



BRIEF



A Purple Sunbird on a flower as winter gives way to spring, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Mishap

Singrauli: At least 35 passengers were injured, four of them seriously, after a speeding bus overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district on Wednesday, police said. The accident took place near Gurjar Dhaba under Jiyawan police station area, about 50 km from the district headquarters, in the morning, an official said.

Bribe

Jaipur: Two employees of the Water Supply Department were arrested for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.25 lakh in Rajasthan's Nagaur district on Wednesday, an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) spokesperson said. The victim had lodged a complaint with the bureau, alleging that the accused were demanding a bribe in lieu of completing his work.

Watery grave

Thane: A 15-year-old boy drowned in a stream in Thane's Diva area on Wednesday afternoon, an official said. The boy, identified as Kartik Naik, entered the stream in Saba village along with two others and drowned around 2:35pm, Avinash Sawant, chief of Thane civic body's Regional Disaster Management Cell said.

Tough

Nagpur: Former VHP chief Pravin Togadia on Wednesday said the BJP may find it tough to win the Assembly polls underway in Uttar Pradesh as farmers there are distressed and angry. The results of the seven-phase UP polls will be declared on March 10.

Weather
High 33 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 16,605.95
SENSEX 55,468.90

BULLION
GOLD 51,530
SILVER 67,150

Russia batters Ukraine

Both sides ready for more talks

Kyiv, Mar 02 (AP):

Russia renewed its assault on Wednesday on Ukraine's second-largest city in a pounding that lit up the skyline with balls of fire over populated areas, even as both sides said they were ready to resume talks aimed at stopping the new devastating war in Europe.

The escalation of attacks on crowded cities followed an initial round of talks between outgunned Ukraine and nuclear power Russia on Monday that resulted in only a promise to meet again.

It was not clear when new talks might take place or what they would yield. Ukraine's leader earlier said Russia must stop bombing before another meeting. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has decried Russia's bombardment as a blatant terror campaign, while US President Joe Biden warned on Tuesday that if the Russian leader didn't pay a price for the invasion, the aggression wouldn't stop with one country.

The bombardment continued Wednesday. Ukrainian UNIAN news agency quoted the health administration chief of the northern city of



Russian troops fired on the TV tower, near the Memorial complex in Kyiv.

Leave Kharkiv at once, Indian embassy urges Indians

In an urgent advisory, the India embassy in Ukraine on Wednesday asked all Indians stranded in Kharkiv to leave the conflict zone immediately. The embassy asked Indians to proceed to settlements in Pesochin, Babaye and Bezlyudovka as soon as possible. "For their safety and security, they must leave Kharkiv immediately repeat immediately in the light of the deteriorating situation. They should proceed to Pesochin, Babaye and Bezlyudovka as soon as possible for their safety," the embassy said.

NDRF sends relief material

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has sent relief material, including blankets and sleeping mats, to Ukraine facing an intense Russian military offensive. The move came following the government's decision to send humanitarian aid and medical supplies to Ukraine after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a high level meeting. The relief material was sent in two consignments - through a flight that left for Poland this morning and another on an Indian Air Force aircraft that left for Romania on Wednesday afternoon. The NDRF has provided relief materials, including blankets, sleeping mats, and solar study lamps among others, for the people of Ukraine, an official statement said.

Over 2k civilians dead

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has killed more than 2,000 Ukrainian civilians and destroyed hundreds of structures including transport facilities, hospitals, kindergartens and homes, Ukraine's emergency service said on Wednesday. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, meanwhile, said that if a third World War were to take place, it would involve nuclear weapons and be destructive. Lavrov has said that Russia, which launched what it calls a special military operation against Ukraine last week, would face a "real danger" if Kyiv acquired nuclear weapons.

Chernihiv as saying two cruise missiles hit a hospital there. The hospital's main building suffered damage, Serhiy Pivovarov said, and authorities were working to determine the casualty toll. No other information was immediately available. A Russian strike also hit the regional police and intelligence headquarters in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city with a population of about 1.5 million, killing four people and wounding several, the state emergency service of Ukraine said. It added that residential buildings were also hit, but did not provide further details.

Narrow escape for Kerala student in Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

It was a providential escape for 25-year-old medical student Assoiun Hussain who was just 50 metres away when his batchmate Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagoudar was killed in shelling in war-torn Ukraine's Kharkiv town.

A day later, Hussain's family in Kerala are thankful he escaped but also know that many perils lie ahead.

Assoiun along with others is on his way to western Ukraine from Kharkiv to escape the fierce Russian assault, his brother

er Afsal Hussain said.

"Naveen's death came as a shocker. My mother, who was concerned and stressed, collapsed as the news broke out. She is now admitted at a hospital. It is testing times for us, who are thousands of kilometres away," he said.

The Russian attack began last week and heavy shelling has been reported from several areas of Ukraine, including capital Kyiv and Kharkiv.

"My brother had taken shelter in an underground metro rail station, which was 50 metres from the place Naveen died. He was his batchmate," Afsal

Hussain said as he and others in Kerala's Kannur city scan social media platforms for updates. Gyanagoudar, who hailed from Chalageri in Haveri district of Karnataka, was a fourth-year medical student like Assoiun Hussain at the Kharkiv National Medical University.

Several students, who are holed up in bunkers in Ukrainian cities, are unable to escape because of the continuous shelling, say parents, who have also flagged their concern over the Indian embassy's advisory asking students to reach Ukraine's borders for evacuation.

'Won't spare any effort to bring Indians home'

Sonbhadra, Mar 02 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India has been able to evacuate its citizens from war-hit Ukraine because of its rising power and assured the country that his government will leave no stone unturned for the safe return of all Indians stranded there.

Addressing election rallies in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra and Ghazipur districts, Modi spoke of the government's rescue efforts in the wake of the Russian military offensive against Ukraine and also underlined the need for India to become self-reliant.



"The dynasts question our vaccine, they question our armed forces and make fun of 'Make in India'. Such people have shamed the country and its people. They can't make India strong," he said.

Asserting that the country has made it a priority to rescue all Indians stuck in Ukraine, Modi said, "It is due to India's rising

strength that we are able to bring back stranded Indians from Ukraine. Operation Ganga has been launched and I have sent four ministers to oversee the evacuation. "Our army and air force have also been deployed to rescue Indians in distress faster. Today I also assure the people of the country that the Government of India will leave no stone unturned for the safe return of its citizens." Modi also targeted his rivals, accusing them of ignoring the problems of the poor when in power.

Sonbhadra and Ghazipur will go to the polls in the last phase on March 7.

SENSEX SHOWS RED

Investors' wealth tumbles Rs 86,742 cr as stocks plunge

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 86,741.74 crore on Wednesday, mirroring weakness in the global equity markets amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

The BSE benchmark Sensex slumped 1,227.18 points to 55,020.10 during the day in line with a global selloff. It finally settled at 55,468.90, lower by 778.38 points or 1.38 per cent.

Surging crude prices

and foreign capital outflows also weighed on investor sentiment. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies tanked Rs 86,741.74 crore to reach Rs 2,51,52,303.35 crore in tandem with the massive selloff. Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, falling 6 per cent, followed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement. "Indian markets had to

face a double whammy situation today where geopolitical tension is a major headwind while a sharp surge in crude oil prices is a key risk for the Indian market because Brent Crude has crossed the USD 110 mark. "If we look at the headline indices then the market was looking very weak but there was some buying in the broader market from lower levels," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

COVID CURBS EASED

Cinema halls, restaurants allowed to function at 100 % capacity

In 14 districts including Mumbai

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

Easing pandemic-related restrictions, the Maharashtra government on Wednesday allowed shopping complexes, restaurants, cinema halls and theaters to operate at 100 per cent capacity in 14 out of 36 districts in the state, including Mumbai.

These 14 districts are: Mumbai city, Mumbai suburban dis-

trict, Pune, Bhandara, Sindhudurg, Nagpur, Raigad, Wardha, Ratnagiri, Satara, Sangli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Kolhapur.

A government notification said that in these districts 90 per cent of the eligible population has taken at least one dose of anti-coronavirus vaccines, and over 70 per cent people are fully vaccinated.

The positivity rate in these areas is less than 10 per cent and occupancy of oxygen-supported or ICU beds is less than 40 per cent.

JSPL, Balco, others put in 26 bids for 11 coal mines

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD)

JSW Steel, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd and Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd were among the 21 firms that put in bids in the latest auction of coal mines, the government said on Wednesday.

In all, 26 bids were received for the auction of coal mines under the fourth tranche of sale of coal, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Five of the 11 coal mines put on auction received single bids.

'Policy to promote private sector R&D in railways'

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Indian Railways will come up with a policy in the next 7-8 days to make private-sector research and development a major part of the railway budget with 90 per cent allocation in the future, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

While speaking in the concluding session of a post-Budget webinar on technology-enabled development, the railway minister said the defence and space sector has already broken the silos



Ashwini Vaishnaw

by opening up research and development (R&D) for the private sector and the same needs to be done in other sectors as well. "We are starting something in the Railways soon. In another 7-8 days, we will launch a new

policy where private sector R&D would become an integral part or rather major part of railways R&D budget. "We do hope that going forward, probably 90 per cent of railways R&D budget would be in the private sector compared with 100 per cent in the public sector at present," Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw, who also handles the telecom and IT ministry, appreciated industry suggestions on the spectrum management and called for action from the industry to push domestic manufacturing of technology products.

"Thought process on the use of spectrum is changing. For a long period, spectrum was viewed as a revenue-generating resource. The last two years have shown a public good element of the spectrum.

"I am happy to observe that there is a broad consensus on spectrum management issues which are basically leading to the public or to technology improvement or technology development. This we now need to convert in clear policy statements which can be then implemented," he said.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Photo exhibition organised in Kapsada and Selud

Vidyanjali 2.0 commences; Collector appeals support from community and private sector



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Photo exhibitions are being organized regularly by the Public Relations Department for the promotion of important schemes of the government. In this sequence, a camp was organized in Selud and Kapsada. Information about

government schemes was given in detail through the camps. Villagers in Selud attended the camp in large numbers and got information about government schemes. A villager, Mahesh Yadav, who visited the exhibition, said that he got information about various schemes in the camp.

Along with this, he also got the "Janman" magazine which has a detailed description of the government activities. A lot of work has been done by the Chhattisgarh government for rural development.

A beautiful glimpse of all these activities has been shown in the exhibition. Shakuntala, a villager from Kapsada, stated that the villagers are getting the benefit of all the schemes of Chhattisgarh government. A youth, Vijay, said that he got a lot of useful material about departmental schemes.

He appreciated the efforts of the Public Relations Department and added that he was preparing for competitive exams and hence the exhibition was very useful for him.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: School education will be strengthened through community participation in the district. In government schools, individual level or voluntary organizations can come forward and work for improving the infrastructure, increasing the quality of education and innovation. This will be possible through Vidyanjali 2.0 programme, said Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure during the review meeting of Vidyanjali 2.0 programme.

This programme is to be run with the participation of the community and private sector interested in the field of education. Collector said that it is necessary to lay a solid foundation of education to strengthen the coming generation. This is a very im-



portant programme and community participation will empower the education system. Institutions can help in building infrastructure in schools. For example, if an organization wants good books to be in the school library, then such books can be made available to the schools.

If there is a need for the availability of furniture in a school, any institution can provide the furniture. It can be done on an individual level as well. Those who have academic aptitude and ability to teach the children, they can help the students who are weak in

studies.

Collector further said that he has seen that often the retired teachers, who have taught children with interest throughout their life, are full of energy and want to give some of their time to the students in future also. Such people can also avail their service free of cost.

During the meeting, DEO Abhay Jaiswal urged the representatives of institutions and industry to come forward and participate in Vidyanjali programme. People can play an important part in the development of the country

by improving the level of education. Investment in the education sector is significant for the better future of the coming generation.

Schools need regular maintenance. Interested institutions may oversee the maintenance of certain schools. The required facilities can be arranged. Sometimes weak children need separate tuition; accordingly arrangements can be made for them. Vocational education, which strengthens the children as a skill for the future, can also be arranged.

If some organization

wants, it can also take responsibility for the nutrition of the children. This means providing nutritious eatables for children. Nutritious food will strengthen the physical development of children and will ensure their faster mental development.

Another sphere of activity can be the cultural development of the children. For example, children can be given information about theatre. They can be taught to act so that the holistic development of the children takes place. Storytelling can be taught to children through graphics creation. Puppet shows etc can also be done. Sports material may also be provided.

It was clarified in the meeting that whatever contribution will be made by the institutions will not be in the form of monetary assistance. They can provide materials, equipment etc.

Invest your capital with diligence: DLSA

Science Exhibition organised at Rawatpura Sarkar International School

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Under the aegis of State Legal Services Authority Bilaspur and under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (President, District Legal Services Authority Durg), a series of legal awareness camps are being organised for bringing awareness among investors.

While addressing a legal awareness camp, Rahul Sharma (Secretary, District Legal Services Authority) said that in the last few years, many cases related to chit fund companies have come to the fore. People invest in these companies for getting higher returns in a short period but most of such companies vanish after accepting investments.

In most of the cases, directors of these companies have escaped after shutting

down their offices. According to the Chit Fund Act, 1982, a chit fund scheme means any person or group of people entering into an agreement together. In this agreement, a fixed amount or something is deposited in installments for a fixed time period and after that it should be auctioned. Whatever profit is earned, should be distributed among the investors.

According to the rules, this scheme can be run between mutual relatives or friends through any institution or person, but now instead of chit funds, collective public deposits or collective investment schemes are being run.

Rahul Sharma said before investing, people should acquire complete information about the chit fund company. The government has given some guidelines regarding chit fund. Whenever you want to invest money in a chit fund



company, first of all check whether the company is registered with the registrar of that state or not as well as check the SEBI warning. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority have also been issuing warnings for investors.

Chit fund companies convert this work into Multi Level Marketing (MLM). In multi-level marketing, companies lure the people for investment on promise of bigger profits. They also ask to make

only be done by the respective state governments. The Chit Registrar is appointed by the government under section 61 of the Chit Fund Act 1982. The registrar and the state government have the right to take action and determine justice in chit fund cases.

Satyam computer scam came to light in 2009 and Saradha scam in 2013. These scams were not of crores but of thousands of crores. In the Saradha scam, investors were lured to invest on assurance of 34 times profit. This group had opened its branches in about three hundred cities of many states. A similar scam came to the fore in the name of Rose Valley in such a situation, it is necessary for people to be aware and should not invest their capital in any chit fund companies without studying the offer and the company properly.

Chit funds in India are regulated by the Chit Fund Act 1982. Under this law, the registration and regulation of chit fund business

other people invest in the same. Their agents in the market lure the people on promise of double or triple profits within months or days. In the desire to become rich in a short time, people invest their hard earned money in chit fund companies. Chit funds have been a major source of funding for small businesses and poor people for the last many years.

Chit funds in India are regulated by the Chit Fund Act 1982. Under this law, the registration and regulation of chit fund business

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: On the occasion of "National Science Day" on February 28, Shri Rawatpura Sarkar International School, Kumhari organised a science exhibition in the school campus. In this exhibition the students displayed their innovative ideas in the projects.

The theme of the exhibition was 'Innovative Mind Project'. The aim of the exhibition was to focus the students towards innovation at its best.

The exhibition started with lighting of the lamp and presentation by the students on Raman Effect. Director of Kumhari Complex MK Srivastava, Principal Arati Mishra and all the parents were present in this program.

In the same exhibition, the students were motivated to discover more new



things and also prizes were distributed to all the participating students and wished them a bright future. Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Lok kalyan Trust's

Vice-Chairman Dr JK Upadhyay congratulated all the academic and non-academic staff of the institute for this successful program.

Raipur Blue wins Chief Minister Plate Group Inter District Cricket tournament

Social unity representatives' convention held on Saint Ravidas Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Raipur Blue became the winner of the Chief Minister Plate Group Inter District Cricket Tournament on the basis of a lead of 36 runs in the first innings at the final match played in

RDCA Raipur:

The three day match began on February 28 where Raipur Blue won the toss and decided to field first. In the first innings Mahasamund scored 416 runs and were all out. In reply the Raipur Blue scored 452 runs and

were all out. Kivnoor Chhabra scored 191 runs while Utkarsh Tiwary scored 52 runs, and Varun Singh was not out at a score of 35 runs. Bowling for Mahasamund, Sudhanshu took 5 wickets, Jaideep and Prashant took two wickets each.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Chhattisgarh State level Saint Ravidas Samaj organised social unity representatives' convention on the occasion of Saint Ravidas Jayanti at Federation Bhawan Sector 4. This unique event was organised to establish unity among the people of different provinces who believe in Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas.

Kishore Kannauje (Meher Samaj), Balaram Kolte (Ravidas Samaj Chhattisgarh), Dashrath Ahirwar (Ahrwar Samaj), Vinod Wasnik (Buddhist Samaj) and Bhagirathi Das were the organisers of this programme. Federation Chairman Sunil Ramteke was the coordinator of this event.

Dilip Wasnikar (Departmental Inquiry Commissioner, CG Govt) graced the function as Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present on the dais were Sarang Humane, Krishna Kumar Raikar (Bilaspur), Anil Khobragade (Dalli Rajhara),



Rupesh Rohidas (Masturi), Dr Manik Khare, Kanhaiya Choudhary, Dinesh Barve (Kawardha), Dr Rajendra, Jaimala Mandraha (Raipur), BSP General Manager Bintosh Bala, former General Manager PP Verma and Pramod Gajjal.

The speakers emphasised on making sustained efforts and organise district level meetings for ensuring success of the proposed Saint Ravidas Mahasammelan, which is going to be organised in

the coming months. They demanded from the state government to provide proper representation to the Samaj members. They strongly reacted for not declaring public holiday on Saint Ravidas Jayanti. It was decided that a delegation will soon meet the Chief Minister and the Governor and handover the charter of demands. They will be approached about the upcoming Mahasammelan and the dignitaries of other states who are

going to attend the programme.

Anand Ramteke (Samata Sainik Dal) and Anil Gajbiye (Panther Sena) and Ajay Meshram convened the programme. Chief guest Dilip Wasnikar urged all to imbibe the teachings of Guru Ravidas and follow the path shown by him. Kishor Kannauje presided over the programme.

Praveen Ahirwar (Dalli Rajhara), Nehru Raj (Chirmiri), Roshan Nagdaune, Devendra

Motghare, Urvarshi Palekar, Santoshi Khare, Kumari Khare (Bilaspur), Ramkhilavan Lanjhekar, Subhash Baghel, Vijay, Munna Lal Lanjhi, Shatrughan Harile (Kawardha), Suresh Sonwani, Chaitanya Meher, Nilesh Ugre (Janjgir-Champa), Vuvraj Lahiri, Dr CR Rave, Rakesh Mehar, Manoj Lahiri, (Raipur), RK Adre, Pushpendra Kumar Gajendra, Kaliram, Ravindra Ramteke, Karan Lal Adil (Rajnadgaon), Krishna Murari, Dinanath, Shivkumar Pathak, Vijay Kashyap, Ramkeval Prasad, GR Ahirwar, Narendra Raidas, Beniram Raote, Sunil Nigam, Ramchandra Behera, Rakesh, Roshan, KM Rao, DR Chaudre, Narendra Bavaria, BR Choure, RS Chauhan, Rajat Choure, Gautam Khobragade, Advocate Anil Kamle, Arvind Ramteke and others were present. Anil Gajbiye conducted the programme while Balaram Kolte proposed the vote of thanks.

Bhilai Steel Plant records Best Ever February Performances

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Several departments of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant including RMP 3, Blast Furnaces, Steel Melting Shop 3, Universal Rail Mill, etc have recorded best ever February month performances, breaking their previous February month records.

SAIL-BSP's RMP-3 has recorded the ever best monthly production of 37381 T in February 2022 surpassing previous best of 37358 T in January 2022. RMP 3 has created a record of the best daily production of 1508 T on February 28, 2022, surpassing the previous daily production of 1452 T on March 24, 2021. RMP-3 has already surpassed the best yearly production of 3.02 Lakh



tonne (FY 20-21) in January 2022. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Blast Furnaces have created several new records in the month of February 2022. Blast Furnaces have recorded ever best Monthly CDI rate of 105 kilogram per tonne of hot metal (kg/THM) in February 2022, as



against previous best of 101 kg/THM in November 2021. BF # 4 has recorded ever best monthly CDI rate of 100 kg/THM in February 2022 as against previous best of 76 kg/THM in the month of February 2021. Blast Furnace # 4 recorded Best ever Coke rate of 456 kilogram per



tonne of hot metal (kg/THM) in February 2022 as against previous best of 459 kg/THM in February 2013. BF # 4 has recorded ever best February month CDI rate of 124 kg/THM in February 2022 as against previous best of 93 kg/THM in the month of February 2021. Modex



Unit SMS-3 has created several new monthly production records in February 2022, with ever best February production of 2,42,158 T, surpassing the Annual Business Plan target of 2,42,000 T crude steel, 52.4 ever best average blows per day, 65 ever best daily blows on February 15,



2022, ever best RH Vessel life of 150 heats on February 22, 2022, day best TCS Production of 10761 T on February 17, 2022, 12 ever best blows from single Converter in a shift (BOF C, on February 23, 2022 during C Shift, 22 highest blows from 2 Converters on February 23, 2022

during C shift and Longest sequences in all three Casters of CK1(95), CK2(144), CV1(175).

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) created a new monthly record in February 2022 with daily average prime rail production of 2082 T surpassing previous best of 2070 T in August 2021. It also clocked Prime Acceptance of 93% surpassing previous best of 92.2% in August 2021.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge, Bhilai Steel Plant and Anjali Kumar, Executive Director (Works) congratulated the Steel collective for the milestone achievements and also conveyed their best wishes to the associated departments.

OBITUARY

Geeta Devi Jha



Bhilai: Surya Vihar resident Geeta Devi Jha, wife of Maithil Singh founder member Ram Naresh Jha left for heavenly abode at the age of 82 years on Tuesday. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence on March 02 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of industrialist Anil Jha (Kunwar Ji) and Educationist Vibha Jha; mother-in-law of Nutan Jha and grandmother of Neeraj Kumar Jha and Dheeraj Kumar Jha.

Safety of workers is important in industries: Dr. Dahria

Raipur, Mar 02:

In the chief hospitality of State Labour Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahria, for the first time, a seminar on state level industrial health, safety and hygiene was organised in a private hotel in Raipur. In the seminar, Secretary-cum-Labour Commissioner Mr. Amrit Kamar Khalkho along with international expert Dr. H.L. Kayla (B.B.S.), Dr. S. Bakhtiyar Chaudhary (OHS) and Chhattisgarh hygienist Dr. A.K. Verma was present. On this occasion, Labour Minister Dr. Dahria instructed the occupiers, factory owners, doctors, safety officers and other representatives from different areas of the state level to work in the field of health, safety and hygiene in factories according to the law. He praised the departments for effective implementation of the programs related to the promotion of the workers being run by the government. On this occasion, he supported the work done by Industrial Health and Safety, Hygiene Lab,



ment. On this occasion, Labour Minister Dr. Dahria instructed the occupiers, factory owners, doctors, safety officers and representatives from different areas of the state to work in the field of health, safety and hygiene in factories according to the law. He praised the departments for effective implementation of the programs related to the promotion of the workers being run by the government. On this occasion, he supported the work done by Industrial Health and Safety, Hygiene Lab,

ent. Additional Labour Commissioner Mrs. Savita Mishra was present as a moderator. Apart from this, the second panel was organized on the topic related to health, safety and work environment of the workers working in the diction factories in which retired Deputy Director M.K. Agarwal, retired Deputy Director Avinash Gunjal, Deputy Director Anthony Tirkey and Deputy Director, K.K. Dwivedi participated. IOTL to share safety culture experience in factories Ranjit Bhaskar from Balco, Shivkumar from Balco and NTPC. P. Ram Prasad was present on the occasion. Retired officer M.K. Agarwal and Mr. Avinash Gunja were given Life Time Achievement Award. Apart from this, J.K. Cement, NTPC, Ultratech, Sharda, JSPL, were rewarded for their contribution in the field of hygiene and safety.

CGBSE Board exam gets underway in off-line mode

Officials inspect exam centres

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Nearly 6000 students from Raipur District appeared in the Class XII examination conducted by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) here on Wednesday in off-line mode after the Covid 19 ease down. Joint Secretary Education and Director State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Rajesh Rana inspected the examination at JN Pandey and PG Umathe School here to check the Covid 19 protocol is being followed at the schools. According to the information received, the students were allowed to enter at the examination centers after going through the Thermal Scanning and Sanitizer before reaching the Hall



for the exams. Instructions were also given to follow Social Distancing during the exams. While the Hindi Language paper was comparatively easy for the students but the pressure was on them due to the off-line exam as they had completed the syllabus on-line during the entire academic session. After successfully conducting the Class XII exam on Wednesday, the students of Class X would be given their exam off-line after nearly two years of academic session.

Police seizes 6 'Hookahs' from a private hotel

In a raid conducted during night



Rajnandgaon, Mar 02:

The Police seized 'Hookah bar' and other products used in it from Hotel Rallis during a raid in city here on Wednesday and filed a case under the Cigarettes

and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) against the hotel owner. Some of the hotels in Rajnandgaon city are operating 'Hookah' bars illegally in the city and the police was getting information about the same.

In-between a team was deputed to conduct thorough search and it was here the police got tip from an informer that 'Hookah Bar' is being operated in city's Rallis Hotel. After this the 'Cheeta Squad' of the Police along with combined team from Kotawli and Basantpur thana raided the Hotel Rallis late at night and during this they seized six 'Hookahs' and other items required for using it. After this a case under COTPA was filed against the Hotel Owner and Director. In this case SP City (IPS) Gaurav Rai informed that this action was taken as per tip from an informer and under 'Nijat' campaign

Purandeswari to chalk out strategy with MPs and MLAs against Congress Govt

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh D Purandeswari will be on two-day visit to Chhattisgarh from March 5. During her visit, she would be holding meeting with the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) to chalk out strategy to strengthen the Organization as well as to review the implementation of the tasks given to the party office-bearers during the last few months. While the Chhattisgarh BJP leaders have been raising several issues against the ruling Congress government during the last few months, they have report-

edly failed to create headache to the opposition. Party sources said that the central leaders would give task to the MLAs to gherao the ruling Congress on key issues during the forthcoming Budget session of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly. Discussion on the above issue would be held during the proposed meeting with her whereas the MPs too would be asked to corner the state government over central issues. Apart from D Purandeswari, the BJP Secretary in-charge of party affairs Nitin Nabin too would be interacting with the party leaders. It is notable that Nabin had recently held series of meetings in Sarguja region to mobilize the party rank and file against the state government.

JHEERAM VALLEY NAXAL ATTACK HC dismisses NIA's appeal against trial court's order on second FIR

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging a trial court's order on a second FIR filed in connection with the 2013 Jheeram valley naxal attack. A division bench of Justices RCS Samant and Arvind Singh Chandel had reserved its order on the NIA's plea on February 2, said Additional Advocate General Sunil Otmani who represented the state government. On May 25, 2013, naxals attacked a convoy of Congress leaders in Jheeram valley in Darbha area of the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, killing 29 people including then state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel. The Bastar police registered a First Information

Report at Darbha police station and subsequently the NIA took over the probe. After completing its investigations, the central agency filed a charge-sheet and the trial is underway before a special court for NIA cases. But on May 26, 2020, after Congress came to power in the state, another FIR was registered under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) at Darbha police station. Complainant Jitendra Mudliyar, a Congress leader, demanded that conspiracy aspect of the attack be probed separately. Mudliyar's father and Congress leader Uday Mudliyar was among those killed in the 2013 massacre. The NIA moved the special court at Jagdalpur (where trial is going on), seeking to restrain Bastar Police from investigating the fresh FIR. It

also wanted the police to hand over all the documents pertaining to the second FIR to itself. But the special court rejected the NIA's application in August 2020, following which the agency approached the HC. During the hearing in the HC, NIA's lawyers Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee and Assistant Solicitor General Ramakant Mishra argued that the trial court's order was against the provisions of the NIA Act 2008. Section 6(6) of the NIA Act bars a state government from making further investigation in a case which has been transferred to the central agency, they argued. But the Chhattisgarh government argued that the new FIR was totally different and outside the ambit of the NIA Act.

RALLY

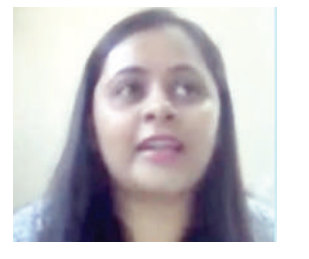


NSS workers took out rally in support of various issues related to sanitation and awareness among youths as part of 7-day NSS camp being organized in Pt. RSU.

Dr Namita delivers lecture on 'Integrating Psychology and Economics'

Raipur, Mar 02:

As part of Intersections, a monthly lecture series, the Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Bhilai hosted Dr. Namita Ruparel (Guest Faculty WILP Division, BITS Pilani) to present a lecture on "Integrating Psychology and Economics: On Works of Richard Thaler". Focusing on the works of Richard Thaler in Behavioral Economics, Dr. Namita Ruparel discussed how Behavioral Economics incorporates insights of human psychology into the models of economic behavior and helps us understand why some models fail to make the correct predictions. The audience was



In IIT Bhilai

asked to pick choices from given options to demonstrate the "framing effect", and how it impacts the decision-making of humans. She continued analyzing the concerns of systematic departures from rational choice and elaborated on five biases of human behavior responsible for the incorrect predictions of

economic models along with the concepts of Bounded Rationality and Mental Accounting. Exploring the importance of the rational choice model, the speaker sought evidence from Psychology and Behavioral Economics that put emphasis on testing economic models with real data, enabling them to understand the biases of human behavior and move towards rationality through experimental economics. The speaker concluded her lecture taking insights from the awareness of irrational behavior and rational motivations behind the popularity of the discipline of Behavioral Economics.

Governor prayed for happiness and prosperity of people on Mahashivratri



Raipur, Mar 02: On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, Governor Ms. Anusuya Uikey prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the state by worshipping and performing religious rituals of Lord Shiva at the Raj Bhavan. Ms. Anusuya Uikey has said that on this holy occasion of Mahashivratri, people worship

Lord Mahadev with reverence, devotion and full gaiety. Mahashivratri has a special significance in Indian culture. Governor Ms. Uikey greeted the people of the state on the occasion of Mahashivratri and said that everyone should celebrate the festival of Mahashivratri with mutual affection and harmony.

Cong govt failed to play effective role: BJP

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged that the ruling Congress government here has failed to play effective role to ensure safe return of the students studying in war-hit Ukraine. Addressing a press conference at party office here, the BJP leader and in-charge of the Committee Rajiv Agrawal and Preetesh Gandhi said that nearly 200 students from Chhattisgarh are among those stuck in Ukraine. However, no concrete steps have been taken by the Congress government to ensure the students safely return back to



Chhattisgarh. Instead of taking responsible steps, the Congress here is resorting to politics over the return of students back to Chhattisgarh. They said that 207 students including 40 from Durg and 26 from Raipur are among those who were studying in Ukraine but have been caught in war. They said

39 students of Chhattisgarh return safely from Ukraine

Food, accommodation and vehicle facilities provided to these students as per the instructions of CM

Raipur, Mar 02:

In the view of crisis in Ukraine, a help center has been set up in New Delhi as per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to provide assistance to the citizens of Chhattisgarh. According to the information received from this center, 39 students of Chhattisgarh have safely returned from February 27 to March 2 till 5 pm. These students were pro-

vided with the facilities of vehicles, accommodation, and food on the instructions of the Chief Minister. Besides, all the necessary arrangements including air tickets have been made to get students back to their hometown. According to the information received from Sanjay Awasthi, Joint Resident Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Bhawan, New Delhi, continuous efforts have been made from February 22, 2022 to stay in contact over phone call with 134 students of Chhattisgarh stranded in Ukraine and their families.

Inter-Department Cricket Tournery gets underway

DRM CUP 2022

Raipur, Mar 02: Under the aegis SE-CRSA Raipur inter-department cricket tournament DRM CUP 2022 was inaugurated on Wednesday by DRM Raipur Shyam Sunder Gupta at SECRSA Cricket Stadium WRS Colony here. A total of 18 teams are participating in this tournament and in the first phase all the teams have been divided into 6 pools and matched will be played on league basis. Later Super Six winning teams will play league match among themselves to occupy semifinal berth. The teams losing in the semifinal will play for



the third place. The tournament will continue till March 13 and on March 09 a match will be played between the women employees on the occasion of International Women's Day. The three

matches were played on the first day, DLS won the match against Electric TRD. DRZ defeated Personnel in the second match and Control defeated Electric General in the third match.

'Himmat campaign' started to teach self-defense to girl students

Raipur, Mar 02:

As per the instructions of Inspector General of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav, 'Himmat campaign' was started in Surguja district to teach self-defense to school and college students. The campaign was launched at Rajmohini Devi Government Girls College here on Monday in the presence of Collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha and Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble. Himmat campaign is an innovative initiative of Surguja Police in which students will be taught physical tricks of self defense through combat.

Addressing the program, Collector Mr. Jha said that this 10-day program will increase the confidence of the girl stu-



dents and their families will also feel good. This program will be different from the routine work of school colleges. This will not only increase the courage of the students but also the of the family members. School and college not only develop your intellect, but if you have strength, you can protect your honour and respect.

He said that whenever there is any threat to honour and respect, then by using this skill that danger can be avoided. Make

yourself capable enough to protect you. Take better training from the initial batch of 'Himmat campaign' so that you can become a source of inspiration for the next batch. Be the master trainer among you in the next batch. With the courage of you people, this campaign will be successful. Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble said that the innovation 'Himmat campaign' has been started by Surguja Police. Self defense will be

taught to the girl students by a specially trained team. With this, the girl students will become so skillful that wherever they live, they will be able to protect themselves without any help. Throwing light on the increasing cyber crime, he said that if anyone puts any kind of objectionable content related to you on any social media platform, then inform the police immediately. Along with this, there are calls of lucrative offers from many companies who ask for bank related information. Municipal Commissioner Vijay Dayaram K, Additional Superintendent of Police Vivek Shukla, Principal Dr. Jyoti Sinha and other officers and a large number of students were present in the program.

Webinar on work being done by 'Bihan' held

Raipur, Mar 02:

Under Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan), a state level online seminar was organised on the subject of food, nutrition, health and sanitation for the self-help groups of rural women, village organizations, cluster level organizations and field staff in the state. It was organized under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The success stories of the work being done by the community cadres for food, nutrition, health and sanitation in Bastar, Rajnandgaon, Kanker and Gariaband districts were presented in the symposium. On this occasion, the participants shared their experiences of bringing malnourished adolescent girls, pregnant women and infants from malnutrition to undernutrition through communi-

For food, nutrition, health and cleanliness



ty efforts. They also shared with each other the experiences of positive behaviour change coming in the field of food, nutrition, health and sanitation in rural areas. Addressing the symposium as the keynote speaker, Ms. Alice Manisha Lakra, Chief Operating Officer, Bihaan, said that community organizations and cadres are

doing commendable work to bring about positive changes in food, nutrition, health and sanitation. While encouraging these organizations, he laid special emphasis on connecting Panchayati Raj institutions with their work. Job Zakaria, Chief of Field Officer, UNICEF, a technical partner organization of 'Bihan', in his re-

marks laid special emphasis on positive behavior change related to food, nutrition, health and hygiene. In the symposium, UNICEF's nutrition officer, Mr. Mahendra Prajapati, informed about the work being done by the joint efforts of 'BIHAN' and 'UNICEF' on the subject of food, nutrition, health and sanitation.

