



BRIEF



Children learn and play at a newly renovated creche, at Mandoli Jail in New Delhi.

Tributes

Srinagar: The Army on Sunday paid floral tributes to soldiers killed in an encounter with militants in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir. Two Army soldiers and a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist were killed in the gunbattle in the Zainpora area of Shopian on Saturday. "Army today paid tributes to Sep Chavan Romit Tanaji and Sep Santosh Yadav, who made the supreme sacrifice on 19 February 2022 at Chreymarg in Shopian district," Defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said.

Dead

Muzaffarnagar: A 30-year-old Delhi Police constable died after allegedly falling off the terrace of his house in a village here on Sunday, police said. The incident took place when Anuj Kumar was talking on his phone at home in Kutbi village before leaving for his marriage ceremony in Loni, Ghaziabad, they said. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination, the police said.

Criminal case

Bengaluru: A criminal case of cheating, trespassing and threatening has been registered against Congress MLA and former minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, his brother and others. The case was registered by the Sampigehalli police station here on the direction of the Seventh Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. According to the FIR, Shahista Nazeen Khanum had owned land in Chokkanahalli in Velahanka.

Busted

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have arrested four persons, including three robbers who used to steal expensive mobile phones, laptops and other valuable items by targeting women and senior citizens living in housing societies in Kalina area, an official said on Sunday. One of the four accused arrested by police is a mobile phone shop owner, identified as Dinesh Madhvi, who used to buy stolen phones from the gang and resale them by changing their IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) numbers.

Weather
High 31 Low 14

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Over 63% cast vote in Punjab, UP nearly 58%

Lucknow, Feb 20 (PTI):

Punjab, on Sunday, witnessed a voter turnout of 63.44 per cent till 5 pm, while the corresponding number in Uttar Pradesh stood at 57.44 per cent. Voting for the third phase of Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, in 59 assembly seats, began at 7 am on Sunday, while polling in Punjab started at 8 am. Over 57 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm on Sunday in 59 assembly constituencies in the third phase of the elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Polling started at 7 am and continued till 6 pm. The voting percentage at 5 pm was 57.58 per cent, according to data shared by the Election Commission (EC). The percentage was 59



Women stand in a queue to cast their votes, during the Punjab Assembly elections, in Amritsar, Sunday.

per cent in Hathras, 57.41 per cent in Firozabad, 59.11 per cent in Kasganj, 63.58 per cent in Etah, 60.80 per cent in Mainpuri, 54.55 per cent in Farrukhabad, 60.28 per cent in Kannauj and 58.35 per cent in Etawah. It was 57.55 per cent in Auraiya, 58.48 per cent in

Hamirpur and 62.02 per cent in Mahoba.

As many as 627 candidates are in the fray in this phase, in which over 2.15 crore people are eligible to vote in 16 districts.

Punjab is expected to witness a multi-cornered contest among the ruling Congress, AAP, SAD-BSP alliance, BJP-PLC-SAD (Sanyukt) and the Sanyukt Samaj Morcha. Among the prominent faces contesting in Punjab are CM Charanjit Singh Channi, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, Aam Aadmi Party's chief ministerial face Bhagwant Mann, former CMs Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal, and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Teenage girl abducted, gang-raped

Two men held

Jashpur, Feb 20:

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by five men while she had gone to attend a marriage function at a village in Jashpur district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Thursday night when the girl, from Sulesa village, came out of the marriage hall in Ambadipada village, looking for a friend. The five accused then forcibly took her to a forest area, about three km from there, and allegedly raped her. Her family filed a police complaint on Saturday afternoon following which the police arrested two of the accused, aged 24 and 30, both from Sulesa village.

About the incident

The incident took place on Thursday night when the girl, from Sulesa village, came out of the marriage hall in Ambadipada village, looking for a friend. The five accused then forcibly took her to a forest area, about three km from there, and allegedly raped her. Her family filed a police complaint on Saturday afternoon following which the police arrested two of the accused, aged 24 and 30, both from Sulesa village.

Efforts were on to nab the other three culprits, the official said.

The police have registered a case against the accused under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he added.

Naxal carrying Rs 5 lakh bounty killed in encounter

Dantewada, Feb 20:

A Naxal carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head and accused in a number of violent incidents was killed in an encounter with police in Dantewada district, an official said on Sunday.

The gunfight took place on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday in a forest near Burgum village under Aranpur police station limits when a team of the District Reserve Guard was out on an anti-Naxal

Naxal supply chain of material used to make explosives busted

Gadchiroli: The Gadchiroli police have busted a supply chain of material used by Naxals to make explosives and arrested four supporters of the ultras here in Maharashtra, police said on Sunday. Based on inputs, an anti-Naxal operation was carried out on Saturday during which a gang of Naxal supporters transporting such material was intercepted in Bhangarampetha village under Damrancha police limits, they said. The police recovered 10 bundles of cordex wire measuring 3,500 metre in length and nabbed four suspects, while another person managed to escape, the Gadchiroli police said in a release.

operation, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari said. After the face-off ended, the body of a Naxal was recovered, he said, adding that the deceased, identified as Arjun alias Lakhma Sodi

(34), was carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head.

Sodi was active as the militia commander in charge of Malanger area committee of Maoists. He was involved in 13 incidents of violence, including of murder, attempt to murder and abduction, the official said.

A pistol, a 5 kg tiffin bomb, Naxal uniform, electric wires, wire cutter, Naxal literature and some camping material were also recovered from the spot, he added.

PM TARGETS AKHILESH

'He humiliated his father to capture party, now pleading him to save his seat'

Unnao (UP), Feb 20 (PTI):

Attacking Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the CM-candidate is "insecure" about his seat and had to plead to his father, whom he had "humiliated" to capture the party, to save him from defeat in the constituency. "You can gauge the di-

rection of wind... The seat, which these people were considering as the safest, is also getting out of their reach," Modi said in an apparent reference to the Karhal seat from where Yadav is contesting in the family-stronghold of Mainpuri.

Ahead of polling in the third phase, SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav had campaigned for his son

Akhilesh Yadav on the seat though he has maintained a low profile during this election.

The Karhal seat with a majority of Muslim and Yadav voters is considered safe for the Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav as the communities have over the years favoured the SP in the caste-dominated politics of Uttar Pradesh.

FATAL MISHAP

Nine, including bridegroom killed in mishap

Car carrying wedding party falls into river

Kota (Raj), Feb 20 (PTI):

Nine people, including the bridegroom, were killed after a car carrying a wedding party fell into the Chambal river here in the early hours of Sunday as the driver lost control of the vehicle due to drowsiness, police said.

They were on their way to Madhya Pradesh for the wedding in a Maruti

Ertiga, they said. The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the dependents of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh for families that have lost two or more members in the accident.

The car fell into the river from a bridge early in the morning in Nayapura police station area after the driver lost control of the vehicle due to drowsiness, Superintendent of Police (city) Kesar Singh Shekhawat said. He said police received informa-

tion about the accident around 7.50 am, following which a rescue operation was launched.

Initially, seven bodies were pulled out from the car that had plunged seven-eight feet into the water. Two more bodies were recovered later, Shekhawat said.

The wedding party was going from Chauth Ka Barwara village in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

Govt to carry out background check of newly appointed Air India CEO

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will "scrupulously" carry out a thorough background check of newly appointed CEO and MD of Air India, Ilker Ayci, a Turkish national, official sources said on Sunday. The Tata Group, which acquired the Air India from the government, had recently announced Ayci's appointment as the CEO and MD of the loss-making airlines. The Home Ministry "scrupulously" carries out a thorough background check of all foreign nationals when they are appointed in the key positions of any Indian company, the sources said.

KCR holds political discussions with Pawar

Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI):

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Sunday stressed the need for all like-minded parties to join hands to resolve various issues like hunger, poverty, unemployment and the agrarian crisis facing the country after Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Nara-yan said on Sunday. Pawar told reporters that Telangana had taken good steps for the welfare of farmers which were a model for the rest of the country. "Our focus is

only on development, development and development. We will meet again," he said.

Rao travelled to Silver Oak, the south Mumbai resident of Pawar, after meeting Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's official residence 'Varsha' in the afternoon.

Rao, who was present at the press briefing along with Pawar, said the NCP chief had been supporting the movement for the creation of a separate Telangana state since 1969.

'Humanity, truth cannot be divided on basis of gender or caste'

Puri (Odisha), Feb 20 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind Sunday asserted that humanity and truth are supreme and cannot be divided on the basis of caste, gender or religion, as serving the needy has always been accorded top priority in Indian culture.

He also said though various religious traditions and practises are prevalent in different parts of India, there is only one belief and that is to work for the welfare of all, considering the entire humanity as one family. Serving the needy



President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the three-year-long celebrations of 150 of Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami, in Puri, Sunday.

has been given top priority in our culture. Humanity and truth are supreme, which cannot be divided. The ultimate goal is wel-

fare of the society, the president said here, while inaugurating the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Srimad Bhakti

Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad, the founder of the Gaudiya Math and Mission. Hailing doctors, nurses and health workers.

Kovind said they displayed this spirit of service during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite many of them contracting the virus. Many of our Covid warriors sacrificed their lives, but the dedication of their co-workers remained unwavering. The whole country would always be indebted to such warriors, the president said, praying for a world free of COVID-19.

LIC IPO

Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

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

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

DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.
- OR
- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:
 - NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php
 - CDSL: <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at <https://investmentbank.kotak.com>, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/itfm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfi.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmpil.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the DRHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

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

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Badha Talab to be beautified with musical fountain and laser show

Indoor badminton court and cricket stadium to be inaugurated soon

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: District Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the "Badha Talab" located at the centre of Kumhari. The work of beautification of Badha pond is being done on a large scale. The pond is being protected with a boundary, in which well-organized arrangements have been made for water inlet and outlet. A walk way has been constructed around the pond.

Musical Fountain, Open Gym, Mono Rail Toy Train, Boating, Gazebo, Water Tunnel Fountain, Decorative LEDs with Laser Show etc are being built here. There will be beautiful lighting arrangements including high mast lights so that people visiting here can enjoy this place specially at night. This venue is being beautified as a major recreational



place. Presently the work of second phase is in progress.

Arrangement for making musical fountain and laser light is also being done in Badha Talab. With the music playing along with the fountains, people will surely get entertained a lot. The laser show with musical fountain will undoubtedly attract the public. Its sight will be very excited and adorable. Modern de-

paid to vehicle parking and children's play areas.

The attraction of the people increases only after entering the gate, for this, he suggested that paver blocks and tiles should be installed in the best design. Due to the beautification work of Badha Talab, special care should be taken to ensure that the nearby people do not face any kind of problem.

For providing access to the small pond and the temple, Collector asked to construct the banks of the pond in such a way that the common people do not find any trouble in reaching there. Citizens should be able to move according to their daily routine. Chief Minister's OSD Manish Banchor, Assistant Collector Hemant Nandanwar, SDM Brijesh Rajput, CMO Jitendra Kushwaha and other officers were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure inspected the under construction site of indoor badminton court and cricket stadium in Kumhari. The construction work of Indoor Badminton Court has been completed. Collector said that the badminton court should be inaugurated soon for the public. The work of the cricket stadium is still in its final stages. The concerned officials informed the Collector that there are two cricket pitches and one practice pitch in the stadium.

Flood lights have also been installed in the stadium so that the game can be enjoyed even at night. Collector oversaw the VIP gallery and the changing room. He expressed happiness on the completion of



the Indoor Stadium Court and said that many players are inclined towards badminton. With the inauguration of badminton court, the locals of Kumhari will get a platform where they will be able to hone their talent. He instructed the concerned officials to conduct proper maintenance of the court. Collector added to expedite the work of the cricket stadium and asked the officials concerned to level the stadium ground at the earliest.

He directed the concerned officials to install good quality turf grass in the ground so that the players can enjoy the game in the ground. He further said that Kumhari will soon get the gift of indoor badminton court and cricket stadium related to the game. This is a positive initiative in the direction of sports and construction, which will definitely benefit the people of Kumhari in the time to come. Collector also visited Maa

Mahamaya Udyan. He said that this park would enhance the beauty of Kumhari and the citizens would get a suitable option for leisure and health. Apart from this, the Collector also inspected the building being constructed for the Municipal Corporation.

He inspected all the floors of this building and spoke about making the building equipped with all facilities, because at present most of the office work is being conducted online, so he asked to take special care of internet related facility. He also inspected the auditorium, in which theater-like seating arrangements have been made. CM's OSD Manish Banchor, Assistant Collector Hemant Nandanwar, SDM Brijesh Rajput, CMO Jitendra Kushwaha and other officers were present on this occasion.

Devendra, Neeraj hand over building permission for house to beneficiaries

Legal awareness camps organised on World Day of Social Justice



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Now the path has become easier for the people who are dreaming of building a house under Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation area. On Sunday, 114 beneficiaries of Junwani, Khamaria, Model Town, Nehru Nagar, Kosa Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Indira Nagar and Laxmi Nagar were given away building permission certificates and map at a programme in Utkal Udyan of Model Town Ward No 3.

The aforesaid documents were handed over to eligible beneficiaries for construction of house under 'Mor Jameen Mor Makan' of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal and Speaker Girwar Buntty Sahu gave away the building permit certificate and map.

Now these beneficiaries will be able to start the construction work for their house. For a long time these beneficiaries were eagerly waiting for this moment, when their name can be included in the list for building a house and when they can get building permission to build their dream home.

Fulfilling the dream of these 114 beneficiaries, the MLA and the Mayor distributed building permission to them and congratulated everyone for starting

the construction work. Bhilai DCC president Mukesh Chandrakar was specially present on this occasion.

To prepare the outline of the program and to ensure the attendance of the beneficiaries, Sandeep Nirankari, MIC member local councillor Hariom Tiwari, councillor Yogesh Sahu took initiative. All of them, including the MLA and the Mayor, have played an important role in getting the building permission to the beneficiaries.

At the same time, on the direction of Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, Executive Engineer in-charge of Building Permission Department Vinita Verma, Assistant Engineer-in-Charge Nitesh Meshram, Deputy Engineer Deepak Devangan have discharged their responsibility to complete the departmental process.

The Executive Engineer-in-Charge, who is looking after the work of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, said that under the scheme, grant of Rs 1.5 lakh is from central funds and 0.79 lakh from state funds and 0.86 lakh is contribution from beneficiary. In this way a total estimate of 3.15 lakh is ready for construction. In general 45% of the share from center, 25% of the state and 30% of the beneficiary are required for the construction of the house.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: World Day of Social Justice is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections. It is observed every year on February 20.

Under the guidance and instructions of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (President, District Legal Services Authority), the sitting judges of Durg District Court conducted legal awareness camps at various places on Sunday.

Civil Judge Prashant Dewangan, Kumari Ruchi Mishra, Kumari Akanksha Saxena, Rajat Nirala accompanied with paralegal

volunteers conducted the camps. On the occasion of World Day of Social Justice, the people were informed that many types of discrimination are being created among the people in the world, which has created differences and distance between the people.

Due to such discrimination, many people have to face several problems. Considering the situation, World Day of Social Justice is celebrated on February 20 every year to eliminate such evils in the world. This day has been created for the purpose of achieving various objectives.

This day is mainly celebrated every year with the aim of tackling problems related to race, class, gender, religion, culture, discrimination, unemployment, etc. The theme for



the year 2022 is Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment.

While addressing the gatherings, Judges said that the elements of social justice are seen in the Preamble of the Constitution itself. The Preamble of the

Constitution includes all forms of freedom along with political, economic and social justice for the citizens.

The Preamble gives a message to the citizens to ensure the respect of the individual and the unity and integrity of the coun-

try through mutual brotherhood. The purpose of brotherhood is to remove obstacles like communalism, regionalism, casteism and linguism.

While drafting the Constitution of India, great care was taken of social justice in the coun-

try. There are many such provisions in the Constitution, which have been made to ensure social justice. Social justice requires gender equality, social security and protection of the rights of migrants. Social justice can be ensured only when people do not face problems on grounds of gender, age, race, religion or culture.

Even today, the common man does not know the process of justice for many of his basic needs. Due to ignorance, the human rights are often violated and the citizen is deprived of his rights. Today in India, poverty, inflation and economic inequality have crossed the limits and discrimination is also at the peak. In such a situation, social justice is a very debatable topic.

Transformers with Synthetic Oil being Phased Out as a Step towards Clean & Green Energy

1ST lot of PCB Transformers in BSP replaced with Environment-Friendly Dry Type Transformers

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is committed to protection of the environment & over the years has implemented several measures for the conservation of environment and natural resources. One such initiative of SAIL-BSP, currently being implemented for the welfare of the people to protect them from the harmful effects of wastes and also set a benchmark as a leader in adhering to the best practices of the world for environment protection is setting up a state of the art PCB management facility.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), generally referred as Synthetic

Transformer oils, are a class of synthetic organic chemicals used in many industries. This toxic chemical is known to be harmful to the human body. During the United Nations Conference on Human Environment at Stockholm, world forums agreed for elimination of PCB chemical. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) program on PCB management and disposal project is aimed to create fundamental capacities within industries, government, institutions and other entities undertaking electricity transmission and distribution for complying with the en-



vironmental obligations under Stockholm Convention. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF), Government of India, SAIL and UNIDO have joined hands to initiate a PCB management and disposal project at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of SAIL. Under this project all the existing transformers and

reactors at BSP, which are filled with PCB based oil and have been identified as a "PCB transformer" & "PCB Reactor" are proposed to be eliminated.

To achieve this noble objective for safe environment, SAIL-BSP management has taken up the project for replacement of 75 numbers of PCB filled

transformers with environmental friendly dry type transformer in initial phase. The first lot of 15 numbers of toxic PCB filled transformers were successfully replaced by the team comprising of Converter Shop (Electrical) of SMS-2, CET, PSD, Projects and M/s BHEL. Asit Saha,

CGM I/c (M&U), Sushil Kumar, CGM (SMS-II), Unmesh Bhardwaj, CGM (Projects), A Shankar, Acting CGM (Electrical) who together inaugurated the newly augmented facilities at Electrical Control Room 1 of Converter Shop, SMS-II on February 18, 2022 and congratulated the team for completing the job with

utmost safety and without affecting the production of the shop.

TD Venkatraman, GM I/c (Proj-Power & Mills), PK Mishra, GM (CS-E), Sijoy Jacob, GM (CS-E), R Kumar, GM (PSD), PN Urade, GM (PSD) and Kamini Gupta, DGM (ETL) coordinated the work. Sudhir Kumar, GM I/c (Oprn-SMS II), Alok Tiwari, GM (SBS), PV Rao, GM (CCS-E), S Debsikdar, GM (CCS), Saurabh Jain, GM (CCS-E), Binotosh Bala, GM (CS-Oprn), K Rajkumar, GM (CS-M), Manju Haridas, GM (CET), SK Mallick, GM (CS-Mech) were also present on this occasion along with officials of PSD, ETL, SMS-II, CET and Projects.

Trade Unions to participate in nationwide general strike

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On Sunday, a meeting of joint trade unions (AITUC, CITU, AICCTU, Ispat Shramik Manch, Steel Workers Union and HTSU) was held at Shram Shakti Sadan, Sector-6. Representatives of HMS and LOIMU could not attend the meeting due to some reasons, but have supported the decision taken in the meeting. On the other hand, INTUC Union has decided to go on strike separately.

It was unanimously decided in the meeting that to make the nationwide general strike of March 28 and 29 a success, the local unions will conduct dis-

tribution of pamphlets, street meetings, rallies etc. They will also organise gate meetings at all the entry/exit points of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The union leaders said that this strike is not only to save the rights and livelihood of the people/workers but also to save the economy of the country and the democratic system, which the dictatorial forces in the government are leading to destruction. The dictatorial elements have the support of the corporate world, both domestic and foreign.

The union leaders informed that the demands for strike on March 28 and 29 includes Abolition of four Labor Codes,



Abolition of EDSA, which prohibits strike;

Accept the 6-point demand of Samyukt Kisan Morcha after the repeal of agricultural laws;

Not accepting privatization in any form and scrapping the privatization and NMP policy; Rs 7500 and free nation and cash assistance to non in-

come tax paying families; Method in allocation for MGNREGA and extension of employment guarantee scheme in urban areas; To formalize the

Universal Social Security; Statutory minimum wage and social security for Anganwadi, Asha, mid-day meal and other scheme workers by giving them the status of labourers; proper protection and insurance facilities for frontline workers serving people amid the pandemic; Increase in agriculture, education, health and other important public investments by taxing the rich through wealth tax etc to revive and improve the national economy; Concrete remedial measures for reduction of central excise duty on petroleum products and to check price rise; Regularization of contract workers, scheme

workers and equal pay for equal work for all; Cancellation of NPS and restoration of old pension Substantial increase in minimum wage under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995/implementation of Supreme Court judgment.

The unions have further decided to stage a demonstration at Equipment Square on February 24 demanding immediate settlement of outstanding arrears, gratuity and salary of contract workers of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The meeting of NJCS sub-committee is going to be held on February 24, 2022 for discussing wage settlement of SAIL em-

ployees and contract workers. Demanding the revocation of arbitrary orders regarding arrears of 39 months and gratuity as well as proper wage revision of contract workers, the joint unions will stage demonstration at Equipment Square on February 24. After the demonstration, they will submit a memorandum to the BSP Management.

Vinod Kumar Soni, SP Dey, Nand Kishore Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, Sheikh Mehmoed, Brijendra Tiwari, Yogesh Soni were present in the meeting. They called upon all the workmen of Bhilai to ensure their participation in the demonstration and strike.

Guv, Cong differ over appointment of agriculture varsity V-C

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: The Chhattisgarh Governor and the Congress government in the state are on a collision course over the appointment of the vice chancellor of the Raipur-based Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV).

Speaking to reporters recently, Governor Anusuiya Uikey had asked if only people from one community should be considered for the post in a state where 32 per cent of the population is tribal, 14 per cent belong to Scheduled Caste communities and there are also people from Other Backward Classes.

