



BRIEF



AISA activists display banners seeking immediate return of all Indian nationals from war-torn Ukraine, during a protest against the Russia-Ukraine war, in Kolkata, Thursday.

Tigress dies

Bilaspur: A 13-year-old tigress rescued from the Achanakur Tiger Reserve (ATR) died during treatment at Kanan Pindari Zoological Garden in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, a forest official said on Thursday. The tigress died of age-related ailment that caused multiple-organ failure on Wednesday, he said. The big cat's condition deteriorated around 8.45 am, following which the veterinarian at the facility started treatment and at 11.26 am, the animal died, the official said.

Antilia case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday said it would examine whether an order by the Central government granting sanction for prosecution of an accused under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) can be challenged. The high court was hearing a plea by former Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze challenging the sanction granted to prosecute him under the UAPA in connection with industrialist Mukesh Ambani's Antilia bomb scare case.

Bangladeshi held

Thane: Three Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly fabricating documents and staying illegally in the country, police said on Thursday. Based on a complaint, the police on Wednesday arrested Jainal Jaffar Khan (27), Yasin Arifat Ansari (25) and Pappu Mohammad Mustafa Ansari (32), an official said. Offences have been registered against the accused under section 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the IPC, Foreign Nationals Act and Indian Passports Act at Shanti Nagar police station, he said.

Two dead

Mandi: Two persons were killed and 14 others sustained injuries as a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus fell into a gorge in Mandi district on Thursday, police said. The accident took place at Jhir village of Sarkaghat sub division, Mandi Superintendent of Police Shalini Agnihotri said. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital for their treatment, she added.

Weather	
High	33
Low	18
MARKET	
NIFTY	16,498.05
SENSEX	55,102.68
BULLION	
GOLD	51,530
SILVER	67,200

Pace of evacuation accelerating: MEA

About 1000 Indians left Kharkiv after advisory

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the pace of India's evacuation operation from Ukraine is accelerating and about 1,000 Indians have left Kharkiv to nearby Pischyn pursuant to its advisory a day ago. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing that the Indian side is in touch with both Ukrainian and Russian authorities to examine the modalities of how Indians can be evacuated from both Kharkiv and Sumy.

"We are closely following the developments in Kharkiv, Sumy and other cities in eastern Ukraine. As you know yesterday we issued an advisory for Indians in Kharkiv to leave the city by 6PM local time. Pursuant to this a large number of students have left Kharkiv and are



Mayor of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Greater) Somya Gurjar greets an Indian student, after she was evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, in Jaipur, Thursday.

currently in the nearby issue of Pischyn. We estimate this number to be around 1,000," he said. "We are currently looking at transportation options to move them from there to western Ukraine or southern Ukraine de-

pending on the transportation options," Bagchi said. He said the pace of India's evacuation operation is continuing to accelerate. Fifteen flights landed in India during last 24 hours, bringing back more than 3,000 Indians, he said.

No hostage situation involving Indian students in Kharkiv: MEA

New Delhi: India on Thursday rejected claims by both Russia and Ukraine that Indian students are being held hostage in the besieged city of Kharkiv, and said it has requested the support of Ukrainian authorities in arranging special trains for taking them out from the city and neighbouring areas. India's comments came after a statement from Russian President Vladimir Putin's office claimed that some Indian students were "actually taken hostage" by Ukrainian security forces, who use them as a "human shield" and in every possible way prevent them from leaving for Russian territory.

Bagchi also informed that 18 flights have been scheduled for next 24 hours to bring back Indian nationals from Ukraine. A total of about 18,000 Indian nationals have left Ukraine since our first advisory was released, he said.

Lokpal gets 4,244 complaints this fiscal till Jan, over 80% jump from 2020-21

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI): Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has received 4,244 corruption complaints between April 2021 and January 31, 2022, a jump of over 80 per cent from 2020-21.

It had got 1,427 complaints during 2019-20 financial year.

"Total 4,244 number of complaints (including format and non-format) have been received through online/offline and email during the financial year 2021-22 (upto January 31, 2022)," the Lokpal said in reply to an RTI query filed by this PTI journalist. A total of 2,355 complaints (includ-

ing format and non-format) were received through online/offline and email during 2020-21.

The government had in March 2020 issued a format for filing corruption complaints with the Lokpal against public servants. All complainants have to mandatorily give an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper, that among other things mentions, making any false and frivolous or vexatious complaint is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees.

Jaishankar briefs consultative panel on Ukraine crisis

Opp says its stands united with govt

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The opposition stands united with the government, opposition leaders said on Thursday after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the consultative committee of his ministry on Russia's attack on Ukraine and the evacuation of Indians from the war-hit nation.

During the meeting, which was attended by nine MPs from six parties, including Congress senior leader Rahul Gandhi, the opposition members broadly sup-

ported the government's stand of abstaining from voting in the UNSC on a resolution deploring Russia, sources said. "Just completed a MEA consultative committee meeting on developments in Ukraine. A good discussion on the strategic and humanitarian aspects of the issue. Strong and unanimous message of support for efforts to bring back all Indians from Ukraine," Jaishankar tweeted. Thanking leaders for their participation, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "a na-

tional consensus on the importance of dialogue and diplomacy." Talking to reporters after the meeting, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, "we all are united."

Later tweeting about the meeting, Tharoor said, "Nine MPs attended from six political parties. @INCIndia MPs present were @RahulGandhi, @AnandSharmaINC & myself. Frank discussions took place in an amicable atmosphere, a reminder that when it comes to national interests we are all Indians first and foremost."

UP polls 6th phase: Around 55% per cent polling

Lucknow, Mar 03 (PTI):

About 55 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm in the sixth phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on Thursday.

The prominent faces among the 676 candidates for 57 seats spread across 10 districts in this phase include Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur Urban and state Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu from Tamkuhi Raj.

The districts where polling is being held on Thursday are A m b e d k a r n a g a r, Balrampur, Siddharth Nagar, Basti, Sant Kabir



Police personnel stand on guard at a vacant polling station, in Ballia, Thursday.

Nagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria and Ballia. There was about 46.70 per cent polling till 3 pm, according to the Election Commission of India's

Turnout app. Additional Chief Election Officer (ACEO), BDR Tiwari said polling was going on peacefully in the state. While Ambedkarnagar had 52.42 per cent voting,

Ballia had 46.50 per cent, Balrampur 42.51 per cent, Basti 46.30 per cent, Deoria 45.37 per cent, Gorakhpur 46.46 per cent, Kushinagar 48.55 per cent, Maharajganj 47.59 per cent, Sant Kabir Nagar 44.62 per cent and Siddharth Nagar 45.60 per cent.

Those who cast their votes in the morning included Chief Minister Adityanath, Basic Education Minister Satish Dwivedi, Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chowdhury, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, minister Upendra Tiwari and former minister Narad Rai.

Rational to open schools, normal affairs of society while taking necessary precautions: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Unvaccinated individuals account for 92 per cent of COVID-19 deaths in India so far this year, the Health Ministry said Thursday, even as it asserted the country is in a "vaccine-enabled low coronavirus phase" now and it is "rational" to open schools, colleges, economic activities and normal affairs of society while taking necessary precautions.

Addressing a press conference here, senior health ministry officials said 74 per cent of adolescents between 15-18 years of age have been administered their first doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 39 per cent given both doses.

India logs 6,561 Covid infections

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 case tally rose to 4,29,45,160 with 6,561 people testing positive for the infection in a day while active cases declined to 77,152, according to Union Health Ministry data on Thursday. The death toll has climbed to 5,14,388 with 142 more people succumbing to the disease, the data updated at 8 am stated. It was for 25 consecutive days that India recorded less than one lakh daily COVID-19 cases. Active cases comprise 0.18 per cent of the total infections while the national Covid recovery rate improved to 98.62 per cent, the Health Ministry said. A reduction of 8,528 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a day.

They said India witnessed considerably lower number of Covid deaths due to vaccine development, its rapid deployment, acceptance and wide coverage. They said the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine is 98.9 per cent ef-

fective in preventing mortality, while both doses are 99.3 per cent effective.

They said that the efforts of healthcare, front-line workers coupled with vaccination coverage helped in effective containment of the recent Covid

surge. V K Paul, NITI Aayog Member (Health), said, "We are in a vaccine-enabled low coronavirus phase. It is rational to open schools, colleges, resorts, economic activities and normal affairs of society. But we should be watchful and vigilant."

Presently, 29 districts across the country have over 10 per cent COVID-19 positivity rate, while 34 districts have a positivity rate between 5-10 per cent, the officials said.

They said that with whole of government and whole of society approach India has been able to avert the crisis of potentially devastating magnitude of Covid seen in other countries.

Russian forces seize key Ukrainian port

Kyiv, Mar 03 (AP):

Russian forces have seized a strategic Ukrainian seaport and besieged another as part of efforts to cut the country off from its coastline, even as Moscow said Thursday it was ready for talks to end the fighting that has sent more than 1 million people fleeing over Ukraine's borders.

The Russian military said it had control of Kherson, and local Ukrainian officials confirmed that forces have taken over local government headquarters in the Black Sea port of 280,000, making it the first major city to fall since the invasion began a week ago.

Elsewhere, the Russians pressed their offensive on multiple fronts, though a column of tanks and other vehicles has apparently been stalled for days outside the capital of Kyiv. Heavy fighting continued Thursday on the outskirts of another strategic port city on the Azov Sea,

Mariupol, plunging it into darkness, isolation and fear. Electricity and phone connections are largely down, and homes and shops are facing food and water shortages.

Without phone connections, medics didn't know where to take the wounded.

In just seven days of fighting, more than 2% of Ukraine's population has been forced out of the country, according to the tally the U.N. refugee agency released to The Associated Press. The mass evacuation could be seen in Kharkiv, a city of about 1.4 million people and Ukraine's second-largest. Residents desperate to escape falling shells and bombs crowded the city's train station and pressed onto trains, not always knowing where they were headed.

At least 227 civilians have been killed and another 525 wounded in that time, according to the latest figures from the office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Human Rights. It acknowledges that is a vast undercount, and Ukraine earlier said more than 2,000 civilians have died. That figure could not be independently verified.

As the toll of war mounted, a second round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was expected later Thursday in neighboring Belarus though the two sides appeared to have little common ground.

We are ready to conduct talks, but we will continue the operation because we won't allow Ukraine to preserve a military infrastructure that threatens Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, repeating an accusation Moscow has repeatedly used to justify its invasion.

Lavrov said that the West has continuously armed Ukraine, trained its troops and built up bases there to turn Ukraine into a bulwark against Russia.

Pak court asks India to appoint lawyer for Kulbhushan Jadhav by April 13

Islamabad, Mar 03 (PTI):

A high court here on Thursday asked India to appoint a lawyer for death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav by April 13 to argue his case for a review of his conviction and sentencing by a Pakistani military court. Jadhav, a 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. After hearing both

sides, the Hague-based ICJ issued a verdict in July, 2019, asking Pakistan to give India consular access to Jadhav and also ensure review of his conviction.

The Islamabad High Court formed a three-member larger bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb in August 2020 which has repeatedly asked India to nominate a lawyer from Pakistan for Jadhav but New Delhi so far refused by insisting that it should be given a chance to appoint an Indian lawyer.

SC refuses to entertain PIL against promise of freebies made by parties during polls

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to register FIRs against political parties for allegedly inducing voters by offering freebies, saying it felt the plea was motivated and a publicity interest litigation.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana raised the issue of selectively naming five political parties accusing them of promising freebies in the PIL filed by the vice president of NGO, Hindu Sena.

"We feel it is motivated, selectively, to do damage you're doing this. You have a hidden agenda. Who are you,

asked the bench which also comprised justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli. "I am the Vice President of Hindu Sena NGO," said advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, appearing for the petitioner.

"Why does your petition have particular parties, it should have been general in nature," the bench said, adding that it seems there was some hidden agenda in the publicity interest litigation. The lawyer then withdrew the petition.

On Wednesday, the top court had agreed to consider listing for an urgent hearing the plea which has accused Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP, and Aam Aadmi Party of

promising freebies in assembly polls in five states. The plea was filed by Hindu Sena vice president Surjit Singh Yadav saying he was aggrieved by the offer and promises made by these five parties in the ongoing assembly election being held in five states.

"Such an offer or promise by a political party, its leader, candidates set up in the elections, may be declared to be indulging in corrupt practices and bribery in terms of provisions of Section 123 (1)(b) of the Representations of People Act, 1951 and the candidates set up by such political parties may be declared disqualified from contesting the election in that state.

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TIBETAN NEW YEAR



Tibetan monks during a traditional prayer on the first day of Losar, the Tibetan New Year at the Tsuglagkhang temple, in Dharamshala, Thursday.

Russia says its buses ready to evacuate Indian students, foreigners from Ukraine

Moscow, Mar 03 (PTI):

One hundred and thirty buses are ready to evacuate stranded Indian students and other foreigners from war-torn Ukraine's Kharkov and Sumy cities to Russia's Belgorod Region, a top Russian military general said on Thursday.

The remarks by Russian National Defence Control Center head Colonel-General Mikhail Mizintsev comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and discussed the safe evacuation of Indians from the conflict areas in Ukraine. Approximately

8,000 Indians, mainly students, are stranded in Ukraine, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said on Tuesday.

"A total of 130 comfortable buses are ready to depart to Kharkov and Sumy from the Nekhoteyevka and Sudzha checkpoints in the Belgorod Region since 6 AM today in order to Rescue Indian students and citizens of other foreign states, Russian National Defence Control Center head Colonel-General Mikhail Mizintsev was quoted as saying by the state-owned TASS news agency. Mizintsev said that places for temporary accommodation and rest have been

set up at the checkpoints. The refugees will be provided with hot meals; mobile clinics have also been set up there with a stockpile of medicine, he said.

"The evacuees will be then transported to the city of Belgorod for subsequent departure to their homeland by air, including via Russian military airplanes, the General said. On Thursday, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in New Delhi said India has been coordinating effectively with the countries in the region including Russia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova for evacuation of Indians from Ukraine.

SC asks AG to help in evacuation of medical students stranded in Ukraine near Romania border

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI): The Supreme Court Thursday asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to use his good office in helping evacuate some Indian medical students stranded in war-ravaged Ukraine near the Romania border. A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said earlier in the day, when the plea was mentioned for urgent hearing, it sympathised with the stranded students and asked can the court direct the head of the state to stop the war. Please tell us what can the court do? Can we direct the President (of Russia) to stop the war, said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, and asked the counsel for petitioner Fathima Ahana who is stranded in Ukraine to wait inside the courtroom till the time Venugopal appears in court. The bench took note of the submissions of Ahana's lawyer that several students are stuck near the Romanian border in freezing cold and the government is not running flights from Romania. "There are 1,000 students like this. But some have come here. We cannot say no'. Please use your good offices and do something, the bench told Venugopal, who, in turn, apprised that the Prime Minister has sent one minister to Romania. Venugopal said the Prime Minister has also talked to the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine and discussed this aspect. Flights are being operated from Poland and Hungary and not from Romania. The students, who also include many girls, are stuck without any facility, the lawyer told the bench.

2020 Delhi riots: Court reserves order on Umar Khalid's bail plea

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Thursday reserved its order on the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a case of a larger conspiracy in connection with Delhi riots during February 2020. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said that the order on the bail plea of Khalid would be pronounced on March 14.

During the argument, the accused told the court that the prosecution lacked the evidence to prove its case against him. Khalid, along with several others, has been booked under the anti-terror law -- Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA) -- in the case for being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The violence had erupted during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Besides Khalid, activist Khalid Saifi, JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and several others have also been booked under the stringent law in the case.

Five states hit by natural disasters given additional assistance by Centre

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Centre has approved over Rs 1,682 crore as additional assistance to five states and a union territory which were hit by floods and landslides last year. The approval of the additional central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has been given by a High Level Committee (HLC) headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The HLC approved the additional central assistance of Rs 1,664.25 crore to five states from the NDRF and Rs 17.86 crore to Puducherry, an official statement said on Thursday. While Rs 351.43 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 112.19 crore has been given to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 492.39 crore to Karnataka, Rs 355.39 crore to Maharashtra, Rs 352.85 crore to Tamil Nadu and Rs 17.86 crore to Puducherry. This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states.

Oppn trying to divide society for votes when India needs to be strong: Modi

Jaunpur (UP), Mar 03 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday alleged the Opposition is trying to divide society for votes at a time when India needs to be strong to deal with "serious challenges" the world faces.

The possible reference to the war in Ukraine came during a poll meeting during which Modi also said the BJP's victory in the ongoing Uttar Pradesh election is necessary to ensure the state's journey on the path of development does not stop.

"The time is coming up with serious challenges for the whole world. So

your vote is making India strong to deal with these challenges. On one hand, there are those who are busy dividing society for votes even at such times, while on the other side there are BJP and our allies who are devoting themselves wholeheartedly in the development of the country," he said.

Taking a jibe at the opposition, he said that dynasts who only try to fill their 'tijori' (vault) can never fulfill the dreams of the poor. He claimed that voting in the state so far has confirmed the victory of the BJP alliance.

In the sixth phase of polling being held on

Thursday, votes are being cast in favour of the BJP, the prime minister told the meeting.

"The BJP's victory in the assembly elections is necessary because Uttar Pradesh is moving on the path of development and it should not stop now," Modi said. "We have to ensure that the victory of the BJP is as grand as it was in 2017."

Terming the previous Samajwadi Party government "mafia-wadi" (those who help mafia elements), Modi said a BJP government was needed in the state to ensure Jaunpur is "mafia-free".

Attacking the previous

Akhilesh Yadav government, the PM said, "Pariwarwadis' (dynasts) can never fulfill the dreams of the poor. The way of these 'mafia-wadis' to run the government is to loot Uttar Pradesh and crush the dreams of the poor. They never see your pain, your trouble."

Referring to SP president Yadav, Modi said he used to send letters to the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister from Delhi, telling him time and again that the Indian government is giving money and you can build houses for the poor". But they didn't care about the life of the poor, the PM alleged

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AIFF warns Jhingan for sexist remarks during ISL match



New Delhi: The All India Football Federation on Thursday warned star Indian centre back Sandesh Jhingan for making sexist remarks following his team ATK Mohun Bagan's 2-2 draw against Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League. "The AIFB Disciplinary Committee has issued a stern warning to ATK Mohun Bagan player Sandesh Jhingan for his comments made after their match against Kerala Blasters FC (on February 19)," said a statement from the ISL. "The AIFB body took into account the apology tendered by the player on social media. The Committee has also communicated any repetition will entail exemplary penal actions."

Russian athletes out of Paralympics

Beijing: In a stunning reversal, Russian and Belarusian athletes have been banned from the Winter Paralympic Games for their countries' roles in the war in Ukraine, the International Paralympic Committee said Thursday. The about-face comes less than 24 hours after the IPC on Wednesday announced it would allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete when the Games open on Friday, but only as neutral athletes with colors, flags and other national symbols removed. The IPC received immediate criticism for its initial decision. It was termed a betrayal that sent the wrong message to Russia's leadership. The IPC also said it was evident that many athletes would refuse to compete against Russians or Belarusians, creating chaos for the Paralympics and damaging the reputation. IPC President Andrew Parsons, in announcing the initial measures Wednesday in a Beijing news conference, sympathized openly with the Ukrainian people but said his actions were constrained by his organization's rules and the fear of legal action.

Gardner tests positive to COVID-19

Christchurch: The Australian women's cricket team's star all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner has tested positive for COVID-19 and is set to miss the opening two games in a blow to her side's campaign at the ODI World cup, beginning Friday. The 24-year-old will be in isolation for 10 days and will miss the games against defending champions England and Pakistan scheduled to be held on Saturday and Tuesday respectively. She is likely to be available for the third game against hosts New Zealand on March 13 in Wellington. Gardner, who hit a 32-ball 60 in Australia's second warm-up match against New Zealand on Tuesday, is likely to be replaced by pace-bowling all-rounder Annabel Sutherland or fellow spin-bowling all-rounder Grace Harris. "All remaining Australian players and support staff have tested negative following subsequent RATs," Cricket Australia said in a statement.



Delhi's poor run continues, Chhattisgarh scored 290 runs for four wickets

Guwahati, Mar 04: Delhi, who were out of the race for the quarter-finals, continued their poor run in the Ranji Trophy as Chhattisgarh scored 290 for four against them on the first day of the Group H match. Batting first, Ajay Mandal (63 runs in 90 balls), Amandeep Khare (68 not out in 170 balls) and Shashank Singh (75 not out) played useful innings for Chhattisgarh. Mandal and Singh shared an unbeaten 147-run partnership for the fifth wicket. Sanidhya Hurkat (44) and captain Harpreet Singh (21) also played well.

Erigaisi is new national chess champion



Kanpur: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi of Telangana won the 58th edition of Senior National Chess Championship here on Thursday, edging out fellow GMs of Tamil Nadu D Gukesh and P Niyan in a tie-breaker after the trio finished on 8.5 points each. The 18-year-old Erigaisi remained unbeaten in 11 rounds and ended up with a score of 8.5 points for his maiden Senior National title. He drew his final round game against former champion S P Sethuraman. Gukesh had to settle for a draw against Aryan Chopra while Niyan moved up to 8.5 points with a fine win over fellow GM Mitrabha Guha of West Bengal. Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram of Tamil Nadu finished fourth with eight points, while top-seed and pre-tournament favourite B Adhinan ended a distant 20th.

Rohit's Team India begin new era in Kohli's 100th Test

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Hailed by many as the 'Last of the Mohicans' in cricket's purest format, Virat Kohli will be focussed on making his 100th appearance memorable while "white-ball legend" Rohit Sharma plots the demolition of an out-of-depth Sri Lanka as India's 35th Test captain in the series-opener starting here on Friday.

If one looks back at Indian team's journey since its inception in international cricket back in 1932, it has been about stars, superstars, and megastars, who become the reason for the downfall at turnstiles of various stadiums across the country.

It was the case when Sunil Gavaskar scored his 10,000th run, Sachin Tendulkar bade the most emotional farewell that cricket has ever seen and now the spotlight will be firmly on Kohli, whose domineering presence has turned an international match into a footnote.

Kohli is one among "them" and in a fast-paced world, perhaps the last cricket star who will enjoy an organic following of manic fans.

India was, is and will re-



Journey starts for Rohit's team

They say, 'A good Captain, is a good captain, is a good captain'. Everyone knows Rohit's credentials in white-ball cricket especially IPL, where he has even challenged the hegemony of the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni. There is no reference frame to judge how good he will be in a game that's played over five days for six hours. He is 34 and will surely not be playing white ball cricket for more than three years at a stretch with a demanding calendar. How he handles a transition phase in Indian cricket, which has started with curtains on careers of Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Ishant Sharma. Will have a huge impact on how he is perceived — just a mere captain or a leader of men.

main more of a "cricketer-loving" nation and the social media warcy that perhaps led to fans being allowed in the

stadium from Friday is a testimony to Kohli's immense popularity.

This is his "Test" and for Kohli, a century to mark a 'century' is something he

Skipper's team Combination

Rohit's tactical acumen has always got him respect from all quarters and the first reflection of it in Test cricket would be how he handles his playing XI. It is expected that Shubman Gill will be coming in at number three in the place vacated by Pujara and will have to show "intent" which was believed to be missing earlier. Gill has the game to do that. The tricky position will be the other middle-order slot which Rahane had made his own for the longest time. There are two candidates and both are deserving. Hanuma Vihari, Indian cricket's new fire-fighter, has always been sent out to bat in difficult overseas conditions and hasn't done badly at all. And this makes him a deserving candidate for a fair run of Test matches. The other is Shreyas Iyer, a very flashy batter but with some technical glitches, including problems against short ball. He had a good initiation in Test matches with a hundred on debut against New Zealand.

would be craving, having missed that sense of accomplishment that comes with a three-figure mark for over two

Bowling attack

The Lankan batting line-up depends heavily on skipper Dimuth Karunaratne along with old guards Dinesh Chandimal and Angelo Mathews, both well past their prime. How well they handle Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on a pitch that will be dry after being baked by sunshine is a million dollar question. In a nutshell, one can expect a four-day finish if India bats first and even earlier if they bat second.

years now. A bowling attack that has the likes of Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara or Lasith Embuldeniya is perfect for a sumptuous 'five course' Kohli treat with cover drives, on drives, flicks and pulls on the menu.

Teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hanuma Vihari, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Kona Bharat (wk), Umesh Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, Priyank Panchal

Sri Lanka:

Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Dhanajaya De Silva, Charith Asalanka, Dushmantha Chammeera, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Niroshan Dickwella, Lasith Embuldeniya, Vishwa Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Lahiru Kumara, Kusal Mendis (wk), Pathum Nissanka, Jeffrey Vandersay, Praveen Jayawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne.

Match Stars 9:30 am.

Difficult to fill in for Pujara, Rahane but at times we need to look forward: Rohit Sharma

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane's service to Indian cricket isn't easy to match but there comes a point when one needs to look forward and give the younger crop a fair run at the Test level, new captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday. Rahane, with 82 games, and Pujara, with 95 games, have been dropped from the Test squad for the Sri Lanka series and Rohit made it clear that the likes of Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari and Shreyas Iyer need to be backed for a solid run. "Look these are big shoes to fill in. It's never easy for the guys coming in. Even I don't know who's coming in place of Pujara and Rahane. So we have to wait till tomorrow morning to see who's going to play," Rohit answered to a question on the impact of the senior duo's absence from the team. For Rohit, their and Ishant Sharma's (100 plus games) contribution to India's ascendancy in traditional format is immense.

It's a tough spot in WTC, admits skipper

India are in a spot of bother in World Test Championship (WTC) currently after a draw against New Zealand at home and



series defeat in South Africa but the adverse circumstances that a young team will encounter in the near future will build characters. "I think it's going to be a challenging one, no doubt about that. We do understand we are in the midway in the WTC table. From hereon now, every single game is important. "We do understand that...it is very important for us to be in present, what we can do in the next Test and the rest that follow. The nine Tests we have (2 vs Sri Lanka, 1 vs England, 2 vs Bangladesh and 4 vs Australia), we have to win almost every game. There will be a lot of pressure," he admitted. "But you will build a lot of character and you will see a lot of champion cricketers coming around. That's my belief, you thrive under pressure, you turn out to be a

solid cricketer." Gill or Mayank as his opening partner?

Rohit was asked about team combination multiple times but he didn't take the bait even when quizzed about who is his preferred opening partner — Mayank Agarwal or Shubman Gill. "I am a captain and I will prefer everyone. I have no preferences like that but we will see and analyse who is the right guy. We will analyse everything and then take a call. "Mayank, Shubman, Iyer, Vihari, all these guys are brilliant. They are the future of Indian cricket. I think we need to give them a solid run to excel in this particular format. It will start from the management with enough support," he urged.

Philosophy of captaincy remains same

The red ball captaincy is a different challenge for

Rohit but the basics of leading a side, according to him, remain the same. "My philosophy of captaincy remains the same. That is staying in present and understanding the situation and what is the right call to take at that time. It is important to think one thing at a time and it's a different format. There is no comparison there. "It's the first time I am leading in red ball cricket for India. It's going to be very exciting. I really can't wait for it."

Only 43 Test matches? No regrets, he declares

One saw Rohit's carefree side when he was asked if he has any regrets of not setting the Test match stage on fire in the past 15 years during which he played only 43 five-day games. So any targets he has set for himself from hereon?

"Kya sir kya target set karu apne liye. Mera target team ke liye set hai. Main khush hoon 40 matches se, koi regret nahi hai (What target sir? My target is for the team and I am happy with 40 games. No regrets). "I have had my share of injuries and my life has seen a lot of ups and downs So I have learnt from these situations and tried to get better."

Never thought I would play 100th Test: Kohli

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

All set to become the 12th Indian to achieve the milestone of playing 100 Tests, star batter Virat Kohli says he "never thought" he would come this far and make this landmark appearance. Having scored only 4 and 15 in his debut Test against the West Indies in 2011, Kohli has come a long way in a decade-long journey in which he has amassed 7962 runs at a stellar average of 50.39 in the longest format. Kohli's 100th Test will be against Sri Lanka beginning here on Friday. "I honestly never thought I would play 100 Test matches. It has been a long journey. We played a lot of cricket over the course of playing those 100 Test matches," Kohli said in a video posted by the BCCI.

"A lot of International cricket. I am just grateful that I've been able to make it to 100." Kohli will join an elite list of Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Virender



Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Ishant Sharma to play 100 Tests.

"God has been kind. I have worked really hard for my fitness. It's a big moment for me, for my family, for my coach, who is also very happy and very proud of this 'Test match as long as I am concerned," Kohli said. Kohli's 100th Test will be open to spectators with the BCCI allowing crowd at 50 per cent stadium capacity.

Dada breaks silence on Kohli ahead of his 100th Test

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Sourav Ganguly knows how momentous an occasion it would be for Virat Kohli when he steps out to play his 100th Test on Friday but the BCCI boss and former national captain is confident that the superstar batter will celebrate greater milestones going forward in his career.

In a video message shared by the BCCI's official Twitter handle, Ganguly congratulated Kohli, saying it would a dream come true moment for him when he takes the field against Sri Lanka in the opening Test here. The 33-year-old Kohli will be-



come the 12th Indian cricketer after Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Ishant Sharma to play 100 Tests.

The way Tendulkar played was always an inspiration to me: Brevis

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):

South Africa's U-19 World Cup sensation Dewald Brevis says Sachin Tendulkar has always been an inspiration to him and he would like to implement a few things in his game from the batting icon as he looks to create his own identity in world cricket.

"The way he played was always an inspiration to me. My favourite innings of his is the ODI double-century, which happened to be against South Africa. I remember watching the match with my brother - it was an



amazing innings," the 18-year-old told MumbaiIndians.com. "I read his autobiography 'Playing It My Way' and there are a lot of things from there that I'd

like to implement in my game. One thing I learnt from him is that you have to be humble because pride can be your downfall." Brevis was picked up by five-time IPL cham-

pions Mumbai Indians in the mega-auction recently.

Nicknamed 'Baby AB' for his uncanny resemblance to AB de Villiers' batting, Brevis said it is an honour to be compared to him but he would like to create his own identity and is relishing the prospects of sharing the dressing room with the Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

"It is an honour to be compared to him (AB de Villiers), but it is important for me to have my own identity. I want to be known as Dewald Brevis," he said.



Manasi Roy makes a comeback on TV

Lately, TV shows have been striving to strike the perfect balance between various storylines. From modern-day family dramas to epic sagas and fairy tale adventures, they have been providing artists with endless and unique opportunities. Popularly known for her powerful roles on television, versatile actress Manasi Joshi Roy will be soon seen back on the small screen with Star Plus' upcoming show 'Yeh Jhuki Jhuki Si Nazar'. Actors need to challenge themselves. It gives them a chance to improve as well as prove their caliber as performing artists. It helps them grow and makes their career graph exciting for them. This way, actors also get to connect with their fans who want to see their favorite actors and celebrities in varied roles. And Manasi is one such actor in the TV Industry. With 25 years of experience in hand, Manasi Joshi Roy has certainly mastered her craft for acting and is ready to take on a unique role this time. She will soon be seen essaying



the role of Sudha, the Hero's mother in the show. Versatile Actress Manasi Joshi Roy who has managed to carve a special niche for herself in the span of 25 years has always experimented with her roles and given blockbuster performances to each and every character played by her till date. Produced by Katha Kottage Production LLP, the show conveys a message that the qualities of a person are more important than skin colour. 'Yeh Jhuki Jhuki Si Nazar' to premiere from 7th March at 6:30pm only on Star Plus.

Prabhas reveals why he isn't married yet!

Prabhas, who joined his 'Radhe Shyam' team at a grand event in Mumbai, revealed why he isn't married yet. When asked about predicting love, Prabhas' witty response made everyone laugh out loud. As Prabhas interacted with the media on Wednesday in Mumbai, he was quizzed about dialogue

from the recent trailer of 'Radhe Shyam'. Prabhas plays a famous palmist in the movie, who predicts the future accurately. A media person questioned Prabhas, "There is a dialogue in the movie, which says your prediction about love is not so accurate. What about your prediction in real life?" Prabhas, who gave a

witty reply, said, "My love predictions have always been wrong. That is why I am not yet married." This funny answer from the 'Baahubali' actor has drawn much attention, making everyone admire Prabhas' wit. 'Radhe Shyam' on the other hand, is inching towards its worldwide release soon, and hence the makers

had organized a trailer launch event in Mumbai, kickstarting the promotions. Pooja Hegde and Prabhas as Prerana and Vikramaditya, share lovely chemistry on screen. March 11 would be the D-day for 'Radhe Shyam', as it is releasing in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Chinese, and Japanese.

Radhika Madan to star in Sudhanshu Saria's 'Sanaa'

Bollywood actress Radhika Madan will be seen starring in National Award-winning filmmaker Sudhanshu Saria's upcoming film 'Sanaa'. Radhika Madan says, "Sudhanshu Saria has brought a remarkable amount of sensitivity to 'Sanaa' and I'm glad I was signed for it. It's an arresting character with a very introspective and different brand of entertainment and I can't wait to get started on this special film." With Saria donning multiple hats as producer, director and writer, the upcoming film is an introspective drama starring Radhika. Intentioned as a conversation starter, the Radhika-starrer will hit the floors soon and its pre-production work is now in full swing. Saria says, "Sanaa' will echo with viewers across geographies and cultures. It is introspective, timely and relevant with a terrific titular character at its centre. All of us at Four Line Entertainment couldn't be more excited to go on this journey with the supremely talented Radhika." Produced by Four Line Entertainment, directed and written by Saria and starring Radhika, 'Sanaa' will hit the floors soon. Saria was recently announced as the director of a high octane female-led espionage, 'Ulajh', with Junglee Pictures. He is also writing, co-directing and show-running 'Masoom', a series for Amazon Prime, and co-producing and writing 'Delhi Crime Season 3' for Netflix.



