Indian women look to continue winning momentum**

With a rousing start to their Pro League campaign, the Indian women are confident of upsetting world no.7 Spain in the upcoming two matches of the event, which they are treating as a perfect launchpad to prepare the side for two key tournaments this year -- the World Cup and the

Hangzhou Asian Games. Playing for the first time in the tournament, the Indian women beat China 7-1 and 2-1 in their opening two-leg tie in Muscat, Oman earlier this year. India captain Savita said that playing against top teams in the FIH Pro League will be a fair assessment of their game ahead of an important season, which also has the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

"It will give us a fair idea about our strengths and weaknesses ahead of an important season," Savita had said. "The Pro League is an important tournament for the World Cup and we have already qualified for the World Cup but every match in the Pro League will give us an idea on the grey areas we need to work upon."

Skipper Meg Lanning on Friday said the loss to India in the semifinals of the 2017 Women's World Cup had a huge impact on the Australian team as it effected a change in the side's playing style and approach.

Favourites Australia had succumbed to a surprise 36-run loss to eventual runners-up India in the semifinal. The Australian bowlers had no answer to senior India batter Harmanpreet Kaur, who smashed an unbeaten 171 of 115 balls.

**Singapore, Feb 25 (PTD):**

Star Indian lifter Mirabai Chanu qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the 55kg weight category on Friday by clinching the gold in the Singapore Weightlifting International here.

Competing in the 55kg weight class for the first time, Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium in an uncompetitive field.

The second placed lifter -- Australia's Jessica

Sewastenko's best effort was 167kg (77kg+90kg), a whopping 24kg less than Chanu's.

Elly Cassandra Englebert of Malaysia finished third with a best effort of 165kg (75kg+90kg).

Having pulled out of the world championships in December, this was Chanu's first competitive event since the historic Tokyo Games performance last year, when she bagged India's first silver medal in weightlifting at the Olympics.

Favourites Australia had succumbed to a surprise 36-run loss to eventual runners-up India in the semifinal. The Australian bowlers had no answer to senior India batter Harmanpreet Kaur, who smashed an unbeaten 171 of 115 balls.

# No direct impact of Russia-Ukraine crisis on India

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

There is no direct impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on India in terms of bilateral trade but a surge in oil prices poses considerable risk to the economy, an analyst report said on Friday. International oil prices which have surged past USD 100 per barrel "pose risks to external stability and currency movement," a Bank of Baroda Economics Research report said.

Russia has launched military operations against Ukraine, stoking fears of significant disruption in the region, including loss of life. The West is ramping up financial sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine. The economic impact on the

rest of the world is likely to come from higher commodity prices, boosting inflation but hurting growth-stagflation-like.

"But if hostilities and tensions escalate to the point where Russia is excluded from the Western payments and fast-messaging systems, as was Iran, a severe stagflation shock could result from an interruption of energy supplies," Invesco said in a report.

Russia supplies Europe with 40 per cent of its gas, half its solid fuel including coal and about a quarter of its oil.

So far, the US has not cut off Russia from the global payment system. "While there will be no direct impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on India in terms of bilateral trade, the surge in

oil prices as a result of the crisis poses considerable risks to the Indian economy," the BoB Economic Research report said.

Both the Union Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 and RBI's monetary policy that kept interest rates steady, came much before this crisis and did not factor in the impact of the crude price shock.

"Both the Budget and RBI hence took a conservative estimate of crude prices at USD 75 per barrel which is likely to be a challenge going forward," the report said. India imports more than 80 per cent of its total oil requirement and is the world's third-largest importer of crude oil. In FY21, India's oil imports totalled USD 82.7 billion.

**Heads of European missions in India stand in solidarity with Ukrainian envoy**

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI): The heads of missions of European countries in India expressed solidarity with their Ukrainian counterpart on Friday, strongly condemning Russia's "unprovoked and unjustified" military attack on Ukraine. The envoys held a meeting here and extended their full support to Ukraine. Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan Ugo Astuto said the EU and its member states stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian Ambassador to India, Igor Polikha. "Heads of Mission of the EU & its Member States stand in solidarity with Ukraine Ambassador. EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked & unjustified military attack. EU is united in its solidarity with Ukraine & its people," Astuto said in a tweet.



A woman clicks picture of a wall mural created by artist Sanatan Dinda for the Behala Art Fest, in Kolkata, Friday.

# Terror funding: Court sends ex-NIA SP Negi, activist Khurram Parvez to jail

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The agency had arrested Negi, a former SP of the NIA, for allegedly leaking secret documents to an overground worker of the banned terror group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The case was filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including those related to terrorism and terror funding.

# Centre asks states, UTs to allow relaxation of Covid curbs

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Union Home Ministry on Friday asked states and union territories to consider relaxing Covid curbs for social, sports, entertainment, academic and religious events as well as night curfew hours in view of the substantial decline in the number of cases.

Issuing COVID-19 guidelines for March, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also suggested the implementation of a risk assessment based approach on the opening of economic activities as suggested by

the Union Health Ministry recently.