"In 14 universities in Chhattisgarh, only people from one community have been given the responsibility of vice chancellor. People from other communities of the state should also get an opportunity," the governor had said at the time.

Hitting back, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had said the Governor "should stop doing politics" on the issue and said the people's demand must be taken into account.

"The Governor is ours. She is our constitutional head. She should stop doing politics on this issue, it is not in the interest of Chhattisgarh," Baghel said.

Dr SK Patil had recently completed his tenure as IGKV V-C, after which Dr SS Senger was made in charge head of the university.

However, recently a IGKV Teachers' Association delegation met Uikey demanding that a "local vice chancellor be appointed".

As per a statement issued from the Raj Bhavan, Uikey told the delegation that the VC will be chosen on merit and without discrimination as per the rules and Act governing IGKV.

She also chided them for

What Governor said

Governor Anusuiya Uikey had asked if only people from one community should be considered for the post in a state where 32 per cent of the population is tribal, 14 per cent belong to Scheduled Caste communities and there are also people from Other

Backward Classes. "In 14 universities in Chhattisgarh, only people from one community have been given the responsibility of vice chancellor. People from other communities of the state should also get an opportunity," the governor had said at the time.

What CM said

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had said the Governor "should stop doing politics" on the issue and said the people's demand must be taken into account. "The governor is ours. She is our constitutional head. She should stop doing politics on this issue, it is not in the interest of Chhattisgarh," Baghel said.

the manner in which the delegation spoke to the media on the issue, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA hit out at the CM for his statement and said the Congress was continuously trying to defame premier institutions of the state in this manner.

The Congress' communication cell chairperson Sushil Anand Shukla said the BJP must make its stand clear on the demand of the IGKV faculty to appoint a local person as VC.



People in large number reached city's Laxman Jhula since morning to enjoy the weekend here on Sunday.

HUGE RUSH

CGBSE 'Helpline 2022' from 22nd

Raipur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE), Raipur is starting "Helpline 2022" from February 22 regarding high school-higher secondary examinations. Students, teachers and parents can solve their problems on the CGBSE's toll free number 18002334363 in the helpline from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm.

According to the information received from CGBSE Secretary psychologists, psychiatrists, educational motivators will advise the examinees after resolving the problems related to examination-fear, safety and caution of Covid-19 infection, examination stress through the helpline. The subject experts will solve the problems related to the examination of the subject to be held on the next day and the board officers will solve the problems related to the board.

2 bikes lifted

Raipur: Unidentified lifters with Hero Passion pro bikes from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, CG04-HS-6838, was lifted from Samyasipara locality where it was parked by owner Ramanna. The lifting was later complained in Khamtarai police station. The other one, CG04-LM-2769, was lifted from outside a temple in Devpuri locality where it was parked by owner Purushottam Sahu. The lifting was later complained in Tikrapara police station. Respective police stations have since registered offence under Section 379 IPC against unidentified lifters and further investigations are now underway.

One arrested under Arms Act

Raipur: Dharsinwa police on Saturday night arrested a teenager under Arms Act from village Tirwaiya where he was arrested red-handed terrorizing locals armed with a sword. Identified as Govarshan Dhiwar, the accused was immediately taken to the police station where he was booked under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act.

12 students of Eklavya shine in medical entrance exam

11 students selected in MBBS and one in Dental

All the students belong to remote tribal area

Five girl students also selected

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: The students of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School have performed brilliantly in the All India Medical Entrance Examination (NEET) 2021. As many as 12 students of Eklavya have cleared the medical entrance examination and got admission in reputed medical colleges. Of them 11 students have been selected for MBBS

and one student has been selected for BDS (Dental). Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh Tekam, Secretary DD Singh and Commissioner Shammi Abidi have wished successful students good luck for their bright future.

Among the successful students in the medical entrance examination, two students of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School, Katakalyan, Dantewada, Piyusha Wake and Ramshilla Beck have been selected for Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial College. Indu Kodopi and Padma Made have been selected for Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur while Salvam Pale has been selected for government Dental

College Raipur. Out of two students of Eklavya Model Residential School, Taregaon Jungle District Kabirdham Raghunandan Dhurve has been selected in Government Medical College Bilaspur and Digvijay Singh Masram has been selected for Government Medical College Kanker. Two students Tribhuvan and Parasmani Rathia of Eklavya Adarsh School, Chhote Mudpar district Raigarh have been selected for Government Medical College Ambikapur.

Two students of Eklavya Model Residential School Shivprasad Nagar Sheshkumar and Satyanarayan Singh have

been selected for Medical College Rajnandgaon. Sukhram Mandavi, a student of Eklavya Model Residential School, Karpawand District Bastar, has also been selected for Medical College Rajnandgaon.

Most of the selected students belong to remote tribal areas. All the students belong to rural background and farming family.

These students have achieved success with hard work under guidance of the teachers of Eklavya Vidyalaya. The main objective of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School operated in the state is to provide quality education to the students of Scheduled Tribes and bring them at par with the students of general caste.

Consent reached on accepting 6 demands of affected farmers

For Nava Raipur project

Agriculture Minister urges farmers to call off their movement



Raipur, Feb 20: Minister for WRD Ravindra Choubey said that six out of total eight demands of affected farmers of Nava Raipur Project has been accepted and as per instructions from CM Bhupesh Baghel, the cabinet sub-committee formed to consider the demands and problems of farmers of Nava Raipur under 'Kissan Kalyan Samiti' (KKS) is regularly holding

talks with farmer representatives and so far in three meetings held, the talks were conducive. On rest of the two demands of farmers, final decision will be taken after taking legal opinion. He urged the members of KKS to call off their ongoing protest. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey and Forest Minister Mohammed

Akbar holding talks with media persons at their residence today informed that CM Bhupesh Baghel is very much sensitive about the demands of affected farmers of Nava Raipur project. For this a cabinet sub-committee has been formed and officers of concerned departments have been asked to sort out problems of farmers with due sensitivity. Choubey said that the six demands of the farmers which have been accepted on that the final order will be issued once the administrative procedure is completed. The Agriculture Minister informed that as per positive talks with farmers' representatives, there is consent reached on allotment of residential plots on lease; solving the points of the audit; consent has been reached to give works of NRDA tender services to 60% employees affected villages. He informed that a decision has been taken to give 'patta' as per meeting with the displaced and landless persons; to conduct allotment of assets developed in Nava Raipur for employment and business under Nava Raipur project to the affected people through lottery for 7 shops, 4 halls and 12 'gumti' and 71 'chabutara' and consent has been reached to make sale or purchase of land of 27 land free from taking NoC.

'Anutosh' an innovative initiative of SLSA

Speedy legal aid to be available to the aggrieved parties of case related to pension and public utility services

Raipur, Feb 20: State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) Bilaspur has launched a campaign 'Anutosh' on the instructions of its executive chairman Justice Goutam Bhaduri to provide speedy legal aid to the aggrieved parties of the cases related to pension and public utility services.

SLSA member secretary Siddharth Agrawal informed that needy persons having grievances related to pension, public utility services, transport service

in which passengers and goods are carried by air, road and water, postal, telegraph or telephone services, supply of electricity, light or water to the public by any institution, public safety or sanitation system, services in hospital or dispensary, insurance services, banking services, supply of fuel to public by any establishment, education and educational institution, housing or immovable property services, can submit their applications directly to Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Old High Court Building, Bilaspur with their complete details.

For this, special arrangements have been made in the form of help desk at the level of State Legal Services Authority,

Bilaspur, where necessary advance action will be taken to provide speedy relief to the aggrieved parties with action on the applications as per law.

Victim Tarshila Minj, who is martyr's wife, was worried about getting pension and other benefits. Similarly two girls of 'Pahari Korva' family in remote forest region Saraibahar are lying on the ground for last 15 years and they can neither speak nor walk. There is no facility of drinking water in the said village. Hand pump is not on working order since last five years. In respect of the above two, action has been taken by the State Legal Services Authority with cognizance to provide them proper assistance.

Massive drive continues against illegal liquor trade

Raipur, Feb 20: Raipur police in last 24-hours continued a massive drive against illegal liquor trade in all police station areas.

According to police, a total 52 bootleggers were arrested in the drive and 1008 bottles of liquor were seized. All of them

Building materials trader duped of Rs 9.70 lakh

Raipur, Feb 20: In a blatant instance of breach of trust, employee of a building material supplier has reportedly embezzled Rs 9.70 lakh by fleeing away with the huge sum of money while he had collected from bill payments.

According to Tikrapara police, complainant Ramadhar Sahu is owner of building material supplier having his office by name M.s/ Sai Traders at Devpuri. Accused Lachhu Ram Sahu had been employed in the shop engaged in selling building materials and preparing bills. He was also entrusted in collecting the bill payments. However, taking advantage of his employer, the ac-

cus ed embezzled a total of Rs 9.70 lakh between April 1, 2014 and December 20, 2019 by collecting the bill payments and fled without any information.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420 IPC against the absconding accused and further investigation is now underway.

Ch'garh sees 504 COVID-19 cases, no death; positivity rate 2.02 pc

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh reported 504 COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 11,49,197 on Saturday, while the death toll remained unchanged at 14,021, an official said.

The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 2.02 per cent, he said. The number of recoveries reached 11,31,637 after 56 people were discharged from hospitals and 765 completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an active tally of 3,539, he said.

"Balodabazar recorded 77 cases, followed by Raipur 53, Korba 46, Durg 45, Bemetara 44, Surajpur 34, Bilaspur 33, Surguja 23, Raigarh 16 and Rajnandgaon 13, among other districts. With 24,963 samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,69,03,503," the official added.

Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,49,197, new cases 504, death toll 14,021, recovered 11,31,637, active cases 3,539, today tests 24,963, total tests 1,69,03,503.

AWARNESS



Members of voluntary organisation 'Bunch of Fools' are creating wall-painting to create awareness among people of city to ensure participation of cleaning in entire city.

30 cricket players selected for national tourney

MD CSPHC make declaration of new team

Raipur, Feb 20: Players have been selected for the All India Inter-state Vidut Mandaliya Cricket tournament. The Chhattisgarh State Power Company Central Sports & Arts Council (CSPCCSAC) has selected total 30 players who will be representing Chhattisgarh in the national tournament to be held next month.

MD Chhattisgarh State Power Holding Company (CSPHC) Ujjwala Baghel made declaration of the players selected from CSPHC's head office in Dangananiya. On this occa-



sion ED duo Harsh Gautam (Distribution) and NK Bijoura (Generation) were also present.

She said that Power Company has organised cricket tournament to promote sporting talent among the employees of Power Company and in this best of

the sports players have been selected for the national tournament. In the teams, as the best bowler and batter Gaurav Dongre of Raipur; Nitin Samuel Raipur; Mahendra Netam Ambikapur; Vijit Sori Korba; Tushar Swamy Raipur; Komal Sahu

Rajnandgaon; Shailendra Paikra Korba (E) and Mahendra Thakur Raipur have been selected. The Raipur team comprises of Anand Verma (All-rounder); Wicket Keeper- Loknath Netam (Ambikapur); Dilip Yadav Raipur; Sandeep Jagdel Korba (E); Praveen Turki Jagdalpur; bowler- Omkar Verma Raipur; all-rounder- Ahtesham-ul-Haq Raipur; Saroj Rathore Korba (E); Rohit Verma, Lavneet Sinha Raipur; Batter- Rajesh Yadav Ambikapur. Along with them- Shailendra Choudhary Korba (E); Manish Khatri a d Yohan Nayak Raipur too have been selected. In addition to the above, N Bimbasar Raipur;

Shashank Karmahe Korba (W); Dinesh Meshram Madawa; Sudhakar Prasad Korba (E), Vikas Tiwari Bilaspur; VK Shukla Ambikapur; Kamal Bharti Jagdalpur; Ramakant Vaishnav Raipur have been selected. Anand Mokariwale Raipur has been kept as additional player.

A technical committee has been formed to select players for Sports Council and in this Joint Secy. Rajya Cricket Sangh GM Murty, Amitabh Dixit, Secy. Sports Council RK Banchor have been included. The programme was conducted by Govind Patel Manager (PR) and vote of thanks was proposed by tournament in-charge SE Manoj Verma.

Sirpur Festival is confluence of Art and Culture: Chandrakar

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Feb 20: Parliamentary Secretary Vinod Chandrakar inaugurated the two-day Sirpur Mahotsav to be held on the occasion of Magh Purnima at Sirpur, a well-known historical place, by lighting the lamp this evening.

Addressing the program, he said that this festival is maintaining its ancient culture and grandeur in the era of modernity. He said that the festival is part of the culture and traditions. It is a good thing that the people here are preserving the old traditions and giving them protection. The general public, especially the younger generation, get an opportunity to get to know the Buddhist heritage, folk art and culture closely.

Sirpur is the center of faith and reverence of the people. People come from far to perform arts here. In the festival, traders also buy the necessary materi-



als. Referring to the heritage of Sirpur, he also informed about the welfare achievements of the state government. Parliamentary Secretary Vinod Chandrakar said that such events bring to the public view of the local folk art and culture and the youth of today get an opportunity to learn and connect with the culture. In the era of modernity, it is the responsibility of all of us to maintain our old culture. He said that the organizers of this fair have also taken care of

the entertainment of the children. Apart from various types of games, there are also swings, which they are enjoying.

The chief guest honoured the artists. Stalls have been set up by the departments for the promotion of government schemes at the fair site.

On this occasion, Collector Nilesh Kumar Kshirsagar delivered the welcome address and presented mementos to the guests. Superintendent of Police, Vivek Shukla, Chief Executive Officer,

District Panchayat, S. Alok welcomed the chief guest. During this, District Panchayat Vice President, Laxman Patel, District President of Scout Guide, Daulal Chandrakar, Member of Central Zone Tribal Authority, Mohit Dhruv, District Panchayat Member, Arun Amar Chandrakar also addressed. On this occasion, local district members, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Sirpur, Mr. Lalit Dhruv along with public representatives, dignitaries were present.

Car-jeep meet with head-on collision, 1 dies

• Five others got seriously injured

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: In a head-on collision between Mahindra Jeep and Breeza Vitara near Satapara of Abhanpur near capital city, one person in the jeep died and five others were seriously injured. The injured have been shifted to hospital and the case is that of Abhanpur thana.

As per information in this regard six youths from Pandri Lodhipara were on their way to Aangar Moti Gangrel dam for sightseeing pur-



pose. During this a speedily driven Breeza Car and jeep met with head-on collision near Satapara in Abhanpur.

In this Shankar alias Tulsi (33) died on the spot and five other youths got seriously injured.

They were admitted to PHC Abhanpur for treatment and after first-aid were referred to Raipur. The police is investigating into this accident.

CRPF hosts civic action programme



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: CRPF 195 Battalion organized a civic action programme in village Sadar in which along with the villagers of this village, residents of nearby villages were also present in large number. CRPF organized this programme to apprise the villagers about ongoing development schemes being run by the central and state governments and benefits they can reap from these schemes. A medical camp was also conducted in

which doctors of CRPF 195 Battalion checked the villagers suffering from different diseases and gave them medicines. For protection against Corona mask and other essential items were also distributed among villagers. The officers and staff of CRPF who played a vital role in successfully organizing this camp include Rajiv Kumar, Second Commanding Officer Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commandant Jagdev Singh Yadav and others.

Milind Baudh awarded Ph.D in Geography

Amarkantak, Feb 20: A first Ph.D. from the Department of Geography Indira Gandhi National Tribal University was awarded to Milind Baudh. He was the first batch Ph.D. Scholar of the department enrolled for Ph.D. in 2016 and completed it in February 2022. On this occasion, Milind's grandfather Barati Lal Baudh shared that they hail from a remote village situated near the Indo-Nepal border in the Terai region of Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh. He did his schooling from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. Completed B.A. and M.A. from the University of Allahabad. While in post graduation, he cleared the all India



UGC NET examination four times in a row. Later joined the Ph.D. programme in the department of Geography, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, in 2016. During his Ph.D. he worked on the research topic titled "Integrated Rural Area Development of Shahdol district, M.P. Milind car-

ried out his research under the supervision of Dr. Richa Chaturvedi, Associate Professor of the Department of Geography. He shared that he is very much happy seeing his son's growth and his earnings will be a great support to the family.

Further, it is informed by Milind that that the external shared that this work has contemporary relevance and offers important policy suggestions. Dr. Milind expressed his gratitude to family members for their love and support. Further, he also expressed gratitude to his professors for their timely support. Friends, family members and well wishers congratulated him on this occasion.

Politician in guise confronts police personnel

Balod, Feb 20: In a video going viral in social media, a politician in guise namely, Lalit Sahu, State Secretary of the State Congress Committee is hurling abuses on, on-duty two police personnel. The police personnel's Pramod Sahu Batch Number 339, Devendra Sahu Batch Number 335 Pinkapar Chowki, had breached a tractor loaded with wood, which led to the altercation between the accused and the police men.

The Accused who identified himself as Lalit Sahu, hurled abuses on the police and confronted them in delivering their duties. After the video went viral, the police have started investiga-



tion by registering a case under sections 294, 186, 353 against Lalit Sahu, who claimed to be the State Secretary of the State Congress Committee on February 17 and both the police personnel Pramod Sahu and Devendra Sahu were line attached. Till the time of filing of the news, there is no clear information about the person who claims himself to be the State Secretary of the State Congress Committee.

Collector accorded a warm welcome in village Mutanpal

Jagdalpur, Feb 19: District Collector Rajat Bansal, who arrived here in village Mutanpal of Jagdalpur, Bastanar development block, was accorded a warm welcome by the villagers according to traditional Bastariya tradition. On this occasion, Rohit Vyas, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat was also present with him.

After local volunteer Munna of organization Yuvodaya had put the drinking water problem of the villagers before the district administration, the villagers, happy with the speedy resolution, had sent a call to the collector, on which the Collector halted for the night and also reached Munna's residence



in Madopara and listened to the problems of the villagers present there.

During this, the Collector and the officers present, along with roasted kulthi and soybeans, were also served boiled jhudanga, whose taste was appreciated by all. During the conversation, the villagers raised the demand for a pucca road in the locality as well as a pond for irrigation facilities and fish farming. Along with this, the villagers also expressed interest in poultry and goat rearing. The villagers also

demanding bifurcation of joint accounts. The Collector instructed the Patwari to be available in the local gram panchayat on the stipulated days, along with speedy process of distribution of accounts, so that the problems related to the revenue department of the villagers could be resolved quickly.

The Collector appreciated the efforts of Yuvodaya for taking up social responsibility as a crusade. It is noteworthy that Collector Bansal has been going to inaccessible sensitive areas in the past and after posting in Bastar district, has also visited Konta, Coleng in Darbha development block and Tiriya in Jagdalpur development block, earlier.

ACB arrest traffic in-charge and aide taking bribe of Rs 50 k

Central Chronicle News

Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 19: The Anti-Corruption Bureau team arrested Subedar Vikas Narang, the traffic in-charge of Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district, and his associate taking a bribe of 50 thousand rupees for bus operation. A challan was presented in the Bilaspur court, but the court rejected the bail and the accused have been sent to jail.

ACB Director Arif Shaikh was complained by the bus operator that his buses passing through Pendra, where harassed on a daily basis by fining



by Subedar Vikas Narang, and when he met Vikas Narang in this regard, he demanded a sum of Rs. 60000 for not being further fined.

When the ACB got the above complaint verified, it was agreed between the bus operator and the Subedar of a deal of Rs 50,000, after which ACB EOW Director Arif Shaikh, SP Pankaj Chandra, under the direc-

tion of ASP Amrita Sori Dhruv, made a plan and sent the bus operator to give Rs 50000 to the Subedar.

The Subedar called the bus operator to a hotel to collect the above amount after which, the team of ACB EOW arrested the traffic Subedar Vikas Narang and hotel worker Bharat Panika red handed along with the money. An offense has been registered against both under Section 7 (a), 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The District Superintendent of Police has issued an order to make TI Narendra Singh the new traffic in-charge.

Administrative action on occupiers of 13 ponds

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Feb 19: After the instructions of the District Collector to preserve ponds of Dhamdha, the team of revenue officers inspected the ponds and SDM Brijesh Singh Kshatriya visited the site as per the action plan and notices have been issued to vacate 13 ponds under encroachment. The action of their demarcation will be done in a day or two.

Dhamdha often referred as city of ponds, had a total of 126 ponds, of which only 26 are now visible, and Collector Durg district, Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure had given instructions to preserve the ponds



free from encroachment, in compliance of which SDM Shri Kshatriya along with his team inspected 13 ponds encroached and covered as fields. The team de-

marked the pond site and instructed the removal of encroachment at the earliest, as in government records these ponds exist in patwari records. The

ponds namely Lokaiya Pond of Sonkar Para, Banfra Pond of Bhanpur, Kukurchabba Pond, Tar Talab, Teli Dabri of Tamer Para Khar, Raja Talab, Raja

Talab's Paithu, Thakur Talab, Hathi Budan, Ghoda Budan, Tikaita Pond and Gopal Talab's Paithu, were inspected by the team in a span of two hours.

On the instructions of SDM Shri Kshatriya, Tehsildar Shri Ramkumar Sonkar has formed a team of Revenue Inspector and three Patwaris. A list of 13 ponds received from the CMO of Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha has also been attached. Instructions have been given to demarcate these ponds within seven days. This team includes Revenue Officer Shri KD Bandhe, Patwari Shri Omkar Deshmukh, Shri Hemant Kumar Mahant and Madhukant Singh.

Bal Hiteshi and Mahila Sashaktikaran Gram Sabhas attended by scores of rural children

Vinati Bhargava Mittal

As per article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment, so that they can stay healthy.

India will be able to provide these rights to its children and meet other Millennium Development goals only when issues and problems pertaining to the younger generation are raised, heard and included by policy makers while formulating programmes and implementing welfare schemes.