Sony SAB's 'Maddam Sir' completes two years!



The cast and crew of Sony Sab's Maddam Sir have a reason to celebrate, as the show has completed 2 years of its successful run. Starring Gulki Joshi, Yukti Kapoor, Bhavika Sharma, and Sonali Naik, the show, which premiered in February 2020 has consistently won the hearts of the viewers with its jazbaat filled case solving stories. Gulki Joshi essaying the role of SHO Haseena Malik said, "I am extremely proud and happy to be a part of Maddam Sir, a show spreading laughter and happiness through innovative problem-solving methods. Moreover, donning new avatars on the show I get a chance to widen my horizon as an artist and experiment with every new role. The show has given us the platform to showcase our different shades as actors. I feel lucky to have such a great cast and crew who have been my constant support. Kudos to Maddam Sir on completing 2 years!" Stay Tuned and watch Maddam Sir, Mon - Sat, 10 PM only on Sony SAB!

Ranveer Singh-starrer 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' to release on May 13

Bollywood livewire star Ranveer Singh's next film 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' is all set to hit the screens on May 13. The film was earlier scheduled to release in February. However, the release got pushed due to the Omicron outbreak.



Ranveer describes what people can expect Jayeshbhai, the character to be. He says, "Jayesh is not your typical larger than life hero but what he does in the course of the story is heroic. And that is something I was attracted to. He evolves into a hero and what he pulls off is remarkable and truly super. He is a superhero of a very unconventional type." The star is all praise for Jayeshbhai Jordaar director Divyang Thakkar, who he feels has made one of the most endearing films in the history of Indian cinema.

Ranveer says, "My mentor Adi Chopra called me one day and he said 'I have found a miracle script and I would like for you to hear it' and I went for the narration. Divyang Thakkar who's never directed anything before, gave me a narration in which I was laughing through my tears and guffawing, laughing and crying at the same time. I had a tissue box kept on the table which got over by the end of the narration. I was entertained, moved." He says, "I agreed then and there on the spot to be a part of this film. The heart of this film is the writer-director Divyang Thakkar and he is a bundle of pure love and joy and the goodness of his heart, the kind, humble and loving soul that he is, reflects in his work, his writing in his film and in my character." He added: "Jayesh is a character that I have never attempted before and so it was something completely fresh and new for me to embody which was a very exciting prospect for me. I had to really create something because this type of characterisation and these types of emotional beats, I have not played before. I saw the prospect of creating something unique and original for myself and as a performer, it's been a very fulfilling process."

HOROSCOPE FRIDAY MARCH 04

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
Sudden changes in your romantic situation could occur today, Aquarius. If you're currently committed to someone, expect some surprising propositions from your partner. If you're involved but not committed, a marriage proposal might be in the picture. If you aren't currently involved, you could meet someone new and exciting under unusual circumstances. Make sure you look your best today, even if you're only running down to the supermarket!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Some conflicts could crop up in the morning on the domestic front. However, they will cease to be a cause of annoyance as the day progresses. Come evening and you will be in as fine a mood as you ever were, ready to spend time basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Your day is packed full. There are negotiations, commitments, plans and decisions to wade through. You may feel low on energy and swamped due to lack of information and inputs from others. But clarity will return gradually as matters conclude, says Ganesha.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesha. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today. Money lenders and brokers will have a profitable day, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
Today, you will do an amazing job in dividing your time between work and family. Despite your preoccupation with work, you will take time off for your family, and even plan out a small outing, leaving them pleasantly surprised. Also, your dreams are about to come true. Now, how many times does that happen in a lifetime?

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Opportunities to increase your income by working out of your home could well present themselves today. There might be more than one, and you could be tempted to take them all on. Think about this carefully before you commit. Cancer. You're feeling energetic today, but that could flag on future days. Consider the situation honestly and objectively before making any firm decisions. You don't want to regret it later.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
Razor-sharp and aesthetic to the last cell in your body, entertain and enthrall people with your guile, especially at a social do, says Ganesha. But conserve that zest and save the time to pay due attention to matters of supreme importance, warns Ganesha.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
Today should find you continuing to work toward cherished career and other goals. Love matters may come to the forefront, Libra. If you're currently involved, unexpected events could bring you that much closer to your partner. If you aren't involved, you could meet someone exciting, perhaps through some kind of group activities.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
A lot of effort, energy, and enthusiasm that you've put into various business or personal projects in the past could finally pay off today. Don't be surprised if you receive some unexpected praise or acknowledgement for your work. Friends and your special someone are likely to be very proud of you for this, Scorpio, so don't be surprised if you receive a lot of compliments and congratulations. Go out and celebrate tonight!

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31
You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress, but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment. At the end of the day, you will feel content in your comfort zone in the company of near and dear ones.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
You will be overpowered with nostalgia and may long to get in touch with old pals. And as Ganesha says, chances are that you may take a liking to your ex-lover, while simultaneously strengthening your social standing. All in all, the day will be a productive one.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Parcel out
- Recipe units (abbr.)
- Compensated
- Depart
- Intimidates
- Additionally
- Captured
- Chomp
- Cairo's river
- Phone company employee

DOWN

- Female singer
- Bound
- Huron, e.g.
- Ingest too much
- Reuter
- Prohibition
- Twisting shape
- Teacher's favorite
- Compass dir.
- Canal country
- Suspect's story
- Tiny landmass
- Go-getters
- Coach
- Stitched together
- Untruthful ones
- Kilt wearer

SOLUTION 230

KMC foils efforts for encroachment on Nazul land

In ward No. 25 Nehrunagar area

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 03: Theanti-encroachment team of Korba Municipal Corporation (KMC) foiled efforts to encroach upon the Nazul land behind Minimata Girl's College and seized all the bamboo, log of wood, saris, rope and other items from 100 different places and freed the area from encroachment.

It is for a long time that land behind Minimata Girl's School coming under ward No. 25 of KMC - Nehrunagar was full of trees and shrubs and in



this around 100 persons have tried to encroach upon using bamboos, wood, rope and others. On getting information in this regard, KMC's anti-en-

croachment team reached the site and seized all the bamboos, log of wood, ropes and other materials used in encroachment and foiled their efforts. The en-

croachers were also issued strict warning not to repeat the same, or else they will be face legal action.

Keep close eye on encroachment:

KMC Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey has issued strict instructions to field staff of KMC to keep close eye on encroachment in government land and in other areas of city. If they come across any encroachment, then it should be immediately

informed to the anti-encroachment team of KMC and it should be ensured that this encroachment does not take place again at the same place.

Religious programmes increases faith of people: Vandana

Central Chronicle News

Takathpur, Mar 03: The Vice President Nagar Palika Vandana Bala Singh organised massive 'bhandaras' at two places in ward No. 2 on occasion of 'Mahashivratri' here on Tuesday. Prior to this devotees offered prayers at the Lord Shiva's temple in ward no. 2 and in this ward residents and devotees from all over the city were present in large number.

In the afternoon, the 'Bhandara' was thrown open for public and it continued till late at night.

Nagar Palika V-P Vandana Bala Singh Thakur said that with such organisation at one place where creates religious at-

mosphere, on the other, it keep the rich art & culture and rituals of the festival alive and intact and brings the younger generation closer to it. This in turn increases faith of people towards religion and culture, she added.

Vandana Bala Singh said that in the coming years this festival will be organised in larger form. On this occasion MP's rep NG Singh, Jagdish Bais, Kuldeep Singh, Yatendra Dubey, Lallan Shukla, Jitendra Singh, Pradeep Singh, Dharendra Kshatriya, Praveen Dwivedi, Santosh Rajak, and residents of Kailash Nagar ward No. 2 and denizens of city were present in large number.



Attention drawn towards changing old name of Govt Model School

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 03: Teachers and staff of Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Mahasamund, met Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vinod Sevenal Chandrakar and drew his attention towards not changing the old form of the institution.

The Parliamentary Secretary Shri Chandrakar immediately instructed the District Education Officer to take appropriate action. According to information, teachers of Government Adarsh Higher Secondary

School reached Parliamentary Secretary's residence and met Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chandrakar and informed that the oldest school of the city is Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Mahasamund, which is in the form of a heritage established before independence in the year 1898 under the British rule.

But as per the new rule, from the upcoming academic session 2022-23 the school will be known as Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium School. They said that this school is also the coordinating



body of the district for the Board of Secondary Education, Raipur; the

benefit of which is available to all the government and non-government

schools in the district. Along with this, the evaluation work of 10th/12th board, examination of Vyapam/State Service Commission is also conducted here.

In the interest of the students, the teachers forum urged that Government Ambedkar School, Nayapara should be operated as Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium School and the present institution, that is Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School should be kept in its old form, without change, the teacher's forum requested.

PBIV Bhakhara celebrates 'Mahashivratri'



Anwari, Mar 03: Prajita Bramhakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya (PBIV) Bhakhara celebrated 86th 'Trimurti Shiv Jayanti Mahotsav' at Tapasya Bahvan here on Tuesday. On this occasion Nagar Panchayat President Pushpalata Dewangan, Ramgopal Dewangan, Harakchand Jain, Bhakhara Centre PBIV in-

charge Brahmakumari Karuna Didi were present. The programme began with remembrance to the Supreme and thereafter the invited guests were welcomed by presenting them with 'Tuls' plant and then welcome dance was performed. After this the traditional lamp was lighted and flag hoisting was done. The 'Shobha-Yatra'

was flagged off on this occasion. Nagar Panchayat President Pushpalata Dewangan also extended greetings to all on occasion of 'mahashivratri' and expressed gratitude of all for being part of this celebration. In this programme, Ramgopal Dewangan, Harakchand Jain also extended greetings to all present.

Customers made to wander from SIL office

As SIL Dhamdha branch has been locked, no assurance of refund of amount invested even after expiry of maturity date

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Mar 03: The customers of Sahara India Limited (SIL) office in Dhamdha are under stress and depression as it has been locked. With instructions to file FIR against owner of Sahara India Subrat Sahara and other people last week by the Court, the SIL office in Dhamdha was locked and now there are about 50 persons returning daily.



It is notable here that even on maturity of the invested amount by many customers of Sahara India Limited, they are not getting back the matured amount. It is for last one & half year's time, the Company in the name of corona pandemic and about cases being lodged, is not refunding hard earned money of investors

with maturity amount. Branch Manager SIL Dhamdha Jageshwar Das used to issue receipt to customers taking money from them through some of his agents. It is notable here that case against Sahara India has been lodged and it is subjudged and in such conditions, they should not take funds from customers and if at

all they are taking, then it should be refunded to customers along with maturity amount and interest.

In this way there is fund worth crore which has been deposited with lot of faith by customers of region in SIL and now there is great deal of resentment among the investors as they are not being paid matured amount even after expiry of their maturity date.

There are reports that customers of region have already decided to gherao SIL office in Dhamdha and even file case of 420 against the Manager, agents and workers of SIL office and file police case against them.

Devotees throng to see the marriage procession of Lord Shiva

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Mar 03: On the occasion of Mahashivratri, a grand procession of Lord Shiva was taken out here, in which a large number of devotees gathered to pay obeisance. The procession with the tableau, of Lord

Shiva was welcomed from placer to place and akhand jala-abhishekam, was commenced early in the morning at Bhudeshwar Mahadev Temple.

It is noteworthy that for the devotees of Lord Shiva; Mahashivratri is no less than a festival to please the deity of val-

our and power. The devotees believe that in order to please Lord Shiva, every ritual from fasting to worship if done with devotion, fulfills all desires and showers blessings.

Dhamtari district witnessed a five day Shiv Parwati marriage festival, at Bhudeshwar

Mahadev Temple, which was participated by a large number of devotees from the region. The procession was attended by Vipin Pawar, Baveta Golcha, Rituraj Pawar, Ramu Rohra, Anand Pawar, Anil Agarwal, Rohit Agarwal, Mintu Soni and many others.

Theft conducted in an abandoned house

Dongargarh, Mar 03: The thieves conducted theft in an abandoned house of Naresh Bahekar, near Lord Hanuman Temple in Diparapara ward No. 2 of city on Tuesday and ran away with costly good and jewellery. Naresh works as stamp vendor in Tehsil office and as per information given to police, Naresh along with his family had been to Bhillai to attend some house warming ceremony on Feb 28 in the afternoon at around 3:00 pm. When they returned on March 1 at 1:00 pm, they found the lock in the front door open and when they went inside, they found the lock of almirah broken and all the gold and silver jewellery and cash of Rs 5000, totalling around Rs 40000 was reportedly stolen.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I **Jem Francis** residence at **H. No. 28 Amlidih, Ravigram, Raipur (C.G.)** Have changed my old name in future I should be recognized by my new name that is **Jem Victor Francis S/o Victor Francis** in all govt. & other Documents.

Date : 04.03.2022

Jem Victor Francis
S/o Victor Francis
H. No. 28, Amlidih,
Ravigram, Raipur (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE

I, **Harpreet Kalket Bath** W/o **Anant Raj Singh Bath**, aged **40** years, R/o **15, Malviya Nagar, Durg (CG)**, vide affidavit dated **March 3, 2022** sworn before Notary, state that before marriage my name was **Kumari Harpreet Kaur Kalket D/o Hardev Singh Kalket** and the same is mentioned in my educational certificates.

After my marriage on **28/10/2007**, my name has been changed as **Mrs. Harpreet Kalket Bath** W/o **Anant Raj Singh Bath**.

So, in future, I should be recognised by my new name that is **HARPREET KALKET BATH** in all government and other documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(In Relation of Immoveable Property Lease Hold Industrial property bearing Plot No. 17/C, Comprising Area 2,13,444 Sq. Ft., Situated at Heavy Industrial Area Bhillai, Village Hatkhoh Tahsil & District Durg (C.G.))

This is inform to General Public that the Original Lease Deed Dated 16.09.2004, bearing Document SI. No. 1784, Registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Raipur (C.G.) executed by Governor of Chhattisgarh acting through General Manager District Trade & Industries Centre, Durg in favour of M/s Dinesh Ispat Pvt. Ltd. acting through its Director Shri Sunil Kumar Agrawal S/o Shri Radheshyam Agrawal, the above Lease Deed has been lost/Misplaced by Present owner M/s Dinesh Ispat Pvt. Ltd. and Written intimation duly given in the Police Station, Jamul, District Durg (C.G.) on 25.02.2022. For Lost of above Lease Deed by the property owner.

Now, M/s Dinesh Ispat Pvt. Ltd. acting through its Directors Shri Nilesh Gupta S/o Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta & Smt. Shashi Gupta W/o Shri Devi Dayal Gupta has applied for Loan from My Client, Axis Bank Ltd., Raipur (C.G.), if any Person/Bank/Corporation/Society/Institution/Govt. or No Govt. Authority etc., having an interest in the said Property or any part thereof may make their claims/objections with documentary proof to the undersigned office within 05 Days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be enable to create mortgage on said property.

Place : Raipur
Dated : 03.03.2022

(Ashutosh Mishra)
Advocate
Office Address - Flat No. F-3, Modern Complex, Motibag, Raipur (C.G.)
Landline No. 0771-222042 Mobile - 942548998

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED
Bhilai Steel Plant
Bhilai-Dist. Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, 490001

Extension of Date:
Ref. Advt. No. BSP-13/21-22, Dt. 15/12/2021

Name of the Work : TENDER/AUCTION OF SHOPS/PLOTS IN BSP TOWNSHIP FOR ALLOTMENT ON LICENSE BASIS IN SECOND PHASE

Bid Document Download Start date & time 14.12.2021, 11:00:52
Bid Document Download End date & time 15.03.2022, 11:30:00
Bids Submission Closing Date & Time 15.03.2022, 13:00:00
Bids Opening Date & Time 16.03.2022, 11:30:00

All other things in the Notice Inviting Tender remain the same except the revised list of shops/plots. Tender documents can also be downloaded through SAIL Website www.sailtenders.co.in and email at ajitkumar67@sail.in for tender Documents.

GM (Contract Cell-Non Works).
Advt. No. BSP-13/Ext'n-3/21-22, Dt. 03/03/2022

Registered Office : Lsp7 Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003
Corporate Identity Number : I27109DL1973GOI606454, Website: www.sail.co.in

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From the trusted family of HDFC Bank

Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Pincode-380009
Regional Office: 1ST FLOOR, WILSON HOUSE, OLD NAGARDAS ROAD, NEAR AMBOLI SUBWAY, ANDHERI (E), MUMBAI 400069 AND Its various Branch's in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE "UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002"

You, below mentioned borrowers, co-borrowers and guarantors have availed loan(s) facility(ies) from HDB Financial Services Limited branch by mortgaging your immovable properties (securities) you have not maintained your financial discipline and defaulted in repayment of the same. Consequently your defaults your loans were classified as non-performing assets as you to avail the said loan(s) along with the underlying security interest created in respect of the securities for repayment of the same. The HDBFS has right for the recovery of the outstanding dues, now issued demand notice under section 13(2) of the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per section 13(2) of the act read with rule 3(1) of the security interest (enforcement) rules, 2002 and as by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Guarantors, Loans, Securities, Outstanding dues, Demand Notice sent under section 13(2) and Amount claimed there under are given below:

1. Borrower and Co-Borrowers: 1. BHAIJAN LAL CHOUDHARY, 2. USHA CHOWDHARY
All r/o at FLAT NO 001 GROUND FLOOR ASHIYANA APARTMENT NEW SHANTI NAGAR RAIPUR RAIPUR-492001 CHHATTISGARH., 2) Loan Account Number: 3312076 , 3) Loan Amount in INR: Rs.4522307 (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seven Only) 4) Detail description of the Security: Mortgage Property :-PART OF KH NO 412/5-6, 412/41, 412/120-121, 413/28, 412/37, 413/14-15-16, 412/122, 412/39, PH NO. 100 RNM DHARSIWA-2 NAGAR PALIKA BIRGAON, SHOP NO G-8, BLOCK G, AREA 602.50 SQ FT SITUATED AT WARD NO. 25 DHARSIWA, RAIPUR-492001, 5) Demand Notice Date: 08.02.2022 , 6) Amount due in INR: Rs.2780928.84 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred & Twenty Eight - Paise Eighty Three Only) as of 04.02.2022 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

2. Borrower and Co-Borrowers: 1. MS MANJEET LOCAL CARRIER, 2. PUPINDER KAUR KHANUJA , 3. MANJEET SINGH KHANUJA All r/o at (a) MS MANJEET LOCAL CARRIER BESIDE HOTEL CHIDIA, BARAM INTERNATIONAL G E ROAD TELIBANDHA RAIPUR-492002 CHHATTISGARH (b) HNO 415 NEAR TARU SINGH CHOWK SHYAM ANGAR TELIBANDHA TARU SINGH CHOWK RAIPUR-492002 CHHATTISGARH., 2) Loan Account Number: 2247928 , 3) Loan Amount in INR: Rs.2500000 (Rupees Two Five Lakhs Only) 4) Detail description of the Security: Mortgage Property :- PLOT NO H- 20, AREA 1500 SQ FT, SITUATED AT BHARAT GIRI NIRMAM SAHKARI SMITI MARYADIT RAIPUR-492002, 5) Demand Notice Date: 08.02.2022 , 6) Amount due in INR: Rs.814592.02 (Rupees Eight Lakh Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred & Ninety Two - Paise Two Only) as of 04.02.2022 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

3. The Borrower and Co-Borrowers/Guarantors are called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demand/amount with further interest as mentioned herein above in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the Undersigned Authorised Officer of HDBFS shall be constrained to take action under the Act to enforce the above mentioned securities. Please note that, as per section 13(13) of the said Act 2. Mortgages are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease, leave & license or otherwise without the consent of HDBFS. 3. For any query or Full and Final Settlement, Please Contact: Mr. Bharat Rajoria Mobile No: 9200000522 Authorised Officer or Mr. Aman Kumar Mobile No. 8800863718 HDB Financial Services Limited.

Place: Raipur
Date: 04/03/2022

For HDBFS
Authorised Officer

DEMAND NOTICE

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
CIN: U67100MH2007PL174759
Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, ("the Act") read with rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ("EARC") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. In exercise of powers conferred under the Section 13 (2) of the Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13 (2) of The Act, calling upon the following borrower(s), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay EARC, within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice, from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following asset have been mortgaged to EARC by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) Loan Account Number	Amount & Demand Notice Date	Details of the Trust & Assignor
1.	Banas Ram Nishad (Borrower), 2. Benkat Ram Nishad, 1. 3. Chanda Nishad (Co-Borrowers) LAN : RAIHL17000004; RAIHL17000007	Rs. 98,69,729.95/- (Rs. Ninety Eight Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine & Ninety Five Paise) & 24-01-2022	EARC TRUST SC-396 & L & T Housing Finance Limited
2.	1. Mr. Saket Agarwal (Borrower), 2. Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, 3. Mrs Ranu Agarwal, 4. Mr. Ram Gopal Agarwal (Co-Borrowers) Lan : RAIHL15000209; RAIHL15000210; RAIHL15000211; RAIHL18000039; RAIHL18000042	Rs. 1,47,52,072.79 /- (Rs. One Crore Forty Seven Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Rupees & Seventy Nine Paise only) & 19-01-2022	EARC TRUST SC-396 & L & T Housing Finance Limited

Property Description/Collateral security offered as Security: Property - All that part and parcel of the property at House No S/NEW (old House No 11/9), Admeasuring Area 3412 Sq. Ft. Situated At Near Ram Sagar Talab, Ram Sagar Para Ward No 17, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001 And The Property is Bounded As Under: North : Other's & Mandir, South : 3 Feet Gali, East : Ramsagar Talab, West : 12 Feet Gali & House of Chhotelal

Property Description/Collateral security offered as Security: Immoveable Property Mortgaged: Property - 1: Family Unit Flat 8A, Floor No 8th, Built Up Area 1138sq.ft Type A, On Block 2 "Singapore City" Kota, Part of Kh. No. 160/2, 46/4, 174/2, 175/2, 153/3, 156/2, 156/2/21, 172, 173 (old) & 172/1, 173/1 (new), 138/4, 138/3, 178/1 (old) & 178/4 (New), 178/1, 160/7, 46/22, 153/1-2, 156/6, 176/1, 158/1-3 (Old) & 158/4 (New), 46/15, 162/3, 160/9, 44/15, 156/1 (Old) & 156/7 (New), 160/4, 160/8, 153/7, 177/3, 176/3, 133/3, 153/8, 156/5, 156/3, 156/3, 154/1-3-4-5, 155/1-3-4-5, 156/4, 153/6, 153/3, 44/14, 153/9, 153/12, 160/16, 153/10, 153/11, 156/1, 174/1, 175/1, 44/8, 160/3, 157/2, 44/48, Situated At Shahid Bhagat Singh, Kota, P.C.No.107, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Ward No.13, Guchiyari Road, Raipur-Chattisgarh and Bounded By North : Open Space South: Flat No.8a East : Common Passage West : Open Space

Property - 2: Family Unit Flat 8B, Floor No 8th, Built Up Area 1138sq.ft, Type B, On Block 2 "Singapore City" Kota, Part of Kh. No. 160/2, 46/4, 174/2, 175/2, 153/3, 156/2, 156/2/21, 172, 173 (old) & 172/1, 173/1 (new), 138/4, 138/3, 178/1 (old) & 178/4 (New), 178/1, 160/7, 46/22, 153/1-2, 156/6, 176/1, 158/1-3 (Old) & 158/4 (New), 46/15, 162/3, 160/9, 44/15, 156/1 (old) & 156/7 (new), 160/4, 160/8, 153/7, 177/3, 176/3, 133/3, 153/8, 156/5, 153/4, 156/3, 154/1-3-4-5, 155/1-3-4-5, 156/4, 153/6, 153/3, 44/14, 153/9, 153/12, 160/16, 153/10, 153/11, 156/1, 174/1, 175/1, 44/8, 160/3, 157/2, 44/48, Situated At Shahid Bhagat Singh, Kota, P.C.No.107, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Ward No.13, Guchiyari Road, Raipur-Chattisgarh and Bounded By North : Open Space South: Flat No.8a East : Common Passage West : Open Space

1. Rakhi Agarwal (Borrower), 3. 2. Anand Agarwal (Co-Borrower) Lan : LRAILAP000052846	Rs. 25,13,067.24/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Sixty Seven Rupees & Twenty Four Paise only) & 09-04-2021	EARC TRUST SC-417 & Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited
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Property Description/Collateral security offered as Security: All That Part And Parcel of The Property At Shop No. C-2 & C-3, Total Admeasuring 400 Sq. Ft., Ground Floor, Barsana Enclave/ Kh. No.-72/1, 84/1, 73/1, 73/2, 84/2, BG, B7, 72/2, 85, 74, 71, 72/3, P.H.-104/35, R.N.M. Raipur, Ward No.13, Shaheed Bagat Singh Ward, Mouza-Dumar Talab, Tehsil & District -Raipur, (C.G.) 492001. Bounded As: East: Shop No. C-3/Shop No. C-4; West: open Area/Shop No. C-2; North: Open Area/Road; South: Shop No. C-3/Open Area.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to EARC as aforesaid, EARC shall proceed against the above secured assets under the section 13 (4) of the Act and applicable rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrower(s) as to costs and consequences. The borrowers are prohibited under The Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of EARC. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Raipur
Date : 04.03.2022

Authorised Officer
For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

Edelweiss ASSET RECONSTRUCTION
Ideas create, values protect

BRIEF

Launches



Mumbai: Daimler Truck on Thursday announced the launch of its global innovation centre in Bengaluru. MD Raghavendra Vaidya said transportation industry is reinventing itself to create differentiating products focused on zero emission and software-led innovation.

Restructuring

New Delhi: Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar, India's largest sugar manufacturer, on Thursday received the Board's in-principle nod for exploring options for capital restructuring, resolution plan for debt and other corporate restructuring. A decision in this regard was taken at the Board's meeting held on Thursday, according to a regulatory filing. The board also delegated powers to company officials to explore, evaluate these various options.

Raises



New Delhi: Pocket FM has raised USD 65 million (about Rs 492 crore) in a Series C funding round from Goodwater Capital, Naver and existing investor Tanglin Venture Partners. CEO Rohan Nayak said audio consumption has seen exponential growth over last year.

Approves

New Delhi: Online travel services provider Easy Trip Planners Ltd on Thursday said its board has approved allotment of bonus shares in the ratio of one share for every one existing share held by eligible shareholders. The bonus shares will be issued to members whose names appeared in the register of beneficial owners as of Mar 2, 2022, which is the record date fixed for that purpose.

Acquires



New Delhi: Scaler has acquired online learning platform AppliedRoots for about Rs 378 crore to strengthen its course offerings for engineers. Scaler co-founder Abhimanyu Saxena said as we build ourselves into virtual tech varsity, their experiences will come handy.

Partners

New Delhi: Mahindra Group and tech giant Google Cloud on Thursday announced collaboration as part of the homegrown conglomerate's digital transformation strategy to fuel its next phase of business growth.

FinMin to monitor revenue, expenditure on daily basis

From Mar 15 to keep fiscal deficit in check

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):



Keen to keep government deficit within stated targets, the finance ministry will from March 15 start daily monitoring of the revenue receipts, including tax collections, as well as expenditure. The move comes against the backdrop of a possible deferment of the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC, which was expected to fetch over Rs 60,000 crore, to the next financial year in view of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and its implications on Indian markets.

On the other hand, the government's decision to bring back thousands of Indian students stranded in Ukraine will impose an additional burden on the exchequer. According to officials, the daily monitoring of tax and non-tax revenue collections will help the government in taking timely corrective actions, wherever needed.

"The CBDT and CBIC have been asked to report flash figures up to the previous day latest by 12 noon. Besides, other non-tax and disinvestment receipts would have to be reported on a daily basis," the official told PTI. Officials said that the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has been asked to provide daily revenue collection and expenditure figures of various

ministries between March 15 and March 31 to the expenditure secretary.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) are the apex bodies responsible for collecting direct and indirect taxes, respectively.

Likely deferment of LIC IPO along with additional burden on bringing back Indians stranded in Ukraine will put pressure on the fiscal deficit, which has already been raised in the Revised Estimates (RE) to 6.9 per cent of GDP, from 6.8 per cent estimated earlier.

The government has collected Rs 15.47 lakh crore in net tax revenue, which is 87.7 per cent of the full-fiscal target of Rs 17.65 lakh crore.

Rupee slips 15 paise at 75.95 against USD, bullion rises

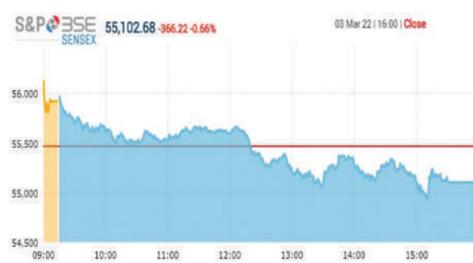
Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI): The rupee declined by 15 paise to close at 75.95 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, pressured by surging crude oil prices amid intensifying conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Persistent foreign capital outflows and subdued domestic equity markets also affected market sentiment, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.76 against the American dollar but soon entered the negative territory as investors turned towards safe-haven assets. During the session, it swung between a high of 75.60 and a low of 75.98. The local unit finally settled at 75.95 against the dollar, down 15 paise from the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.23 per cent higher at 97.63. Bullion prices continued with upward trend.

Sensex, Nifty surrender early gains as boiling oil plays spoilsport

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):



Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Thursday gave up all early gains to settle lower as surging oil prices amid the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine hit investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex started the trade on a higher note and jumped 527.72 points in morning deals to a high of 55,996.62. However, during the afternoon trade it surrendered all its early gains and finished at 55,102.68, lower by 366.22 points or 0.66 per cent.

In similar fashion, the broader NSE Nifty declined 107.90 points or 0.65 per cent to close at 16,498.05. "Domestic equity markets closed lower as the geopolitical scenario continue to worsen due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Soaring crude prices due to supply disruptions from Russian sanctions have

further escalated the situation," according to Mitul Shah, Head Of Research at Reliance Securities.

UltraTech Cement was the biggest drag in the Sensex pack, tumbling over 6 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Maruti Suzuki India, Hindustan Unilever Limited and ICICI Bank. In contrast, PowerGrid, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies Limited and ITC were among the prominent gainers. International oil benchmark Brent crude surged

2.75 per cent to USD 116.03 per barrel. Bourses in Hong Kong and Tokyo settled with gains, while Shanghai was marginally lower. Stock exchanges in the US closed in the positive territory in the overnight session. In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.6% to 7,385.44 and Frankfurt's DAX shed 1.1% to 13,849.55. The CAC in Paris slipped 0.5% to 6,467.16. In Asian trading, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo rose 0.7% to 26,577.27 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.6% to 22,467.34.

Reliance subsidiary, Sanmina set up electronic manufacturing JV

Initial manufacturing in Chennai

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):



Reliance Industries' subsidiary RSBVL and Sanmina Corporation on Thursday announced setting up of an electronic manufacturing joint venture in India that will focus on hi-tech infrastructure hardware across diverse sectors, including communications networking, defense and aerospace. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL) will hold 50.1 per cent equity stake in the joint venture while Sanmina will have 49.9 per cent shareholding. RSBVL will achieve this ownership

primarily through an investment of up to Rs 1,670 crore in new shares in Sanmina's existing Indian entity, according to a statement. With the investment, the joint venture will be capitalised with over USD 200 million of cash to fund growth. The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected

to close by September 2022. "Sanmina Corporation, a leading integrated manufacturing solutions company and Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL) announced that they have entered into an agreement to create a joint venture through an investment in Sanmina's existing Indian entity (Sanmina

SCI India Private Ltd, SIPL)," the statement said. The day-to-day business will continue to be managed by Sanmina's existing management team in Chennai.

"The joint venture will prioritise high technology infrastructure hardware, for growth markets, and across industries such as communications networking (5G, cloud infrastructure, hyperscale datacenters), medical and healthcare systems, industrial and cleantech, and defense and aerospace," it added.

Akash Ambani, Director at Reliance Jio, said, "we are delighted to work with Sanmina to access the significant market opportunity for high-tech manufacturing in India".

Pocket FM secures USD 65 Million from Goodwater Capital

Mumbai, Mar 03:



Pocket FM, one of the leading Audio OTT platforms, has raised USD 65 million in a Series C funding round from a clutch of investors. The funding was led by Goodwater Capital, Naver, and an existing investor- Tanglin Venture Partners. The freshly raised capital will be invested in strengthening its leadership position, expanding intone languages, investing in AI capabilities and building the largest audio creator community. Pocket FM has established itself as one of the leading audio OTT players within three years of its inception. The platform of enriching 100,000+ hours of enriching long-format content, audio series, stories,

novels, podcasts and knowledge shows in 8 languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, English, Kannada, and Marathi). With over 50 million users and 3 billion+ monthly listening minutes, Pocket FM is one of the leading audio OTT platforms globally. Commenting on the funding, Rohan Nayak, Co-founder and CEO, Pocket FM said, "We are elated to

announce our Series C funding and would like to thank Goodwater Capital, Naver, and Tanglin Venture Partners for their trust in us. This is a validation of our market leadership and trust in our execution capabilities. Audio consumption has seen exponential growth over the last year and we are on a mission to build the largest audio OTT platform."