Adivasi Congress protests open crime incidents in capital

Raipur, Mar 02:

Adivasi Congress District President Bhavani Singh Markam expressed strong displeasure over recent attack on Congress leader Dhananjay Mishra and added that anti-social elements are now procuring knife by ordering it online. He demanded immediate curb on this practice and also ban on sale of psychotropic drugs which is polluting the atmosphere of capital. In this connection Bhavani Singh Markam submitted a memorandum to DSP Anjali Gupta demanding door-to-door patrolling by the police on the streets to



drive away fear from the minds of people. The prominent among those present during submission

of memorandum include Yashwant Dhruv, Murlu Manohar Markam, Nikhil Dewangan and others.

More than 12.41 lakh citizens get benefit of various services

Raipur, Mar 02: More than 15 thousand applications related to public services are being received every month for the last six months at the public service centers set up under the Public Service Guarantee Act in Raipur (BNS) e-district project. Additional Collector BB Panchbhair informed that more than 100 services of various departments are being provided in the district within the stipulated time frame. For the availability of public utility services to the citizens, 23 public service centers and more than 400 centers have been established in the district. Help desks have also been set up for smooth operation of e-dis-

trict portal. He said that more than 12 lakh 41 thousand 475 citizens have been benefited from various services since the beginning of the Public Service Center in the year 2015. He said that during COVID situation after April-2020, the service of online marriage permission was started in a very short time in which 27 thousand 868 citizens were granted permission for marriage. At present, public utility services have been started for temporary fire licence, permanent fire licence, NOC for petrol pump, cinema license under Cinematography Act, NOC for setting up petrol pump, sale of explosives etc.

Competition to be organized for national voter awareness

Raipur, Mar 02:

The Joint Collector and Deputy District Returning Officer informed that a national voter awareness competition will be organized under the title "My Vote is My Future-Power of One Vote" proposed by the Election Commission of India, New Delhi. Instructions have been given to prepare an action plan at the college level to encourage young voters to participate in the competition. Meetings with the principals will be organized towards this end and their suggestions will be

invited to ensure the participation of students. Implementation should be done in time period at college level. Similarly, the District Education Officer has been directed to take necessary action for the competition among school students to ensure the participation of prospective voters. Necessary guidelines have been given to the officers-employees working in the major banks and post offices established in the district to participate in the competition and display posters and other publicity material at the

bank premises and ATM complexes. Posters related to the competition should be pasted in the major markets, malls, government offices, district hospitals, primary health centers established in rural and urban areas, in all gram panchayat buildings and public distribution centers (fair price shops) etc. Similarly, publicity material posters should be shared in various WhatsApp groups maintained by BLOs and other election officials as well as members of NSS, NYKS, NCC should be included.

Car hits a tree, six dies on the spot



Pithora, Mar 02: A total of six persons from Gram Rasoda were on way to Odisha to attend a marriage function and before that they all showed interest to visit Patora dam and it was something else in store for them. On returning from Patora dam, their car met with an accident and in this all six in the car from the same village died.

As per information in this regard from village head, Pradeep Malik of Gram Rasoda was driving his car bearing No. CG 06 GF 2753 and all other five. All six went to Patora Dam and while returning, the vehicle turned unbalanced near Madossili College of Gram Chunchunia and hit a tree.

They were on way to Gram Chindaykela of Odisha. The impact of the collision was so high that all six in the car died on the spot and vehicle was also badly damaged. The Odisha Police started inquiry and sent bodies for post-mortem and handed it over to the family members.

Among the deceased included Pradeep Malik (50); wife Bansanti Malik (45); Shatrughan Pradhan (70); Jagdish Sahu (40); son Manas Sahu (13); Shubh Nath Bhoi (52). This news spread like a wildfire and left all in the village in deep sorrow. The deceased had been active member of BJP and was sad news for all partymen as well.

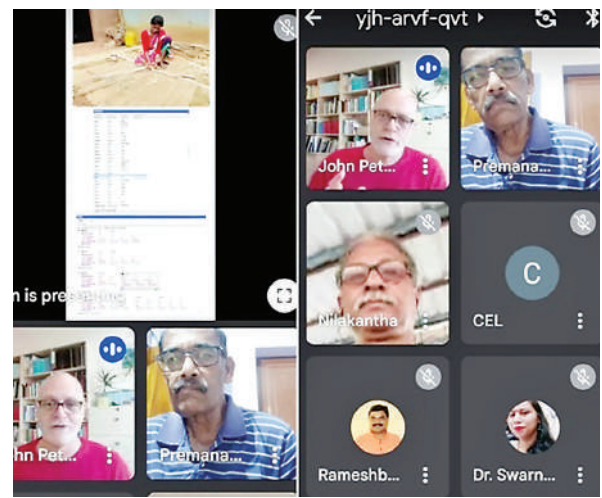
Int'l dialogue series on 'Protection of Endangered Languages in India' organized

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

Professor John Petersen, Professor of German Linguistics, Department of German Linguistics, Kiel University, was invited as a distinguished speaker in the International Dialogue Series on 'Protection of Endangered Languages ??in India' organized by the Center for Endangered Languages ??of Guru Ghasidas University in February.

Professor Peterson, in his speech, while discussing in detail about the method of conservation of endangered languages, gave a detailed presentation of the documentation work done on the Turi languages ??spoken in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal, which are now on the verge of extinction.

The Presidential address was given by the Vice-Chancellor of the University,



Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The Patron of the program was Prof. Shailendra Kumar, Registrar (incharge) of the University and Prof. LVKS Bhaskar, Dean of School Of Studies in Life Sciences and Co-Patron Rabivus and Vajjikpam. Convener of the program Dr. Neelkanth

Panigrahi, Convener of Endangered Language Center and Head of Department of Anthropology and Tribal Development was also present.

The organizing secretary and co-organizing secretary of the program were Shri Arun Kumar Pandey of

Endangered Language Center and Dr. Swarnalata Sinha. Four distinguished speakers were invited in this international dialogue series, which were Dr. Rabindranath Sharma, Department of Tribal Studies, Jharkhand Central University, Ranchi as the first speaker on February 10; Professor Prasannashu of English Department of National Law University was the second speaker on 15 February; Dr. Prasannashu (February 15) Dr. Netra Paudyal of Humboldt Foundation was the third speaker on 21 February, and Professor John Peterson was the last speaker of this International Dialogue Series. Teachers, research scholars and students from various universities of the country and abroad participated in the programme. At the end of the program, vote of thanks was given by research scholar, Kritika Mishra.

Three accused arrested in theft case

Had stolen cash and set the house on fire

Dongargarh, Mar 02: Three accused involved in theft and later setting it on fire were arrested by Dongargarh police and sent to sub-jail in Dongargarh. The accused Aryan Dakaha So Amit (20), R/o Indira Nagar, Aakash alias Lalla Laure, R/o near Siddhi Mazar, Indira Nagar and Upendra Karse So Harilal Karse (30), R/o Petra were arrested by the police.

As per information in this regard, the complainant Janrail Singh Kakkad R/o Budhwai Para lodged a complaint on Dec 2 that some unknown persons have stolen goods from his house in front of Durga Mandir, in Khandupara, station road and later set it on fire as well. It was as per instructions from senior police officers that inspector Shiv Chanda (TI) got tip from an informer that the



above three accused have entered the house of Kakkad and conducted theft and set it on fire. The suspects Aryan and other two were brought to thana for interrogation and the three accepted to have conducted theft in the house on Dec 2 and had stolen Rs 2000 kept in the almirah and distributed among all three. The accused were arrested on Feb 28 and produced in the court and later sent to sub-jail in Dongargarh. In the above action ASI Tularam Bank, Head constable Mahadev Sahu, Parmeshwar Yadav, AP Sila, Vir Bahadur, Rajendra Navik, Gajendra Bharadwaj played significant role.

Two arrested with 1 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs

Cash of Rs 5 lakhs and mobile and motorcycle Hornet worth lakhs also recovered

Lawan, Mar 02:

The Lavan police got a major breakthrough in arrested two 'Ganja' smugglers with 'Ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs and Rs 5 lakh in cash, mobile and motorcycle. This action by Lavan police has created sensation among those involved in such illegal activities and drug business and the two after being produced in the court were sent to jail.

Check-post Lavan in-Charge BK Som informed that SK Sahu S/o ML Sahu (29), R/o Ward No. 4, Shubham Sahu S/o Bhagwat Sahu (21), R/o ward No. 14 Lavan were going in their motorcycle bearing No. CG 22 R 7522 to Bagbuda from Lavan to sell 'Ganja'.

It was on tip from an informer that policemen



were keeping an eye near Patel auto parts on Bagbuda road in Lavan and when they found two persons on Hornet motorcycle coming, they immediately nabbed the two.

The bike was driven by Shiv Sahu and Shubham Sahu was sitting behind with pan-masala bag. On checking the bag, the po-

lice found 10 packets of 'ganja' kept inside a gunny bag and cash of Rs 20000 in possession of Shubham and Redmi touch-screen mobile and from another accused Shiv Sahu, cash of Rs 30000, Samsung mobile.

A total of 20 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.20 lakh was found and when the two were seriously interrogat-

ed they disclosed that another 2 quintal 'ganja' is stored in house of Shubham bringing it from Sambalpur (Odisha) on Feb 20. Out of this 1 quintal 'ganja' has been sold out and from the rest 1 quintal 'ganja', they are taking 20 kgs for selling in the market. So the cost of remaining 80 kg 'Ganja'

is about Rs 4.80 lakh and another Rs 4.50 lakh 'Ganja' is in store at Shubham's place. When the house of Shubham was searched, the police recovered 20 packets of total 80 kg 'Ganja' and cash of Rs 4.50 in a bag. In this way total of 1 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs; 5 lakh in cash, Hornet motorcycle worth Rs 1 lakh, two mobiles worth Rs 12,7,500 were seized from the accused.

Both the accused were booked under section 20 (K) of NDPS Act and were produced in the court and sent to jail. In the above action SDOP Subhash Das, Check-post in-Charge BK Som, ASI Sanjeev Rajput, Rajendra Sahu, Suraj Banjare, Pylaram Dhritlahare, and other constables played an important role.

CU teacher gets PhD from IIT

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

Ganesh Prasad Shukla, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and Production Engineering, Guru Ghasidas University, has obtained the degree of Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai (IIT Mumbai). He was sent on deputation to IIT Bombay for three years (2018-2021) by Guru Ghasidas University to study for Ph.D. He took admission in IIT Bombay after passing the All-India level entrance examination. This exam is conducted jointly under the aegis of AICTE and the Union Ministry of Education, which is known as the QIP scheme. His research topic was Green/Sustainable Manufacturing. He published four international research papers during



his PhD research. During this time he also got the opportunity to travel abroad to read his research paper and he traveled to Shanghai China and presented his re-

search paper in front of world-class subject experts, which was appreciated by world-class scientists. His research was on the topic of green manufacturing. This achievement makes the university proud and is unique in itself and is a source of inspiration for the students of this university. On this achievement, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal has expressed great happiness. At the same time, Professor Shailendra Kumar, Registrar of the University also expressed happiness. Professor T V Arjunan, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Head of the Department, Professor Sharad Chandra Srivastava and other teachers also congratulated him. We all wish him a bright future.

Konta residents suffer due to slow pace of bridge construction

On Shabri river connecting one state to another

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 02: The villagers of the area expressed their displeasure over the tortoise-paced construction of the Konta-Motu under-construction culvert located on the Triveni Sangam coast in Konta town of Sukma district, the last tip of the state of Chhattisgarh. Despite the completion of three years of change of power in Chhattisgarh, the construction work of Konta-Motu culvert is still incomplete.

In the year 2014, a contractor named VCB Construction (Andhra Pradesh-Telangana) was approved to complete the construction work of this bridge. And instead of doing the bridge construction work by that contractor, it was given to another contractor Ashok Sengar

to complete the work, one who is inexperienced. The construction of this bridge was approved in 2014 at a total cost of Rs 29 crore during the previous BJP rule and the then collector Neeraj Kumar Bansod had started the above construction work by worshipping the land. Today, even after completing 07 years, three strength pillars could not stand.

Whereas the construction of the culvert on the Triveni Sangam coast of neighboring Andhra Pradesh-Orissa (Kaler-Motu) is being done smoothly after starting the construction work in the last year 2017 and was inaugurated on January 2021 last year.



It is to be known that due to the late delay of the construction work of the said culvert, people of the area are still crossing the river with the help of boat (cano). With the construction of this culvert, people from neighboring states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, can easily

commute.

Business world will also get a boost in the region. After the change of power, the people of the area had got a hope that there was a lot of hope about the new government, but the people have been disappointed. After a year and a half, elections are about to be held in

Chhattisgarh, people's hopes have been shattered.

The remarkable thing is that people of every political party make big promises during the elections, but after winning the elections they forget and ignore the various demands of the region.

Even after complaining to Sukma Collector, villagers are upset due to delay in work

Sukma district collector Vineet Nandanwar was informed from time to time about the slow progress of bridge construction by the residents of the city, but no interest was taken by the district administration. It has been learned from the sources that if the work of the bridge does not speed up before this rain, then the movement will be forced. There is talk of agitation by the villagers of Konta Nagar Panchayat and Motu of Odisha, the villagers of both the villages are thinking of holding an all-party dharna regarding the Motu bridge.

Four day training of Jal Jeevan Mission concludes



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 02: The four day training of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) concluded here by the District Water and Sanitation Mission at Emerald Hotel, Bilaspur. This training lasted from Feb 26th-28th and 70 representatives from twenty gram panchayats of Mussoorie development block participated in this training organized by National Water Life Mission, courtesy of Ministry of Water Power, Government of India.

In the training conducted, village sarpanch, sub

sarpanch, ward panch, village Jal Swachhata Committee Chairman and Panchayat Secretary participated. The delegates involved in this training were briefed on various aspects related to aquatic life and capacity building was also encouraged. The training also discussed about ensuring participation of all people in the village action plan related to Jal Jeevan Mission, and the topic of water management and water conservation was discussed in detail in the program.

It was stated in the training that the contribution of

the villagers and every family of the village is important for the success of Jal Jeevan Mission. The training was conducted by the Chief Executive Officer Ajay Mohapatra.

The Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the program was Chief Engineer M.H.R. Mascole Superintending Engineer Bilaspur, R. K. Gendale, Executive Engineer Department of Public Health Mechanics M. K. Mishra, Assistant Engineer M.A.P. Vaidya, Deputy Engineer Pramod Mahato, and other nodal officers were present.

Railway loco pilots awarded



Central Chronicle News

Sambalpur, Mar 02:

L.K.Behera, Loco Pilot (Goods)/ Titlagarh and Assistant Loco Pilot /Titlagarh of Electrical Dheeraj Singh, (OP) department were

awarded for their alertness in safety and outstanding contribution towards the safe running of trains and well conversant with the safety rules and regulations.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur Pradeep Kumar awarded them Meritorious Certificate and Cash Prize in presence of Dharendra Singh, Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP) and Sibabrata Dhal, Senior Divisional Safety Officer.

Home Guard jawan commits suicide

Bijapur, Mar 02: A 45-year-old home guard jawan allegedly died by suicide on the premises of the Collector's bungalow in Bijapur district, police said. Hemendra Manjhi was found to have hanged himself in the garden area of the Collector's bungalow on Tuesday morning. A d i s t r i c t Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shukla said.

Manjhi, a resident of Bijapur town, was deployed on the main gate as a guard. The incident came to light when the other personnel arrived for duty. A suicide note purportedly written by Manjhi was also found, Shukla said, without divulging its contents. Probe is on.

About the incident

Hemendra Manjhi was found to have hanged himself in the garden area of the Collector's bungalow on Tuesday morning, Additional Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shukla said. Manjhi, a resident of Bijapur town, was deployed on the main gate as a guard. The incident came to light when the other personnel arrived for duty. A suicide note purportedly written by Manjhi was also found.

Alderman Netam greets Jai Singh Agrawal

Central Chronicle News

Churikala, Mar 02: Panchayat Churikala Alderman and Congress leader Govind Singh Netam along with his supporters reached Revenue Minister Jai Singh Agrawal's residence and wished latter on his birthday. Netam presented Agrawal Kosa saal. He was accompanied by Congress activists Pardeshi, Gokul Dewangan, Ghanshyam, Rammat Singh, Bhola Ram, Nathu Lal, Harinarayan, Mahesh and others.



Naxal carrying Rs 3 lakh bounty killed in encounter

Dantewada, Mar 02: A naxal carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Dantewada district on Tuesday, a senior official said. The gunfight took place around 4 pm in a forest near Tumakpal village under Katakalyan police station limits, some 400 km from here, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police was out on a counter-insurgency operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI. After guns fell silent, the body of an ultra, identified as Lakhma Kawasi, was recovered from the spot, he said. Besides, one pistol, a 5-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED, Maoist uniform, wire and items of daily use were also seized, he added. Kawasi was active as a platoon commander of Darbha division of Maoists," Sundarraj said.

About the encounter

The gunfight took place around 4 pm in a forest near Tumakpal village under Katakalyan police station limits, some 400 km from here, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police was out on a counter-insurgency operation. After guns fell silent, the body of an ultra, identified as Lakhma Kawasi, was recovered from the spot. Besides, one pistol, a 5-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED, Maoist uniform, wire and items of daily use were also seized.

Traders Union protest the shift of Railway driver and guard



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 02: The Dongargarh Traders Association has written a letter to the District Collector and SDM appealing to save the identity of Dongargarh from being almost lost by the Dongargarh Railway Administration by continuously transferring railway personnel to other stations.

They also alleged that the following facilities like Dongargarh washing line project were shifted to Raipur despite having ample space in Dongargarh. The traders expressed their indignation

at the non-commencement of work on

Katghora railway line and the under bridge connecting the two parts of Dongargarh city being closed, and thereby local trains running from Dogargarh also being stopped.

All the trade unions of Dongargarh appealed that while protecting the existence of Dongargarh; the continuous transfer of railway personnel being removed from Dongargarh should also be abstained as a practice.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC BHILAI, SBI Premises, Sector-1f, Bhilai, Distt. Durg (C.G.) Pin-490001, Ph.-0788-2226903

Publication of Notice Regarding Possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.

The borrowers 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.

Borrower/Guarantor Name	Property Details Facility	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount
Shri Anand Soni S/o Shri Murari Lal Soni	All that part and parcel of the property house construction consisting of Residential Building situated at KH.No. 41/4, 41/6, 41/7, P.H.No. 15/21, Flat No. 24 (2BHK), Block No. A-9, 6th Floor, Chouhan Green Valley, Junwani, Bhilai, Distt-Durg Admeasuring 55.29 Sqmt. BOUNDARIES-North-Open Sky/Block A-8, South - Flat No. 23, A-9, East-Flat No. 21, A-9, West-Open to SKY.	23.12.2021	24.02.2022	₹ 19,04,627/- interest and Other Charges

Date 03.03.2022, Place - Bhilai

Authorised Officer
State Bank Of India

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Stressed Asset Management Large (SAML) Kolkata Branch
14, India Exchange Place, 1st Floor
Indian Bank Building, Kolkata - 700 001
E-mail : samkolkata@indianbank.co.in

WILFUL DEFAULTER
Show Cause Notice

Ref : SAML / Kol / Vandana Vidhyut / W.D. / 675 / 2021-22 Date : 23.02.2022

Show Cause Notice to the Suspended Directors and Guarantors of the Borrower Company
M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Pvt. Ltd. with SAM Large Kolkata Branch

To,

- Mr. Gopal Prasad Agrawal (Director / Guarantor), 21/36, Civil Lines, Opp. Telephone Exchange, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492 001.
- Mr. Prahlad Agrawal (Director / Guarantor), 21/36, Civil Lines, Opp. Telephone Exchange, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin-492 001.
- Mr. Vinod Agrawal (Director / Guarantor), 21/36, Civil Lines, Opp. Telephone Exchange, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492001.
- Mr. Vijit Kumar Agrawal (Director / Guarantor), 21/36, Civil Lines, Opp. Telephone Exchange, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492 001.
- Mr. Jami Koteswar Rao (Director), Vandana Bhawan, M.G. Road, Raipur Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492 001.
- Mr. Ramavtar Agrawal (Director), Vandana Bhawan, M.G. Road, Raipur Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492 001.

Dear Sir,
Sub. : M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Pvt. Ltd. with SAM Large Kolkata Branch - Classifying as Wilful Defaulter- Show Cause Notice

This is as per the direction of Wilful Defaulter Screening Committee (WDSC) issued vide its order/decision dated 25.01.2022 and in terms of the findings of the said Screening Committee wherein the committee observes as under:

That, the first to fourth of you are the Suspended Directors/Guarantors of the Borrower Company M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Pvt. Ltd. and the fifth & sixth of you are the Suspended Directors of the Borrower Company M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Pvt. Ltd. have availed credit facility under Consortium Banking arrangement from our Bank. The aforesaid borrower company i.e. M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Pvt. Ltd. was sanctioned credit facility of Rs. 443.50 Crore on 08.02.2010 on the terms and conditions as stipulated in the sanction letter & in the documents executed by all of you in pursuance thereto through our Sunder Nagar Raipur Branch. The limit sanctioned to the company are secured by as follows :

Sl. No.	Securities
1.	Extension of 1stparipassu charge by the way of EM in favour of the lenders on all immovable properties and assets of the project present and future and immovable property measuring 217.783 hectares (537 acres) (Mortgage with phase 1 and phase 2 lenders 2x135 MW) of land leased by Chhattisgarh State Industrial Dev. Corp. (CSIDC) located at village-Salora (51.270 hectares), Churikala (74.386 hectares), Jhora (79.739 hectares) and Gangpur (12.389 hectares), Tehsil - Katghora, District-Korba, Chhattisgarh alongwith proposed building Plant and Machinery of the project.
2.	First paripassu charge by way of hypothecation of all the Company's movables (including movable plant and Machinery, machinery spares, tools, accessories, furniture and fixtures, vehicles, goodwill and uncalled capital and all other movable assets present and future relating to the project.
3.	1st Paripassu charge on : (i) All the rights, titles, interest, benefits, claims and demands, whatsoever of the company in that project documents duly acknowledged and consented do by the relevant counter parties to such project documents, as amended, valid or supplemented from time to time. (ii) All the rights, titles, interests, benefits, claims and demands whatsoever of the borrower in the various clearances approvals relating to the projects. (iii) All the rights, titles, interests, benefits, claims and demands whatsoever of the borrower in any letter of credit, guarantee, performance bond or any document provided by any party to the project. (iv) All the insurance contracts/insurance proceeds relating to the projects.
4.	1st exclusive charge/assignment on the debt service reserve account (DSRA) and Trust and Retention Account (TRA) and other Bank account of the Borrower wherever maintained for the project.
5.	Pledge of share of the individuals, shareholders, constituting of the borrower.
6.	Undertaking from the promoters, group to the effect that controlling stake in the borrower shall not be less than 51% of the Paid up Share capital with the voting rights.
7.	Negative Lien of 51% of the shares of the promoters group of the borrowers including pledges of individual borrowers.
8.	1st Paripassu charge / assignment of current assets of the project along with working capital lenders.
9.	Hypothecation of stocks of raw materials, book debts and other current assets.

The aforesaid borrower company was requested to pay interest and other charges and also the instalments of the principal in accordance with the terms of the sanction ticket and loan agreements executed by the borrowers. However, the borrower has failed for payment of dues and committed default in performing the conditions in the loan agreement, causing thereby classification of the account as NPA as per RBI guidelines.

The status of the account is enumerated hereunder :

Date of NPA : 01.10.2014 Dues on 31.01.2022 : Rs. 843.42 Crore

In view of the default committed by the Company / Directors / Guarantors, the case was examined by the WDSC on 25.01.2022 with a view to ascertain wilful default on the part of Suspended Directors and Guarantors as per the guidelines laid down by the RBI. It was observed by the Wilful Defaulter Screening Committee that the Suspended Directors and Guarantors had prima facie committed various wilful irregularities/default as detailed hereunder and accordingly meets the criteria to be classified as wilful defaulter in terms of the guidelines laid down by the RBI.

The irregularities/default/evidences as extracted out by the screening committee and directed to be communicated to the Suspended Directors and Guarantors of the Borrower Company, calling for their submission as to why they should not be declared as wilful defaulter as per RBI guidelines are enumerated as under:

Cause of Action :
Diversion of Funds - 2.1.3(b) read with 2.2.1(c)& 2.2.1(e) and Siphoning of funds - 2.1.3(c) of RBI Master Circular on Wilful Defaulter dated 01.07.2015.

Evidences / Events of Wilful Default :
Diversion / Siphoning of Funds :
The Forensic Auditor M/s. Rajvanshi & Associates in their draft FAR report dated 13.02.2019 has observed the following:
1. The Company has done substantial volume of transactions through its related parties M/s. Vandana Udhog Limited and its other group Companies under the Vandana Group.
2. The Company has used the Bank funds to acquire the shares of its related company M/s. Vandana Global Ltd. Investment of Rs. 4.56 Cr and provision for diminution in value of Rs. 91.00 Lacs, M/s. Vandana Energy and steel Pvt. Ltd. (Share application money W/o Rs. 5.5 Cr. Provision for diminution in value of shares of Rs. 24.37 Cr. M/s. Vandana Mines and minerals Limited, M/s. Vandana Mines and minerals Limited (Mozambique) Rs. 1.36 Cr. (recognized provision for diminution in value) and M/s. Vandana Ispat & Power Ltd. The company has made such huge investment on related concern. And also it was present in the assessment order of Income tax department that M/s. Vandana Vidhyut Ltd. has invested in shares of M/s. Vandana Global Ltd., M/s. Vandana Energy & Steel Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Ganga Shipping Logistics & Solution Pvt. Ltd. total amounting to Rs.57.20 crores as mentioned in the Balance Sheet of the Company as on 31.03.2014.
3. The Company has done huge Cash transactions from FY 2014-15 to FY 2017-18. It has made payments of various Vendors in daily instalments of less than Rs. 20, 000/- also there has been instance where the Company made Bank transactions through transfer process to its employees for Rs.20.00 lacs and has in turn received cash amounts from that employee.
4. On review of the I.T. Notice to the Company, it was observed that the Company (VVL) was engaged in the transactions with parties which are engaged in Fraudulent transactions and diversion of money through shell companies on such concern is "Graceful Vincon Pvt. Ltd." In Addition to the above, AO has mentioned that there was an entry received by the Company of amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs from M/s. Graceful Vincon Private Limited.

As per the stock statement submitted by the borrower company for the month of March 2015, there was stock of Rs. 11.64 Cr. advance payment to the supplier as Rs. 19.65 Cr and book debt of Rs. 22.31 Cr. But again as per stock statement submitted by the company in July 2015 it shown stock of Rs. 11.64 Crore advance payment to the supplier as Rs.14.61 Crore and book debt of zero (Nil). In the consortium/JLF dated 17.02.2016, company has informed that debtor has already been realized.PNB the leader of the consortium has informed that no such credit was received in the TRA account of the borrower company maintained with them. It shows that company has realized the book debt but not deposited the same in the account maintained with the Bank and siphoned off the Bank's fund of Rs. 22.31 Cr and did not utilize the fund for specific purpose nor available with the unit in the form of other asset.

In view of the above detailed Diversion of funds in terms of Clause 2.1.3(b) read with 2.2.1(c) & 2.2.1(e) and Siphoning of funds in terms of clause 2.1.3(c) of the RBI Master Circular No. RBI/2015-16/100 DBR, No.CID.BC.22/20.16.003/2015-16 on Wilful Defaulters dated 01.07.2015, each of you are required by the WDSC to show cause as to why each of you should not be declared a wilful defaulter for the reported capacity to pay / diversion / siphoning of funds/disposal of assets / reasons specified hereinafter.

Please ensure that your reply should reach us on or before 10.03.2022 failing which the committee would be constrained to proceed further in the matter based on the evidence on record treating as if you have no reason/explanation to offer in rebuttal.

Branch Manager / Deputy General Manager
For Wilful Defaulter Screening Committee (WDSC)

BRIEF

Nuisance

Noida: Partying drunk outside a police outpost to celebrate the employment of one of their friends landed five young men here in trouble with the Noida Police booking them for creating a nuisance. The five accused were purportedly seen in video dancing in inebriated condition with loud music playing in their cars, parked right outside Sorkha police outpost. The police took note of viral video which took place in Sector 113 police station area.

Gangster

New Delhi: The Delhi Police arrested a wanted gangster and key member of Lawrence Bishnoi and Kala Jathedi syndicate. The accused Virender Partap alias Kala Rana (28) is wanted in many criminal cases, they said. Rana was carrying a reward of Rs 1,00,000 on his head in connection with a case registered in Haryana, police said. In this case, he along with his associates had barged into a jewellery shop in Ambala, Haryana.

Duping

Ghaziabad: A builder and six members of his family were arrested for allegedly duping flat-buyers of over Rs 100 crore from. The builder, Raj Kumar Jain, was running two companies named Red Apple and Idea builders. He is accused of borrowing money from people, enticing them by promising to pay a high rate of interest of them, CSP Nipun Agarwal said.

Forging

Surat: Three persons have been arrested for allegedly forging registration certificate (RC) books of vehicles, Aadhaar cards and voter IDs to help people get loans to buy two-wheelers and forge payment receipts of fines for traffic violations in Gujarat's Surat district. One of the accused Vishwanath Sav would supply duplicate receipts of payment of fines to agents of regional transport office (RTO), an official from Dindoli police station said.

Probe

Mathura: The Mathura police has ordered a probe into the alleged assault of devotees and kanwaris' visiting Gopeshwar Temple in Vrindavan near here by a policeman inside the temple complex. The probe was ordered after a video purportedly showing a sub-inspector attacking devotees and kanwaris' inside the temple went viral on social media.

Shot

Ferozpur: A man was shot dead by two unidentified persons at a restaurant in the Zira area here with police suspecting it to be a fallout of old rivalry. The deceased has been identified as Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, a resident of Patti in the Tarn Taran area. He had come to the restaurant with his friend when two unidentified persons entered and opened fire at him. They then fled. Gopi was earlier booked in a murder case.

NCB to hire experts to probe dark web, crypto drugs



New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Narcotics Control Bureau has decided to hire experts and companies dealing with financial data analysis and forensic audit to help it probe complex drug crimes that involve use of the dark web, cryptocurrencies and deals concealed through multi-layered transactions. Last year, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) chief SN Pradhan had directed that the agency's sleuths should only aim to

probe cases with interstate and international ramifications, and those involving complex investigation and high profile cartels and syndicates. He asked his investigation wings to follow up this action by ensuring a proper fund trail investigation and filing of charge sheets before competent courts in time. The directive had come at a time the agency was trying to come out of the shadow of the controversy surrounding its probe into some cases at its

Mumbai zonal office, including the drugs-on-cruise raids of October last year where 20 people were arrested including actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan.

The consultancy agencies, for which the NCB has issued a notice for empanelment, will be required to help it in "unearthing the chain of transactions for drug money and provide effective guidance in financial investigation matters."

They will also assist the NCB in analysing financial statements and data available in various databases of the bureau and other agencies, according to the proposal accessed by PTI.

It will also help investigators "prepare statements of income and expenditure of the interested party and related parties to unearth the ill-gotten money".

Congress walks out from HP Assembly

During CM's reply to Guv's address

Shimla, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Congress staged a walkout from the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Wednesday as Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said during his reply to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's address that the previous dispensation took more loan compared his government.

Chief Minister Thakur stated that loan on Himachal Pradesh during the previous Congress government grew by 67 per cent, whereas the corresponding number during the current government is 32 per cent despite the fact that the Covid pandemic hit the economy badly. Himachal Pradesh is cur-



Congress MLAs walkout from Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday.

rently facing a debt burden of Rs 63,200 crore, he added. Thakur stated that the state's debt burden was about Rs 48,000 crore till the 2017-18 financial year. The previous Congress government had taken a loan of Rs 28,707 crore from 2012-13 to 2017-18 dur-

ing its five years tenure, he added. Thakur alleged that the previous Congress government had not started any major welfare scheme for the public whereas the current dispensation initiated several schemes including reducing the age for old-age pension from 80

Impasse in Visva-Bharati over students' demands



Visva-Bharati University

Kolkata, Mar 02 (PTI):

Stalemate continued in Visva-Bharati University as students demanding the reopening of hostels and conducting of online examinations refused to withdraw their sit-in demonstration outside the registrar's office till their demands were met, while the official also refused to leave his chamber till the

pupils lifted their stir. However, heads of departments held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing situation even as Vice-chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty issued a notice announcing that doors of the central office and library and other department will be closed for "visitors". The agitation by more than 200 students crossed 48 hours on

To reopen hostels, conduct online exams

Wednesday morning, with Registrar Ashis Agarwal inside his office even as students claimed they haven't gheraoed him and he may leave if he wishes to. The official, however, said he will leave his chamber only when the protestors withdraw their stir. High drama was witnessed as the registrar attempted to come out of his room to offer puja on Maha Shivaratri but the agitating students refused to let him go alone, and offered to accompany him. After this incident, he retreated to his office and refused to leave it till the agitators left the place.

BSP seeks to reclaim Ambedkar Nagar citadel



Crowd at a BSP rally in Ambedkar Nagar.

Ambedkar Nagar, Mar 02 (PTI): For long considered as the Dalit laboratory of the BSP, Mayawati's party is faced with the daunting task of reclaiming its influence in the five assembly seats of the district after flight of her senior legislators to the Samajwadi Party Mayawati, who created the new district of

Ambedkar Nagar out of Faizabad (now called Ayodhya) during her tenure as chief minister in 1995, held the sway over the area for long before the SP and BJP started denting her citadel in the last two state polls.

In the 2012 elections, the SP had wrested from the BSP all the five assembly

constituencies — Katheri, Akbarpur, Jalalpur, Tanda and Alapur—of Ambedkar Nagar. However, the equation changed in 2017 when the BJP emerged victorious on two seats and the rest three went to Mayawati. The five assembly segments of Ambedkar Nagar will go to vote in the sixth phase on March 3.

STUDENTS' PROTEST



Jharkhand Chatra Kalyan Parishad protest after the death of Naveen Shekharappa, an Indian student in Ukraine, over the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Ranchi, Wednesday.

HC dismisses bail plea of Gautam Thapar in PMLA case

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court Wednesday dismissed a bail plea by Avantha Group promoter Gautam Thapar in a Rs 500-crore money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri denied the relief to Thapar, who was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on August 3, 2021, after the agency carried out raids against him and his linked businesses in Delhi and Mumbai.

The detailed order of the high court is awaited. The ED is probing an alleged transaction between Thapar's company Avantha Realty and Yes



Gautam Thapar

Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor and his wife, who are already being investigated under PMLA by the agency.