Thus, in a bid to improve infrastructure and facilities for children, it is essential that local self

government at the primary level encourages them to speak and involves them to become equal partners in the development process. Issues raised by urban children are heard at various forums but those by rural children go unnoticed.

To encourage children to speak about issues concerning them and find effective solutions, Madhya Pradesh Department of Panchayat and Rural Development in collaboration with UNICEF organised 12 Bal Hiteshi and Mahila Sashaktikaran Gram Sabhas (child friendly and women empowerment) in 12 districts of the state between January 24 and 28 this year. These were organised

in Dhar, Jhabua, Alirajpur, Ratlam, Dewas, Badwani, Khargone, Harda, Shivpuri, Guna, Betul and Dewas

"The gram sabhas had two motives - Bal Sangarakshan (Child Rights) and Mahila Sashaktikaran (Women's Empowerment)," said Subash Yadav, a teacher from Kagbipura.

Keeping the bottom-up approach module of development in mind, emphasis was laid on the participation of the local community, especially children and women, who till now had remained absent in the Gram Sabha meetings. As the children and women shared the dais with the local dignitaries they spoke freely about their problems and con-

cerns particularly on Child Rights and Women Empowerment.

Their concerns were noted by the authorities. The Sarpanch, Secretary, teachers, ashaworkers and angandwadi activists were present at the Gram Sabha meetings.

"This was the first time; we heard the problems and issues related to children and women at the Gram Panchayat. And, they spoke without any hitch," said Sharad Sher Sagar, Principal, Shaskiya High School, Rajawat, District Alirajpur.

This area is dominated by the tribal community. "When I heard their issues, I realised children who are the leaders of tomorrow were thinking of new and positive ways to bring changes in

the society," he added.

The youngsters spoke about child rights and child marriages, ways to stop violence, education and role of children during the pandemic, besides focusing on women empowerment.

Pressures levied by family elders on children made them enter into child marriages, they said expressing concern. Livelihood, health, career options, and women's security were other issues raised.

Some children wanted schools to reopen with proper Covid guidelines since they did not have mobile phone to attend online classes. Moreover, recharging mobile phones was expensive. Others highlighted the need to install solar lights for the safety of women, and building

playgrounds in villages. In a bid to attract students to schools, the necessity of installing play equipments there was also raised. Giving computer training in village schools was highlighted so that these children could be at par with net savvy urban children. A child spoke about the need to construct a school in his village.

Arti Parmar, a student, from Shaskiya Prathamik Vidyalaya, Kagnipura spoke about installing foot operated sanitisers in schools. Another girl took up the issue of making cheap sanitary napkins accessible to girls and women in villages.

Worried about the pandemic Covid 19, a small boy asked when children in his age group would be vacci-

nated. "We could use the platform of the Gram Sabhas to encourage children who had dropped out of school following the pandemic to come back into the fold of education," says Sagar.

Thirteen year old Bhumika Dawar, studying in class 7 in Shaskiya Prathamik Vidyalaya, Kagnipura threw light on the success of Mohalla classes in villages. Children attended these classes while maintaining the Covid protocol; i.e wearing masks and maintaining a two feet distance.

Gram Sabha is the assembly of the electorate. It is the primary body of the Panchayati Raj system and the largest. The foundations of the nation are laid here.

The idea behind organising Bal Hiteshi and Mahila Sashaktikaran Gram Sabhas was to help raise and incorporate issues related to children and women in the election manifestos of the gram panchayats, explained Dr Gayatri Parihar Mewada, Director of Vasudha Vikas Sansthan, a Dhar based NGO.

Each gram sabha were attended by as many as 500 to 700 women and 350 to 400 children, said Mewada adding the attendees abided by the Covid protocol.

Looking at their success, Bal Hiteshi and Mahila Sashaktikaran Gram Sabhas should be made a regular feature in the state with an emphasis on Har Bachcha, Har Samay, Har Adhikaar.

BLOT ON HUMANITY

Labour family thrown out of house by sarpanch



The demolished house of the victim Ganesh Ram Baghel.



The household items thrown out of the house.

Yogendra Kumar Uikey

Arjunda, Feb 20: Citing a classical example of blot on humanity, sarpanch and villagers forcibly chased away a labour family out of the village and also demolished their residence in the village. The incident is of Surdongar village under Daundi block where the victim Ganesh Ram Baghel (40) resided with his wife Rukhmani (38) and three children since 2005. On January 30, sarpanch Komeshe Korram (BCC presidet Daundi) reached Ganesh's house along with other villagers and forcibly threw them out of their house. They even beat them with sticks and injured them. The family



Panchayat which took the decision to evict the victim.

somehow managed to escape and informed the matter to local police. The entire family is now totally shattered and running from pillar to post for their daily need. The family have been threatened to be deprived of their facilities and children will be thrown out of school. The family now has now taken

shelter below a tree in the burial ground which is 1 km away from the village in the forest. They do not have basic items even to drive away cold and utensils to cook and eat food. Theft at victim's place After this eviction incident, victim who had saved little amount of Rs 30,000 cash at his place and

some ornaments of the victim's wife were stolen from the house.

What responsible authorities say..

" Even after repeated notice Ganesh Baghel refused to vacate the long on which he was residing with his family. For this reason panchayat called a meeting of the panchayat and as per the decision villagers forcibly evicted the family from their place."

Komeshe Korram Sarpanch

" The case will be investigated and action would be taken against the accused. There is no doubt that victim family has suffered a lot."

Anil Thakur In-charge Daundi PS

Kamar tribes flee village in search of greener pastures

Sheikh Hassan Khan

Mainpur, Feb 20: Setting aside all equations of employment generation schemes launched by the state government and their constant monitoring by the officials, protected Kamar tribe people numbering about 120 which is facing extinction have fled their inhabited village Amlia under Mainpur block to AP in search of greener pastures. They had left the village about one-half-months back to work in brick kilns of Hyderabad.

These vacated house are locked or totally closed by stacking bricks on the main door. This village is a dependent village under village panchayat Indagaon and is situated on hills which 15 km from Indagaon. This tribal people reside amidst forest and are used to live in scarcity even for their essential items. Their requirements are few and hardly come to Mainpur head-quarter market for their essential needs. In such a situation when these people can live in such a compromising situation, their fleeing in search of employment raises question about efficacy of government machinery.

Middle men arrived from Odisha and influenced villagers to flee

The middlemen from Odisha



A view of the Kamar dominated village Amlia.



Kamar tribals leaving village along with their family.



Closed houses of Kamars who left the village.

" The villagers have an habit of leaving their place while many work under MNREGA is presently underway in the village. About 60-70 people had left the village. The total population of village Amlia is 250."

Manoj Sahu Secretary

" It was informed by secretary Manoj Sahu that 60-70 people belonging to Kamar tribe had left the village are working in brick kilns in AP. Many work under MNREGA is underway in the village and is a serious matter that even after availability of sufficient work why the Kamar people are leaving the village."

Roopkumar Dhruv CEO, Janpad Panchayat Mainpur

approached the villagers and influenced them to flee for employment and administration did not get any information about it. Two years back villagers in large number had fled their place and got abducted in brick kilns. The administration led by then collector Shyam Dawde took initiative for the safe release of these abducted villagers.

What officials say...

" About 20-25 houses of this village had left by locking their doors and about one month back matter has been informed to the authorities through village panchayat secretary Manoj Sahu. About 150 members have left the village. The development projects designated for Kamar tribes have failed to benefit these population."



Rajman Netam, Sarpanch Indagaon

Maharati of Mahanadi



Sheorinarayan, Feb 20: In the lines of Ganga Aarti, on February 16 at 8 pm a massive aarti of Mahandi was organized at Baba Ghat by

the members of Champa Seva and Sheorinarayan Seva Sansthan in which Gau Seva Ayog president Mahant Ram Sunder Das, SP Janjgir

Abhinav Pallav, Nagar Panchayat chairman Mrs Anjani Tiwari and others. In this programme devotees in large number also took part

and the residents were moved with this programme. They expect that this type of programme should be organized every year.

V Fighter wins cricket match

Churikala, Feb 20:

Under the aegis of councilor Sheshban Goswami and Heeralal Yadav, a cricket tournament was organized and on the concluding day local MLA Purushottam Singh Kanwar was present as chief guest while former Nagar Panchayat president Ashok Dewangan was present as special guest. The final match was played between V Fighter Katghora and Azad Cricket Club Churi. Azad Cricket Club

Association won the toss and elected to bat. The team scored 104 runs in 10

overs. Chasing the total V Fighter Katghora scored 106 runs in 9 overs and

won the match. The winning team was given Rs 11,000 cash and shield.



Ramdas Maharaj passes away

Churikala, Feb 20: Maa Durga Temple manager Ramdas Maharaj passed away on last Friday morning at village Jag Mahant Math (Janjgir-Champa district). His mortal remains were brought to Churi and followers waited till late night to pay last respects to Ramdas Maharaj. Pale of gloom descended in the town as the news of Ramdas Maharaj reached here. His body was taken by road to Allahabad for performing the last rites. The body was kept for some time at Churi bus stand where people paid last respects to him. On Saturday afternoon his last rites were performed on the banks of river Ganga in Allahabad.

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/properties (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HHERPR00319541 1. RAFIQUE UMRANI 2. PARVEEN UMRANI	PLOT NO-27, SAMTA GRIH NIRMAL, SAHKARI SAMITI, MUN.H.NO. 15/616, KH.N. 696/6, PH. NO. 106 (P), R.N.M. RAIPUR, SWAMI ATMANAND WARD NO. 15, SAMTA COLONY, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001	04.10.2019	Rs.1,98,296.39/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Six and Paise Thirty Nine Only) as on 24.12.2021

That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan amount on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower. In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as are available to the Company in law. Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (B) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property." In terms of provision of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.

For CFM Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (Trustee of CFMARC Trust - IHFL) Authorized Officer

Place: RAIPUR

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurugram-122015 (Haryana)
Ph.: 0124-4212530/31/32, E-Mail : customercare@shubham.co Website : www.shubham.co

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)

Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties as per proviso to Rule 8(6) and Appendix-IV-A (Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being one of the Authorized Officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called the Company) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (The Rules) issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in column (C) below on dates specified in column (D) written against each of them, calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount indicated in column (E) below with 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken voluntary surrendered/possession of the property mortgaged to the company, described column (F) herein below, to recover the said outstanding amount, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules on the date mentioned in column (H).

The Borrower in particular and the public in general be hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in column (F) below and any dealings with these properties will be subject to the charge of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in column (G).

Now, the borrower and the public in general is hereby also informed that the said properties would be sold by public auction on date, time and venue as specified in column (K) against each of the property by inviting bids in the sealed envelopes as per the procedure and terms and conditions stated below:

S. No.	Application Number	Name & Address of Applicant	Date of Notice u/sec13(2)	Demand Notice Amount	Property Detail	Current due Amt (As on 15.02.2022)	Date of Possession & Possession Status	Reserve Price	EMD (Rs.) (10% of RP)	Date, Time & Place of Auction
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1.	BHL 1411 029417	Mr Santosh Singh Rajput, Kumud Lata Rajput Math Para, Chandi Chowk, Durg, Chattisgarh-491001	19-08-2016	₹ 3,07,204/-	Kh. No-646/03, P.H. No-29/40 Purai, Tah. & Dist- Durg (C.G)-491107	₹ 5,13,409/-	31-03-2017 (Physical Possession)	₹ 4,16,160/-	₹ 41,616/-	10-03-2022, 11AM to 02:00PM, FF-03, Block A, First Floor, Mansarovar Complex, M.P. Nagar Zone II, Habibganj, Bhopal - 462016
2.	BHL 1501 032636	Mr Yogeshwar Sahu, Dropali Sahoo, Balga Para, Ward No 5, Near Natraj Murti, Durg, Chattisgarh-491001	19-08-2016	₹ 8,01,609/-	Plot / House No 117, Atal Awasth Yojna, Baghera Durg, Tehsil & Dist- Durg, Chattisgarh-491001	₹ 18,37,602/-	31-03-2018 (Physical Possession)	₹ 6,65,100/-	₹ 66,510/-	
3.	BHL 1505 040033	Sadasivini Chandra Sekar Rao, Jagadishwari Sadashivani, H. I. G. - 1/26, Cghb, Aditya Nagar, Titurdih, Durg, Chattisgarh - 491001	19-08-2016	₹ 8,78,304/-	House No. HIG-1/26, Aditya Nagar, Tehsil & Distt. - Durg, Chattisgarh-491001	₹ 14,53,796/-	31-03-2021 (Physical Possession)	₹ 29,70,000/-	₹ 2,97,000/-	
4.	RAI 1407 025066	Mr Nawab Khan, Jamsheed Khan, Kamal Khan, Paras Nagar, Infront Of Shiv Mandir Lane, Raipur-492001	25-01-2016	₹ 10,47,906/-	Part Of Khasra No 78/1, 79/2-3-5, 75/7, Plot No 29, PH No 108, Ward No 29 Shitlamata Ward, Harshit Vihar Yojna Phase - II, Gram - Urkura, Dist - Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh	₹ 16,78,516/-	31-03-2017 (Physical Possession)	₹ 9,90,000/-	₹ 99,000/-	
5.	RAI 1412 031830	Mrs Kalpana Yadav, Kaushal Yadav, H.No. 27/630 Old Pipe Factory Road New Shanti Nagar Shankar Nagar Raipur-492001	25-01-2016	₹ 13,16,467/-	Shivanand Nagar, Mauja Khamtarai, Ph.No. 108/38, Part Of Kh No. 436/13, Raipur -492001, Chhattisgarh	₹ 28,16,056/-	31-01-2017 (Physical Possession)	₹ 10,82,700/-	₹ 1,08,270/-	
6.	BHL 1506 040540	Vijay Lal Sahu, Kanti Bai Sahu, C/o Shikha Shringar, Near Sheela Mandir, Urala Durg, Chhattisgarh 491001	22-07-2021	₹ 8,41,217/-	Khasra No 551/6, Vill Urala P H No 17/7, City & Tehsil And District Durg, Chhattisgarh, 491001	₹ 9,56,391/-	21-10-2021 (Physical Possession)	₹ 12,26,000/-	₹ 1,22,600/-	
7.	BHL 1509 045102	Yogesh Diddée, Usha Diddée, 34, Ward No 13, Gurunanak Nagar Supela-490023	19-01-2017	₹ 6,63,994/-	House No E-1/382 Kohka, Bhalai Tehsil- And District Durg C.G-490023	₹ 10,43,617/-	11-05-2017 (Symbolic Possession)	₹ 6,00,000/-	₹ 60,000/-	

Note: To the knowledge of the company, there is no encumbrance on the above property.

Terms and conditions of auction sale notice

PROCEDURE AND TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION BY INVITING BIDS:

- The property can be inspected on (For Sr. No. 1 to 5: 04-03-2022, 10 AM to 04 PM) & (For Sr. No. 6 & 7: 21-03-2022, 10 AM to 04 PM)
- Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder as also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders.
- The bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of undersigned along with a Demand Draft/Pay Order towards the Earnest Money Deposit favouring Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited, payable locally. The Earnest Money deposit shall not carry any interest. Along with Bid form the proposed bidder shall also attach his/her identity proof/ KYC norms and proof of residence such as copy of the passport, Aadhar Card, election commission card, ration card, driving license etc. and a copy of the PAN card issued by the Income tax department.
- Last date to submit the bid along with Earnest Money Deposit is on or before (For Sr. No. 1 to 5: 09-03-2022, 10 AM to 04 PM) & (For Sr. No. 6 & 7: 24-03-2022, 10 AM to 04 PM)
- In no eventuality the property would be sold below the reserve price indicated against each of the property.
- In the date of sale all the bids so received would be opened and the bid of the highest bidder, provided it is above the reserve price, may be accepted by the company. However the bidders personally present at the auction site shall have the right to further enhance their bid price, subject to a minimum of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) and in the event of higher bid price being offered the company shall have the right to accept the same. Thereafter, the Purchaser will be required to pay deposit of 25% (Twenty-Five Percent) of the sale price, after adjusting the earnest money deposit, immediately at the fall of hammer with the undersigned upon receipt of said amount the company will confirm the acceptance of the bid. The request for extension of time may be allowed by the Authorised officer at his sole discretion subject to such terms and conditions as may be deemed fit and proper by him. In the event the highest bidder fails to tender 25% of the bid amount immediately at the fall of hammer then the earnest money deposited by the highest bidder will be forfeited and the property would be offered to the second highest bidder. The balance amount of the purchase price shall be paid by the Purchaser to the undersigned on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of the sale of the said property or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing by the parties. In default of payment & within the time as mentioned above, the company shall be at liberty to forfeit the Earnest Money Deposit and/or any other deposit made by the purchaser and proceed with re-auction of the Property. That defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which may be subsequently sold.
- All the payments shall be made by the purchaser by means of the Demand Draft/Pay Order favouring Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited.
- On receipt of the sale in full, the company shall be issuing a Sale Certificate in favour of the Purchaser and would hand-over the possession of the property to the Purchaser.
- The said Immovable Property described in the Schedule shall remain and be at the sole risk of the Purchaser in all respects including loss or damage by fire or theft or other accidents, and other risk from the date of the Confirmation of the sale by the undersigned authorised officer. The Purchaser shall not be entitled to annul the sale on any ground whatsoever.
- The Demand Draft/Pay Order deposited towards the earnest money shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.
- For all the purposes sale of these Properties is strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS". The company is not aware of any encumbrances of any nature whatsoever on the aforesaid properties.
- All expenses relating to Stamp Duty, Registration Charges, Transfer Charges, Mutation charges and any other charges in respect of the above referred property shall be borne by the Purchaser only.
- The Authorised officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers/bid(s) and the company reserves its right to reject any or all bid(s) without assignment any reasons thereof.
- No person other than the bidders themselves or their duly authorised representative shall be allowed to participate in the sale proceedings on presentation of authority letter.
- In case all the dues together with all cost charges and expenses incurred by the company are tendered or settled by the above named borrowers at any time before the date fixed for sale for the property, under Sec13(8) of the Act, then the property will not be sold and all the bids received from the prospective bidders shall be returned to them without any liability/claim against the company.
- This notice is also a notice to above said Borrowers under Rule 8(6) and APPENDIX IV A of the security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 to the Customer at their respective address as mentioned in column "C" & "F".
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.shubham.co
- For further information, clarity or any assistance, same can be approached to Mr. Amit Singh (Authorised Officer) at mobile no. 93151 11938

Date : 19.02.2022
Place: Gurgaon

Authorised Officer
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

Distances

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India (BCI) has issued a statement distancing itself from a purported advertisement for an online law course on a website deceptively similar to that of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). BCI said attempt was made to portray as if this advertisement was on IGNOU website and advertisement stated that university was starting admission in LLB for the year 2022 through distance mode.

Navigation

Guwahati: The first night navigation mobile application in rivers in the country was launched for ferries plying on Brahmaputra river. The inaugural night journey of an Inland Water Transport ferry fitted with the system sailed between Guwahati and North Guwahati and completed the return journey also in about an hour. The night navigation mobile application was developed by the transport department in association with K Raju of IIT Madras.

Drugs

Bengaluru: The Customs and Intelligence units of the Bengaluru International Airport said they have seized drugs worth Rs 9.82 crore and arrested three people, including a Nigerian. Among the haul were one kilogram of heroin worth Rs 7 crore and 4.581 kgs of ecstasy pills worth Rs 2.82 crore. A case under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Drug Substance Act was registered.

Gambling

Hazaribag: Nineteen people, including a multi-millionaire coal magnate, have been arrested for alleged gambling in Hazaribag district. Acting on a tip-off, Superintendent of Police Manoj Ratan Chothe had on Friday directed the Officer In Charge of Korrah Police station, Uttam Kumar Tiwari, to conduct a raid in an upscale hotel in the district and apprehend the offenders.

Threatening

Akola: Amid the hijab row in Karnataka and some other parts of the country, a 60-year-old man was held in Akola in Maharashtra for allegedly threatening a woman and her daughter to not wear burkhas. The incident created tension in Wadegaon area with several people assembling at Balapur police station demanding strict action in case. The man also used abusive language.

Booked

Mumbai: The Mumbai police registered an offence against three policemen for allegedly robbing and extorting money from employees and their employees in south Mumbai. The Mumbai police's crime branch has arrested assistant police inspector Nitin Kadam and sub-inspector Samadhan Jamdade, while inspector Om Vangate of Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station is a wanted accused.

NCB enhances usage of rarely invoked law

To detain drug traffickers



New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has issued an all-time high of 18 orders in the last about three months under the PITNDPS Act, a rarely invoked stringent law that allows preventive detention of habitual drug-crime offenders for up to two years. The detenus against whom the order has been issued include foreign nationals. During the detention period, the accused cannot get bail or any relief that can set them free. The federal anti-narcotics

agency, officials told PTI, decided to use the law after NCB Director General SN Pradhan reviewed the functioning of the agency and directed that officers should only concentrate on big narcotics cases and linked cartels, prepare robust cases backed with fund trail probe and ensure conviction of the accused. The PITNDPS or Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988 "provides for the detention of persons concerned in any manner with illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

and psychotropic substances for one or two years with a view to preventing them from engaging in such harmful and prejudicial activities."

As many as 18 orders have been issued by the NCB under the PITNDPS in the last three months time as compared to about only four-five such orders issued over the last six years, officials said.

Those detained under the PITNDPS includes foreign nationals, like those from African nations who are regularly caught in drug crimes in India, they said. Under the scheme of this criminal law, the prosecuting agency first prepares a proposal for detention of a person (whether under arrest or otherwise) making a case that "unless prevented, the person(s) is likely to continue harmful and prejudicial activities by engaging in illicit traffic of drugs."