SBI stops transactions related to Russian entities under sanctions



New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

State Bank of India, the nation's largest lender, has stopped processing transactions of Russian entities that have been sanctioned by the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, sources said.

To effect this, SBI has issued a circular as it fears that any transaction with entities or sectors under sanction will invite sanction on it as well, sources said. No transactions involving entities, banks, ports or vessels appearing

on a US, European Union or United Nations sanctions list would be processed irrespective of the currency of the transaction, they said.

Payments due to such entities have to be processed by other mechanism rather than through the banking channel, sources added.

SBI operates a joint venture in Moscow called Commercial Indo Bank Llc, where Canara Bank is another partner with 40 per cent stake.

The bank has not responded to e-mail seeking comment on the matter.

Russia is one of biggest suppliers of defence products and equipment to India mostly under government-to-government contract.

Moody's, Fitch downgrade Russia's rating to 'junk' grade

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Moody's and Fitch on Thursday downgraded Russia's sovereign rating to 'junk' grade following severe sanctions by western countries. While Moody's Investors Service downgraded Russia's long-term issuer and senior unsecured (local-and foreign-currency) debt ratings to 'B3' from 'Baa3', Fitch pulled down the rating on the country to 'B' from 'BBB', putting it on 'Rating Watch Negative'.

The downgraded rating is in speculative or junk category reflecting default risk. It signifies that even through financial commitments are currently being met, the sovereign is vulnerable to high credit risk. "The multi-notch downgrade of Russia's ratings and maintaining the review for further downgrade were triggered by the severe sanctions that western countries have imposed on Russia, including the sanctioning of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (CBR)

Following sanctions by West



and some large financial institutions, in response to its military invasion of Ukraine and retaliatory measures taken by the Russian authorities," Moody's said in a statement. Fitch Ratings said the severity of international sanctions has heightened macro-financial stability risks, represents a huge shock to Russia's credit fundamentals and could undermine its willingness to service government debt. The Russia-Ukraine war entered its eighth day on Thursday, with fighting intensifying in Ukrainian capital Kyiv and other big cities.

YouTube's creators contributes Rs 6,800 cr to economy



New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI): Video sharing platform YouTube's creator ecosystem generated "considerable" economic value and contributed an estimated Rs 6,800 crore to the Indian economy in 2020, according to a report released on Thursday. The report by Oxford Economics, an independent consulting firm, assessed YouTube's economic, societal, and cultural impact in India. The report shows "YouTube's growing creator ecosystem generated considerable economic value, contributing Rs

6,800 crore to the Indian GDP and supporting 6,83,900 full-time equivalent jobs in India in 2020", YouTube said releasing the findings at a virtual briefing.

The study by Oxford Economics combines YouTube-driven advertising revenues, with other related revenues, such as non-advertising revenues (such as subscriptions and alternative monetisation), and off-platform revenues (fan-meetups and sponsorships).

It estimates YouTube's economic impact based on direct impact (profits and wages earned by creators and their teams), indirect impact (generated by the spending it stimulates in the broader Indian supply chain), and induced impact (generated by the wage costs of those employed by the creator ecosystem).

Orient Electric expands Exhaust fans range with new models

Mumbai, Mar 03:

Orient Electric Limited, part of the diversified USD 2.4 billion CK Birla Group, has expanded its Exhaust fans range with new models which have been designed with focus on four defining aspects of style, performance, efficiency, and durability. The new models come loaded with an array of user-centric features, including a powerful copper motor for durability and efficiency, high air suction capacity, aerodynamically designed blades for smooth operation, easy-to-clean surfaces, low power consumption, and high speed of up to 2500 RPM. The launch is part of the company's plans to aggressively increase its market share in the Exhaust fans segment. Ideal for use in kitchens, bathrooms and other enclosed spaces, Orient

exhaust fans effectively improve indoor air quality through ventilation and help remove the unwanted odours, moisture, smoke, and other harmful pollutants in the air, thus keeping your indoor spaces fresh and healthy.

Atul Jain, Executive Vice President, Orient Electric Ltd. said, "The exhaust fans market in India is estimated to be around Rs. 700 crores and is growing at a good pace. One of the key factors driving this growth is the increasing consumer awareness regarding the importance of having good ventilation and fresh and clean indoor air against the backdrop of the pandemic. Health experts too are recommending people to stay in well-ventilated areas as good indoor air circulation can help reduce the concentration of airborne contaminants including viruses.

With the launch of new models, we are now offering a complete range of exhaust fans to suit diverse usage environments and aesthetic preferences while also helping our consumers to keep their indoor living spaces fresh and healthy. We are hopeful that this launch will help us to gain a stronger foothold in the Exhaust fans segment."

Orient's new exhaust fans are named Smart Air, Smart Air Neo, Venito Air, Axial Flow and Power Flow, and there are 8 new SKUs in total. Available in four distinct finishes including Wooden, Grey, Off-white and Silver, these exhaust fans are designed to complement any contemporary space. Other salient features of the new range include glass mounting capability, front auto-shut louvers, and bird protection guard.

Shakti Pumps bags award for its Micro Smart Pump innovation

Mumbai, Mar 01:



Shakti Pumps (India) Limited, India's leading manufacturer of energy-efficient pumps and motors has been awarded for the Innovation of Micro Smart Pump, a highly efficient submersible helical pump solution it has developed. The award was presented to Shakti Pumps at the Low Carbon Technology Innovation Conclave in New Delhi today.

The Micro Smart Pump, which is one among many such innovative solutions in Shakti Pump's product portfolio, was created under the Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) project to promote innovation

of low-carbon technologies and its deployment in industrial and other related sectors of the Indian economy. Shakti Pumps received a grant of Rs. 35 Lakh for the Micro Smart Pump. FLCTD has been jointly implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The award for the innovation under the FLCTD 2019 challenge was presented to Shakti Pumps Chairman & Managing Director Dinesh Patidar and Manoj Modi, Head of R&D by Shri R K Singh, Minister of Power,

Government of India at the Low Carbon Technology Innovation Conclave held on March 01, 2022 in New Delhi.

The Micro Smart Pump is a PMSM - based submersible helical pump running from single-phase AC. It is presently installed at 15 sites in Indore, and 1 each in Shahdol and Hyderabad.

Key benefits of this innovation include, an increase in efficiency ranging from 200 to 500% vs conventional single-phase IM, energy-efficient pumping irrespective of seasonal head variation, SMPs-based pump 90V to 270V operations comes with in-built protection and does not require an external control panel.



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Create evacuation agency

Hearing a petition seeking direction for evacuation of Indian students stranded in Ukraine, a Supreme Court bench headed by CJI NV Ramana said, "We feel bad for the students, but can we direct Russia's President Putin to stop war?" Historically, the government had to use personal relations for evacuation efforts. As Ukraine closed its airspace for civilian flights after Russia began its invasion, about 16,000-strong Indian diaspora, mostly students, were left stranded in the war-torn country. As students made appeals for evacuation from bomb shelters, New Delhi launched a multi-pronged evacuation plan named 'Operation Ganga' to bring home its citizens. As so many Indians leave the country for education and to earn livelihoods, the nation has a long history of evacuation from war zones. From wars in Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Lebanon to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world, the government had to take emergency measures for rescue of Indians. Now, there is merit to create an agency for evacuation as India has very large population living outside the country and due to climate change and associated conflicts, evacuation operations in future will be needed. The largest ever civilian evacuation was from Kuwait in 1990 for rescue of 1,75,000 Indians. VP Singh government carried out the biggest citizen evacuation ever in recorded history. The then Foreign Minister IK Gujral sought audience with Saddam Hussein. When they met, Hussein embraced Gujral in a hug, photos of which went global and upset Indian allies. With permission from Hussein, India embarked on the evacuation mission. At first military transport was planned to be used. But, receiving air space clearances was an issue. Then they settled on civilian aircrafts, and the Indian citizens were bussed from Kuwait through Iraq and to the borders of Jordan.

The airlift was taking place from Amman airport as Baghdad was closed, Iran was out of bounds and the situation was tense. People had to come from Kuwait to Amman through Iraq, which is quite a distance and beset with problems. There were far more people to be evacuated than expected. But, the coordination and team work of the people on the mission managed to evacuate all the Indian nationals out of the country. There was also a Pakistani Airline crew stranded in Kuwait and they wished to be evacuated by Indian aircrafts. On humanitarian grounds, the Indian officials agreed. International humanitarian law insists on the principle according to which 'the displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered for reasons related to the conflict'. The transfer of a population, as well as the use of terror to force its displacement, is forbidden as a method of warfare. This rule is applicable to both international and internal conflicts, when the drive to control territory and population might incite belligerents to adopt such methods (e.g., the practice of population displacement contributes to ethnic cleansing). Furthermore, regardless of the motive, humanitarian law prohibits individual or mass forcible transfer or deportation of protected persons, from the occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or of any other country, occupied or not. It also forbids the occupying power from transferring part of its own civilian population to the occupied territory. The government should consider creating a separate agency for emergency evacuations as so many Indians will continue to find lure in foreign countries.

Risk due to data

Organizations and governments tasked with providing cash assistance during humanitarian crises recognize the need for legislation to strengthen data protection, but finding staff with both data protection expertise and knowledge of social protection systems is challenging and expensive. As data-driven systems are introduced into aid work, there is the potential for a significant power imbalance between technology providers, governments, and vulnerable populations. And the commercial incentives that drive the involvement of private-sector companies in this domain often are at odds with humanitarian principles including that the collection and sharing of personal data should not put people at risk. But aid groups also are guilty of exposing sensitive data. Four years ago, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had collected personal information including biometric data from ethnic Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and, in contravention of its own policies, shared it with the government of Myanmar to verify people for possible repatriation. Similarly, a recently released internal audit of the World Food Programme's (WFP) provision of digital assistance services in Iraq, Namibia, and Nigeria found that none of the projects had processes in place to ensure data protection and privacy. And research from the non-profit Somali Public Agenda revealed that while huge amounts of data are being collected in Somalia by aid groups and the government, the country has no policies in place to ensure that this information is properly handled.

Proponents of digitalization argue that it will reduce costs. But that may not be true. Unwanted Witness showed that the procurement process for the digital ID scheme in Uganda was conducted with limited public access to tender or contract documents through a 'classified procurement' program, contrary to Uganda's Act. Likewise, an internal audit of the WFP's SCOPE program found that a system had only recently been put in place that could rigorously account for the costs and benefits accrued from IT projects. Moreover, this was not an isolated case. In 2019, a group of civil-society organizations signed an open letter in response to the controversial agreement between the data analytics company Palantir and the WFP warning of a lack of transparency in procurement processes between humanitarian organizations and technology companies. The letter suggested that no third-party audits are possible under the current arrangements, making it impossible to do a future cost analysis of this kind of collaboration. As private-public partnerships continue to grow in the development and aid sector, more research must be done to map the activities of corporate actors to ensure that these relationships are open to scrutiny. Increased transparency will enable donors and policymakers to verify that collaborations are delivering the financial benefits that drive enthusiasm for digitalization.

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

AWAITING CROWD AT JUHU BEACH



A vendor waits for crowd at Juhu beach, Arabian Sea shore in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Coal gasification can make India energy independent

DR DEV GAVASKAR

India's vision, towards becoming a global economic super-power rests on the solutions to the challenges of self-reliance, monetization of domestic reserves, transformative innovation, reduction of imports and jobs' creation, while simultaneously aiming for a decarbonized and sustainable economy in the coming decades. India has been blessed with three scalable and abundant natural resources in the forms of solar energy, biomass reserves and coal. While India can be bullish on the awesome advancements made in the field of solar installations, and a significant amount of research and development work has always been undertaken in case of biomass-based technologies, currently, these resources are challenged by limitations, like the state of downstream technologies for utilizing solar generated electricity and feedstock scalability issues for biomass. However, India does have reserves of 307 billion tonnes of coal, 80 percent of which has historically been consumed in thermal power plants and represents 55 percent of the total fuel source for power in India along with lignite. However, as India, being a signatory of the Paris agreement, aims at moving to cleaner forms of energy, an urgent need as arisen to explore alternative avenues for building a bridge from the energy intensive 'dirty' present to a cleaner, greener, and sustainable future without compromising on the demands of an ever-growing economy. At this socio-economic stage, India's most abundant natural resource, Coal, is in urgent need of diversification.

To make this a possibility, India can look to utilize a commercially proven platform that 'extracts' the stored chemical energy from coal instead of

burning it. Coal gasification is the process of producing syngas, a mixture consisting of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), by chemically reacting coal with steam and oxygen (or air), in ratios that results in gasifying the elements of the coal instead of burning them. This syngas can then be used to produce Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), energy fuels (methanol and ethanol), ammonia for fertilizers and chemicals, and other chemicals and even plastics. Coal gasification plants have been widely deployed around the world, with countries using the technology to produce fuels and chemicals. Unlike coal combustion, the carbon dioxide stream from a coal gasification plant is highly concentrated, making carbon capture and utilization more practical and economical, especially when coupled with a source of green hydrogen or other means of CO₂ sequestration. In line with the objectives and visions mentioned above, it is no surprise that the Ministry of Coal has taken an initiative for utilizing coal through coal gasification with a target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by the end of this decade. To underline the government's seriousness towards this mission, the Ministry of Coal has also formed a new coal-linkage policy for coal gasification projects, under 'Sub-Sectors under Auction of linkages of Non-Regulated Sectors'.

India's other major aim is that of self-reliance, through becoming an energy independent nation; as categorically mentioned in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the 75th Independence Day, with a pledge of achieving this in the next 25 years. It is obvious, that the first step towards achieving self-reliance and energy independence, will hence have to involve the reduction of imports, primarily petroleum. To put things in perspective, India's annual net import of petroleum stood at 185 million metric tons, which cost approximately USD 55 billion. To reduce these imports, and hence save foreign exchange, the national policy on biofuels of 2018 was launched. Under the first phase, the Government of India had resolved to supply 5 percent ethanol blended petrol under its First-Generation Ethanol blended petrol (EBP). Progressively, the Government also advanced the target

for 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030. As is well known, the traditional paths to make ethanol have been via sugar and biomass-based routes, which are limited and disadvantaged due to various reasons including cost, scale, and land requirement constraints or food chain diversion issues. Second generation ethanol feedstock have also emerged using feed such as energy crops, municipal wastes, forest and agricultural residues and wasted food-grains, which have also been primarily plagued by low efficiency and conversion. Additionally, the feedstock scalability challenges also put an upper limit on the scale of the 2G ethanol plants, with one plant expected to produce ethanol in the range of 3 crore liters annually. While there is no doubt, that India has made rapid progress in ethanol blending, reaching approximately 8-9 percent blending via these routes, solutions must be sought for the significant demand-supply gap to meet the E20 targets, which will not be met via traditional methods. This solution must also be efficient, scalable and result in compelling economics. This is where coal via gasification and conversion of syngas to ethanol can help bridge the gap.

Historically the conversion of syngas to ethanol has been challenged by poor conversions and selectivity issues and multi-step reaction schemes, resulting in unacceptable economics. However, novel, disruptive, and transformational technologies, with compelling economics due to highly efficient and selective conversion of syngas to ethanol have been developed and are ready for commercialization. Furthermore, combining these technologies with coal-gasification can help build plants that are highly scalable, with one commercial coal-to-ethanol plant capable of producing more than 40 crore liters of ethanol annually at significantly lower capital intensities. Companies have already been in discussions with potential stakeholders and parties, for building commercial and demonstration plants. For example, technology providers like Synata Bio are commercializing an on-purpose syngas to ethanol technology and a demonstration 'coal to ethanol' project, which will alone produce about 2.5 crore liters of ethanol annually from coal-derived

syngas, is being developed at the Sonapur-Bazari coal complex, a project that will bring in approximately USD 100 million in the form of foreign direct investment. Coal-to ethanol technologies hence provide an effective means of not only solving the demand-supply gap for fuel-ethanol (and meet E20 target) but catalyze the acceleration of the development of coal gasification projects and syngas infrastructure in general, within India, as well as opening possibilities of bringing in foreign direct investments to the country.

However, there are several steps that are still required to incentivize such projects and the associated investments. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is already in the process of modifying National Policy on Biofuels 2018, to include coal-gasification based ethanol. Acceleration of this will give confidence to the potential investors for investing in these projects. However, in addition to this, clarity is required for the pricing that such 'synthetic' ethanol will fetch in the market. While subsequent projects based on these technologies will undoubtedly have reductions in the cost of production, the first of its kind plant will rely on incentivized pricing, necessary to balance the trade-offs between the plant size and the required project returns for the investors. In a nutshell, the coal to ethanol route provides a promising and economically compelling pathway to achieve the dual objectives of India's self-reliance and energy independence vision, by helping to achieve the E20 targets. Furthermore, as electrification of the transportation sector picks up, these technologies can also provide a unique 'carbon capture and utilization' solution, by reacting the currently vented CO₂ stream with green hydrogen, to produce a wide range of key chemical products, including ethylene and other olefins. This holistic approach will, therefore, not only help in achieving India's goal of self-reliance and energy independence but also provide a true solution for the future inevitable target of decarbonization and even exceed India's commitments to the Paris accord agreement for climate change goals.

(Dr Dev Gavaskar is energy expert and partner at US based True North Ventures.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privatisation

First part of budget session of parliament concluded without any major disruptions and it is expected that second part of session will be conducted successfully. In the last parliament session there was pandemonium in both houses of parliament so many bills could not be passed including the bill of privatisation of nationalised banks. I am a disability activist and had been nominated Icon for PwD as well as I am activist in raising issues of violations of human rights and in this regard I want to mention that denial of any part of legitimate Pension is clear cut violation of human rights. In case of employees who take premature retirement a court had commented that the honesty, sincerity, fairness, hard working and consciousness about the duties are not being rewarded in the country and that may be the one of reasons of growing graph of dishonesty amongst the employees, officers in many spheres. Also in another case a court had commented that Officials who are at the helm of affairs must have knowledge of disability acts to provide fair justice to Disabled. In banks retired bank Pensioners are highly discriminated and denied legalised rights for the last twenty four years. Various Representations had been sent to various authorities including the PMO, FMO, Law Ministry, CJI, CLC, Chairman IBA and all trade union leaders etc. but due to insensitive attitude towards Disabled no one is ready to listen their problems. Recently I being disability activist sent Representation to Dr RK Mishra principal Secretary of Prime Minister of India Requesting him to intervene in the matter. Representation had been sent to speaker of lok sabha to look into the matter Representations had been sent to various leaders of various political parties requesting them to raise the issue in the parliament as it is near breakdown of Constitution.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Police modernization

From the media reports, it has been understood that the government is hell-bent on modernizing the entire police force making it people's friendly, ease of doing work, accountable in works etc. Unfortunately, in reality, it shows a different picture. I want to narrate a recent case regarding police verification at a SP office. My daughter applied for a passport in September 2021. Accordingly, the file for police verification was sent from the passport Seva Kendra to the SP office. As no intimation was received from the SP office for 2 months, I took initiative on the matter and that police verification for her was completed at DSP in my presence (less said is better about the minimum respect to a senior citizen). The said file after police verification had been kept lying for disposal up to many months. If a police verification file for a bonafide student of an urban area takes more than 3 months, what type of modernization the government is talking about? It reminds me of the previous system of greasing the palms for any official works. May I request a reply ministries concerned?

PC Sharma, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Gaurav@gauravsabnis

The more time I spend in academia, the more it becomes apparent how "merit" in India is gaslighting concept used by the elites to justify not really delivering education but a stamp. Hence the obsession more on entrance exam ranks than what you do in college.

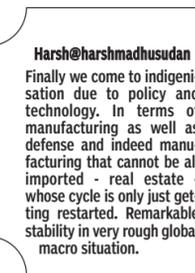
Arpita@arpitachatter

I don't know the solution to this problem but I think the natural conclusion to my observations is we need a strong story or narrative from the other side that captures people's imagination. A simple but compelling story of unity and brotherhood and what India really stands for.



Suhasini@suhasinih

The West consistently says it has no quarrel with the Russian people, only its Putin led leadership, then must explain why its "isolate Russia" plan involves measures like banning athletes, orchestra conductors and famous authors.



Harsh@harshmadhusudan

Finally we come to indigenization due to policy and technology. In terms of manufacturing as well as defense and indeed manufacturing that cannot be all imported - real estate - whose cycle is only just getting restarted. Remarkable stability in very rough global macro situation.



KhannaAkshay@akshay_khanna

Crimson #Sunbird - #NationalBird of Singapore. In India found in #Himalayas.



Tony Joseph@tjoseph0010

All nations in the world today are the result of multiple migrations, starting with the Out of Africa migration of around 70,000 years ago. This not something that is peculiar to India. Europe, for instance, saw dramatic changes in its demography twice in the last 10,000 years.

Akshat@Akshat_World

Startups that make money are sustainable. Innovation is a buzzword, which does not mean anything now. Everything can be easily copied in 99.99% of the cases. Boring people, companies with great execution are the ones who actually make money.

BRIEF

Returns

Jerusalem: American authorities have returned nine looted artifacts to Jordan that were seized from a US billionaire collector as part of a landmark deal announced in December. The artifacts were among 180 items seized by the Manhattan District Attorney's office as part of an agreement with collector Michael Steinhardt to surrender trafficked artifacts and avoid prosecution. The deal capped a four year investigation into possession.

Kills

Peshawar: Gunmen in northwestern Pakistan shot and killed a female polio worker, Iqra Iqbal as she was returning home after taking part in the country's latest anti-polio campaign, police said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. However, militants often target polio teams and police assigned to protect them in Pakistan, falsely claiming vaccination campaigns are Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Halts

Malta: Malta said it would temporarily stop giving citizenship and residency to Russians and Belarusians over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, suspending the so-called "golden passports" scheme for wealthy investors. Malta is one of a handful of European Union countries offering programmes in which high net worth foreigners can gain residency and possibly eventual citizenship through investing large sums. It is also a tax heaven.

Status

Washington: People in the US from Sudan and South Sudan can stay with temporary legal status to escape the conflict and natural disasters in their homelands, the Department of Homeland Security announced.

King

Cape Town: A new Zulu king can be crowned in South Africa after a court settled a dispute over whether the prince named as heir to the throne last year had a rightful claim to it. A KwaZulu Natal high court judge in the city of Pietermaritzburg ruled that Prince Misuzulu KaZwelithini, the eldest surviving son of the late king, is the "undisputed successor to the throne."

Army of cyber hackers rise up to back Ukraine

Граждане. Призываем вас прервать это безумие, не отправляйте своих сыновей и мужей на верную смерть, нас враги и поддерживают. Мы хотим вернуть Украину, перестать покупать нефть и газ. Через неё идёт жизнь в Северной Корее. Для чего это нам? Чтобы Путин попал в учебники? Это не наша война, остань...



Это сообщение удаляет, в некоторых из нас: убитый или даже похоронен. Но мы не можем больше это терпеть. Неравнодушные журналисты России.

A Russian media website hacked.

London, Mar 03 (AFP):

An army of volunteer hackers is rising up in cyberspace to defend Ukraine, though internet specialists are calling on geeks and other "hacktivists" to stay out of a potentially very dangerous computer war. According to Livia Tibirna, an analyst at cyber security firm Sekoia, nearly 260,000 people have

joined the "IT Army" of volunteer hackers, which was set up at the initiative of Ukraine's digital minister Mykhailo Fedorov. The group, which can be accessed via the encrypted messaging service Telegram, has a list of potential targets in Russia, companies and institutions, for the hackers to target. It's difficult to judge the effect the cyber-army is having. The actions report-

ed so far seem to be limited to "denial of service" (DOS) attacks, where multiple requests are sent to a website in a coordinated manner to saturate it and bring it down. Defacement actions, in which the targeted site displays a hacked page, have also been briefly observed on Russian sites. The "cyber-army" could also ask hackers to try to identify vulnerabilities of certain Russian sites, and send that info to more seasoned specialists capable of carrying out more sophisticated intrusive actions, such as data theft or destruction, explains Clement Domingo, co-founder of the "Hackers Without Borders" group. But he and other specialists consulted by AFP warned the hackers against participating in the activities of the "IT Army", or other cyber mavericks like Anonymous.

Five lakh people on flood alert as rain lashes Sydney

Sydney, Mar 03 (AP):

Around 500,000 people in Sydney and its surrounding areas had by Thursday been told to evacuate or prepare to flee floodwaters as torrential rain lashed an extraordinarily long stretch of the Australian east coast.

Rivers were rising in Australia's most populous city, home to 5 million, with New South Wales' State Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke warning of 'treacherous weather conditions' over the next 24 hours.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology warned of life-threatening flash flooding and damaging winds with peak gusts in excess of 90 kilometers (56 miles) an hour. Major flooding was expected along several rivers in and around Sydney.



Residents look over a flooded road near Windsor on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, Thursday.

Dozens of suburbs were on high alert. The State Emergency Service issued evacuation orders to 200,000 residents and evacuation warnings had been sent to another 300,000. New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet urged residents to take the orders seriously. 'We do believe that things will get worse before they get better,'

Perrottet said. Minor flood warnings were also issued for coastal communities as far as 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Sydney. Floodwaters were also rising in Brisbane, Australia's third-most populous city 730 kilometers (450 miles) north of Sydney, as severe thunderstorms struck. Hailstones 5 to 6 centimeters (2 inches) wide

China's slowing economy in spotlight as legislature meets

Beijing, Mar 03 (AP):

China's ruling Communist Party is temporarily turning away from its longer-term ambitions to focus on pulling the economy out of a slump as the country heads into the annual meeting of its ceremonial legislature.

The National People's Congress, usually used to showcase big initiatives, is overshadowed this year by a policy pivot begun in December by President Xi Jinping's government to revive anemic consumer spending and housing sales.

Beijing is easing off multi-year campaigns to cut surging debt that Chinese leaders worry is

dangerously high, rein in carbon emissions and narrow the gap between a wealthy elite and China's poor majority.

They probably need to be put on the back burner for this year, while actively prioritizing stabilization goals, said Helen Qiao, the chief China

economist for Bank of America.

The NPC session, which opens Saturday, takes place against a backdrop of Russia's attack on Ukraine, which has pushed up oil prices and added to uncertainty over a global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

China's economic growth slid to 4% over a year earlier in the final three months of 2021, down from 18.3% in the first quarter, after a crack-down on borrowing in the real estate industry set off a plunge in construction, a major employer.

Manufacturing was hurt by power shortages, weak export demand and anti-disease controls that cut off access to major cities. Share prices of e-commerce and other internet companies plunged after Beijing tightened control over the industry.

KYRGYZ FLAG DAY



Kyrgyz honour guards take part in a parade celebrating the National Flag Day at the central Ala-Too Square in Bishkek on Thursday.

Seven militants killed, bombs seized in recent raid

Manila, Mar 03 (AP):

Philippine troops killed at least seven Muslim insurgents aligned with the Islamic State group in a recent offensive in the south and recovered 45 heavy firearms and several bombs and land mines that were to be used in future attacks, military officials said Thursday.

About 60 Muslim militants were in the remote camp near Maguing in Lanao del Sur province when it was attacked Tuesday by fighter jets and army forces, military officials said. It was not immediately clear whether their leader, Abu Zacariah, was among those killed or managed to escape. One soldier was killed and five others were wounded in the fighting, the officials said. Zacariah has been implicated in past attacks and bombings and is suspected of being the newly designated leader of the Islamic State group in



45 pieces of firearms seized from Islamic State insurgents in Marawi City.

Southeast Asia, said army infantry brigade commander Brig. Gen. Jose Maria Cuervo II, who oversaw Tuesday's offensive. Two factions of the militant group Daulah Islamiyah, linked to the Islamic State group, appear to have merged and camped near Maguing in January. At the

time, some power transmission towers in the region were bombed in attacks claimed by the Islamic State group, prompting the military to intensify its surveillance and prepare for an offensive, Cuervo said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender notice for Annual Maintenance Work. Details include tender notice number M-R-ET-21-22-13, name of work, cost approx Rs. 66,32,837.00, and closing date of 04.04.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.

Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Notice Inviting Tender. Details include items like Wireless signal Tracker/Radio Direction Finder and Mini UAV Drone, with quantities and EMD values.

Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Notice Inviting Tender. Details include items like Wireless signal Tracker/Radio Direction Finder and Mini UAV Drone, with quantities and EMD values.

Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Notice Inviting Tender. Details include items like Wireless signal Tracker/Radio Direction Finder and Mini UAV Drone, with quantities and EMD values.

Government of Chhattisgarh, Water Resources Department. Tender notice for renovation of head work and C.C. lining of canals of Khuntee diversion scheme. Includes details on procurement portal and contact information.

BRIEF

Seeks

Mumbai: Newly-appointed Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey took to social media to invite suggestions for improving the police force's functioning. In a post in Marathi on his personal Facebook page, he said he has served in Mumbai for about thirty years in various capacities, and formed an emotional bond with people. Even smallest of suggestions can effect great changes, appealing residents to send in suggestions.

Penalty

Noida: Five private agencies which had put up hoardings, banners and other publicity material illegally in public spaces in Noida were slapped with a penalty of over Rs 1 lakh each. The action was taken by the external advertising department of the Noida Authority on instructions of CEO Ritu Maheshwari. Illegal advertisements put up by various agencies and companies are regularly removed by the external advertising department.

Held

Ghaziabad: Two men were arrested for allegedly raping two girls — one a five-year-old and another of 14 years age — in two different cases in the Murad Nagar area of the district, police said. The elder girl has alleged rape by four or five other accomplices of the accused, police said, adding it is investigating the matter further. The matter was reported to police after the child returned home and narrated her woes to her parents.

Injured

New Delhi: A man was injured after being thrashed during an altercation that broke out when two vehicles touched slightly in north Delhi's Bhalaswa Dairy area. They said two people were taken into police custody after being nabbed in connection with the case. Ravinder and Golu were on a motorcycle, while Vakil and Masum were in a car when their vehicles ended up touching slightly.

Morphed

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police arrested a student for allegedly circulating morphed images of faculty members of the private university he was studying in. The accused was identified as Navjosh Singh Atwal, a resident of Mohali. A complaint was received from the university's authorities and they said that someone was hacking e-mails and online teaching sessions using apps as well as circulating morphed images of faculty.

Dies

Hyderabad: A 15-year-old boy, a Class-10 student, died after allegedly being hit by two of his classmates following an argument in a classroom of a private school here. The deceased, who suffered head injuries in the incident, was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Nitish surprised by large presence of students in Ukraine

● Private institutions prohibitively expensive in India

Patna, Mar 03 (PTI):

Amid the conflict in Ukraine, the large number of Indian medical students in that far-off country, now seeking evacuation, has come as a surprise, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said here on Thursday.

Intervening during a debate on the floor of the state assembly, Kumar also said that the national phenomenon should lead to the realisation that medical courses, offered by private institutions back home, were prohibitively expensive.

I am surprised to see so many boys and girls opting for such a remote country for their studies this is a different scenario



Nitish Kumar

compared with the Soviet era when wards of those associated with the communist parties flocked to Russia and adjoining lands to study medicine, said Kumar.

The chief minister rose in his seat to intervene in response to a calling attention motion by 20 MLAs, including Sanjiv Kumar and Devesh Kant Singh, both of whom belong to the ruling NDA in the state.

The motion had sought

price/fees capping at private medical colleges in the country where an MBBS course cost roughly Rs 15 lakh per year, which was three times as much as students had to pay in Ukraine, Nepal, the Philippines, China etc.

Kumar said I wonder how so many people come to know about cheaper courses in countries like Ukraine. Perhaps it has something to do with the proliferation of social media which has led to an information explosion. Nonetheless, the reasons for which they travel so far need to be realised nationally and addressed squarely.

In his reply to the motion, health minister Mangal Pandey said that the members' concerns will be made known to the fee fixation committee that has been set up in accordance with a Supreme Court judgement.

Govt employees 'gherao' Himachal Assembly

Shimla, Mar 03 (PTI):

Hundreds of protesting state government employees Friday held a protest outside the Himachal Pradesh Assembly in support of their demand of restoring the old pension scheme.

The police tried to stop the protestors at different locations of Shimla but a large number of them managed to reach near the main gate of the Assembly at Kennedy chowk forcing the police to lock all the gates of the state Assembly.

The state government employees under the banner of New Pension Scheme Karamchari Mahasangh (NPSKM) headed by its chief Pradeep Thakur raised slogans Old Pension-Old



State government employees gather outside Himachal Pradesh Assembly in Shimla on Thursday.

Pension, Purani Pension Bahal Karo (restore old pension) by holding tricolour in their hands.

The protestors also tried to cross the grill near the Kennedy chowk to enter the Assembly but Baddi Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Chawla and his team foiled their attempt

to do so. A municipal corporation fire engine was also deployed in front of the state Assembly to use it as a water cannon to disperse the protestors. The state director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu was seen on the spot to monitor the security arrangements.

All roads lead to Varanasi in last phase of UP polls



BJP leaders gather for a meeting in Varanasi on Thursday.

Varanasi, Mar 03 (PTI):

As the high-octane Uttar Pradesh polls enter the last leg, all eyes are on the electoral battle in and around Varanasi which will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and prominent leaders from opposition parties leading their campaigns.

Modi, who has been criss-crossing the state all along in the seven-phase Uttar Pradesh elections, will lead the poll blitzkrieg in his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi for two days on March 4 and 5.

Voting for the seventh and final round will be held on March 7 for Varanasi and its eight adjoining districts.

Varanasi unit president of the BJP, Vidyasagar Rai, said the prime minister will hold a roadshow in different localities of Varanasi and on March 5, will address a rally in Khajuri village of the district. The roadshow will be held for three assembly constituencies of Cantt,

Varanasi North and Varanasi South. Modi is also scheduled to visit the Kashi Vishwanath temple. Prominent leaders of opposition parties are also reaching the pilgrim city, which would be the nerve centre of the grand finale.

Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee is holding a joint rally with SP president Akhilesh Yadav and his RLD ally Jayant Chaudhary on Thursday. All the allies of the SP-led coalition would attend the rally to give a strong message of challenge to the saffron camp.

After humbling the BJP in her home state West Bengal, Banerjee is trying to lead a formidable grouping of the anti-BJP forces in the next national election.

Murals brought to Delhi by Indo-German 'fellow travellers'



A view of a new thematic mural titled 'Fish Out of Water' in Lodhi Art District, in New Delhi.

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Delhi's vibrant art district in Lodhi Colony has now some new quirky residents — a flying 'fish', an 'owl' on roller skates and a 'flamingo' on a bicycle.

This colourful, surrealist menagerie has been imagined by two women — a graphic novel artist from

Germany and an architect-illustrator from India — who joined hands to create a dazzling mural in the heart of the national capital. The Indo-German collaborative work titled 'Fish Out of Water' took two weeks.

Besides depicting flora and fauna, it draws its essence from the idea of travelling and experiencing

a new culture, as also "travelling in one's mind" to places that don't exist on a map.

Aashti Miller, an architect by day and an illustrator by night, said, "The idea of travelling in one's minds essentially happened during the pandemic when lockdown and new safety norms essentially meant

PROTESTING INVASION



Students holding placards, stage a protest against Russia's military invasion in Ukraine, in Bengaluru, Thursday.

Assets, transactions detected after raids on corporator, contractors

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Income Tax Department has found about three dozen properties, including some alleged benami ones, worth Rs 130 crore after it recently raided premises of a Shiv Sena Corporator and some BMC contractors in Mumbai, sources said on Thursday.

The department raided more than 35 premises in Maharashtra's capital city on February 25, and the CBDT said in a statement on Thursday that "preliminary investigation indicates that these contractors have evaded income to the extent of Rs 200 crore on account of...malpractices." The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the tax de-



Yashwant Jadhav

partment. The statement said the raids were carried out against certain contractors executing contracts of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a "prominent" person and their close associates. Sources said the "prominent person" was Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant

Jadhav, who is also the chairman of the BMC standing committee.

"Numerous incriminating documents, loose sheets and digital evidences have been found and seized. The evidences so seized strongly indicate a close nexus between these contractors and the said (prominent) person," the statement alleged.

It said "particulars of about 3 dozen immovable properties, whose value could be more than Rs 130 crore have also been detected". The assets, the CBDT claimed, include properties acquired either in their (prominent person) name or their associates or benamidars (in whose name the benami asset is standing).

HC raps passport authorities for compelling single parents to litigation

● Over travel document

Kochi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has come down heavily on the passport authorities for compelling single parents, who are divorced or separated, to resort to litigation for reissuance of the travel document of their children, by saying that the officials concerned should be "pragmatic and reasonable" in their approach.

The high court also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on an Assistant Passport Officer for his "high-handedness" in objecting to a divorced woman's application for re-issuance of her minor daughter's passport without the father's consent and asking her to get a court order for the same.

The order by Justice



Amit Rawal came on the woman's plea who claimed that the passport authorities did not process her application despite her giving an undertaking or declaration, as provided under the rules where one of the parents has not given consent, that the entire responsibility of the child would be hers as there is already an order of divorce. She had also submitted a copy of the divorce decree along with the application, her petition had said. The court termed as "high-

handedness" the conduct of the Assistant Passport Officer in the instant case for raising objections with regard to re-issuance of the passport by a single parent facing a matrimonial discord and directing them to approach the court for an order. It further said, "This court has come across similar litigation day in and day out whereby the petitioners/applicants for re-issuance of passport particularly either of the parent who is facing the matrimonial discord or

there is already a separation, are compelled to approach this court for appropriate order, despite filling the form Annexure 'C'.

The officers at the helm of affairs exercising the powers for issuing the passport are supposed to deal with the application in a pragmatic and reasonable manner, but should not reject the application in the manner and mode as extracted above." The passport authorities, during the proceedings, told the court that the application by the woman has been processed and shall be issued within a week.

Justice Rawal, however, observed that the step was taken by them "knowing full well that the court would express concern with regard to the spate of litigations and may come down heavily on the action of the respondents".

NCP slams Fadnavis accusations regarding Dawood Ibrahim

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):

NCP chief spokesman Mahesh Tapase on Thursday condemned a statement BJP Devendra Fadnavis, wherein he sought to know if the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state was "dedicated" to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, and claimed it was a "direct insult to 11 crore citizens of Maharashtra".

Notably, the opposition BJP in Maharashtra has been demanding the removal of state minister Nawab Malik following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate last week in connection with a money laundering probe linked

to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

"Why is Malik being protected? Is this government dedicated to Dawood Ibrahim? Under whose pressure is the government working?" Fadnavis, who is leader of opposition in the state Assembly, asked while talking to reporters.

Taking a dim view of the remarks, Tapase said the ruling MVA, comprising of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, is only committed to the welfare of the people of Maharashtra.

Earlier, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday alleged that the

Maha Vikas Aghadi government was devoted to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, a key conspirator in the 1993 Mumbai blasts.

Speaking to reporters on the premises of Vidhan Bhavan here, Fadnavis claimed that there were enough documents to prove state minister Nawab Malik's links with Dawood.

The MVA government is devoted to Dawood Ibrahim. There are enough documents to prove Nawab Malik's links with Dawood," Fadnavis alleged, stating that the BJP will not let the budget session function till Malik is removed from the cabinet.

Workers should be given better health facilities: Dr. Dahria

100-bed hospital to be built for workers in Bilaspur

Regional Council meeting of Employees State Insurance Corporation

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 03: State Urban Administration and Development and Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria has directed to start the necessary action soon for construction of 100-bed hospital for labourers in Bilaspur. In the meeting of the Regional Council of State Employees Insurance Corporation at Mahanadi Bhawan, he said that an action plan should be prepared for bet-



ter facilities to the workers. More and more workers should be registered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. Urban Administration and Labour Minister Dr. Dahria said that medical services should be expanded to other districts of the state in the interest of the workers, so that the needy labourers get medical treatment in all the districts. He said that the officers of Employees' State Insurance Corporation and Employees' State Insurance Services should make an action plan by

making coordinated efforts. He said that tie-up hospitals should be arranged in all those districts where the provisions of the Act are applicable and where there is no medical facility.

In the meeting, the officials informed that 42 dispensaries are operating in 10 districts of the state. Outpatient medical facilities are being provided to the insured beneficiaries under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation by contracting 54 private hospitals in the state. At present there is a tie up hospi-

tal for secondary care in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Raigarh. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the construction of Employees' State Insurance Hospitals. Similarly, in the meeting, along with discussion regarding the opening of new offices, co-branch offices and dispensaries of Employees' State Insurance Corporation in Champa, Bemetara, Ambikapur, Palari (Balodabazar), the members of industry and trade union also discussed about labour interests and facilities and made necessary suggestions. In the meeting, Secretary of Labour Department, Mr. Amrit Khalko, Director of Employees' State Insurance Corporation and other officers, officials of industry and trade union participated online.

Akbar inaugurates All India Hockey Tourney

Total 30 teams taking part from different states

Bilaspur, Mar 03: The Forest Minister inaugurated Nava Bharat sponsored All India Hockey Tournament in B.R. Yadav Astro turf Hockey Ground in Bahatrai in Bilaspur on Tuesday. A total of 30 hockey teams from different states are taking part in this tournament. In the inaugural match, in men's category was between Sufia Sporting Club Amaravati

and Distict Hockey Association Bilaspur. There are total 16 men's team and 14 are women's team in this tourney.

The other hockey teams taking part in this Hockey Tournament are Haryana, Delhi, Mumbai, Rourkela, Rohtak, Prayagraj, Sonapat, Bengaluru and others in men's category and from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Merrut, Gwalio and Haryana for women's team.

Addressing the inaugural programme, Fores Minister Mohammed Akbar welcomed

all the hockey players from different states and said that hockey players like Vincent Lakda, Saba Anjum are the players who brought laurels to the state purely based upon their talent. Holding such tournaments for hockey gives lot of motivation to players. He said that there are many scheme being run for promotion of hockey and other sports by the state government. Mohammed Akbar boosting the morale of each player, wished them all the best for the matches and future endeavours. Addressing

the programme, Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel said that a hockey tournament in Bilaspur would provide the players to display their talent and extended greetings to the organisers and all the players and their coaches. On this occasion Chairman CTB Atal Shrivastava, Vice Chancellor Atal Behari Vajpayee University Prof. ADN Vajpayee, Bilaspur IG Ratanlal Dangi, General Secy. Hockey Association Manish Shrivastava and other public representatives and officers were present.

Women and Child Development Minister blessed 56 newlyweds

Raipur, Mar 03: Women and Child Development Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia participated in the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana organised at Dallirajhara in Balod district. In the mass marriage organized there, she blessed 58 newlyweds for a happy married life. The mass marriage was organized in the Gayatri Shaktipeeth premises in the presence of family members and dignitaries. On this occasion, Minister Smt. Anila Bhedia said that



Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojana is an ambitious scheme of the government. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's sensitive

thinking is that daughters should get married easily without any family expenses, due to this thinking, he decided to increase the

amount given under the scheme from Rs.15 thousand to Rs.25,000. Due to this, the Chief Minister's girl marriage is being organized in a better way. On this occasion, Chairman of Municipal Council, Dallirajhara, Mr. Shibu Nair, District Panchayat member Mrs. Chandraprabha Sudhakar, District Program Officer of Women and Child Development Department Mr. Harikirtan Rathore, dignitaries, family members of newlyweds were present.

Mahashivratri celebrated at JSPL Machinery Division

Raipur, Ma 03: The marriage day of Bhagwan Shiv & Parvati was celebrated on 1st March 2022 on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Pt. VP Pandey convened the function at the temple in JSPL premises at Machinery Division-Raipur in which HR Head Suryodaya Dubey, Purchase Head Sandeep Agrawal, and many other employees and their family members were present.



that lay in its depths, a pot of poison emerged. Lord Shiva consumed this poison, saving both the Gods and mankind. The poison lodged in the Lord's throat, turning him blue. To honor the savior of the world, Shivratri is celebrated. One more legend is that as Goddess Ganga descended from heaven in full force, Lord Shiva caught her in his

matted locks, and released her onto Earth as several streams. This prevented destruction on the Earth. As a tribute to Him, the Shivalinga is bathed on this auspicious night. Also, it is believed that the formless God Sadashiv appeared in the form of a Lingodbhav Moorthi at midnight. Hence, people stay awake all night, offering prayers to God.

Dahariya inaugurates veterinary dispensary in Lakholi



Arang, Mar 02: Urban Administration and Development and Labor Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya on Wednesday inaugurated a veterinary dispensary near Gauthan in village Lakholi of Arang block of Raipur district. On the occasion, he said that immediate treatment can be provided to the animals now, which will be convenient for the nearby livestock farmers. Dr. Dahariya said that various states are giving a serious thought to the Godhan Nyay Yojana and Narva, Garwa, Ghurwa and Bari scheme being imple-

mented by the Chhattisgarh Government. Chhattisgarh Model is being discussed across the country today. Meanwhile, a cattle fair and exhibition has been organized in village Lakholi under the National Live Stock Mission, where important information about animal husbandry is being given to the cattle owners. Along with this, information about the welfare schemes of Chhattisgarh government is also being given to the people. Public representatives and citizens were also present on this occasion.

Students display science models



On occasion of National Science Day in ABC Public School

Kharora, Mar 03: On occasion of National Science Day in ABC Public School, in Saragaon, the students dis-

played various science models and exhibited their talent. The students highlighted about rain water harvesting, pollution-free environment; butterfly lifecycle; Urinary system; blood circulation and other such subjects through their models.

They also explained it in detail to the chief guest on

his arrival and informed him how water conservation can be done using rain-water harvesting. In another model students explained as to how atmosphere can be saved from getting polluted. It is by presenting models on the topics of day-to-day life that the students passed on a positive message.

25105 children administered polio drops

In three days on Feb 27,28 and March 1

Fingeshwar, Mar 03: Under the special National Pulse Polio drive in Fingeshwar block on Feb 27, 28 and March 1, a total of 25105 children below 5 yrs were administered polio vaccine. BMO P Kudesia informed that a target to administer polio drops to 25028 children was fixed for this year's Pulse Polio drive and in this way cent percent target was achieved. A total of 143 centres were formed in the block and in supervisors, RHO, CHO, and Mitanins extended full support. This time in Rajim



Mela itself three centres were formed for polio vaccine andn here 503 children were administered polio drops. BMO P Kudesia, BP Saurabh Virvani, BPO Yogendra Parana, supervisors, Mitanins gave valuable support in this drive.

'Nano Urea' publicity 'Rath' flagged off

To create awareness about use of this liquid Urea by IFFCO

Khairagarh, Mar 03: In order to fulfill the shortage of Urea, the publicity 'Rath' of 'Nano Urea' was flgged off by Senior Agriculture Development Officer Khairagarh CP Nayak here on Wednesday. As per information in this regard, due to shortage of Urea in the state, the farmers have been appealed to use 'Nano Urea' in the liquid form by IFFCO Company. On Wednesday, it was under direction of the Chief Area Manager IFFCO AK Upadhyay, the senior Agriculture Devp



Officer Khairagarh in the presence of Marketing Federation's Vijendra Raj, ADO Animesh Gawade, Rural Agriculture Extension officer Pawan Dewangan, young agriculture businessman Anand Chopda and farmer Bhagwantin Bai and Hemchand, flagged off publicity

'Rath' of 'Nano Urea'. During this officers informed that "Nano Urea" has to be sprayed using a sprayer with 50 or 60 ml as per the requirement. This 'Nano Urea' is in liquid form and 10% cheaper than the traditional Urea and is available at the rate of Rs 240 per bottle and it is easy to trans-

port and store. The farmers can even carry it in their pockets or in small bag and it gives 6-8% extra production compared to traditional Urea. This 'Nano Urea' has to be sprayed first within 25-30 days; second from 55-60 days. Director Gulab Agro Agency and member IFFCO Anad Chopda informed that it is order to create awareness among farmers about 'Nano urea', this publicity 'rath' will move out in the block and on the first day it was moved in GramKhajari, Dillipur, Sundi, Ataria, Jalbandha, Karamtara, Saloni, Iraikhrud, Madraku, Navagaon and others and also in the villages of D o n g a r g a r h - Rajnandgaon.

One arrested with illicit liquor



Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 03: The Thekadih police arrested the youth openly selling illicit liquor by the road side in Gram Gatapar on Wednesday and sent him to jail. As per information in this regard, a campaign has already being launched against people illegally selling illicit liquor.

It was on tip from an informer on March 1, it was learnt that Pramod Singh Rajput alias Guddu S/o Gopal Singh Rajput (33), Ro Gatapar Kal Gaon, was selling illicit liquor by road-side in Gatapar. On hearing about this news, the police team raided the place and seized 30 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 3600 kept inside a blue coloured polythene bag. Along with this a motorcycle bearing No. CG 08 ZD 9203 worht Rs 30000 was also seized. He was arrested for failing to produce any documents related to selling of liquor and was booked under section 34 (2) of Excise Act and sent to jail

Accidents on rise near NH, people strongly protest

Accidents on rise near NH, people strongly protest

Dhamtari, Mar 03: Despite massive efforts by Dhamtari police, the number of road accidents in city are not reducing, as it was few days back only a recklessly driven truck had run over a youth and he died on the spot and another youth got seriously injured. After this road accident there is lot of resentment and anger among people of the region. According to Police, it was on Tuesday evening at around 6:00 pm, a speedily driven truck bearing No. 17 KN 9866 dashed against a bike bearing No. CG 04 HL 0820 driven by Golu Patel (15) R/o Guajra. He re-

ceived serious head injuries and since he was profusely bleeding, he died on the spot itself. The another youth behind Golu, viz. Raja Sahu (19) got injured. Both had come here for some building construction work.

On hearing about this incident, in no time there was huge gathering of crowd and the traffic police also reached the site and sent the injured to the hospital for treatment. The truck was seized and case was filed against the driver.

With such repeated accidents over the last few days, the people are finding it difficult to believe as to whether their near or dear one would return once they leave the house. In the month of February itself, a total of 10 persons had died in different road accidents.

Highest of the accidents took place on NH. According to Police Captain Prashant Thakur and DSP Manishankar Chandrakar, efforts are being made to reduce the number of accidents on this route and appealed people to drive slowly, carefully and wearing helmets without fail and use seat belts while driving four-wheelers.

Are driving at high speed
Few days back only, orders were issued to drive vehicles on NH from Arjurni Road to Jodhapur chowk at around 30 km speed and for this sign and warning board too has been flashed. But even after this sign board, there is no effect on the truck, bus, car, jeep and two-wheeler riders in this section.

Mahashivratri celerated with religious fervour



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 03: The festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated in ward NO. 1 of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ward in Nagar Panchayat Kharora with

great enthusuiasm and fervour: Prayers were offered in Lord Shiva's temple to 'Lord Bholenath' and blessings were sought for peace and prosperity of all the citizens.

A massive 'Bhog-Bhandara' was also organised for people with 'kheer-puri'. On this occasion, ward corporator Mona Bablu Bhatia, Pradeep Verma, Bhojram Manhare, Ajit Kosale, Jagdish Pamvani, Ghanshyam Verma, Yuvraj Verma, Jitendra Ven, Dharendra Verma, Durgesh Verma, Radheshyam Sahu, Dageshwar Prasad Verma, Visheshar Verma, Heeralal Dewangan, Surendra Verma, Kanchan Verma, Kumar Kosale and others.

Ten Bank Didi's working as banks for 46 Gram Panchayats

Payment to MNREGA workers under the scheme 'Gaone buta aau gaone rupiah'



Kondagaon, Mar 03: To ensure 'Right of Employment' to the person of every household in the village, the government employed the people under Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) and their wages are paid directly into their accounts through DBT.

There are only 5 bank branches in the Farasgaon area and associated Development Block Headquarters, apart from this, two bank branches are in Dhanora of Keshkal and a bank branch in Benur of Narayanpur district. Due to

this, the villagers had to travel long distances to another village far away from home to get their due amount besides facing hassles of waiting in long queues. In such a situation, they had to face a lot of trouble even to get their basic account information, as a result of this they were losing interest to work under MNREGA. To address the following situation of increase in the number of complaints and losing interest of MNREGA workers even after timely payment

has been done in their bank accounts. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena instructed the concerned officer to make payment at the workplace itself. As per the instructions, Zila Panchayat CEO Premprakash Sharma took step to appoint 10 'Bank Sakhi' from Bihan Groups as a pilot project. These Bank Sakhi's started work for 14098 active job cardholders of 44 bankless remote gram panchayat out of 73 Gram Panchayats under Farasgaon development block.

Special Secy of School Education Department inspects board examination centers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 03: Rajesh Singh Rana, Special Secretary, School Education Department and Director, State Council of Educational Institutions and Training (SCERT) inspected the board examination centers organised in the school located at J.N. Pandey and P.G. Umathe Shanti Nagar, school. Mr. Rana conducted a surprise inspection of both the schools and instructed them to follow the guidelines of Covid-19 strictly during the examination. He also inspected the arrangements for checking the examinees by



means of sanitizers and thermal scanners at the main gate and inside the examination hall. All the students were found wearing masks following social distancing. It was also directed by Mr. Rana to the President of the examina-

tion center, if a candidate has common symptoms of cold-cough or fever, then his separate seating arrangement should be ensured by following the Covid-19 rules. Dr. Yogesh Shivhare, Additional Director of SCERT was

also there during the inspection. It is notable that 10th and 12th board examinations by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education is at present going on.

The first paper was of Hindi specific and Hindi general. This year, 4044 examination centers were set up by the Board of Secondary Education for 10th board and 6743 for 12th board. This time 3 lakh 80 thousand 27 children were registered in class 10th.

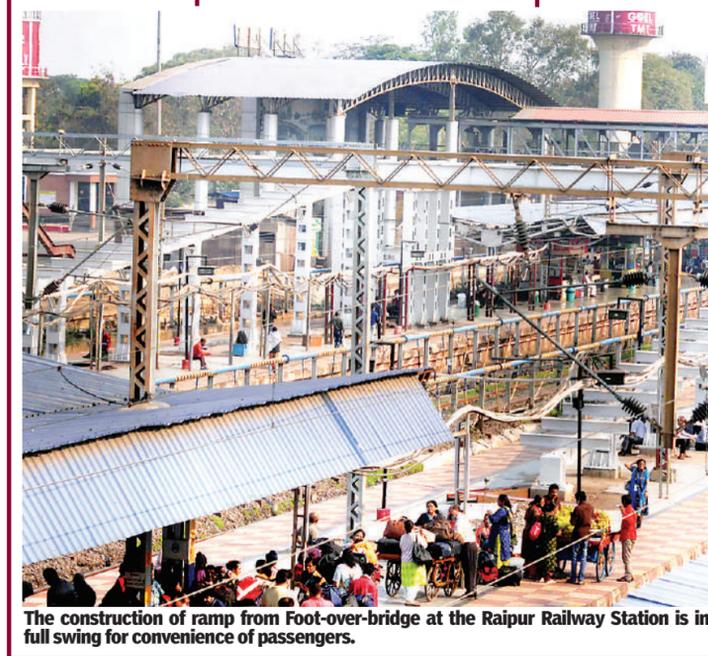
These include 3 lakh 77 thousand 667 regular and 2 thousand 360 private registered candidates. Similarly, there are a total of 2 lakh 93 thousand 425

candidates for the 12th board examination. Out of these, 2 lakh 89 thousand 808 are regular and 3 thousand 617 are private candidates.

The maximum number of 531 examination centers have been set up in Janjgir-Champa district for class 10th examination. There are 512 exam centers in Raipur and lowest 41 exam centers have been set up in Narayanpur district.

Similarly, in the 12th examination, the maximum 358 examination centers have been set up in Janjgir Champa. 345 examination centers have been set up in Raipur and the lowest in Sukma is 19.

RAMP IN STATION



The construction of ramp from Foot-over-bridge at the Raipur Railway Station is in full swing for convenience of passengers.

Nine accused of cheating youths in the name of job arrested

Cash of Rs 10.50 lakh recovered along with all equipments required for fake documents etc



Balodabazar, Mar 03: Balodabazar Police has nabbed 9 members of interstate gang along with cash of Rs 10.50 lakh on charges of cheating people. A combined team of Thana Bhatapara and Simga nabbed the main accused Ravishankar and 9 others of his gang and they used to play the game in an organized manner. The accused have cheated unemployed youth assuring them employment in Railway, Electricity, Forest, Army and other departments and have so far targeted 15-20

youths all over the country.

The accused used to provide take appointment letter and appointment order, selection list to the applicants who used to approach them. It is based upon their style and procedure of the crime and on analyzing every minute details that the inter-state gang was nabbed by the police. The main accused Ravishankar used to cheat people by taking fake names like Sushobhan Ghosh, Shiv Prasad Patel, Arjun. SSP Deepak Kumar Jha took

special interest in this professional gang of cheaters who used to cheat people in a very professional way. It is based upon certain facts and evidences and cross-checking the working of gang-members, that all 9 accused of the gang were arrested. One of the applicants from Bhatapara rural area viz. Ramshankar Patel had lodged complaint about cheating in the name of gateman in Railway Department and another victim Narendra Gaikwad was cheated for job as Forest Guard in Forest department. In both these cases the procedure of cheating candidates was the same and so it was based upon the same, the entire gang of cheaters were nabbed.

The special team of police by laying the trap after lot of hard work, managed

to arrest the main accused viz. Ravi Shankar R/o Kolkata and brought him to Raipur. After this all other 8 accused were also nabbed one by one from Bhilai, Korba, Raigarh, Bemetara, Janjgir and Raipur and cash of Rs 10.50 lakh was also recovered. The search of other accused in the case is in progress and they would be arrested soon.

The police also seized the equipments used in providing fake appointment letter and orders including printer, computer system, printer, fake seals making equipment, mobile phones and SIM cards of all the members, bank passbook, cheque book, ATM card, the fake appointment letters and orders and application forms prepared by the gang members and fake Aadhar Card prepared by them.

Three day long state-level 'Mahila Madai' to be organized

Raipur, Mar 03: Various programmes will be organized by the Women and Child Development Department to mark the occasion of International Women's Day celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. A state-level women's conference will be organized on March 07 at BTI Ground located in Shankar Nagar, Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Anila Bhediya will attend this programme. A women cycle-rally will be held at 7 am on March 08. Along with this, a three-day long state-level 'Mahila Madai' will be organized at BTI Ground from March 05 to March 08. An exhibition of products manufactured by women Self-Help Groups of the state will be held in this Madai. Visitors here will get a glimpse of initiatives for women empowerment and how women of the state are becoming self-reliant.

30 Ch'garh students returned safely from Ukraine today

Total 69 students of Ch'garh have returned safely so far

Ch'garh Govt made necessary arrangements to get students back to their hometown

Raipur, Mar 03: A total of 30 students of Chhattisgarh, who were stranded in Ukraine, have returned safely to New Delhi on Thursday. Over 69 students of Chhattisgarh have returned safely from Ukraine so far. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, all necessary arrangements have been made in New Delhi for the students of state coming back from Ukraine. Besides, all necessary arrangements are being made by Chhattisgarh Government

to get students back to their hometown.

According to information received from the Office of the Housing Commissioner, 30 students have returned from Ukraine to New Delhi on Thursday. These include Hemant Kumar Sahu of Dallirajhara, Kamlesh Sahu and Akash Tiwari of M a h a s a m u n d , Omprakash Patel, Sameer Kumar Bhoi, and Abhishek Singh of Raigarh, Afsar Ansari, Amal Pillai, Adysha Mohanty, Boidi Ayushree, Sakshi Agrawal, Jagdish Sahu, Bhuvan Raikwar, Apoorva Verma, and Abhijit Wani of Raipur; Rishika Ghosh and Sanjana Srivastava of Rajnandgaon, Divyansh Dubey of Durg, Sandeep Kumar David, Abhishek Kumar Patel, and Pranjal Tiwari of Chirmiri, Shivam Singh of

Ambikapur, Riya Aditi of Bilaspur, Chandra Prakash Rathor, Tushar Giri Goswami, Shubham Kumar, and Niharika Gavel of Janjgir, Shifa Khurshid of Dharamjaigarh, and Ayan Chakraborty of Korba.

All the students left for Raipur by flight after halt at Chhattisgarh Bhawan. 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. Students of Chhattisgarh coming back from Ukraine are being with the facilities of vehicles, accommodation, and food as per the instructions of the Chief Minister. Besides, all the necessary arrangements including air tickets have been made to get students back to their hometown.

MoHUA Secy observes biological model



Raipur, Mar 03: Secretary in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India today observed the biological model plant of pond purification operated in Telibandha pond by Raipur Smart City Ltd. Raipur Smart City Ltd. Managing Director, Abhijit Singh, provided information about water purification system through biological method which has been introduced in collaboration with BHEL and NEERI in Telibandha.

Secretary Urban Administration Alarmel Mangai D, Joint Secretary to Government of India Hemant Kumar Patel, Collector Sourabh Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik, Raipur Smart City Ltd. Additional Managing Director Chandrakant Verma were present on the occasion. Under this biological model of pond purification, water is treated with the help of special flora and flows into Telibandha pond which has also been beautified. Under the BSUP Phase-II scheme on the banks of Telibandha pond, arrangements have been made by the Municipal Corporation for the

residents of 3 slum settlements on the banks of the pond by constructing 640 houses. The 640 houses were constructed in monolithic method for resettlement of families from Boriyakala area.

Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik informed that for the operation and maintenance of Telibandha pond, recreation garden and food done have been created on PPP mode. With this, the Municipal Corporation will get revenue and common people will get the benefit of Mini Theater, Famous Food Court, Yoga, Meditation Center, Garden Lawn, Amphitheater. During his visit to Raipur, the Secretary Joshi also met women beneficiaries of Millet Food Shop 'Joran' operated with the help of Municipal Corporation and NULM and inquired about the income earned from their business, assistance received, sales arrangements etc.

CII Ch'garh vows to work shoulder to shoulder with the State Govt: Chitlangia

Raipur, Mar 03: Umesh Chitlangia, Chief Managing Director, Polybond Insulation Pvt Ltd, takes over as Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council for the year 2022-23, Mr Siddharth Agrawal, Director, Godavari Power & Ispat Ltd, becomes Vice-Chairperson.

This was announced at the Annual Meeting of the CII Chhattisgarh State Council on held on March 03.

Addressing the scribes here, Mr Chitlangia, Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council said that CII is confident that under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh will reach to a new height in India. CII will step up its activities to attract greater volume investments across sectors in



(L-R) Mr Satish Pandey, Dy Director & Head CII Chhattisgarh State Office, Mr Sandeep Goel, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr B L Agrawal, Past Chairman CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr Umesh Chitlangia, Chairman CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr Saikat Roy Chowdhry, Regional Director CII East & North East.

Chhattisgarh. Both the new CII Chhattisgarh Chairman and the Vice-Chairman made a "solemn pledge" to step up CII activities and work hand in hand with the Government of



Umesh Chitlangia-Chairman of CII Ch'garh State Council



Siddharth Agrawal-Vice-Chairman CII Ch'garh State Council

Lead; Empowered to Serve", Mr Gurmeet Chadha, Co-Founder, Complete Circle Foundation Pvt Ltd., while addressing the session said that opportunity in market is always there, specially in Tier-II cities of our country. Digitalization is the need of the hour, and we have to focus on that. Every sector has an opportunity to get digitalize it may on

tangible or non-tangible basis. In his address he also mentions that equity market in India has lucrative potential of returns which unfortunately it's ignored by the large population, and they invest in traditional way of investment like gold and property. More than fifty percent of the population is youth which is eager to grow and be a part of the story of growing India.

World Hearing Day Programmes concludes with message-Listen with Care

Raipur, Mar 03: World Hearing Day programs concluded in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur on Thursday with a message "to hear for life, listen with care". The four-day program included a webinar for NIT students, ENT Camp in two schools, Skit, and a poster presentation to create awareness about ear hygiene along with prize distribution. ENT experts asked for a collaborative initiative between engineering students and medical professionals to provide innovative miniature devices for those who lost their hearing capacity.



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director addressing a webinar on World Hearing Day for NIT-Raipur students.

hearing sense. The entire communication with the internal and external environment depends on it. Some may face challenges due to birth-related problems or due to infection, injury, trauma, aging, or a work-related environment. Technology has been evolved in recent years to provide supportive devices for rehabilitation. Prof. Nitin M. Nagarkar called for more collaborative projects with engineering students to give innovative solutions for

ENT patients. He advised avoiding loud sounds, medications, and taking care of hearing senses. Earlier, Dr. Rupa Mehta explained damaged nerves and various ear hygiene methods. She suggested avoiding loud noise and using earbuds in such surroundings, including limited uses of earphones and headphones. 'We should avoid pub, disco or DJ for a healthy life, she added.

Dr. Ripu Daman Arora explained the ear anatomy



(Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director and other faculty members during ENT screening camp in school at Raipur.

and sound travel process in-ear. 'Human ear consists Pinna, Outer ear, Middle ear, and Inner ear. It also has an ear canal, and cochlea to convert sound waves into electrical impulses. The human ear can perceive sound between 20 to 20,000 Hz', he added. Dr. Arora explained various rehabilitation methods for ENT patients. Preeti Sahu highlighted the role of hearing assessment. Earlier, there were

two ENT camps at Shabri Kanya Ashram and Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Raipur. Total 80 students have been screened, and 24 referred for further treatment through OPD. A poster presentation was also held in the medical college, and BSLP students organized skits to create awareness about hearing loss in different departments at Hospital. The program concluded with prize distribution.

CGBSE helpline number resolving queries and doubts

Of students related to exam

Raipur, Mar 03: The helpline toll free number (18002334363) introduced by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) Raipur is being overwhelmed with the queries and doubts of the students over board examinations. Board officers are resolving queries and doubts of students and their parents over examination.

Doubts of students from Raipur, Mahasamund, Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Baloda-Bazar, Durg, Surajpur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa and



Mungeli district over subjects were cleared by the subject experts. Today on March 3, subject experts Papiya Banerjee, Dr Geeta Tanwani, Anshu Gulati and Ujjwala Ambawastha resolved queries related to English subject of Class 12th on March 3. Students mostly raised queries over article writing, summery writing, question-answer, note-making, ways to remember English and letter writing.

also cleared doubts of students. According to information available 87 phone calls were received on helpline toll free number for resolving queries related to English subject of Class 12th on March 3. Students mostly raised queries over article writing, summery writing, question-answer, note-making, ways to remember English and letter writing.

In-charge Secretary conducts inspection; chairs review meeting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: In view of the upcoming summer season, I/c Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardesi has given instructions to make an effective plan for ensuring ample water supply in the villages. He asked the officials to identify the villages which suffer drinking water crisis during summer season and activate the teams for resolving the problem.

He gave instructions for strengthening the infrastructure to eliminate the water crisis permanently. On Thursday, in-charge Secretary chaired a special review meeting at the sub-divisional office of Patan. In the meeting, he questioned the officers of all the departments about the status of implementation of government schemes and gave them necessary guidance.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure informed him about the departmental activities. District



Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and SDM Vipul Gupta were also present. Pardesi said that often the roads are to be dug for laying the pipelines of drinking water supply.