The money laundering case was registered by the ED after taking cognisance of an FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In

October last year, a trial court here had dismissed Thapar's bail application, saying that since huge loss of public money was involved in the case, it needed to be viewed seriously.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the 60-year-old businessman, had argued that bail was wrongly rejected by the trial court only on the ground that he could be a flight risk.

The trial court applied the triple test... Two tests (of possibility of evidence tampering and influencing witness) were held in my favour. But the third test of flight risk is against me... This cannot be a ground (as) my passport could have been deposited, he had said.

Groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar

Patna, Mar 02 (PTI):

There is massive chemical contamination in groundwater in large parts of rural Bihar, where drinking water sources are unsafe for consumption and pose a health risk to the population, the state Economic Survey 2021-22 has revealed.

The 16th Bihar Economic Survey Report 2021-22, recently tabled in the assembly by Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad, stated that groundwater in rural areas in 31 of the 38 districts is affected by arsenic, fluoride and iron contamination. "The high concentration of arsenic, fluoride, and iron in groundwater in rural areas in 31 of 38 districts is posing a major health hazard. There is



A handpump in Bihar.

chemical contamination in groundwater in 30,272 rural wards. A total of 4,742 rural wards in 14 districts situated along the Ganga are particularly affected by arsenic contamination," the report said.

It said that drinking water sources in 3,791 rural wards in 11 districts are affected by fluoride contamination. There is

presence of excess iron in nine Kosi basin districts, and a few areas in other districts. The consumption of contaminated water causes skin, liver, kidney and other waterborne diseases. The affected districts include Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Katihar, Khagaria, Lakhisarai,

Munger, Samastipur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Patna, Vaishali, Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Kaimur, Munger, Nalanda, Rohtas, Sheikhpura, Nawada and Araria.

The report referred to the internal assessment and findings pertaining to the water quality mapping of Bihar by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

The department, which is responsible for ensuring safe drinking water to people in these affected districts, has started drilling deepwater bore wells. PHED Secretary Jitendra Srivastava told PTI, "We understand the gravity of the situation, because of which the department has gone for a mix of surface water and groundwater-based schemes."

'Firm on demand for Nawab Malik's resignation'

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTI):

On the eve of the budget session of the Maharashtra legislature, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said his party is firm on its demand for the resignation of state minister Nawab Malik, who has been arrested by the ED in connection with a money laundering case.

Fadnavis was speaking to reporters here after chairing a meeting of the BJP's members of the legislative Assembly and Council as the budget session is set to begin from Thursday.

BJP's state unit chief Chandrakant Patil has earlier said that his party



Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition and former CM, interacts with media, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

will not let the budget session of the state legislature function if Malik does not quit the cabinet.

"Nawab Malik is facing charges for helping Dawood Ibrahim, a key conspirator of the 1993 Mumbai blasts, but the Shiv Sena-led government

continues to stand by him. He should have been removed," the BJP leader alleged.

"I believe that by not seeking Malik's resignation, the government is trying to appease a particular community and indulging in polarisation. It

BRIEF

Approves

Ouaga: Burkina Faso's military junta will be in power for three years before holding elections, said a statement from the junta that overthrew the country's democratically elected president in January. Lt Col Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba approved the charter that says he will lead the transitional government and will be sworn in as its president.

Shot

Karachi: Pakistan police claimed to have shot dead one of the suspects accused of killing senior journalist Athar Majeed in an altercation here last month. A road-blockade was set up in Shahdadkot, 470 km north of provincial capital Karachi, by local police and officers from Karachi West, Sindh Police said in a statement, adding that a suspect motorist was signalled to stop.

Sink

Lisbon: A large cargo vessel carrying cars from Germany to the United States sank in the mid Atlantic, 13 days after a fire broke out on board, the ship's manager and the Portuguese navy said. The Felicity Ace sank about 400 kilometers (250 miles) off Portugal's Azores Islands as it was being towed, MOL Ship Management in Singapore.

Rival

Cairo: Libyan lawmakers confirmed new rival transitional government, a move that is likely to lead to parallel administrations and fuel mounting tensions in a country that has been mired in conflict for the past decade. Prime Minister designate Fathi Bashagha submitted his Cabinet to the east based House of Representatives, where 92 of 101 lawmakers in attendance approved it, during a vote that was broadcast live.

Vaccines

Guatemala City: Health authorities in Guatemala say over a million doses of the Russian Sputnik coronavirus vaccine have expired, because nobody wanted to take the shot. Francisco Coma, the country's health minister, said that there was a rejection among the population toward the vaccine, even though a lot of Guatemalans remain unvaccinated.

Biden vows to halt Russia, hit inflation



President Joe Biden delivers his first State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol.

Washington, Mar 02 (AP):

Addressing a concerned nation and anxious world, President Joe Biden vowed in his first State of the Union address to check Russian aggression in Ukraine, tame soaring US inflation and deal with the fading but still dangerous coronavirus.

Biden declared that he and all members of Congress, whatever their political differences, are joined 'with an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.' He asked lawmakers crowding the House chamber to stand and salute the Ukrainians as he began his speech.

They stood and cheered. It was a notable show of unity after a long year of bitter acrimony between Biden's Democratic coalition and the Republican opposition. Biden's 62-minute speech, which was split between attention to war abroad and worries at home reflected the same balancing act he now faces in his presidency. He must marshal allied resolve against Russia's aggression while tending to inflation, COVID-19 fatigue and sagging approval ratings heading into the midterm elections.

Aiming to build on momentum from the speech, Biden will head to Wisconsin on Wednesday in an effort to show Americans that his domestic agenda is working. His vice president and Cabinet members will fan out around the country to amplify the message.

Over seven hour power cuts in Sri Lanka amid forex crisis

Colombo, Mar 02 (PTI):

Sri Lanka will face over seven-hour power cuts on Wednesday, the longest to be experienced by the island nation since 1996, officials said, amidst the worst economic crisis in decades.

Sri Lanka is currently reeling under a severe foreign exchange crisis and the government is unable to foot the bill for essential fuel imports to keep the power plants running.

There will be five and a half hour cuts during the day and two hours later in the nighttime," Sri Lanka's Public Utilities Commission top official Janaka Ratnayaka told reporters.

This will be the longest power cuts to be experienced in the island since 1996, officials said.

The power generation has been hit by the foreign exchange crisis as fuel to



A vendor prepares peanuts at his shop after a power cut in Colombo on Wednesday.

operate thermal power plants are in short supply. Due to fuel shortage, long fuel queues were seen at retail stations with diesel being limited.

The state fuel entity has sought government assistance to pay for three ships of fuel that arrived last week. The power sector officials said the hydropower generation capacity in

the reservoirs has fallen sharply due to the ongoing drought experience.

Udaya Gammanpila, Energy Minister, said it was hard to find the cash to pay for oil imports and the government must prioritise fuel imports over other items.

Gammanpila said the current stockpile of fuel would last only for four



Argentinas Vice President Cristina Fernandez, left, and President Alberto Fernandez after attending the ceremony marking the years opening session, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COVID-19 infected people may have different variants hidden

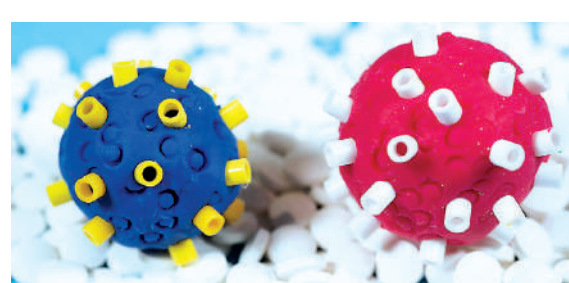
In several body parts

London, Mar 02 (PTI): People suffering from COVID-19 may have several variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus hidden away from the immune system in different parts of the body, according to the findings of two studies.

An international team led by researchers from the University of Bristol, UK, and Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Germany noted that this may make complete clearance of the virus from the body of the infected person much more difficult.

The studies, published in the journal Nature Communications, demonstrates how the virus can evolve distinctly in different cell types, and adapt its immunity, in the same infected host.

The researchers investigated the function of a tai-



lor-made pocket in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in the infection cycle of the virus. The pocket in the spike protein, which the virus uses to enter and infect the cells, played an essential role in viral infectivity, they said.

"An incessant series of variants have completely replaced the original virus by now, with Omicron and

Omicron 2 (a subvariant) dominating worldwide," said Professor Imre Berger from the University of Bristol.

"We analysed an early variant discovered in Bristol, BrisDelta. It had changed its shape from the original virus, but the pocket we had discovered was there, unaltered," Berger said.

Australian floods spread to Sydney



Floodwater reaches Sydney on Wednesday.

Sydney, Mar 02 (AFP):

Emergency services ordered some Sydney residents to flee Wednesday as heavy rainfall barrelled down Australia's east coast, burying towns in floodwater, killing 13 and putting hundreds of thou-

sands at risk. A week-long torrential downpour has swollen rivers and reservoirs past bursting point, causing chaos in an area 800 kilometres (500 miles) long. From Brisbane to Sydney, more than 30 evacuation warnings are in place and several dams are

overflowing, with some near Sydney under threat of bursting. Terrified residents have sought refuge on higher ground, in make-shift evacuation centres, or by clambering into attics or onto rooftops praying for rescue by boat or helicopter.

In the hard-hit town of Lismore, Lucy Wise said the floods came much quicker and much higher than expected. "The rain just wouldn't stop and the water was just coming up so fast" she told AFP.

She huddled at home as the waters rose through the night before grabbing her sleeping two-year-old son, cloaking him in a life-jacket and scrambling into the roof space of their house for safety.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
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निविदा निरस्तीकरण

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत एजेंसी/ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा ग्राम गायडबरी एवं पीपरछेड़ी एकल ग्राम जलप्रदाय योजना के कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय का निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 134/दिनांक 28.10.2021 सिस्टम टेंडर नं. 86448, जी क्रमांक - G-64947/9/दिनांक 08.11.2021 आमंत्रित की गई थी। इस सिस्टम टेंडर नं. में तकनीकी कारणों से इस सिस्टम टेंडर नं. को निरस्त किया जाता है। शीघ्र ही पुनः उक्त कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जावेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)
G-68273/2

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा
(ई - मेल - eedan-phe-cg@nic.in)

निविदा सू. क्र./146-159/ते.शा./का.अ./तो.सा.गं./2022 दन्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 25/02/2022

//प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रथम "ए" प्रतिशत दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज का कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेंडर क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
146/25.02.2022	93685	जबेली/कुआकोण्डा	120.92
147/25.02.2022	93686	बांगपाल/गीदम	120.43
148/25.02.2022	93687	छोटेकरका/गीदम	60.30
149/25.02.2022	93688	हिड़पाल/गीदम	59.36
150/25.02.2022	93936	हिरोली/गीदम	109.23
151/25.02.2022	93937	जोड़ातराई/गीदम	120.79
152/25.02.2022	93938	कडमपाल/गीदम	120.48
153/25.02.2022	93939	कोरकोटी/गीदम	65.81
154/25.02.2022	93940	माड़पाल/गीदम	57.95
155/25.02.2022	93941	मुण्डेर/गीदम	116.60
156/25.02.2022	93942	नेउरनार/गीदम	44.99
157/25.02.2022	93943	नीलावाया/कुआकोण्डा	70.84
158/25.02.2022	93944	पदमेटा/गीदम	53.96
159/25.02.2022	93945	पुरनतराई/गीदम	57.61

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.03.2022, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)
G-68278/1

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण
भक्त माता कर्मा व्यावसायिक परिसर, न्यू राजेंद्र नगर, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(क्रमांक-7 दिनांक 02.03.2022)

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा छ.ग. शासन के एकल प्रणाली पंजीयन के अंतर्गत "द" श्रेणी के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मुहरबंद निविदाएँ प्राधिकरण की निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र "ब" में आवेदन दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये दिनांक 24.03.2022 को अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो उसी दिन अपरान्ह 4.15 बजे तक प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में उपस्थित निविदाकर्ताओं के समक्ष खोली जावेगी। उक्त आमंत्रण सूचना तथा आगामी संशोधन वेबसाइट www.rdaipur.com में देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	धरोहर राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5
1.	रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर-2 योजनांतर्गत प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के 944 एल.आई.जी. एवं 1472 ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. धवनों का साफ-सफाई कार्य।	13,28,508/-	26,600/-	वार्षिक

निविदा प्रपत्र प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में सहायक अधीक्षक (तकनीकी) से शासकीय कार्य दिक्कतों में दिनांक 23.03.2022 को दोपहर 1.30 बजे तक रु. 2000/- प्रत्येक राशि जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। धरोहर राशि दिनांक 24.03.2022 को 1.30 बजे तक एच.डी.आर. के रूप में जो कि रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, रायपुर के नाम पर देय हो, प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

अधीक्षक अभियंता

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर जिला सरगुजा (छ.ग.)

// Notice Inviting Tender //

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन सरगुजा (जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत) ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Sr No.	Tender No. (System No. & Date)	Last Due (Bid Due Date)	Name of Work	P.A.C (Rs. In Lakh)
1	135 (93088) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Insttt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-parshodhi And Pondhi, Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	152.58
2	136 (93677) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Insttt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Keshavpur and Udaipur Dhab , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	179.94
3	137 (93684) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Insttt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Sapna and Sunderpur , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	169.75
4	138 (93702) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Insttt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Sapna and Dhangavan , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	124.17
5	139 (93654) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Insttt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Bishunpur and Thakurpur , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	242.27

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की (Online Tender) टेंडर आमंत्रित की जाती है। धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर
G-68307/1

लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.)

ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन जांजगीर-चांपा की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र "अ" (प्रतिशत दर) ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेड्रोफिटिंग योजना अंतर्गत विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के ग्रामों में उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, जल वितरण प्रणाली, पंपिंगनेन प्रणाली, सबमर्सिबल पंप स्थापना, स्वीच रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर स्थापना, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं उससे संबंधित समस्त कार्य।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सिस्टम निविदा क्र.	विकासखण्ड	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1	331/28.02.2022	94012	पामगढ़	202.43
2	332/28.02.2022	94015	पामगढ़	261.56
3	333/28.02.2022	94016	पामगढ़	212.21

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी एवं दिनांक 07.03.2022 से दिनांक 21.03.2022 के मध्य मरी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी विभाग
जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.)
G-68291/1

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(First Call)
System Tender No. : 93737/NIT No. : 20/SAC/21-22
Dated : 28.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 21.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF CROSS REGULATOR CUM ESCAPE AT R.D. 8025 M. INCLUDING EXTENSION OF R.C.C. NP3 HUME PIPE 1200 MM DIA, R.C.C. CHANNEL FROM R.D. 8955 M. TO R.D. 9205 M. IN MAIN CANAL & JACKETING WORK OF HEAD SLUICE IN CHAMPI TANK SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 125.90 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.03.2022, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)
G-68278/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 149

Nuclear escalation

Russian President Vladimir Putin dramatically escalated East-West tensions by ordering Russian nuclear forces put on high alert. While some analysts caution that Putin would be willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his aims, others say the chilling warning does not necessarily indicate his intention to press the nuclear button. With around 6,000 nuclear warheads, Russia has the world's largest stockpile of weapons, larger even than the US military's estimated 5,500 warheads. Some 1,600 Russian warheads are already deployed, either on land or on-board nuclear submarines, according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which famously keeps track of the Doomsday Clock, a Cold War relic that conveys scientists' views on the likelihood of humanity destroying itself currently still at 100 seconds to midnight. Russia also has an ample supply of short, medium and long-range missiles capable of carrying the warheads. But the nation's stockpile also includes nearly 2,000 so-called tactical nuclear weapons, which are kept in storage facilities throughout Russia. The US has about 100 nuclear bombs stationed across Europe that could be used for tactical nuclear warfare. The concept of nuclear escalation is, at its core, a fundamentally psychological and perceptual one. Similar to other related concepts such as deterrence and strategic stability, escalation relies on the actor's unique understanding of context, motives, and intentions especially in the use of capabilities. How actors resolve these complex psychological variables associated with the cause, means, and effects of a military attack both kinetic and non-kinetic remains a perplexing and elusive endeavour. Nuclear escalation ladder metaphor, like any theoretical framework, has limitations. Actors do not necessarily move sequentially and inexorably from the lower rungs to the higher rungs that is, rungs can be skipped and actors can go up as well as down. Instead, there are many pathways and mechanisms between low-intensity conflict and all-out nuclear confrontation.

Besides, adversaries can be at different rungs or thresholds along what Kahn describes as the 'relatively continuous' pathways to war. Despite its limitations, Kahn's escalation ladder is a useful metaphorical framework to reflect on the possible available options like a show of force, reciprocal reprisals, costly signalling, and pre-emptive attacks, progression of escalation intensity, and scenarios in a competitive nuclear-armed dyad. The Indian side was prepared for escalation, in case Pakistan chose to do so while conceiving and executing the 2016 surgical strikes by crossing the Line of Control (LoC) along the Jammu and Kashmir border. As per some reports, after Galwan clash with China, India had to move nuclear armed Agni missiles in Assam, to be detected by Chinese satellites, so that risk of escalation was understood and China had to prevent further clashes. Security dilemma is defined as the 'unintended and undesired consequences of actions meant to be defensive. Many of the means by which a state tries to increase its security decrease the security of others, that is, one state's gain in security can inadvertently undermine the security of others. The security dilemma's characteristics compound the likelihood of inadvertent escalation in the digital age. Inadvertent escalation risk can also be caused by the confusion and uncertainty associated with gathering, analysing, and disseminating relevant information about a crisis or conflict which has important implications for the management, control, and termination of war. Even if the short-range battlefield nuclear weapons are still on the shelf, thousands of Russian and American long-range missiles are ready to launch in just minutes. That threat hangs over everything as the conflict in Ukraine drags on.

Medical education

Naveen Shekharappa became first Indian casualty of Russia-Ukraine war. He was a final year medical student from Karnataka's Haveri, died when Russian soldiers blew up a government building. Naveen's father Shekargouda, a mechanical engineering diploma holder, criticised the Indian education system. 'My son was very talented. He got 97 percent in class 10 and PUC. But he did not get a medical seat in a government college here,' the distraught father said. For MBBS in India, donations are very bad. Due to this, intelligent students are going abroad as they have to spend crores in India, he rued. This tragedy has exposed fault in India's medical education. Despite being home to one of the oldest medicinal systems in the world, India is still struggling to bring its medical education at par with the leaders around the world. The 541 medical colleges in the country haven't been able to reach the standard of education that could meet the healthcare needs of the country. The lag in formal medical education has come up evidently post pandemic where the nation saw the medical fraternity struggling to fill the doctor deficit. India is the world's largest exporter of doctors and healthcare workforce to other nations. More than 70,000 medical graduates from India, nearly 10 percent of the qualified doctors in India are in the USA, UK, Europe, and the other nations.

The sad state of affairs persists because the pliable universities and councils are made to bend rules and violate standards of quality in order to accelerate the business of medical education, this is pushed through by politicians for political advantage or by private players for profit. To escape from the prohibitive cost of higher education in its private sector, India has become a net consumer of overseas education, spending nearly USD 5 billion a year to study abroad. Global funding patterns clearly show that medical education still remains a state dominated sector run with public funds. In countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) such as Denmark and Holland, public funding provides 98 percent of health resources in this sector. The figure is nearly 90 percent for Canada and as high as 78 percent even in the US. Central government must spend more on medical education, increase student access, and permit greater autonomy with accountability to its universities. India's rigid regulation of all aspects of medical education blocks the intellectual growth of its academia, and diminishes its ability to attract global talent to enhance the quality of medical education to world standards.

MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD INUNDATED



Flying instructor Peter Clement with wife Kerrie (L) stand in waist-high water as they examine their aircraft, which provide means of livelihood, inside hangar after flood inundated Grafton Air Strip in Grafton, Australia.

Skilled workforce is real 'shakti' to provide for 'gati'

ADITYA GUPTA



Remember the complete lockdown from March to May 2020. There were only two things that kept life going: a data-enabled internet connection and vegetables and groceries delivered through door collection. The supply of essentials never went off. Behind this were thousands of unacknowledged logistics warriors who risked their lives, picked and packed at warehouses, transported the goods to nearby stores, and door delivered. From the driver of a truck to a picker in the warehouse to a supply chain manager in a company to the CEO of a logistics start up, there is a whole gamut of supply chain professionals who keep every nation functioning and humming. Despite being such an essential and indispensable sector, logistics lacks organized skilling to the desired extent. During our MBA days, supply chain management was not even a subject offered. It is now given as a subject; however, it is still an elective at the majority of MBA schools. The drivers are still being trained through driver-helper methodology. Warehousing is completely on-the-job learning. As per estimates, there are more than 2 crore people employed in the Indian logistics sector, making it the second largest employer sector after agriculture. Unfortunately, only a very small percentage of them are formally trained. Most of the others have acquired skills on the job. Logistics skills have acquired attention, and progress has been made in

the last decade in logistics skill building. Current logistics skilling landscape in India can be explained.

The Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC) was created as an industry apex body by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with the endeavour to provide an end-to-end solution. LSC has identified 11 sub-sectors and is working towards training and employment generation in all of these sectors. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) Institutions under the PMKVY scheme, which was launched in 2015, various training institutions offer National Occupational Standard (NOS) aligned training programmes for different job roles in the logistics sector. Apprenticeship-embedded undergraduate programmes are initiative of the LSC, several higher education institutions are now offering apprenticeship-based BA and BCom degree programmes to integrate logistics skills into higher education with the aim of enhancing the employability skills of undergraduates to make them industry-ready. There are specialised institutions like the National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) to develop human resources for inland water transport, the Zonal Railway Training Institute for railway locomotive drivers and the Tata Motors Driver Training Institute for long-distance road drivers, which provide skills for specialised job roles.

With the launch of the Gati Shakti project, India is attempting to leapfrog its transportation infrastructure to be among the best in the world. Projects like Dedicated Freight Corridors, Bharatmala, Sagarmala are completely transforming the transportation landscape in India. A skilled workforce can be 'shakti' for this 'gati' of logistics. The courses that are offered to students must be partnered by industry and academic institutions. The curriculum and the pedagogy

should be so designed that the students are immediately employable after completing the course. The students entering would be assured of jobs, and industry would get a constant pool of trained manpower, creating a win-win for all. The existing manpower in the logistics sector needs to be upskilled to meet the changing needs of the sector. Upskilling has the potential to provide large returns using small investments. In a warehouse, for example, existing workforce might be upskilled to better manage automation, safety requirements, WMS, and compliance, among other things.

The majority of people who work in logistics today have no formal education in the field. It is necessary to make qualifications a pre-requisite for employment. Depending on the employment type, the qualification could be a certificate, diploma, or degree, but it should be made mandatory. This will encourage both employers and employees to earn the requisite qualifications prior to entering the industry. Almost two-thirds of the workforce entering the logistics industry has received their education in a vernacular language. The ability to communicate in English is not required to perform logistics tasks. The logistics courses must be devised and delivered in many languages so that they can be adopted and skilled by a larger number of people. India needs an apex trainer training institute that will train teachers for all logistics training institutes, similar to how RBI interacts with all banks. The trainer must have hands-on expertise in the industry and be continually updated on the latest developments in the field, as well as online teaching skills and teaching soft skills. There are a large number of countries which are facing a shortage of trained manpower in the logistics sector. Forklift drivers from India find lots of employment in Middle Eastern countries. We need to train our students based on the international curricu-

lum and tie up with global institutions so that India's qualifications will be accepted world over and Indian students can find employment across the countries. Logistics skills are much more practical than theoretical. The training institutions need to carry simulators, driving tracks, build warehouse-like conditions, carry forklifts and other equipment that is required to train the manpower. Students will not be industry-ready if training equipment is not available.

Logistics companies in India have been mostly small to medium size operators which occupy 90 percent of the logistics sector. For the scale of India, there are very few Indian companies that have achieved scale. Looking at the top 500 companies, only about 26 are logistical companies. The reality is the logistical companies are still smaller in the context of India. Adopting better technology undoubtedly has become the go-to strategy for businesses to ramp up efficiency. However, the downside is due to the rapid adoption of technologies across the board from manufacturers, sellers, retailers, etc., logistical companies are now tasked to figure out the most seamless way to conduct the operations. Also, it is not just about using those fancy technologies but making logistical points to have basic technologies that enable digitisation, conduct GST operations, and so on. The logistics sector carries the potential to create the maximum number of job opportunities in the coming years. It possesses the capability to employ a person of almost every qualification. The need is for the government, industry, and institutions to create a better skilling infrastructure to attract millennials and offer them a rewarding career in this sector.

(Aditya Gupta is professor and COO at Supply Chain Management Centre of IIM Bangalore, Karnataka.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sports lesson

Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) and the Union of European Football Association (UEFA) suspend Russia's national and club teams from all international football competitions after backlash over President Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Though global football governing body FIFA making a U-turn (after it joined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in acting after days of growing protest) has suspended all Russian teams from participating in all international events, including the World Cup later this year. UEFA, the governing body of European football, has followed suit, banning Russian representation in club and international competitions. But the decision came hours after FIFA had allowed Russia to participate in the 2022 World Cup playoffs, or any competition for that matter, under the name Football Union of Russia (RFU). One has to agree that there is no fault of the footballers or other sportsmen because they have practiced for a long time and have aspirations but suddenly Russia's unilateral attack towards Ukraine makes all the difference. Not only the FIFA and UEFA have taken a strong stand, even the IOC Executive Board has also recommended no participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials. The suspension means Russia will not be able to face Poland in a World Cup playoff semi-final next month, while its women's team will also be barred from this summer's European Championship in England and its remaining club side in European competition, Spartak Moscow, will no longer compete in the Europa League. Moreover, the IOC also went directly after Russian President Vladimir Putin, who turned the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics into a personal project, but Putin's golden Olympic Order, which was awarded in 2001, has also been withdrawn. Whatsoever, this decision is a lesson to all the dictators and crazy leaders that the world will not sit on the bench watching.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad

Fake news

Online bullying, misinformation and spreading fake news through social media platforms are growing by the day. Can we know who is the original creator of a content that we view online almost daily? No way can we. When someone shares a video on Facebook or you hop onto YouTube, the content reaches you after it has been passed around, syndicated, and filtered through several sources. But there is no system for truly identifying the original source of that content. This is not the only problem. Across other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, et al, words and photos are getting shared to millions across the globe with little to no curation. Many of the 'forwarded' messages that we receive on WhatsApp daily either have partial or no truths at all. Their contents make it clear that the subterranean aim of these 'forwards' is to fuel differences and instigate communal hatred and political animosities. Anonymity does breed anti-social behavior. Fake IDs, pseudonyms and unverified user-accounts abound online, giving people ample opportunity to mask their identities as they post messages.

Ranganathan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirupama@NMenonRao

Russia's is an imperial overreach as I see it in Ukraine today. It must stop this madness. The global order is being upended. All because of the flawed hubris of a leader who has let down what has always been a great nation, Russia.

Navdeep@SinghNavdeep

There are people here who are unable to hide their glee and excitement on what's happening in Ukraine. Do not forget this is not a video game and involves human lives on every side, and even of those not party to the conflict. Be sensible, behave like human beings, not cold machines.



Ritesh Banglani @banglani

The first company I worked at had a free internal job market. Once you completed a year in any role, you could apply for any job in the firm without informing your manager. If you got the job, you didn't need the manager's consent to move. Best measure of job and manager quality.

Amitangshu@amitangshu

I see prominent people requesting others not to politicise the #indianstudentsinukraine crisis. Obviously, they have no clue about what students experience while dealing with foreign embassies. Indian embassies are notorious in the way they treat their own citizens abroad.



Veditum@veditum

The river exists in many forms for people who live along the river.



Hemant@MohapatraHemant

India's entire startup ecosystem employs 550K people (including part time). IBM alone employs 120K people in India. Infosys has 250K+. In the US, just the venture-backed startups (maybe 10% of total or less?) employ 2.5M people. We are still in the very, very early innings.

Shilpi@shilpiagrawal55

I think more than half the reason Alia Bhatt's character could come out of depression in 'Dear Zindagi' was the fact that she was in Goa and had nothing to do other than running or dancing on beaches or roads without needing to pay rent or appear for a zoom call. Therapy was secondary

BRIEF

Appoints



New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday said it has appointed Reema Jain as the new Chief Information and Digital Officer to lead the technology-driven business transformation. She will strengthen the company's initiatives such as IT-related infrastructure, strategic planning.

Raises

New Delhi: Zapkey that helps its customers with guaranteed home sales, has secured USD 2 million in a funding round led by Nikhil Kamath and Gruhas PropTech on Wednesday. The seed funding round also saw participation from the DLF Family Office, Blume Founders Fund, the Alkem Labs Family, Aprameya Radhakrishna, co-founder of Koo, Srinji Srinivasan, MD at Kotak Investment Advisors, and other individual investors.

Ventures



New Delhi: Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) on Wednesday said it is in the process of setting up a war chest for new ventures. Chairperson Rashmi Saluja said we are pleased to announce that REL is completely debt free now. It is providing the necessary growth capital.

Enter

New Delhi: Singapore based fintech firm Volopay will invest USD 15 million (about Rs 113 crore) over the next 12 months to start operations in India. The company has raised USD 29 million from Winklevoss twins - Cameron and Tyler; a global decacorn and others to expand business overseas.

Extends



New Delhi: UCO Bank has extended the fintech partnership with Fisdom to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing. ED Ajay Vyas said his new initiative with Fisdom will help the bank to provide new digital wealth products.

Auctions

Mumbai: Shriram Automall India Ltd (SAMIL) said it auctioned over 7,900 pre-owned vehicles and other assets in a single day and processed transactions worth over Rs 215 crore from over 14,500 listings at its annual auction event, SAMIL utsav. SAMIL Utsav is a one-of-its-kind phygital format auction, conducted by the platform every year on February 26.

Petrol, diesel price hikes to restart from next week

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Petrol and diesel price hikes are likely to resume after state elections get over next week to bridge the Rs 9 a litre gap created by international oil prices soaring past USD 100 a barrel.

International crude oil prices shot above USD 110 a barrel for the first time since mid-2014 on fears that oil and gas supplies from energy giant Russia could be disrupted, either by the conflict in Ukraine or retaliatory western sanctions.

The basket of crude oil India buys rose above USD 102 per barrel on March 1, the highest since August 2014, according to information from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry. This compares to an average of USD 81.5 per barrel price of the Indian basket of crude oil at the



time of freezing of petrol and diesel prices in early November last year.

"With state elections getting over next week, we expect daily fuel price hikes to restart across both gasoline and diesel," JP Morgan said in a report.

The seventh and final phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly is on February 7 and the counting of votes slated for March 10.

State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are making a loss of Rs 5.7 a litre on petrol and diesel. This is without taking into account their normal margin of Rs 2.5 per litre.

The brokerage said for oil marketing companies to revert to normalised marketing margins, retail

prices need to increase by Rs 9 a litre or 10 per cent.

"We expect a combination of small excise duty cuts (Rs 1-3 per litre) and retail price hikes (Rs 5-8 a litre) to reflect the pass-through of USD 100 per barrel oil," it said.

Russia makes up for a third of Europe's natural gas and about 10 per cent of global oil production. About a third of Russian gas supplies to Europe usually travel through pipelines crossing Ukraine. But for India, Russian supplies account for a very small percentage. While India imported 43,400 barrels per day of oil from Russia in 2021 (about 1 per cent of overall its imports), coal imports from Russia at 1.8 million tonnes in 2021 made up for 1.3 per cent of all coal imports. India also buys 2.5 million tonnes of LNG a year from Gazprom of Russia.

Average increment in India likely to increase to 9.1%

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Indian companies are expected to dole out an average increment of 9.1 per cent in 2022, higher than the pre-COVID-19 increment in 2019, as companies are focusing on retention of talent through rewards.

According to the 2022 Workforce and Increments Trends Survey by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, the average India 2022 increment is expected to go up to 9.1 per cent from eight per cent in 2021.

Moreover, the 2022 projected increment is higher than the pre-COVID-19 increment in 2019 by 50 basis points (bps). A basis point is equal to 1/100th of a percentage point. "Corporate India reacted differently to each COVID-19 wave.

"In 2020, the pandemic pulled the economy in a recession and lower increments, pay-cuts, and hiring freeze were common. In 2021, increments were higher, pay-cuts were reversed, and COVID-19-specific benefits were introduced.

Sensex plunges 778 pts on escalating tensions

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):



BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted 778 points to close below the 55,500-level on Wednesday following a broad-based selloff in global markets as the Russia-Ukraine crisis escalated.

The 30-share BSE index ended 778.38 points or 1.38 per cent lower at 55,468.90. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 187.95 points or 1.12 per cent to 16,605.95.

Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 6 per cent, followed by Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, HDFC and HDFC Bank.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Titan, Reliance and Nestle India were among the gainers. In other Asian

markets, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai ended with losses, while Seoul closed in the green. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mixed in afternoon trade.

Tracking the Ukraine crisis, Brent crude futures rose 5.09 per cent to USD 110.31 per barrel.

US President Joe Biden announced that the United States is closing its airspace to Russian planes, asserting that this along with other punitive measures would weaken Moscow. The US and EU have imposed various sanctions on Russia. These include curbs on Russia's biggest banks and excluding its financial institutions from the SWIFT global payments system.

Rupee slumps 44 paise at 75.77 against USD, gold rallies Rs 1,202

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

The rupee depreciated by 44 paise to close at 75.77 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as riskier assets took a hit amid deepening geopolitical tensions.

Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows, a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.78 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.86.

The local unit finally finished at 75.77, down 44 paise from its previous close. On

Monday, the rupee had settled at 75.33 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Tuesday on account of Mahashivratri.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.20 per cent higher at 97.60.

Gold in the national capital on Wednesday surged by Rs 1,202 to Rs 51,889 per 10 grams, reflecting overnight gains in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 50,687 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by Rs 2,148 to Rs 67,956 per kg,

from Rs 65,808 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee declined 49 paise to 75.82 against the US dollar in opening trade on Wednesday amid a weak risk appetite as tensions escalated in Eastern Europe.

In the international market, gold was trading marginally lower at USD 1,943 an ounce and silver was flat at USD 25.18 an ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,943 per ounce on Wednesday. Gold prices capped gains pressured by stronger dollar and rise in US bond yields," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

India adds record 10 gigawatt solar capacity in 2021

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

India installed a record 10 gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during calendar year 2021, registering a year-on-year rise of 212 per cent, according to Mercom India Research.

The country had made 3.2 GW of solar capacity installations during 2020, the research firm said in its latest report. Cumulative solar installed capacity in India was approximately 49 GW at the end of December 2021, the report titled 'Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update' said.

"India added a record 10 GW of solar in 2021, the highest ever in a year. Solar accounted for 62 per cent of new power capacity additions in 2021, the largest share of power capacity ever," it said.

E-Bill system will end 'rent seeking' in Govt contracts

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the new Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system will stop any possible 'rent seeking' in the clearance of dues to contractors or suppliers of government departments.

The e-Bill processing system, which was announced in the Budget, was launched on Wednesday. It will be implemented across all central ministries and departments and suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online, which will be trackable on a real-time



Nirmala Sitharaman

basis. Speaking at the 46th Civil Accounts Day, Sitharaman said this will ensure end-to-end digitisation and make the payment process transparent by using technology not just within the government departments, but extending the second leg to the citizen's use.