Indian delegation to visit Pakistan for Indus meet

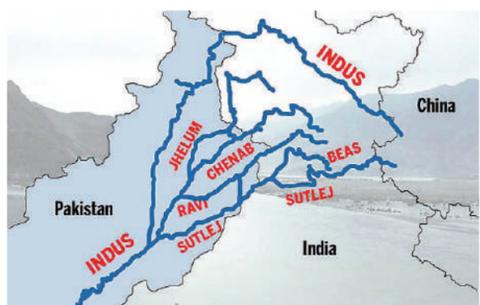
Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI):

A 10-member Indian delegation will visit Pakistan for the annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission from March 1-3, a senior Jal Shakti Ministry official said on Sunday.

In a first since the signing of the Indus Water Treaty between the two countries, three female officers will also be part of the Indian delegation, which will be advising the Indian Commissioner on various issues during the meeting, the official said.

Last year, a delegation led by the Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters had visited India for the annual meeting.

The annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan be-



tween March 1 and 3, 2022, Pradeep Kumar Saxena, Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters, told PTI.

The delegation will comprise Saxena's advisors from the Central Water Commission, the Central Electricity Authority, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and the Ministry of External Affairs. The Pakistan side

will be led by Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, the Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters.

The Indian delegation will leave for Pakistan through Atari border on February 28 and will return through the same route on March 4.

The agenda for the meeting is being finalised between the two

'BJP reduced AFSPA to 'organised violence' act'

Congress committed to its repeal: Manipur leader

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Congress' Manipur in-charge Bhakta Charan Das on Sunday accused the BJP of reducing AFSPA to an "organised violence" act to target citizens, and asserted that the demand for its repeal was a "big issue" in Manipur but the BJP was "not respecting" people's views.

The Congress, which has promised to work towards the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, if voted to power in Manipur assembly polls, has



Bhakta Charan Das

slammed the BJP for being silent on the act in its manifesto. In an interview with PTI, Das rejected suggestions that not having announced a chief ministerial face could hamper the Congress' chances in Manipur and said the party has several capable

leaders, including former CM Okram Ibobi Singh who is active and a "very strong face" for the leadership of the state.

The Congress' Manipur in-charge exuded confidence that the party would form government in Manipur and get around 35-40 seats in the 60-member assembly. Das claimed that the anti-incumbency factor was very strong against the N Biren Singh government as it had "failed" to fulfil even a single poll promise. "This is a Congress-minded state. Consecutively there was a Congress government for three terms which shows the foundation of Congress is strong in the state.

'Greater Tipraland' demand to dominate Tripura assembly polls

Centre is neither responding nor inviting

Agartala, Feb 20 (PTI):

The 'Greater Tipraland' separate statehood demand seeking to carve out tribal areas of Tripura is likely to dominate the political discourse in the assembly elections in the northeastern state due early next year.

The Tripura Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance or TIPRA Motha, a regional political party led by royal scion Pradyot Kishore Debbarma, seeks a separate state for the indigenous people of Tripura. The party swept the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District



Pradyot Kishore Debbarma with supporters during a rally in Agartala on Sunday.

Council (TTAACD) elections held in April last year, winning 18 of the 28 seats over the 'Greater Tipraland' demand in a direct contest with the ruling BJP-IPFT alliance.

The statehood demand may affect results in 20 as-

sembly seats, where tribals hold considerable clout electorally, in the 60-member House.

Debbarma said that his party is willing to forge an alliance with any national party that provides a constitutional solution

PATNA DOG SHOW



Participants with their pets during a dog show organised by Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), in Patna, Sunday.

RJD snubs Congress in Bihar legislative council polls

Patna, Feb 20 (PTI):

Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) has slammed its doors shut on the possibility of any understanding with the Congress, its estranged ally, for elections to 24 seats of the legislative council in Bihar. State RJD president Jagadanand Singh has announced its candidates for two seats, having done the same for 21 others a week ago, and declared that it was leaving one for the Left parties.

Elections to the two dozen seats, vacant for quite some time, are expected in March or April. The development came barely a day after Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra came out in support



Rashtriya Janta Dal meet in Patna on Sunday.

of Prasad, who is in jail after conviction in yet another fodder scam case. He was held guilty in the Doranda Treasury case by a special CBI court at Ranchi on February 15.

Three days later, Vadra came out with a tweet in Hindi, alleging that Prasad was a victim of BJP's political vendetta and praying for justice to the septuagenarian leader.

Prasad's son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav promptly replied with a "thank you". Speculations were rife that the exchange of niceties in the virtual world would be followed by a softening of stance by the RJD, which says it is committed to supporting the Congress "at the Centre" though finding it no longer worthy of an electoral collaboration in the state.

Karnataka Congress continues agitation inside Vidhana Soudha

Bengaluru, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Congress in Karnataka continued its agitation inside the Karnataka Assembly for the past three days demanding removal of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister KS Eshwarappa for his alleged statement on the national flag. The Congress legislators have been camping in the Vidhana Soudha inside the Assembly Hall and have been sleeping there in the night. "The agitation is happening because of the adamant stand of the BJP. Who is asking for Eshwarappa's resignation? No one. We want his dismissal. Our appeal is also to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to dismiss him," KPCC chief



MP Mallikarjun Kharge meets Congress MLAs at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

DK Shivakumar said. He was confident that the minister would be dismissed from office in the next two days. Stating that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is under pressure from within the party, Shivakumar said if the CM has self-esteem then he would have thrown out

morality to be the opposition party. Reacting to a question about the protest and camping inside the Karnataka Assembly by Congress party members, Bommai said they had lost morality to be either the ruling party or even sit in the opposition.

"DK Shivakumar and other Congress legislators go home for a while to come back again. The agitation will continue either till the dismissal of Eshwarappa or till the end of the current assembly session," a source close to Shivakumar told PTI.

The source said the legislators have been sleeping at night inside the Assembly, perform yoga under the rising sun and jog and walk around the Vidhana Soudha in the morning.

Two sitting corporators of Lucknow MC in poll battle

Lucknow, Feb 20 (PTI):

In the poll fray from the state capital, two sitting corporators of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation and an ex corporator exude confidence that they have an edge over other candidates as they are armed with a better understanding of the ground situation and problems facing locals.

Among the sitting corporators of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation, BJP's Rajneesh Gupta is contesting from Lucknow Central. Gupta is a four-time corporator from Yahiyganj ward in the state capital.

Mamta Chaudhary, who is contesting the assembly election from Mohanlalgnj



Union minister Shobha Karandlaje conducting door to door campaign in Lucknow Central.

assembly constituency on a Congress ticket, is a corporator of Malviya Nagar ward. Former corporator from Motilal Nehru Nagar Charanjeet Gandhi is in the poll fray from Lucknow Cantonment seat on a SP ticket. His wife is currently the cor-

porator from Motilal Nehru ward. Speaking to PTI, Chaudhary said, "If a corporator becomes an MLA, he/she knows the ground situation of the locality and the entire neighbourhood, and can hence solve the problems of the people."

BRIEF

Refugees

Washington: The last of thousands of Afghan refugees who awaited resettlement at eight US military installations departed from a base in New Jersey, completing a journey that started with the chaotic evacuation from Kabul in August.

Alive

Corfu: A passenger was on Sunday found alive on a ferry that has been ablaze off Greece for three days, coastguards said, with 11 truck drivers still missing.

Scrap

London: The British government confirmed that people with COVID-19 won't be legally required to self-isolate starting next week, as part of a plan for living with COVID that is also likely to see testing for the coronavirus scaled back.

Shelling in east Ukraine, Russia nuclear drill raise tension

Kyiv, Feb 20 (AP):

Hundreds of artillery shells exploded along the contact line between Ukrainian soldiers and Russia-backed separatists, and thousands of people evacuated eastern Ukraine, further increasing fears Sunday that the volatile region could spark a Russian invasion.

Western leaders warned that Russia was poised to attack its neighbour, which is surrounded on three sides by about 150,000 Russian soldiers, warplanes and equipment.

The United States and many European countries have alleged for months that Russia is trying to create pretexts to invade.

'Don't slip into analogy of referring Quad as Asian NATO'

Munich, Feb 20 (PTI):

Dismissing the notion that the Quad is an Asian NATO, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that there are "interested parties" who advance such analogies and one should not slip into it, underlining that the four-nation grouping is a kind of 21st century way of responding to a more diversified and dispersed world.

Jaishankar was speaking during a panel discussion on 'A Sea Change? Regional Order and Security in the Indo-Pacific' at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2022.

"Quad is a grouping of four countries who have common interests, common values, a great deal of comfort, who happen to be located at four corners of the Indo-Pacific, who found out that in this world no country, not even the US, has the ability to address global challenges all on their own," Jaishankar said.



Yars intercontinental ballistic missile being launched from an air field during military drills in Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to choose a place to meet where the two leaders could meet to try to resolve the crisis.

Ukraine will continue to follow only the diplomatic path for the sake of a peaceful settlement, Zelenskyy said at the

Munich Security Conference. There was no immediate response from the Kremlin.

Zelenskyy spoke hours after separatist leaders in eastern Ukraine ordered a full military mobilization and sent more civilians to residents of the rebel-held territories. Claims that Russian citizens are being endangered might be used as justification for military action.

In new signs of fears that a war could start within days, Germany and Austria told their citizens to leave Ukraine.

German air carrier Lufthansa canceled flights to the capital, Kyiv, and to Odesa, a Black Sea port that could be a key target in an invasion.



EAM S Jaishankar meets non resident Indians in Munich on Sunday.

Jaishankar dismissed the notion that the four-member grouping is an Asian-NATO as completely misleading term and said there are interested parties who advance that kind of analogies.

"I would urge you not to slip into that lazy analogy of an Asian-NATO.

of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, reflected the spread of disinformation in Canada and simmering populist and right-wing anger. I think we've started something here, said Mark Sutor, a 33-year-old protester from Hamilton, Ontario, speaking as police retook control of the streets around Parliament.

Protesters had essentially occupied those streets for more than three weeks, embarrassing Trudeau and energising Canada's far right. Sutor believes the protests will divide the country, something he welcomes. This is going to be a very big division in our country, he said. I don't believe this is the end.

While most analysts doubt the protests will

Canada's protests settle down, but could echo in politics

Toronto, Feb 20 (AP):

Most of the streets around the Canadian Parliament are quiet now. The Ottawa protesters who vowed never to give up are largely gone, chased away by policemen in riot gear. The relentless blare of truckers' horns has gone silent.

But the trucker protest, which grew until it closed a handful of Canada-US border posts and shut down key parts of the capital city for weeks, could echo for years in Canadian politics and perhaps south of the border.

The protest, which was first aimed at a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for cross-border truckers but also encompassed fury over the range of COVID-19 restrictions and hatred

ANIMAL PROTECTION



Activists take part in a rally demanding animal protection laws in constitutional Presidential Office in Taipei on Sunday.

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA DONGARGARH

S.E.C. New Railway Colony, Dongargarh Dist.- Rajnandgaon (C.G.) Pin- 491445 Phone-07823296050

Walk-in Interview

Walk in Interview will be organized for the session 2022-23 in the premises of Kendriya Vidyalaya Dongargarh to prepare Panel for Part Time Contractual Teachers for the Vidyalaya on 28-02-2022 (Monday) for the following posts :- PGT(Commerce), PGT(Economics), TGT(English), TGT(Hindi), TGT(Social Science), TGT(Sanskrit),PRT, Computer Instructor, Yoga Instructor, Sports Coach and Nurse.

Principal

Central Bank of India Regional Office, Raipur (C.G.)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISION TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrowers, Lot No., Description of the property, Outstanding Amount (Secured debt) Demand Notice Date, Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount. Contains 10 rows of auction details.

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Financial sector integrity

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questioned Chitra Ramakrishna, former CEO-MD of National Stock Exchange (NSE) at her house in Chembur, Mumbai. The Income Tax (I-T) team were also present in her house examining documents when CBI questioned her separately in her apartment. The case has generated sensation regarding conduct of people responsible for maintaining integrity of financial sector in India. It appears that structure of financial sector regulating agencies in India is flawed and officials able to operate in a shady manner, disregarding law. It questions integrity of financial sector, particularly stock markets. Soon after she took over as the managing director and chief executive of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) in April 2013, Chitra Ramakrishna, always dressed immaculately in Kanjivaram sarees, met brokers several times in Delhi and Mumbai. Chitra Ramakrishna, was told by the unknown 'yogi', "You will vomit all that is required as always", with reference to discussions with Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Finance Ministry and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on listing of stock exchanges. It seems from the conversations that rather than seeking 'guidance' as Ramakrishna has claimed, the 'yogi' was dictating to her. On SEBI norms on listing of stock exchanges, the 'unknown person', vide e-mail dated December 4, 2015, suggested that Ramakrishna should approach the Finance Ministry, PMO, SEBI etc for self-listing of NSE. The NSE in its letter dated July 6, 2018 drew reference to the forensic investigation report of E&Y, wherein E&Y upon examination of the matter concluded that the said person was Anand Subramanian. The NSE has also concurred with the same. The NSE vide its letter dated November 27, 2018, submitted that its legal advisors had consulted practitioners dealing with human psychology. There is little or no information about him on LinkedIn or the numerous websites that track corporate profiles. Internal guidelines of large international companies in financial industry say that it is highly suspicious if someone's footprint has been completely wiped out from the net. Subramanian, who had no digital footprint, went on to become the group operating officer in a very large and sensitive organisation like the NSE, which is a first-line regulator. Chitra Ramakrishna resigned from NSE on 2 December 2016. However, SEBI raised serious questions on how the NSE board allowed her to exit from the Exchange, despite the misconduct in appointing and sharing confidential information with an unknown person. The National Stock Exchange is country's largest stock exchange and also has monopoly in the derivatives business. It's a sad commentary that instead of seeking to repose faith both in the NSE and resurrect its own regulatory aura, the SEBI has shown a diminished role. CBI has issued a lookout notice against Ravi Narain, the former boss of the NSE is already in London with his family for the past several months. It has also not helped how SEBI has handled the algo case wherein after severely indicting Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramakrishna in its 2019 final verdict, this month the regulator said it was dropping the charges against the NSE, Narain and Chitra under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Unfair and Fraudulent Trade Act and charging them under Securities Contract Regulations Act (SCRA) and Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations Act (SECC). Instead, it had imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on NSE and Rs 25 lakh each on Narain and Chitra. Before the regulator holds boards and market intermediaries accountable for upholding their fiduciary responsibility, the onus to show the way has to come from SEBI. The central government has to uphold integrity of financial sector.

Drone usage

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the new 'Kisan Drone Yatra' in different parts of India. Central government has announced special provisions for the drone industry in the Union Budget 2022. The government is pushing for the adoption of the 'Drone Shakti'. During the budget speech, drones were mentioned as both solutions to some pertinent problems faced by farmers and startups. Drone technology has gotten most of the recognition in the industry because of its diversity and considered the future for the agrarian community. The military initially used them. However, other sectors quickly embraced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) when they learned about its widespread applications. With the world supply at an all-time high and commodity prices at an all-time low as a result of increasing demands in food production and consumption, the modern farming industry is at a crossroads. There is a greater need than ever before for farmers and agronomists across the globe to improve resource management in response to tightening budgets. The use of drones in the agriculture industry is steadily growing as part of an effective approach to sustainable agricultural management that allows agronomists, agricultural engineers, and farmers to help streamline their operations, using robust data analytics to gain effective insights into their crops. Crop monitoring, for example, is made easier by using drone data to accurately plan and make ongoing improvements, such as the use of ditches and evolving fertilizer applications. Drones are particularly useful for the careful monitoring of large areas of farmland, considering factors such as slope and elevation, for example, to identify the most suitable seeding prescriptions. The technology has also proven useful in gaining an extensive overview of plant emergence and population, as more accurate data can help with replanting decisions, as well as thinning and pruning activity and the improvement of crop models. Crucially, the high-resolution nature of drone data can be used to assess the fertility of crops, allowing agricultural professionals to more accurately apply fertilizer, reduce wastage, and plan and troubleshoot irrigation systems. The technology can also be particularly effective following natural disasters, such as a flood, to help farmers to assess damage across terrains that may not be readily accessible on foot. Given the extensive terrain that requires surveying, drones offer increased efficiency, allowing users to capture high resolution imagery more quickly than alternative methods. Particularly in these volatile market conditions, estimating annual yield can help manage expectations.

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

HIGH WAVES



A pedestrian stands in front of the ocean as high waves crash over the beach of Etretat, Normandy, western France.

Indian cities need circular economy to secure urban futures

SHUBHAGATO DASGUPTA & NEHA AGARWAL



Cities are a critical frontier in the fight against climate change. Existing urban areas are responsible for 75% of global carbon-dioxide emissions and the share could climb further as large swathes of Asia and Africa urbanize. In turn, the combined effect of climate change-induced resource scarcity and an increased resource footprint characterizing urban lifestyles threaten urban sustainability. With a national urban population of more than 300 million that is set to double between 2018 and 2050, India must determine how to make its cities more resource-efficient and less polluting. A fundamental urban transformation is a necessity as India strives to become a 'net zero' carbon emitter by 2070 per its COP26 commitment. And given that urban India is set to make massive investments in wastewater and solid waste management over the next five years under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, it has a unique opportunity to test and scale solutions that work. Circular economy with its emphasis on minimizing fresh withdrawal of resources and maximizing waste prevention and recycling could present a path forward.

Globally, early adopters of the circular economy framework, such as the cities of Berlin, Toronto, and New York, are beginning to reap benefits from it in the form of reduced waste generation, environmental pollution, and energy consumption.

Fortunately, India has its own home-grown examples from which to learn. One of these is the city of Udaipur where the urban local body collaborated with the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to develop a circular wastewater management system. HZL required significant quantities of water to support its mining operations in a semi-arid region outside the city and the city needed a way to manage its wastewater. The complementarity of needs led to a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the city, HZL, and the Rajasthan State-Owned Urban Improvement Trust in 2014. The arrangement tasked the local government with the development of the sewerage network, while HZL built the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) itself with an initial capacity of 20 million litres per day (MLD) and later augmentation to 60 MLD. HZL is also responsible for its operations and maintenance for a period of 25 years in exchange for the rights to use the treated wastewater for its operations.

A second emerging example is the city of Indore which has created Asia's largest bio-methanation plant (capable of treating 500 tons of waste per day) that is impending an inaugural by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this week. Developed at a cost of INR 150 crores (USD 20 mn) under a Public Private Partnership between the city, Ecosmart, and Proweps EnviroTech GmbH, the plant is expected to generate 18 kilolitres of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and 100 tons of compost daily. The city plans to use a share of the produced bio-CNG to run its public buses and municipal vehicles and sell the remaining along with the compost. Since bio-CNG is greener than traditionally-derived fossil fuels, all else remaining the same, using it would reduce vehicular carbon emissions. The revenue derived from the sale of the two end-products, viz. bio-CNG and compost, has the potential in turn to enhance

the financial sustainability of the operation.

Constitutionally responsible for the delivery and management of urban services, cities are best poised to lead a bottom-up shift to circular urban economies. The application of the circular economy framework to service delivery systems must start at the planning stage itself. However, designing infrastructure systems that enable resource recovery and recycling is not enough; cities must actively engage with all its potential collaborators in a circular economy such as citizens, informal and small-scale service providers, industries, markets, and others, to identify behavioural roadblocks that can constrain the success of the endeavour. For example, separate collection, and storage of biodegradable and non-biodegradable solid waste at the level of the household (or other generators) is the simplest and cheapest approach to waste segregation. But when waste is mixed at the source or during transport, the overall system must incur costs in terms of money and time to re-segregate it before its processing and eventual recycle, resulting in constrained financial sustainability.

An economic approach aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources, circular economy offers a new paradigm that emphasizes on the need to take a comprehensive view of products and processes. Our production systems must adopt practices around the principles of circular economy so that they not only reduce resource dependency but also gain competitiveness. A circular economy path adopted by India could bring in substantial annual benefits, along with significant reduction in congestion and pollution, which would consequently have a snowball effect on the economy. Our ability to maximize our resource efficiency, minimize the consumption of finite resources as well as the impetus to the emergence of new business models and entrepreneurial ventures will spur our transition to-

wards self-reliance. The Government has been actively formulating policies and promoting projects to drive the country towards a circular economy. It has already notified various rules, such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, Metals Recycling Policy in this regard. It is essential to recognize and revolutionize the material flow in the manufacturing process and shift towards a circular economy, which provides multipronged economic and ecological benefits.

To make circular urban economy a success, cities would need to examine the motivations of the participating actors and reorganize incentives through rewards and regulations to drive desirable behaviours. This would require measuring the viability of projects in dimensions beyond financing. Citizen acceptance, integration of informal livelihoods, operational reliability of underlying technology in local contexts, and urban equity are just some of the considerations to account for. Since Indian cities are widely-varied in their socio-ecological contexts, developing a portfolio of service models that work and are scalable warrants experimentation. Although, some thematic national and state policies and programs do nudge cities towards building circular economies within their specific domains, but a dedicated program or policy from the Government of India with a unifying vision of climate change mitigation and adaptation could inspire cross-cutting local action. The problem looms as large as ever but armed with lessons from an audit of past programs and flexibility in time and resources, urban India can usher in a sustainable transformation to secure our collective urban futures.

(Shubhagato Dasgupta is Senior Fellow and Neha Agarwal is Senior Research Associate at Centre for Policy Research, Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humour

Humour has a lot of positive scientific connections to the human body. Good and plain humour sharpens the brain, enhances the intellectual ability of a person, makes one blithe-some and ultimately helps him/her to keep in good health. In fact, years ago I read somewhere that the more you cry like a newborn, the more you would laugh as you grow. Humour supplies fresh energy to our body and melts away anger in no time. Without humour, the existence of a human being on earth is inconsequential and pointless. Those who don't appreciate good humour and laugh, but always present themselves with tight faces, are equal to corpses. Of all the places, jokes relating to the office would always top the list. For example, an egoist and ever ill-tempered boss would shout at his secretary: "I am the boss... you are nothing!" Pat comes the reply from her: "So you are a boss of nothing!" Nice humour exists in some popular phrases too. Consider this: 'A woman is behind in every man's success, the adage goes. But the question is: "If she comes in 'front', will he be a failure?" One seriously needs to ponder over. There is little doubt that humour is the panacea to the rigours of our daily life, especially during times of pandemics.