Accordingly, after a careful analysis of the local situation, relaxation in various activities may be considered, such as social, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious, festival related gatherings; night curfew; operations of public transport; shopping complexes, cinema halls, gyms, spas, restaurants and bars; opening of schools, colleges, offices, and other commercial activities,

night curfew; operations of public transport; shopping complexes, cinema halls, gyms, spas, restaurants and bars; opening of schools, colleges, offices, and other commercial activities, the communication said.

In the guidelines, sent to chief secretaries of all states and UTs, the

home secretary also emphasised that the wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and ventilation in closed spaces, as mandated in the National Directives for COVID Management, should continue to be enforced.

He said states and UTs should continue with testing and surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and implementation of Covid appropriate behaviour for managing COVID-19.

I would, therefore, urge you to take necessary action in line with the aforesaid Ministry of

# Naxals kill STF jawan during his medical leave

Bijapur, Feb 25 (PTI): A 26-year-old jawan of the Chhattisgarh police's Special Task Force (STF), who was on a month-long medical leave and undergoing treatment in his native village in Bijapur district of the state, was allegedly killed by Naxals, an official said on Friday.

The incident took place in Reddy Road area late Thursday night and preliminary investigation suggests that the jawan was severely thrashed before being strangulated to death, the senior police official said. The deceased STF jawan was identified as Arjun Kudiyam, a resident of Dhanora village located under Gangaloor police station limits.

# I-T dept raids Shiv Sena corporator

Mumbai/New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Income Tax department on Friday conducted searches at the premises of Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant Jadhav in Mumbai on charges of tax evasion, officials said.

A team of tax department officials is undertaking the raids against Jadhav, also the chairman of the BMC standing committee, since early morning, they said. His wife Yamini Jadhav is the party MLA from the Byculla seat.

The teams are at the Byculla residence of Jadhav, who chairs the Standing Committee of the richest civic body in the country, regarding an alleged under reporting of assets in his election affidavit, the officials said.

Jadhav heads the committee which sees a bulk of the expenditure of the



Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The I-T department action comes weeks ahead of elections to the civic body. The raids come close on the heels of the arrest of Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik in an alleged money laundering case by the Enforcement Department. The Shiv Sena and NCP have alleged that the Opposition leaders are

being targeted by the central agencies with a view of destabilise the Maharashtra government. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has dismissed such charges as baseless.

# India, Japan to hold annual joint military drill in K'taka from Feb 27-Mar 10

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

said.

The Japanese forces arrived at Belgaum on Friday to take part in this exercise, it noted.

India, Japan, the US and Australia are part of the Quad group that has been formed to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free from any malignant influence of China.

"In the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, this exercise with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation," the ministry's statement

troops of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces are participating in the exercise this year, it noted.

The 12-day-long exercise schedule includes house interventions drills, raid on terrorist hideouts in semi urban terrain, combat first aid, unarmed combat and close quarter combat firing where both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely

threats, it mentioned.

The joint field training exercises, joint combat discussions and joint demonstrations will culminate with a two day validation exercise scheduled on March 8 and March 9, it said.

"Special emphasis is being laid on enhancing tactical skills to fight global terrorism and on enhancing inter-operability between the forces and to promote Army to Army relations," the statement read. The annual exercise has been taking place since 2018, it added.

# Non-Congress govts kept UP backward, forced people to migrate, says Rahul



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting for UP Assembly elections, in Amethi, Friday. (with photo 25last2).

their own good and children, and not on emotional issues of caste and religion.

"Uttar Pradesh doesn't lack anything and it can leave all other states behind. You go to Punjab, Maharashtra and other states to work as labourers in search of livelihood. Why can't you get it here," Rahul Gandhi asked.

"It's because for years you elected the Samajwadi Party, BJP and the BSP. All these made wrong promises one after the other and stole money from you," he added, apparently responding to allegation by the rivals, who have been blaming the Congress for people's migration.

Accusing PM Modi of helping only big industri-

alists, he said the billionaires do not give employment. "It is small and

medium traders and farmers who generate employment and this section,

which is the backbone of job givers, has been broken," he said, adding that

in these circumstances there will be no jobs for the youth, even for those with proper education.

Saying that the PM Modi had promised two crore jobs to the youth, he asked, "Why is he not speaking about it in electioneering this time?" People are well aware of his "lies" now, said the former Congress president attacking PM Modi.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the voters will have to make up their mind whether they want politics of development or the one that entangles them in a "fake web of religion and caste". Referring to her visit to a locality in Lucknow recently, the Congress leader said she there met some children,

who were qualified but unemployed.

"Have you brought up your children so that they do not have any future and that they continue to get a sack of foodgrain and remain dependent on it. This is a conspiracy of these political parties to keep you poor, keep your stomachs empty so that your emotions could be exploited by them," the Congress leader alleged.

This is the government of the rich and there is no hearing of the poor, she alleged.

"When there is harassment, neither Akhilesh Yadav nor Mayawati come out of their homes, leave alone Yogi and Modi. They make the father of an accused stand with them on

the dais," she said referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

"Their minister's son killed farmers. Change these circumstances," she said, stressing that people should tell parties either to work for development or leave.

Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in the violence last October. The farmers were mowed down by cars allegedly carrying by BJP workers. Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish was arrested in the case.

The Congress leaders also spoke about the development and infrastructure building that took place in Amethi during the Congress-led UPA government in the past.