The e-Bill, she said, will shut even "any small win-

dow which is available" for "misuse in terms of rent-seeking", as a contractor or supplier to the government will be able to file their claims digitally.

"Put your claim with digital signatures, and you do not have to come to government offices. Your payment reaches (to you) as soon as your claim reaches with a digital signature," Sitharaman said.

The civil accounts officers, she said, have ensured that the common man who works with the government will not have to wait for months, or not even go and meet officials, seeking the release of their dues.

FMCG industry faced consumption slowdown, degrowth

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Indian FMCG industry witnessed a consumption slowdown in urban markets and de-growth in rural areas in 2021, as the sector was hit hard by higher inflation levels forcing companies to go for successive price increases, said data analytics firm Nielsen.

In 2021, the FMCG industry had to go for double-digit price growth in three consecutive quarters to protect its margins, which converted into a price-driven growth of 17.5 per cent in comparison to a year ago in 2020. Even in the October-December (Q4/2021) quarter, the FMCG industry has witnessed a consumption degrowth of 2.6 per cent due to inflationary pressure, and other macroeconomic factors, said the FMCG Snapshot released by



NielsenIQ's Retail Intelligence team.

"Higher inflation levels during 2021 have led to three consecutive quarters with double-digit price increase resulting in consumption slowdown in urban markets, and consumption degrowth in rural markets," it said.

The rural market contributes around 35 per cent of the total FMCG sales. After the second wave, it was hit hard and several FMCG companies including the market leader HUL in their recent quarter results for the October-December period reported negative volume growth in rural markets.

India's manufacturing activities expand in Feb

As output, new orders rise amid favourable demand

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

India's manufacturing sector activities expanded in February as output and new orders grew at accelerated rates, supported by favourable demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 54.9 in February, up from 54.0 in January, signalling a stronger improvement in the sector's health.

The February PMI data pointed to an improve-



Manufacturing

ment in overall operating conditions for the eighth straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

Sustained sales growth supported the upturn in manufacturing sector output in February. Moreover, firms responded to strong increases in new work intakes by lifting production, input buying and

stocks of purchases, the survey said.

"Latest PMI data for India's manufacturing sector revealed an improvement in operating conditions in February. Output and new orders expanded at stronger rates, while buying activity continued," said Shreya Patel, an economist at IHS Markit.

"There were, however, some key concerns that continued to threaten growth. Most prominently, cost pressures remained elevated as a result of shortages while delivery times lengthened once again. However, a key threat to manufacturers comes from only marginal increases in selling prices."

Honda and HPCL announce partnership

Bengaluru, Mar 02:

Honda Power Pack Energy India Private Limited, Honda Motor Co., Ltd.'s new subsidiary for battery sharing service, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), a Maharatna Oil & Gas Public Sector undertaking, signed a memorandum of understanding and commercial agreement to collaborate in the field of E-mobility and provide battery sharing services in HPCL's retail outlets in major cities across India. This marks the global debut of Honda's battery sharing service and HPCL has been chosen as preferred partner.

Didn't dilute NSE orders, acted as per Sebi's remit: Tyagi

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

Outgoing Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday said the capital markets regulator acted as per its remit and understanding on the NSE case, and denied any "dilution" of orders in the matter.

Tyagi, who left as the chief of the regulator after a five-year term, said other law enforcement agencies are also looking into the matter. "Till now, all the facts and findings in the public domain are based on Sebi's findings disclosed in its orders, and we should wait for the investigation of other agencies as well," Tyagi said. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is cooperating

Union Minister appreciates contribution of physicians of Indian origin

New Delhi, Mar 02:

The Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), a non-profit organization that aims to bring together 1.4 million physicians of Indian Origin on one platform organized its XII Annual Congress virtually on 26th and 27th February.

The 12th edition of this annual event saw participation of over 5000 participants from USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Middle East, Africa, UAE, India and other countries making it one of the largest events of its kind in the world.

During the Award function, eleven distinguished and young clinicians who have made noteworthy

contribution to improving healthcare were honoured. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers of India, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Dr Prathap C Reddy, Founder President of GAPIO and Chairman Apollo Hospitals Group was the Guest of Honor.

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers of India, Government of India said "I am happy to be interacting with some of the best clinicians through the XII Conference of Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

Aluminium industry urges PMO to ensure coal supply

CPPs already facing backlog of over 1200 rakes

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Aluminium Association of India (AAI) on Wednesday said that non-power industries, including aluminium companies, has been "plagued" by a protracted coal shortage for the past seven months and urged the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to ensure on priority a supply of at least 25-30 coal rakes per day to the sector.

The Association warned that disruptions in the aluminium sector's production will have a negative effect



on India's industrial landscape.

To highlight the severity of the crisis, the AAI has written to the Prime Minister's Office seeking an urgent and immediate resumption of coal supplies to ensure the survival of the domestic industry.

The ongoing V-shaped recovery of the Indian economy could receive a severe blow due to the situation faced by the aluminium sector, it said.

"For the past seven months, the non-power sector across the country, of which aluminium companies are a key part, has been plagued by a protracted coal shortage.

"As the most widely used non-ferrous metal globally and a critical input for several core industries in India, any disruptions in the sector's production will undoubtedly have a negative effect across the country's industrial landscape," AAI wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The continued coal shortage being faced by the country's highly power-intensive aluminium industry has now put lakhs of jobs in jeopardy.



New Chairperson of SEBI Madhabi Puri Buch with her predecessor Ajay Tyagi after taking charge at the SEBI office, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

with other agencies and sharing the information sought with them, he added. Speaking to reporters after handing over the charge to his successor,

Madhabi Puri Buch, Tyagi said the NSE case pertains to events between 2010-2015, and Sebi started investigations under him in the "right earnest".



SRK, Deepika-starrer 'Pathaan' to release on Jan 25, 2023

S hah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham's upcoming film 'Pathaan' has been locked for a January 25, 2023 release. The film will be released in three languages - Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. A tweet from the official handle of Yash Raj Films read: "Make. Some. Noise! PATHAAN is here. Watch the date announcement video NOW! In cinemas on 25th January, 2023. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Celebrate #Pathaan with #YRF50 only at a big screen near you." The spy thriller film is directed by Siddharth Anand. 'Pathaan' marks SRK's first film after 'Zero' which was released in 2018.

'I am very lucky that I get to play both sides of a coin'

Gulki Joshi, whose character SHO Haseena Malik from Maddam Sir is loved by the fans recently got an opportunity to play another character of a quintessential Mumbai girl, Mumbai in the same. Both the characters are poles apart and the actress is thoroughly enjoying the process. Gulki spoke about essaying the new character and the challenges she faces while playing two opposite roles. From adapting new accent and mannerisms for Urmila to doing both the characters at the same time, Gulki poured her heart out.



Q1. What was the transition like from Haseena to Urmila, a quintessential Mumbai girl?

I am very lucky that I get to play both sides of a coin. On one side there is Haseena, who, as you must have seen, is a very calculated, sentimental, well-behaved person and then there is Urmila who is exactly a hundred percent opposite of her. Urmila is bold, loud, energetic, also a mess but even then she always speaks from her heart.

Q2. What preparations did you do to adapt to Urmila's accent and mannerisms?

I was very excited to play Urmila as this is something I have been

wanting to portray for a long time now. Very interestingly, I did not actually go through any special training to adapt to the accent and the mannerisms specific to her, it just came out naturally while reading the script and that is the beauty of the character.

Q3. Has it been challenging to portray Haseena and Urmila at the same time?

It has been tricky. For my audience, I am Haseena as they have

known the truth the entire time and at the same time for my team, I am Urmila. These are two very opposite characters and I always try my best to give my full attention to each character at a time. Naturally, it is a bit challenging to play both the roles at the same time where I must maintain the balance in both characters and justify the scenes.

Stay tuned with Maddam Sir, Mon - Sat, 10:00PM only on Sony SAB!



Ajay Devgn: Actors never chase the box-office, superstars do

Ajay Devgn is all set to make her digital debut with the upcoming series 'Rudra - The Edge of Darkness', an Indian adaptation of the Idris Elba-starrer 'Luther'. The star has talked about how there is no pressure of chasing box-office figures with the massive growth of the web-space.

Ajay, who has entertained the audiences with his power-packed performances in his over three-decade-long journey in Hindi cinema, says actors never chase the box-office, but superstars do. Asked if there is no pressure of chasing box-office numbers anymore courtesy the massive growth of the OTT space and films taking the digital route for releases, Ajay said: "Actors never chase the box office. Superstars do." For Ajay, it is the audiences' love that matters. "For me, a film's success is

not always about the box office. I want appreciation. I want my honesty to get noticed. I strive for quality. Of course, the ticket window sales do help. It's a bonus. However, numbers alone can't dictate the way I work or what I strive for. As far as OTT's rise goes, it's phenomenal. Certain films will go directly to streaming platforms and even there you are anxious to know how it has been received. An actor or a performer is always anxious," added the 52-year-old star.

Ajay made his acting debut in 1991 with 'Phool Aur Kaante'. He then rose to prominence as an action hero starring in successful films such as 'Jigar', 'Sangram', 'Dilwale' and 'Diljale'. He went on to give blockbusters like 'Zakham', 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', 'Company', 'Golmaal' franchise, 'Singham' franchise, 'Bol Bachchan' and 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'. How does he maintain staying ahead of the curve when it comes to his craft?

The actor, who has won National Film Awards, said: "Staying ahead of a curve is not always a conscious decision. It's all about accepting roles that I found attractive. When one breaks stereotypes, sometimes you tend to fall flat on the face. At other times, you soar. It's a gamble. Yes, in my three-decade-long career, I've taken chances and I've followed my heart as far as what is right for me is concerned."



Yami Gautam ties up with NGOs to support victims of sexual assault

Actress Yami Gautam has joined hands with two NGOs -- Majlis and Pari (People Against Rape in India) -- to support victims of sexual assault and to work for their rehabilitation.

"Today with great pride I would like to share that I have joined hands with two NGOs who are constantly supporting and working towards the rehabilitation of victims of sexual assault," Yami said.

She elaborated that women's safety still has a long way to go and her association with the NGOs for the cause emanates from this very subject.

"The need to work on these issues stems from the women's safety issues which still exist. While some progress has been made, there's a long way to go still," she said.

"My association with the NGOs is just the beginning and in the near future, I would like to contribute further in helping to procure better resources to protect and support women from all walks of life," she added.

Soumya delighted to receive her first pay

So Entertainment Television's show Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye is a beautiful narrative and a story which embarks on love and ambition. A story about a budding writer, Soumya Verma (Vidhi Pandya) takes charge of her own life by breaking all the shackles to fulfil her dream of becoming a successful writer in Oberoi Telefilms owned by Armaan Oberoi (Vijayendra Kumeria).



In the upcoming episodes viewers will witness how Armaan expresses his feelings to Soumya and makes it clear that he still hasn't moved on. On the other hand, Soumya is delighted to show her parents her first pay cheque while everyone still wonders why Armaan agrees to keep Soumya on the job. Armaan then explains that his father is the reason that he agreed to go back to Shaaila after Soumya rejected his proposal. Soumya who has started falling for Armaan Oberoi unknowingly gets jealous seeing Armaan with Shaaila. In this scenario, Soumya later decides to go to Armaan's office but before she could reach, she is hounded by reporters. Armaan comes to her rescue and pulls

her away from the reporters. Soumya who is in awe of this gesture by Armaan asks him why he is so concerned about her to which Armaan confesses that he still loves her. Soumya later reaches Armaan's office, but she wonders why Armaan has suddenly started ignoring her. Adding more, she then learns that Shaaila's parents have also reached the office where Kashish insults Soumya in front of everyone by asking her to get coffee and Armaan enjoys hearing this.

Tune in to Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye every Monday to Friday at 9:00 PM on Sony Entertainment Television.

HOROSCOPE THURSDAY MARCH 03

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganesh.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to deal with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesh sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesh.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

This is not one of those easy and carefree days. You are in for a lot of mental anguish. The mental pressure you feel, you will realise, is of your own making. Unless you make radical changes in your basis outlook, mental tensions are likely to become an everyday affair. You need to face and accept things as they are.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesh. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people. Your resilience will pay off.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today, you will be at the centre of all your plans. Your responsibilities at home are likely to be unnecessary digressions for you, with your help-yourself-only attitude. However, you may feel that you are not getting enough returns of your hard work. Ganesh advises you to become more responsible at home, and your family's love and affection will make up for the insufficient returns.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

If you are wondering whether you'll get the carrot or the stick today, then Ganesh has some good news for you: the day promises to bring only rewards for you. This will be especially true for your workplace, where your innate talents get recognised today. Expect positive support from your colleagues, and oodles of inspiring tips from your superiors.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

A sudden bend in the journey of life is important to understand it better, says Ganesh. Excellence will drone on throughout the day today. Top on the list are money matters and your loved ones - not necessarily in that order! Much of your time may be spent in appeasing the Gods.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! You don't want to be Jack, now, do you? It's high time you took a break from your busy work schedule. Go on a vacation to recharge your batteries. There are chances that evening could bring with it some hurtful remarks from loved ones. Don't be too sensitive to everything that's said, advises Ganesh.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesh sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Today you might experience a slight (and very temporary) dark night of the soul, Sagittarius. You could take a long look at your life and, even though you're doing well, still feel that you aren't yet where you want to be. Spiritually, you might doubt the traditional views you've questioned and still wonder about new concepts you've adopted.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Paradise is where patience leads you, success is the other terminus, says Ganesh. Keeping your cool will benefit you in more ways than you would have imagined, so think twice before you unleash your vengeance on your foes. You are also likely to have a heart-to-heart conversation with your beloved and make him/her feel wanted.

CROSSWORD

230



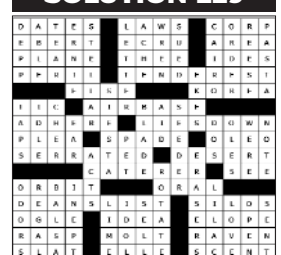
- Least polite
- Compass direction (abbr.)
- Inspiring wonder
- Ripped
- Convent resident
- Rodent
- Actor ____ Redford
- Longitude's partner
- Overture
- Mumbai attire
- Opera song
- ____ of humor
- Kitchen hot spot
- Thailand's neighbor
- Computer key
- First, second, or third
- Otherwise

DOWN

- Patriot ____ Allen
- Not here
- Egypt's capital
- Give a job to
- Soup cracker
- Each
- Sell
- Before, in poems
- Streamlined
- Throw
- Frenzy
- Consumer
- Richard ____ of "Pretty Woman"
- Actress Julia ____
- Grating sound
- Batman's wear
- Small bay

- Down East
- Cowboy ____ Autry
- No ifs, ____ or butts
- Doctor's "at once!"
- Sit for an artist
- Woe is me!
- Annoy
- Graduates
- Be a passenger
- Hock
- Store
- Standard procedure
- Traps
- Anxious
- Command
- Urban's opposite
- Juan's goodbye
- Pester
- Trick
- ____ sesame!"
- Not straight
- Fluid rock
- "A ____ of Two Cities"
- Cry noisily

SOLUTION 229



Rohit, Kohli, Pant may miss Ireland T20I series



New Delhi: Cricket Ireland has confirmed that the Indian team will be touring Ireland for a short two-match T20I series in June. However, the series is unlikely to see top players such as captain Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah in action as the remaining one Test match from the last year's tour of England is scheduled to held from July 1-5. "This summer will be a 'Season of Stars' as India, New Zealand and Afghanistan tour Ireland, while we will play South Africa in Bristol. We're set for the biggest home international season in Ireland ever!"

Archana and Sreeja make cut, men exit

New Delhi: Indian paddlers Archana Kamath and Sreeja Akula qualified for the women's singles main draw of the WTT Contender Muscat 2022. They will join Manika Batra, who got a direct entry into the round of 32. In the men's singles, however, none of the five players made it to the main draw. It leaves G Sathiyar, another direct entrant into the second stage, to fight for India's honours. He will clash with 16-year-old Chinese Lin Shidong in the round of 32. In the third round of the qualifiers, Archana defeated Oze Yilmaz 11-8 5-11 12-10 11-7. The 145th ranked player from Turkey managed to take the second game off Archana and came close in the third at 10-10. But the 99th ranked Indian saw through the crucial phase to stamp her authority.

Novak Djokovic no longer with longtime coach Marian Vajda



Belgrade: Novak Djokovic and coach Marian Vajda are no longer working together, splitting up after 15 years and 20 Grand Slam titles. A statement that went up on Djokovic's website on Tuesday said that the two men agreed to end their partnership after last year's season-ending ATP Finals. Marian has been by my side during the most important and memorable moments in my career, Djokovic said in the posting. Together we have achieved some incredible things and I am very grateful for his friendship and dedication over the last 15 years. While he might be leaving the professional team he will always be family and I can't thank him enough for all he has done. During Vajda's tenure, Djokovic also has picked up other coaches at various times including Boris Becker, Andre Agassi and Radek Stepanek and Goran Ivanisevic, who has been part of the team since 2019, will continue to work with the 34-year-old from Serbia. Djokovic and Vajda took a break from each other in 2017 but reunited the next year.

Mumbai eye win against Odisha

Ahmedabad: A buoyant Mumbai are eyeing an outright win, which is needed for the domestic heavyweights to stay in contention for the knockouts, as they square off against Odisha in their last Elite Group D Ranji Trophy game here from Thursday. Currently, Mumbai top the group with nine points, having won their last match against Goa and taken the first-innings lead against Saurashtra. If Mumbai beat Odisha, then they will get six points to take their aggregate to 15. In case they earn a bonus point, they will have 16 points. Saurashtra are placed second in the group with eight points and if they defeat Goa, they will have 14 points. If Mumbai secure a first-innings lead, and Saurashtra win, then the latter go through. So the Amol Muzumdar-coached side would be desperate to go all guns blazing for a win with a bonus point.

My sole aim is to win gold at Paris Paralympics, says para shuttler Palak Kohli

New Delhi: Young Indian para shuttler Palak Kohli says the Tokyo Games disappointment has increased her hunger for success and her sole aim is to return with a gold from the Paris Paralympics in two years time. The youngest para badminton player to qualify for the Paralympics at 18, Kohli is currently competing at the Spanish Para badminton International II in Victoria. She had qualified in all three formats - singles, women's doubles (Parul Parmar) and mixed doubles (Pranav Bhargat) at the Tokyo Games but couldn't return with a medal. "Playing in Tokyo was a wonderful experience. There is no age criteria in para badminton. So being the youngest to qualify for three events was a blessing as I got exposure to all three events," Kohli, whose left-arm is underdeveloped since birth, told PTI.



Pakistan, Australia to play for Benaud-Qadir Trophy

Rawalpindi, Mar 02 (AP):

Australia will play for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy to mark its first cricket test series in Pakistan in 24 years.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Wednesday confirmed the new trophy would be named to honor two legendary leg-spinners: Richie Benaud of Australia and Pakistan's Abdul Qadir.

Benaud led Australia to a 2-0 victory in its inaugural series in Pakistan in 1959 and, after retiring from test cricket, became a widely-known TV commentator. Qadir had a rich haul of 45 wickets in 11 test matches against Australia.

I am delighted to give my approval for Richie's name to be on this trophy alongside that of Abdul Qadir," Benaud's wife, Daphne, said in a statement issued by the PCB.

Richie had a very high regard for Abdul and the fact that both were leg-spinners has a nice ring to it." The PCB said that Cricket Australia has agreed to present the Benaud-Qadir trophy at the end of each men's test series played between the two countries.

PCB chief executive Faisal Hasnain said there could be no better way to launch the historic series



than in the names of two absolute legends and icons of this great game.

Both captains -- Pat Cummins of Australia and Babar Azam of Pakistan -- unveiled the trophy at the Pindi Cricket Stadium two days ahead of the series-opening test. We really are standing on the shoulders

of these greats of the past who helped to grow and popularize the game, and if my team can collect that trophy at the end of this series then it really would be the perfect end to the test part of this historic tour, Cummins said. Azam said cricket greats such as Benaud and Qadir should

be recognized and the game is today healthy, wealthy and strong because of such individuals and their legacy."

Australia's test team last toured Pakistan in 1998. Pakistan has hosted its home series against Australia in neutral venues since then.

Massive leap for Shreyas in ICC T20I rankings



Dubai, Mar 02 (PTI):

Riding on his splendid run against Sri Lanka recently, India batter Shreyas Iyer has jumped a massive 27 spots in the latest ICC T20I rankings, even as Virat Kohli fell out of the top 10.

India's recent home series win against Sri Lanka has had major ramifications on the player rankings aiding attacking top-order batter Iyer to make a massive jump to reach the 18th position in the list for batters.

Iyer scored three unbeaten half-centuries during India's 3-0 win against Sri Lanka in February, with the 27-year-old amassing an impressive 204 runs at a strike rate of 174.

Iyer's teammate pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar jumped three spots to 17th on the bowler rankings.

Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka scored an impressive 75 in the second game of the series, and he was rewarded with a six-spot rise to ninth on the rankings, while former India captain Kohli - who was rested for the series - dropped five places to 15th.

The other big mover with the bat in T20I cricket this week is Mohammad Wasem of the UAE. His unbeaten century against Ireland in the final of ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A, helped him reach the 12th position with the bat. That is the highest T20I ranking by any UAE batter, surpassing Shaiman Anwar's 13th place achieved in 2017.

Svitolina of Ukraine beats Potapova of Russia in WTA event



Mexico City, Mar 02 (AP):

Elina Svitolina put on the yellow and blue colors of Ukraine and beat Anastasia Potapova of Russia 6-2, 6-1 in the opening round of the Monterrey Open, deciding she could do more for her country by playing than boycotting the match.

Top-seeded Svitolina earlier said she wouldn't play against Potapova in Mexico or against any Russian or Belarusian opponents until the International Tennis Federation and the men's and women's tennis tours barred competitors from those countries using any national symbols, flags or anthems.

Harmanpreet credits team psychologist for helping her come out of 'shell'

Christchurch, Mar 02 (PTI):

India's ODI vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Wednesday revealed she was "going into a shell" before the team's psychologist Mugdha Bavare helped her get "clear ideas" and regain her lost form ahead of the ICC Women's World Cup. Bavare is travelling with the team in New Zealand, which is hosting the ODI showpiece from Friday.

It is the first time that the Indian women's team has a sports psychologist on tour.

"Mugdha ma'am is travelling with us and she has been of a lot of help especially in the last four games which we played against New Zealand where my performance was not good and even I was going into a shell because the World Cup was coming," Kaur said during a virtual press conference. "After I spoke to her I felt I was actually looking for that. I had things in my mind but I was not aware of it because of lot of pressure

IPL teams to start training from March 14 or 15



Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTI):

All the IPL teams will start training in the city from March 14 or 15 onwards and five practice venues have been identified.

It is understood that the MCA ground in suburban Bandra Kurla Complex, MCA ground in Thane, the Dr DY Patil University ground and a football pitch along with the CCI (Cricket Club of India) and the Reliance Corporate Park ground in Ghansoli have been identified by the authorities as practice venues for the cash-rich tournament, which begins on March 26.

Players are likely to start coming into the city from March 8. The Maharashtra government on Wednesday conducted a meeting with BCCI and Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) in South Mumbai for a smooth conduct of the IPL, which is now a 10-team affair.

Ministers of the state government -- Aaditya Thackeray and Eknath Shinde -- along with MCA chief Vijay Patil and apex council members

Ajinkya Naik and Abhay Hadap, treasurer Jagdish Achrekar, were present at the meeting.

Post the meeting, in a series of tweets, Aaditya Thackeray said, "To ensure the smooth flow of the @IPL, Minister @mieknathshinde ji and I conducted a joint meeting of IPL, @BCCI with officers of Police and Municipal Corporations of Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai."

He also said that the state's deputy Chief Minister would soon conduct a similar meeting for Pune, the other venue for IPL.

"For Pune, the meeting will be held soon, proposed to be chaired by DCM sir to ensure that the tournament is successfully carried out in all our city venues," said Aaditya, who is the son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. "IPL coming to Maharashtra ensures that the games aren't played overseas. This is a huge boost for the country, as well as Maharashtra in terms of economy, morale and for the passion of cricket fans."

Team India to have new physios, trainers



Chandigarh, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Indian team will soon have new physios and Strength and Conditioning coaches, who will be part of a dedicated Sports Science & Sports Medicine (SSSM) team headed by Nitin Patel.

The BCCI will be making a plethora of recruitments for its SSSM team which includes physios

and trainers (S&C) for Team India (men and women, junior (men and women). A teams as well as dedicated "rehab specialists" working on injury managements.

Both physios and S&C coaches have two categories of recruitment in which category 1 constitutes working with senior men and women's teams while those in category 2 will work with junior men

and women and domestic cricket.

However, one of the interesting aspects of the new appointment is the enhanced role of rehab specialists and performance analyst among S&C coaches at the NCA for which applications had been sought. One of the key operating environment that BCCI has clearly mentioned is an interesting one.

Lyon: Australia aiming for test series sweep in Pakistan

Islamabad, Mar 02 (AP):

Veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon is aiming for a 3-0 sweep in Australia's first test series in Pakistan since 1998.

It's going to be a big challenge, but I'm going into this test series thinking we're going to be performing and playing our best cricket to win 3-0, Lyon said in an online news conference Wednesday, two days ahead of the first test at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

We haven't played an away test since 2019 it's a very young, exciting Australian test squad that we've got here and we're coming off a pretty spectacular summer.

Australia will have just three practice sessions to prepare for the test matches after arriving in Pakistan on Sunday and spending two days in the team hotel. They will be playing three test matches



but after talking to her I got the solutions. "I got clear ideas after talking to her, those things really helped during the last 2-3 games. I'm sure the team is also

benefitting from her because I can see she's continuously talking to all the players, which is very important and that will really help us," Kaur added.



within 22 days, part of International Cricket Council's World Test Championship, before competing in a three-match ODI series and a one-off Twenty20 against Pakistan. We've got enough people to cover all the bases, Lyon said. Whatever team we go out with, we're confident we can play a really, really positive brand of

cricket here in Pakistan. With 415 wickets in 105 test matches, Lyon will share the major workload of Australian slow bowlers. Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar and uncapped 28-year-old leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson are also in selection contention if Australia opts to go into the first test with two specialist spinners.

FLORAL TRIBUTE



Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman pays floral tribute to Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, before addressing the 46th Civil Accounts Day function, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

WHO calls for raising awareness about all birth defects

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI): On the World Birth Defects Day, the WHO and its member States in the South-East Asia Region and globally have called for increasing awareness about all birth defects and improve access to quality care and treatment.

In 2019, birth defects accounted for more than 5,30,000 deaths globally, including more than 1,17,000 deaths in the region around 22 per cent of the global total, said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said.

They were the third most common cause of child mortality in the region, and the fourth most common cause of neonatal mortality, constituting 12 per cent of all neonatal deaths, she said.

In addition to mortality, birth defects can cause long term morbidity and disability, which in low and middle-income countries, can strain health system, social and family resources, Khetrpal Singh said.

'Instead of illegal weapons, UP now makes missiles'

Chandauli (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said illegal weapons were made earlier in Uttar Pradesh to scare and kill people but now shells and missiles are being manufactured to protect the country. He was apparently referring to the defence industrial corridor coming up in the state.

Shah also listed various achievements of the BJP government in the state. Chandauli will go to polls during the seventh phase on March 7. "Earlier, illegal weapons were made in Uttar Pradesh, which were used to scare or kill people. Today, shells and missiles



Amit Shah

are being made here, which are used to protect India. This change has come during the BJP government," Shah said addressing an election meeting here.

Shah also exuded confidence that the BJP will

win the ongoing assembly elections. "I have been to around 150 (assembly) seats in UP and seen the election mood at every place. In the first five phases of the elections, the SP and the BSP will be wiped off, and the people are working to form the BJP government. Now, you have to vote to take the tally (of seats) beyond 300."

The home minister said, "In UP, one or two 'bahubalis' (musclemen) are still left, who will be sent to the jail after March 10. Till the time law and order situation is improved, development cannot take place and industrial investments cannot come."

Exercise Vayu Shakti

148 IAF aircraft to demonstrate capabilities, Rafale to participate 1st time

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate their capabilities at Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer on March 7, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The Rafale aircraft will participate in this exercise for the first time and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest, the IAF official noted. The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts

Exercise Vayu Shakti at Pokharan range every three years to demonstrate its readiness to conduct full spectrum operations. The last one took place in 2019. Out of the 148 aircraft participating in the exercise this year, 109 will be fighter jets, the IAF official said.

The official added that 24 helicopters, seven transport aircraft and four remotely-piloted aircraft will also take part in the exercise on March 7. IAF's fighter jets such as Jaguar, Sukhoi-30, MiG-29, Tejas,

Rafale and Mirage-2000 will participate in this exercise, the official noted. The event will begin with 17 Jaguar aircraft flying in a "75 formation", the official said.

It will end with three jets - Rafale, Tejas and Sukhoi-30 - conducting "transformer aerobatic display", the official noted. IAF's helicopters such as Apache, Chinook, Mi17V5, Mi35, ALH MkIV and LCH will also take part in the March 7 exercise, the official said, adding that the event will begin at 10.30 AM and end at 12.30 PM.

Zaheerabad (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

S BSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar is facing a stern challenge in this eastern Uttar Pradesh assembly constituency as he squares off against Saiyyada Shadab Fatima of the BSP and BJP's Kalicharan Rajbhar in a triangular contest which many people here believe could go right down to the wire.

What makes the contest interesting is that the three candidates are sort of veterans in this assembly segment in Ghazipur district but their political affiliations have changed this time. While sitting MLA and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party

(S BSP) chief Prakash Rajbhar, who was a BJP ally in 2017, has now joined hands with the Samajwadi Party, Fatima, who had been a Samajwadi Party minister in the state, is now a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate.

Kalicharan Rajbhar, who has been a two-time BSP MLA, is in the fray this time from the BJP. If Rajbhar versus Rajbhar was tricky enough, Fatima's entry has made the contest even more interesting, setting up a triangular contest amid a slew of bipolar fights between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BJP in this region.

Fatima seems to be no pushover as she is hailed by people of the constituency, cutting across communities, as someone who carried out a lot of development works when she won in 2012 and became a minister in the SP government.

She had joined Shivpal Yadav's breakaway faction Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party but with he reconciling with his nephew Akhilesh Yadav, she was unable to bag a ticket from here as the SBSP tied up with the SP. She even contemplated fighting Independent but finally sealed the BSP ticket to return to the electoral fray after skipping

the 2017 polls.

The three candidates seem to be confident of their chances citing their traditional vote bases but do know that it is not as straightforward as it seems with the possibility of last minute switches in loyalties and split in vote banks looming.

"The picture is very clear, these two (Kalicharan and Om Prakash) are contesting on caste. I am getting votes from all communities. It is not limited to BSP's traditional vote base of Dalits, or minorities. I am getting votes from Thakurs, Chauhans, Bhumiards, Kushwahs, among others," Fatima told PTI.

Power loom weavers resume work after calling off strike

Coimbatore, Mar 02 (PTI): Nearly two lakh power looms in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts started functioning on Wednesday following an agreement reached on revising wages. The power loom unit owners were on an indefinite strike from January 9 demanding implementation of a government order issued in November last year on revision of wages from master weavers, for whom they were working, which came into force in December 2021. The power looms spread over Somanur, Karumathyampatti, Paduvampalli, Kittampalayam, Thottipalayam and Sulur in Coimbatore district along with Palladam and nearby areas in Tirupur district had demanded 23 per cent increase for Somanur variety and 20 per cent for other fabrics.

SBSP chief Rajbhar faces stiff challenge from BJP, BSP on home turf

Zaheerabad (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

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Congress 'padayatra' continues, to culminate in Bengaluru today

Bengaluru, March 02 (PTI):

The Congress 'padayatra' (foot march), demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery river in Karnataka, continued for the fourth day on Wednesday. The padayatra on Wednesday covers a distance of 16.7 km to reach Mekrhi Circle in the city from near Jayadeva Junction. This is the second leg of the march that ended abruptly in Ramanagara on January 13, when the third wave of the COVID-19 had peaked.

The 'padayatra 2.0' with the theme Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku' (Our water, Our right), that resumed on Sunday, will culminate at the National College Ground in Basavanagudi in Bengaluru on March 3, after covering a total dis-

tance of 79.8 kilometres. Speaking to reporters during the march, Leader of Opposition in Siddaramaiah claimed that the ruling BJP is in fear and is disturbed as the padayatra has been successful. State Congress President D K Shivakumar said though the padayatra is culminating tomorrow, it is a first step in the fight for the right over water.

He said people from across sections and party line have participated in the padayatra, and called it "historic". The padayatra has continued, despite an FIR against Congress leaders including Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, for holding the march on Sunday in violation of COVID-19 rules.

WARM WELCOME



Teachers greet students with flowers as they arrive to attend their classes on the first day of reopening of schools in valley after a gap of almost three years due to abrogation of Article 35A and COVID19, in Srinagar, Wednesday.

Artist Paresh Maity joins NFT bandwagon, collection to be auctioned on March 4

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

With five of his paintings going under the hammer on an NFT marketplace on Friday, leading contemporary painter Paresh Maity becomes the new artist dipping his toe into the world of metaverse.

Of the five assets, three will be physical paintings along with its non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and the remaining two will just be online assets. While the NFTs and physical paintings are priced at USD 110,000 (around Rs 85 lakhs), the NFT alone costs USD 5,000 (around Rs 4 lakhs). The rare collection will be auctioned by Kolkata-based Gallery Art Exposure on WazirX NFT Marketplace.

"I think NFT (Non-fungible token) is the future contrary to a lot of popu-

lar and conventional beliefs which think otherwise. By doing a collection of NFTs I want to reach out to a completely new audience which may not be aware of conventional art practices. So, the NFTs available now could be significant collectables or assets owned by people on the metaverse," said the 57-year-old Maity.

NFTs are unique, non-interchangeable digital assets with verified ownership rights and the details are stored on a blockchain. The three physical paintings and the NFTs up for the auction are: seven-foot oil on canvas "Wedding Bell" (2013), 72x72 inches "A Morning" (2006) and 7.5 x 4.5 feet "The Perpetual Galore" (2021) - both oil and acrylic on canvas. The other two works, available as NFTs only, will be revealed during the auction.

TMC decimates Oppn, wins 102 of 108 municipalities

Kolkata, Mar 02 (PTI):

Ten months after its landslide victory in the West Bengal assembly polls, the ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday steam-rolled the entire opposition in the civic elections, bagging 102 of the 108 municipalities in the state, an SEC official said.

The TMC secured Kanthi Municipality, the bastion of Leader of Opposition and Nandigram's BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari, while Hamro Party, a new entrant in hill politics, trounced TMC, GJM and

BJP to win Darjeeling Municipality. The CPI (M)-led Left Front won Taherpur Municipality in Nadia district.

The BJP, which has emerged as the main opposition party in West Bengal after winning 77 seats in the assembly polls last year, failed to win even a single civic body. The Congress, too, was unable to win a single civic body, although the parties have won a few wards in some towns.