Ranganathan, via email
Election candidates

With different phases of elections going on and results eagerly awaited from five states-UP, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand, the election fever has reached its crescendo. UP is the heartland of the Hindi belt having the maximum number of MP seats which is so crucial for any political party or alliance to claim the power corridors of New Delhi. Naturally, it is to be a do-or-die situation for all political parties contesting the poll as the next parliamentary election is in just two years' time. A healthy election is always welcome in democracy but very unfortunately it is not so as evidenced by the use of some unprintable language used by the candidates against each other as if it is a personal war. We are appalled to see in the leading national TV channels the unparliamentary, unprintable languages used by the candidates before the TV cameras which make all sensible electors hang their heads in shame. It is seen often some candidates even do not care to side with our enemy nation to appease a particular communities as vote bank at the cost of the nation's security and integrity quoting the principles of Secularism when our Bravehearts are shedding their blood to fight them. Sadly, today's politics has become the last resort of a few scoundrels and traitors.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Birender Dhanoa@bsdhanoa
"To spread division in Ukraine, the Kremlin relies on what experts have called a 'firehose of falsehood', a propaganda technique that bombards the public with reams of lies & conspiracy theories, whether through pro-Russian media outlets or Twitter bots..."

Jency Jacob@jencyjac
Looks like the obsession of the 'nationalists' about Singapore and the country's 'strong leadership' has finally ended. They are busy cancelling the Singapore PM. The Singapore PM was right. ADR data shows that the number of Indian MPs facing criminal charges.



Smita@smibarooah
The more they hound @vikramsampath the more famous he becomes.Thanks to their shenanigans people are catching on to the systematic attempts to shut out voices from the so called Right. They're responding by buying his books & reading what the anti-lobby is trying to shut out



Vinod Kumar Jha@vkjha62
Hijab-Kesariya row looks like issue of political and gender dominance. Responsibility lies more on teachers-parents how they retain collective identity of students & secular character of schools. Rational thinking with global perspective & empathy is the answer.



Celina Jaitly@CelinaJaitly
Skillful Pilots Gain Their Reputation From Storms And Tempest.



Harsha Bhogle@bhogleharsha
A lot of players have gone back to the Ranji Trophy to fight their way back. That includes VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly and both returned better players for the stage they were in. It is tougher as you get older but you have to wish Ishant, Saha, Rahane and Pujara well.

Paddy@vonbrauckmann
I just finished the first nine verses of the first Canto in the Mundaka Upanishad. Reading the Upanishads leaves me in awe. It's incomprehensible how the Saptarishis gathered such knowledge. Nothing like them has ever come forth in any wisdom tradition.

BRIEF

Exports



New Delhi: CLE Chairman Sanjay Leekha said that leather and footwear exports are expected to cross about Rs 44,800 crore in 2022-23 on account of increasing demand in US and new markets such as Middle East, Africa and Latin America, FTA with UAE also help.

Raises

New Delhi: Software as a service provider Inceff has raised USD 12 million (around Rs 82.62 crore) in its Series B funding round led by TVS Capital Funds, the company said. Premji Invest, Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal's 021 Capital, and six existing angels participated in this round.

Hire



New Delhi: Tata Technologies will hire at least 1,000 more people in FY2023 than its planned recruitment of over 3,000 innovators over a 12-month period, MD-CEO Warren Harris told PTI. It is to fulfil the requirements of customers as its growth accelerates.

Aims

New Delhi: BSH Home Appliances, which manufactures and sells products under Bosch and Siemens brands, aspires to be a Rs 5,000 crore company in India by 2026 by increasing its market addressability with expansion of product line-up.

Plant



New Delhi: Ashok Leyland plans to set up a new manufacturing facility in the country to roll out electric vehicles, Executive Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja told PTI. It has also lined up a Rs 500 crore investment to develop powertrains based on alternative fuels.

Growth

New Delhi: Digital networks integrator Sterlite Technologies expects about 20 per cent growth in business across key markets of the US, Europe and India in FY2023 amid global scale-up of networks and 5G build outs, its managing director Ankit Agarwal has said. With a notable drop in COVID-19 cases and easing of curbs, the company is encouraging employees to 'return to office' and has seen positive responses across offices.

Govt plans new tech, digital infra for coal mines operations

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The government plans to implement new technologies and build digital infrastructure to support current and future coal mines operations, a move that would reduce the country's dependency on imports. Technological advancements in coal mining are also making operations more productive.

"The objective is to implement new technologies and build digital infrastructure to support current and future ramp-up for the mines," according to the government's draft technology road map for the coal sector.

This involves a strong, multi-speed backbone information technology and infrastructure system that allows rapid deployment of new technologies. "Creation of such system would require access to new-age ecosystems (e.g.,



start-ups, established vendors, research institutes, etc). The technological transformation will also entail the creation of a new culture in the organisation," it said.

To reduce the dependency on imports, it is critical for Coal India Ltd (CIL) to reach the one billion tonnes (BT) target, thereby embarking on a technological transformation journey, it said. New tech-

nologies can have a number of impacts on mining operations, including safety and productivity, environmental protection, and opportunities for women.

Safer working conditions through improved underground communication, automation, more sophisticated mineral and metal transportation, and emergency response measures are achieved by integrating technology into

mining projects, it said. A new way of thinking will be inculcated in the entire organisation. A technology transformation team will be set in place to drive impact and sustain the programme with an established centre of excellence. A robust tracking and change management mechanism will be deployed to ensure timely resolution and delivery.

"The scope of this road map (is)...technology enablement in coal mines for transformation across business value chain, leveraging 'digital technology' as an accelerator for demonstrating performance enhancement from the coal mines and increasing productivity, safety and sustainability while...reducing environmental impact by upgrading conventional technologies to new technologies," according to the draft road map.

Govt telecom revenues to be significantly higher

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The government's revenue collection from telecom services will be significantly higher than the projection of Rs 52,806.36 crore made in the union budget after adding the collection from the proposed spectrum auction, a top telecom department official said.

The government has lowered its revenue estimate from the telecom segment to Rs 52,806 crore for the next financial year, according to the budget document.

"Some people are making advance payments and since spectrum auction is proposed we expect this to go northwards. It will be significantly higher but at this stage we won't be able to give any estimates because we don't have recommendations in hand, Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman told PTI.

The telecom revenue collection is expected to be



higher than the budget estimates of Rs 53,986.72 crore for the current financial year at Rs 71,959.24 crore.

Rajaraman said that the DoT has already collected Rs 69,559 crore as of February 3.

The receipt from communication services includes licence fees from telecom operators and receipts on account of spectrum usage charges which are charged at the rate of 8 per cent of their adjusted

gross revenue. "We will not be able to guess 5G spectrum auction estimates till we have Trai's recommendations in hand. These recommendations will undergo some changes," Rajaraman said.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is currently working on firming up recommendations on 5G spectrum price and allocation rules which it is likely to submit in March.

With biz mix tweak, LIC becoming bigger threat to pvt players

LIC needs more presence in high-ticket ULIPs

Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI):

Amendments to the surplus/profit distribution rules for IPO-bound LIC, which has already improved its margins by 700 bps to 9.9 per cent and will further rise to 20 per cent when the national insurer shifts its business mix to non-participating policies, can give nightmares to private players who have been thriving on this segment for too long, says a report.

According to an analysis of its initial public offer (IPO) filings by Swiss brokerage Credit Suisse, SBI Life, ICICI Prudential, HDFC Life and Max Life will face the maximum impact of the LIC move. The report notes that LIC's



margin has already gone by up 700 bps to 9.9 percent after government amended LIC's surplus/profit distribution rules which allows it to make a 10 per cent shift in the business mix from participating policies to non-participating policies, which is only 4 per cent now, which can take its margins to 20 per cent.

This is based on the assumption a full transition to new surplus distribu-

tion from 100 per cent for non-participating policies now and 10 per cent for participating policies.

A participating (par) insurance policy provides both guaranteed and non-guaranteed benefits to policyholders in the form of bonus or dividend payouts, while a non-participating (non-par) policy typically provides guaranteed benefits to policyholders, but they do not receive profit or dividend payments.

Global cues, FIIs, crude oil to dictate market trend this week

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Domestic stock markets may face volatile trading sessions this week and will be guided by global cues, movement of the rupee and crude oil prices, experts said.

Participants would be keenly tracking the geopolitical developments regarding Russia-Ukraine tensions, which have been weighing on global sentiment for the past few weeks.

"Volatility is expected to remain high next week as well, given the crucial meeting between the US and Russia. Inflationary concern, continuous FIIs selling and monthly F&O expiry could add to the volatility next week," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet him and seek resolution to the crisis.

Geopolitical tensions and chances of a rate hike by the US Federal Reserve have triggered foreign fund outflows from the Indian equity markets.

"Going forward, investors would be watchful of the outcome of US Federal Reserve policy in March and Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Crude is on an uptrend and trajectory of crude prices along with inflation in India and globally and the pace of earnings growth in India would be the key factors to watch out for," said Shibani Kurian, Senior EVP & Head-Equity Research, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company.

Sebi rejigs advisory committee on alternative investment policy

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Sebi has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space.

The committee has now 20 members, as per an update by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The panel, which was constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry. The committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy. Apart



from Murthy, the committee includes members from Sebi, Ministry of Finance, AIF players and industry associations.

Gopal Srinivasan, chairman and managing director, TVS Capital Funds; Gopal Jain, co-founder and managing partner, Gaja Capital; Vipul Roongta, managing direc-

tor and CEO, HDFC Capital Advisors; and Renuka Ramnath, chairperson, Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA) are among the members of the panel, as per Sebi. The other members include Prashant Khemka, founder and partner at White Oak Capital Management; Gautam Mehra, partner at PwC; Subramaniam Krishnan, partner at Ernst & Young; Deepak Ranjan, deputy director, DEA, Ministry of Finance; Mahavir Lunawat, vice chairman, Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI); and Sujit Prasad, executive director at Sebi.

India-UAE trade pact may benefit \$26 bn worth of goods

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The comprehensive free trade agreement between India and the UAE is likely to benefit about USD 26 billion worth of domestic products like gems and jewellery that are currently subjected to 5 per cent import duty by the Gulf nation, an official said.

Labour intensive industries such as textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and automobiles would gain substantially from the pact.

The services sector segments which would get significant boost from the pact include computer-related services, audio-visual, education, health, tourism, travel, nursing,



engineering, and accountancy, the official said. India and the UAE on February 18 signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with a view to boosting bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 billion over a five-year period and creation of lakhs of jobs.

"While the UAE is already India's second largest export destination with exports valued at approximately USD 29 billion in 2019-20, CEPA with UAE is likely to benefit about USD 26 billion worth of Indian products that are subjected to 5 per cent import duty by the UAE," the official said.

Giving additional charge of New India Assurance CMD soon

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The government will soon decide on giving additional charge of the post of chairman cum managing director (CMD) of state-owned New India Assurance as the term of incumbent Atul Sahai comes to an end later this month.

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has not started the process for selection of the head of the country's largest public sector general insurance firm as the Delhi High Court had observed that the Bureau is not a competent body in this case.

The court held that circulars enabling BBB to select the GM and directors of government-owned general insurers are not legally valid. The next hearing on the matter is



New India Assurance, HQ in Mumbai.

scheduled for March 21. BBB, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions, is the advisory body formed by the government in 2016 for selection of candidates for top-level board appointments.

In absence of direction from the high court, the additional charge for New India Assurance would be given to someone effective March 1 as regular ap-

pointment would take some time, sources said.

The finance ministry had proposed to give additional charge to Oriental Insurance Chairman Anjan Dey till the appointment of a new CMD of the Mumbai-based New India Assurance, sources said.

However, the sources added, insurance sector regulator IRDAI has sought clarification from

the government on the proposal of giving additional charge to Dey, citing some provisions of the Companies Act.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) also pointed out that New India Assurance is a listed entity on the stock exchanges and has to follow all listing norms, sources said.

New India Assurance had reported a net profit of Rs 1,605 crore in 2020-21.

It is to be noted that the insurance sector regulator is headless for more than 8 months now.

The government had in the Union Budget 2021-22 announced its intent to take up one general insurance company and two public sector banks for privatisation.

Services exports may reach USD 325 bn in FY-23

New Delhi Feb 20 (PTI):

The country's services export is expected to reach USD 325 billion in 2022-23 on account of increasing demand for all kinds of services and gradual resumption of regular international travels, SEPC Chairman Sunil H Talati said. He said by the end of the ongoing fiscal year, services exports would reach about USD 250 billion.

The estimated value of services export for April-January 2021-22 is USD 209.83 billion, exhibiting a growth of 25.31 per cent as compared to the year-ago period's USD 167.45 billion. "With the hope of COVID-19 waning away soon, demand for all kinds of services is increasing in the global markets, so we are setting an ambitious target of USD 325 billion in 2022-23," Talati, Chairman of Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)



said. He said support measures for the sector in the new foreign trade policy would help further boost the outbound shipments.

It had earlier proposed an alternative scheme to SEIS (Services Export from India Scheme) - DRESS (Duty Remission on Export of Services Scheme) to boost exports. Despite the pandemic, the services sector has man-

aged to retain 90-91 per cent of its last year's performance in terms of overall exports, he said adding services exports have been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent for the last 20 years and the sector is eighth largest in the world and second in Asia Pacific region.

"We need to have a system of incentive for services exports," Talati said.

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut recently shared a video clip on her social media handle from her show 'Lock Upp', hinting at the third contestant and why she is being locked up.

Kangana, who will be hosting the show had said before that she has a keen eye for the kind of people she would want to see locked up in her show.

Now, the video shows a sizzling and equally controversial girl, who is seen turning heads as she enters a restaurant, texting her beau about how fun last night was. Just as she sits to order a steaming hot cappuccino. Kangana's men apprehend this beautiful young lady for being 'steaming hot'. Shocked, the young stunner replies, "It's not a crime to be hot!" but no one is in the mood to listen. There will be 16 popular celebrity contestants locked up in Kangana Ranaut's jail. They will compete for the most basic amenities as they fight for the winner's title.

Few names includes Divyanka Tripathi, Manav Gohil, Hina Khan, Shweta Tiwari, Surbhi Jyoti, Urfi Javed, Aditya Singh Rajput, Mallika Sherawat, Anushka Sen, Avneet Kaur, Chetan Bhagat, Harsh Beniwal, Shehnaaz Gill, Vir Das, Poonam Pandey, Nisha Rawal, comedian Munawar Faruqui and others. 'Lock Upp' will be streaming from February 27 on ALTBalaji and MX Player.

Kangana Ranaut shares video clip from 'Lock Upp', hints at third contestant



Vrajesh Hirjee exclusively on 'Good Night India'

When you talk about Vrajesh Hirjee, funny is definitely an understatement to describe his prowess! He is like that favorite topping on the cake without whom a comedy film feels incomplete. Gear up to get your funny bones tickled as the multi-talented actor is all set to grace the stage of Sony SAB's feel-good show Goodnight India in an upcoming episode.

Vrajesh will be seen talking about his life, his act, and some of his funniest onscreen moments. The viewers are in for a laugh riot with the actor and ace comedian host Amit Tandon sharing the stage and the exchanges between these comedy legends is sure to make everyone roll on the floor.

Vrajesh Hirjee, on his first ever stand-up act on television, said, "My association with Sony SAB dates way back and since its inception, it has always been a very unique, fruitful and enriching experience. Somehow, it has always aided me in finding a new facet to myself."

Stay tuned to Goodnight India every Monday to Saturday, 10:30 PM only on Sony SAB.



Dharmendra blesses Ishita Vishwakarma



Sony Entertainment Television's talent reality show 'India's Got Talent' will be honouring the living legend and Bollywood star Dharmendra for the 'Dharam ji Special' episode that is all set to air this weekend. Among the spectacular performances, Top 14 contestant Ishita Vishwakarma from Jabalpur who is also known as 'Choti Lata' will shine through with her melodious voice, singing 'Suno Sajna' from the 1966 classic 'Aaye Din Bahar Ke' and 'Main Tere Ishq Mai Mar Na Jaau Kahi' from the 1973 blockbuster 'Loafer'. With both the songs sung by the greatest singer of all times, the late singer Lata Mangeshkar, Ishita also paid homage to the 'Goddess Saraswati' of the Indian music industry. Ishita not only impressed Dharam ji but was also able to touch the hearts of the judges - Kirron Kher, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Badshah and Manoj Muntashir.

As a token of appreciation, Dharam Ji bestowed Ishita with a handwritten letter and revealed how he would often keep in touch with Lata ji. He said, "Pichle kuch teen chaar saal se hum bohot aapas mein baat karte rehte they."

Prabhas calls shooting with Big B a 'dream come true moment'

Prabhas, who recently began shooting for director Nag Ashwin's most ambitious film 'Project - K' with megastar Amitabh Bachchan, says that shooting with the Big B was a 'dream come true moment' for him.

The film, which will have Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone playing the female lead, has Amitabh Bachchan in a mighty and full-length role.

The film's shoot is presently underway in RFC in Hyderabad and Amitabh Bachchan too joined the team. A new world has been created in the studio for the film which is one of the most expensive Indian projects till date.

After the first shot, Prabhas took to Twitter to register his thoughts. "This is a dream come true for me. Completed the

first shot of #ProjectK today with the legendary @amitabhbachchan Sir!" posted Prabhas.

The Big B, for his part, said it's an honour to be in the company of Prabhas. "First day ... first shot... first film with the 'Bahubali' Prabhas .. and such an honour to be in the company of his aura, his talent and his extreme humility... to imbibe, to learn...!!"

The film is being produced by Aswini Dutt for Vyjayanthi Movies.



Suriya's 'Etharkkum Thunindhavan' teaser garners over four million views



A teaser of director Pandiraj's much-awaited action entertainer 'Etharkkum Thunindhavan', featuring actor Suriya in the lead, has garnered over four million views within a

day of the teaser having been released on YouTube.

The official teaser, which gives away the fact that actor Vinay Rai plays the antagonist, seemed to have won the hearts of audiences with around 6.7 lakh people giving it the thumbs up sign.

The film, which features Priyanka Arul Mohan as its female lead, will also feature Sathyaraj, Saranya Ponvannan, M S Baskar and Soori among others.

Music for the film is by D Imman and cinematography is by ace cameraman Rathnavelu. The film, which has been produced by Sun Pictures, was originally supposed to release on February 4. However, it was postponed due to the lockdown and the restrictions imposed by the Tamil Nadu government to contain the spread of the third wave of the pandemic. It is now scheduled to hit screens worldwide on March 10.

HOROSCOPE MONDAY FEBRUARY 21

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Today, your social butterflies will set hearts fluttering! Also, whatever you have been working on will reach completion now. You do have a great vision, but you're lost when it comes to executing your plans. Ganesha assures success if only you are a little more practical!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Being a friend in need is what today will be about, says Ganesha. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

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

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesha. Always keep in mind that your emotions cloud your reasoning.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks. Hitting the gym pays its dividends, says Ganesha.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesha. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesha advises that you must steer clear of negativity. Soul searching and inner cleansing may best be complimented with meditation and yoga.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

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

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Being good to oneself is not vanity. To Ganesha, it seems as if you take this statement to heart, since it looks quite possible that you make your personal care number one priority today. On the flip side though, you become aware of the fact that the harder you try the more it seems you have to.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

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

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

It is more than likely that you will emerge victorious in all your meetings and outings today, predicts Ganesha. Your calm temperament will not let you flinch in the face of pressure. It is in your best interest to take some time to cope with all the stress, advises Ganesha.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesha. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesha. For those engaged in business, profits may come but it won't be the result of the efforts you put in.

CROSSWORD

220



ACROSS

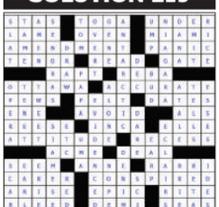
- Coagulated milk
- Church service
- Daddies
- Largest continent
- Div's offering
- Love (Ital.)
- Symbolize
- Letter after gamma
- Capital of New Jersey
- Writer _____ Hemingway
- Painted
- Passion
- Broker's advice
- Char
- Showed again
- Between continents
- Fighter pilot
- "Phantom of the _____"
- Vane letters
- Loosen laces
- "Cry _____ River" (2 wds.)
- Lounge about
- Plant beginnings
- Charity
- Singer _____ Campbell

- Keyed up
- Tick, e.g.
- Clothing
- Where planes land
- Nile city
- Lessens
- Short skirts
- _____ Canal
- Hair holder
- Make joyful
- Rock group
- Coal measures

DOWN

- Wagon
- Customer
- Mellow
- Mend socks
- Bricklayer
- Stadiums
- Transgression
- Used a stool
- Juan's father
- Changes for the better
- _____ vault
- Crafts
- _____ belt
- Perpetual
- She, in Toulouse
- Childhood disease
- Additional
- Fragrance
- Ward off
- Nighttime vision
- Paddle's kin
- Corroded
- Citric and boric
- Actress _____ Witherspoon
- Severe
- She, in Barcelona
- Formerly named
- Folklore monster
- Soul
- Certain vitamin
- Moved upward
- Bushed
- Zenith
- Kite part
56. Rocker _____ Turner
- Treaty
- Nordic capital
- Bridle strap
- Recipe abbr.
- Society girl
- Pitching stat

SOLUTION 219



Bist stars with all-round show as Nagaland defeat Sikkim



Kolkata: Nagaland rode on veteran wicketkeeper-batter Chetan Bist's all-round show to down Sikkim by six wickets in their Ranji Trophy plate group opener here on Sunday. The former Rajasthan glovesman slammed 115 and took eight catches behind the stumps as Nagaland chased down 174 in 40 overs to pocket six points. Earlier, Shrikant Mundhe was the wrecker-in-chief with 3/46, while Abu Nechim and Nagaho Chishi claimed two wickets each as Nagaland bundled out Sikkim for 283 in 82 overs after they resumed the final day on 197/6 in their second essay. Top-scorer Bist, who guided Nagaland to 412 in their first innings, was exceptional behind the stumps and took five catches in Sikkim's second innings. In their chase, Nagaland lost their opener Sedgehalie Rupero (13) cheaply inside 11 overs, but Mundhe took charge with a 96-ball 59 not out to seal the issue in his team's favour.