To avoid such situations, coordination should be maintained between the agency of Jal Jeevan Mission and PWD. He directed to conduct all the work of the mission with quality and within stipulated time frame.

He also reviewed the status of motor pumps being used for irrigation by farmers and asked the officials to provide benefits of the schemes to the farmers as per the target. Power company officials said that there is an increased demand for power supply for bore wells in agricultural lands.

According, it would be appropriate to increase the load of the power supply. I/c Secretary instructed the officials to send the

proposal of 132 KV sub-station in South Patan.

Pardesi said that the intention of the state government is that farmers should also produce aromatic paddy on a large scale as its cultivation can yield good profits. SDO Agriculture informed that last year farmers had cultivated aromatic rice in 1500 hectare area and it is expected to increase this season.

Siddharth also reviewed the implementa-



tion of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Officials informed that 28 Gauthans of the block have become self-supporting through the scheme. Officials added that under Godhan Nyay Yojana, cow dung is being procured in Gauthans, there has been good production of vermi compost and about 95 percent of vermi compost has been bought from farmers.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure informed that

livelihood oriented activities have been ensured in Gauthans. Additional works like fisheries, goat rearing, poultry etc have also been started in Gauthans. Farmers have generously donated paddy straws for efficient operation of Gauthan.

I/c Secretary instructed to complete the construction work of English Medium Schools before the commencement of the new academic session. He asked the offi-

cial to get the school buildings repaired as per the need. He also discussed about the proposal to increase the setup in Patan College. Along with this, he asked to promote skill based education. Steno and welding skills are being taught in Patan. He suggested adding other trades also so that youth can get opportunities for skill development in high potential areas.

He specially discussed the infrastructure of the

health department. He questioned about the radiology department in CHC Patan and also inspected the Hamar lab.

Collector said that after the opening of Hamar Lab, various tests are being done free of cost. He specially reviewed the status of implementation of Chief Minister's nutrition campaign. The District Program Officer said that the department is taking special care of the nutrition of severely malnourished children.

At present 251 children are severely malnourished. Work is being done on priority for nurturing them. Pardesi also discussed the sports infrastructure. He said that sports infrastructure would be significantly developed after the construction of the stadium and mini stadium.

He instructed the officials to make an action plan for operation of the stadiums in a better manner and initiatives for development of sports in the area.

Yoga and Mental Health workshop held at St Thomas College

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: IQAC in collaboration with Department of Education is organising 15 days workshop on "Yoga and Mental Health" at St Thomas College, Ruabandha, from February 28, 2022. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon praised conducting health & mental booster programmes.

IQAC Co-ordinator Dr Debjani Mukherjee expressed her views on mental and physical health. Head of the Department,



Dr Sheeja Thomas encouraged students to participate in such workshops and also expressed her thoughts about presence of healthy mind in healthy body. Convenor Dr Reema Dewangan explained various "asanas" to the students with its benefits.

There was a great contribution of staff of Department of Education. Students from various departments and trainees of Department of Education showed their keen interest and contribution in this workshop and availed the benefits.

Notorious thieves arrested; stolen bikes recovered

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Police have arrested two notorious thieves and have recovered stolen motorcycles from their possession. The accused were arrested earlier also for bike lifting. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that under the crime prevention and control activities, police are maintaining watch on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders.

The network of informers has also been activated for the purpose. In this sequel, Kumhari Police received a tip off regarding some suspects who were looking for customers to



sell a bike near Limtara. Police Team and Civil Team swung into action and the suspects were rounded up. During interrogation, they confessed to having stolen bikes from different places. Police recovered six bikes from

their possession. The accused used master keys to unlock the bikes.

Later they scratched the chassis number and changed the registration number plates of the stolen bikes. The accused are identified as Veeru Dhivar

(20) son of Narendra Dhivar a resident of village Kandarka, Bhatapara, PS Kumhari and Digeshwar Sahu (19) son of Ishwari Sahu a resident of village Kandarka, PS Kumhari, District Durg. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 41 (1+4) of CrPC and Section 379 of IPC.

SHO Uttar Kumar Verma, ASI Ajay Singh, ASI Maan Singh Sonwani, Constable Arvind Mishra, Satyendra Madharia, Evan Banchoor, Anil Singh, Rinku Soni, Rajkumar Singh, Bunty Singh and Lekhraj Nishad played vital role in arresting the accused.

RPL Training started for Contractual workers at BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: As a part of Skill Recognition Programme of the Government of India, known as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with CSVTU, SAIL- BSP has made a humble beginning of the training programme on March 2, 2022. GA Rao, CGM (COCCD) was the Chief Guest on the occasion at HRD Centre. The maiden programme was for Electrician trade covering 15 participants from 5 departments. HRD plans cover 55 nos. of participants in two trades i.e. Welder and Electrician in March 2022 itself.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a skill certification component to enable Indian youth to take on industry relevant skill certification which will



help them to secure a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills can register themselves and get assessed and certified under the RPL component of PM's Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

When Shivarajan Nair, GM (CSR) visited Coke Oven Department, GA Rao, CGM (COCCD) praised the initiative taken by CSR and HRD in collaboration with CSVTU. GA Rao, CGM (CO & CCD) stressed on the need of RPL training as the number of contractual workers is increasing. As CO&CCD is a very big and labour intensive depart-

ment, RPL training would really be a boon for the workers as well as for the department, he said. Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD & BE) outlined the importance of RPL training and stressed on the need to facilitate the concerned departments with RPL training. He also said that this would be major thrust area in the coming years as the pressure will be there to train as many as contractual labours as possible.

At the outset, Mukul Saharia, DGM (HRD) welcomed the Chief Guest GA Rao. While welcoming training engineers from 5

departments, Personnel from CSR department, the faculty and the course coordinator from CSVTU, Mukul Saharia explained about the scheme of RPL training through CSVTU. Shalini from CSVTU also spoke about the RPL training being conducted by CSVTU in different places and in different sections of industries all across Chhattisgarh by following the complete guidelines of Central government.

The orientation will be of 12 hours duration. This orientation includes 4 hours of domain-specific training, 4 hours of training on soft

skills and entrepreneurship, 4 hours on safety Precautions, Roles & Responsibility. An extra 4 hours, in continuation of the above, for the assessment processes and methods of tests and evaluation shall be required.

The training would be completed in 16 hours. It is proposed to train as many as 1000 numbers of contractual workers and certify them under this scheme through CSVTU. The trades for training would be Electrician, Welder, Fitter and Crane Operation.

This maiden programme on RPL Training was completed by Subhash Patel, Senior Manager (HRD) and Anita Sreekumar, Manager (HRD) coordinated with all the Training Engineers and other agencies concerned for the programme.

Tree plantation at RSM under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Mar 03: SAIL-BSP's Rail and Structural Mill organised a tree plantation programme under

the banner of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' on February 26, 2022. MM Gadre, CGM I/c (Mills) and SK Chatterjee, GM(RSM) planted trees on the occa-

sion. Narendra Ingle, SM (Pers.), Samayla Ansari, AM(Pers.), Jasbeer Singh, Senior officials of RSM also took part in the tree plantation programme.

Free health check-up camp for Dial 112 personnel at SR Hospital from today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Free health camp is being organised for the employees of Dial 112 and their family members at SR Hospital and Research Center, Dhamdha Road, Chikhali Durg. The camp will be inaugurated on March 04 and continue for three days till March 06. The three-day camp will begin every day at 11:00 hrs and remain open till 15:00 hrs. Specialist doctors related to various diseases will provide their services in between.

Here it needs a mention that health check-up camps are organized by the SR Hospital and Research Center from time to time. Earlier also a free health camp was or-



ganized by the hospital on the occasion of Foundation Day. Now a three-day free health check-up camp has been organized from March 4 to March 6 for the employees of Dial 112 and their family members engaged in the security arrangements of the district.

Sanjay Tiwari, Director, SR Hospital gave information about the health check-up camp. He informed that in the health check-up camp Dr Ranjan Sengupta, vascular and cardiothoracic surgeon, burn and plastic surgeon Dr Vishwamitra B Dayal, gastro surgeon Dr Manish

Khare, and pediatrician Dr SP Kesharwani and Dr Dhanesh Jain, Orthopaedicians Dr Anupam Lal and Dr Deepak Sinha, General Medicine specialist Dr Sushant Kande, Dr Balam Sahu and Dr Sangeeta Patre from Gynaecology and Obstetrics department, Ophthalmologist Dr Chhaya Bharti and Dr JS Bhatia, Dr Vanshree Sinha, ENT Specialist Dr Ratan Tiwari and Dr Ankita Joshi and Dr Ashish from General Surgery Department will render their services. Helpline number 6262613200, 6262613300 6262613400 for more information related to free health check-up camp.

BMC takes up campaign to remove illegal occupation in Vaishali Nagar zone area

- Removes tents erected on service road, warns to remove junk vehicles blocking traffic

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation took up massive anti encroachment drive in Vaishali Nagar zone area and removed a large number of tents, vehicles etc creating hurdle in traffic on service road. The corporation carried out operations at 9 major locations in a single day. Action was taken throughout the day to remove the illegal encroachment.

The illegal occupants who have been holding places for years were also removed during this drive. On the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, action has been



taken regarding illegal occupation in different localities in Vaishali Nagar Zone area. The owner of an auto service station in Shastri Nagar near New Basant Talkies Road was found constructing on the drain. He was asked to stop the construction work and warning was given not to construct. A tent that had been running an Ayurvedic dispensary for many years on the side of the service road was removed. The auto dealers have been directed to remove the vehicles kept as junk. In Shastri Nagar, yet another

illegal construction done on the drain near a social building was removed and byre on the road was demolished. Betal carts and other constructions set up by illegal occupants close to the boundary wall of the Electricity Board office in the 32-acre housing board were also demolished. In Shankar Para Supela, the construction of roof on balcony by one Ajmeri Khatoon was removed as the construction work had not been stopped even after repeated warnings. Sagar car servicing center being operated illegally by

Sagar Singh at Zero Road Shanti Nagar was closed with a warning. During this a stern warning was given to the illegal traders not to conduct business illegally. The team that conducted the anti encroachment campaign included Anil Meshram, Assistant Revenue Officer, HS Bhatti, Ramratan Tandon, Jawahar Chandrakar, Arun Singh, Guptanand Tiwari, Krishna Kumar Supaith, Madan Mohan Tiwari, Hari Tamrakar, Kanhaiyalal, Mangal Prasad, Rajendra Kumar, Lalu and JCB driver Khemraj among others.

TIBETAN NEW YEAR



Tibetan monks during a traditional prayer on the first day of Losar, the Tibetan New Year at the Tsuglagkhang temple, in Dharamshala, Thursday.

Russia says its buses ready to evacuate Indian students, foreigners from Ukraine

Moscow, Mar 03 (PTI):

One hundred and thirty buses are ready to evacuate stranded Indian students and other foreigners from war-torn Ukraine's Kharkov and Sumy cities to Russia's Belgorod Region, a top Russian military general said on Thursday.

The remarks by Russian National Defence Control Center head Colonel-General Mikhail Mizintsev comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and discussed the safe evacuation of Indians from the conflict areas in Ukraine. Approximately

8,000 Indians, mainly students, are stranded in Ukraine, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said on Tuesday.

"A total of 130 comfortable buses are ready to depart to Kharkov and Sumy from the Nekhoteyevka and Sudzha checkpoints in the Belgorod Region since 6 AM today in order to Rescue Indian students and citizens of other foreign states, Russian National Defence Control Center head Colonel-General Mikhail Mizintsev was quoted as saying by the state-owned TASS news agency. Mizintsev said that places for temporary accommodation and rest have been

set up at the checkpoints. The refugees will be provided with hot meals; mobile clinics have also been set up there with a stockpile of medicine, he said.

"The evacuees will be then transported to the city of Belgorod for subsequent departure to their homeland by air, including via Russian military airplanes, the General said. On Thursday, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in New Delhi said India has been coordinating effectively with the countries in the region including Russia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova for evacuation of Indians from Ukraine.

SC asks AG to help in evacuation of medical students stranded in Ukraine near Romania border

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI): The Supreme Court Thursday asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to use his good office in helping evacuate some Indian medical students stranded in war-ravaged Ukraine near the Romania border. A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said earlier in the day, when the plea was mentioned for urgent hearing, it sympathised with the stranded students and asked can the court direct the head of the state to stop the war. Please tell us what can the court do? Can we direct the President (of Russia) to stop the war, said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, and asked the counsel for petitioner Fathima Ahana who is stranded in Ukraine to wait inside the courtroom till the time Venugopal appears in court. The bench took note of the submissions of Ahana's lawyer that several students are stuck near the Romanian border in freezing cold and the government is not running flights from Romania. "There are 1,000 students like this. But some have come here. We cannot say no'. Please use your good offices and do something, the bench told Venugopal, who, in turn, apprised that the Prime Minister has sent one minister to Romania. Venugopal said the Prime Minister has also talked to the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine and discussed this aspect. Flights are being operated from Poland and Hungary and not from Romania. The students, who also include many girls, are stuck without any facility, the lawyer told the bench.

2020 Delhi riots: Court reserves order on Umar Khalid's bail plea

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Thursday reserved its order on the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a case of a larger conspiracy in connection with Delhi riots during February 2020. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said that the order on the bail plea of Khalid would be pronounced on March 14.

During the argument, the accused told the court that the prosecution lacked the evidence to prove its case against him. Khalid, along with several others, has been booked under the anti-terror law -- Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA) -- in the case for being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The violence had erupted during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Besides Khalid, activist Khalid Saifi, JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and several others have also been booked under the stringent law in the case.

Five states hit by natural disasters given additional assistance by Centre

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Centre has approved over Rs 1,682 crore as additional assistance to five states and a union territory which were hit by floods and landslides last year. The approval of the additional central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has been given by a High Level Committee (HLC) headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The HLC approved the additional central assistance of Rs 1,664.25 crore to five states from the NDRF and Rs 17.86 crore to Puducherry, an official statement said on Thursday. While Rs 351.43 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 112.19 crore has been given to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 492.39 crore to Karnataka, Rs 355.39 crore to Maharashtra, Rs 352.85 crore to Tamil Nadu and Rs 17.86 crore to Puducherry. This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states.

Oppn trying to divide society for votes when India needs to be strong: Modi

Jaunpur (UP), Mar 03 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday alleged the Opposition is trying to divide society for votes at a time when India needs to be strong to deal with "serious challenges" the world faces.

The possible reference to the war in Ukraine came during a poll meeting during which Modi also said the BJP's victory in the ongoing Uttar Pradesh election is necessary to ensure the state's journey on the path of development does not stop.

"The time is coming up with serious challenges for the whole world. So

your vote is making India strong to deal with these challenges. On one hand, there are those who are busy dividing society for votes even at such times, while on the other side there are BJP and our allies who are devoting themselves wholeheartedly in the development of the country," he said.

Taking a jibe at the opposition, he said that dynasts who only try to fill their 'tijori' (vault) can never fulfill the dreams of the poor. He claimed that voting in the state so far has confirmed the victory of the BJP alliance.

In the sixth phase of polling being held on

Thursday, votes are being cast in favour of the BJP, the prime minister told the meeting.

"The BJP's victory in the assembly elections is necessary because Uttar Pradesh is moving on the path of development and it should not stop now," Modi said. "We have to ensure that the victory of the BJP is as grand as it was in 2017."

Terming the previous Samajwadi Party government "mafia-wadi" (those who help mafia elements), Modi said a BJP government was needed in the state to ensure Jaunpur is "mafia-free".

Attacking the previous

Akhilesh Yadav government, the PM said, "Pariwarwadis' (dynasts) can never fulfill the dreams of the poor. The way of these 'mafia-wadis' to run the government is to loot Uttar Pradesh and crush the dreams of the poor. They never see your pain, your trouble."

Referring to SP president Yadav, Modi said he used to send letters to the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister from Delhi, telling him time and again that the Indian government is giving money and you can build houses for the poor". But they didn't care about the life of the poor, the PM alleged

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New store now open at Ambikapur

AIFF warns Jhingan for sexist remarks during ISL match



New Delhi: The All India Football Federation on Thursday warned star Indian centre back Sandesh Jhingan for making sexist remarks following his team ATK Mohun Bagan's 2-2 draw against Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League. "The AIFB Disciplinary Committee has issued a stern warning to ATK Mohun Bagan player Sandesh Jhingan for his comments made after their match against Kerala Blasters FC (on February 19)," said a statement from the ISL. "The AIFB body took into account the apology tendered by the player on social media. The Committee has also communicated any repetition will entail exemplary penal actions."

Russian athletes out of Paralympics

Beijing: In a stunning reversal, Russian and Belarusian athletes have been banned from the Winter Paralympic Games for their countries' roles in the war in Ukraine, the International Paralympic Committee said Thursday. The about-face comes less than 24 hours after the IPC on Wednesday announced it would allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete when the Games open on Friday, but only as neutral athletes with colors, flags and other national symbols removed. The IPC received immediate criticism for its initial decision. It was termed a betrayal that sent the wrong message to Russia's leadership. The IPC also said it was evident that many athletes would refuse to compete against Russians or Belarusians, creating chaos for the Paralympics and damaging the reputation. IPC President Andrew Parsons, in announcing the initial measures Wednesday in a Beijing news conference, sympathized openly with the Ukrainian people but said his actions were constrained by his organization's rules and the fear of legal action.

Gardner tests positive to COVID-19

Christchurch: The Australian women's cricket team's star all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner has tested positive for COVID-19 and is set to miss the opening two games in a blow to her side's campaign at the ODI World cup, beginning Friday. The 24-year-old will be in isolation for 10 days and will miss the games against defending champions England and Pakistan scheduled to be held on Saturday and Tuesday respectively. She is likely to be available for the third game against hosts New Zealand on March 13 in Wellington. Gardner, who hit a 32-ball 60 in Australia's second warm-up match against New Zealand on Tuesday, is likely to be replaced by pace-bowling all-rounder Annabel Sutherland or fellow spin-bowling all-rounder Grace Harris. "All remaining Australian players and support staff have tested negative following subsequent RATs," Cricket Australia said in a statement.



Delhi's poor run continues, Chhattisgarh scored 290 runs for four wickets

Guwahati, Mar 04: Delhi, who were out of the race for the quarter-finals, continued their poor run in the Ranji Trophy as Chhattisgarh scored 290 for four against them on the first day of the Group H match. Batting first, Ajay Mandal (63 runs in 90 balls), Amandeep Khare (68 not out in 170 balls) and Shashank Singh (75 not out) played useful innings for Chhattisgarh. Mandal and Singh shared an unbeaten 147-run partnership for the fifth wicket. Sanidhya Hurkat (44) and captain Harpreet Singh (21) also played well.

Erigaisi is new national chess champion



Kanpur: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi of Telangana won the 58th edition of Senior National Chess Championship here on Thursday, edging out fellow GMs of Tamil Nadu D Gukesh and P Niyan in a tie-breaker after the trio finished on 8.5 points each. The 18-year-old Erigaisi remained unbeaten in 11 rounds and ended up with a score of 8.5 points for his maiden Senior National title. He drew his final round game against former champion S P Sethuraman. Gukesh had to settle for a draw against Aryan Chopra while Niyan moved up to 8.5 points with a fine win over fellow GM Mitrabha Guha of West Bengal. Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram of Tamil Nadu finished fourth with eight points, while top-seed and pre-tournament favourite B Adhinan ended a distant 20th.

Rohit's Team India begin new era in Kohli's 100th Test

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Hailed by many as the 'Last of the Mohicans' in cricket's purest format, Virat Kohli will be focussed on making his 100th appearance memorable while "white-ball legend" Rohit Sharma plots the demolition of an out-of-depth Sri Lanka as India's 35th Test captain in the series-opener starting here on Friday.

If one looks back at Indian team's journey since its inception in international cricket back in 1932, it has been about stars, superstars, and megastars, who become the reason for the downfall at turnstiles of various stadiums across the country.

It was the case when Sunil Gavaskar scored his 10,000th run, Sachin Tendulkar bade the most emotional farewell that cricket has ever seen and now the spotlight will be firmly on Kohli, whose domineering presence has turned an international match into a footnote.

Kohli is one among "them" and in a fast-paced world, perhaps the last cricket star who will enjoy an organic following of manic fans.

India was, is and will re-



Journey starts for Rohit's team

They say, 'A good Captain, is a good captain, is a good captain'. Everyone knows Rohit's credentials in white-ball cricket especially IPL, where he has even challenged the hegemony of the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni. There is no reference frame to judge how good he will be in a game that's played over five days for six hours. He is 34 and will surely not be playing white ball cricket for more than three years at a stretch with a demanding calendar. How he handles a transition phase in Indian cricket, which has started with curtains on careers of Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Ishant Sharma. will have a huge impact on how he is perceived — just a mere captain or a leader of men.

main more of a "cricketer-loving" nation and the social media warcy that perhaps led to fans being allowed in the

stadium from Friday is a testimony to Kohli's immense popularity.

This is his "Test" and for Kohli, a century to mark a 'century' is something he

Skipper's team Combination

Rohit's tactical acumen has always got him respect from all quarters and the first reflection of it in Test cricket would be how he handles his playing XI. It is expected that Shubman Gill will be coming in at number three in the place vacated by Pujara and will have to show "intent" which was believed to be missing earlier. Gill has the game to do that. The tricky position will be the other middle-order slot which Rahane had made his own for the longest time. There are two candidates and both are deserving. Hanuma Vihari, Indian cricket's new fire-fighter, has always been sent out to bat in difficult overseas conditions and hasn't done badly at all. And this makes him a deserving candidate for a fair run of Test matches. The other is Shreyas Iyer, a very flashy batter but with some technical glitches, including problems against short ball. He had a good initiation in Test matches with a hundred on debut against New Zealand.

would be craving, having missed that sense of accomplishment that comes with a three-figure mark for over two

Bowling attack

The Lankan batting line-up depends heavily on skipper Dimuth Karunaratne along with old guards Dinesh Chandimal and Angelo Mathews, both well past their prime. How well they handle Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on a pitch that will be dry after being baked by sunshine is a million dollar question. In a nutshell, one can expect a four-day finish if India bats first and even earlier if they bat second.

years now. A bowling attack that has the likes of Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara or Lasith Embuldeniya is perfect for a sumptuous 'five course' Kohli treat with cover drives, on drives, flicks and pulls on the menu.

Teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hanuma Vihari, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Kona Bharat (wk), Umesh Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, Priyank Panchal

Sri Lanka:

Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Dhanajaya De Silva, Charith Asalanka, Dushmantha Chammeera, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Niroshan Dickwella, Lasith Embuldeniya, Vishwa Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Lahiru Kumara, Kusal Mendis (wk), Pathum Nissanka, Jeffrey Vandersay, Praveen Jayawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne.

Match Stars 9:30 am.

Difficult to fill in for Pujara, Rahane but at times we need to look forward: Rohit Sharma

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane's service to Indian cricket isn't easy to match but there comes a point when one needs to look forward and give the younger crop a fair run at the Test level, new captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday. Rahane, with 82 games, and Pujara, with 95 games, have been dropped from the Test squad for the Sri Lanka series and Rohit made it clear that the likes of Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari and Shreyas Iyer need to be backed for a solid run. "Look these are big shoes to fill in. It's never easy for the guys coming in. Even I don't know who's coming in place of Pujara and Rahane. So we have to wait till tomorrow morning to see who's going to play," Rohit answered to a question on the impact of the senior duo's absence from the team. For Rohit, their and Ishant Sharma's (100 plus games) contribution to India's ascendancy in traditional format is immense.

It's a tough spot in WTC, admits skipper

India are in a spot of bother in World Test Championship (WTC) currently after a draw against New Zealand at home and



series defeat in South Africa but the adverse circumstances that a young team will encounter in the near future will build characters. "I think it's going to be a challenging one, no doubt about that. We do understand we are in the midway in the WTC table. From hereon now, every single game is important. "We do understand that...it is very important for us to be in the present, what we can do in the next Test and the rest that follow. The nine Tests we have (2 vs Sri Lanka, 1 vs England, 2 vs Bangladesh and 4 vs Australia), we have to win almost every game. There will be a lot of pressure," he admitted. "But you will build a lot of character and you will see a lot of champion cricketers coming around. That's my belief, you thrive under pressure, you turn out to be a

solid cricketer." Gill or Mayank as his opening partner?

Rohit was asked about team combination multiple times but he didn't take the bait even when quizzed about who is his preferred opening partner — Mayank Agarwal or Shubman Gill. "I am a captain and I will prefer everyone. I have no preferences like that but we will see and analyse who is the right guy. We will analyse everything and then take a call. "Mayank, Shubman, Iyer, Vihari, all these guys are brilliant. They are the future of Indian cricket. I think we need to give them a solid run to excel in this particular format. It will start from the management with enough support," he urged.

Philosophy of captaincy remains same

The red ball captaincy is a different challenge for

Rohit but the basics of leading a side, according to him, remain the same. "My philosophy of captaincy remains the same. That is staying in present and understanding the situation and what is the right call to take at that time. It is important to think one thing at a time and it's a different format. There is no comparison there. "It's the first time I am leading in red ball cricket for India. It's going to be very exciting. I really can't wait for it."

Only 43 Test matches? No regrets, he declares

One saw Rohit's carefree side when he was asked if he has any regrets of not setting the Test match stage on fire in the past 15 years during which he played only 43 five-day games. So any targets he has set for himself from hereon?

"Kya sir kya target set karu apne liye. Mera target team ke liye set hai. Main khush hoon 40 matches se, koi regret nahi hai (What target sir? My target is for the team and I am happy with 40 games. No regrets). "I have had my share of injuries and my life has seen a lot of ups and downs So I have learnt from these situations and tried to get better."

Never thought I would play 100th Test: Kohli

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

All set to become the 12th Indian to achieve the milestone of playing 100 Tests, star batter Virat Kohli says he "never thought" he would come this far and make this landmark appearance.

Having scored only 4 and 15 in his debut Test against the West Indies in 2011, Kohli has come a long way in a decade-long journey in which he has amassed 7962 runs at a stellar average of 50.39 in the longest

format. Kohli's 100th Test will be against Sri Lanka beginning here on Friday. "I honestly never thought I would play 100 Test matches. It has been a long journey. We played a lot of cricket over the course of playing those 100 Test matches," Kohli said in a video posted by the BCCI.

"A lot of International cricket. I am just grateful that I've been able to make it to 100." Kohli will join an elite list of Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Virender



Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Ishant Sharma to play 100 Tests.

"God has been kind. I have worked really hard for my fitness. It's a big moment for me, for my family, for my coach, who is also very happy and very proud of this 'Test match as long as I am concerned," Kohli said. Kohli's 100th Test will be open to spectators with the BCCI allowing crowd at 50 per cent stadium capacity.

Dada breaks silence on Kohli ahead of his 100th Test

Mohali, Mar 03 (PTI):

Sourav Ganguly knows how momentous an occasion it would be for Virat Kohli when he steps out to play his 100th Test on Friday but the BCCI boss and former national captain is confident that the superstar batter will celebrate greater milestones going forward in his career.

In a video message shared by the BCCI's official Twitter handle, Ganguly congratulated Kohli, saying it would a dream come true moment for him when he takes the field against Sri Lanka in the opening Test here. The 33-year-old Kohli will be-



come the 12th Indian cricketer after Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Ishant Sharma to play 100 Tests.

The way Tendulkar played was always an inspiration to me: Brevis

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):

South Africa's U-19 World Cup sensation Dewald Brevis says Sachin Tendulkar has always been an inspiration to him and he would like to implement a few things in his game from the batting icon as he looks to create his own identity in world cricket.

"The way he played was always an inspiration to me. My favourite innings of his is the ODI double-century, which happened to be against South Africa. I remember watching the match with my brother - it was an



amazing innings," the 18-year-old told MumbaiIndians.com. "I read his autobiography 'Playing It My Way' and there are a lot of things from there that I'd

like to implement in my game. One thing I learnt from him is that you have to be humble because pride can be your downfall." Brevis was picked up by five-time IPL cham-

pions Mumbai Indians in the mega-auction recently.

Nicknamed 'Baby AB' for his uncanny resemblance to AB de Villiers' batting, Brevis said it is an honour to be compared to him but he would like to create his own identity and is relishing the prospects of sharing the dressing room with the Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

"It is an honour to be compared to him (AB de Villiers), but it is important for me to have my own identity. I want to be known as Dewald Brevis," he said.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Create evacuation agency

Hearing a petition seeking direction for evacuation of Indian students stranded in Ukraine, a Supreme Court bench headed by CJI NV Ramana said, "We feel bad for the students, but can we direct Russia's President Putin to stop war?" Historically, the government had to use personal relations for evacuation efforts. As Ukraine closed its airspace for civilian flights after Russia began its invasion, about 16,000-strong Indian diaspora, mostly students, were left stranded in the war-torn country. As students made appeals for evacuation from bomb shelters, New Delhi launched a multi-pronged evacuation plan named 'Operation Ganga' to bring home its citizens. As so many Indians leave the country for education and to earn livelihoods, the nation has a long history of evacuation from war zones. From wars in Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Lebanon to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world, the government had to take emergency measures for rescue of Indians. Now, there is merit to create an agency for evacuation as India has very large population living outside the country and due to climate change and associated conflicts, evacuation operations in future will be needed. The largest ever civilian evacuation was from Kuwait in 1990 for rescue of 1,75,000 Indians. VP Singh government carried out the biggest citizen evacuation ever in recorded history. The then Foreign Minister IK Gujral sought audience with Saddam Hussein. When they met, Hussein embraced Gujral in a hug, photos of which went global and upset Indian allies. With permission from Hussein, India embarked on the evacuation mission. At first military transport was planned to be used. But, receiving air space clearances was an issue. Then they settled on civilian aircrafts, and the Indian citizens were bussed from Kuwait through Iraq and to the borders of Jordan.

The airlift was taking place from Amman airport as Baghdad was closed, Iran was out of bounds and the situation was tense. People had to come from Kuwait to Amman through Iraq, which is quite a distance and beset with problems. There were far more people to be evacuated than expected. But, the coordination and team work of the people on the mission managed to evacuate all the Indian nationals out of the country. There was also a Pakistani Airline crew stranded in Kuwait and they wished to be evacuated by Indian aircrafts. On humanitarian grounds, the Indian officials agreed. International humanitarian law insists on the principle according to which 'the displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered for reasons related to the conflict'. The transfer of a population, as well as the use of terror to force its displacement, is forbidden as a method of warfare. This rule is applicable to both international and internal conflicts, when the drive to control territory and population might incite belligerents to adopt such methods (e.g., the practice of population displacement contributes to ethnic cleansing). Furthermore, regardless of the motive, humanitarian law prohibits individual or mass forcible transfer or deportation of protected persons, from the occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or of any other country, occupied or not. It also forbids the occupying power from transferring part of its own civilian population to the occupied territory. The government should consider creating a separate agency for emergency evacuations as so many Indians will continue to find lure in foreign countries.

Risk due to data

Organizations and governments tasked with providing cash assistance during humanitarian crises recognize the need for legislation to strengthen data protection, but finding staff with both data protection expertise and knowledge of social protection systems is challenging and expensive. As data-driven systems are introduced into aid work, there is the potential for a significant power imbalance between technology providers, governments, and vulnerable populations. And the commercial incentives that drive the involvement of private-sector companies in this domain often are at odds with humanitarian principles including that the collection and sharing of personal data should not put people at risk. But aid groups also are guilty of exposing sensitive data. Four years ago, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had collected personal information including biometric data from ethnic Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and, in contravention of its own policies, shared it with the government of Myanmar to verify people for possible repatriation. Similarly, a recently released internal audit of the World Food Programme's (WFP) provision of digital assistance services in Iraq, Namibia, and Nigeria found that none of the projects had processes in place to ensure data protection and privacy. And research from the non-profit Somali Public Agenda revealed that while huge amounts of data are being collected in Somalia by aid groups and the government, the country has no policies in place to ensure that this information is properly handled.

Proponents of digitalization argue that it will reduce costs. But that may not be true. Unwanted Witness showed that the procurement process for the digital ID scheme in Uganda was conducted with limited public access to tender or contract documents through a 'classified procurement' program, contrary to Uganda's Act. Likewise, an internal audit of the WFP's SCOPE program found that a system had only recently been put in place that could rigorously account for the costs and benefits accrued from IT projects. Moreover, this was not an isolated case. In 2019, a group of civil-society organizations signed an open letter in response to the controversial agreement between the data analytics company Palantir and the WFP warning of a lack of transparency in procurement processes between humanitarian organizations and technology companies. The letter suggested that no third-party audits are possible under the current arrangements, making it impossible to do a future cost analysis of this kind of collaboration. As private-public partnerships continue to grow in the development and aid sector, more research must be done to map the activities of corporate actors to ensure that these relationships are open to scrutiny. Increased transparency will enable donors and policymakers to verify that collaborations are delivering the financial benefits that drive enthusiasm for digitalization.