"The TMC has won 102 municipalities. The Left Front has won one civic body, and Hamro Party has won one. Four municipalities have hung board," the State Election Commission



TMC supporters celebrate with colours, after the party leads in the West Bengal Municipal elections, in North 24 Parganas district, Wednesday.

(SEC) official said. The TMC has reduced the opposition's tally to zero in 27 municipalities, securing all the wards. At least four municipalities Beldanga in Murshidabad, Jhalda in Purulia, Champdani in Hooghly and Egra in Purba Medinipur district are hung, with no party securing a clear majority.

Independents hold the key to board formation in these civic bodies.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday thanked the people of West Bengal for giving a massive mandate to the ruling Trinamool Congress in the civic elections and called upon winning candidates and supporters to work with humility.

"Heart-felt gratitude to Ma-Mati-Manush for according yet another overwhelming mandate to us. Congratulations to the winning candidates of All India Trinamool Congress in the Municipal Elections," she tweeted.

Rare life-threatening brain tumour removed after 7-hour surgery

● At Delhi hospital

Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

A 53-year-old man got a new lease of life after doctors at the Fortis Hospital in Shalimar Bagh here removed a rare kind of vascular tumour from his brain in a seven-hour-long surgery.

Dr Sonal Gupta, Director and HOD Neurosurgery at the hospital said an MRI revealed a large mass in the brain suggestive of tuberculosis.

Taking into account the large size of the tumour, a decision to remove it sur-

gically was taken as medication wasn't helpful in reducing the size of the mass.

During the surgery, the doctors were surprised to discover a large mass full of blood vessels covering the left side of the cerebellum (which is small brain).

An immediate surgery was performed to remove the mass which would have otherwise led to other health complications like coma, limb weakness and accumulation of fluid in the brain, the hospital said.

"We were shocked the moment we began the surgery as we saw a large

mass full of blood vessels in his brain. Without further delay, the patient was taken for an angiogram which helped us understand the source of the blood supply to the tumour."

"His reports confirmed that he was actually suffering from a rare kind of vascular tumour, medically known as Hemangioblastoma," she said.

Hemangioblastoma is a benign, highly vascular tumour that can occur in the brain, spinal cord, and retina. It accounts for about two percent of brain tumours.



BRIEF



A Purple Sunbird on a flower as winter gives way to spring, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Mishap

Singrauli: At least 35 passengers were injured, four of them seriously, after a speeding bus overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district on Wednesday, police said. The accident took place near Gurjar Dhaba under Jiyawan police station area, about 50 km from the district headquarters, in the morning, an official said.

Bribe

Jaipur: Two employees of the Water Supply Department were arrested for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.25 lakh in Rajasthan's Nagaur district on Wednesday, an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) spokesperson said. The victim had lodged a complaint with the bureau, alleging that the accused were demanding a bribe in lieu of completing his work.

Watery grave

Thane: A 15-year-old boy drowned in a stream in Thane's Diva area on Wednesday afternoon, an official said. The boy, identified as Kartik Naik, entered the stream in Saba village along with two others and drowned around 2:35pm, Avinash Sawant, chief of Thane civic body's Regional Disaster Management Cell said.

Tough

Nagpur: Former VHP chief Pravin Togadia on Wednesday said the BJP may find it tough to win the Assembly polls underway in Uttar Pradesh as farmers there are distressed and angry. The results of the seven-phase UP polls will be declared on March 10.

Weather
High 33 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 16,605.95
SENSEX 55,468.90

BULLION
GOLD 51,530
SILVER 67,150

Russia batters Ukraine

Both sides ready for more talks

Kyiv, Mar 02 (AP):

Russia renewed its assault on Wednesday on Ukraine's second-largest city in a pounding that lit up the skyline with balls of fire over populated areas, even as both sides said they were ready to resume talks aimed at stopping the new devastating war in Europe.

The escalation of attacks on crowded cities followed an initial round of talks between outgunned Ukraine and nuclear power Russia on Monday that resulted in only a promise to meet again.

It was not clear when new talks might take place or what they would yield. Ukraine's leader earlier said Russia must stop bombing before another meeting. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has decried Russia's bombardment as a blatant terror campaign, while US President Joe Biden warned on Tuesday that if the Russian leader didn't pay a price for the invasion, the aggression wouldn't stop with one country.

The bombardment continued Wednesday. Ukrainian UNIAN news agency quoted the health administration chief of the northern city of



Russian troops fired on the TV tower, near the Memorial complex in Kyiv.

Leave Kharkiv at once, Indian embassy urges Indians

In an urgent advisory, the India embassy in Ukraine on Wednesday asked all Indians stranded in Kharkiv to leave the conflict zone immediately. The embassy asked Indians to proceed to settlements in Pesochin, Babaye and Bezlyudovka as soon as possible. "For their safety and security, they must leave Kharkiv immediately repeat immediately in the light of the deteriorating situation. They should proceed to Pesochin, Babaye and Bezlyudovka as soon as possible for their safety," the embassy said.

NDRF sends relief material

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has sent relief material, including blankets and sleeping mats, to Ukraine facing an intense Russian military offensive. The move came following the government's decision to send humanitarian aid and medical supplies to Ukraine after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a high level meeting. The relief material was sent in two consignments - through a flight that left for Poland this morning and another on an Indian Air Force aircraft that left for Romania on Wednesday afternoon. The NDRF has provided relief materials, including blankets, sleeping mats, and solar study lamps among others, for the people of Ukraine, an official statement said.

Over 2k civilians dead

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has killed more than 2,000 Ukrainian civilians and destroyed hundreds of structures including transport facilities, hospitals, kindergartens and homes, Ukraine's emergency service said on Wednesday. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, meanwhile, said that if a third World War were to take place, it would involve nuclear weapons and be destructive. Lavrov has said that Russia, which launched what it calls a special military operation against Ukraine last week, would face a "real danger" if Kyiv acquired nuclear weapons.

Chernihiv as saying two cruise missiles hit a hospital there. The hospital's main building suffered damage, Serhiy Pivovarov said, and authorities were working to determine the casualty toll. No other information was immediately available. A Russian strike also hit the regional police and intelligence headquarters in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city with a population of about 1.5 million, killing four people and wounding several, the state emergency service of Ukraine said. It added that residential buildings were also hit, but did not provide further details.

Narrow escape for Kerala student in Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

It was a providential escape for 25-year-old medical student Assoiun Hussain who was just 50 metres away when his batchmate Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagoudar was killed in shelling in war-torn Ukraine's Kharkiv town.

A day later, Hussain's family in Kerala are thankful he escaped but also know that many perils lie ahead.

Assoiun along with others is on his way to western Ukraine from Kharkiv to escape the fierce Russian assault, his brother

er Afsal Hussain said. "Naveen's death came as a shocker. My mother, who was concerned and stressed, collapsed as the news broke out. She is now admitted at a hospital. It is testing times for us, who are thousands of kilometres away," he said.

The Russian attack began last week and heavy shelling has been reported from several areas of Ukraine, including capital Kyiv and Kharkiv.

"My brother had taken shelter in an underground metro rail station, which was 50 metres from the place Naveen died. He was his batchmate," Afsal

Hussain said as he and others in Kerala's Kannur city scan social media platforms for updates. Gyanagoudar, who hailed from Chalageri in Haveri district of Karnataka, was a fourth-year medical student like Assoiun Hussain at the Kharkiv National Medical University.

Several students, who are holed up in bunkers in Ukrainian cities, are unable to escape because of the continuous shelling, say parents, who have also flagged their concern over the Indian embassy's advisory asking students to reach Ukraine's borders for evacuation.

'Won't spare any effort to bring Indians home'

Sonbhadra, Mar 02 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India has been able to evacuate its citizens from war-hit Ukraine because of its rising power and assured the country that his government will leave no stone unturned for the safe return of all Indians stranded there.

Addressing election rallies in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra and Ghazipur districts, Modi spoke of the government's rescue efforts in the wake of the Russian military offensive against Ukraine and also underlined the need for India to become self-reliant.



"The dynasts question our vaccine, they question our armed forces and make fun of 'Make in India'. Such people have shamed the country and its people. They can't make India strong," he said.

Asserting that the country has made it a priority to rescue all Indians stuck in Ukraine, Modi said, "It is due to India's rising

strength that we are able to bring back stranded Indians from Ukraine. Operation Ganga has been launched and I have sent four ministers to oversee the evacuation. "Our army and air force have also been deployed to rescue Indians in distress faster. Today I also assure the people of the country that the Government of India will leave no stone unturned for the safe return of its citizens." Modi also targeted his rivals, accusing them of ignoring the problems of the poor when in power.

Sonbhadra and Ghazipur will go to the polls in the last phase on March 7.

SENSEX SHOWS RED

Investors' wealth tumbles Rs 86,742 cr as stocks plunge

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 86,741.74 crore on Wednesday, mirroring weakness in the global equity markets amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

The BSE benchmark Sensex slumped 1,227.18 points to 55,020.10 during the day in line with a global selloff. It finally settled at 55,468.90, lower by 778.38 points or 1.38 per cent.

Surging crude prices

and foreign capital outflows also weighed on investor sentiment. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies tanked Rs 86,741.74 crore to reach Rs 2,51,52,303.35 crore in tandem with the massive selloff. Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, falling 6 per cent, followed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement. "Indian markets had to

face a double whammy situation today where geopolitical tension is a major headwind while a sharp surge in crude oil prices is a key risk for the Indian market because Brent Crude has crossed the USD 110 mark. "If we look at the headline indices then the market was looking very weak but there was some buying in the broader market from lower levels," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

COVID CURBS EASED

Cinema halls, restaurants allowed to function at 100 % capacity

In 14 districts including Mumbai

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

Easing pandemic-related restrictions, the Maharashtra government on Wednesday allowed shopping complexes, restaurants, cinema halls and theaters to operate at 100 per cent capacity in 14 out of 36 districts in the state, including Mumbai.

These 14 districts are: Mumbai city, Mumbai suburban dis-

trict, Pune, Bhandara, Sindhudurg, Nagpur, Raigad, Wardha, Ratnagiri, Satara, Sangli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Kolhapur.

A government notification said that in these districts 90 per cent of the eligible population has taken at least one dose of anti-coronavirus vaccines, and over 70 per cent people are fully vaccinated.

The positivity rate in these areas is less than 10 per cent and occupancy of oxygen-supported or ICU beds is less than 40 per cent.

JSPL, Balco, others put in 26 bids for 11 coal mines

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD)

JSW Steel, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd and Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd were among the 21 firms that put in bids in the latest auction of coal mines, the government said on Wednesday.

In all, 26 bids were received for the auction of coal mines under the fourth tranche of sale of coal, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Five of the 11 coal mines put on auction received single bids.

'Policy to promote private sector R&D in railways'

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Indian Railways will come up with a policy in the next 7-8 days to make private-sector research and development a major part of the railway budget with 90 per cent allocation in the future, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Wednesday.

While speaking in the concluding session of a post-Budget webinar on technology-enabled development, the railway minister said the defence and space sector has already broken the silos



Ashwini Vaishnav

by opening up research and development (R&D) for the private sector and the same needs to be done in other sectors as well. "We are starting something in the Railways soon. In another 7-8 days, we will launch a new

policy where private sector R&D would become an integral part or rather major part of railways R&D budget. "We do hope that going forward, probably 90 per cent of railways R&D budget would be in the private sector compared with 100 per cent in the public sector at present," Vaishnav said.

Vaishnav, who also handles the telecom and IT ministry, appreciated industry suggestions on the spectrum management and called for action from the industry to push domestic manufacturing of technology products.

"Thought process on the use of spectrum is changing. For a long period, spectrum was viewed as a revenue-generating resource. The last two years have shown a public good element of the spectrum.

"I am happy to observe that there is a broad consensus on spectrum management issues which are basically leading to the public or to technology improvement or technology development. This we now need to convert in clear policy statements which can be then implemented," he said.

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Photo exhibition organised in Kapsada and Selud



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Photo exhibitions are being organized regularly by the Public Relations Department for the promotion of important schemes of the government. In this sequence, a camp was organized in Selud and Kapsada. Information about

government schemes was given in detail through the camps. Villagers in Selud attended the camp in large numbers and got information about government schemes. A villager, Mahesh Yadav, who visited the exhibition, said that he got information about various schemes in the camp.

Along with this, he also got the "Janman" magazine which has a detailed description of the government activities. A lot of work has been done by the Chhattisgarh government for rural development.

A beautiful glimpse of all these activities has been shown in the exhibition. Shakuntala, a villager from Kapsada, stated that the villagers are getting the benefit of all the schemes of Chhattisgarh government. A youth, Vijay, said that he got a lot of useful material about departmental schemes.

He appreciated the efforts of the Public Relations Department and added that he was preparing for competitive exams and hence the exhibition was very useful for him.

Vidyanjali 2.0 commences; Collector appeals support from community and private sector

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: School education will be strengthened through community participation in the district. In government schools, individual level or voluntary organizations can come forward and work for improving the infrastructure, increasing the quality of education and innovation. This will be possible through Vidyanjali 2.0 programme, said Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure during the review meeting of Vidyanjali 2.0 programme.

This programme is to be run with the participation of the community and private sector interested in the field of education. Collector said that it is necessary to lay a solid foundation of education to strengthen the coming generation. This is a very im-



portant programme and community participation will empower the education system. Institutions can help in building infrastructure in schools. For example, if an organization wants good books to be in the school library, then such books can be made available to the schools.

If there is a need for the availability of furniture in a school, any institution can provide the furniture. It can be done on an individual level as well. Those who have academic aptitude and ability to teach the children, they can help the students who are weak in

studies.

Collector further said that he has seen that often the retired teachers, who have taught children with interest throughout their life, are full of energy and want to give some of their time to the students in future also. Such people can also avail their service free of cost.

During the meeting, DEO Abhay Jaiswal urged the representatives of institutions and industry to come forward and participate in Vidyanjali programme. People can play an important part in the development of the country

by improving the level of education. Investment in the education sector is significant for the better future of the coming generation.

Schools need regular maintenance. Interested institutions may oversee the maintenance of certain schools. The required facilities can be arranged. Sometimes weak children need separate tuition; accordingly arrangements can be made for them. Vocational education, which strengthens the children as a skill for the future, can also be arranged.

If some organization

wants, it can also take responsibility for the nutrition of the children. This means providing nutritious eatables for children. Nutritious food will strengthen the physical development of children and will ensure their faster mental development.

Another sphere of activity can be the cultural development of the children. For example, children can be given information about theatre. They can be taught to act so that the holistic development of the children takes place. Storytelling can be taught to children through graphics creation. Puppet shows etc can also be done. Sports material may also be provided.

It was clarified in the meeting that whatever contribution will be made by the institutions will not be in the form of monetary assistance. They can provide materials, equipment etc.

Invest your capital with diligence: DLSA

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Under the aegis of State Legal Services Authority Bilaspur and under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (President, District Legal Services Authority Durg), a series of legal awareness camps are being organised for bringing awareness among investors.

While addressing a legal awareness camp, Rahul Sharma (Secretary, District Legal Services Authority) said that in the last few years, many cases related to chit fund companies have come to the fore. People invest in these companies for getting higher returns in a short period but most of such companies vanish after accepting investments.

In most of the cases, directors of these companies have escaped after shutting

down their offices. According to the Chit Fund Act, 1982, a chit fund scheme means any person or group of people entering into an agreement together. In this agreement, a fixed amount or something is deposited in installments for a fixed time period and after that it should be auctioned. Whatever profit is earned, should be distributed among the investors.

According to the rules, this scheme can be run between mutual relatives or friends through any institution or person, but now instead of chit funds, collective public deposits or collective investment schemes are being run.

Rahul Sharma said before investing, people should acquire complete information about the chit fund company. The government has given some guidelines regarding chit fund. Whenever you want to invest money in a chit fund



company, first of all check whether the company is registered with the registrar of that state or not as well as check the SEBI warning. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority have also been issuing warnings for investors.

Chit fund companies convert this work into Multi Level Marketing (MLM). In multi-level marketing, companies lure the people for investment on promise of bigger profits. They also ask to make

only be done by the respective state governments. The Chit Registrar is appointed by the government under section 61 of the Chit Fund Act 1982. The registrar and the state government have the right to take action and determine justice in chit fund cases.

Satyam computer scam came to light in 2009 and Saradha scam in 2013. These scams were not of crores but of thousands of crores. In the Saradha scam, investors were lured to invest on assurance of 34 times profit. This group had opened its branches in about three hundred cities of many states. A similar scam came to the fore in the name of Rose Valley In such a situation, it is necessary for people to be aware and should not invest their capital in any chit fund companies without studying the offer and the company properly.

Chit funds in India are regulated by the Chit Fund Act 1982. Under this law, the registration and regulation of chit fund business

other people invest in the same. Their agents in the market lure the people on promise of double or triple profits within months or days. In the desire to become rich in a short time, people invest their hard earned money in chit fund companies. Chit funds have been a major source of funding for small businesses and poor people for the last many years.

Chit funds in India are regulated by the Chit Fund Act 1982. Under this law, the registration and regulation of chit fund business

Science Exhibition organised at Rawatpura Sarkar International School

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: On the occasion of "National Science Day" on February 28, Shri Rawatpura Sarkar International School, Kumhari organised a science exhibition in the school campus. In this exhibition the students displayed their innovative ideas in the projects.

The theme of the exhibition was 'Innovative Mind Project'. The aim of the exhibition was to focus the students towards innovation at its best.

The exhibition started with lighting of the lamp and presentation by the students on Raman Effect. Director of Kumhari Complex MK Srivastava, Principal Arati Mishra and all the parents were present in this program.

In the same exhibition, the students were motivated to discover more new



things and also prizes were distributed to all the participating students and wished them a bright future. Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Lok kalyan Trust's

Vice-Chairman Dr JK Upadhyay congratulated all the academic and non-academic staff of the institute for this successful program.

Raipur Blue wins Chief Minister Plate Group Inter District Cricket tournament



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Raipur Blue became the winner of the Chief Minister Plate Group Inter District Cricket Tournament on the basis of a lead of 36 runs in the first innings at the final match played in

RDCA Raipur. The three day match began on February 28 where Raipur Blue won the toss and decided to field first. In the first innings Mahasamund scored 416 runs and were all out. In reply the Raipur Blue scored 452 runs and

were all out. Kivnoor Chhabra scored 191 runs while Utkarsh Tiwary scored 52 runs, and Varun Singh was not out at a score of 35 runs. Bowling for Mahasamund, Sudhanshu took 5 wickets, Jaideep and Prashant took two wickets each.

Social unity representatives' convention held on Saint Ravidas Jayanti

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Chhattisgarh State level Saint Ravidas Samaj organised social unity representatives' convention on the occasion of Saint Ravidas Jayanti at Federation Bhawan Sector 4. This unique event was organised to establish unity among the people of different provinces who believe in Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas.

Kishore Kannauje (Meher Samaj), Balaram Kolte (Ravidas Samaj Chhattisgarh), Dashrath Ahirwar (Ahrwar Samaj), Vinod Wasnik (Buddhist Samaj) and Bhagirathi Das were the organisers of this programme. Federation Chairman Sunil Ramteke was the coordinator of this event.

Dilip Wasnikar (Departmental Inquiry Commissioner, CG Govt) graced the function as Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present on the dais were Sarang Humane, Krishna Kumar Raikar (Bilaspur), Anil Khobragade (Dalli Rajhara),



Rupesh Rohidas (Masturi), Dr Manik Khare, Kanhaiya Choudhary, Dinesh Barve (Kawardha), Dr Rajendra, Jaimala Mandraha (Raipur), BSP General Manager Bintosh Bala, former General Manager PP Verma and Pramod Gajjal.

The speakers emphasised on making sustained efforts and organise district level meetings for ensuring success of the proposed Saint Ravidas Mahasammelan, which is going to be organised in

the coming months. They demanded from the state government to provide proper representation to the Samaj members. They strongly reacted for not declaring public holiday on Saint Ravidas Jayanti. It was decided that a delegation will soon meet the Chief Minister and the Governor and handover the charter of demands. They will be approached about the upcoming Mahasammelan and the dignitaries of other states who are

going to attend the programme. Anand Ramteke (Samata Sainik Dal) and Anil Gajbhiye (Panther Sena) and Ajay Meshram convened the programme. Chief guest Dilip Wasnikar urged all to imbibe the teachings of Guru Ravidas and follow the path shown by him. Kishor Kannauje presided over the programme.

Praveen Ahirwar (Dalli Rajhara), Nehru Raj (Chirmiri), Roshan Nagdaune, Devendra

Motghare, Urvarshi Palekar, Santoshi Khare, Kumari Khare (Bilaspur), Ramkhillavan Lanjhekar, Subhash Baghel, Vijay, Munna Lal Lanjhi, Shatrughan Harile (Kawardha), Suresh Sonwani, Chaitanya Meher, Nilesh Ugre (Janjgir-Champa), Yuvraj Lahiri, Dr CR Rave, Rakesh Mehar, Manoj Lahiri, (Raipur), RK Adre, Pushpendra Kumar Gajendra, Kaliram, Ravindra Ramteke, Karan Lal Adil (Rajnadgaon), Krishna Murari, Dinanath, Shivkumar Pathak, Vijay Kashyap, Ramkeval Prasad, GR Ahirwar, Narendra Raidas, Beniram Raote, Sunil Nigam, Ramchandra Behera, Rakesh, Roshan, KM Rao, DR Chaudra, Narendra Bavaria, BR Choure, RS Chauhan, Rajat Choure, Gautam Khobragade, Advocate Anil Kamle, Arvind Ramteke and others were present. Anil Gajbhiye conducted the programme while Balaram Kolte proposed the vote of thanks.

Bhilai Steel Plant records Best Ever February Performances

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 02: Several departments of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant including RMP 3, Blast Furnaces, Steel Melting Shop 3, Universal Rail Mill, etc have recorded best ever February month performances, breaking their previous February month records.

SAIL-BSP's RMP-3 has recorded the ever best monthly production of 37381 T in February 2022 surpassing previous best of 37358 T in January 2022. RMP 3 has created a record of the best daily production of 1508 T on February 28, 2022, surpassing the previous daily production of 1452 T on March 24, 2021. RMP-3 has already surpassed the best yearly production of 3.02 Lakh



tonne (FY 20-21) in January 2022. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Blast Furnaces have created several new records in the month of February 2022. Blast Furnaces have recorded ever best Monthly CDI rate of 105 kilogram per tonne of hot metal (kg/THM) in February 2022, as



against previous best of 101 kg/THM in November 2021. BF # 4 has recorded ever best monthly CDI rate of 100 kg/THM in February 2022 as against previous best of 76 kg/THM in the month of February 2013. Blast Furnace # 4 recorded Best ever Coke rate of 456 kilogram per



tonne of hot metal (kg/THM) in February 2022 as against previous best of 459 kg/THM in February 2013. BF # 4 has recorded ever best February month CDI rate of 124 kg/THM in February 2022 as against previous best of 93 kg/THM in the month of February 2021. Modex



Unit SMS-3 has created several new monthly production records in February 2022, with ever best February production of 2,42,158 T, surpassing the Annual Business Plan target of 2,42,000 T crude steel, 52.4 ever best average blows per day, 65 ever best daily blows on February 15,



2022, ever best RH Vessel life of 150 heats on February 22, 2022, day best TCS Production of 10761 T on February 17, 2022, 12 ever best blows from single Converter in a shift (BOF C, on February 23, 2022 during C Shift, 22 highest blows from 2 Converters on February 23, 2022,

during C shift and Longest sequences in all three Casters of CK1(95), CK2(144), CV1(175).

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) created a new monthly record in February 2022 with daily average prime rail production of 2082 T surpassing previous best of 2070 T in August 2021. It also clocked Prime Acceptance of 93% surpassing previous best of 92.2% in August 2021.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge, Bhilai Steel Plant and Anjali Kumar, Executive Director (Works) congratulated the Steel collective for the milestone achievements and also conveyed their best wishes to the associated departments.

OBITUARY

Geeta Devi Jha



Bhilai: Surya Vihar resident Geeta Devi Jha, wife of Maithil Singh founder member Ram Nareish Jha left for heavenly abode at the age of 82 years on Tuesday. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence on March 02 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of industrialist Anil Jha (Kunwar Ji) and Educationist Vibha Jha; mother-in-law of Nutan Jha and grandmother of Neeraj Kumar Jha and Dheeraj Kumar Jha.

Safety of workers is important in industries: Dr. Dahria

Raipur, Mar 02:

In the chief hospitality of State Labour Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahria, for the first time, a seminar on state level industrial health, safety and hygiene was organised in a private hotel in Raipur. In the seminar, Secretary-cum-Labour Commissioner Mr. Amrit Kamar Khalkho along with international expert Dr. H.L. Kayla (B.B.S.), Dr. S. Bakhtiyar Chaudhary (OHS) and Chhattisgarh hygienist Dr. A.K. Verma was present. On this occasion, Labour Minister Dr. Dahria instructed the occupiers, factory owners, doctors, safety officers and other representatives from different areas of the state level to work in the field of health, safety and hygiene in factories according to the law. He praised the departments for effective implementation of the programs related to the promotion of the workers being run by the government. On this occasion, he supported the work done by Industrial Health and Safety, Hygiene Lab,



ment. On this occasion, Labour Minister Dr. Dahria instructed the occupiers, factory owners, doctors, safety officers and representatives from different areas of the state to work in the field of health, safety and hygiene in factories according to the law. He praised the departments for effective implementation of the programs related to the promotion of the workers being run by the government. On this occasion, he supported the work done by Industrial Health and Safety, Hygiene Lab,

Raipur. Secretary Khalkho informed about the effective measures to avoid the accident. Apart from the presentation of expert speaker in the program, in which there was a panel discussion on the topic of establishment and prospects of industries in the state of Chhattisgarh in which Pradeep Tandon, (President), JSPL Raipur, Sunil Ramdas Agrawal (M.D.), S.K.A. Ispat & Power Pvt. Ltd. Raipur, P. Das (E.D.), NISP Jagdalpur, Vivek Agarwal (COO), Godavari Power & Ispat Pvt. Raipur was pres-

ent. Additional Labour Commissioner Mrs. Savita Mishra was present as a moderator. Apart from this, the second panel was organized on the topic related to health, safety and work environment of the workers working in the diction factories in which retired Deputy Director M.K. Agarwal, retired Deputy Director Avinash Gunjal, Deputy Director Anthony Tirkey and Deputy Director, K.K. Dwivedi participated. IOTL to share safety culture experience in factories Ranjit Bhaskar from Balco, Shivkumar from Balco and NTPC, P. Ram Prasad was present on the occasion. Retired officer M.K. Agarwal and Mr. Avinash Gunja were given Life Time Achievement Award. Apart from this, J.K. Cement, NTPC, Ultratech, Sharda, JSPL, were rewarded for their contribution in the field of hygiene and safety.

CGBSE Board exam gets underway in off-line mode

Officials inspect exam centres

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Nearly 6000 students from Raipur District appeared in the Class XII examination conducted by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) here on Wednesday in off-line mode after the Covid 19 ease down. Joint Secretary Education and Director State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Rajesh Rana inspected the examination at JN Pandey and PG Umathe School here to check the Covid 19 protocol is being followed at the schools. According to the information received, the students were allowed to enter at the examination centers after going through the Thermal Scanning and Sanitizer before reaching the Hall



for the exams. Instructions were also given to follow Social Distancing during the exams. While the Hindi Language paper was comparatively easy for the students but the pressure was on them due to the off-line exam as they had completed the syllabus on-line during the entire academic session. After successfully conducting the Class XII exam on Wednesday, the students of Class X would be given their exam off-line after nearly two years of academic session.

Police seizes 6 'Hookahs' from a private hotel

In a raid conducted during night



In-between a team was deputed to conduct thorough search and it was here the police got tip from an informer that 'Hookah Bar' is being operated in city's Rallis Hotel.

After this the 'Cheeta Squad' of the Police along with combined team from Kotawli and Basantpur thana raided the Hotel Rallis late at night and during this they seized six 'Hookahs' and other items required for using it.

and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) against the hotel owner.

Some of the hotels in Rajnandgaon city are operating 'Hookah' bars illegally in the city and the police was getting information about the same.

After this a case under COTPA was filed against the Hotel Owner and Director. In this case SP City (IPS) Gaurav Rai informed that this action was taken as per tip from an informer and under 'Nijat' campaign

Purandeswari to chalk out strategy with MPs and MLAs against Congress Govt

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh D Purandeswari will be on two-day visit to Chhattisgarh from March 5. During her visit, she would be holding meeting with the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) to chalk out strategy to strengthen the Organization as well as to review the implementation of the tasks given to the party office-bearers during the last few months.

While the Chhattisgarh BJP leaders have been raising several issues against the ruling Congress government during the last few months, they have report-

edly failed to create headache to the opposition. Party sources said that the central leaders would give task to the MLAs to gherao the ruling Congress on key issues during the forthcoming Budget session of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Discussion on the above issue would be held during the proposed meeting with her whereas the MPs too would be asked to corner the state government over central issues. Apart from D Purandeswari, the BJP Secretary in-charge of party affairs Nitin Nabin too would be interacting with the party leaders. It is notable that Nabin had recently held series of meetings in Sarguja region to mobilize the party rank and file against the state government.

HC dismisses NIA's appeal against trial court's order on second FIR

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging a trial court's order on a second FIR filed in connection with the 2013 Jheeram valley naxal attack.

A division bench of Justices RCS Samant and Arvind Singh Chandel had reserved its order on the NIA's plea on February 2, said Additional Advocate General Sunil Otwani who represented the state government.

On May 25, 2013, naxals attacked a convoy of Congress leaders in Jheeram valley in Darbha area of the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, killing 29 people including then state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel. The Bastar police registered a First Information

Report at Darbha police station and subsequently the NIA took over the probe. After completing its investigations, the central agency filed a charge-sheet and the trial is underway before a special court for NIA cases.

But on May 26, 2020, after Congress came to power in the state, another FIR was registered under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) at Darbha police station. Complainant Jitendra Mudliyar, a Congress leader, demanded that conspiracy aspect of the attack be probed separately.

Mudliyar's father and Congress leader Uday Mudliyar was among those killed in the 2013 massacre.

The NIA moved the special court at Jagdalpur (where trial is going on), seeking to restrain Bastar Police from investigating the fresh FIR. It

also wanted the police to hand over all the documents pertaining to the second FIR to itself.

But the special court rejected the NIA's application in August 2020, following which the agency approached the HC.

During the hearing in the HC, NIA's lawyers Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee and Assistant Solicitor General Ramakant Mishra argued that the trial court's order was against the provisions of the NIA Act 2008.

Section 6(6) of the NIA Act bars a state government from making further investigation in a case which has been transferred to the central agency, they argued.

But the Chhattisgarh government argued that the new FIR was totally different and outside the ambit of the NIA Act.

RALLY



NSS workers took out rally in support of various issues related to sanitation and awareness among youths as part of 7-day NSS camp being organized in Pt. RSU.

Dr Namita delivers lecture on 'Integrating Psychology and Economics'

Raipur, Mar 02: As part of Intersections, a monthly lecture series, the Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Bhilai hosted Dr. Namita Ruparel (Guest Faculty WILP Division, BITS Pilani) to present a lecture on "Integrating Psychology and Economics: On Works of Richard Thaler". Focusing on the works of Richard Thaler in Behavioral Economics, Dr. Namita Ruparel discussed how Behavioral Economics incorporates insights of human psychology into the models of economic behavior and helps us understand why some models fail to make the correct predictions. The audience was



In IIT Bhilai

asked to pick choices from given options to demonstrate the "framing effect", and how it impacts the decision-making of humans. She continued analyzing the concerns of systematic departures from rational choice and elaborated on five biases of human behavior responsible for the incorrect predictions of

economic models along with the concepts of Bounded Rationality and Mental Accounting.

Exploring the importance of the rational choice model, the speaker sought evidence from Psychology and Behavioral Economics that put emphasis on testing economic models with real data, enabling them to understand the biases of human behavior and move towards rationality through experimental economics. The speaker concluded her lecture taking insights from the awareness of irrational behavior and rational motivations behind the popularity of the discipline of Behavioral Economics.

Governor prayed for happiness and prosperity of people on Mahashivratri



Raipur, Mar 02: On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, Governor Ms. Anusuya Uikey prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the state by worshipping and performing religious rituals of Lord Shiva at the Raj Bhavan. Ms. Anusuya Uikey has said that on this holy occasion of Mahashivratri, people worship

Lord Mahadev with reverence, devotion and full gaiety. Mahashivratri has a special significance in Indian culture. Governor Ms. Uikey greeted the people of the state on the occasion of Mahashivratri and said that everyone should celebrate the festival of Mahashivratri with mutual affection and harmony.

Cong govt failed to play effective role: BJP

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 02: Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged that the ruling Congress government here has failed to play effective role to ensure safe return of the students studying in war-hit Ukraine. Addressing a press conference at party office here, the BJP leader and in-charge of the Committee Rajiv Agrawal and Preetesh Gandhi said that nearly 200 students from Chhattisgarh are among those stuck in Ukraine. However, no concrete steps have been taken by the Congress government to ensure the students safely return back to



Chhattisgarh. Instead of taking responsible steps, the Congress here is resorting to politics over the return of students back to Chhattisgarh. They said that 207 students including 40 from Durg and 26 from Raipur are among those who were studying in Ukraine but have been caught in war. They said

that while the Centre has taken all possible steps for the safety of the students, the Congress has not taken effective steps to solve the problems of the students.

Raipur City BJP President Shrichand Sundrani was also present during the press conference.

39 students of Chhattisgarh return safely from Ukraine

Food, accommodation and vehicle facilities provided to these students as per the instructions of CM

Raipur, Mar 02:

In the view of crisis in Ukraine, a help center has been set up in New Delhi as per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to provide assistance to the citizens of Chhattisgarh.

According to the information received from this center, 39 students of Chhattisgarh have safely returned from February 27 to March 2 till 5 pm. These students were pro-

vided with the facilities of vehicles, accommodation, and food on the instructions of the Chief Minister.

Besides, all the necessary arrangements including air tickets have been made to get students back to their hometown.

According to the information received from Sanjay Awasthi, Joint Resident Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Bhawan, New Delhi, continuous efforts have been made from February 22, 2022 to stay in contact over phone call with 134 students of Chhattisgarh stranded in Ukraine and their families.

Inter-Department Cricket Tournery gets underway

DRM CUP 2022

Raipur, Mar 02: Under the aegis SECRSA Raipur inter-department cricket tournament DRM CUP 2022 was inaugurated on Wednesday by DRM

Raipur Shyam Sunder Gupta at SECRSA Cricket Stadium WRS Colony here. A total of 18 teams are participating in this tournament and in the first phase all the teams have been divided into 6 pools and matched will be played on league basis. Later Super Six winning teams will play league match among themselves to occupy semifinal berth. The teams losing in the semifinal will play for



the third place. The tournament will continue till March 13 and on March 09 a match will be played between the women employees on the occasion of International Women's Day. The three

matches were played on the first day, DLS won the match against Electric TRD. DRZ defeated Personnel in the second match and Control defeated Electric General in the third match.