Bengal bounce back to stun Baroda after Shahbaz, Abhishek's fifties

Cuttack: All-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed and debutant wicketkeeper Abhishek Porel struck unbeaten fifties as Bengal bounced back after their first-innings debacle to secure a dramatic four-wicket win over Baroda in their Ranji Trophy Group B opener here on Sunday. Chasing 349 on the fourth day after being shot out for a paltry 88 in the first innings, Bengal rode on the duo of Ahmed and Porel, who stitched an unbroken 108-run partnership for the seventh wicket to steer their team home. Resuming on 146/2, Bengal received an early jolt when skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran got out without any addition to his overnight total of 79 in the fourth ball of the day.

Pujara slams 91 to bail out Saurashtra against Mumbai



Ahmedabad: Less than 24 hours after being dropped from the India Test squad, Cheteshwar Pujara struck an uncharacteristic 83-ball 91 for Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy match against Mumbai here on Sunday. The Elite Group D match ended in a draw with Saurashtra making 372 for nine in their second innings on the fourth and final day. Saurashtra were only 48 runs ahead when the stumps were drawn but the lack of time meant Mumbai could not go for an outright victory. So the record 41-time winners settled for three points from the game for taking the first-innings lead while defending champions Saurashtra bagged one. Bowling his slow left-arm spin to good effect, Shams Mulani returned career-best figures of 7/114, adding to his four wickets in the Saurashtra first innings.

Karnataka-Railways match ends in a draw

Chennai: Karnataka and Railways played out a draw in a Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match while Jammu and Kashmir began on a winning note, trouncing Pondicherry by eight wickets, here on Sunday. Resuming at 63 for one, Karnataka slipped from 179 for 2 to 223 for 9 before skipper Manish Pandey declared, leaving the opponent with a 278-run target from 41 overs for an improbable victory. The Railways finished at 69 for 4. With Mayank Agarwal batting on 39, the focus was on how much the India Test batter could get. Having missed out in the first innings, the right-hander played with a lot of restraint and reached a half-century. It took a good catch by Akshat Pandey to see the back of Agarwal for 56. R Samarth batted fluently for his 83 (170 balls, 8 fours) and was involved in a half-century stand for the third wicket with K Siddharth, who hit a ton in the first innings.

Bachhav stars as Maharashtra thrash Assam

Rohatak: Experienced left-arm spinner Satyajit Bachhav snared seven wickets to help his team Maharashtra thrash Assam by an innings and seven runs in their Elite Group G Ranji Trophy match here on Sunday. Asked to follow on after being shot out for 248 in their first innings, Assam were bundled out for a meagre 160 in their second essay, as Bachhav (7/45) spun a web around the opposition batting line-up to give his side a bonus-point win. Bachhav took 11 wickets in the match and played a key role in the victory alongside debutant Pawan Shah, whose double hundred propelled Maharashtra to a mammoth 415 in their first innings. Assam started on their overnight score of 82/3, with Riyan Parag (56; 6x4) and Sarupam Purkayastha (38; 6x4) holding fort.



Mendis, Shanaka guide Sri Lanka to 5-wicket win in 5th T20

Melbourne, Feb 20 (AP):

Kusal Mendis and captain Dasun Shanaka shared an 83-run partnership to guide Sri Lanka to a consolation five-wicket win against Australia in the fifth and final Twenty20 match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Mendis made 69 off 58 balls, with five boundaries and a six, and batted throughout the innings to help Sri Lanka overcome some early wobbles, including two run-outs, before he and Shanaka (35 off 31 balls) ran down Australia's 154-6 in the final over.

It was Mendis' highest score in a T20 international match and helped break an eight-match losing streak for the tourists in Australia to the delight of the thousands of Sri Lanka fans at the MCG.

Shanaka played a near flawless supporting role and made the result all but certain with a towering six over midwicket in the final over off Kane Richardson to level the scores. He was bowled next ball but Chamika Karunaratne was able to bring up the winning run off Daniel Sams, who replaced an injured Richardson for the final two balls.

The boys played really well throughout the series, made a statement that



Kusal Mendis powers the ball away during his half-century.

when we come for the World Cup (in October) we'll be prepared, Shanaka

said. (Kusal) has been an outstanding player throughout. "We should

keep on giving opportunities to the right players.

Matthew Wade's unbeaten 43 off 27 balls and a 64-run partnership with all-rounder Daniel Sams (18 off 15 balls) helped Australia recover from a sluggish start to get to a competitive 154-6 after captain Aaron Finch won the toss and decided to bat first.

Australia lost both Finch (8) and Ben McDermott (3) early as Sri Lanka's bowlers dominated the power play overs before Glenn Maxwell (29) and Josh Inglis (23) helped the home side generate some momentum.

Dushmantha Chameera returned 2-30 and Lahiru Kumara had 2-34 to lead Sri Lanka's attack.

The tourists gave debuts to opening batsman Kamil Mishara and all-rounder Janith Liyanage, with veterans Dinesh Chandimal and Danushka Gunathilaka missing out.

Australia won the series 4-1, having won the first game by 20 runs and the second in a Super Over in Sydney after the scores were level at the end of the regulation overs.

Australia won the third game by six wickets on Tuesday in Canberra and again by six wickets in Friday's match at the MCG.

We will take every match as final, says South Africa all-rounder Luus ahead of women's WC



Dubai, Feb 20 (PTI):

South Africa are determined to make the upcoming ICC Women's ODI World Cup a memorable one and will take every

match as final in their bid to claim their maiden title, said all-rounder Sune Luus.

South Africa have never won the title and lost by two wickets to eventual

winner England in the semifinals in the last edition in 2017.

"After a long wait, the World Cup is finally here. We as a team have been preparing for the last five years, since the 2017 World Cup in England where we fell short in the semi-finals," Luus wrote in a column for the ICC.

"Every match will be played like final, therefore it is imperative that we only focus on what we do best and what we can control. In our previous series, this is what worked best for us. We tried to do the basics as best as we could, and the result took care of itself."

The 26-year-old Luus said the team's main goal is to shed the "underdogs" tag that has been haunting the Protea women for long.

"We have always been seen as underdogs, but we have shown in the past few years that we are a team to be reckoned with. We have shown consistent performances in difficult countries like India and the West Indies. We as a team also had a great T20 World Cup two years ago in Australia and turned some heads," she said.

Beijing's Olympics close, ending safe but odd global moment

Beijing, Feb 20 (AP):

A pile of figure-skating rubble created by Russian misbehavior. A new Chinese champion from California. An ace American skier who faltered and went home empty-handed. The end of the Olympic line for the world's most renowned snowboarder. All inside an anti-COVID closed loop" enforced by China's authoritarian government.

The terrarium of a Winter Games that has been Beijing 2022 wound to its end Sunday, capping an unprecedented Asian Olympic trifecta and sending the planet's most global sporting event off to the West for the foreseeable future, with no chance of returning to this corner of the world until at least 2030.

It was weird. It was messy and, at the same time, somehow sterile. It was controlled and calibrated in ways only Xi Jinping's China could pull off. And it was sequestered in a "bubble" that kept participants and the city around them and, by extension, the sporadically watching world at arm's length.

By many mechanical measures, these Games were a success. They were, in fact, quite safe albeit in the carefully modulated, dress-up-for-company way that authoritarian governments always do best. The local volunteers, as is usually the case, were delightful, helpful and engaging.

The Chinese people embraced these Games. Even in the closed loop, we could make this experience of excitement, of warmth, of hospitality and of friendliness, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said Friday.

There was snow most of it fake, some of it real. The venues many of them, like the Bird's Nest and the Aquatic Center, harvested from the 2008 edition of the Beijing Olympics performed to expectations. One new locale, Big Air Shougang, carved from a repurposed steel mill, was an appealingly edgy mashup of winter wonderland and rust-belt industrial landscape.

TV ratings were down, but streaming viewership was up: By Saturday, NBC had streamed 3.5 billion

minutes from Beijing, compared to 2.2 billion in South Korea in 2018.

There were no major unexpected logistical problems, only the ones created deliberately to stem the spread of COVID in the country where the coronavirus first emerged more than two years ago.

And stemmed it seemed to be. As of Saturday, the segregated system that effectively turned Beijing into two cities one sequestered, one proceeding very much as normal had produced only 463 positive tests among thousands of visitors entering the bubble since Jan. 23. Not surprisingly, the state-controlled media loved this.

The success in insulating the event from the virus and keeping disruption to sports events to a minimum also reflected the effectiveness and flexibility of China's overall zero-COVID policies," the pro-government Global Times newspaper said, citing epidemiologists who say "the COVID-19 prevention experience accumulated from this Olympics can also inspire Chinese cities to adjust their policies.

Title race is back on in EPL after Kane sinks Man City

Manchester, Feb 20 (AP):

The Premier League title race really is back on. And it's all because of Harry Kane. The striker Manchester City wanted to sign in the offseason last year consigned the leaders to their first league loss in nearly four months by scoring twice for Tottenham in a dramatic 3-2 win on Saturday.

His second the winning goal came in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Kane celebrating scoring goals at Etihad Stadium was something City fans thought they'd enjoy seeing this season.

They weren't this time. By Wednesday, City could find its lead over Liverpool down to just three points.

Liverpool trimmed the gap to six on Saturday courtesy of a come-from-behind 3-1 victory over



Manchester City's Portuguese defender Joao Cancelo (R) runs between Tottenham Hotspur's Swedish midfielder Dejan Kulusevski (C) and Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

Norwich and is also at home to Leeds in four days' time. And Liverpool still has to go to City, in April. Tottenham completed an improbable double over City, having beaten the champions 1-0 in the opening round, and the London team continues to cause City pain.

It was Spurs, after all, who eliminated City from the Champions League three seasons ago following an even more dramatic game in the quarterfinal second legs, and also beat Pep Guardiola's team last season.

City appeared to have done enough to earn a point when Riyad Mahrez converted a penalty in the second minute of stoppage time, canceling out Kane's first goal. Earlier, Dejan Kulusevski scored in the fourth minute before Ilkay Gundogan's equalizer.

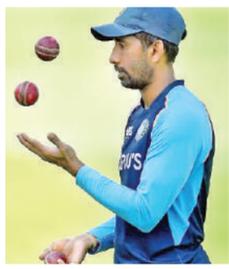
Dravid told me to consider retirement, says Saha

Kolkata, Feb 19 (PTI):

Veteran wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, who has been dropped from the Indian Test team, on Saturday revealed that the team management headed by head coach Rahul Dravid had told him to think about "retirement" as he won't be considered for selection henceforth.

It was reported by PTI on February 8 that Wriddhiman has pulled out of Ranji Trophy as he has been told that he won't be selected in Indian team.

"The team management had told me that I would not be considered henceforth. I could not tell this so long as I was part of the India team setup," an explosive Wriddhiman told mediapersons on Saturday. "Even coach Rahul Dravid suggested that I think about taking



retirement," he spilled the beans on classified conversations with head coach.

Wriddhiman also hit out at BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, whom he claimed had assured him that he shouldn't worry about his place in the team.

"When I hit an unbeaten 61 taking a pain-killer in the first Test against New Zealand in Kanpur last November, Dadi (as Sourav was referred to by Bengal players) congratulated me over Whatsapp.

STATEHOOD DAY CELEBRATION



Tribal people perform, during the 36th Statehood Day programme of Arunachal Pradesh, in Naharlagun.

Rijiju to youths

'Work for pan Arunachal identity'

Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh), Feb 20 (PTI):

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday called upon youths to come out of the self-centred attitude and work for a pan Arunachal Pradesh identity where every tribe gets equal opportunities.

He asked the youth not to think of only their own community but for others too so that the state moves ahead.

"Time has come for the people of the state to work for a united Arunachal where every tribe co-exists. The state cannot progress if all tribes are not united as a single identity instead of

working for self interest," the Union Law and Justice Minister said in his address to the people on the occasion of 36th statehood day and celebrations marking 50 years of its naming.

Rijiju said many tribes in the state are still unknown to the rest of the country and efforts should be made to uplift them so that they equally progress with others.

"Conquer the world with your power and energy. Contribute to the state and society," he urged the youth.

Rijiju, while referring to the decades-old boundary dispute between Assam and Arunachal

Pradesh, said that the issue would be resolved soon as both the state government are working seriously in that direction.

The union minister also requested the business community to invest more in the state instead of others, so that the state progress equally with other parts of the country.

"Don't make Arunachal only as a place of festivals but showcase it as a major destination for investment by putting all-out efforts for outside investors," he said and asked the people to shun donation culture during festivals and other recreational activities as it hampers development.

IIT Madras to identify new housing tech, help bring down construction costs

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is hosting a housing incubator, 'ASHA', to identify and support new innovative housing technologies, bring down the cost of construction in India and support start-ups in scaling up their ideas.

The 'Accelerator Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators' is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide incubation and acceleration support to potential future technologies that are not yet market-ready (pre-prototype applicants) or to the technologies that are market-ready (post-prototype applicants).

According to officials, the incubator has already supported a couple of start-ups including Tvasta,

which constructed India's first 3D-printed house as well as the first 3D-printed doffing unit used by COVID-19 frontline healthcare workers to safely remove PPEs.

The key objectives of 'ASHA' incubator include identification of technologies, providing technical support to innovative ideas, business support and mentoring on the financial viability of innovative ideas and infrastructure support.

"The key parameter would be the impact of the technologies identified and how many housing units are constructed through the technologies supported by ASHA. Business success would be the key focus of IIT Madras. Success will be measured in terms of scaling up and output in terms of millions of housing units constructed

through ASHA-supported technologies," said Meher Prasad, professor at IIT Madras' Department of Civil Engineering.

Another firm supported by ASHA-IIT Madras is Slab Engineering that is engaged in 3D volumetric precast development. The company will be working with IIT Madras to refine its designs and to develop standards and specifications so that the adoption of its products can be enabled.

ASHA-India centres, which will also help in developing design guidelines, construction manuals and other necessary guidelines relevant for the effective use of such technologies in the region, have been set up at five institutes -- four IITs (Madras, Kharagpur, Bombay and Roorkee) and CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat.

Campus RAKSHAK

IIT Jodhpur's framework to help in safe reopening of colleges

● Also prevent COVID spread

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, have come up with a decision framework for educational institutions called "Campus RAKSHAK" that integrates various applications and tools into one to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 and ensure smooth reopening of campuses.

IIT Jodhpur has collaborated with IISc Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay,

Algorithmic Biologies Pvt Ltd, HeathBadge Private Limited and Prthvi.AI to build, integrate and test to ensure safety on campuses through this initiative. While two prototypes of Campus RAKSHAK have been tested simultaneously at IIT Jodhpur and IIIT Hyderabad, the team is in talks to devise affordable and flexible pricing model, product, marketing and sales strategy to reach out to campuses across the country. Campus RAKSHAK has four components -- Tapestry Pooling, Go Corona Go App, Simulators and Healthbadge. These form a single platform that

monitor, predict, and recommend mitigation strategies for campuses against CoViD-19. "The tapestry pooling method assigns individual samples to multiple pools, reducing the cost of screening to one-fourth. Based on the results of each pool, the algorithm predicts COVID-19 positive samples," Manas Bairagi, Chief Technological Officer, iHub Drishti, said. iHub Drishti at IIT Jodhpur is a technology innovation hub focussed around computer vision, augmented reality and virtual reality. "Go Corona Go App" is a mobile app similar to Aarogya Setu, but the data is accessible to the ad-

ministration for making the right decisions to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Its primary purpose is to conduct contact tracing. Users will remain connected to the campus server through the Bluetooth of the phone," Bairagi added.

Explaining about the Simulators, Bairagi said it consist of three simulation models -- Campus Modeler, CampusSim and EpiSimmer. "The simulator will be able to predict where the COVID-19 positivity will spread in the coming days. This can be considered an advisory system to help the administration make decisions.

Let me live: Swapna Suresh

Comments over controversies surrounding new job

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20 (PTI):

Gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh on Sunday beseeched her detractors to allow her to live and not harass her by creating any controversy over her new job in an allegedly RSS affiliated NGO. Speaking to reporters, Suresh said it was disheartening to see the relentless attempts to harass her. Initially a book was released to harass me and now a controversy is being created around my job, she claimed.

Her reaction comes in the wake of the Kerala State Commission for SC/STs initiating proceedings against NGO Highrange Rural Development Society (HRDS) over complaints alleging they constructed uninhabitable houses for

Adivasis in Attappadi and elsewhere. Speaking to reporters, she said she was appointed as Director, Women empowerment & CSR in the NGO after an interview and not because she had any affiliations to RSS or BJP.

"It is an ordinary job with an ordinary salary of Rs 43,000. It is a source of livelihood for my family. I humbly request not to see it as anything else. 'Let me live. Let me raise my children and take care of my mother. Please do not harass me by creating unnecessary controversies. I have no intention to harm or hurt anyone, so please leave me alone,' she said.

Suresh, a prime accused



in the sensational Kerala gold smuggling case, had earlier criticised M Sivasankar -- the CM's former principal secretary -- for allegedly mentioning her name in his new book, claiming that she was "already a victim." A day after Sivasankar published an autobiographical book narrating his version of the controversial episode, Suresh had come out against the senior IAS officer, accusing him of "manipulating, exploiting and destroying" her life.

Suresh, who was released from jail a few months ago after securing bail following her arrest by central agencies in July 2020 in connection with

the case of smuggling gold through diplomatic channels, had slammed Sivasankar for claiming that she cheated him by gifting a mobile phone she received as a bribe.

Sivasankar, in the book, claimed that he had made no illegal intervention in the gold smuggling incident and never did any undue favours for Suresh. The officer, in the book, claimed that he was shell-shocked to know that Suresh, who was his close friend for three years, was a participant in smuggling.

The gold smuggling case relates to the seizure of 30 kg of gold on July 5, 2020 from a diplomatic baggage at the air cargo of the Trivandrum International Airport by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi.

Conjoined twins vote separately, given dark glasses for secrecy

Amritsar, Feb 20 (PTI):

PUNJAB POLLS

Conjoined twins but two separate votes. Amritsar-based Sohan Singh and Mohan Singh who are joined in the hip exercised their franchise for the first time in the Punjab assembly polls on Sunday.

The conjoined twins, fondly known as Sohan-Mohna, had recently been handed over two separate electoral photo identity cards by Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer S Karuna Raju. They had turned 18 last year and be-



Conjoined twins Sohan and Mohan show their ink marked fingers after casting their votes for Punjab Assembly polls, at a polling station near Amritsar, Sunday.

came eligible to vote. Officials said the conjoined twins were treated as two separate voters and special arrangements were made for them so

that both could maintain the secrecy of their votes. They said dark glasses were provided to them when they voted.

The twins live in Pingalwara, a charitable home for the destitute in the city. Born in June 2003 in Delhi, they were abandoned by their parents. Later, an orphanage in Amritsar adopted them.

Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, Gurpreet Singh Khera reached the polling booth where the conjoined twins exercised their franchise and handed over certificates to them as first-time voters.

Dance teacher loses livelihood to Covid pandemic, Delhi Police helps him find job

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Distraught after he lost his livelihood in Mumbai due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, 44-year-old dance teacher Balaji Sawalkar arrived in Delhi to start life afresh. But he found no takers for his dancing skills in the national capital. When he ran out of money, he started to live in Rain Basera, a night shelter for homeless people in the city. It was here the Delhi Police found him and helped him to get a job at a restaurant.

Talking to PTI, Sawalkar said he is a professional dancer and had been performing for the past 20 years. He said he had opened a dance academy called Bali Step of Dance Classes' at Saki Naka in Mumbai in 2013. Sawalkar said he also has a registered company named Bali Events and Entertainment LLP but it has been closed for now.

I had a dance institute in Mumbai which has been closed due to the COVID-19 as the premises were on rent and I did not have funds to run it anymore. I was running out of money and left Mumbai. When I moved out of Mumbai, I went to four to five students' homes at different places, including Odisha and Bihar. I was exploring whether I can open a new academy, but I saw the situation as same there, Sawalkar said. He reached the national capital by train on Diwali, November 4, last year to explore more possibilities.

TOURISTS ENJOY SKIING



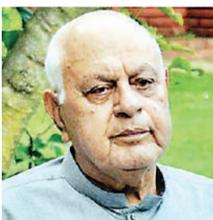
Tourists ski in the snow during winter season at Kufri, in Shimla, Sunday.

'Larger role for women in policy planning, decision-making'

Jammu, Feb 20 (PTI):

Asserting that the National Conference has all along been striving for gender equality, party president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday laid emphasis on political empowerment of women and their larger role in policy planning and decision-making.

"Involvement of women in decision-making and policy planning is necessary for achieving comprehensive, unbiased and sustainable development, which will eventually lead to harmonious growth of the society," Abdullah, a former chief minister, said. Interacting with the newly constituted provin-



Farooq Abdullah

cial women wing of the party at a function here, Abdullah referred to measures taken by his party over the years for women empowerment and emancipation and said this is necessary for promoting leadership roles among them. Provincial president of the women wing Satwant Kour Dogra intro-

duced the new office-bearers. Congratulating them, Abdullah said due to the prevailing situation the women of Jammu and Kashmir have been the worst sufferers. "Discrimination and depravity at the societal and domestic-level with our mothers and sisters is not unknown in this part of the world. Rising unemployment and inflation in J&K is also having a cascading effect on our promising women, he said. "Having women in politics, it goes without saying, will attune party policies towards the needs of women and prepare them for the leadership roles to face the challenges of the present and future, he said.

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BRIEF



Children learn and play at a newly renovated creche, at Mandoli Jail in New Delhi.