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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

AWAITING CROWD AT JUHU BEACH



A vendor waits for crowd at Juhu beach, Arabian Sea shore in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Coal gasification can make India energy independent

DR DEV GAVASKAR

India's vision, towards becoming a global economic super-power rests on the solutions to the challenges of self-reliance, monetization of domestic reserves, transformative innovation, reduction of imports and jobs' creation, while simultaneously aiming for a decarbonized and sustainable economy in the coming decades. India has been blessed with three scalable and abundant natural resources in the forms of solar energy, biomass reserves and coal. While India can be bullish on the awesome advancements made in the field of solar installations, and a significant amount of research and development work has always been undertaken in case of biomass-based technologies, currently, these resources are challenged by limitations, like the state of downstream technologies for utilizing solar generated electricity and feedstock scalability issues for biomass. However, India does have reserves of 307 billion tonnes of coal, 80 percent of which has historically been consumed in thermal power plants and represents 55 percent of the total fuel source for power in India along with lignite. However, as India, being a signatory of the Paris agreement, aims at moving to cleaner forms of energy, an urgent need as arisen to explore alternative avenues for building a bridge from the energy intensive 'dirty' present to a cleaner, greener, and sustainable future without compromising on the demands of an ever-growing economy. At this socio-economic stage, India's most abundant natural resource, Coal, is in urgent need of diversification.

To make this a possibility, India can look to utilize a commercially proven platform that 'extracts' the stored chemical energy from coal instead of

burning it. Coal gasification is the process of producing syngas, a mixture consisting of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), by chemically reacting coal with steam and oxygen (or air), in ratios that results in gasifying the elements of the coal instead of burning them. This syngas can then be used to produce Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), energy fuels (methanol and ethanol), ammonia for fertilizers and chemicals, and other chemicals and even plastics. Coal gasification plants have been widely deployed around the world, with countries using the technology to produce fuels and chemicals. Unlike coal combustion, the carbon dioxide stream from a coal gasification plant is highly concentrated, making carbon capture and utilization more practical and economical, especially when coupled with a source of green hydrogen or other means of CO₂ sequestration. In line with the objectives and visions mentioned above, it is no surprise that the Ministry of Coal has taken an initiative for utilizing coal through coal gasification with a target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by the end of this decade. To underline the government's seriousness towards this mission, the Ministry of Coal has also formed a new coal-linkage policy for coal gasification projects, under 'Sub-Sectors under Auction of linkages of Non-Regulated Sectors'

India's other major aim is that of self-reliance, through becoming an energy independent nation; as categorically mentioned in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the 75th Independence Day, with a pledge of achieving this in the next 25 years. It is obvious, that the first step towards achieving self-reliance and energy independence, will hence have to involve the reduction of imports, primarily petroleum. To put things in perspective, India's annual net import of petroleum stood at 185 million metric tons, which cost approximately USD 55 billion. To reduce these imports, and hence save foreign exchange, the national policy on biofuels of 2018 was launched. Under the first phase, the Government of India had resolved to supply 5 percent ethanol blended petrol under its First-Generation Ethanol blended petrol (EBP). Progressively, the Government also advanced the target

for 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030. As is well known, the traditional paths to make ethanol have been via sugar and biomass-based routes, which are limited and disadvantaged due to various reasons including cost, scale, and land requirement constraints or food chain diversion issues. Second generation ethanol feedstock have also emerged using feed such as energy crops, municipal wastes, forest and agricultural residues and wasted food-grains, which have also been primarily plagued by low efficiency and conversion. Additionally, the feedstock scalability challenges also put an upper limit on the scale of the 2G ethanol plants, with one plant expected to produce ethanol in the range of 3 crore liters annually. While there is no doubt, that India has made rapid progress in ethanol blending, reaching approximately 8-9 percent blending via these routes, solutions must be sought for the significant demand-supply gap to meet the E20 targets, which will not be met via traditional methods. This solution must also be efficient, scalable and result in compelling economics. This is where coal via gasification and conversion of syngas to ethanol can help bridge the gap.

Historically the conversion of syngas to ethanol has been challenged by poor conversions and selectivity issues and multi-step reaction schemes, resulting in unacceptable economics. However, novel, disruptive, and transformational technologies, with compelling economics due to highly efficient and selective conversion of syngas to ethanol have been developed and are ready for commercialization. Furthermore, combining these technologies with coal-gasification can help build plants that are highly scalable, with one commercial coal-to-ethanol plant capable of producing more than 40 crore liters of ethanol annually at significantly lower capital intensities. Companies have already been in discussions with potential stakeholders and parties, for building commercial and demonstration plants. For example, technology providers like Synata Bio are commercializing an on-purpose syngas to ethanol technology and a demonstration 'coal to ethanol' project, which will alone produce about 2.5 crore liters of ethanol annually from coal-derived

syngas, is being developed at the Sonapur-Bazari coal complex, a project that will bring in approximately USD 100 million in the form of foreign direct investment. Coal-to ethanol technologies hence provide an effective means of not only solving the demand-supply gap for fuel-ethanol (and meet E20 target) but catalyze the acceleration of the development of coal gasification projects and syngas infrastructure in general, within India, as well as opening possibilities of bringing in foreign direct investments to the country.

However, there are several steps that are still required to incentivize such projects and the associated investments. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is already in the process of modifying National Policy on Biofuels 2018, to include coal-gasification based ethanol. Acceleration of this will give confidence to the potential investors for investing in these projects. However, in addition to this, clarity is required for the pricing that such 'synthetic' ethanol will fetch in the market. While subsequent projects based on these technologies will undoubtedly have reductions in the cost of production, the first of its kind plant will rely on incentivized pricing, necessary to balance the trade-offs between the plant size and the required project returns for the investors. In a nutshell, the coal to ethanol route provides a promising and economically compelling pathway to achieve the dual objectives of India's self-reliance and energy independence vision, by helping to achieve the E20 targets. Furthermore, as electrification of the transportation sector picks up, these technologies can also provide a unique 'carbon capture and utilization' solution, by reacting the currently vented CO₂ stream with green hydrogen, to produce a wide range of key chemical products, including ethylene and other olefins. This holistic approach will, therefore, not only help in achieving India's goal of self-reliance and energy independence but also provide a true solution for the future inevitable target of decarbonization and even exceed India's commitments to the Paris accord agreement for climate change goals.

(Dr Dev Gavaskar is energy expert and partner at US based True North Ventures.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privatisation

First part of budget session of parliament concluded without any major disruptions and it is expected that second part of session will be conducted successfully. In the last parliament session there was pandemonium in both houses of parliament so many bills could not be passed including the bill of privatisation of nationalised banks. I am a disability activist and had been nominated Icon for PwD as well as I am activist in raising issues of violations of human rights and in this regard I want to mention that denial of any part of legitimate Pension is clear cut violation of human rights. In case of employees who take premature retirement a court had commented that the honesty, sincerity, fairness, hard working and consciousness about the duties are not being rewarded in the country and that may be the one of reasons of growing graph of dishonesty amongst the employees, officers in many spheres. Also in another case a court had commented that Officials who are at the helm of affairs must have knowledge of disability acts to provide fair justice to Disabled. In banks retired bank Pensioners are highly discriminated and denied legalised rights for the last twenty four years. Various Representations had been sent to various authorities including the PMO, FMO, Law Ministry, CJI, CLC, Chairman IBA and all trade union leaders etc. but due to insensitive attitude towards Disabled no one is ready to listen their problems. Recently I being disability activist sent Representation to Dr RK Mishra principal Secretary of Prime Minister of India Requesting him to intervene in the matter. Representation had been sent to speaker of lok sabha to look into the matter Representations had been sent to various leaders of various political parties requesting them to raise the issue in the parliament as it is near breakdown of Constitution.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Police modernization

From the media reports, it has been understood that the government is hell-bent on modernizing the entire police force making it people's friendly, ease of doing work, accountable in works etc. Unfortunately, in reality, it shows a different picture. I want to narrate a recent case regarding police verification at a SP office. My daughter applied for a passport in September 2021. Accordingly, the file for police verification was sent from the passport Seva Kendra to the SP office. As no intimation was received from the SP office for 2 months, I took initiative on the matter and that police verification for her was completed at DSP in my presence (less said is better about the minimum respect to a senior citizen). The said file after police verification had been kept lying for disposal up to many months. If a police verification file for a bonafide student of an urban area takes more than 3 months, what type of modernization the government is talking about? It reminds me of the previous system of greasing the palms for any official works. May I request a reply ministries concerned?

PC Sharma, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Gaurav@gauravsabnis

The more time I spend in academia, the more it becomes apparent how "merit" in India is gaslighting concept used by the elites to justify not really delivering education but a stamp. Hence the obsession more on entrance exam ranks than what you do in college.

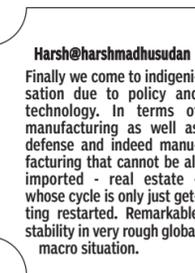
Arpita@arpitachatter

I don't know the solution to this problem but I think the natural conclusion to my observations is we need a strong story or narrative from the other side that captures people's imagination. A simple but compelling story of unity and brotherhood and what India really stands for.



Suhasini@suhasinih

The West consistently says it has no quarrel with the Russian people, only its Putin led leadership, then must explain why its "isolate Russia" plan involves measures like banning athletes, orchestra conductors and famous authors.



Harsh@harshmadhusudan

Finally we come to indigenisation due to policy and technology. In terms of manufacturing as well as defense and indeed manufacturing that cannot be all imported - real estate - whose cycle is only just getting restarted. Remarkable stability in very rough global macro situation.



KhannaAkshay@akshay_khanna

Crimson #Sunbird - #NationalBird of Singapore. In India found in #Himalayas.



Tony Joseph@tjoseph0010

All nations in the world today are the result of multiple migrations, starting with the Out of Africa migration of around 70,000 years ago. This not something that is peculiar to India. Europe, for instance, saw dramatic changes in its demography twice in the last 10,000 years.

Akshat@Akshat_World

Startups that make money are sustainable. Innovation is a buzzword, which does not mean anything now. Everything can be easily copied in 99.99% of the cases. Boring people, companies with great execution are the ones who actually make money.

BRIEF

Launches



Mumbai: Daimler Truck on Thursday announced the launch of its global innovation centre in Bengaluru. MD Raghavendra Vaidya said transportation industry is reinventing itself to create differentiating products focused on zero emission and software-led innovation.

Restructuring

New Delhi: Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar, India's largest sugar manufacturer, on Thursday received the Board's in-principle nod for exploring options for capital restructuring, resolution plan for debt and other corporate restructuring. A decision in this regard was taken at the Board's meeting held on Thursday, according to a regulatory filing. The board also delegated powers to company officials to explore, evaluate these various options.

Raises



New Delhi: Pocket FM has raised USD 65 million (about Rs 492 crore) in a Series C funding round from Goodwater Capital, Naver and existing investor Tanglin Venture Partners. CEO Rohan Nayak said audio consumption has seen exponential growth over last year.

Approves

New Delhi: Online travel services provider Easy Trip Planners Ltd on Thursday said its board has approved allotment of bonus shares in the ratio of one share for every one existing share held by eligible shareholders. The bonus shares will be issued to members whose names appeared in the register of beneficial owners as of Mar 2, 2022, which is the record date fixed for that purpose.

Acquires



New Delhi: Scaler has acquired online learning platform AppliedRoots for about Rs 378 crore to strengthen its course offerings for engineers. Scaler co-founder Abhimanyu Saxena said as we build ourselves into virtual tech varsity, their experiences will come handy.

Partners

New Delhi: Mahindra Group and tech giant Google Cloud on Thursday announced collaboration as part of the homegrown conglomerate's digital transformation strategy to fuel its next phase of business growth.

FinMin to monitor revenue, expenditure on daily basis

From Mar 15 to keep fiscal deficit in check

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):



Keen to keep government deficit within stated targets, the finance ministry will from March 15 start daily monitoring of the revenue receipts, including tax collections, as well as expenditure. The move comes against the backdrop of a possible deferment of the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC, which was expected to fetch over Rs 60,000 crore, to the next financial year in view of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and its implication on Indian markets.

On the other hand, the government's decision to bring back thousands of Indian students stranded in Ukraine will impose an additional burden on the exchequer. According to officials, the daily monitoring of tax and non-tax revenue collections will help the government in taking timely corrective actions, wherever needed.

"The CBDT and CBIC have been asked to report flash figures up to the previous day latest by 12 noon. Besides, other non-tax and disinvestment receipts would have to be reported on a daily basis," the official told PTI.

Officials said that the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has been asked to provide daily revenue collection and expenditure figures of various ministries between March 15 and March 31 to the expenditure secretary.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) are the apex bodies responsible for collecting direct and indirect taxes, respectively. Likely deferment of LIC IPO along with additional burden on bringing back Indians stranded in Ukraine will put pressure on the fiscal deficit, which has already been raised in the Revised Estimates (RE) to 6.9 per cent of GDP, from 6.8 per cent estimated earlier.

The government has collected Rs 15.47 lakh crore in net tax revenue, which is 87.7 per cent of the full-fiscal target of Rs 17.65 lakh crore.

SCI India Private Ltd, SIPL," the statement said. The day-to-day business will continue to be managed by Sanmina's existing management team in Chennai.

"The joint venture will prioritise high technology infrastructure hardware, for growth markets, and across industries such as communications networking (5G, cloud infrastructure, hyperscale datacenters), medical and healthcare systems, industrial and cleantech, and defense and aerospace," it added.

Reliance subsidiary, Sanmina set up electronic manufacturing JV

Initial manufacturing in Chennai

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):



Reliance Industries' subsidiary RSBVL and Sanmina Corporation on Thursday announced setting up of an electronic manufacturing joint venture in India that will focus on hi-tech infrastructure hardware across diverse sectors, including communications networking, defense and aerospace. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL) will hold 50.1 per cent equity stake in the joint venture while Sanmina will have 49.9 per cent shareholding. RSBVL will achieve this ownership primarily through an investment of up to Rs 1,670 crore in new shares in Sanmina's existing Indian entity, according to a statement. With the investment, the joint venture will be capitalised with over USD 200 million of cash to fund growth. The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to close by September 2022.

"Sanmina Corporation, a leading integrated manufacturing solutions company and Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL) announced that they have entered into an agreement to create a joint venture through an investment in Sanmina's existing Indian entity (Sanmina

SBI stops transactions related to Russian entities under sanctions



New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

State Bank of India, the nation's largest lender, has stopped processing transactions of Russian entities that have been sanctioned by the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, sources said.

To effect this, SBI has issued a circular as it fears that any transaction with entities or sectors under sanction will invite sanction on it as well, sources said. No transactions involving entities, banks, ports or vessels appearing

on a US, European Union or United Nations sanctions list would be processed irrespective of the currency of the transaction, they said. Payments due to such entities have to be processed by other mechanism rather than through the banking channel, sources added.

SBI operates a joint venture in Moscow called Commercial Indo Bank Ltd, where Canara Bank is another partner with 40 per cent stake. The bank has not responded to e-mail seeking comment on the matter.

Russia is one of biggest suppliers of defence products and equipment to India mostly under government-to-government contract.

Moody's, Fitch downgrade Russia's rating to 'junk' grade

Following sanctions by West

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):



Moody's and Fitch on Thursday downgraded Russia's sovereign rating to 'junk' grade following severe sanctions by western countries. While Moody's Investors Service downgraded Russia's long-term issuer and senior unsecured (local and foreign-currency) debt ratings to 'B3' from 'Baa3', Fitch pulled down the rating on the country to 'B' from 'BBB', putting it on 'Rating Watch Negative'.

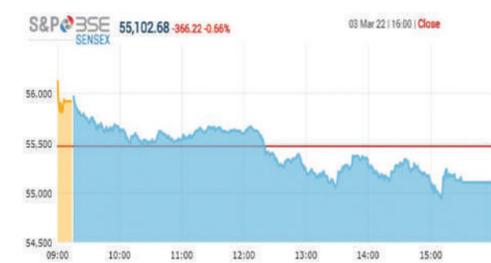
The downgraded rating is in speculative or junk category reflecting default risk. It signifies that even through financial commit-

ments are currently being met, the sovereign is vulnerable to high credit risk.

"The multi-notch downgrade of Russia's ratings and maintaining the review for further downgrade were triggered by the severe sanctions that western countries have imposed on Russia, including the sanctioning of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (CBR)

Sensex, Nifty surrender early gains as boiling oil plays spoilsport

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):



Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Thursday gave up all early gains to settle lower as surging oil prices amid the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine hit investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex started the trade on a higher note and jumped 527.72 points in morning deals to a high of 55,996.62. However, during the afternoon trade it surrendered all its early gains and finished at 55,102.68, lower by 366.22 points or 0.66 per cent.

In similar fashion, the broader NSE Nifty declined 107.90 points or 0.65 per cent to close at 16,498.05. "Domestic equity markets closed lower as the geopolitical scenario continue to worsen due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Soaring crude prices due to supply disruptions from Russian sanctions have

further escalated the situation," according to Mitul Shah, Head Of Research at Reliance Securities.

UltraTech Cement was the biggest drag in the Sensex pack, tumbling over 6 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Maruti Suzuki India, Hindustan Unilever Limited and ICICI Bank. In contrast, PowerGrid, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies Limited and ITC were among the prominent gainers. International oil benchmark Brent crude surged

2.75 per cent to USD 116.03 per barrel. Bourses in Hong Kong and Tokyo settled with gains, while Shanghai was marginally lower. Stock exchanges in the US closed in the positive territory in the overnight session. In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.6% to 7,385.44 and Frankfurt's DAX shed 1.1% to 13,849.55. The CAC in Paris slipped 0.5% to 6,467.16. In Asian trading, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo rose 0.7% to 26,577.27 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.6% to 22,467.34.

Pocket FM secures USD 65 Million from Goodwater Capital

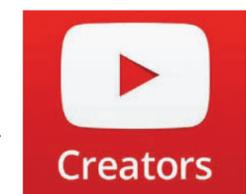
Mumbai, Mar 03:



Pocket FM, one of the leading Audio OTT platforms, has raised USD 65 million in a Series C funding round from a clutch of investors. The funding was led by Goodwater Capital, Naver, and an existing investor- Tanglin Venture Partners. The freshly raised capital will be invested in strengthening its leadership position, expanding intone languages, investing in AI capabilities and building the largest audio creator community. Pocket FM has established itself as one of the leading audio players within three years of its inception. The platform of enriching 100,000+ hours of enriching long-format content, audio series, stories,

novels, podcasts and knowledge shows in 8 languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, English, Kannada, and Marathi). With over 50 million users and 3 billion+ monthly listening minutes, Pocket FM is one of the leading audio OTT platforms globally. Commenting on the funding, Rohan Nayak, Co-founder and CEO, Pocket FM said, "We are elated to announce our Series C funding and would like to thank Goodwater Capital, Naver, and Tanglin Venture Partners for their trust in us. This is a validation of our market leadership and trust in our execution capabilities. Audio consumption has seen exponential growth over the last year and we are on a mission to build the largest audio OTT platform."

YouTube's creators contributes Rs 6,800 cr to economy



New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Video sharing platform YouTube's creator ecosystem generated "considerable" economic value and contributed an estimated Rs 6,800 crore to the Indian economy in 2020, according to a report released on Thursday. The report by Oxford Economics, an independent consulting firm, assessed YouTube's economic, societal, and cultural impact in India. The report shows "YouTube's growing creator ecosystem generated considerable economic value, contributing Rs

6,800 crore to the Indian GDP and supporting 6,83,900 full-time equivalent jobs in India in 2020", YouTube said releasing the findings at a virtual briefing.

The study by Oxford Economics combines YouTube-driven advertising revenues, with other related revenues, such as non-advertising revenues (such as subscriptions and alternative monetisation), and off-platform revenues (fan-meetups and sponsorships).

It estimates YouTube's economic impact based on direct impact (profits and wages earned by creators and their teams), indirect impact (generated by the spending it stimulates in the broader Indian supply chain), and induced impact (generated by the wage costs of those employed by the creator ecosystem).

Orient Electric expands Exhaust fans range with new models

Mumbai, Mar 03:

Orient Electric Limited, part of the diversified USD 2.4 billion CK Birla Group, has expanded its Exhaust fans range with new models which have been designed with focus on four defining aspects of style, performance, efficiency, and durability. The new models come loaded with an array of user-centric features, including a powerful copper motor for durability and efficiency, high air suction capacity, aerodynamically designed blades for smooth operation, easy-to-clean surfaces, low power consumption, and high speed of up to 2500 RPM. The launch is part of the company's plans to aggressively increase its market share in the Exhaust fans segment. Ideal for use in kitchens, bathrooms and other enclosed spaces, Orient

exhaust fans effectively improve indoor air quality through ventilation and help remove the unwanted odours, moisture, smoke, and other harmful pollutants in the air, thus keeping your indoor spaces fresh and healthy.

Atul Jain, Executive Vice President, Orient Electric Ltd. said, "The exhaust fans market in India is estimated to be around Rs. 700 crores and is growing at a good pace. One of the key factors driving this growth is the increasing consumer awareness regarding the importance of having good ventilation and fresh and clean indoor air against the backdrop of the pandemic. Health experts too are recommending people to stay in well-ventilated areas as good indoor air circulation can help reduce the concentration of airborne contaminants including viruses.

With the launch of new models, we are now offering a complete range of exhaust fans to suit diverse usage environments and aesthetic preferences while also helping our consumers to keep their indoor living spaces fresh and healthy. We are hopeful that this launch will help us to gain a stronger foothold in the Exhaust fans segment."

Orient's new exhaust fans are named Smart Air, Smart Air Neo, Venito Air, Axial Flow and Power Flow, and there are 8 new SKUs in total. Available in four distinct finishes including Wooden, Grey, Off-white and Silver, these exhaust fans are designed to complement any contemporary space. Other salient features of the new range include glass mounting capability, front auto-shut louvers, and bird protection guard.

Shakti Pumps bags award for its Micro Smart Pump innovation

Mumbai, Mar 01:



Shakti Pumps (India) Limited, India's leading manufacturer of energy-efficient pumps and motors has been awarded for the Innovation of Micro Smart Pump, a highly efficient submersible helical pump solution it has developed. The award was presented to Shakti Pumps at the Low Carbon Technology Innovation Conclave in New Delhi today.

The Micro Smart Pump, which is one among many such innovative solutions in Shakti Pump's product portfolio, was created under the Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) project to promote innovation

of low-carbon technologies and its deployment in industrial and other related sectors of the Indian economy. Shakti Pumps received a grant of Rs. 35 Lakh for the Micro Smart Pump. FLCTD has been jointly implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The award for the innovation under the FLCTD 2019 challenge was presented to Shakti Pumps Chairman & Managing Director Dinesh Patidar and Manoj Modi, Head of R&D by Shri R K Singh, Minister of Power,

Government of India at the Low Carbon Technology Innovation Conclave held on March 01, 2022 in New Delhi.

The Micro Smart Pump is a PMSM - based submersible helical pump running from single-phase AC. It is presently installed at 15 sites in Indore, and 1 each in Shahdol and Hyderabad.

Key benefits of this innovation include, an increase in efficiency ranging from 200 to 500% vs conventional single-phase IM, energy-efficient pumping irrespective of seasonal head variation, SMPs-based pump 90V to 270V operations comes with in-built protection and does not require an external control panel.

BRIEF

Seeks

Mumbai: Newly-appointed Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey took to social media to invite suggestions for improving the police force's functioning. In a post in Marathi on his personal Facebook page, he said he has served in Mumbai for about thirty years in various capacities, and formed an emotional bond with people. Even smallest of suggestions can effect great changes, appealing residents to send in suggestions.

Penalty

Noida: Five private agencies which had put up hoardings, banners and other publicity material illegally in public spaces in Noida were slapped with a penalty of over Rs 1 lakh each. The action was taken by the external advertising department of the Noida Authority on instructions of CEO Ritu Maheshwari. Illegal advertisements put up by various agencies and companies are regularly removed by the external advertising department.

Held

Ghaziabad: Two men were arrested for allegedly raping two girls — one a five-year-old and another of 14 years age — in two different cases in the Murad Nagar area of the district, police said. The elder girl has alleged rape by four or five other accomplices of the accused, police said, adding it is investigating the matter further. The matter was reported to police after the child returned home and narrated her woes to her parents.

Injured

New Delhi: A man was injured after being thrashed during an altercation that broke out when two vehicles touched slightly in north Delhi's Bhalaswa Dairy area. They said two people were taken into police custody after being nabbed in connection with the case. Ravinder and Golu were on a motorcycle, while Vakil and Masum were in a car when their vehicles ended up touching slightly.

Morphed

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police arrested a student for allegedly circulating morphed images of faculty members of the private university he was studying in. The accused was identified as Navjosh Singh Atwal, a resident of Mohali. A complaint was received from the university's authorities and they said that someone was hacking e-mails and online teaching sessions using apps as well as circulating morphed images of faculty.

Dies

Hyderabad: A 15-year-old boy, a Class-10 student, died after allegedly being hit by two of his classmates following an argument in a classroom of a private school here. The deceased, who suffered head injuries in the incident, was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Nitish surprised by large presence of students in Ukraine

● Private institutions prohibitively expensive in India

Patna, Mar 03 (PTI):

Amid the conflict in Ukraine, the large number of Indian medical students in that far-off country, now seeking evacuation, has come as a surprise, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said here on Thursday.

Intervening during a debate on the floor of the state assembly, Kumar also said that the national phenomenon should lead to the realisation that medical courses, offered by private institutions back home, were prohibitively expensive.

I am surprised to see so many boys and girls opting for such a remote country for their studies this is a different scenario



Nitish Kumar

compared with the Soviet era when wards of those associated with the communist parties flocked to Russia and adjoining lands to study medicine, said Kumar.

The chief minister rose in his seat to intervene in response to a calling attention motion by 20 MLAs, including Sanjiv Kumar and Devesh Kant Singh, both of whom belong to the ruling NDA in the state.

The motion had sought

price/fees capping at private medical colleges in the country where an MBBS course cost roughly Rs 15 lakh per year, which was three times as much as students had to pay in Ukraine, Nepal, the Philippines, China etc.

Kumar said I wonder how so many people come to know about cheaper courses in countries like Ukraine. Perhaps it has something to do with the proliferation of social media which has led to an information explosion. Nonetheless, the reasons for which they travel so far need to be realised nationally and addressed squarely.

In his reply to the motion, health minister Mangal Pandey said that the members' concerns will be made known to the fee fixation committee that has been set up in accordance with a Supreme Court judgement.

Govt employees 'gherao' Himachal Assembly

Shimla, Mar 03 (PTI):

Hundreds of protesting state government employees Friday held a protest outside the Himachal Pradesh Assembly in support of their demand of restoring the old pension scheme.

The police tried to stop the protestors at different locations of Shimla but a large number of them managed to reach near the main gate of the Assembly at Kennedy chowk forcing the police to lock all the gates of the state Assembly.

The state government employees under the banner of New Pension Scheme Karamchari Mahasangh (NPSKM) headed by its chief Pradeep Thakur raised slogans Old Pension-Old



State government employees gather outside Himachal Pradesh Assembly in Shimla on Thursday.

Pension, Purani Pension Bahal Karo (restore old pension) by holding tricolour in their hands.

The protestors also tried to cross the grill near the Kennedy chowk to enter the Assembly but Baddi Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Chawla and his team foiled their attempt

to do so. A municipal corporation fire engine was also deployed in front of the state Assembly to use it as a water cannon to disperse the protestors. The state director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu was seen on the spot to monitor the security arrange-

All roads lead to Varanasi in last phase of UP polls



BJP leaders gather for a meeting in Varanasi on Thursday.

Varanasi, Mar 03 (PTI):

As the high-octane Uttar Pradesh polls enter the last leg, all eyes are on the electoral battle in and around Varanasi which will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and prominent leaders from opposition parties leading their campaigns.

Modi, who has been criss-crossing the state all along in the seven-phase Uttar Pradesh elections, will lead the poll blitzkrieg in his Lok Sabha con-

stituency Varanasi for two days on March 4 and 5.

Voting for the seventh and final round will be held on March 7 for Varanasi and its eight adjoining districts.

Varanasi unit president of the BJP, Vidyasagar Rai, said the prime minister will hold a roadshow in different localities of Varanasi and on March 5, will address a rally in Khajuri village of the district. The roadshow will be held for three assembly constituencies of Cantt,

Varanasi North and Varanasi South. Modi is also scheduled to visit the Kashi Vishwanath temple. Prominent leaders of opposition parties are also reaching the pilgrim city, which would be the nerve centre of the grand finale.

Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee is holding a joint rally with SP president Akhilesh Yadav and his RLD ally Jayant Chaudhary on Thursday. All the allies of the SP-led coalition would attend the rally to give a strong message of challenge to the saffron camp.

After humbling the BJP in her home state West Bengal, Banerjee is trying to lead a formidable grouping of the anti-BJP forces in the next national election.

Murals brought to Delhi by Indo-German 'fellow travellers'



A view of a new thematic mural titled 'Fish Out of Water' in Lodhi Art District, in New Delhi.

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Delhi's vibrant art district in Lodhi Colony has now some new quirky residents — a flying 'fish', an 'owl' on roller skates and a 'flamingo' on a bicycle.

This colourful, surrealist menagerie has been imagined by two women — a graphic novel artist from

Germany and an architect-illustrator from India — who joined hands to create a dazzling mural in the heart of the national capital. The Indo-German collaborative work titled 'Fish Out of Water' took two weeks.

Besides depicting flora and fauna, it draws its essence from the idea of travelling and experiencing

a new culture, as also "travelling in one's mind" to places that don't exist on a map.

Aashti Miller, an architect by day and an illustrator by night, said, "The idea of travelling in one's minds essentially happened during the pandemic when lockdown and new safety norms essentially meant

PROTESTING INVASION



Students holding placards, stage a protest against Russia's military invasion in Ukraine, in Bengaluru, Thursday.

Assets, transactions detected after raids on corporator, contractors

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Income Tax Department has found about three dozen properties, including some alleged benami ones, worth Rs 130 crore after it recently raided premises of a Shiv Sena Corporator and some BMC contractors in Mumbai, sources said on Thursday.

The department raided more than 35 premises in Maharashtra's capital city on February 25, and the CBDT said in a statement on Thursday that "preliminary investigation indicates that these contractors have evaded income to the extent of Rs 200 crore on account of...malpractices." The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the tax de-



Yashwant Jadhav

Jadhav, who is also the chairman of the BMC standing committee.

"Numerous incriminating documents, loose sheets and digital evidences have been found and seized. The evidences so seized strongly indicate a close nexus between these contractors and the said (prominent) person," the statement alleged.

It said "particulars of about 3 dozen immovable properties, whose value could be more than Rs 130 crore have also been detected". The assets, the CBDT claimed, include properties acquired either in their (prominent person) name or their associates or benamidars (in whose name the benami asset is standing).

HC raps passport authorities for compelling single parents to litigation

● Over travel document

Kochi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has come down heavily on the passport authorities for compelling single parents, who are divorced or separated, to resort to litigation for reissuance of the travel document of their children, by saying that the officials concerned should be "pragmatic and reasonable" in their approach.

The high court also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on an Assistant Passport Officer for his "high-handedness" in objecting to a divorced woman's application for re-issuance of her minor daughter's passport without the father's consent and asking her to get a court order for the same.

The order by Justice



Amit Rawal came on the woman's plea who claimed that the passport authorities did not process her application despite her giving an undertaking or declaration, as provided under the rules where one of the parents has not given consent, that the entire responsibility of the child would be hers as there is already an order of divorce. She had also submitted a copy of the divorce decree along with the application, her petition had said. The court termed as "high-

handedness" the conduct of the Assistant Passport Officer in the instant case for raising objections with regard to re-issuance of the passport by a single parent facing a matrimonial discord and directing them to approach the court for an order. It further said, "This court has come across similar litigation day in and day out whereby the petitioners/applicants for re-issuance of passport particularly either of the parent who is facing the matrimonial discord or

there is already a separation, are compelled to approach this court for appropriate order, despite filling the form Annexure 'C'.

The officers at the helm of affairs exercising the powers for issuing the passport are supposed to deal with the application in a pragmatic and reasonable manner, but should not reject the application in the manner and mode as extracted above." The passport authorities, during the proceedings, told the court that the application by the woman has been processed and shall be issued within a week.

Justice Rawal, however, observed that the step was taken by them "knowing full well that the court would express concern with regard to the spate of litigations and may come down heavily on the action of the respondents".

NCP slams Fadnavis accusations regarding Dawood Ibrahim

Mumbai, Mar 03 (PTI):

NCP chief spokesman Mahesh Tapase on Thursday condemned a statement BJP Devendra Fadnavis, wherein he sought to know if the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state was "dedicated" to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, and claimed it was a "direct insult to 11 crore citizens of Maharashtra".

Notably, the opposition BJP in Maharashtra has been demanding the removal of state minister Nawab Malik following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate last week in connection with a money laundering probe linked

to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

"Why is Malik being protected? Is this government dedicated to Dawood Ibrahim? Under whose pressure is the government working?" Fadnavis, who is leader of opposition in the state Assembly, asked while talking to reporters.

Taking a dim view of the remarks, Tapase said the ruling MVA, comprising of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, is only committed to the welfare of the people of Maharashtra.

Earlier, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday alleged that the

Maha Vikas Aghadi government was devoted to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, a key conspirator in the 1993 Mumbai blasts.

Speaking to reporters on the premises of Vidhan Bhavan here, Fadnavis claimed that there were enough documents to prove state minister Nawab Malik's links with Dawood.

The MVA government is devoted to Dawood Ibrahim. There are enough documents to prove Nawab Malik's links with Dawood," Fadnavis alleged, stating that the BJP will not let the budget session function till Malik is removed from the cabinet.

BRIEF

Returns

Jerusalem: American authorities have returned nine looted artifacts to Jordan that were seized from a US billionaire collector as part of a landmark deal announced in December.

Kills

Peshawar: Gunmen in northwestern Pakistan shot and killed a female polio worker, Iqra Iqbal as she was returning home after taking part in the country's latest anti-polio campaign.