'Himmat campaign' started to teach self-defense to girl students

Raipur, Mar 02:

As per the instructions of Inspector General of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav, 'Himmat campaign' was started in Surguja district to teach self-defense to school and college students. The campaign was launched at Rajmohini Devi Government Girls College here on Monday in the presence of Collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha and Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble. Himmat campaign is an innovative initiative of Surguja Police in which students will be taught physical tricks of self defense through combat.

Addressing the program, Collector Mr. Jha said that this 10-day program will increase the confidence of the girl stu-



dents and their families will also feel good. This program will be different from the routine work of school colleges. This will not only increase the courage of the students but also of the family members. School and college not only develop your intellect, but if you have strength, you can protect your honour and respect.

He said that whenever there is any threat to honour and respect, then by using this skill that danger can be avoided. Make

yourself capable enough to protect you. Take better training from the initial batch of 'Himmat campaign' so that you can become a source of inspiration for the next batch. Be the master trainer among you in the next batch. With the courage of you people, this campaign will be successful. Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble said that the innovation 'Himmat campaign' has been started by Surguja Police. Self defense will be

taught to the girl students by a specially trained team. With this, the girl students will become so skillful that wherever they live, they will be able to protect themselves without any help. Throwing light on the increasing cyber crime, he said that if anyone puts any kind of objectionable content related to you on any social media platform, then inform the police immediately. Along with this, there are calls of lucrative offers from many companies who ask for bank related information. Municipal Commissioner Vijay Dayaram K, Additional Superintendent of Police Vivek Shukla, Principal Dr. Jyoti Sinha and other officers and a large number of students were present in the program.

Webinar on work being done by 'Bihan' held

Raipur, Mar 02:

Under Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan), a state level online seminar was organised on the subject of food, nutrition, health and sanitation for the self-help groups of rural women, village organizations, cluster level organizations and field staff in the state. It was organized under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The success stories of the work being done by the community cadres for food, nutrition, health and sanitation in Bastar, Rajnandgaon, Kanker and Gariaband districts were presented in the symposium. On this occasion, the participants shared their experiences of bringing malnourished adolescent girls, pregnant women and infants from malnutrition to undernutrition through communi-

For food, nutrition, health and cleanliness



ty efforts. They also shared with each other the experiences of positive behaviour change coming in the field of food, nutrition, health and sanitation in rural areas. Addressing the symposium as the keynote speaker, Ms. Alice Manisha Lakra, Chief Operating Officer, Bihaan, said that community organizations and cadres are

doing commendable work to bring about positive changes in food, nutrition, health and sanitation. While encouraging these organizations, he laid special emphasis on connecting Panchayati Raj institutions with their work. Job Zakaria, Chief of Field Officer, UNICEF, a technical partner organization of 'Bihan', in his re-

marks laid special emphasis on positive behavior change related to food, nutrition, health and hygiene. In the symposium, UNICEF's nutrition officer, Mr. Mahendra Prajapati, informed about the work being done by the joint efforts of 'BIHAN' and 'UNICEF' on the subject of food, nutrition, health and sanitation.

Adivasi Congress protests open crime incidents in capital

Raipur, Mar 02:

Adivasi Congress District President Bhavani Singh Markam expressed strong displeasure over recent attack on Congress leader Dhananjay Mishra and added that anti-social elements are now procuring knife by ordering it online. He demanded immediate curb on this practice and also ban on sale of psychotropic drugs which is polluting the atmosphere of capital. In this connection Bhavani Singh Markam submitted a memorandum to DSP Anjali Gupta demanding door-to-door patrolling by the police on the streets to



drive away fear from the minds of people. The prominent among those present during submission

of memorandum include Yashwant Dhruv, Murl Manohar Markam, Nikhil Dewangan and others.

More than 12.41 lakh citizens get benefit of various services

Raipur, Mar 02: More than 15 thousand applications related to public services are being received every month for the last six months at the public service centers set up under the Public Service Guarantee Act in Raipur (BNS) e-district project. Additional Collector BB Panchbhair informed that more than 100 services of various departments are being provided in the district within the stipulated time frame. For the availability of public utility services to the citizens, 23 public service centers and more than 400 centers have been established in the district. Help desks have also been set up for smooth operation of e-dis-

trict portal. He said that more than 12 lakh 41 thousand 475 citizens have been benefited from various services since the beginning of the Public Service Center in the year 2015. He said that during COVID situation after April-2020, the service of online marriage permission was started in a very short time in which 27 thousand 868 citizens were granted permission for marriage. At present, public utility services have been started for temporary fire licence, permanent fire licence, NOC for petrol pump, cinema license under Cinematography Act, NOC for setting up petrol pump, sale of explosives etc.

Competition to be organized for national voter awareness

Raipur, Mar 02:

The Joint Collector and Deputy District Returning Officer informed that a national voter awareness competition will be organized under the title "My Vote is My Future - Power of One Vote" proposed by the Election Commission of India, New Delhi. Instructions have been given to prepare an action plan at the college level to encourage young voters to participate in the competition. Meetings with the principals will be organized towards this end and their suggestions will be

invited to ensure the participation of students. Implementation should be done in time period at college level. Similarly, the District Education Officer has been directed to take necessary action for the competition among school students to ensure the participation of prospective voters. Necessary guidelines have been given to the officers-employees working in the major banks and post offices established in the district to participate in the competition and display posters and other publicity material at the

bank premises and ATM complexes. Posters related to the competition should be pasted in the major markets, malls, government offices, district hospitals, primary health centers established in rural and urban areas, in all gram panchayat buildings and public distribution centers (fair price shops) etc. Similarly, publicity material posters should be shared in various WhatsApp groups maintained by BLOs and other election officials as well as members of NSS, NYKS, NCC should be included.

Car hits a tree, six dies on the spot



Pithora, Mar 02: A total of six persons from Gram Rasoda were on way to Odisha to attend a marriage function and before that they all showed interest to visit Patora dam and it was something else in store for them. On returning from Patora dam, their car met with an accident and in this all six in the car from the same village died.

As per information in this regard from village head, Pradeep Malik of Gram Rasoda was driving his car bearing No. CG 06 GF 2753 and all other five. All six went to Patora Dam and while returning, the vehicle turned unbalanced near Madossili College of Gram Chunchunia and hit a tree.

They were on way to Gram Chindaykela of Odisha. The impact of the collision was so high that all six in the car died on the spot and vehicle was also badly damaged. The Odisha Police started inquiry and sent bodies for post-mortem and handed it over to the family members.

Among the deceased included Pradeep Malik (50); wife Bansanti Malik (45); Shatrughan Pradhan (70); Jagdish Sahu (40); son Manas Sahu (13); Shubh Nath Bhoi (52). This news spread like a wildfire and left all in the village in deep sorrow. The deceased had been active member of BJP and was sad news for all partymen as well.

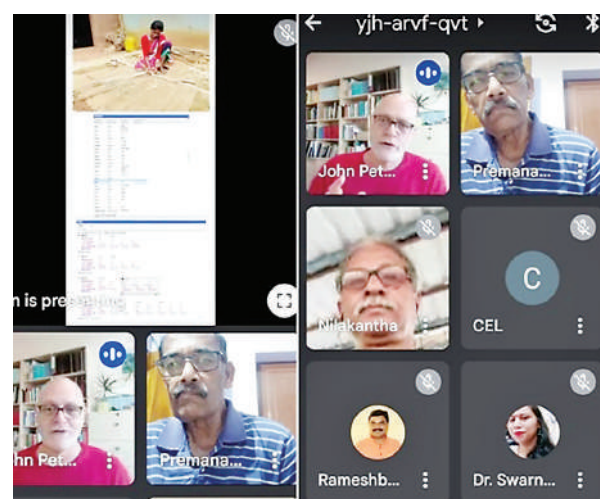
Int'l dialogue series on 'Protection of Endangered Languages in India' organized

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

Professor John Petersen, Professor of German Linguistics, Department of German Linguistics, Kiel University, was invited as a distinguished speaker in the International Dialogue Series on 'Protection of Endangered Languages ??in India' organized by the Center for Endangered Languages ??of Guru Ghasidas University in February.

Professor Peterson, in his speech, while discussing in detail about the method of conservation of endangered languages, gave a detailed presentation of the documentation work done on the Turi languages ??spoken in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal, which are now on the verge of extinction.

The Presidential address was given by the Vice-Chancellor of the University,



Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The Patron of the program was Prof. Shailendra Kumar, Registrar (incharge) of the University and Prof. LVKS Bhaskar, Dean of School Of Studies in Life Sciences and Co-Patron Rabivus and Vajjikpam. Convener of the program Dr. Neelkanth

Panigrahi, Convener of Endangered Language Center and Head of Department of Anthropology and Tribal Development was also present.

The organizing secretary and co-organizing secretary of the program were Shri Arun Kumar Pandey of

Endangered Language Center and Dr. Swarnalata Sinha. Four distinguished speakers were invited in this international dialogue series, which were Dr. Rabindranath Sharma, Department of Tribal Studies, Jharkhand Central University, Ranchi as the first speaker on February 10; Professor Prasannashu of English Department of National Law University was the second speaker on 15 February; Dr. Prasannashu (February 15) Dr. Netra Paudyal of Humboldt Foundation was the third speaker on 21 February, and Professor John Peterson was the last speaker of this International Dialogue Series. Teachers, research scholars and students from various universities of the country and abroad participated in the programme. At the end of the program, vote of thanks was given by research scholar, Kritika Mishra.

Three accused arrested in theft case

Had stolen cash and set the house on fire

Dongargarh, Mar 02: Three accused involved in theft and later setting it on fire were arrested by Dongargarh police and sent to sub-jail in Dongargarh. The accused Aryan Dakaha So Amit (20), R/o Indira Nagar, Aakash alias Lalla Laure, R/o near Siddhi Mazar, Indira Nagar and Upendra Karse So Harilal Karse (30), R/o Petra were arrested by the police.

As per information in this regard, the complainant Janrail Singh Kakkad R/o Budhwai Para lodged a complaint on Dec 2 that some unknown persons have stolen goods from his house in front of Durga Mandir, in Khandupara, station road and later set it on fire as well. It was as per instructions from senior police officers that inspector Shiv Chanda (TI) got tip from an informer that the



above three accused have entered the house of Kakkad and conducted theft and set it on fire. The suspects Aryan and other two were brought to thana for interrogation and the three accepted to have conducted theft in the house on Dec 2 and had stolen Rs 2000 kept in the almirah and distributed among all three. The accused were arrested on Feb 28 and produced in the court and later sent to sub-jail in Dongargarh. In the above action ASI Tularam Bank, Head constable Mahadev Sahu, Parmeshwar Yadav, AP Sila, Vir Bahadur, Rajendra Navik, Gajendra Bharadwaj played significant role.

Two arrested with 1 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs

Cash of Rs 5 lakhs and mobile and motorcycle Hornet worth lakhs also recovered

Lawan, Mar 02:

The Lavan police got a major breakthrough in arrested two 'Ganja' smugglers with 'Ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs and Rs 5 lakh in cash, mobile and motorcycle. This action by Lavan police has created sensation among those involved in such illegal activities and drug business and the two after being produced in the court were sent to jail.

Check-post Lavan in-Charge BK Som informed that SK Sahu S/o ML Sahu (29), R/o Ward No. 4, Shubham Sahu S/o Bhagwat Sahu (21), R/o ward No. 14 Lavan were going in their motorcycle bearing No. CG 22 R 7522 to Bagbuda from Lavan to sell 'Ganja'.

It was on tip from an informer that policemen



were keeping an eye near Patel auto parts on Bagbuda road in Lavan and when they found two persons on Hornet motorcycle coming, they immediately nabbed the two.

The bike was driven by Shiv Sahu and Shubham Sahu was sitting behind with pan-masala bag. On checking the bag, the po-

lice found 10 packets of 'ganja' kept inside a gunny bag and cash of Rs 20000 in possession of Shubham and Redmi touch-screen mobile and from another accused Shiv Sahu, cash of Rs 30000, Samsung mobile.

A total of 20 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.20 lakh was found and when the two were seriously interrogat-

ed they disclosed that another 2 quintal 'ganja' is stored in house of Shubham bringing it from Sambalpur (Odisha) on Feb 20. Out of this 1 quintal 'ganja' has been sold out and from the rest 1 quintal 'ganja', they are taking 20 kgs for selling in the market. So the cost of remaining 80 kg 'Ganja'

is about Rs 4.80 lakh and another Rs 4.50 lakh 'Ganja' is in store at Shubham's place. When the house of Shubham was searched, the police recovered 20 packets of total 80 kg 'Ganja' and cash of Rs 4.50 in a bag. In this way total of 1 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 6 lakhs; 5 lakh in cash, Hornet motorcycle worth Rs 1 lakh, two mobiles worth Rs 12,7,500 were seized from the accused.

Both the accused were booked under section 20 (K) of NDPS Act and were produced in the court and sent to jail. In the above action SDOP Subhash Das, Check-post in-Charge BK Som, ASI Sanjeev Rajput, Rajendra Sahu, Suraj Banjare, Pylaram Dhritlahare, and other constables played an important role.

CU teacher gets PhD from IIT

Bilaspur, Mar 02:

Ganesh Prasad Shukla, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and Production Engineering, Guru Ghasidas University, has obtained the degree of Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai (IIT Mumbai). He was sent on deputation to IIT Bombay for three years (2018-2021) by Guru Ghasidas University to study for Ph.D. He took admission in IIT Bombay after passing the All-India level entrance examination. This exam is conducted jointly under the aegis of AICTE and the Union Ministry of Education, which is known as the QIP scheme. His research topic was Green/Sustainable Manufacturing. He published four international research papers during



his PhD research. During this time he also got the opportunity to travel abroad to read his research paper and he traveled to Shanghai China and presented his re-

search paper in front of world-class subject experts, which was appreciated by world-class scientists. His research was on the topic of green manufacturing. This achievement makes the university proud and is unique in itself and is a source of inspiration for the students of this university. On this achievement, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal has expressed great happiness. At the same time, Professor Shailendra Kumar, Registrar of the University also expressed happiness. Professor T V Arjunan, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Head of the Department, Professor Sharad Chandra Srivastava and other teachers also congratulated him. We all wish him a bright future.

Konta residents suffer due to slow pace of bridge construction

On Shabri river connecting one state to another

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 02: The villagers of the area expressed their displeasure over the tortoise-paced construction of the Konta-Motu under-construction culvert located on the Triveni Sangam coast in Konta town of Sukma district, the last tip of the state of Chhattisgarh. Despite the completion of three years of change of power in Chhattisgarh, the construction work of Konta-Motu culvert is still incomplete.

In the year 2014, a contractor named VCB Construction (Andhra Pradesh-Telangana) was approved to complete the construction work of this bridge. And instead of doing the bridge construction work by that contractor, it was given to another contractor Ashok Sengar

to complete the work, one who is inexperienced.

The construction of this bridge was approved in 2014 at a total cost of Rs 29 crore during the previous BJP rule and the then collector Neeraj Kumar Bansod had started the above construction work by worshipping the land. Today, even after completing 07 years, three strength pillars could not stand.

Whereas the construction of the culvert on the Triveni Sangam coast of neighboring Andhra Pradesh-Orissa (Kaler-Motu) is being done smoothly after starting the construction work in the last year 2017 and was inaugurated on January 2021 last year.



commute.

Business world will also get a boost in the region. After the change of power, the people of the area had got a hope that there was a lot of hope about the new government, but the people have been disappointed. After a year and a half, elections are about to be held in

Chhattisgarh, people's hopes have been shattered.

The remarkable thing is that people of every political party make big promises during the elections, but after winning the elections they forget and ignore the various demands of the region.

Even after complaining to Sukma Collector, villagers are upset due to delay in work

Sukma district collector Vineet Nandanwar was informed from time to time about the slow progress of bridge construction by the residents of the city, but no interest was taken by the district administration. It has been learned from the sources that if the work of the bridge does not speed up before this rain, then the movement will be forced. There is talk of agitation by the villagers of Konta Nagar Panchayat and Motu of Odisha, the villagers of both the villages are thinking of holding an all-party dharna regarding the Motu bridge.

Four day training of Jal Jeevan Mission concludes



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 02: The four day training of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) concluded here by the District Water and Sanitation Mission at Emerald Hotel, Bilaspur. This training lasted from Feb 26th-28th and 70 representatives from twenty gram panchayats of Mussoorie development block participated in this training organized by National Water Life Mission, courtesy of Ministry of Water Power, Government of India.

In the training conducted, village sarpanch, sub

sarpanch, ward panch, village Jal Swachachta Committee Chairman and Members and Panchayat Secretary participated. The delegates involved in this training were briefed on various aspects related to aquatic life and capacity building was also encouraged. The training also discussed about ensuring participation of all people in the village action plan related to Jal Jeevan Mission, and the topic of water management and water conservation was discussed in detail in the program.

It was stated in the training that the contribution of the villagers and every family of the village is important for the success of Jal Jeevan Mission. The training was conducted by the Chief Executive Officer Ajay Mohapatra. The Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the program was Chief Engineer M.H.R. Mascole Superintending Engineer Bilaspur, R. K. Gendale, Executive Engineer Department of Public Health Mechanics M. K. Mishra, Assistant Engineer M.A.P. Vaidya, Deputy Engineer Pramod Mahato, and other nodal officers were present.

Railway loco pilots awarded



Central Chronicle News

Sambalpur, Mar 02:

L.K.Behera, Loco Pilot (Goods)/ Titlagarh and Assistant Loco Pilot /Titlagarh of Electrical Dheeraj Singh, (OP) department were

awarded for their alertness in safety and outstanding contribution towards the safe running of trains and well conversant with the safety rules and regulations.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur Pradeep Kumar awarded them Meritorious Certificate and Cash Prize in presence of Dharendra Singh, Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP) and Sibabrata Dhal, Senior Divisional Safety Officer.

Home Guard jawan commits suicide

Bijapur, Mar 02: A 45-year-old home guard jawan allegedly died by suicide on the premises of the Collector's bungalow in Bijapur district, police said. Hemendra Manjhi was found to have hanged himself in the garden area of the Collector's bungalow on Tuesday morning. A Divisional Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shukla said.

Manjhi, a resident of Bijapur town, was deployed on the main gate as a guard. The incident came to light when the other personnel arrived for duty. A suicide note purportedly written by Manjhi was also found, Shukla said, without divulging its contents. Probe is on.

About the incident

Hemendra Manjhi was found to have hanged himself in the garden area of the Collector's bungalow on Tuesday morning, Additional Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shukla said. Manjhi, a resident of Bijapur town, was deployed on the main gate as a guard. The incident came to light when the other personnel arrived for duty. A suicide note purportedly written by Manjhi was also found.

Traders Union protest the shift of Railway driver and guard



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 02: The Dongargarh Traders Association has written a letter to the District Collector and SDM appealing to save the identity of Dongargarh from being almost lost by the Dongargarh Railway Administration by continuously transferring railway personnel to other stations.

They also alleged that the following facilities like Dongargarh washing line project were shifted to Raipur despite having ample space in Dongargarh.

The traders expressed their indignation at the non-commencement of work on Katghora railway line and the under bridge connecting the two parts of Dongargarh city being closed, and thereby local trains running from Dongargarh also being stopped. All the trade unions of Dongargarh appealed that while protecting the existence of Dongargarh; the continuous transfer of railway personnel being removed from Dongargarh should also be abstained as a practice.

Alderman Netam greets Jai Singh Agrawal

Central Chronicle News

Churikala, Mar 02: Nagar Panchayat Churikala Alderman and Congress leader Govind Singh Netam along with his supporters reached Revenue Minister Jai Singh Agrawal's residence and wished latter on his birthday. Netam presented Agrawal Kosa saal. He was accompanied by Congress activists Pardeshi, Gokul Dewangan, Ghanshyam, Ranmat Singh, Bhola Ram, Nathu Lal, Harinarayan, Mahesh and others.



Naxal carrying Rs 3 lakh bounty killed in encounter

Dantewada, Mar 02: A naxal carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Dantewada district on Tuesday, a senior official said. The gunfight took place around 4 pm in a forest near Tumakpal village under Katakalyan police station limits, some 400 km from here, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police was out on a counter-insurgency operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI. After guns fell silent, the body of an ultra, identified as Lakhma Kawasi, was recovered from the spot, he said. Besides, one pistol, a 5-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED, Maoist uniform, wire and items of daily use were also seized, he added. Kawasi was active as a platoon commander of Darbha division of Maoists," Sundarraj said.

About the encounter

The gunfight took place around 4 pm in a forest near Tumakpal village under Katakalyan police station limits, some 400 km from here, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police was out on a counter-insurgency operation. After guns fell silent, the body of an ultra, identified as Lakhma Kawasi, was recovered from the spot. Besides, one pistol, a 5-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED, Maoist uniform, wire and items of daily use were also seized.

No need for memorandum for development works under Bhupesh govt: Kamro



Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Mar 02: Savipra Vice President and MLA Gulab Kamro here performed bhumi puja for construction of Janpad Sabha Hall at a cost of Rs. 19 lakhs and social building for Kurmi Samaj at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs in Manendragarh and attributed the developmental works in the region to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for the developmental works being done in the region, and I stand for the development of the villages and the common man", he said. He further said that today there is no society left which does not have its own social build-

ing with the blessings of the Chief Minister and Gond Samaj, Beg Samaj, Sarva Adivasi Samaj, Pando, Yadav, Cherwa, Sahu, and other communities have their own social buildings. He also congratulated all the office bearers of the society and said that an all-round development of the entire Chhattisgarh state is taking place today and there is no shortage of money for development.

He also said that in the previous BJP government one had to go around with a memorandum for development works of one lakh, but our government does not need a memorandum, because if there is Bhupesh then there is

trust. On this occasion, senior Congress leader Advocate Ramesh Chandra Singh, Dr. KP Patel, Napatdyaksha Prabha Patel, Janpad President Dr. Vinay Shankar Singh, NAPA Vice President

Krishnamurari Tiwari, District Congress Committee General Ramnaresh Patel, Advocate Vijay Prakash Patel, Sarpanch Ujit Narayan Singh and other office bearers of Kurmi Samaj were present.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I Suchi Saluja W/o Alok Ghai Ward Number 59 Lakshmi Niwas 22 Kalash Awasi Parisar Purana Sarkanda, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh (495001) have changed my old name Suchi Saluja W/o Alok Ghai so in future I should be recognised by new name that is Suchi Saluja Ghai W/O of Alok Ghai in all government and other documents

SUCHI SALUJA GHAI Ward Number 59, Lakshmi Niwas 22, Kalash Awasi Parisar, Purana Sarkanda, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh (495001)

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT SHRIDHAR S/O BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT RAMANA MURTHY MY DAUGHTER'S OLD NAME BHAMIDIPATI VENKATA ABHISHREE D/O BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT SHRIDHAR HAS BEEN CHANGED TO NEW NAME BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT ABHISHREE D/O BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT SHRIDHAR RESIDENT OF FLAT NO.22, SAI NIVAS, SUMITRA VIHAR MURRA BHATTA ROAD, BAJAJ COLONY, BILASPUR C.G.495001, SO IN FUTURE MY DAUGHTER SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY HER NEW NAME BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT ABHISHREE D/O BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT SHRIDHAR IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

BHAMIDIPATI VENKAT SHRIDHAR FLAT NO.22, SAI NIVAS, SUMITRA VIHAR MURRA BHATTA ROAD, BAJAJ COLONY, BILASPUR C.G.495001

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I YASHWANT NAIDU S/O SHYAM SUNDAR NAIDU RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO-B-11, WARD-NO.14/R-2, MEMORIAL APPARTMENT, VINOBA NAGAR, BILASPUR C.G.495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME YASHWANT NAIDU S/O SHYAM SUNDAR NAIDU, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME YASHWANT KUMAR NAIDU S/O SHYAM SUNDAR NAIDU IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

YASHWANT KUMAR NAIDU HOUSE-NO-B-11, WARD-NO.14/R-2, MEMORIAL APPARTMENT, VINOBA NAGAR, BILASPUR C.G.495001

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR
797/2, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (Jurisdiction MP & CG) O.AEX 228/2012

DENA BANK (now bank of baroda) SMT. ROSY PACHAU & ANOTHER ... Certificate Versus ... Certificate Debtors

DEMAND NOTICE CUM DECLARATION OF ASSETS ON AFFIDAVIT

To, 1. Smt. Rosy Pachau, W/o Shri Robert Harangdawala, R/o Village-Saida, Tehsil-Takapur, Distrcit- Bilaspur, (C.G.) and House No. A-19, Rajkishore Nagar, Seepat Road, Bilaspur (CG.) C/o Shri Robert Haangdawal, Chief Information Commissioner, Mizoram State, State Guest House, Chalatlant, Aizwal Mizoram, Shri Robert Harandawal, S/o Shri Mark Phirphanga, R/o House No. A-19, Rajkishore Nagar, Seepat Road, Bilaspur, (C.G.). C/o Shri Robert Harangdawala, Chief Information Commissioner, Mizoram State, State Guest House, Chalatlant, Aizwal Mizoram.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in O.A. No. 07/2010 passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT, Jabalpur an amount of Rs. 72,57,398.00 alongwith pendente lite and future interest 15.50% p.a. simple from 01-01-2010 and cost till the date of realization in full, is due against you.

2. You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 09.03.2022 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceeding.

5. In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay. Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal this dated 21.01.2022

(Seal) (Satish Solanki) Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR

BRIEF

Nuisance

Noida: Partying drunk outside a police outpost to celebrate the employment of one of their friends landed five young men here in trouble with the Noida Police booking them for creating a nuisance. The five accused were purportedly seen in video dancing in inebriated condition with loud music playing in their cars, parked right outside Sorkha police outpost. The police took note of viral video which took place in Sector 113 police station area.

Gangster

New Delhi: The Delhi Police arrested a wanted gangster and key member of Lawrence Bishnoi and Kala Jathedi syndicate. The accused Virender Partap alias Kala Rana (28) is wanted in many criminal cases, they said. Rana was carrying a reward of Rs 1,00,000 on his head in connection with a case registered in Haryana, police said. In this case, he along with his associates had barged into a jewellery shop in Ambala, Haryana.

Duping

Ghaziabad: A builder and six members of his family were arrested for allegedly duping flat-buyers of over Rs 100 crore from. The builder, Raj Kumar Jain, was running two companies named Red Apple and Idea builders. He is accused of borrowing money from people, enticing them by promising to pay a high rate of interest of them, CSP Nipun Agarwal said.

Forging

Surat: Three persons have been arrested for allegedly forging registration certificate (RC) books of vehicles, Aadhaar cards and voter IDs to help people get loans to buy two-wheelers and forge payment receipts of fines for traffic violations in Gujarat's Surat district. One of the accused Vishwanath Sav would supply duplicate receipts of payment of fines to agents of regional transport office (RTO), an official from Dindoli police station said.

Probe

Mathura: The Mathura police has ordered a probe into the alleged assault of devotees and kanwaris' visiting Gopeshwar Temple in Vrindavan near here by a policeman inside the temple complex. The probe was ordered after a video purportedly showing a sub-inspector attacking devotees and kanwaris' inside the temple went viral on social media.

Shot

Ferozpur: A man was shot dead by two unidentified persons at a restaurant in the Zira area here with police suspecting it to be a fallout of old rivalry. The deceased has been identified as Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, a resident of Patti in the Tarn Taran area. He had come to the restaurant with his friend when two unidentified persons entered and opened fire at him. They then fled. Gopi was earlier booked in a murder case.

NCB to hire experts to probe dark web, crypto drugs



New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Narcotics Control Bureau has decided to hire experts and companies dealing with financial data analysis and forensic audit to help it probe complex drug crimes that involve use of the dark web, cryptocurrencies and deals concealed through multi-layered transactions. Last year, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) chief SN Pradhan had directed that the agency's sleuths should only aim to

probe cases with interstate and international ramifications, and those involving complex investigation and high profile cartels and syndicates. He asked his investigation wings to follow up this action by ensuring a proper fund trail investigation and filing of charge sheets before competent courts in time. The directive had come at a time the agency was trying to come out of the shadow of the controversy surrounding its probe into some cases at its

Mumbai zonal office, including the drugs-on-cruise raids of October last year where 20 people were arrested including actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan.

The consultancy agencies, for which the NCB has issued a notice for empanelment, will be required to help it in "unearthing the chain of transactions for drug money and provide effective guidance in financial investigation matters."

They will also assist the NCB in analysing financial statements and data available in various databases of the bureau and other agencies, according to the proposal accessed by PTI.

It will also help investigators "prepare statements of income and expenditure of the interested party and related parties to unearth the ill-gotten money".

Congress walks out from HP Assembly

During CM's reply to Guv's address

Shimla, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Congress staged a walkout from the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Wednesday as Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said during his reply to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's address that the previous dispensation took more loan compared his government.

Chief Minister Thakur stated that loan on Himachal Pradesh during the previous Congress government grew by 67 per cent, whereas the corresponding number during the current government is 32 per cent despite the fact that the Covid pandemic hit the economy badly. Himachal Pradesh is currently facing a debt burden of Rs 63,200 crore, he added. Thakur stated that the state's debt burden was about Rs 48,000 crore till the 2017-18 financial year. The previous Congress government had taken a loan of Rs 28,707 crore from 2012-13 to 2017-18 dur-



Congress MLAs walkout from Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday.

ing its five years tenure, he added. Thakur alleged that the previous Congress government had not started any major welfare scheme for the public whereas the current dispensation initiated several schemes including reducing the age for old-age pension from 80

to 70 years. The chief minister said the state government decided to confiscate the property of those involved in illegal mining. Talking about the Jan Manch programme launched by the current government, Thakur said that a total of 83,478 public grievances were addressed at people's doorsteps during 242 Jan Manch programmes. The CM stated that unemployment is being faced by every state. However, 2,131 people have set up their own businesses under the Mukhyamantri Swabhavlamban Yojna by investing 100 crores in the state, generating employment for themselves and also providing jobs to several others.

Impasse in Visva-Bharati over students' demands



Visva-Bharati University

Kolkata, Mar 02 (PTI):

Stalemate continued in Visva-Bharati University as students demanding the reopening of hostels and conducting of online examinations refused to withdraw their sit-in demonstration outside the registrar's office till their demands were met, while the official also refused to leave his chamber till the

pupils lifted their stir. However, heads of departments held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing situation even as Vice-chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty issued a notice announcing that doors of the central office and library and other departments will be closed for "visitors". The agitation by more than 200 students crossed 48 hours on

To reopen hostels, conduct online exams

Wednesday morning, with Registrar Ashis Agarwal inside his office even as students claimed they haven't gheraoed him and he may leave if he wishes to. The official, however, said he will leave his chamber only when the protestors withdraw their stir. High drama was witnessed as the registrar attempted to come out of his room to offer puja on Maha Shivaratri but the agitating students refused to let him go alone, and offered to accompany him. After this incident, he retreated to his office and refused to leave it till the agitators left the place.

BSP seeks to reclaim Ambedkar Nagar citadel



Crowd at a BSP rally in Ambedkar Nagar.

Ambedkar Nagar, Mar 02 (PTI): For long considered as the Dalit laboratory of the BSP, Mayawati's party is faced with the daunting task of reclaiming its influence in the five assembly seats of the district after flight of her senior legislators to the Samajwadi Party Mayawati, who created the new district of

Ambedkar Nagar out of Faizabad (now called Ayodhya) during her tenure as chief minister in 1995, held the sway over the area for long before the SP and BJP started denting her citadel in the last two state polls. In the 2012 elections, the SP had wrested from the BSP all the five assembly

constituencies — Katheri, Akbarpur, Jalalpur, Tanda and Alapur—of Ambedkar Nagar. However, the equation changed in 2017 when the BJP emerged victorious on two seats and the rest three went to Mayawati. The five assembly segments of Ambedkar Nagar will go to vote in the sixth phase on March 3.

STUDENTS' PROTEST



Jharkhand Chatra Kalyan Parishad protest after the death of Naveen Shekharappa, an Indian student in Ukraine, over the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Ranchi, Wednesday.

HC dismisses bail plea of Gautam Thapar in PMLA case

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court Wednesday dismissed a bail plea by Avantha Group promoter Gautam Thapar in a Rs 500-crore money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri denied the relief to Thapar, who was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on August 3, 2021, after the agency carried out raids against him and his linked businesses in Delhi and Mumbai.

The detailed order of the high court is awaited. The ED is probing an alleged transaction between Thapar's company Avantha Realty and Yes



Gautam Thapar

Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor and his wife, who are already being investigated under PMLA by the agency.

The money laundering case was registered by the ED after taking cognisance of an FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In

October last year, a trial court here had dismissed Thapar's bail application, saying that since huge loss of public money was involved in the case, it needed to be viewed seriously.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the 60-year-old businessman, had argued that bail was wrongly rejected by the trial court only on the ground that he could be a flight risk.

The trial court applied the triple test... Two tests (of possibility of evidence tampering and influencing witness) were held in my favour. But the third test of flight risk is against me... This cannot be a ground (as) my passport could have been deposited, he had said.

Groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar

Patna, Mar 02 (PTI):

There is massive chemical contamination in groundwater in large parts of rural Bihar, where drinking water sources are unsafe for consumption and pose a health risk to the population, the state Economic Survey 2021-22 has revealed.

The 16th Bihar Economic Survey Report 2021-22, recently tabled in the assembly by Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad, stated that groundwater in rural areas in 31 of the 38 districts is affected by arsenic, fluoride and iron contamination. "The high concentration of arsenic, fluoride, and iron in groundwater in rural areas in 31 of 38 districts is posing a major health hazard. There is



A handpump in Bihar.

chemical contamination in groundwater in 30,272 rural wards. A total of 4,742 rural wards in 14 districts situated along the Ganga are particularly affected by arsenic contamination," the report said.

It said that drinking water sources in 3,791 rural wards in 11 districts are affected by fluoride contamination. There is

Munger, Samastipur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Patna, Vaishali, Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Kaimur, Munger, Nalanda, Rohtas, Sheikhpura, Nawada and Araria.

The report referred to the internal assessment and findings pertaining to the water quality mapping of Bihar by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

The department, which is responsible for ensuring safe drinking water to people in these affected districts, has started drilling deepwater bore wells.

PHED Secretary Jitendra Srivastava told PTI, "We understand the gravity of the situation, because of which the department has gone for a mix of surface water and groundwater-based schemes."

'Firm on demand for Nawab Malik's resignation'

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTI):

On the eve of the budget session of the Maharashtra legislature, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said his party is firm on its demand for the resignation of state minister Nawab Malik, who has been arrested by the ED in connection with a money laundering case.

Fadnavis was speaking to reporters here after chairing a meeting of the BJP's members of the legislative Assembly and Council as the budget session is set to begin from Thursday.

BJP's state unit chief Chandrakant Patil has earlier said that his party



Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition and former CM, interacts with media, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

will not let the budget session of the state legislature function if Malik does not quit the cabinet.

"Nawab Malik is facing charges for helping Dawood Ibrahim, a key conspirator of the 1993 Mumbai blasts, but the Shiv Sena-led government

continues to stand by him. He should have been removed," the BJP leader alleged.