Tributes

Srinagar: The Army on Sunday paid floral tributes to soldiers killed in an encounter with militants in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir. Two Army soldiers and a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist were killed in the gunbattle in the Zainpora area of Shopian on Saturday. "Army today paid tributes to Sep Chavan Romit Tanaji and Sep Santosh Yadav, who made the supreme sacrifice on 19 February 2022 at Chreymarg in Shopian district," Defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said.

Dead

Muzaffarnagar: A 30-year-old Delhi Police constable died after allegedly falling off the terrace of his house in a village here on Sunday, police said. The incident took place when Anuj Kumar was talking on his phone at home in Kutbi village before leaving for his marriage ceremony in Loni, Ghaziabad, they said. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination, the police said.

Criminal case

Bengaluru: A criminal case of cheating, trespassing and threatening has been registered against Congress MLA and former minister B Zameer Ahmed Khan, his brother and others. The case was registered by the Sampigehalli police station here on the direction of the Seventh Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. According to the FIR, Shahista Nazeen Khanum had owned land in Chokkanahalli in Velahanka.

Busted

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have arrested four persons, including three robbers who used to steal expensive mobile phones, laptops and other valuable items by targeting women and senior citizens living in housing societies in Kalina area, an official said on Sunday. One of the four accused arrested by police is a mobile phone shop owner, identified as Dinesh Madhvi, who used to buy stolen phones from the gang and resale them by changing their IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) numbers.

Weather
High 31 Low 14

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Over 63% cast vote in Punjab, UP nearly 58%

Lucknow, Feb 20 (PTI):

Punjab, on Sunday, witnessed a voter turnout of 63.44 per cent till 5 pm, while the corresponding number in Uttar Pradesh stood at 57.44 per cent. Voting for the third phase of Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, in 59 assembly seats, began at 7 am on Sunday, while polling in Punjab started at 8 am. Over 57 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm on Sunday in 59 assembly constituencies in the third phase of the elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Polling started at 7 am and continued till 6 pm.

The voting percentage at 5 pm was 57.58 per cent, according to data shared by the Election Commission (EC). The percentage was 59



Women stand in a queue to cast their votes, during the Punjab Assembly elections, in Amritsar, Sunday.

per cent in Hathras, 57.41 per cent in Firozabad, 59.11 per cent in Kasganj, 63.58 per cent in Etah, 60.80 per cent in Mainpuri, 54.55 per

cent in Farrukhabad, 60.28 per cent in Kannauj and 58.35 per cent in Etawah. It was 57.55 per cent in Auraiya, 58.48 per cent in

Kanpur Dehat, 50.76 per cent in Kanpur Nagar, 53.84 per cent in Jalaun, 57.71 per cent in Jhansi, 67.38 per cent in Lalitpur, 57.90 per cent in

Naxal carrying Rs 5 lakh bounty killed in encounter

Dantewada, Feb 20:

A Naxal carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head and accused in a number of violent incidents was killed in an encounter with police in Dantewada district, an official said on Sunday.

The firefight took place on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday in a forest near Burgum village under Aranpur police station limits when a team of the District Reserve Guard was out on an anti-Naxal

Naxal supply chain of material used to make explosives busted

Gadchiroli: The Gadchiroli police have busted a supply chain of material used by Naxals to make explosives and arrested four supporters of the ultras here in Maharashtra, police said on Sunday. Based on inputs, an anti-Naxal operation was carried out on Saturday during which a gang of Naxal supporters transporting such material was intercepted in Bhangarampetha village under Damrancha police limits, they said. The police recovered 10 bundles of cordex wire measuring 3,500 metre in length and nabbed four suspects, while another person managed to escape, the Gadchiroli police said in a release.

operation, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari said. After the face-off ended,

the body of a Naxal was recovered, he said, adding that the deceased, identified as Arjun alias Lakhma Sodi

(34), was carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head.

Sodi was active as the militia commander in charge of Malanger area committee of Maoists. He was involved in 13 incidents of violence, including of murder, attempt to murder and abduction, the official said.

A pistol, a 5 kg tiffin bomb, Naxal uniform, electric wires, wire cutter, Naxal literature and some camping material were also recovered from the spot, he added.

FATAL MISHAP

Nine, including bridegroom killed in mishap

Car carrying wedding party falls into river

Kota (Raj), Feb 20 (PTI):

Nine people, including the bridegroom, were killed after a car carrying a wedding party fell into the Chambal river here in the early hours of Sunday as the driver lost control of the vehicle due to drowsiness, police said.

They were on their way to Madhya Pradesh for the wedding in a Maruti

Ertiga, they said. The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the dependents of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh for families that have lost two or more members in the accident.

The car fell into the river from a bridge early in the morning in Nayapura police station area after the driver lost control of the vehicle due to drowsiness, Superintendent of Police (city) Kesar Singh Shekhawat said. He said police received informa-

tion about the accident around 7.50 am, following which a rescue operation was launched.

Initially, seven bodies were pulled out from the car that had plunged seven-eight feet into the water. Two more bodies were recovered later, Shekhawat said.

The wedding party was going from Chauth Ka Barwara village in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

Govt to carry out background check of newly appointed Air India CEO

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will "scrupulously" carry out a thorough background check of newly appointed CEO and MD of Air India, Ilker Ayci, a Turkish national, official sources said on Sunday. The Tata Group, which acquired the Air India from the government, had recently announced Ayci's appointment as the CEO and MD of the loss-making airlines. The Home Ministry "scrupulously" carries out a thorough background check of all foreign nationals when they are appointed in the key positions of any Indian company, the sources said.

KCR holds political discussions with Pawar

Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI):

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Sunday stressed the need for all like-minded parties to join hands to resolve various issues like hunger, poverty, unemployment and the agrarian crisis facing the country after Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Nara Chandrababhan Rao called on him at his residence here.

Pawar told reporters that Telangana had taken good steps for the welfare of farmers which were a model for the rest of the country. "Our focus is

only on development, development and development. We will meet again," he said.

Rao travelled to Silver Oak, the south Mumbai resident of Pawar, after meeting Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's official residence 'Varsha' in the afternoon.

Rao, who was present at the press briefing along with Pawar, said the NCP chief had been supporting the movement for the creation of a separate Telangana state since 1969.

Teenage girl abducted, gang-raped

Two men held

Jashpur, Feb 20:

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by five men while she had gone to attend a marriage function at a village in Jashpur district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Thursday night when the girl, from Sulesa village, came out of the marriage hall in Ambadipada village, looking for a friend. The five accused then forcibly took her to a forest area, about three km from there, and allegedly raped her. Her family filed a police complaint on Saturday afternoon following which the police arrested two of the accused, aged 24 and 30, both from Sulesa village.

The five accused then forcibly took her to a forest area, about three km from there, and allegedly raped her, Jashpur Superintendent of Police Vijay Agrawal said.

Her family filed a police complaint on Saturday afternoon following which the police arrested two of the accused, aged 24 and 30,

About the incident

The incident took place on Thursday night when the girl, from Sulesa village, came out of the marriage hall in Ambadipada village, looking for a friend. The five accused then forcibly took her to a forest area, about three km from there, and allegedly raped her. Her family filed a police complaint on Saturday afternoon following which the police arrested two of the accused, aged 24 and 30, both from Sulesa village.

Efforts were on to nab the other three culprits, the official said.

The police have registered a case against the accused under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he added.

PM TARGETS AKHILESH

'He humiliated his father to capture party, now pleading him to save his seat'

Unnao (UP), Feb 20 (PTI):

Attacking Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the CM-candidate is "insecure" about his seat and had to plead to his father, whom he had "humiliated" to capture the party, to save him from defeat in the constituency. "You can gauge the di-

rection of wind... The seat, which these people were considering as the safest, is also getting out of their reach," Modi said in an apparent reference to the Karhal seat from where Yadav is contesting in the family-stronghold of Mainpuri.

Ahead of polling in the third phase, SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav had campaigned for his son

Akhilesh Yadav on the seat though he has maintained a low profile during this election.

The Karhal seat with a majority of Muslim and Yadav voters is considered safe for the Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav as the communities have over the years favoured the SP in the caste-dominated politics of Uttar Pradesh.

LIC IPO

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- Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.

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

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 - CDSL: <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

'Humanity, truth cannot be divided on basis of gender or caste'

Puri (Odisha), Feb 20 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind Sunday asserted that humanity and truth are supreme and cannot be divided on the basis of caste, gender or religion, as serving the needy has always been accorded top priority in Indian culture.

He also said though various religious traditions and practises are prevalent in different parts of India, there is only one belief and that is to work for the welfare of all, considering the entire humanity as one family. Serving the needy



President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the three-year-long celebrations of 150 of Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami, in Puri, Sunday.

has been given top priority in our culture. Humanity and truth are supreme, which cannot be divided. The ultimate goal is wel-

fare of the society, the president said here, while inaugurating the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Srimad Bhakti

Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad, the founder of the Gaudiya Math and Mission. Hailing doctors, nurses and health workers.

Kovind said they displayed this spirit of service during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite many of them contracting the virus. Many of our Covid warriors sacrificed their lives, but the dedication of their co-workers remained unwavering. The whole country would always be indebted to such warriors, the president said, praying for a world free of COVID-19.

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BLOT ON HUMANITY

Labour family thrown out of house by sarpanch



The demolished house of the victim Ganesh Ram Baghel.



The household items thrown out of the house.

Yogendra Kumar Uikey

Arjunda, Feb 20: Citing a classical example of blot on humanity, sarpanch and villagers forcibly chased away a labour family out of the village and also demolished their residence in the village. The incident is of Surdongar village under Daundi block where the victim Ganesh Ram Baghel (40) resided with his wife Rukhmani (38) and three children since 2005. On January 30, sarpanch Komeshe Korram (BCC presidet Daundi) reached Ganesh's house along with other villagers and forcibly threw them out of their house. They even beat them with sticks and injured them. The family



Panchayat which took the decision to evict the victim.

somehow managed to escape and informed the matter to local police. The entire family is now totally shattered and running from pillar to post for their daily need. The family have been threatened to be deprived of their facilities and children will be thrown out of school. The family now has now taken

shelter below a tree in the burial ground which is 1 km away from the village in the forest. They do not have basic items even to drive away cold and utensils to cook and eat food. **Theft at victim's place** After this eviction incident, victim who had saved little amount of Rs 30,000 cash at his place and

some ornaments of the victim's wife were stolen from the house.

What responsible authorities say..

" Even after repeated notice Ganesh Baghel refused to vacate the long on which he was residing with his family. For this reason panchayat called a meeting of the panchayat and as per the decision villagers forcibly evicted the family from their place."

Komeshe Korram Sarpanch

" The case will be investigated and action would be taken against the accused. There is no doubt that victim family has suffered a lot."

Anil Thakur In-charge Daundi PS

Maharati of Mahanadi



Sheorinarayan, Feb 20: In the lines of Ganga Aarti, on February 16 at 8 pm a massive aarti of Mahandi was organized at Baba Ghat by

the members of Champa Seva and Sheorinarayan Seva Sansthan in which Gau Seva Ayog president Mahant Ram Sunder Das, SP Janjgir

Abhinav Pallav, Nagar Panchayat chairman Mrs Anjani Tiwari and others. In this programme devotees in large number also took part

and the residents were moved with this programme. They expect that this type of programme should be organized every year.

V Fighter wins cricket match

Churikala, Feb 20:

Under the aegis of councilor Sheshban Goswami and Heeralal Yadav, a cricket tournament was organized and on the concluding day local MLA Purushottam Singh Kanwar was present as chief guest while former Nagar Panchayat president Ashok Dewangan was present as special guest. The final match was played between V Fighter Katghora and Azad Cricket Club Association Churi. Azad Cricket Club

Association won the toss and elected to bat. The team scored 104 runs in 10

overs. Chasing the total V Fighter Katghora scored 106 runs in 9 overs and

won the match. The winning team was given Rs 11,000 cash and shield.



Ramdas Maharaj passes away

Churikala, Feb 20: Maa Durga Temple manager Ramdas Maharaj passed away on last Friday morning at village Jag Mahant Math (Janjgir-Champa district). His mortal remains were brought to Churi and followers waited till late night to pay last respects to Ramdas Maharaj. Pale of gloom descended in the town as the news of Ramdas Maharaj reached here. His body was taken by road to Allahabad for performing the last rites. The body was kept for some time at Churi bus stand where people paid last respects to him. On Saturday afternoon his last rites were performed on the banks of river Ganga in Allahabad.

CTA delegation submits memo to DEO R'gaon

In support of their demands

Dongargarh, Feb 20:

A delegation of Chhattisgarh Teachers' Association (CTA) Dongargarh unit met the District Education Officer (DEO) Rajnandgaon and held talks in context of promotion and other issues. During this the delegation submitted a memorandum on subject related to promotion of head masters of Primary School and to carry out promotion through counselling based upon the instructions issued



by the State Government. In the memorandum submitted the Teachers' association raised demand to carry out promotion counselling after promotion to Asst. Teacher (LB) E and T cadre of Primary school for post of Head masters; on promotion of Asst. Teacher

(LB) to Upper Grade Teacher (UGT) in the division the procedure of promotion as Head Master in Primary School be done; they also urged to make public the number of posts block-wise and the places for the post of Head Masters of E&T cadre in Primary Schools and after the

Kamar tribes flee village in search of greener pastures

Sheikh Hassan Khan

Mainpur, Feb 20: Setting aside all equations of employment generation schemes launched by the state government and their constant monitoring by the officials, protected Kamar tribe people numbering about 120 which is facing extinction have fled their inhabited village Amlia under Mainpur block to AP in search of greener pastures. They had left the village about one-half-months back to work in brick kilns of Hyderabad.

These vacated houses are locked or totally closed by stacking bricks on the main door. This village is a dependent village under village panchayat Indagaon and is situated on hills which 15 km from Indagaon. This tribal people reside amidst forest and are used to live in scarcity even for their essential items. Their requirements are few and hardly come to Mainpur head-quarter market for their essential needs. In such a situation when these people can live in such a compromising situation, their fleeing in search of employment raises question about efficacy of government machinery.

Middle men arrived from Odisha and influenced villagers to flee

The middlemen from Odisha



A view of the Kamar dominated village Amlia.



Kamar tribals leaving village along with their family.



Closed houses of Kamars who left the village.

" The villagers have an habit of leaving their place while many work under MNREGA is presently underway in the village. About 60-70 people had left the village. The total population of village Amlia is 250."

Manoj Sahu Secretary

" It was informed by secretary Manoj Sahu that 60-70 people belonging to Kamar tribe had left the village are working in brick kilns in AP. Many work under MNREGA is underway in the village and is a serious matter that even after availability of sufficient work why the Kamar people are leaving the village."

Roopkumar Dhruv CEO, Janpad Panchayat Mainpur

approached the villagers and influenced them to flee for employment and administration did not get any information about it. Two years back villagers in large number had

fled their place and got abducted in brick kilns. The administration led by then collector Shyam Dhadwe took initiative for the safe release of these abducted villagers.

What officials say...

" About 20-25 houses of this village had left by locking their doors and about one month back matter has been informed to the authorities through village panchayat secretary Manoj Sahu. About 150 members have left the village. The development projects designated for Kamar tribes have failed to benefit these population."



Rajman Netam, Sarpanch Indagaon

Renovation of Nayapara Shiva temple

Konta, Feb 20:

Three decades ago, a Shiva temple was constructed on the mountain of Nayapara of Konta Nagar, bordering Chhattisgarh, where every year on Mahashivratri as well as on Kartik Purnima festival, thousands of lamps are lit and worshiped in a grand manner. It is said that since the construction of the temple three decades ago, the veteran leader of Bharatiya Janata Party and former Mandal President, was celebrating the festivals held every year. G. Appal Swamy Reddy had a commendable contribution. At the time of construction of the temple, Late Shri Appal Swamy Reddy used to work as a mason. Due to his faith in God, he spent all his time phys-



cally and mentally in building this temple. As a result of which a small Shiva temple was constructed and Shiva Linga was established. G. Appal Swamy Reddy, with the help of senior citizens of the city, took a step forward with the aim of constructing this small temple in the shape of a grand form. For which he spent Rs 14 lakh. Till given in the construction work of this temple. A year before its completion, there was an interruption in the

work due to the sudden demise of G. Appal Swamy Reddy. Seeing the temple remained incomplete in this way, his son-in-law Sai Padmanabham Reddy, after discussing with Sri Sri Bhaskar of Andhra Pradesh, sought cooperation and guidance in getting this temple constructed, accepting which Panditji took the city to complete the unfinished work. The work of this temple was completed by taking financial support from the devotees. As a

result of this, after the restoration, from 17th February to 19th February 2022, the flag pillar and Shiva Linga have been consecrated by the Veda Pandits by worshipping according to the law of Sanatan Dharma.

Today my father's soul will get peace. **G.Sai Reddy**

Three decades ago, from the construction of Shiva temple till his death, he had contributed physically, mentally and financially for this temple. Today my father's soul will rest in peace. After completing the unfinished temple construction work and renovating it again, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the people who cooperated under the guidance of Sri Sri Bhaskar Swami in consecrating the flag pillar, Shiva Linga.

Rudreshwar Mahadev Temple is center of faith of the entire region: Sahu

Dhamtari, Feb 20:

MLA Ranjana Sahu, on the auspicious occasion of Maghi Punni Mela, prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the residents of the area by offering Maha Aarti and Deepdan on the banks of Rudreshwar Mahadev Ghat. Solar high mast light was also inaugurated by the MLA, which was for long demanded by the devotees and villagers of the region. Due to the small size of the ghat, the construction of a new ghat was done by con-

cretization, while expanding the ghat work on the recommendation of the MLA, as well as an attempt to develop Rudreshwar Mahadev holy place as a tourist area in the coming times by the efforts of Sahu, is being done, whose approval is going to be given soon. Here it makes a mention that, the fair of Maghi Punni in Rudri, is

considered a symbol of faith and devotees take a bath in the morning and worship Lord Shiva in the Rudreshwar Mahadev temple and take blessings while performing aarti of Goddess Ganga and devotees have started reaching the fair to attain salvation.

Mandal President Vijay Sahu, BJP District Vice President Shyamadevi Sahu, Rudri Sarpanch

Anita Yadav, District Member Jagendra Pinku Sahu, Sanitation Chief Shivdutt Upadhyay, Lata Avnendra Sahu, Vinod Ransingh, Dilip Patel, Keshav Sahu, Lokesh Sahu, Pavitra Dewan, Shrawan Meshram, Umendra Sahu, Urmila Sharma, Jeevan Lal and others were present with the MLA during the Maha Aarti and Deepdan.

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Description of secured assets (immovable property)	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1	Mala Shahi/ Ganesh Shahi/ BSPBS17000741/ Bilaspur	Kh No. 202/1,2 Layout Plot No Ar/52 Ward No 15, Mouja Sakri, Ph No. 28/45, Plot Area 1406 Sqft., Nature City Ward, Asma Enclave, Bilaspur - 495001 Chattisgarh. Bounded As Below- East- Road, West- Service Area, North- Plot No Ar/51, South-Road	01-12-2021 / Rs. 32,88,715/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lac Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Only)	16-02-2022
2	Pappu Kesharwani/ Usha Kesharwani/ BSPBS17000732/ Bilaspur	Plot Area 432 Sq.Ft, Kh No. 1203/13, Part Of Sheet No 23/15, Plot No. 331, Mouja Sarkada, Ph No. 32, Ward No - 53/4, Jabdapara Bilaspur- 495001 Chattisgarh. Bounded As Below- East- H/O Dhruva, West- Road, North- H/O Girijadevi, South- H/O C.P.Shukla	01-12-2021 / Rs. 19,73,213/- (Rupees Nineteen Lac Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen Only)	16-02-2022
3	Raju Minz/ Anjani Minz/ BSPBS18002092/ Bilaspur	Plot Area 2200 Sq.Ft, Kh No. 63/1, Ph No. 32, Mouja Ranisagar, Rnm Kota Bilaspur- 495001 Chattisgarh. Bounded As Below- East- Seller, West- Ashish Gupta, North- Road, South- Sarita Sharma	01-12-2021 / Rs. 30,62,676/- (Rupees Thirty Lac Sixty Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Eight Only)	18-02-2022

Place : Chattisgarh
Date : 21.02.2022

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 321

Financial sector integrity

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questioned Chitra Ramakrishna, former CEO-MD of National Stock Exchange (NSE) at her house in Chembur, Mumbai. The Income Tax (I-T) team were also present in her house examining documents when CBI questioned her separately in her apartment. The case has generated sensation regarding conduct of people responsible for maintaining integrity of financial sector in India. It appears that structure of financial sector regulating agencies in India is flawed and officials able to operate in a shady manner, disregarding law. It questions integrity of financial sector, particularly stock markets. Soon after she took over as the managing director and chief executive of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) in April 2013, Chitra Ramakrishna, always dressed immaculately in Kanjivaram sarees, met brokers several times in Delhi and Mumbai. Chitra Ramakrishna, was told by the unknown 'yogi', "You will vomit all that is required as always", with reference to discussions with Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Finance Ministry and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on listing of stock exchanges. It seems from the conversations that rather than seeking 'guidance' as Ramakrishna has claimed, the 'yogi' was dictating to her. On SEBI norms on listing of stock exchanges, the 'unknown person', vide e-mail dated December 4, 2015, suggested that Ramakrishna should approach the Finance Ministry, PMO, SEBI etc for self-listing of NSE. The NSE in its letter dated July 6, 2018 drew reference to the forensic investigation report of E&Y, wherein E&Y upon examination of the matter concluded that the said person was Anand Subramanian. The NSE has also concurred with the same. The NSE vide its letter dated November 27, 2018, submitted that its legal advisors had consulted practitioners dealing with human psychology. There is little or no information about him on LinkedIn or the numerous websites that track corporate profiles. Internal guidelines of large international companies in financial industry say that it is highly suspicious if someone's footprint has been completely wiped out from the net. Subramanian, who had no digital footprint, went on to become the group operating officer in a very large and sensitive organisation like the NSE, which is a first-line regulator. Chitra Ramakrishna resigned from NSE on 2 December 2016. However, SEBI raised serious questions on how the NSE board allowed her to exit from the Exchange, despite the misconduct in appointing and sharing confidential information with an unknown person. The National Stock Exchange is country's largest stock exchange and also has monopoly in the derivatives business. It's a sad commentary that instead of seeking to repose faith both in the NSE and resurrect its own regulatory aura, the SEBI has shown a diminished role. CBI has issued a lookout notice against Ravi Narain, the former boss of the NSE is already in London with his family for the past several months. It has also not helped how SEBI has handled the algo case wherein after severely indicting Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramakrishna in its 2019 final verdict, this month the regulator said it was dropping the charges against the NSE, Narain and Chitra under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Unfair and Fraudulent Trade Act and charging them under Securities Contract Regulations Act (SCRA) and Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations Act (SECC). Instead, it had imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on NSE and Rs 25 lakh each on Narain and Chitra. Before the regulator holds boards and market intermediaries accountable for upholding their fiduciary responsibility, the onus to show the way has to come from SEBI. The central government has to uphold integrity of financial sector.