Halts

Malta: Malta said it would temporarily stop giving citizenship and residency to Russians and Belarusians over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, suspending the so-called 'golden passports' scheme for wealthy investors.

Status

Washington: People in the US from Sudan and South Sudan can stay with temporary legal status to escape the conflict and natural disasters in their homelands.

King

Cape Town: A new Zulu king can be crowned in South Africa after a court settled a dispute over whether the prince named as heir to the throne last year had a rightful claim to it.

Army of cyber hackers rise up to back Ukraine

Граждане. Призываем вас прервать это безумие, не отправляйте своих сыновей и мужей на верную смерть, нас враги и поддерживают. Мы хотим вернуть Украину, перестать покупать нефть и газ. Через нее мы живем в Северной Корее. Для чего это нам? Чтобы Путин попал в учебники? Это не наша война, остань...



Это сообщение удаляет, в некоторых из нас: убитый или даже похоронен. Но мы не можем больше это терпеть. Неравнодушные журналисты России.

A Russian media website hacked.

London, Mar 03 (AFP):

An army of volunteer hackers is rising up in cyberspace to defend Ukraine, though internet specialists are calling on geeks and other 'hacktivists' to stay out of a potentially very dangerous computer war.

joined the 'IT Army' of volunteer hackers, which was set up at the initiative of Ukraine's digital minister Mykhailo Fedorov. The group, which can be accessed via the encrypted messaging service Telegram, has a list of potential targets in Russia, companies and institutions, for the hackers to target.

ed so far seem to be limited to 'denial of service' (DOS) attacks, where multiple requests are sent to a website in a coordinated manner to saturate it and bring it down.

The 'cyber-army' could also ask hackers to try to identify vulnerabilities of certain Russian sites, and send that info to more seasoned specialists capable of carrying out more sophisticated intrusive actions, such as data theft or destruction.

But he and other specialists consulted by AFP warned the hackers against participating in the activities of the 'IT Army', or other cyber mavericks like Anonymous.

Five lakh people on flood alert as rain lashes Sydney

Sydney, Mar 03 (AP):

Around 500,000 people in Sydney and its surrounding areas had by Thursday been told to evacuate or prepare to flee floodwaters as torrential rain lashed an extraordinarily long stretch of the Australian east coast.

Rivers were rising in Australia's most populous city, home to 5 million, with New South Wales' State Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke warning of 'treacherous weather conditions' over the next 24 hours.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology warned of life-threatening flash flooding and damaging winds with peak gusts in excess of 90 kilometers (56 miles) an hour. Major flooding was expected along several rivers in and around Sydney.



Residents look over a flooded road near Windsor on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, Thursday.

Dozens of suburbs were on high alert.

The State Emergency Service issued evacuation orders to 200,000 residents and evacuation warnings had been sent to another 300,000. New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet urged residents to take the orders seriously. 'We do believe that things will get worse before they get better,'

Perrottet said. Minor flood warnings were also issued for coastal communities as far as 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Sydney. Floodwaters were also rising in Brisbane, Australia's third-most populous city 730 kilometers (450 miles) north of Sydney, as severe thunderstorms struck.

Hailstones 5 to 6 centimeters (2 inches) wide



Kyrgyz honour guards take part in a parade celebrating the National Flag Day at the central Ala-Too Square in Bishkek on Thursday.

KYRGYZ FLAG DAY

Seven militants killed, bombs seized in recent raid

Manila, Mar 03 (AP):

Philippine troops killed at least seven Muslim insurgents aligned with the Islamic State group in a recent offensive in the south and recovered 45 heavy firearms and several bombs and land mines that were to be used in future attacks, military officials said Thursday.

About 60 Muslim militants were in the remote camp near Maguing in Lanao del Sur province when it was attacked Tuesday by fighter jets and army forces, military officials said. It was not immediately clear whether their leader, Abu Zacariah, was among those killed or managed to escape. One soldier was killed and five others were wounded in the fighting, the officials said. Zacariah has been implicated in past attacks and bombings and is suspected of being the newly designated leader of the Islamic State group in



45 pieces of firearms seized from Islamic State insurgents in Marawi City.

Southeast Asia, said army infantry brigade commander Brig. Gen. Jose Maria Cuervo II, who oversaw Tuesday's offensive.

Two factions of the militant group Daulah Islamiyah, linked to the Islamic State group, appear to have merged and camped near Maguing in January. At the

time, some power transmission towers in the region were bombed in attacks claimed by the Islamic State group, prompting the military to intensify its surveillance and prepare for an offensive, Cuervo said.

China's slowing economy in spotlight as legislature meets

Beijing, Mar 03 (AP):

China's ruling Communist Party is temporarily turning away from its longer-term ambitions to focus on pulling the economy out of a slump as the country heads into the annual meeting of its ceremonial legislature.

The National People's Congress, usually used to showcase big initiatives, is overshadowed this year by a policy pivot begun in December by President Xi Jinping's government to revive anemic consumer spending and housing sales.

Beijing is easing off multi-year campaigns to cut surging debt that Chinese leaders worry is

dangerously high, rein in carbon emissions and narrow the gap between a wealthy elite and China's poor majority.

They probably need to be put on the back burner for this year, while actively prioritizing stabilization goals, said Helen Qiao, the chief China

economist for Bank of America.

The NPC session, which opens Saturday, takes place against a backdrop of Russia's attack on Ukraine, which has pushed up oil prices and added to uncertainty over a global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

China's economic growth slid to 4% over a year earlier in the final three months of 2021, down from 18.3% in the first quarter; after a crack-down on borrowing in the real estate industry set off a plunge in construction, a major employer.

Manufacturing was hurt by power shortages, weak export demand and anti-disease controls that cut off access to major cities. Share prices of e-commerce and other internet companies plunged after Beijing tightened control over the industry.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT. TENDER NOTICE (FIRST-CALL) e-Procurement Tender Notice. SYSTEM TENDER NO. 93738 / NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 21 / SAC/2021-22 DATED: 28.02.2022. Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 21-03-2022 (17.30 hours IST).

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR. Notice Inviting Tender. No. PHQ/Sec-10/Prove-1722/2022. Nava Raipur, Dated : 28/02/2022. Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from original equipment manufacturers (OEM) or authorized by manufacturer for the following item-

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KMC foils efforts for encroachment on Nazul land

In ward No. 25 Nehrunagar area

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 03: Theanti-encroachment team of Korba Municipal Corporation (KMC) foiled efforts to encroach upon the Nazul land behind Minimata Girl's College and seized all the bamboo, log of wood, saris, rope and other items from 100 different places and freed the area from encroachment.

It is for a long time that land behind Minimata Girl's School coming under ward No. 25 of KMC - Nehrunagar was full of trees and shrubs and in



this around 100 persons have tried to encroach upon using bamboos, wood, rope and others. On getting information in this regard, KMC's anti-en-

croachment team reached the site and seized all the bamboos, log of wood, ropes and other materials used in encroachment and foiled their efforts. The en-

croachers were also issued strict warning not to repeat the same, or else they will be face legal action.

Keep close eye on encroachment:

KMC Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey has issued strict instructions to field staff of KMC to keep close eye on encroachment in government land and in other areas of city. If they come across any encroachment, then it should be immediately

informed to the anti-encroachment team of KMC and it should be ensured that this encroachment does not take place again at the same place.

Religious programmes increases faith of people: Vandana

Central Chronicle News

Takathpur, Mar 03: The Vice President Nagar Palika Vandana Bala Singh organised massive 'bhandaras' at two places in ward No. 2 on occasion of 'Mahashivratri' here on Tuesday. Prior to this devotees offered prayers at the Lord Shiva's temple in ward no. 2 and in this ward residents and devotees from all over the city were present in large number.

In the afternoon, the 'Bhandara' was thrown open for public and it continued till late at night.

Nagar Palika V-P Vandana Bala Singh Thakur said that with such organisation at one place where creates religious at-

mosphere, on the other, it keep the rich art & culture and rituals of the festival alive and intact and brings the younger generation closer to it. This in turn increases faith of people towards religion and culture, she added.

Vandana Bala Singh said that in the coming years this festival will be organised in larger form. On this occasion MP's rep NG Singh, Jagdish Bais, Kuldeep Singh, Yatendra Dubey, Lallan Shukla, Jitendra Singh, Pradeep Singh, Dharendra Kshatriya, Praveen Dwivedi, Santosh Rajak, and residents of Kailash Nagar ward No. 2 and denizens of city were present in large number.



Customers made to wander from SIL office

As SIL Dhamdha branch has been locked, no assurance of refund of amount invested even after expiry of maturity date



Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Mar 03: The customers of Sahara India Limited (SIL) office in Dhamdha are under stress and depression as it has been locked. With instructions to file FIR against owner of Sahara India Subrat Sahara and other people last week by the

Court, the SIL office in Dhamdha was locked and now there are about 50 persons returning daily.

It is notable here that even on maturity of the invested amount by many customers of Sahara India Limited, they are not getting back the matured amount. It is for last one & half year's time, the

Company in the name of corona pandemic and about cases being lodged, is not refunding hard earned money of investors with maturity amount.

Branch Manager SIL Dhamdha Jageshwar Das used to issue receipt to customers taking money from them through some of his agents.

It is notable here that case against Sahara India has been lodged and it is subjudged and in such conditions, they should not take funds from customers and if at all they are taking, then it should be refunded to customers along with maturity amount and interest.

In this way there is fund worth crore which has been deposited with lot of faith by customers of region in SIL and now there is great deal of resentment among the investors as they are not being paid matured amount even after expiry of their maturity date.

There are reports that customers of region have already decided to gherao SIL office in Dhamdha and even file case of 420 against the Manager, agents and workers of SIL office and file police case against them.

Smart sleeping glasses invented by students of Sanskar Shikshan Sansthan



Under the guidance of young scientist Gaurav Chandrakar

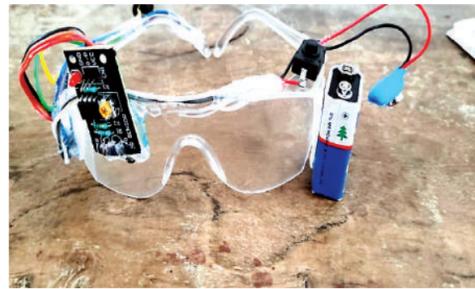
Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Mar 03: As goes the saying 'Necessity is the mother of all invention', abiding to it, a team of young students of Shikshan Sansthan of Mahasamund district under the guidance of Gaurav Chandrakar, Director of Sanskar Shikshan Sansthan Pithora have invented sleep-depriving spectacles.

The team of class 9 students, namely Payal

Bariha, Tejaswi Dadsena and Jitika Dadsena has made this timely invention for drivers who often fall asleep while driving at night causing road accidents, owing to which hundreds of people lose their lives and property every year. The students have come up with an effective way to deal with this, and they have designed a pair of glasses in which the alarm system starts ringing as soon as the driver falls asleep and the team has proficiently named it as "Smart Glasses".

They also believe that if the commercial production of this project starts, it will



be possible to prevent the occurrence of large number of road accidents caused by the driver falling asleep. The team took almost three months to prepare this project, started from 1st November and completed it on 25th February. After the trial, the project will be launched on 28th February, National Science Day.

The alarm will sound as soon as you blink:

As soon as the driver gets a nap, the sensor in it will be alerted and start ringing. At the same time the light in it will also start burning, this will alert the driver. However, as every

human being blinks, for this, the students have also given the option of setting a timer on it and this will set the time of blinking according to the time of blinking. As the nap comes for a second, the alert system of the glasses can be set between two to five seconds. The project estimate is around Rs. 600 to make. This system can also be fitted in helmets and for this; the equipment of technology has to be used in the helmet. The teachers and parents of Sanskar Shikshan Sansthan, Shala Parivar have congratulated the team on their invention.

Devotees throng to see the marriage procession of Lord Shiva

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Mar 03: On the occasion of Mahashivratri, a grand procession of Lord Shiva was taken out here, in which a large number of devotees gathered to pay obeisance. The procession with the tableau, of Lord Shiva was welcomed from plater to place and akhand jala-abhishekam, was commenced early in the morning at Bhudeshwar Mahadev Temple.

It is noteworthy that for the devotees of Lord Shiva; Mahashivratri is no less than a festival to please the deity of valour

and power. The devotees believe that in order to please Lord Shiva, every ritual from fasting to worship if done with devotion, fulfills all desires and showers blessings.

Dhamtari district witnessed a five day Shiv Parwati marriage festival, at Bhudeshwar Mahadev Temple, which was participated by a large number of devotees from the region. The procession was attended by Vipin Pawar, Baveta Golcha, Rituraj Pawar, Ramu Rohra, Anand Pawar, Anil Agarwal, Rohit Agarwal, Mintu Soni and many others.

Attention drawn towards changing old name of Govt Model School

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 03: Teachers and staff of Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Mahasamund, met Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vinod Sevenal Chandrakar and drew his attention towards not changing the old form of the institution.

The Parliamentary Secretary Shri Chandrakar immediately instructed the District Education Officer to take appropriate action. According to information, teachers of Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School reached Parliamentary Secretary's



residence and met Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chandrakar and informed that the oldest school of the city is Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Mahasamund, which is in the form of a heritage established before independence in the year 1898 under

the British rule.

But as per the new rule, from the upcoming academic session 2022-23 the school will be known as Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium School. They said that this school is also the coordinating body of the district for the Board of Secondary Education,

Raipur, the benefit of which is available to all the government and non-government schools in the district. Along with this, the evaluation work of 10th/12th board, examination of Vyapam/State Service Commission is also conducted here.

In the interest of the students, the teachers forum urged that Government Ambedkar School, Nayapara should be operated as Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium School and the present institution, that is Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School should be kept in its old form, without change, the teacher's forum requested.

Theft conducted in an abandoned house

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 03: The thieves conducted theft in an abandoned house of Naresh Bahekar, near Lord Hanuman Temple in Diparapara ward No. 2 of city on Tuesday and ran away with costly good and jewellery.

Naresh works as stamp vendor in Tehsil office and as per information given to police, Naresh along with his family had been to Bhilai to attend some house warming ceremony on Feb 28 in the after-

noon at around 3:00 pm.

When they returned on March 1 at 1:00 pm, they found the lock in the front door open and when they went inside, they found the lock of almirah broken and all the gold and silver jewellery and cash of Rs 5000, totalling around Rs 40000 was reportedly stolen.

The thieves have broken the lock in the front door and ran away with the goods and jewellery. The police has filed a case and taken the matter under investigation.

PBIV Bhakhara celebrates 'Mahashivratri'



Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Mar 03: Prajptita Brahvakumari Ishwariya Bishwavidyalaya (PBIV) Bhakhara celebrated 86th 'Trimurti Shiv Jayanti Mahotsav' at Tapasya Bahvan here on Tuesday.

On this occasion Nagar Panchayat President Pushpalata Dewangan, Ramgopal Dewangan, Harakchand Jain,

Bhakhara Centre PBIV in-charge Brahmakumari Karuna Didi were present.

The programme began with remembrance to the Supreme and thereafter the invited guests were welcomed by presenting them with 'Tulsi' plant and then welcome dance was performed.

After this the traditional lamp was lighted and flag hoisting was done. The

'Shobha-Yatra' was flagged off on this occasion.

Nagar Panchayat President Pushpalata Dewangan also extended greetings to all on occasion of 'mahashivratri' and expressed gratitude of all for being part of this celebration. In this programme, Ramgopal Dewangan, Harakchand Jain also extended greetings to all present.

Bisnath Kamar's family yearns for basic amenities and education

Devendra Singh Rajput

Gariabandh, Mar 02: Middle-aged Bisnath Kamar, who has been facing the brunt of the neglect of the administration for many years, is still holding out hope from the administration, as his tale of apathy will make hearts melt.

This is the story of Bisnath Kamar, a resident of village Gaurgaon, about 45 km from Mainpur division of Gariabandh district, and his 70-year-old mother Basantin Bai and 16-year-old niece Rajbai. This family does not have its own house, not even a hut, but in such a situation, and continues to live so for the last 20 years. Their permanent residence is a cloth wrapped hut like shelter, with no roof or thatch. The young girl of



the family, his niece takes shelter in a neighbours house in extreme weather conditions. They are also no bedding nor sufficient utensils for cooking and eating, as the family survives in a pension of Rs 350 to mother Basantin Bai and 30 kg rice as ration, apart from the bamboo utensils the head of the family makes to earn a living. The family has received no benefits from the government administration

in the form of Ujjwala gas scheme, Ayushman card, Jan Dhan account, labor card, employment guarantee card, and not even Aadhar card, is a irony in total. The young girl of the family Raj Bai though wants to study further, but is deprived of education due to their living conditions and economic standards. Although there is a female sarpanch in the Gram Panchayat,

Gourgaon, the family has not received any financial aid from the administration. As per information, the project for the Kamar community to which the family belongs too, comes with a budget of lakhs and as per this project, a team of members including the President of Kamar society is appointed from the government. And the schemes is to connect such needy families with the schemes

of the government, to benefit of the people of the backward community, but despite this, till now no one has reached to meet this family.

What officer says

All possible help will reach the family and the family will also be connected to government schemes of benefit. BK Sukhdev, Assistant Commissioner, Gariyabandh.

Workers should be given better health facilities: Dr. Dahria

100-bed hospital to be built for workers in Bilaspur
Regional Council meeting of Employees State Insurance Corporation



Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Mar 03: State Urban Administration and Development and Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria has directed to start the necessary action soon for construction of 100-bed hospital for labourers in Bilaspur. In the meeting of the Regional Council of State Employees Insurance Corporation at Mahanadi Bhawan, he said that an action plan should be prepared for bet-

ter facilities to the workers. More and more workers should be registered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. Urban Administration and Labour Minister Dr. Dahria said that medical services should be expanded to other districts of the state in the interest of the workers, so that the needy labourers get medical treatment in all the districts. He said that the officers of Employees' State Insurance Corporation and Employees' State Insurance Services should make an action plan by

making coordinated efforts. He said that tie-up hospitals should be arranged in all those districts where the provisions of the Act are applicable and where there is no medical facility. In the meeting, the officials informed that 42 dispensaries are operating in 10 districts of the state. Outpatient medical facilities are being provided to the insured beneficiaries under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation by contracting 54 private hospitals in the state. At present there is a tie up hospital for secondary care in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Raigarh. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the construction of Employees' State Insurance Hospitals. Similarly, in the meeting, along with discussion regarding the opening of new offices, co-branch offices and dispensaries of Employees' State Insurance Corporation in Champa, Bemetara, Ambikapur, Palari (Balodabazar), the members of industry and trade union also discussed about labour interests and facilities and made necessary suggestions. In the meeting, Secretary of Labour Department, Mr. Amrit Khalko, Director of Employees' State Insurance Corporation and other officers, officials of industry and trade union participated online.

Akbar inaugurates All India Hockey Tourney

Total 30 teams taking part from different states

Bilaspur, Mar 03: The Forest Minister inaugurated Nava Bharat sponsored All India Hockey Tournament in B.R. Yadav Astro turf Hockey Ground in Bahatrai in Bilaspur on Tuesday. A total of 30 hockey teams from different states are taking part in this tournament. In the inaugural match, in men's category was between Sufia Sporting Club Amaravati

and Distict Hockey Association Bilaspur. There are total 16 men's team and 14 are women's team in this tourney.

The other hockey teams taking part in this Hockey Tournament are Haryana, Delhi, Mumbai, Rourkela, Rohtak, Prayagraj, Sonapat, Bengaluru and others in men's category and from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Merrut, Gwalio and Haryana for women's team.

Addressing the inaugural programme, Fores Minister Mohammed Akbar welcomed

all the hockey players from different states and said that hockey players like Vincent Lakda, Saba Anjum are the players who brought laurels to the state purely based upon their talent. Holding such tournaments for hockey gives lot of motivation to players. He said that there are many scheme being run for promotion of hockey and other sports by the state government. Mohammed Akbar boosting the morale of each player, wished them all the best for the matches and future endeavours. Addressing

the programme, Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel said that a hockey tournament in Bilaspur would provide the players to display their talent and extended greetings to the organisers and all the players and their coaches. On this occasion Chairman CTB Atal Shrivastava, Vice Chancellor Atal Behari Vajpayee University Prof. ADN Vajpayee, Bilaspur IG Ratanlal Dangi, General Secy. Hockey Association Manish Shrivastava and other public representatives and officers were present.

Women and Child Development Minister blessed 56 newlyweds

Raipur, Mar 03: Women and Child Development Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia participated in the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana organised at Dallirajhara in Balod district. In the mass marriage organized there, she blessed 58 newlyweds for a happy married life. The mass marriage was organized in the Gayatri Shaktipeeth premises in the presence of family members and dignitaries. On this occasion, Minister Smt. Anila Bhedia said that



Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojana is an ambitious scheme of the government. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's sensitive

thinking is that daughters should get married easily without any family expenses, due to this thinking, he decided to increase the

amount given under the scheme from Rs.15 thousand to Rs.25,000. Due to this, the Chief Minister's girl marriage is being organized in a better way. On this occasion, Chairman of Municipal Council, Dallirajhara, Mr. Shibu Nair, District Panchayat member Mrs. Chandraprabha Sudhakar, District Program Officer of Women and Child Development Department Mr. Harikirtan Rathore, dignitaries, family members of newlyweds were present.

Mahashivratri celebrated at JSPL Machinery Division

Raipur, Ma 03: The marriage day of Bhagwan Shiv & Parvati was celebrated on 1st March 2022 on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Pt. VP Pandey convened the function at the temple in JSPL premises at Machinery Division-Raipur in which HR Head Suryodaya Dubey, Purchase Head Sandeep Agrawal, and many other employees and their family members were present.



that lay in its depths, a pot of poison emerged. Lord Shiva consumed this poison, saving both the Gods and mankind. The poison lodged in the Lord's throat, turning him blue. To honor the savior of the world, Shivratri is celebrated. One more legend is that as Goddess Ganga descended from heaven in full force, Lord Shiva caught her in his

matted locks, and released her onto Earth as several streams. This prevented destruction on the Earth. As a tribute to Him, the Shivalinga is bathed on this auspicious night. Also, it is believed that the formless God Sadashiv appeared in the form of a Lingodbhav Moorthi at midnight. Hence, people stay awake all night, offering prayers to God.

Dahariya inaugurates veterinary dispensary in Lakholi



Arang, Mar 02: Urban Administration and Development and Labor Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya on Wednesday inaugurated a veterinary dispensary near Gauthan in village Lakholi of Arang block of Raipur district. On the occasion, he said that immediate treatment can be provided to the animals now, which will be convenient for the nearby livestock farmers. Dr. Dahariya said that various states are giving a serious thought to the Godhan Nyay Yojana and Narva, Garwa, Ghurwa and Bari scheme being imple-

mented by the Chhattisgarh Government. Chhattisgarh Model is being discussed across the country today. Meanwhile, a cattle fair and exhibition has been organized in village Lakholi under the National Live Stock Mission, where important information about animal husbandry is being given to the cattle owners. Along with this, information about the welfare schemes of Chhattisgarh government is also being given to the people. Public representatives and citizens were also present on this occasion.

Students display science models



On occasion of National Science Day in ABC Public School

Kharora, Mar 03: On occasion of National Science Day in ABC Public School, in Saragaon, the students dis-

played various science models and exhibited their talent. The students highlighted about rain water harvesting, pollution-free environment; butterfly lifecycle; Urinary system; blood circulation and other such subjects through their models. They also explained it in detail to the chief guest on

his arrival and informed him how water conservation can be done using rain-water harvesting. In another model students explained as to how atmosphere can be saved from getting polluted. It is by presenting models on the topics of day-to-day life that the students passed on a positive message.

25105 children administered polio drops

In three days on Feb 27,28 and March 1



Mela itself three centres were formed for polio vaccine andn here 503 children were administered polio drops. BMO P Kudesia, BP Saurabh Virvani, BPO Yogendra Parana, supervisors, Mitanins gave valuable support in this drive.

'Nano Urea' publicity 'Rath' flagged off

To create awareness about use of this liquid Urea by IFFCO



Khairagarh, Mar 03: In order to fulfill the shortage of Urea, the publicity 'Rath' of 'Nano Urea' was flgged off by Senior Agriculture Development Officer Khairagarh CP Nayak here on Wednesday. As per information in this regard, due to shortage of Urea in the state, the farmers have been appealed to use 'Nano Urea' in the liquid form by IFFCO Company. On Wednesday, it was under direction of the Chief Area Manager IFFCO AK Upadhyay, the senior Agriculture Devp

Officer Khairagarh in the presence of Marketing Federation's Vijendra Raj, ADO Animesh Gawade, Rural Agriculture Extension officer Pawan Dewangan, young agriculture businessman Anand Chopda and farmer Bhagwantin Bai and Hemchand, flagged off publicity 'Rath' of 'Nano Urea'. During this officers informed that "Nano Urea" has to be sprayed using a sprayer with 50 or 60 ml as per the requirement. This 'Nano Urea' is in liquid form and 10% cheaper than the traditional Urea and is available at the rate of Rs 240 per bottle and it is easy to trans-

port and store. The farmers can even carry it in their pockets or in small bag and it gives 6-8% extra production compared to traditional Urea. This 'Nano Urea' has to be sprayed first within 25-30 days; second from 55-60 days. Director Gulab Agro Agency and member IFFCO Anad Chopda informed that it is order to create awareness among farmers about 'Nano urea', this publicity 'rath' will move out in the block and on the first day it was moved in GramKhajari, Dillipur, Sundi, Ataria, Jalbandha, Karamtara, Saloni, Iraikhrud, Madraku, Navagaon and others and also in the villages of D o n g a r g a r h - Rajnandgaon.

One arrested with illicit liquor



Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 03: The Thekadih police arrested the youth openly selling illicit liquor by the road side in Gram Gatapar on Wednesday and sent him to jail. As per information in this regard, a campaign has already being launched against people illegally selling illicit liquor.

It was on tip from an informer on March 1, it was learnt that Pramod Singh Rajput alias Guddu S/o Gopal Singh Rajput (33), Ro Gatapar Kal Gaon, was selling illicit liquor by road-side in Gatapar. On hearing about this news, the police team raided the place and seized 30 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 3600 kept inside a blue coloured polythene bag. Along with this a motorcycle bearing No. CG 08 ZD 9203 worht Rs 30000 was also seized. He was arrested for failing to produce any documents related to selling of liquor and was booked under section 34 (2) of Excise Act and sent to jail

Accidents on rise near NH, people strongly protest

Accidents on rise near NH, people strongly protest

Dhamtari, Mar 03: Despite massive efforts by Dhamtari police, the number of road accidents in city are not reducing, as it was few days back only a recklessly driven truck had run over a youth and he died on the spot and another youth got seriously injured. After this road accident there is lot of resentment and anger among people of the region. According to Police, it was on Tuesday evening at around 6:00 pm, a speedily driven truck bearing No. 17 KN 9866 dashed against a bike bearing No. CG 04 HL 0820 driven by Golu Patel (15) R/o Guajra. He re-

ceived serious head injuries and since he was profusely bleeding, he died on the spot itself. The another youth behind Golu, viz. Raja Sahu (19) got injured. Both had come here for some building construction work. On hearing about this incident, in no time there was huge gathering of crowd and the traffic police also reached the site and sent the injured to the hospital for treatment. The truck was seized and case was filed against the driver. With such repeated accidents over the last few days, the people are finding it difficult to believe as to whether their near or dear one would return once they leave the house. In the month of February itself, a total of 10 persons had died in different road accidents.

Highest of the accidents took place on NH. According to Police Captain Prashant Thakur and DSP Manishankar Chandrakar, efforts are being made to reduce the number of accidents on this route and appealed people to drive slowly, carefully and wearing helmets without fail and use seat belts while driving four-wheelers. **Are driving at high speed** Few days back only, orders were issued to drive vehicles on NH from Arjurni Road to Jodhapur chowk at around 30 km speed and for this sign and warning board too has been flashed. But even after this sign board, there is no effect on the truck, bus, car, jeep and two-wheeler riders in this section.

Mahashivratri celerated with religious fervour



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 03: The festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated in ward NO. 1 of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ward in Nagar Panchayat Kharora with

great enthusuiasm and fervour: Prayers were offered in Lord Shiva's temple to 'Lord Bholenath' and blessings were sought for peace and prosperity of all the citizens. A massive 'Bhog-Bhandara' was also organised for people with 'kheer-puri'. On this occasion, ward corporator Mona Bablu Bhatia, Pradeep Verma, Bhojram Manhare, Ajit Kosale, Jagdish Pamvani, Ghanshyam Verma, Yuvraj Verma, Jitendra Sen, Dharendra Verma, Durgesh Verma, Radheshyam Sahu, Dageshwar Prasad Verma, Visheshar Verma, Heeralal Dewangan, Surendra Verma, Kanchan Verma, Kumar Kosale and others.

Ten Bank Didi's working as banks for 46 Gram Panchayats

Payment to MNREGA workers under the scheme 'Gaone buta aau gaone rupiah'



Kondagaon, Mar 03: To ensure 'Right of Employment' to the person of every household in the village, the government employed the people under Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) and their wages are paid directly into their accounts through DBT. There are only 5 bank branches in the Farasgaon area and associated Development Block Headquarters, apart from this, two bank branches are in Dhanora of Keshkal and a bank branch in Benur of Narayanpur district. Due to

this, the villagers had to travel long distances to another village far away from home to get their due amount besides facing hassles of waiting in long queues. In such a situation, they had to face a lot of trouble even to get their basic account information, as a result of this they were losing interest to work under MNREGA. To address the following situation of increase in the number of complaints and losing interest of MNREGA workers even after timely payment

has been done in their bank accounts. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena instructed the concerned officer to make payment at the workplace itself. As per the instructions, Zila Panchayat CEO Premprakash Sharma took step to appoint 10 'Bank Sakhi' from Bihan Groups as a pilot project. These Bank Sakhi's started work for 14098 active job cardholders of 44 bankless remote gram panchayat out of 73 Gram Panchayats under Farasgaon development block.

Special Secy of School Education Department inspects board examination centers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 03: Rajesh Singh Rana, Special Secretary, School Education Department and Director, State Council of Educational Institutions and Training (SCERT) inspected the board examination centers organised in the school located at J.N. Pandey and P.G. Umathe Shanti Nagar, school. Mr. Rana conducted a surprise inspection of both the schools and instructed them to follow the guidelines of Covid-19 strictly during the examination. He also inspected the arrangements for checking the examinees by



means of sanitizers and thermal scanners at the main gate and inside the examination hall. All the students were found wearing masks following social distancing. It was also directed by Mr. Rana to the President of the examina-

tion center, if a candidate has common symptoms of cold-cough or fever, then his separate seating arrangement should be ensured by following the Covid-19 rules. Dr. Yogesh Shivhare, Additional Director of SCERT was

also there during the inspection. It is notable that 10th and 12th board examinations by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education is at present going on.

The first paper was of Hindi specific and Hindi general. This year, 4044 examination centers were set up by the Board of Secondary Education for 10th board and 6743 for 12th board. This time 3 lakh 80 thousand 27 children were registered in class 10th.

These include 3 lakh 77 thousand 667 regular and 2 thousand 360 private registered candidates. Similarly, there are a total of 2 lakh 93 thousand 425

candidates for the 12th board examination. Out of these, 2 lakh 89 thousand 808 are regular and 3 thousand 617 are private candidates.

The maximum number of 531 examination centers have been set up in Janjgir-Champa district for class 10th examination. There are 512 exam centers in Raipur and lowest 41 exam centers have been set up in Narayanpur district.

Similarly, in the 12th examination, the maximum 358 examination centers have been set up in Janjgir Champa. 345 examination centers have been set up in Raipur and the lowest in Sukma is 19.

Nine accused of cheating youths in the name of job arrested

Cash of Rs 10.50 lakh recovered along with all equipments required for fake documents etc



Balodabazar, Mar 03: Balodabazar Police has nabbed 9 members of interstate gang along with cash of Rs 10.50 lakh on charges of cheating people. A combined team of Thana Bhatapara and Simga nabbed the main accused Ravishankar and 9 others of his gang and they used to play the game in an organized manner. The accused have cheated unemployed youth assuring them employment in Railway, Electricity, Forest, Army and other departments and have so far targeted 15-20

youths all over the country.

The accused used to provide take appointment letter and appointment order, selection list to the applicants who used to approach them. It is based upon their style and procedure of the crime and on analyzing every minute details that the inter-state gang was nabbed by the police. The main accused Ravishankar used to cheat people by taking fake names like Sushobhan Ghosh, Shiv Prasad Patel, Arjun. SSP Deepak Kumar Jha took

special interest in this professional gang of cheaters who used to cheat people in a very professional way. It is based upon certain facts and evidences and cross-checking the working of gang-members, that all 9 accused of the gang were arrested. One of the applicants from Bhatapara rural area viz. Ramshankar Patel had lodged complaint about cheating in the name of gateman in Railway Department and another victim Narendra Gaikwad was cheated for job as Forest Guard in Forest department. In both these cases the procedure of cheating candidates was the same and so it was based upon the same, the entire gang of cheaters were nabbed.

The special team of police by laying the trap after lot of hard work, managed

to arrest the main accused viz. Ravi Shankar R/o Kolkata and brought him to Raipur. After this all other 8 accused were also nabbed one by one from Bhilai, Korba, Raigarh, Bemetara, Janjgir and Raipur and cash of Rs 10.50 lakh was also recovered. The search of other accused in the case is in progress and they would be arrested soon.

The police also seized the equipments used in providing fake appointment letter and orders including printer, computer system, printer, fake seals making equipment, mobile phones and SIM cards of all the members, bank passbook, cheque book, ATM card, the fake appointment letters and orders and application forms prepared by the gang members and fake Aadhar Card prepared by them.