"I believe that by not seeking Malik's resignation, the government is trying to appease a particular community and indulging in polarisation. It

BRIEF

Approves

Ouaga: Burkina Faso's military junta will be in power for three years before holding elections, said a statement from the junta that overthrew the country's democratically elected president in January. Lt Col Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba approved the charter that says he will lead the transitional government and will be sworn in as its president.

Shot

Karachi: Pakistan police claimed to have shot dead one of the suspects accused of killing senior journalist Athar Majeed in an altercation here last month. A road-blockade was set up in Shahdadkot, 470 km north of provincial capital Karachi, by local police and officers from Karachi West, Sindh Police said in a statement, adding that a suspect motorist was signalled to stop.

Sink

Lisbon: A large cargo vessel carrying cars from Germany to the United States sank in the mid Atlantic, 13 days after a fire broke out on board, the ship's manager and the Portuguese navy said. The Felicity Ace sank about 400 kilometers (250 miles) off Portugal's Azores Islands as it was being towed, MOL Ship Management in Singapore.

Rival

Cairo: Libyan lawmakers confirmed new rival transitional government, a move that is likely to lead to parallel administrations and fuel mounting tensions in a country that has been mired in conflict for the past decade. Prime Minister designate Fathi Bashagha submitted his Cabinet to the east based House of Representatives, where 92 of 101 lawmakers in attendance approved it, during a vote that was broadcast live.

Vaccines

Guatemala City: Health authorities in Guatemala say over a million doses of the Russian Sputnik coronavirus vaccine have expired, because nobody wanted to take the shot. Francisco Coma, the country's health minister, said that there was a rejection among the population toward the vaccine, even though a lot of Guatemalans remain unvaccinated.

Biden vows to halt Russia, hit inflation



President Joe Biden delivers his first State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol.

Washington, Mar 02 (AP):

Addressing a concerned nation and anxious world, President Joe Biden vowed in his first State of the Union address to check Russian aggression in Ukraine, tame soaring US inflation and deal with the fading but still dangerous coronavirus.

Biden declared that he and all members of Congress, whatever their political differences, are joined 'with an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.' He asked lawmakers crowding the House chamber to stand and salute the Ukrainians as he began his speech.

They stood and cheered. It was a notable show of unity after a long year of bitter acrimony between Biden's Democratic coalition and the Republican opposition. Biden's 62-minute speech, which was split between attention to war abroad and worries at home reflected the same balancing act he now faces in his presidency. He must marshal allied resolve against Russia's aggression while tending to inflation, COVID-19 fatigue and sagging approval ratings heading into the midterm elections.

Aiming to build on momentum from the speech, Biden will head to Wisconsin on Wednesday in an effort to show Americans that his domestic agenda is working. His vice president and Cabinet members will fan out around the country to amplify the message.

Over seven hour power cuts in Sri Lanka amid forex crisis

Colombo, Mar 02 (PTI):

Sri Lanka will face over seven-hour power cuts on Wednesday, the longest to be experienced by the island nation since 1996, officials said, amidst the worst economic crisis in decades.

Sri Lanka is currently reeling under a severe foreign exchange crisis and the government is unable to foot the bill for essential fuel imports to keep the power plants running.

There will be five and a half hour cuts during the day and two hours later in the nighttime," Sri Lanka's Public Utilities Commission top official Janaka Ratnayaka told reporters.

This will be the longest power cuts to be experienced in the island since 1996, officials said.

The power generation has been hit by the foreign exchange crisis as fuel to



A vendor prepares peanuts at his shop after a power cut in Colombo on Wednesday.

operate thermal power plants are in short supply. Due to fuel shortage, long fuel queues were seen at retail stations with diesel being limited.

The state fuel entity has sought government assistance to pay for three ships of fuel that arrived last week. The power sector officials said the hydropower generation capacity in

the reservoirs has fallen sharply due to the ongoing drought experience.

Udaya Gammanpila, Energy Minister, said it was hard to find the cash to pay for oil imports and the government must prioritise fuel imports over other items.

Gammanpila said the current stockpile of fuel would last only for four



Argentinas Vice President Cristina Fernandez, left, and President Alberto Fernandez after attending the ceremony marking the years opening session, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COVID-19 infected people may have different variants hidden

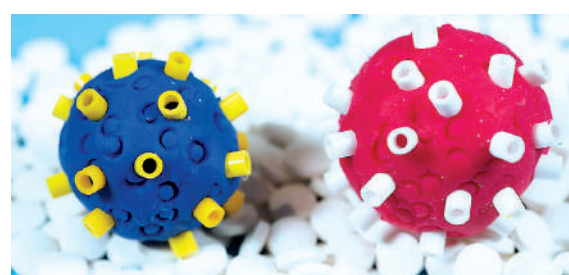
In several body parts

London, Mar 02 (PTI): People suffering from COVID-19 may have several variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus hidden away from the immune system in different parts of the body, according to the findings of two studies.

An international team led by researchers from the University of Bristol, UK, and Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Germany noted that this may make complete clearance of the virus from the body of the infected person much more difficult.

The studies, published in the journal Nature Communications, demonstrates how the virus can evolve distinctly in different cell types, and adapt its immunity, in the same infected host.

The researchers investigated the function of a tai-



lor-made pocket in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in the infection cycle of the virus. The pocket in the spike protein, which the virus uses to enter and infect the cells, played an essential role in viral infectivity, they said.

"An incessant series of variants have completely replaced the original virus by now, with Omicron and

Omicron 2 (a subvariant) dominating worldwide," said Professor Imre Berger from the University of Bristol.

"We analysed an early variant discovered in Bristol, BrisDelta. It had changed its shape from the original virus, but the pocket we had discovered was there, unaltered," Berger said.

Australian floods spread to Sydney



Floodwater reaches Sydney on Wednesday.

Sydney, Mar 02 (AFP):

Emergency services ordered some Sydney residents to flee Wednesday as heavy rainfall barrelled down Australia's east coast, burying towns in floodwater, killing 13 and putting hundreds of thou-

sands at risk. A week-long torrential downpour has swollen rivers and reservoirs past bursting point, causing chaos in an area 800 kilometres (500 miles) long. From Brisbane to Sydney, more than 30 evacuation warnings are in place and several dams are

overflowing, with some near Sydney under threat of bursting. Terrified residents have sought refuge on higher ground, in make-shift evacuation centres, or by clambering into attics or onto rooftops praying for rescue by boat or helicopter.

In the hard-hit town of Lismore, Lucy Wise said the floods came much quicker and much higher than expected. "The rain just wouldn't stop and the water was just coming up so fast" she told AFP.

She huddled at home as the waters rose through the night before grabbing her sleeping two-year-old son, cloaking him in a life-jacket and scrambling into the roof space of their house for safety.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, गरियाबंद छत्तीसगढ़
eegr-phe-cg@nic.in

निविदा निरस्तीकरण

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत एजेंसी/ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा ग्राम गायडबरी एवं पीपरछेड़ी एकल ग्राम जलप्रदाय योजना के कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय का निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 134/दिनांक 28.10.2021 सिस्टम टेंडर नं. 86448, जी क्रमांक - G-64947/9/दिनांक 08.11.2021 आमंत्रित की गई थी। इस सिस्टम टेंडर नं. में तकनीकी कारणों से इस सिस्टम टेंडर नं. को निरस्त किया जाता है। शीघ्र ही पुनः उक्त कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जावेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)
G-68273/2

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा
(ई - मेल - eedan-phe-cg@nic.in)

निविदा सू. क्र./146-159/ते.शा./का.अ./तो.सा.गं./2022 दन्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 25/02/2022

//प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रथम "ए" प्रतिशत दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज का कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेंडर क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
146/25.02.2022	93685	जबेली/कुआकोण्डा	120.92
147/25.02.2022	93686	बांगपाल/गीदम	120.43
148/25.02.2022	93687	छोटेकरका/गीदम	60.30
149/25.02.2022	93688	हिड़पाल/गीदम	59.36
150/25.02.2022	93936	हिरोली/गीदम	109.23
151/25.02.2022	93937	जोड़ातराई/गीदम	120.79
152/25.02.2022	93938	कडमपाल/गीदम	120.48
153/25.02.2022	93939	कोरकोटी/गीदम	65.81
154/25.02.2022	93940	माड़पाल/गीदम	57.95
155/25.02.2022	93941	मुण्डेर/गीदम	116.60
156/25.02.2022	93942	नेउरनार/गीदम	44.99
157/25.02.2022	93943	नीलावाया/कुआकोण्डा	70.84
158/25.02.2022	93944	पदमेटा/गीदम	53.96
159/25.02.2022	93945	पुरनतराई/गीदम	57.61

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.03.2022, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)
G-68278/1

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण
भक्त माता कर्मा व्यावसायिक परिसर, न्यू राजेंद्र नगर, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(क्रमांक-7 दिनांक 02.03.2022)

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा छ.ग. शासन के एकल प्रणाली पंजीयन के अंतर्गत "द" श्रेणी के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मुहरबंद निविदाएँ प्राधिकरण की निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र "ब" में आवेदन दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये दिनांक 24.03.2022 को अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो उसी दिन अपरान्ह 4.15 बजे तक प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में उपस्थित निविदाकर्ताओं के समक्ष खोली जावेगी। उक्त आमंत्रण सूचना तथा आगामी संशोधन वेबसाइट www.rdaipur.com में देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	धरोहर राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5
1.	रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की इन्द्रप्रस्थ फेस-2 योजनांतर्गत प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के 944 एल.आई.जी. एवं 1472 ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. ध्वनों का साफ-सफाई कार्य।	13,28,508/-	26,600/-	वार्षिक

निविदा प्रपत्र प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में सहायक अधीक्षक (तकनीकी) से शासकीय कार्य दिक्कतों में दिनांक 23.03.2022 को दोपहर 1.30 बजे तक रु. 2000/- प्रत्येक राशि जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। धरोहर राशि दिनांक 24.03.2022 को 1.30 बजे तक एच.डी.आर. के रूप में जो कि रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, रायपुर के नाम पर देय हो, प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

अधीक्षक अभियंता

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर जिला सरगुजा (छ.ग.)

// Notice Inviting Tender //

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन सरगुजा (जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत) ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Sr No.	Tender No. (System No. & Date)	Last Due (Bid Due Date)	Name of Work	P.A.C (Rs. In Lakh)
1	135 (93088) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-parshodhi And Pondhi, Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	152.58
2	136 (93677) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Keshavpur and Udaipur Dhab , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	179.94
3	137 (93684) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Sapna and Sunderpur , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	169.75
4	138 (93702) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Sapna and Dhangavan , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	124.17
5	139 (93654) Date 22.02.2022	10.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Bishunpur and Thakurpur , Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	242.27

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की (Online Tender) टेंडर आमंत्रित की जाती है। धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर
G-68307/1

लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.)

ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन जांजगीर-चांपा की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र "अ" (प्रतिशत दर) ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेड्रोफिटिंग योजना अंतर्गत विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के ग्रामों में उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, जल वितरण प्रणाली, पंपिंगमेन प्रणाली, सबमर्सिबल पंप स्थापना, स्वीच रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर स्थापना, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं उससे संबंधित समस्त कार्य।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सिस्टम निविदा क्र.	विकासखण्ड	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1	331/28.02.2022	94012	पामगढ़	202.43
2	332/28.02.2022	94015	पामगढ़	261.56
3	333/28.02.2022	94016	पामगढ़	212.21

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी एवं दिनांक 07.03.2022 से दिनांक 21.03.2022 के मध्य मरी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी विभाग
जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.)
G-68291/1

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(First Call)
System Tender No. : 93737/NIT No. : 20/SAC/21-22
Dated : 28.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 21.03.2022 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF CROSS REGULATOR CUM ESCAPE AT R.D. 8025 M. INCLUDING EXTENSION OF R.C.C. NP3 HUME PIPE 1200 MM DIA, R.C.C. CHANNEL FROM R.D. 8955 M. TO R.D. 9205 M. IN MAIN CANAL & JACKETING WORK OF HEAD SLUICE IN CHAMPI TANK SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract : - Rs. 125.90 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.03.2022, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)
G-68278/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 331

Nuclear escalation

Russian President Vladimir Putin dramatically escalated East-West tensions by ordering Russian nuclear forces put on high alert. While some analysts caution that Putin would be willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his aims, others say the chilling warning does not necessarily indicate his intention to press the nuclear button. With around 6,000 nuclear warheads, Russia has the world's largest stockpile of weapons, larger even than the US military's estimated 5,500 warheads. Some 1,600 Russian warheads are already deployed, either on land or on-board nuclear submarines, according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which famously keeps track of the Doomsday Clock, a Cold War relic that conveys scientists' views on the likelihood of humanity destroying itself currently still at 100 seconds to midnight. Russia also has an ample supply of short, medium and long-range missiles capable of carrying the warheads. But the nation's stockpile also includes nearly 2,000 so-called tactical nuclear weapons, which are kept in storage facilities throughout Russia. The US has about 100 nuclear bombs stationed across Europe that could be used for tactical nuclear warfare. The concept of nuclear escalation is, at its core, a fundamentally psychological and perceptual one. Similar to other related concepts such as deterrence and strategic stability, escalation relies on the actor's unique understanding of context, motives, and intentions especially in the use of capabilities. How actors resolve these complex psychological variables associated with the cause, means, and effects of a military attack both kinetic and non-kinetic remains a perplexing and elusive endeavour. Nuclear escalation ladder metaphor, like any theoretical framework, has limitations. Actors do not necessarily move sequentially and inexorably from the lower rungs to the higher rungs that is, rungs can be skipped and actors can go up as well as down. Instead, there are many pathways and mechanisms between low-intensity conflict and all-out nuclear confrontation.

Besides, adversaries can be at different rungs or thresholds along what Kahn describes as the 'relatively continuous' pathways to war. Despite its limitations, Kahn's escalation ladder is a useful metaphorical framework to reflect on the possible available options like a show of force, reciprocal reprisals, costly signalling, and pre-emptive attacks, progression of escalation intensity, and scenarios in a competitive nuclear-armed dyad. The Indian side was prepared for escalation, in case Pakistan chose to do so while conceiving and executing the 2016 surgical strikes by crossing the Line of Control (LoC) along the Jammu and Kashmir border. As per some reports, after Galwan clash with China, India had to move nuclear armed Agni missiles in Assam, to be detected by Chinese satellites, so that risk of escalation was understood and China had to prevent further clashes. Security dilemma is defined as the 'unintended and undesired consequences of actions meant to be defensive. Many of the means by which a state tries to increase its security decrease the security of others, that is, one state's gain in security can inadvertently undermine the security of others. The security dilemma's characteristics compound the likelihood of inadvertent escalation in the digital age. Inadvertent escalation risk can also be caused by the confusion and uncertainty associated with gathering, analysing, and disseminating relevant information about a crisis or conflict which has important implications for the management, control, and termination of war. Even if the short-range battlefield nuclear weapons are still on the shelf, thousands of Russian and American long-range missiles are ready to launch in just minutes. That threat hangs over everything as the conflict in Ukraine drags on.

Medical education

Naveen Shekharappa became first Indian casualty of Russia-Ukraine war. He was a final year medical student from Karnataka's Haveri, died when Russian soldiers blew up a government building. Naveen's father Shekargouda, a mechanical engineering diploma holder, criticised the Indian education system. 'My son was very talented. He got 97 percent in class 10 and PUC. But he did not get a medical seat in a government college here,' the distraught father said. For MBBS in India, donations are very bad. Due to this, intelligent students are going abroad as they have to spend crores in India, he rued. This tragedy has exposed fault in India's medical education. Despite being home to one of the oldest medicinal systems in the world, India is still struggling to bring its medical education at par with the leaders around the world. The 541 medical colleges in the country haven't been able to reach the standard of education that could meet the healthcare needs of the country. The lag in formal medical education has come up evidently post pandemic where the nation saw the medical fraternity struggling to fill the doctor deficit. India is the world's largest exporter of doctors and healthcare workforce to other nations. More than 70,000 medical graduates from India, nearly 10 percent of the qualified doctors in India are in the USA, UK, Europe, and the other nations.

The sad state of affairs persists because the pliable universities and councils are made to bend rules and violate standards of quality in order to accelerate the business of medical education, this is pushed through by politicians for political advantage or by private players for profit. To escape from the prohibitive cost of higher education in its private sector, India has become a net consumer of overseas education, spending nearly USD 5 billion a year to study abroad. Global funding patterns clearly show that medical education still remains a state dominated sector run with public funds. In countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) such as Denmark and Holland, public funding provides 98 percent of health resources in this sector. The figure is nearly 90 percent for Canada and as high as 78 percent even in the US. Central government must spend more on medical education, increase student access, and permit greater autonomy with accountability to its universities. India's rigid regulation of all aspects of medical education blocks the intellectual growth of its academia, and diminishes its ability to attract global talent to enhance the quality of medical education to world standards.

MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD INUNDATED



Flying instructor Peter Clement with wife Kerrie (L) stand in waist-high water as they examine their aircraft, which provide means of livelihood, inside hanger after flood inundated Grafton Air Strip in Grafton, Australia.

Skilled workforce is real 'shakti' to provide for 'gati'

ADITYA GUPTA



Remember the complete lockdown from March to May 2020. There were only two things that kept life going: a data-enabled internet connection and vegetables and groceries delivered through door collection. The supply of essentials never went off. Behind this were thousands of unacknowledged logistics warriors who risked their lives, picked and packed at warehouses, transported the goods to nearby stores, and door delivered. From the driver of a truck to a picker in the warehouse to a supply chain manager in a company to the CEO of a logistics start up, there is a whole gamut of supply chain professionals who keep every nation functioning and humming. Despite being such an essential and indispensable sector, logistics lacks organized skilling to the desired extent. During our MBA days, supply chain management was not even a subject offered. It is now given as a subject; however, it is still an elective at the majority of MBA schools. The drivers are still being trained through driver-helper methodology. Warehousing is completely on-the-job learning. As per estimates, there are more than 2 crore people employed in the Indian logistics sector, making it the second largest employer sector after agriculture. Unfortunately, only a very small percentage of them are formally trained. Most of the others have acquired skills on the job. Logistics skills have acquired attention, and progress has been made in

the last decade in logistics skill building. Current logistics skilling landscape in India can be explained.

The Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC) was created as an industry apex body by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with the endeavour to provide an end-to-end solution. LSC has identified 11 sub-sectors and is working towards training and employment generation in all of these sectors. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) Institutions under the PMKVY scheme, which was launched in 2015, various training institutions offer National Occupational Standard (NOS) aligned training programmes for different job roles in the logistics sector. Apprenticeship-embedded undergraduate programmes are initiative of the LSC, several higher education institutions are now offering apprenticeship-based BA and BCom degree programmes to integrate logistics skills into higher education with the aim of enhancing the employability skills of undergraduates to make them industry-ready. There are specialised institutions like the National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) to develop human resources for inland water transport, the Zonal Railway Training Institute for railway locomotive drivers and the Tata Motors Driver Training Institute for long-distance road drivers, which provide skills for specialised job roles.

With the launch of the Gati Shakti project, India is attempting to leapfrog its transportation infrastructure to be among the best in the world. Projects like Dedicated Freight Corridors, Bharatmala, Sagarmala are completely transforming the transportation landscape in India. A skilled workforce can be 'shakti' for this 'gati' of logistics. The courses that are offered to students must be partnered by industry and academic institutions. The curriculum and the pedagogy

should be so designed that the students are immediately employable after completing the course. The students entering would be assured of jobs, and industry would get a constant pool of trained manpower, creating a win-win for all. The existing manpower in the logistics sector needs to be upskilled to meet the changing needs of the sector. Upskilling has the potential to provide large returns using small investments. In a warehouse, for example, existing workforce might be upskilled to better manage automation, safety requirements, WMS, and compliance, among other things.

The majority of people who work in logistics today have no formal education in the field. It is necessary to make qualifications a pre-requisite for employment. Depending on the employment type, the qualification could be a certificate, diploma, or degree, but it should be made mandatory. This will encourage both employers and employees to earn the requisite qualifications prior to entering the industry. Almost two-thirds of the workforce entering the logistics industry has received their education in a vernacular language. The ability to communicate in English is not required to perform logistics tasks. The logistics courses must be devised and delivered in many languages so that they can be adopted and skilled by a larger number of people. India needs an apex trainer training institute that will train teachers for all logistics training institutes, similar to how RBI interacts with all banks. The trainer must have hands-on expertise in the industry and be continually updated on the latest developments in the field, as well as online teaching skills and teaching soft skills. There are a large number of countries which are facing a shortage of trained manpower in the logistics sector. Forklift drivers from India find lots of employment in Middle Eastern countries. We need to train our students based on the international curricu-

lum and tie up with global institutions so that India's qualifications will be accepted world over and Indian students can find employment across the countries. Logistics skills are much more practical than theoretical. The training institutions need to carry simulators, driving tracks, build warehouse-like conditions, carry forklifts and other equipment that is required to train the manpower. Students will not be industry-ready if training equipment is not available.

Logistics companies in India have been mostly small to medium size operators which occupy 90 percent of the logistics sector. For the scale of India, there are very few Indian companies that have achieved scale. Looking at the top 500 companies, only about 26 are logistical companies. The reality is the logistical companies are still smaller in the context of India. Adopting better technology undoubtedly has become the go-to strategy for businesses to ramp up efficiency. However, the downside is due to the rapid adoption of technologies across the board from manufacturers, sellers, retailers, etc., logistical companies are now tasked to figure out the most seamless way to conduct the operations. Also, it is not just about using those fancy technologies but making logistical points to have basic technologies that enable digitisation, conduct GST operations, and so on. The logistics sector carries the potential to create the maximum number of job opportunities in the coming years. It possesses the capability to employ a person of almost every qualification. The need is for the government, industry, and institutions to create a better skilling infrastructure to attract millennials and offer them a rewarding career in this sector.

(Aditya Gupta is professor and COO at Supply Chain Management Centre of IIM Bangalore, Karnataka.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sports lesson

Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) and the Union of European Football Association (UEFA) suspend Russia's national and club teams from all international football competitions after backlash over President Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Though global football governing body FIFA making a U-turn (after it joined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in acting after days of growing protest) has suspended all Russian teams from participating in all international events, including the World Cup later this year. UEFA, the governing body of European football, has followed suit, banning Russian representation in club and international competitions. But the decision came hours after FIFA had allowed Russia to participate in the 2022 World Cup playoffs, or any competition for that matter, under the name Football Union of Russia (RFU). One has to agree that there is no fault of the footballers or other sportsmen because they have practiced for a long time and have aspirations but suddenly Russia's unilateral attack towards Ukraine makes all the difference. Not only the FIFA and UEFA have taken a strong stand, even the IOC Executive Board has also recommended no participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials. The suspension means Russia will not be able to face Poland in a World Cup playoff semi-final next month, while its women's team will also be barred from this summer's European Championship in England and its remaining club side in European competition, Spartak Moscow, will no longer compete in the Europa League. Moreover, the IOC also went directly after Russian President Vladimir Putin, who turned the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics into a personal project, but Putin's golden Olympic Order, which was awarded in 2001, has also been withdrawn. Whatsoever, this decision is a lesson to all the dictators and crazy leaders that the world will not sit on the bench watching.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad

Fake news

Online bullying, misinformation and spreading fake news through social media platforms are growing by the day. Can we know who is the original creator of a content that we view online almost daily? No way can we. When someone shares a video on Facebook or you hop onto YouTube, the content reaches you after it has been passed around, syndicated, and filtered through several sources. But there is no system for truly identifying the original source of that content. This is not the only problem. Across other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, et al, words and photos are getting shared to millions across the globe with little to no curation. Many of the 'forwarded' messages that we receive on WhatsApp daily either have partial or no truths at all. Their contents make it clear that the subterranean aim of these 'forwards' is to fuel differences and instigate communal hatred and political animosities. Anonymity does breed anti-social behavior. Fake IDs, pseudonyms and unverified user-accounts abound online, giving people ample opportunity to mask their identities as they post messages.

Ranganathan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirupama@NMenonRao

Russia's is an imperial overreach as I see it in Ukraine today. It must stop this madness. The global order is being upended. All because of the flawed hubris of a leader who has let down what has always been a great nation, Russia.

Navdeep@SinghNavdeep

There are people here who are unable to hide their glee and excitement on what's happening in Ukraine. Do not forget this is not a video game and involves human lives on every side, and even of those not party to the conflict. Be sensible, behave like human beings, not cold machines.



Ritesh Banglani @banglani

The first company I worked at had a free internal job market. Once you completed a year in any role, you could apply for any job in the firm without informing your manager. If you got the job, you didn't need the manager's consent to move. Best measure of job and manager quality.

Veditum@veditum

The river exists in many forms for people who live along the river.



Amitangshu@amitangshu

I see prominent people requesting others not to politicise the #indianstudentsinukraine crisis. Obviously, they have no clue about what students experience while dealing with foreign embassies. Indian embassies are notorious in the way they treat their own citizens abroad.



Hemant@MohapatraHemant

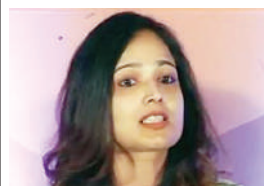
India's entire startup ecosystem employs 550K people (including part time). IBM alone employs 120K people in India. Infosys has 250K+. In the US, just the venture-backed startups (maybe 10% of total or less?) employ 2.5M people. We are still in the very, very early innings.

Shilpi@shilpiagrawal155

I think more than half the reason Alia Bhatt's character could come out of depression in 'Dear Zindagi' was the fact that she was in Goa and had nothing to do other than running or dancing on beaches or roads without needing to pay rent or appear for a zoom call. Therapy was secondary

BRIEF

Appoints



New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday said it has appointed Reema Jain as the new Chief Information and Digital Officer to lead the technology-driven business transformation. She will strengthen the company's initiatives such as IT-related infrastructure, strategic planning.

Raises

New Delhi: Zapkey that helps its customers with guaranteed home sales, has secured USD 2 million in a funding round led by Nikhil Kamath and Gruhas PropTech on Wednesday. The seed funding round also saw participation from the DLF Family Office, Blume Founders Fund, the Alkem Labs Family, Aprameya Radhakrishna, co-founder of Koo, Srinivasi Srinivasan, MD at Kotak Investment Advisors, and other individual investors.

Ventures



New Delhi: Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) on Wednesday said it is in the process of setting up a war chest for new ventures. Chairperson Rashmi Saluja said we are pleased to announce that REL is completely debt free now. It is providing the necessary growth capital.

Enter

New Delhi: Singapore based fintech firm Volopay will invest USD 15 million (about Rs 113 crore) over the next 12 months to start operations in India. The company has raised USD 29 million from Winklevoss twins - Cameron and Tyler; a global decacorn and others to expand business overseas.

Extends



New Delhi: UCO Bank has extended the fintech partnership with Fisdom to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing. ED Ajay Vyas said his new initiative with Fisdom will help the bank to provide new digital wealth products.

Auctions

Mumbai: Shriram Automall India Ltd (SAMIL) said it auctioned over 7,900 pre-owned vehicles and other assets in a single day and processed transactions worth over Rs 215 crore from over 14,500 listings at its annual auction event, SAMIL utsav. SAMIL Utsav is a one-of-its-kind phygital format auction, conducted by the platform every year on February 26.

Petrol, diesel price hikes to restart from next week

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Petrol and diesel price hikes are likely to resume after state elections get over next week to bridge the Rs 9 a litre gap created by international oil prices soaring past USD 100 a barrel.

International crude oil prices shot above USD 110 a barrel for the first time since mid-2014 on fears that oil and gas supplies from energy giant Russia could be disrupted, either by the conflict in Ukraine or retaliatory western sanctions.

The basket of crude oil India buys rose above USD 102 per barrel on March 1, the highest since August 2014, according to information from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry. This compares to an average of USD 81.5 per barrel price of the Indian basket of crude oil at the



time of freezing of petrol and diesel prices in early November last year.

"With state elections getting over next week, we expect daily fuel price hikes to restart across both gasoline and diesel," JP Morgan said in a report.

The seventh and final phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly is on February 7 and the counting of votes slated for March 10.

State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are making a loss of Rs 5.7 a litre on petrol and diesel. This is without taking into account their normal margin of Rs 2.5 per litre.

The brokerage said for oil marketing companies to revert to normalised marketing margins, retail

prices need to increase by Rs 9 a litre or 10 per cent.

"We expect a combination of small excise duty cuts (Rs 1-3 per litre) and retail price hikes (Rs 5-8 a litre) to reflect the pass-through of USD 100 per barrel oil," it said.

Russia makes up for a third of Europe's natural gas and about 10 per cent of global oil production. About a third of Russian gas supplies to Europe usually travel through pipelines crossing Ukraine. But for India, Russian supplies account for a very small percentage. While India imported 43,400 barrels per day of oil from Russia in 2021 (about 1 per cent of overall its imports), coal imports from Russia at 1.8 million tonnes in 2021 made up for 1.3 per cent of all coal imports. India also buys 2.5 million tonnes of LNG a year from Gazprom of Russia.

Rupee slumps 44 paise at 75.77 against USD, gold rallies Rs 1,202

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

The rupee depreciated by 44 paise to close at 75.77 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as riskier assets took a hit amid deepening geopolitical tensions.

Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows, a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.78 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.86.

The local unit finally finished at 75.77, down 44 paise from its previous close. On

Monday, the rupee had settled at 75.33 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Tuesday on account of Mahashivratri.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.20 per cent higher at 97.60.

Gold in the national capital on Wednesday surged by Rs 1,202 to Rs 51,889 per 10 grams, reflecting overnight gains in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 50,687 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by Rs 2,148 to Rs 67,956 per kg,

from Rs 65,808 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee declined 49 paise to 75.82 against the US dollar in opening trade on Wednesday amid a weak risk appetite as tensions escalated in Eastern Europe.

In the international market, gold was trading marginally lower at USD 1,943 an ounce and silver was flat at USD 25.18 an ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,943 per ounce on Wednesday. Gold prices capped gains pressured by stronger dollar and rise in US bond yields," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

India adds record 10 gigawatt solar capacity in 2021

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

India installed a record 10 gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during calendar year 2021, registering a year-on-year rise of 212 per cent, according to Mercom India Research. The country had made 3.2 GW of solar capacity installations during 2020, the research firm said in its latest report. Cumulative solar installed capacity in India was approximately 49 GW at the end of December 2021, the report titled 'Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update' said.

"India added a record 10 GW of solar in 2021, the highest ever in a year. Solar accounted for 62 per cent of new power capacity additions in 2021, the largest share of power capacity ever," it said.

Average increment in India likely to increase to 9.1%

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Indian companies are expected to dole out an average increment of 9.1 per cent in 2022, higher than the pre-COVID-19 increment in 2019, as companies are focusing on retention of talent through rewards.

According to the 2022 Workforce and Increments Trends Survey by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, the average India 2022 increment is expected to go up to 9.1 per cent from eight per cent in 2021.

Moreover, the 2022 projected increment is higher than the pre-COVID-19 increment in 2019 by 50 basis points (bps). A basis point is equal to 1/100th of a percentage point. "Corporate India reacted differently to each COVID-19 wave.

"In 2020, the pandemic pulled the economy in a recession and lower increments, pay-cuts, and hiring freeze were common. In 2021, increments were higher, pay-cuts were reversed, and COVID-19-specific benefits were introduced.

Sensex plunges 778 pts on escalating tensions

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):



BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted 778 points to close below the 55,500-level on Wednesday following a broad-based selloff in global markets as the Russia-Ukraine crisis escalated.

The 30-share BSE index ended 778.38 points or 1.38 per cent lower at 55,468.90. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 187.95 points or 1.12 per cent to 16,605.95.

Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 6 per cent, followed by Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, HDFC and HDFC Bank.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Titan, Reliance and Nestle India were among the gainers. In other Asian

markets, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai ended with losses, while Seoul closed in the green. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mixed in afternoon trade.

Tracking the Ukraine crisis, Brent crude futures rose 5.09 per cent to USD 110.31 per barrel.

US President Joe Biden announced that the United States is closing its airspace to Russian planes, asserting that this along with other punitive measures would weaken Moscow. The US and EU have imposed various sanctions on Russia. These include curbs on Russia's biggest banks and excluding its financial institutions from the SWIFT global payments system.

E-Bill system will end 'rent seeking' in Govt contracts

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the new Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system will stop any possible 'rent seeking' in the clearance of dues to contractors or suppliers of government departments.

The e-Bill processing system, which was announced in the Budget, was launched on Wednesday. It will be implemented across all central ministries and departments and suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online, which will be trackable on a real-time



Nirmala Sitharaman

basis. Speaking at the 46th Civil Accounts Day, Sitharaman said this will ensure end-to-end digitisation and make the payment process transparent by using technology not just within the government departments, but extending the second leg to the citizen's use.

The e-Bill, she said, will shut even "any small window which is available" for "misuse in terms of rent-seeking", as a contractor or supplier to the government will be able to file their claims digitally. "Put your claim with digital signatures, and you do not have to come to government offices. Your payment reaches (to you) as soon as your claim reaches with a digital signature," Sitharaman said.

The civil accounts officers, she said, have ensured that the common man who works with the government will not have to wait for months, or not even go and meet officials, seeking the release of their dues.

FMCG industry faced consumption slowdown, degrowth

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Indian FMCG industry witnessed a consumption slowdown in urban markets and de-growth in rural areas in 2021, as the sector was hit hard by higher inflation levels forcing companies to go for successive price increases, said data analytics firm Nielsen.

In 2021, the FMCG industry had to go for double-digit price growth in three consecutive quarters to protect its margins, which converted into a price-driven growth of 17.5 per cent in comparison to a year ago in 2020. Even in the October-December (Q4/2021) quarter, the FMCG industry has witnessed a consumption degrowth of 2.6 per cent due to inflationary pressure, and other macroeconomic factors, said the FMCG Snapshot released by



NielsenIQ's Retail Intelligence team.

"Higher inflation levels during 2021 have led to three consecutive quarters with double-digit price increase resulting in consumption slowdown in urban markets, and consumption degrowth in rural markets," it said.

The rural market contributes around 35 per cent of the total FMCG sales. After the second wave, it was hit hard and several FMCG companies including the market leader HUL in their recent quarter results for the October-December period reported negative volume growth in rural markets.

India's manufacturing activities expand in Feb

As output, new orders rise amid favourable demand

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

India's manufacturing sector activities expanded in February as output and new orders grew at accelerated rates, supported by favourable demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 54.9 in February, up from 54.0 in January, signalling a stronger improvement in the sector's health.

The February PMI data pointed to an improve-



ment in overall operating conditions for the eighth straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

Sustained sales growth supported the upturn in manufacturing sector output in February. Moreover, firms responded to strong increases in new work intakes by lifting production, input buying and

stocks of purchases, the survey said.

"Latest PMI data for India's manufacturing sector revealed an improvement in operating conditions in February. Output and new orders expanded at stronger rates, while buying activity continued," said Shreya Patel, an economist at IHS Markit.

"There were, however, some key concerns that continued to threaten growth. Most prominently, cost pressures remained elevated as a result of shortages while delivery times lengthened once again. However, a key threat to manufacturers comes from only marginal increases in selling prices."