Drone usage

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the new 'Kisan Drone Yatra' in different parts of India. Central government has announced special provisions for the drone industry in the Union Budget 2022. The government is pushing for the adoption of the 'Drone Shakti'. During the budget speech, drones were mentioned as both solutions to some pertinent problems faced by farmers and startups. Drone technology has gotten most of the recognition in the industry because of its diversity and considered the future for the agrarian community. The military initially used them. However, other sectors quickly embraced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) when they learned about its widespread applications. With the world supply at an all-time high and commodity prices at an all-time low as a result of increasing demands in food production and consumption, the modern farming industry is at a crossroads. There is a greater need than ever before for farmers and agronomists across the globe to improve resource management in response to tightening budgets. The use of drones in the agriculture industry is steadily growing as part of an effective approach to sustainable agricultural management that allows agronomists, agricultural engineers, and farmers to help streamline their operations, using robust data analytics to gain effective insights into their crops. Crop monitoring, for example, is made easier by using drone data to accurately plan and make ongoing improvements, such as the use of ditches and evolving fertilizer applications. Drones are particularly useful for the careful monitoring of large areas of farmland, considering factors such as slope and elevation, for example, to identify the most suitable seeding prescriptions. The technology has also proven useful in gaining an extensive overview of plant emergence and population, as more accurate data can help with replanting decisions, as well as thinning and pruning activity and the improvement of crop models. Crucially, the high-resolution nature of drone data can be used to assess the fertility of crops, allowing agricultural professionals to more accurately apply fertilizer, reduce wastage, and plan and troubleshoot irrigation systems. The technology can also be particularly effective following natural disasters, such as a flood, to help farmers to assess damage across terrains that may not be readily accessible on foot. Given the extensive terrain that requires surveying, drones offer increased efficiency, allowing users to capture high resolution imagery more quickly than alternative methods. Particularly in these volatile market conditions, estimating annual yield can help manage expectations.

HIGH WAVES



A pedestrian stands in front of the ocean as high waves crash over the beach of Etretat, Normandy, western France.

Indian cities need circular economy to secure urban futures

SHUBHAGATO DASGUPTA & NEHA AGARWAL



Cities are a critical frontier in the fight against climate change. Existing urban areas are responsible for 75% of global carbon-dioxide emissions and the share could climb further as large swathes of Asia and Africa urbanize. In turn, the combined effect of climate change-induced resource scarcity and an increased resource footprint characterizing urban lifestyles threaten urban sustainability. With a national urban population of more than 300 million that is set to double between 2018 and 2050, India must determine how to make its cities more resource-efficient and less polluting. A fundamental urban transformation is a necessity as India strives to become a 'net zero' carbon emitter by 2070 per its COP26 commitment. And given that urban India is set to make massive investments in wastewater and solid waste management over the next five years under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, it has a unique opportunity to test and scale solutions that work. Circular economy with its emphasis on minimizing fresh withdrawal of resources and maximizing waste prevention and recycling could present a path forward. Globally, early adopters of the circular economy framework, such as the cities of Berlin, Toronto, and New York, are beginning to reap benefits from it in the form of reduced waste generation, environmental pollution, and energy consumption.

Fortunately, India has its own home-grown examples from which to learn. One of these is the city of Udaipur where the urban local body collaborated with the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to develop a circular wastewater management system. HZL required significant quantities of water to support its mining operations in a semi-arid region outside the city and the city needed a way to manage its wastewater. The complementarity of needs led to a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the city, HZL, and the Rajasthan State-Owned Urban Improvement Trust in 2014. The arrangement tasked the local government with the development of the sewerage network, while HZL built the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) itself with an initial capacity of 20 million litres per day (MLD) and later augmentation to 60 MLD. HZL is also responsible for its operations and maintenance for a period of 25 years in exchange for the rights to use the treated wastewater for its operations.

A second emerging example is the city of Indore which has created Asia's largest bio-methanation plant (capable of treating 500 tons of waste per day) that is impending an inaugural by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this week. Developed at a cost of INR 150 crores (USD 20 mn) under a Public Private Partnership between the city, Ecosmart, and Proweps EnviroTech GmbH, the plant is expected to generate 18 kilolitres of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and 100 tons of compost daily. The city plans to use a share of the produced bio-CNG to run its public buses and municipal vehicles and sell the remaining along with the compost. Since bio-CNG is greener than traditionally-derived fossil fuels, all else remaining the same, using it would reduce vehicular carbon emissions. The revenue derived from the sale of the two end-products, viz. bio-CNG and compost, has the potential in turn to enhance

the financial sustainability of the operation.

Constitutionally responsible for the delivery and management of urban services, cities are best poised to lead a bottom-up shift to circular urban economies. The application of the circular economy framework to service delivery systems must start at the planning stage itself. However, designing infrastructure systems that enable resource recovery and recycling is not enough; cities must actively engage with all its potential collaborators in a circular economy such as citizens, informal and small-scale service providers, industries, markets, and others, to identify behavioural roadblocks that can constrain the success of the endeavour. For example, separate collection, and storage of biodegradable and non-biodegradable solid waste at the level of the household (or other generators) is the simplest and cheapest approach to waste segregation. But when waste is mixed at the source or during transport, the overall system must incur costs in terms of money and time to re-segregate it before its processing and eventual recycle, resulting in constrained financial sustainability.

An economic approach aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources, circular economy offers a new paradigm that emphasizes on the need to take a comprehensive view of products and processes. Our production systems must adopt practices around the principles of circular economy so that they not only reduce resource dependency but also gain competitiveness. A circular economy path adopted by India could bring in substantial annual benefits, along with significant reduction in congestion and pollution, which would consequently have a snowball effect on the economy. Our ability to maximize our resource efficiency, minimize the consumption of finite resources as well as the impetus to the emergence of new business models and entrepreneurial ventures will spur our transition to-

wards self-reliance. The Government has been actively formulating policies and promoting projects to drive the country towards a circular economy. It has already notified various rules, such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, Metals Recycling Policy in this regard. It is essential to recognize and revolutionize the material flow in the manufacturing process and shift towards a circular economy, which provides multipronged economic and ecological benefits.

To make circular urban economy a success, cities would need to examine the motivations of the participating actors and reorganize incentives through rewards and regulations to drive desirable behaviours. This would require measuring the viability of projects in dimensions beyond financing. Citizen acceptance, integration of informal livelihoods, operational reliability of underlying technology in local contexts, and urban equity are just some of the considerations to account for. Since Indian cities are widely-varied in their socio-ecological contexts, developing a portfolio of service models that work and are scalable warrants experimentation. Although, some thematic national and state policies and programs do nudge cities towards building circular economies within their specific domains, but a dedicated program or policy from the Government of India with a unifying vision of climate change mitigation and adaptation could inspire cross-cutting local action. The problem looms as large as ever but armed with lessons from an audit of past programs and flexibility in time and resources, urban India can usher in a sustainable transformation to secure our collective urban futures.

(Shubhagato Dasgupta is Senior Fellow and Neha Agarwal is Senior Research Associate at Centre for Policy Research, Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humour

Humour has a lot of positive scientific connections to the human body. Good and plain humour sharpens the brain, enhances the intellectual ability of a person, makes one blithe-some and ultimately helps him/her to keep in good health. In fact, years ago I read somewhere that the more you cry like a newborn, the more you would laugh as you grow. Humour supplies fresh energy to our body and melts away anger in no time. Without humour, the existence of a human being on earth is inconsequential and pointless. Those who don't appreciate good humour and laugh, but always present themselves with tight faces, are equal to corpses. Of all the places, jokes relating to the office would always top the list. For example, an egoist and ever ill-tempered boss would shout at his secretary: "I am the boss... you are nothing!" Pat comes the reply from her: "So you are a boss of nothing!" Nice humour exists in some popular phrases too. Consider this: 'A woman is behind in every man's success, the adage goes. But the question is: "If she comes in 'front', will he be a failure?" One seriously needs to ponder over. There is little doubt that humour is the panacea to the rigours of our daily life, especially during times of pandemics.

Ranganathan, via email

Election candidates

With different phases of elections going on and results eagerly awaited from five states-UP, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand, the election fever has reached its crescendo. UP is the heartland of the Hindi belt having the maximum number of MP seats which is so crucial for any political party or alliance to claim the power corridors of New Delhi. Naturally, it is to be a do-or-die situation for all political parties contesting the poll as the next parliamentary election is in just two years' time. A healthy election is always welcome in democracy but very unfortunately it is not so as evidenced by the use of some unprintable language used by the candidates against each other as if it is a personal war. We are appalled to see in the leading national TV channels the unparliamentary, unprintable languages used by the candidates before the TV cameras which make all sensible electors hang their heads in shame. It is seen often some candidates even do not care to side with our enemy nation to appease a particular communities as vote bank at the cost of the nation's security and integrity quoting the principles of Secularism when our Bravehearts are shedding their blood to fight them. Sadly, today's politics has become the last resort of a few scoundrels and traitors.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Birender Dhanoa@bsdhanoa
"To spread division in Ukraine, the Kremlin relies on what experts have called a 'firehose of falsehood', a propaganda technique that bombards the public with reams of lies & conspiracy theories, whether through pro-Russian media outlets or Twitter bots..."

Jency Jacob@jencyjac
Looks like the obsession of the 'nationalists' about Singapore and the country's 'strong leadership' has finally ended. They are busy cancelling the Singapore PM. The Singapore PM was right. ADR data shows that the number of Indian MPs facing criminal charges.



Smita@smibarooah
The more they hound @vikramsampath the more famous he becomes.Thanks to their shenanigans people are catching on to the systematic attempts to shut out voices from the so called Right. They're responding by buying his books & reading what the anti-lobby is trying to shut out



Vinod Kumar Jha@vkjha62
Hijab-Kesariya row looks like issue of political and gender dominance. Responsibility lies more on teachers-parents how they retain collective identity of students & secular character of schools. Rational thinking with global perspective & empathy is the answer.



Celina Jaitly@CelinaJaitly
Skillful Pilots Gain Their Reputation From Storms And Tempest.



Harsha Bhogle@bhogleharsha
A lot of players have gone back to the Ranji Trophy to fight their way back. That includes VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly and both returned better players for the stage they were in. It is tougher as you get older but you have to wish Ishant, Saha, Rahane and Pujara well.

Paddy@vonbrauckmann
I just finished the first nine verses of the first Canto in the Mundaka Upanishad. Reading the Upanishads leaves me in awe. It's incomprehensible how the Saptarishis gathered such knowledge. Nothing like them has ever come forth in any wisdom tradition.

STATEHOOD DAY CELEBRATION



Tribal people perform, during the 36th Statehood Day programme of Arunachal Pradesh, in Naharlagun.

Rijiju to youths

'Work for pan Arunachal identity'

Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh), Feb 20 (PTI):

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday called upon youths to come out of the self-centred attitude and work for a pan Arunachal Pradesh identity where every tribe gets equal opportunities.

He asked the youth not to think of only their own community but for others too so that the state moves ahead.

"Time has come for the people of the state to work for a united Arunachal where every tribe co-exists. The state cannot progress if all tribes are not united as a single identity instead of

working for self interest," the Union Law and Justice Minister said in his address to the people on the occasion of 36th statehood day and celebrations marking 50 years of its naming.

Rijiju said many tribes in the state are still unknown to the rest of the country and efforts should be made to uplift them so that they equally progress with others.

"Conquer the world with your power and energy. Contribute to the state and society," he urged the youth.

Rijiju, while referring to the decades-old boundary dispute between Assam and Arunachal

Pradesh, said that the issue would be resolved soon as both the state government are working seriously in that direction.

The union minister also requested the business community to invest more in the state instead of others, so that the state progress equally with other parts of the country.

"Don't make Arunachal only as a place of festivals but showcase it as a major destination for investment by putting all-out efforts for outside investors," he said and asked the people to shun donation culture during festivals and other recreational activities as it hampers development.

Let me live: Swapna Suresh

Comments over controversies surrounding new job

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20 (PTI):

Gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh on Sunday beseeched her detractors to allow her to live and not harass her by creating any controversy over her new job in an allegedly RSS affiliated NGO. Speaking to reporters, Suresh said it was disheartening to see the relentless attempts to harass her. Initially a book was released to harass me and now a controversy is being created around my job, she claimed.

Her reaction comes in the wake of the Kerala State Commission for SC/STs initiating proceedings against NGO Highrange Rural Development Society (HRDS) over complaints alleging they constructed uninhabitable houses for

Adivasis in Attappadi and elsewhere. Speaking to reporters, she said she was appointed as Director, Women empowerment & CSR in the NGO after an interview and not because she had any affiliations to RSS or BJP.

"It is an ordinary job with an ordinary salary of Rs 43,000. It is a source of livelihood for my family. I humbly request not to see it as anything else. 'Let me live. Let me raise my children and take care of my mother. Please do not harass me by creating unnecessary controversies. I have no intention to harm or hurt anyone, so please leave me alone,' she said. Suresh, a prime accused



in the sensational Kerala gold smuggling case, had earlier criticised M Sivasankar -- the CM's former principal secretary -- for allegedly mentioning her name in his new book, claiming that she was 'already a victim.' A day after Sivasankar published an autobiographical book narrating his version of the controversial episode, Suresh had come out against the senior IAS officer, accusing him of 'manipulating, exploiting and destroying' her life.

Suresh, who was released from jail a few months ago after securing bail following her arrest by central agencies in July 2020 in connection with

the case of smuggling gold through diplomatic channels, had slammed Sivasankar for claiming that she cheated him by gifting a mobile phone she received as a bribe.

Sivasankar, in the book, claimed that he had made no illegal intervention in the gold smuggling incident and never did any undue favours for Suresh. The officer, in the book, claimed that he was shell-shocked to know that Suresh, who was his close friend for three years, was a participant in smuggling.

The gold smuggling case relates to the seizure of 30 kg of gold on July 5, 2020 from a diplomatic baggage at the air cargo of the Trivandrum International Airport by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi.

Conjoined twins vote separately, given dark glasses for secrecy

Amritsar, Feb 20 (PTI):

Conjoined twins but two separate votes. Amritsar-based Sohan Singh and Mohan Singh who are joined in the hip exercised their franchise for the first time in the Punjab assembly polls on Sunday.

The conjoined twins, fondly known as Sohan-Mohna, had recently been handed over two separate electoral photo identity cards by Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer S Karuna Raju. They had turned 18 last year and be-



Conjoined twins Sohan and Mohan show their ink marked fingers after casting their votes for Punjab Assembly polls, at a polling station near Amritsar, Sunday.

came eligible to vote. Officials said the conjoined twins were treated as two separate voters and special arrangements were made for them so

that both could maintain the secrecy of their votes. They said dark glasses were provided to them when they voted.

The twins live in Pingalwara, a charitable home for the destitute in the city. Born in June 2003 in Delhi, they were abandoned by their parents. Later, an orphanage in Amritsar adopted them.

Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, Gurpreet Singh Khera reached the polling booth where the conjoined twins exercised their franchise and handed over certificates to them as first-time voters.

Dance teacher loses livelihood to Covid pandemic, Delhi Police helps him find job

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): Distraught after he lost his livelihood in Mumbai due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, 44-year-old dance teacher Balaji Sawalkar arrived in Delhi to start life afresh. But he found no takers for his dancing skills in the national capital. When he ran out of money, he started to live in Rain Basera, a night shelter for homeless people in the city. It was here the Delhi Police found him and helped him to get a job at a restaurant.

Talking to PTI, Sawalkar said he is a professional dancer and had been performing for the past 20 years. He said he had opened a dance academy called Bali Step of Dance Classes at Saki Naka in Mumbai in 2013. Sawalkar said he also has a registered company named Bali Events and Entertainment LLP but it has been closed for now.

I had a dance institute in Mumbai which has been closed due to the COVID-19 as the premises were on rent and I did not have funds to run it anymore. I was running out of money and left Mumbai. When I moved out of Mumbai, I went to four to five students' homes at different places, including Odisha and Bihar. I was exploring whether I can open a new academy, but I saw the situation as same there, Sawalkar said. He reached the national capital by train on Diwali, November 4, last year to explore more possibilities.

IIT Madras to identify new housing tech, help bring down construction costs

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is hosting a housing incubator, 'ASHA', to identify and support new innovative housing technologies, bring down the cost of construction in India and support start-ups in scaling up their ideas.

The 'Accelerator Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators' is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide incubation and acceleration support to potential future technologies that are not yet market-ready (pre-prototype applicants) or to the technologies that are market-ready (post-prototype applicants).

According to officials, the incubator has already supported a couple of start-ups including Tvasta,

which constructed India's first 3D-printed house as well as the first 3D-printed doffing unit used by COVID-19 frontline healthcare workers to safely remove PPEs.

The key objectives of 'ASHA' incubator include identification of technologies, providing technical support to innovative ideas, business support and mentoring on the financial viability of innovative ideas and infrastructure support.

"The key parameter would be the impact of the technologies identified and how many housing units are constructed through the technologies supported by ASHA. Business success would be the key focus of IIT Madras. Success will be measured in terms of scaling up and output in terms of millions of housing units constructed

through ASHA-supported technologies," said Meher Prasad, professor at IIT Madras' Department of Civil Engineering.

Another firm supported by ASHA-IIT Madras is Slab Engineering that is engaged in 3D volumetric precast development. The company will be working with IIT Madras to refine its designs and to develop standards and specifications so that the adoption of its products can be enabled.

ASHA-India centres, which will also help in developing design guidelines, construction manuals and other necessary guidelines relevant for the effective use of such technologies in the region, have been set up at five institutes -- four IITs (Madras, Kharagpur, Bombay and Roorkee) and CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat.

TOURISTS ENJOY SKIING



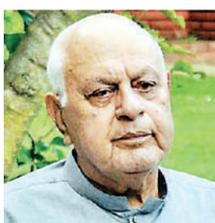
Tourists ski in the snow during winter season at Kufri, in Shimla, Sunday.

'Larger role for women in policy planning, decision-making'

Jammu, Feb 20 (PTI):

Asserting that the National Conference has all along been striving for gender equality, party president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday laid emphasis on political empowerment of women and their larger role in policy planning and decision-making.

"Involvement of women in decision-making and policy planning is necessary for achieving comprehensive, unbiased and sustainable development, which will eventually lead to harmonious growth of the society," Abdullah, a former chief minister, said. Interacting with the newly constituted provin-



Farooq Abdullah

cial women wing of the party at a function here, Abdullah referred to measures taken by his party over the years for women empowerment and emancipation and said this is necessary for promoting leadership roles among them. Provincial president of the women wing Satwant Kour Dogra intro-

duced the new office-bearers. Congratulating them, Abdullah said due to the prevailing situation the women of Jammu and Kashmir have been the worst sufferers.

"Discrimination and depravity at the societal and domestic-level with our mothers and sisters is not unknown in this part of the world. Rising unemployment and inflation in J&K is also having a cascading effect on our promising women, he said. "Having women in politics, it goes without saying, will attune party policies towards the needs of women and prepare them for the leadership roles to face the challenges of the present and future, he said.

IIT Jodhpur's framework to help in safe reopening of colleges

● Also prevent COVID spread

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, have come up with a decision framework for educational institutions called "Campus RAKSHAK" that integrates various applications and tools into one to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 and ensure smooth reopening of campuses.

IIT Jodhpur has collaborated with IISc Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay,

Algorithmic Biologies Pvt Ltd, HeathBadge Private Limited and Prthvi.AI to build, integrate and test to ensure safety on campuses through this initiative. While two prototypes of Campus RAKSHAK have been tested simultaneously at IIT Jodhpur and IIIT Hyderabad, the team is in talks to devise affordable and flexible pricing model, product, marketing and sales strategy to reach out to campuses across the country. Campus RAKSHAK has four components -- Tapestry Pooling, Go Corona Go App, Simulators and Healthbadge. These form a single platform that

monitor, predict, and recommend mitigation strategies for campuses against CoViD-19. "The tapestry pooling method assigns individual samples to multiple pools, reducing the cost of screening to one-fourth. Based on the results of each pool, the algorithm predicts COVID-19 positive samples," Manas Bairagi, Chief Technological Officer, iHub Drishti, said. iHub Drishti at IIT Jodhpur is a technology innovation hub focussed around computer vision, augmented reality and virtual reality. "Go Corona Go App" is a mobile app similar to Aarogya Setu, but the data is accessible to the ad-

ministration for making the right decisions to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Its primary purpose is to conduct contact tracing. Users will remain connected to the campus server through the Bluetooth of the phone," Bairagi added.

Explaining about the Simulators, Bairagi said it consist of three simulation models -- Campus Modeler, CampusSim and EpiSimmer. "The simulator will be able to predict where the COVID-19 positivity will spread in the coming days. This can be considered an advisory system to help the administration make decisions.

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