Three day long state-level 'Mahila Madai' to be organized

Raipur, Mar 03: Various programmes will be organized by the Women and Child Development Department to mark the occasion of International Women's Day celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. A state-level women's conference will be organized on March 07 at BTI Ground located in Shankar Nagar, Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Anila Bhediya will attend this programme. A women cycle-rally will be held at 7 am on March 08. Along with this, a three-day long state-level 'Mahila Madai' will be organized at BTI Ground from March 05 to March 08. An exhibition of products manufactured by women Self-Help Groups of the state will be held in this Madai. Visitors here will get a glimpse of initiatives for women empowerment and how women of the state are becoming self-reliant.

30 Ch'garh students returned safely from Ukraine today

Total 69 students of Ch'garh have returned safely so far

Ch'garh Govt made necessary arrangements to get students back to their hometown

Raipur, Mar 03: A total of 30 students of Chhattisgarh, who were stranded in Ukraine, have returned safely to New Delhi on Thursday. Over 69 students of Chhattisgarh have returned safely from Ukraine so far. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, all necessary arrangements have been made in New Delhi for the students of state coming back from Ukraine. Besides, all necessary arrangements are being made by Chhattisgarh Government

to get students back to their hometown.

According to information received from the Office of the Housing Commissioner, 30 students have returned from Ukraine to New Delhi on Thursday. These include Hemant Kumar Sahu of Dallirajhara, Kamlesh Sahu and Akash Tiwari of M a h a s a m u n d , Omprakash Patel, Sameer Kumar Bhoi, and Abhishek Singh of Raigarh, Afsar Ansari, Amal Pillai, Adysha Mohanty, Boidi Ayushree, Sakshi Agrawal, Jagdish Sahu, Bhuvan Raikwar, Apoorva Verma, and Abhijit Wani of Raipur; Rishika Ghosh and Sanjana Srivastava of Rajnandgaon, Divyansh Dubey of Durg, Sandeep Kumar David, Abhishek Kumar Patel, and Pranjal Tiwari of Chirmiri, Shivam Singh of

Ambikapur, Riya Aditi of Bilaspur, Chandra Prakash Rathor, Tushar Giri Goswami, Shubham Kumar, and Niharika Gavel of Janjgir, Shifa Khurshid of Dharamjaigarh, and Ayan Chakraborty of Korba.

All the students left for Raipur by flight after halt at Chhattisgarh Bhawan. 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. Students of Chhattisgarh coming back from Ukraine are being with the facilities of vehicles, accommodation, and food as per the instructions of the Chief Minister. Besides, all the necessary arrangements including air tickets have been made to get students back to their hometown.

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to get students back to their hometown.

According to information received from the Office of the Housing Commissioner, 30 students have returned from Ukraine to New Delhi on Thursday. These include Hemant Kumar Sahu of Dallirajhara, Kamlesh Sahu and Akash Tiwari of M a h a s a m u n d , Omprakash Patel, Sameer Kumar Bhoi, and Abhishek Singh of Raigarh, Afsar Ansari, Amal Pillai, Adysha Mohanty, Boidi Ayushree, Sakshi Agrawal, Jagdish Sahu, Bhuvan Raikwar, Apoorva Verma, and Abhijit Wani of Raipur; Rishika Ghosh and Sanjana Srivastava of Rajnandgaon, Divyansh Dubey of Durg, Sandeep Kumar David, Abhishek Kumar Patel, and Pranjal Tiwari of Chirmiri, Shivam Singh of

Ambikapur, Riya Aditi of Bilaspur, Chandra Prakash Rathor, Tushar Giri Goswami, Shubham Kumar, and Niharika Gavel of Janjgir, Shifa Khurshid of Dharamjaigarh, and Ayan Chakraborty of Korba.

All the students left for Raipur by flight after halt at Chhattisgarh Bhawan. 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. Students of Chhattisgarh coming back from Ukraine are being with the facilities of vehicles, accommodation, and food as per the instructions of the Chief Minister. Besides, all the necessary arrangements including air tickets have been made to get students back to their hometown.

MoHUA Secy observes biological model



Raipur, Mar 03: Secretary in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India today observed the biological model plant of pond purification operated in Telibandha pond by Raipur Smart City Ltd. Raipur Smart City Ltd. Managing Director, Abhijit Singh, provided information about water purification system through biological method which has been introduced in collaboration with BHEL and NEERI in Telibandha.

Government of India Hemant Kumar Patel, Collector Sourabh Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik, Raipur Smart City Ltd. Additional Managing Director Chandrakant Verma were present on the occasion. Under this biological model of pond purification, water is treated with the help of special flora and flows into Telibandha pond which has also been beautified. Under the BSUP Phase-II scheme on the banks of Telibandha pond, arrangements have been made by the Municipal Corporation for the

residents of 3 slum settlements on the banks of the pond by constructing 640 houses. The 640 houses were constructed in monolithic method for resettlement of families from Boriyakala area.

Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik informed that for the operation and maintenance of Telibandha pond, recreation garden and food done have been created on PPP mode. With this, the Municipal Corporation will get revenue and common people will get the benefit of Mini Theater, Famous Food Court, Yoga, Meditation Center, Garden Lawn, Amphitheater. During his visit to Raipur, the Secretary Joshi also met women beneficiaries of Millet Food Shop 'Joran' operated with the help of Municipal Corporation and NULM and inquired about the income earned from their business, assistance received, sales arrangements etc.

CII Ch'garh vows to work shoulder to shoulder with the State Govt: Chitlangia

Raipur, Mar 03: Umesh Chitlangia, Chief Managing Director, Polybond Insulation Pvt Ltd, takes over as Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council for the year 2022-23, Mr Siddharth Agrawal, Director, Godavari Power & Ispat Ltd, becomes Vice-Chairperson.

This was announced at the Annual Meeting of the CII Chhattisgarh State Council on held on March 03.

Addressing the scribes here, Mr Chitlangia, Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council said that CII is confident that under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh will reach to a new height in India'. CII will step up its activities to attract greater volume investments across sectors in



(L-R) Mr Satish Pandey, Dy Director & Head CII Chhattisgarh State Office, Mr Sandeep Goel, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr B L Agrawal, Past Chairman CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr Umesh Chitlangia, Chairman CII Chhattisgarh State Council, Mr Saikat Roy Chowdhry, Regional Director CII East & North East.

Chhattisgarh. Both the new CII Chhattisgarh Chairman and the Vice-Chairman made a "solemn pledge" to step up CII activities and work hand in hand with the Government of



Umesh Chitlangia-Chairman of CII Ch'garh State Council

Lead; Empowered to Serve', Mr Gurmeet Chadha, Co-Founder, Complete Circle Foundation Pvt Ltd., while addressing the session said that opportunity in market is always there, specially in Tier-II cities of our country. Digitalization is the need of the hour, and we have to focus on that. Every sector has an opportunity to get digitalize it may on



Siddharth Agrawal-Vice-Chairman of CII Ch'garh State Council

tangible or non-tangible basis. In his address he also mentions that equity market in India has lucrative potential of returns which unfortunately it's ignored by the large population, and they invest in traditional way of investment like gold and property. More than fifty percent of the population is youth which is eager to grow and be a part of the story of growing India.

World Hearing Day Programmes concludes with message-Listen with Care

Raipur, Mar 03: World Hearing Day programs concluded in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur on Thursday with a message 'to hear for life, listen with care'. The four-day program included a webinar for NIT students, ENT Camp in two schools, Skit, and a poster presentation to create awareness about ear hygiene along with prize distribution. ENT experts asked for a collaborative initiative between engineering students and medical professionals to provide innovative miniature devices for those who lost their hearing capacity.



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director addressing a webinar on World Hearing Day for NIT-Raipur students.

hearing sense. The entire communication with the internal and external environment depends on it. Some may face challenges due to birth-related problems or due to infection, injury, trauma, aging, or a work-related environment. Technology has been evolved in recent years to provide supportive devices for rehabilitation.' Prof. Nagarkar called for more collaborative projects with engineering students to give innovative solutions for

ENT patients. He advised avoiding loud sounds, medications, and taking care of hearing senses. Earlier, Dr. Rupa Mehta explained damaged nerves and various ear hygiene methods. She suggested avoiding loud noise and using earbuds in such surroundings, including limited uses of earphones and headphones. 'We should avoid pub, disco or DJ for a healthy life, she added.

Dr. Ripu Daman Arora explained the ear anatomy



(Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director and other faculty members during ENT screening camp in school at Raipur.

and sound travel process in-ear. 'Human ear consists Pinna, Outer ear, Middle ear, and Inner ear. It also has an ear canal, and cochlea to convert sound waves into electrical impulses. The human ear can perceive sound between 20 to 20,000 Hz', he added. Dr. Arora explained various rehabilitation methods for ENT patients. Preeti Sahu highlighted the role of hearing assessment. Earlier, there were

two ENT camps at Shabri Kanya Ashram and Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Raipur. Total 80 students have been screened, and 24 referred for further treatment through OPD. A poster presentation was also held in the medical college, and BSLP students organized skits to create awareness about hearing loss in different departments at Hospital. The program concluded with prize distribution.

CGBSE helpline number resolving queries and doubts

Of students related to exam

Raipur, Mar 03: The helpline toll free number (18002334363) introduced by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) Raipur is being overwhelmed with the queries and doubts of the students over board examinations. Board officers are resolving queries and doubts of students and their parents over examination.

Doubts of students from Raipur, Mahasamund, Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Baloda-Bazar, Durg, Surajpur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa and



Mungeli district over subjects were cleared by the subject experts. Today on March 3, subject experts Papiya Banerjee, Dr Geeta Tanwani, Anshu Gulati and Ujjwala Ambawastha resolved queries related to English subject of Class 12th on March 3. Students mostly raised queries over article writing, summery writing, question-answer, note-making, ways to remember English and letter writing.

also cleared doubts of students. According to information available 87 phone calls were received on helpline toll free number for resolving queries related to English subject of Class 12th on March 3. Students mostly raised queries over article writing, summery writing, question-answer, note-making, ways to remember English and letter writing.



BRIEF



AISA activists display banners seeking immediate return of all Indian nationals from war-torn Ukraine, during a protest against the Russia-Ukraine war, in Kolkata, Thursday.

Tigress dies

Bilaspur: A 13-year-old tigress rescued from the Achanakur Tiger Reserve (ATR) died during treatment at Kanan Pindari Zoological Garden in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, a forest official said on Thursday. The tigress died of age-related ailment that caused multiple-organ failure on Wednesday, he said. The big cat's condition deteriorated around 8.45 am, following which the veterinarian at the facility started treatment and at 11.26 am, the animal died, the official said.

Antilia case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday said it would examine whether an order by the Central government granting sanction for prosecution of an accused under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) can be challenged. The high court was hearing a plea by former Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze challenging the sanction granted to prosecute him under the UAPA in connection with industrialist Mukesh Ambani's Antilia bomb scare case.

Bangladeshi held

Thane: Three Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly fabricating documents and staying illegally in the country, police said on Thursday. Based on a complaint, the police on Wednesday arrested Jinal Jaffar Khan (27), Yasin Arifat Ansari (25) and Pappu Mohammad Mustafa Ansari (32), an official said. Offences have been registered against the accused under section 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the IPC, Foreign Nationals Act and Indian Passports Act at Shanti Nagar police station, he said.

Two dead

Mandi: Two persons were killed and 14 others sustained injuries as a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus fell into a gorge in Mandi district on Thursday, police said. The accident took place at Jhir village of Sarkaghat sub division, Mandi Superintendent of Police Shalini Agnihotri said. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital for their treatment, she added.

Weather
High 33 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 16,498.05
SENSEX 55,102.68

BULLION
GOLD 51,530
SILVER 67,200

Pace of evacuation accelerating: MEA

About 1000 Indians left Kharkiv after advisory

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the pace of India's evacuation operation from Ukraine is accelerating and about 1,000 Indians have left Kharkiv to nearby Pischyn pursuant to its advisory a day ago. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing that the Indian side is in touch with both Ukrainian and Russian authorities to examine the modalities of how Indians can be evacuated from both Kharkiv and Sumy.

"We are closely following the developments in Kharkiv, Sumy and other cities in eastern Ukraine. As you know yesterday we issued an advisory for Indians in Kharkiv to leave the city by 6PM local time. Pursuant to this a large number of students have left Kharkiv and are



Mayor of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Greater) Somya Gurjar greets an Indian student, after she was evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, in Jaipur, Thursday.

currently in the nearby issue of Pischyn. We estimate this number to be around 1,000," he said. "We are currently looking at transportation options to move them from there to western Ukraine or southern Ukraine de-

pending on the transportation options," Bagchi said. He said the pace of India's evacuation operation is continuing to accelerate. Fifteen flights landed in India during last 24 hours, bringing back more than 3,000 Indians, he said.

No hostage situation involving Indian students in Kharkiv: MEA

New Delhi: India on Thursday rejected claims by both Russia and Ukraine that Indian students are being held hostage in the besieged city of Kharkiv, and said it has requested the support of Ukrainian authorities in arranging special trains for taking them out from the city and neighbouring areas. India's comments came after a statement from Russian President Vladimir Putin's office claimed that some Indian students were "actually taken hostage" by Ukrainian security forces, who use them as a "human shield" and in every possible way prevent them from leaving for Russian territory.

Bagchi also informed that 18 flights have been scheduled for next 24 hours to bring back Indian nationals from Ukraine. A total of about 18,000 Indian nationals have left Ukraine since our first advisory was released, he said.

Lokpal gets 4,244 complaints this fiscal till Jan, over 80% jump from 2020-21

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI): Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has received 4,244 corruption complaints between April 2021 and January 31, 2022, a jump of over 80 per cent from 2020-21.

It had got 1,427 complaints during 2019-20 financial year.

"Total 4,244 number of complaints (including format and non-format) have been received through online/offline and email during the financial year 2021-22 (upto January 31, 2022)," the Lokpal said in reply to an RTI query filed by this PTI journalist. A total of 2,355 complaints (includ-

ing format and non-format) were received through online/offline and email during 2020-21.

The government had in March 2020 issued a format for filing corruption complaints with the Lokpal against public servants. All complainants have to mandatorily give an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper, that among other things mentions, making any false and frivolous or vexatious complaint is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees.

Jaishankar briefs consultative panel on Ukraine crisis

Opp says its stands united with govt

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The opposition stands united with the government, opposition leaders said on Thursday after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the consultative committee of his ministry on Russia's attack on Ukraine and the evacuation of Indians from the war-hit nation.

During the meeting, which was attended by nine MPs from six parties, including Congress senior leader Rahul Gandhi, the opposition members broadly sup-

ported the government's stand of abstaining from voting in the UNSC on a resolution deploring Russia, sources said.

"Just completed a MEA consultative committee meeting on developments in Ukraine. A good discussion on the strategic and humanitarian aspects of the issue. Strong and unanimous message of support for efforts to bring back all Indians from Ukraine," Jaishankar tweeted. Thanking leaders for their participation, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "a na-

Russian forces seize key Ukrainian port

Kyiv, Mar 03 (AP):

Russian forces have seized a strategic Ukrainian seaport and besieged another as part of efforts to cut the country off from its coastline, even as Moscow said Thursday it was ready for talks to end the fighting that has sent more than 1 million people fleeing over Ukraine's borders.

The Russian military said it had control of Kherson, and local Ukrainian officials confirmed that forces have taken over local government headquarters in the Black Sea port of 280,000, making it the first major city to fall since the invasion began a week ago.

Elsewhere, the Russians pressed their offensive on multiple fronts, though a column of tanks and other vehicles has apparently been stalled for days outside the capital of Kyiv. Heavy fighting continued Thursday on the outskirts of another strategic port city on the Azov Sea,

Mariupol, plunging it into darkness, isolation and fear. Electricity and phone connections are largely down, and homes and shops are facing food and water shortages.

Without phone connections, medics didn't know where to take the wounded.

In just seven days of fighting, more than 2% of Ukraine's population has been forced out of the country, according to the tally the U.N. refugee agency released to The Associated Press. The mass evacuation could be seen in Kharkiv, a city of about 1.4 million people and Ukraine's second-largest. Residents desperate to escape falling shells and bombs crowded the city's train station and pressed onto trains, not always knowing where they were headed.

At least 227 civilians have been killed and another 525 wounded in that time, according to the latest figures from the office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Human Rights. It acknowledges that is a vast undercount, and Ukraine earlier said more than 2,000 civilians have died. That figure could not be independently verified.

As the toll of war mounted, a second round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was expected later Thursday in neighboring Belarus though the two sides appeared to have little common ground.

We are ready to conduct talks, but we will continue the operation because we won't allow Ukraine to preserve a military infrastructure that threatens Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, repeating an accusation Moscow has repeatedly used to justify its invasion.

Lavrov said that the West has continuously armed Ukraine, trained its troops and built up bases there to turn Ukraine into a bulwark against Russia.

Pak court asks India to appoint lawyer for Kulbhushan Jadhav by April 13

Islamabad, Mar 03 (PTI):

A high court here on Thursday asked India to appoint a lawyer for death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav by April 13 to argue his case for a review of his conviction and sentencing by a Pakistani military court. Jadhav, a 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. After hearing both

sides, the Hague-based ICJ issued a verdict in July, 2019, asking Pakistan to give India consular access to Jadhav and also ensure review of his conviction.

The Islamabad High Court formed a three-member larger bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb in August 2020 which has repeatedly asked India to nominate a lawyer from Pakistan for Jadhav but New Delhi so far refused by insisting that it should be given a chance to appoint an Indian lawyer.

UP polls 6th phase: Around 55% per cent polling

Lucknow, Mar 03 (PTI):

About 55 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm in the sixth phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on Thursday.

The prominent faces among the 676 candidates for 57 seats spread across 10 districts in this phase include Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur Urban and state Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu from Tamkuhi Raj.

The districts where polling is being held on Thursday are Ambedkar Nagar, Balrampur, Siddharth Nagar, Basti, Sant Kabir



Police personnel stand on guard at a vacant polling station, in Ballia, Thursday.

Nagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria and Ballia. There was about 46.70 per cent polling till 3 pm, according to the Election Commission of India's

Turnout app. Additional Chief Election Officer (ACEO), BDR Tiwari said polling was going on peacefully in the state. While Ambedkarnagar had 52.42 per cent voting,

Ballia had 46.50 per cent, Balrampur 42.51 per cent, Basti 46.30 per cent, Deoria 45.37 per cent, Gorakhpur 46.46 per cent, Kushinagar 48.55 per cent, Mahrajganj 47.59 per cent, Sant Kabir Nagar 44.62 per cent and Siddharth Nagar 45.60 per cent.

Those who cast their votes in the morning included Chief Minister Adityanath, Basic Education Minister Satish Dwivedi, Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chowdhury, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, minister Upendra Tiwari and former minister Narad Rai.

SC refuses to entertain PIL against promise of freebies made by parties during polls

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to register FIRs against political parties for allegedly inducing voters by offering freebies, saying it felt the plea was motivated and a publicity interest litigation.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana raised the issue of selectively naming five political parties accusing them of promising freebies in the PIL filed by the vice president of NGO, Hindu Sena.

"We feel it is motivated, selectively, to do damage you're doing this. You have a hidden agenda. Who are you,

asked the bench which also comprised justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli.

"I am the Vice President of Hindu Sena NGO," said advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, appearing for the petitioner.

"Why does your petition have particular parties, it should have been general in nature," the bench said, adding that it seems there was some hidden agenda in the publicity interest litigation. The lawyer then withdrew the petition.

On Wednesday, the top court had agreed to consider listing for an urgent hearing the plea which has accused Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP, and Aam Aadmi Party of

promising freebies in assembly polls in five states. The plea was filed by Hindu Sena vice president Surjit Singh Yadav saying he was aggrieved by the offer and promises made by these five parties in the ongoing assembly election being held in five states.

"Such an offer or promise by a political party, its leader, candidates set up in the elections, may be declared to be indulging in corrupt practices and bribery in terms of provisions of Section 123 (1)(b) of the Representations of People Act, 1951 and the candidates set up by such political parties may be declared disqualified from contesting the election in that state.

Rational to open schools, normal affairs of society while taking necessary precautions: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 03 (PTI):

Unvaccinated individuals account for 92 per cent of COVID-19 deaths in India so far this year, the Health Ministry said Thursday, even as it asserted the country is in a "vaccine-enabled low coronavirus phase" now and it is "rational" to open schools, colleges, economic activities and normal affairs of society while taking necessary precautions.

Addressing a press conference here, senior health ministry officials said 74 per cent of adolescents between 15-18 years of age have been administered their first doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 39 per cent given both doses.

India logs 6,561 Covid infections

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 case tally rose to 4,29,45,160 with 6,561 people testing positive for the infection in a day while active cases declined to 77,152, according to Union Health Ministry data on Thursday. The death toll has climbed to 5,14,388 with 142 more people succumbing to the disease, the data updated at 8 am stated. It was for 25 consecutive days that India recorded less than one lakh daily COVID-19 cases. Active cases comprise 0.18 per cent of the total infections while the national Covid recovery rate improved to 98.62 per cent, the Health Ministry said. A reduction of 8,528 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a day.

They said India witnessed considerably lower number of Covid deaths due to vaccine development, its rapid deployment, acceptance and wide coverage. They said the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine is 98.9 per cent ef-

fective in preventing mortality, while both doses are 99.3 per cent effective.

They said that the efforts of healthcare, front-line workers coupled with vaccination coverage helped in effective containment of the recent Covid

surge. V K Paul, NITI Aayog Member (Health), said, "We are in a vaccine-enabled low coronavirus phase. It is rational to open schools, colleges, resorts, economic activities and normal affairs of society. But we should be watchful and vigilant."

Presently, 29 districts across the country have over 10 per cent COVID-19 positivity rate, while 34 districts have a positivity rate between 5-10 per cent, the officials said.

They said that with whole of government and whole of society approach India has been able to avert the crisis of potentially devastating magnitude of Covid seen in other countries.

Govt issues draft rules for displaying registration mark on vehicles

New Delhi: Vehicles will have to display validity of fitness certificate and registration mark in a prescribed manner, as per a draft notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Thursday.

The ministry, in a statement, said in case of heavy goods / passenger vehicles, medium goods/passenger vehicles and light motor vehicles, it shall be exhibited on the upper edge of the left side of the windscreen. In case of auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, e-carts and quadricycles too it shall be exhibited on the upper edge of the left side of the windscreen, if fitted. For motorcycles, it shall be displayed on a conspicuous part of the vehicle.

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In-charge Secretary conducts inspection; chairs review meeting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: In view of the upcoming summer season, I/c Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardesi has given instructions to make an effective plan for ensuring ample water supply in the villages. He asked the officials to identify the villages which suffer drinking water crisis during summer season and activate the teams for resolving the problem.

He gave instructions for strengthening the infrastructure to eliminate the water crisis permanently. On Thursday, in-charge Secretary chaired a special review meeting at the sub-divisional office of Patan. In the meeting, he questioned the officers of all the departments about the status of implementation of government schemes and gave them necessary guidance.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure informed him about the departmental activities. District



Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and SDM Vipul Gupta were also present. Pardesi said that often the roads are to be dug for laying the pipelines of drinking water supply.

To avoid such situations, coordination should be maintained between the agency of Jal Jeevan Mission and PWD. He directed to conduct all the work of the mission with quality and within stipulated time frame.

He also reviewed the status of motor pumps being used for irrigation by farmers and asked the officials to provide benefits of the schemes to the farmers as per the target. Power company officials said that there is an increased demand for power supply for bore wells in agricultural lands.

According, it would be appropriate to increase the load of the power supply. I/c Secretary instructed the officials to send the

proposal of 132 KV sub-station in South Patan.

Pardesi said that the intention of the state government is that farmers should also produce aromatic paddy on a large scale as its cultivation can yield good profits. SDO Agriculture informed that last year farmers had cultivated aromatic rice in 1500 hectare area and it is expected to increase this season.

Siddharth also reviewed the implementa-



tion of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Officials informed that 28 Gauthans of the block have become self-supporting through the scheme. Officials added that under Godhan Nyay Yojana, cow dung is being procured in Gauthans, there has been good production of vermi compost and about 95 percent of vermi compost has been bought from farmers.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure informed that

livelihood oriented activities have been ensured in Gauthans. Additional works like fisheries, goat rearing, poultry etc have also been started in Gauthans. Farmers have generously donated paddy straws for efficient operation of Gauthan.

I/c Secretary instructed to complete the construction work of English Medium Schools before the commencement of the new academic session. He asked the offi-

cial to get the school buildings repaired as per the need. He also discussed about the proposal to increase the setup in Patan College. Along with this, he asked to promote skill based education. Steno and welding skills are being taught in Patan. He suggested adding other trades also so that youth can get opportunities for skill development in high potential areas.

He specially discussed the infrastructure of the

health department. He questioned about the radiology department in CHC Patan and also inspected the Hamar lab.

Collector said that after the opening of Hamar Lab, various tests are being done free of cost. He specially reviewed the status of implementation of Chief Minister's nutrition campaign. The District Program Officer said that the department is taking special care of the nutrition of severely malnourished children.

At present 251 children are severely malnourished. Work is being done on priority for nurturing them. Pardesi also discussed the sports infrastructure. He said that sports infrastructure would be significantly developed after the construction of the stadium and mini stadium.

He instructed the officials to make an action plan for operation of the stadiums in a better manner and initiatives for development of sports in the area.

Yoga and Mental Health workshop held at St Thomas College

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: IQAC in collaboration with Department of Education is organising 15 days workshop on "Yoga and Mental Health" at St Thomas College, Ruabandha, from February 28, 2022. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon praised conducting health & mental booster programmes.

IQAC Co-ordinator Dr Debjani Mukherjee expressed her views on mental and physical health. Head of the Department,



Dr Sheeja Thomas encouraged students to participate in such workshops and also expressed her thoughts about presence of healthy mind in healthy body. Convenor Dr Reema Dewangan explained various "asanas" to the students with its benefits.

There was a great contribution of staff of Department of Education. Students from various departments and trainees of Department of Education showed their keen interest and contribution in this workshop and availed the benefits.

Notorious thieves arrested; stolen bikes recovered

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Police have arrested two notorious thieves and have recovered stolen motorcycles from their possession. The accused were arrested earlier also for bike lifting. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that under the crime prevention and control activities, police are maintaining watch on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders.

The network of informers has also been activated for the purpose. In this sequel, Kumhari Police received a tip off regarding some suspects who were looking for customers to



sell a bike near Limtara. Police Team and Civil Team swung into action and the suspects were rounded up. During interrogation, they confessed to having stolen bikes from different places. Police recovered six bikes from

their possession. The accused used master keys to unlock the bikes.

Later they scratched the chassis number and changed the registration number plates of the stolen bikes. The accused are identified as Veeru Dhivar

(20) son of Narendra Dhivar a resident of village Kandarka, Bhatapara, PS Kumhari and Digeshwar Sahu (19) son of Ishwari Sahu a resident of village Kandarka, PS Kumhari, District Durg. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 41 (1+4) of CrPC and Section 379 of IPC.

SHO Uttar Kumar Verma, ASI Ajay Singh, ASI Maan Singh Sonwani, Constable Arvind Mishra, Satyendra Madharia, Evan Banchoor, Anil Singh, Rinku Soni, Rajkumar Singh, Bunty Singh and Lekhraj Nishad played vital role in arresting the accused.

RPL Training started for Contractual workers at BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: As a part of Skill Recognition Programme of the Government of India, known as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with CSVTU, SAIL- BSP has made a humble beginning of the training programme on March 2, 2022. GA Rao, CGM (COCCD) was the Chief Guest on the occasion at HRD Centre. The maiden programme was for Electrician trade covering 15 participants from 5 departments. HRD plans cover 55 nos. of participants in two trades i.e. Welder and Electrician in March 2022 itself.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a skill certification component to enable Indian youth to take on industry relevant skill certification which will



help them to secure a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills can register themselves and get assessed and certified under the RPL component of PM's Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

When Shivarajan Nair, GM (CSR) visited Coke Oven Department, GA Rao, CGM (COCCD) praised the initiative taken by CSR and HRD in collaboration with CSVTU. GA Rao, CGM (CO & CCD) stressed on the need of RPL training as the number of contractual workers is increasing. As CO&CCD is a very big and labour intensive depart-

ment, RPL training would really be a boon for the workers as well as for the department, he said. Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD & BE) outlined the importance of RPL training and stressed on the need to facilitate the concerned departments with RPL training. He also said that this would be major thrust area in the coming years as the pressure will be there to train as many as contractual labours as possible.

At the outset, Mukul Saharia, DGM (HRD) welcomed the Chief Guest GA Rao. While welcoming training engineers from 5

departments, Personnel from CSR department, the faculty and the course coordinator from CSVTU, Mukul Saharia explained about the scheme of RPL training through CSVTU. Shalini from CSVTU also spoke about the RPL training being conducted by CSVTU in different places and in different sections of industries all across Chhattisgarh by following the complete guidelines of Central government.

The orientation will be of 12 hours duration. This orientation includes 4 hours of domain-specific training, 4 hours of training on soft

skills and entrepreneurship, 4 hours on safety Precautions, Roles & Responsibility. An extra 4 hours, in continuation of the above, for the assessment processes and methods of tests and evaluation shall be required.

The training would be completed in 16 hours. It is proposed to train as many as 1000 numbers of contractual workers and certify them under this scheme through CSVTU. The trades for training would be Electrician, Welder, Fitter and Crane Operation.

This maiden programme on RPL Training was completed by Subhash Patel, Senior Manager (HRD) and Anita Sreekumar, Manager (HRD) coordinated with all the Training Engineers and other agencies concerned for the programme.

Tree plantation at RSM under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Mar 03: SAIL-BSP's Rail and Structural Mill organised a tree plantation programme under

the banner of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' on February 26, 2022. MM Gadre, CGM I/c (Mills) and SK Chatterjee, GM(RSM) planted trees on the occa-

sion. Narendra Ingle, SM (Pers.), Samayla Ansari, AM(Pers.), Jasbeer Singh, Senior officials of RSM also took part in the tree plantation programme.

Free health check-up camp for Dial 112 personnel at SR Hospital from today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Free health camp is being organised for the employees of Dial 112 and their family members at SR Hospital and Research Center, Dhamdha Road, Chikhali Durg. The camp will be inaugurated on March 04 and continue for three days till March 06. The three-day camp will begin every day at 11:00 hrs and remain open till 15:00 hrs. Specialist doctors related to various diseases will provide their services in between.

Here it needs a mention that health check-up camps are organized by the SR Hospital and Research Center from time to time. Earlier also a free health camp was or-



ganized by the hospital on the occasion of Foundation Day. Now a three-day free health check-up camp has been organized from March 4 to March 6 for the employees of Dial 112 and their family members engaged in the security arrangements of the district.

Sanjay Tiwari, Director, SR Hospital gave information about the health check-up camp. He informed that in the health check-up camp Dr Ranjan Sengupta, vascular and cardiothoracic surgeon, burn and plastic surgeon Dr Vishwamitra B Dayal, gastro surgeon Dr Manish

Khare, and pediatrician Dr SP Kesharwani and Dr Dhanesh Jain, Orthopaedicians Dr Anupam Lal and Dr Deepak Sinha, General Medicine specialist Dr Sushant Kande, Dr Balam Sahu and Dr Sangeeta Patre from Gynaecology and Obstetrics department, Ophthalmologist Dr Chhaya Bharti and Dr JS Bhatia, Dr Vanshree Sinha, ENT Specialist Dr Ratan Tiwari and Dr Ankit Joshi and Dr Ashish from General Surgery Department will render their services. Helpline number 6262613200, 6262613300 6262613400 for more information related to free health check-up camp.

BMC takes up campaign to remove illegal occupation in Vaishali Nagar zone area

- Removes tents erected on service road, warns to remove junk vehicles blocking traffic

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation took up massive anti encroachment drive in Vaishali Nagar zone area and removed a large number of tents, vehicles etc creating hurdle in traffic on service road. The corporation carried out operations at 9 major locations in a single day. Action was taken throughout the day to remove the illegal encroachment.

The illegal occupants who have been holding places for years were also removed during this drive. On the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, action has been



taken regarding illegal occupation in different localities in Vaishali Nagar Zone area. The owner of an auto service station in Shastri Nagar near New Basant Talkies Road was found constructing on the drain. He was asked to stop the construction work and warning was given not to construct. A tent that had been running an Ayurvedic dispensary for many years on the side of the service road was removed. The auto dealers have been directed to remove the vehicles kept as junk. In Shastri Nagar, yet another

illegal construction done on the drain near a social building was removed and byre on the road was demolished. Betal carts and other constructions set up by illegal occupants close to the boundary wall of the Electricity Board office in the 32-acre housing board were also demolished. In Shankar Para Supela, the construction of roof on balcony by one Ajmeri Khatoon was removed as the construction work had not been stopped even after repeated warnings. Sagar car servicing center being operated illegally by

Sagar Singh at Zero Road Shanti Nagar was closed with a warning. During this a stern warning was given to the illegal traders not to conduct business illegally. The team that conducted the anti encroachment campaign included Anil Meshram, Assistant Revenue Officer, HS Bhatti, Ramratan Tandon, Jawahar Chandrakar, Arun Singh, Guptnand Tiwari, Krishna Kumar Supaith, Madan Mohan Tiwari, Hari Tamrakar, Kanhaiyalal, Mangal Prasad, Rajendra Kumar, Lalu and JCB driver Khemraj among others.