Honda and HPCL announce partnership

Bengaluru, Mar 02:

Honda Power Pack Energy India Private Limited, Honda Motor Co., Ltd.'s new subsidiary for battery sharing service, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), a Maharatna Oil & Gas Public Sector undertaking, signed a memorandum of understanding and commercial agreement to collaborate in the field of E-mobility and provide battery sharing services in HPCL's retail outlets in major cities across India. This marks the global debut of Honda's battery sharing service and HPCL has been chosen as preferred partner.

Didn't dilute NSE orders, acted as per Sebi's remit: Tyagi

Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTD):

Outgoing Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday said the capital markets regulator acted as per its remit and understanding on the NSE case, and denied any "dilution" of orders in the matter.

Tyagi, who left as the chief of the regulator after a five-year term, said other law enforcement agencies are also looking into the matter. "Till now, all the facts and findings in the public domain are based on Sebi's findings disclosed in its orders, and we should wait for the investigation of other agencies as well," Tyagi said. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is cooperating

Union Minister appreciates contribution of physicians of Indian origin

New Delhi, Mar 02:

The Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), a non-profit organization that aims to bring together 1.4 million physicians of Indian Origin on one platform organized its XII Annual Congress virtually on 26th and 27th February.

The 12th edition of this annual event saw participation of over 5000 participants from USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Middle East, Africa, UAE, India and other countries making it one of the largest events of its kind in the world.

During the Award function, eleven distinguished and young clinicians who have made noteworthy

contribution to improving healthcare were honoured. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers of India, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder President of GAPIO and Chairman Apollo Hospitals Group was the Guest of Honor.

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers of India, Government of India said "I am happy to be interacting with some of the best clinicians through the XII Conference of Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

Aluminium industry urges PMO to ensure coal supply

CPPs already facing backlog of over 1200 rakes

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTD):

The Aluminium Association of India (AAI) on Wednesday said that non-power industries, including aluminium companies, has been "plagued" by a protracted coal shortage for the past seven months and urged the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to ensure on priority a supply of at least 25-30 coal rakes per day to the sector.

The Association warned that disruptions in the aluminium sector's production will have a negative effect



on India's industrial landscape.

To highlight the severity of the crisis, the AAI has written to the Prime Minister's Office seeking an urgent and immediate resumption of coal supplies to ensure the survival of the domestic industry.

The ongoing V-shaped recovery of the Indian economy could receive a severe blow due to the situation faced by the aluminium sector, it said.

"For the past seven months, the non-power sector across the country, of which aluminium companies are a key part, has been plagued by a protracted coal shortage.

"As the most widely used non-ferrous metal globally and a critical input for several core industries in India, any disruptions in the sector's production will undoubtedly have a negative effect across the country's industrial landscape," AAI wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The continued coal shortage being faced by the country's highly power-intensive aluminium industry has now put lakhs of jobs in jeopardy.



New Chairperson of SEBI Madhabi Puri Buch with her predecessor Ajay Tyagi after taking charge at the SEBI office, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

with other agencies and sharing the information sought with them, he added. Speaking to reporters after handing over the charge to his successor,

Madhabi Puri Buch, Tyagi said the NSE case pertains to events between 2010-2015, and Sebi started investigations under him in the "right earnest".



SRK, Deepika-starrer 'Pathaan' to release on Jan 25, 2023

S hah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham's upcoming film 'Pathaan' has been locked for a January 25, 2023 release. The film will be released in three languages - Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. A tweet from the official handle of Yash Raj Films read: "Make. Some. Noise! PATHAAN is here. Watch the date announcement video NOW! In cinemas on 25th January, 2023. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Celebrate #Pathaan with #YRF50 only at a big screen near you." The spy thriller film is directed by Siddharth Anand. 'Pathaan' marks SRK's first film after 'Zero' which was released in 2018.

'I am very lucky that I get to play both sides of a coin'

Gulki Joshi, whose character SHO Haseena Malik from Maddam Sir is loved by the fans recently got an opportunity to play another character of a quintessential Mumbai girl, Mumbai in the same. Both the characters are poles apart and the actress is thoroughly enjoying the process. She spoke about essaying the new character and the challenges she faces while playing two opposite roles. From adapting new accent and mannerisms for Urmila to doing both the characters at the same time, Gulki poured her heart out.

Q1. What was the transition like from Haseena to Urmila, a quintessential Mumbai girl?

I am very lucky that I get to play both sides of a coin. On one side there is Haseena, who, as you must have seen, is a very calculated, sentimental, well-behaved person and then there is Urmila who is exactly a hundred percent opposite of her. Urmila is bold, loud, energetic, also a mess but even then she always speaks from her heart.

Q2. What preparations did you do to adapt to Urmila's accent and mannerisms?

I was very excited to play Urmila as this is something I have been



wanting to portray for a long time now. Very interestingly, I did not actually go through any special training to adapt to the accent and the mannerisms specific to her, it just came out naturally while reading the script and that is the beauty of the character.

Q3. Has it been challenging to portray Haseena and Urmila at the same time?

It has been tricky. For my audience, I am Haseena as they have

known the truth the entire time and at the same time for my team, I am Urmila. These are two very opposite characters and I always try my best to give my full attention to each character at a time. Naturally, it is a bit challenging to play both the roles at the same time where I must maintain the balance in both characters and justify the scenes.

Stay tuned with Maddam Sir, Mon - Sat, 10:00PM only on Sony SAB!



Ajay Devgn: Actors never chase the box-office, superstars do

Ajay Devgn is all set to make her digital debut with the upcoming series 'Rudra - The Edge of Darkness', an Indian adaptation of the Idris Elba-starrer 'Luther'. The star has talked about how there is no pressure of chasing box-office figures with the massive growth of the web-space.

Ajay, who has entertained the audiences with his power-packed performances in his over three-decade-long journey in Hindi cinema, says actors never chase the box-office, but superstars do. Asked if there is no pressure of chasing box-office numbers anymore courtesy the massive growth of the OTT space and films taking the digital route for releases, Ajay said: "Actors never chase the box office. Superstars do." For Ajay, it is the audiences' love that matters. "For me, a film's success is

not always about the box office. I want appreciation. I want my honesty to get noticed. I strive for quality. Of course, the ticket window sales do help. It's a bonus. However, numbers alone can't dictate the way I work or what I strive for. As far as OTT's rise goes, it's phenomenal. Certain films will go directly to streaming platforms and even there you are anxious to know how it has been received. An actor or a performer is always anxious," added the 52-year-old star.

Ajay made his acting debut in 1991 with 'Phool Aur Kaante'. He then rose to prominence as an action hero starring in successful films such as 'Jigar', 'Sangram', 'Dilwale' and 'Diljale'. He went on to give blockbusters like 'Zakham', 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', 'Company', 'Golmaal' franchise, 'Singham' franchise, 'Bol Bachchan' and 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'. How does he maintain staying ahead of the curve when it comes to his craft?

The actor, who has won National Film Awards, said: "Staying ahead of a curve is not always a conscious decision. It's all about accepting roles that I found attractive. When one breaks stereotypes, sometimes you tend to fall flat on the face. At other times, you soar. It's a gamble. Yes, in my three-decade-long career, I've taken chances and I've followed my heart as far as what is right for me is concerned."



Yami Gautam ties up with NGOs to support victims of sexual assault

Actress Yami Gautam has joined hands with two NGOs -- Majlis and Pari (People Against Rape in India) -- to support victims of sexual assault and to work for their rehabilitation.

"Today with great pride I would like to share that I have joined hands with two NGOs who are constantly supporting and working towards the rehabilitation of victims of sexual assault," Yami said.

She elaborated that women's safety still has a long way to go and her association with the NGOs for the cause emanates from this very subject.

"The need to work on these issues stems from the women's safety issues which still exist. While some progress has been made, there's a long way to go still," she said.

"My association with the NGOs is just the beginning and in the near future, I would like to contribute further in helping to procure better resources to protect and support women from all walks of life," she added.

Soumya delighted to receive her first pay

So Entertainment Television's show Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye is a beautiful narrative and a story which embarks on love and ambition. A story about a budding writer, Soumya Verma (Vidhi Pandya) takes charge of her own life by breaking all the shackles to fulfil her dream of becoming a successful writer in Oberoi Telefilms owned by Armaan Oberoi (Vijayendra Kumeria).

In the upcoming episodes viewers will witness how Armaan expresses his feelings to Soumya and makes it clear that he still hasn't moved on. On the other hand, Soumya is delighted to show her parents her first pay cheque while everyone still wonders why Armaan agrees to keep Soumya on the job. Armaan then explains that his father is the reason that he agreed to go back to Shaaila after Soumya rejected his proposal. Soumya who has started falling for Armaan Oberoi unknowingly gets jealous seeing Armaan with Shaaila. In this scenario, Soumya later decides to go to Armaan's office but before she could reach, she is hounded by reporters.

Armaan comes to her rescue and pulls



her away from the reporters. Soumya who is in awe of this gesture by Armaan asks him why he is so concerned about her to which Armaan confesses that he still loves her. Soumya later reaches Armaan's office, but she wonders why Armaan has suddenly started ignoring her. Adding more, she then learns that Shaaila's parents have also reached the office where Kashish insults Soumya in front of everyone by asking her to get coffee and Armaan enjoys hearing this.

Tune in to Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye every Monday to Friday at 9:00 PM on Sony Entertainment Television.

HOROSCOPE THURSDAY MARCH 03

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesha. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people. Your resilience will pay off.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! You don't want to be Jack, now, do you? It's high time you took a break from your busy work schedule. Go on a vacation to recharge your batteries. There are chances that evening could bring with it some hurtful remarks from loved ones. Don't be too sensitive to everything that's said, advises Ganesha.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to deal with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesha sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today, you will be at the centre of all your plans. Your responsibilities at home are likely to be unnecessary digressions for you, with your help-yourself-only attitude. However, you may feel that you are not getting enough returns of your hard work. Ganesha advises you to become more responsible at home, and your family's love and affection will make up for the insufficient returns.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesha sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

If you are wondering whether you'll get the carrot or the stick today, then Ganesha has some good news for you: the day promises to bring only rewards for you. This will be especially true for your workplace, where your innate talents get recognised today. Expect positive support from your colleagues, and oodles of inspiring tips from your superiors.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Today you might experience a slight (and very temporary) dark night of the soul, Sagittarius. You could take a long look at your life and, even though you're doing well, still feel that you aren't yet where you want to be. Spiritually, you might doubt the traditional views you've questioned and still wonder about new concepts you've adopted.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

This is not one of those easy and carefree days. You are in for a lot of mental anguish. The mental pressure you feel, you will realise, is of your own making. Unless you make radical changes in your basis outlook, mental tensions are likely to become an everyday affair. You need to face and accept things as they are.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

A sudden bend in the journey of life is important to understand it better, says Ganesha. Excellence will drone on throughout the day today. Top on the list are money matters and your loved ones - not necessarily in that order! Much of your time may be spent in appeasing the Gods.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Paradise is where patience leads you, success is the other terminus, says Ganesha. Keeping your cool will benefit you in more ways than you would have imagined, so think twice before you unleash your vengeance on your foes. You are also likely to have a heart-to-heart conversation with your beloved and make him/her feel wanted.

CROSSWORD

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- Least polite
- Compass direction (abbr.)
- Inspiring wonder
- Ripped
- Convent resident
- Rodent
- Actor ____ Redford
- Longitude's partner
- Overture
- Mumbai attire
- Opera song
- ____ of humor
- Kitchen hot spot
- Thailand's neighbor
- Computer key
- First, second, or third
- Otherwise
- Down East
- Cowboy ____ Autry
- No ifs, ____ or butts
- Doctor's "at once!"
- Sit for an artist
- Woe is me!
- Annoy
- Graduates
- Be a passenger
- Hock
- Store
- Standard procedure
- Traps
- Anxious
- Command
- Urban's opposite
- Juan's goodbye
- Pester
- Trick
- ____ sesame!"
- Not straight
- Fluid rock
- "A ____ of Two Cities"
- Cry noisily

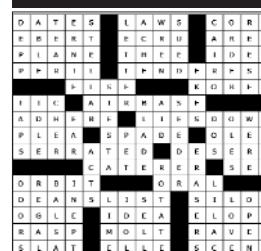
DOWN

- Patriot ____ Allen
- Not here
- Egypt's capital
- Give a job to
- Soup cracker
- Each
- Sell
- Before, in poems
- Streamlined
- Throw
- Frenzy
- Consumer
- Richard ____ of "Pretty Woman"
- Actress Julia ____
- Grating sound
- Batman's wear
- Small bay

ACROSS

- Engrave with acid
- Conserve
- Show indifference
- Bangkok native
- Impersonator
- Tenant's document
- Inheritor
- Queue
- Zealous
- Took into custody
- Worship
- Agent Smith's nemesis
- Twitch
- Wedding dessert
- Movie theaters
- Vapor
- Conditional release
- Obvious
- Green shade
- Crusted dessert
- Singer ____ Ronstadt
- Male vendor

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Rohit, Kohli, Pant may miss Ireland T20I series



New Delhi: Cricket Ireland has confirmed that the Indian team will be touring Ireland for a short two-match T20I series in June. However, the series is unlikely to see top players such as captain Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah in action as the remaining one Test match from the last year's tour of England is scheduled to held from July 1-5. "This summer will be a 'Season of Stars' as India, New Zealand and Afghanistan tour Ireland, while we will play South Africa in Bristol. We're set for the biggest home international season in Ireland ever!"

Archana and Sreeja make cut, men exit

New Delhi: Indian paddlers Archana Kamath and Sreeja Akula qualified for the women's singles main draw of the WTT Contender Muscat 2022. They will join Manika Batra, who got a direct entry into the round of 32. In the men's singles, however, none of the five players made it to the main draw. It leaves G Sathiyar, another direct entrant into the second stage, to fight for India's honours. He will clash with 16-year-old Chinese Lin Shidong in the round of 32. In the third round of the qualifiers, Archana defeated Oze Yilmaz 11-8 5-11 12-10 11-7. The 145th ranked player from Turkey managed to take the second game off Archana and came close in the third at 10-10. But the 99th ranked Indian saw through the crucial phase to stamp her authority.

Novak Djokovic no longer with longtime coach Marian Vajda



Belgrade: Novak Djokovic and coach Marian Vajda are no longer working together, splitting up after 15 years and 20 Grand Slam titles. A statement that went up on Djokovic's website on Tuesday said that the two men agreed to end their partnership after last year's season-ending ATP Finals. Marian has been by my side during the most important and memorable moments in my career, Djokovic said in the posting. Together we have achieved some incredible things and I am very grateful for his friendship and dedication over the last 15 years. While he might be leaving the professional team he will always be family and I can't thank him enough for all he has done. During Vajda's tenure, Djokovic also has picked up other coaches at various times including Boris Becker, Andre Agassi and Radek Stepanek and Goran Ivanisevic, who has been part of the team since 2019, will continue to work with the 34-year-old from Serbia. Djokovic and Vajda took a break from each other in 2017 but reunited the next year.

Mumbai eye win against Odisha

Ahmedabad: A buoyant Mumbai are eyeing an outright win, which is needed for the domestic heavyweights to stay in contention for the knockouts, as they square off against Odisha in their last Elite Group D Ranji Trophy game here from Thursday. Currently, Mumbai top the group with nine points, having won their last match against Goa and taken the first-innings lead against Saurashtra. If Mumbai beat Odisha, then they will get six points to take their aggregate to 15. In case they earn a bonus point, they will have 16 points. Saurashtra are placed second in the group with eight points and if they defeat Goa, they will have 14 points. If Mumbai secure a first-innings lead, and Saurashtra win, then the latter go through. So the Amol Muzumdar-coached side would be desperate to go all guns blazing for a win with a bonus point.

My sole aim is to win gold at Paris Paralympics, says para shuttler Palak Kohli

New Delhi: Young Indian para shuttler Palak Kohli says the Tokyo Games disappointment has increased her hunger for success and her sole aim is to return with a gold from the Paris Paralympics in two years time. The youngest para badminton player to qualify for the Paralympics at 18, Kohli is currently competing at the Spanish Para badminton International II in Victoria. She had qualified in all three formats - singles, women's doubles (Parul Parmar) and mixed doubles (Pranav Bhargat) at the Tokyo Games but couldn't return with a medal. "Playing in Tokyo was a wonderful experience. There is no age criteria in para badminton. So being the youngest to qualify for three events was a blessing as I got exposure to all three events," Kohli, whose left-arm is underdeveloped since birth, told PTI.



Pakistan, Australia to play for Benaud-Qadir Trophy

Rawalpindi, Mar 02 (AP):

Australia will play for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy to mark its first cricket test series in Pakistan in 24 years.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Wednesday confirmed the new trophy would be named to honor two legendary leg-spinners: Richie Benaud of Australia and Pakistan's Abdul Qadir.

Benaud led Australia to a 2-0 victory in its inaugural series in Pakistan in 1959 and, after retiring from test cricket, became a widely-known TV commentator. Qadir had a rich haul of 45 wickets in 11 test matches against Australia.

I am delighted to give my approval for Richie's name to be on this trophy alongside that of Abdul Qadir," Benaud's wife, Daphne, said in a statement issued by the PCB.

Richie had a very high regard for Abdul and the fact that both were leg-spinners has a nice ring to it." The PCB said that Cricket Australia has agreed to present the Benaud-Qadir trophy at the end of each men's test series played between the two countries.

PCB chief executive Faisal Hasnain said there could be no better way to launch the historic series



than in the names of two absolute legends and icons of this great game.

Both captains -- Pat Cummins of Australia and Babar Azam of Pakistan -- unveiled the trophy at the Pindi Cricket Stadium two days ahead of the series-opening test. We really are standing on the shoulders

of these greats of the past who helped to grow and popularize the game, and if my team can collect that trophy at the end of this series then it really would be the perfect end to the test part of this historic tour, Cummins said. Azam said cricket greats such as Benaud and Qadir should

be recognized and the game is today healthy, wealthy and strong because of such individuals and their legacy."

Australia's test team last toured Pakistan in 1998. Pakistan has hosted its home series against Australia in neutral venues since then.

Massive leap for Shreyas in ICC T20I rankings



Dubai, Mar 02 (PTI):

Riding on his splendid run against Sri Lanka recently, India batter Shreyas Iyer has jumped a massive 27 spots in the latest ICC T20I rankings, even as Virat Kohli fell out of the top 10.

India's recent home series win against Sri Lanka has had major ramifications on the player rankings aiding attacking top-order batter Iyer to make a massive jump to reach the 18th position in the list for batters.

Iyer scored three unbeaten half-centuries during India's 3-0 win against Sri Lanka in February, with the 27-year-old amassing an impressive 204 runs at a strike rate of 174.

Iyer's teammate pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar jumped three spots to 17th on the bowler rankings.

Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka scored an impressive 75 in the second game of the series, and he was rewarded with a six-spot rise to ninth on the rankings, while former India captain Kohli - who was rested for the series - dropped five places to 15th.

The other big mover with the bat in T20I cricket this week is Mohammad Wasem of the UAE. His unbeaten century against Ireland in the final of ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A, helped him reach the 12th position with the bat. That is the highest T20I ranking by any UAE batter, surpassing Shaiman Anwar's 13th place achieved in 2017.

Svitolina of Ukraine beats Potapova of Russia in WTA event



Mexico City, Mar 02 (AP):

Elina Svitolina put on the yellow and blue colors of Ukraine and beat Anastasia Potapova of Russia 6-2, 6-1 in the opening round of the Monterrey Open, deciding she could do more for her country by playing than boycotting the match.

Top-seeded Svitolina earlier said she wouldn't play against Potapova in Mexico or against any Russian or Belarusian opponents until the International Tennis Federation and the men's and women's tennis tours barred competitors from those countries using any national symbols, flags or anthems.

Harmanpreet credits team psychologist for helping her come out of 'shell'

Christchurch, Mar 02 (PTI):

India's ODI vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Wednesday revealed she was "going into a shell" before the team's psychologist Mugdha Bavare helped her get "clear ideas" and regain her lost form ahead of the ICC Women's World Cup. Bavare is travelling with the team in New Zealand, which is hosting the ODI showpiece from Friday.

It is the first time that the Indian women's team has a sports psychologist on tour. "Mugdha ma'am is travelling with us and she has been of a lot of help especially in the last four games which we played against New Zealand where my performance was not good and even I was going into a shell because the World Cup was coming," Kaur said during a virtual press conference.

"After I spoke to her I felt I was actually looking for that. I had things in my mind but I was not aware of it because of lot of pressure

IPL teams to start training from March 14 or 15



Mumbai, Mar 02 (PTI):

All the IPL teams will start training in the city from March 14 or 15 onwards and five practice venues have been identified.

It is understood that the MCA ground in suburban Bandra Kurla Complex, MCA ground in Thane, the Dr DY Patil University ground and a football pitch along with the CCI (Cricket Club of India) and the Reliance Corporate Park ground in Ghansoli have been identified by the authorities as practice venues for the cash-rich tournament, which begins on March 26.

Players are likely to start coming into the city from March 8.

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday conducted a meeting with BCCI and Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) in South Mumbai for a smooth conduct of the IPL, which is now a 10-team affair.

Ministers of the state government -- Aaditya Thackeray and Eknath Shinde -- along with MCA chief Vijay Patil and apex council members

Ajinkya Naik and Abhay Hadap, treasurer Jagdish Achrekar, were present at the meeting.

Post the meeting, in a series of tweets, Aaditya Thackeray said, "To ensure the smooth flow of the @IPL, Minister @mieknathshinde ji and I conducted a joint meeting of IPL, @BCCI with officers of Police and Municipal Corporations of Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai."

He also said that the state's deputy Chief Minister would soon conduct a similar meeting for Pune, the other venue for IPL.

"For Pune, the meeting will be held soon, proposed to be chaired by DCM sir to ensure that the tournament is successfully carried out in all our city venues," said Aaditya, who is the son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. "IPL coming to Maharashtra ensures that the games aren't played overseas. This is a huge boost for the country, as well as Maharashtra in terms of economy, morale and for the passion of cricket fans."

Team India to have new physios, trainers



Chandigarh, Mar 02 (PTI):

The Indian team will soon have new physios and Strength and Conditioning coaches, who will be part of a dedicated Sports Science & Sports Medicine (SSSM) team headed by Nitin Patel.

The BCCI will be making a plethora of recruitments for its SSSM team which includes physios

and trainers (S&C) for Team India (men and women, junior (men and women). A teams as well as dedicated "rehab specialists" working on injury managements.

Both physios and S&C coaches have two categories of recruitment in which category 1 constitutes working with senior men and women's teams while those in category 2 will work with junior men

and women and domestic cricket.

However, one of the interesting aspects of the new appointment is the enhanced role of rehab specialists and performance analyst among S&C coaches at the NCA for which applications had been sought. One of the key operating environment that BCCI has clearly mentioned is an interesting one.

Lyon: Australia aiming for test series sweep in Pakistan

Islamabad, Mar 02 (AP):

Veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon is aiming for a 3-0 sweep in Australia's first test series in Pakistan since 1998.

It's going to be a big challenge, but I'm going into this test series thinking we're going to be performing and playing our best cricket to win 3-0, Lyon said in an online news conference Wednesday, two days ahead of the first test at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

We haven't played an away test since 2019 it's a very young, exciting Australian test squad that we've got here and we're coming off a pretty spectacular summer.

Australia will have just three practice sessions to prepare for the test matches after arriving in Pakistan on Sunday and spending two days in the team hotel. They will be playing three test matches



but after talking to her I got the solutions. "I got clear ideas after talking to her, those things really helped during the last 2-3 games. I'm sure the team is also

benefitting from her because I can see she's continuously talking to all the players, which is very important and that will really help us," Kaur added.



within 22 days, part of International Cricket Council's World Test Championship, before competing in a three-match ODI series and a one-off Twenty20 against Pakistan. We've got enough people to cover all the bases, Lyon said. Whatever team we go out with, we're confident we can play a really, really positive brand of

cricket here in Pakistan. With 415 wickets in 105 test matches, Lyon will share the major workload of Australian slow bowlers. Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar and uncapped 28-year-old leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson are also in selection contention if Australia opts to go into the first test with two specialist spinners.

FLORAL TRIBUTE



Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman pays floral tribute to Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, before addressing the 46th Civil Accounts Day function, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

WHO calls for raising awareness about all birth defects

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI): On the World Birth Defects Day, the WHO and its member States in the South-East Asia Region and globally have called for increasing awareness about all birth defects and improve access to quality care and treatment.

In 2019, birth defects accounted for more than 5,30,000 deaths globally, including more than 1,17,000 deaths in the region around 22 per cent of the global total, said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said.

They were the third most common cause of child mortality in the region, and the fourth most common cause of neonatal mortality, constituting 12 per cent of all neonatal deaths, she said.

In addition to mortality, birth defects can cause long term morbidity and disability, which in low and middle-income countries, can strain health system, social and family resources, Khetrpal Singh said.

'Instead of illegal weapons, UP now makes missiles'

Chandauli (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said illegal weapons were made earlier in Uttar Pradesh to scare and kill people but now shells and missiles are being manufactured to protect the country. He was apparently referring to the defence industrial corridor coming up in the state.

Shah also listed various achievements of the BJP government in the state. Chandauli will go to polls during the seventh phase on March 7. "Earlier, illegal weapons were made in Uttar Pradesh, which were used to scare or kill people. Today, shells and missiles



Amit Shah

are being made here, which are used to protect India. This change has come during the BJP government," Shah said addressing an election meeting here.

Shah also exuded confidence that the BJP will

win the ongoing assembly elections. "I have been to around 150 (assembly) seats of in UP and seen the election mood at every place. In the first five phases of the elections, the SP and the BSP will be wiped off, and the people are working to form the BJP government. Now, you have to vote to take the tally (of seats) beyond 300."

The home minister said, "In UP, one or two 'bahubalis' (musclemen) are still left, who will be sent to the jail after March 10. Till the time law and order situation is improved, development cannot take place and industrial investments cannot come."

Exercise Vayu Shakti

148 IAF aircraft to demonstrate capabilities, Rafale to participate 1st time

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate their capabilities at Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer on March 7, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The Rafale aircraft will participate in this exercise for the first time and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest, the IAF official noted. The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts

Exercise Vayu Shakti at Pokharan range every three years to demonstrate its readiness to conduct full spectrum operations. The last one took place in 2019. Out of the 148 aircraft participating in the exercise this year, 109 will be fighter jets, the IAF official said.

The official added that 24 helicopters, seven transport aircraft and four remotely-piloted aircraft will also take part in the exercise on March 7. IAF's fighter jets such as Jaguar, Sukhoi-30, MiG-29, Tejas,

Rafale and Mirage-2000 will participate in this exercise, the official noted. The event will begin with 17 Jaguar aircraft flying in a "75 formation", the official said.

It will end with three jets - Rafale, Tejas and Sukhoi-30 - conducting "transformer aerobatic display", the official noted. IAF's helicopters such as Apache, Chinook, Mi17V5, Mi35, ALH MkIV and LCH will also take part in the March 7 exercise, the official said, adding that the event will begin at 10.30 AM and end at 12.30 PM.

Zaheerabad (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar is facing a stern challenge in this eastern Uttar Pradesh assembly constituency as he squares off against Saiyyada Shadab Fatima of the BSP and BJP's Kalicharan Rajbhar in a triangular contest which many people here believe could go right down to the wire.

What makes the contest interesting is that the three candidates are sort of veterans in this assembly segment in Ghazipur district but their political affiliations have changed this time. While sitting MLA and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party

(SBSP) chief Prakash Rajbhar, who was a BJP ally in 2017, has now joined hands with the Samajwadi Party, Fatima, who had been a Samajwadi Party minister in the state, is now a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate.

Kalicharan Rajbhar, who has been a two-time BSP MLA, is in the fray this time from the BJP. If Rajbhar versus Rajbhar was tricky enough, Fatima's entry has made the contest even more interesting, setting up a triangular contest amid a slew of bipolar fights between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BJP in this region.

Fatima seems to be no pushover as she is hailed by people of the constituency, cutting across communities, as someone who carried out a lot of development works when she won in 2012 and became a minister in the SP government.

She had joined Shivpal Yadav's breakaway faction Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party but with he reconciling with his nephew Akhilesh Yadav, she was unable to bag a ticket from here as the SBSP tied up with the SP. She even contemplated fighting Independent but finally sealed the BSP ticket to return to the electoral fray after skipping

the 2017 polls.

The three candidates seem to be confident of their chances citing their traditional vote bases but do know that it is not as straightforward as it seems with the possibility of last minute switches in loyalties and split in vote banks looming.

"The picture is very clear, these two (Kalicharan and Om Prakash) are contesting on caste. I am getting votes from all communities. It is not limited to BSP's traditional vote base of Dalits, or minorities. I am getting votes from Thakurs, Chauhans, Bhumiards, Kushwahs, among others," Fatima told PTI.

Power loom weavers resume work after calling off strike

Coimbatore, Mar 02 (PTI): Nearly two lakh power looms in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts started functioning on Wednesday following an agreement reached on revising wages. The power loom unit owners were on an indefinite strike from January 9 demanding implementation of a government order issued in November last year on revision of wages from master weavers, for whom they were working, which came into force in December 2021. The power looms spread over Somanur, Karumathyampatti, Paduvampalli, Kittampalayam, Thottipalayam and Sulur in Coimbatore district along with Palladam and nearby areas in Tirupur district had demanded 23 per cent increase for Somanur variety and 20 per cent for other fabrics.

SBSP chief Rajbhar faces stiff challenge from BJP, BSP on home turf

Zaheerabad (UP), Mar 02 (PTI):

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Congress 'padayatra' continues, to culminate in Bengaluru today

Bengaluru, March 02 (PTI):

The Congress 'padayatra' (foot march), demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery river in Karnataka, continued for the fourth day on Wednesday. The padayatra on Wednesday covers a distance of 16.7 km to reach Mekrhi Circle in the city from near Jayadeva Junction. This is the second leg of the march that ended abruptly in Ramanagara on January 13, when the third wave of the COVID-19 had peaked.

The 'padayatra 2.0' with the theme Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku' (Our water, Our right), that resumed on Sunday, will culminate at the National College Ground in Basavanagudi in Bengaluru on March 3, after covering a total dis-

tance of 79.8 kilometres. Speaking to reporters during the march, Leader of Opposition in Siddaramaiah claimed that the ruling BJP is in fear and is disturbed as the padayatra has been successful. State Congress President D K Shivakumar said though the padayatra is culminating tomorrow, it is a first step in the fight for the right over water.

He said people from across sections and party line have participated in the padayatra, and called it "historic". The padayatra has continued, despite an FIR against Congress leaders including Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, for holding the march on Sunday in violation of COVID-19 rules.

WARM WELCOME



Teachers greet students with flowers as they arrive to attend their classes on the first day of reopening of schools in valley after a gap of almost three years due to abrogation of Article 35A and COVID19, in Srinagar, Wednesday.

Artist Paresh Maity joins NFT bandwagon, collection to be auctioned on March 4

New Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

With five of his paintings going under the hammer on an NFT marketplace on Friday, leading contemporary painter Paresh Maity becomes the new artist dipping his toe into the world of metaverse.

Of the five assets, three will be physical paintings along with its non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and the remaining two will just be online assets. While the NFTs and physical paintings are priced at USD 110,000 (around Rs 85 lakhs), the NFT alone costs USD 5,000 (around Rs 4 lakhs). The rare collection will be auctioned by Kolkata-based Gallery Art Exposure on WazirX NFT Marketplace.

"I think NFT (Non-fungible token) is the future contrary to a lot of popu-

lar and conventional beliefs which think otherwise. By doing a collection of NFTs I want to reach out to a completely new audience which may not be aware of conventional art practices. So, the NFTs available now could be significant collectables or assets owned by people on the metaverse," said the 57-year-old Maity.

NFTs are unique, non-interchangeable digital assets with verified ownership rights and the details are stored on a blockchain. The three physical paintings and the NFTs up for the auction are: seven-foot oil on canvas "Wedding Bell" (2013), 72x72 inches "A Morning" (2006) and 7.5 x 4.5 feet "The Perpetual Galore" (2021) - both oil and acrylic on canvas. The other two works, available as NFTs only, will be revealed during the auction.

TMC decimates Oppn, wins 102 of 108 municipalities

Kolkata, Mar 02 (PTI):

Ten months after its landslide victory in the West Bengal assembly polls, the ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday steam-rolled the entire opposition in the civic elections, bagging 102 of the 108 municipalities in the state, an SEC official said.

The TMC secured Kanthi Municipality, the bastion of Leader of Opposition and Nandigram's BJP MLA Savendu Adhikari, while Hamro Party, a new entrant in hill politics, trounced TMC, GJM and

BJP to win Darjeeling Municipality. The CPI (M)-led Left Front won Taherpur Municipality in Nadia district.

The BJP, which has emerged as the main opposition party in West Bengal after winning 77 seats in the assembly polls last year, failed to win even a single civic body. The Congress, too, was unable to win a single civic body, although the parties have won a few wards in some towns.

"The TMC has won 102 municipalities. The Left Front has won one civic body, and Hamro Party has won one. Four municipalities have hung board," the State Election Commission



TMC supporters celebrate with colours, after the party leads in the West Bengal Municipal elections, in North 24 Parganas district, Wednesday.

(SEC) official said. The TMC has reduced the opposition's tally to zero in 27 municipalities, securing all the wards. At least four municipalities Beldanga

in Murshidabad, Jhalda in Purulia, Champdani in Hooghly and Egra in Purba Medinipur district are hung, with no party securing a clear majority.

Independents hold the key to board formation in these civic bodies.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday thanked the people of West Bengal for giving a massive mandate to the ruling Trinamool Congress in the civic elections and called upon winning candidates and supporters to work with humility.

"Heart-felt gratitude to Ma-Mati-Manush for according yet another overwhelming mandate to us. Congratulations to the winning candidates of All India Trinamool Congress in the Municipal Elections," she tweeted.

Rare life-threatening brain tumour removed after 7-hour surgery

● At Delhi hospital

Delhi, Mar 02 (PTI):

A 53-year-old man got a new lease of life after doctors at the Fortis Hospital in Shalimar Bagh here removed a rare kind of vascular tumour from his brain in a seven-hour-long surgery.

Dr Sonal Gupta, Director and HOD Neurosurgery at the hospital said an MRI revealed a large mass in the brain suggestive of tuberculosis.

Taking into account the large size of the tumour, a decision to remove it sur-

gically was taken as medication wasn't helpful in reducing the size of the mass.

During the surgery, the doctors were surprised to discover a large mass full of blood vessels covering the left side of the cerebellum (which is small brain).

An immediate surgery was performed to remove the mass which would have otherwise led to other health complications like coma, limb weakness and accumulation of fluid in the brain, the hospital said.

"We were shocked the moment we began the surgery as we saw a large

mass full of blood vessels in his brain. Without further delay, the patient was taken for an angiogram which helped us understand the source of the blood supply to the tumour."

"His reports confirmed that he was actually suffering from a rare kind of vascular tumour, medically known as Hemangioblastoma," she said.

Hemangioblastoma is a benign, highly vascular tumour that can occur in the brain, spinal cord, and retina. It accounts for about two percent of brain tumours.