



BRIEF



KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty's shaadi marks the first big fat celeb wedding of 2023. The couple, who have been together for over 3 years now, are finally husband and wife now. The cricketer and the actress tied the knot today, on January 23, at Suniel Shetty's Khandala farmhouse.

Ban

New Delhi: Operation of sub-conventional aerial platforms, including UAVs, paragliders, micro-light aircraft and hot air balloons, over the national capital has been prohibited from January 18 in view of Republic Day, the Delhi Police said on Monday.

Tourist train

New Delhi: The Shri Jagannath Yatra tourist train will embark on its eight-day journey on Wednesday, covering famous pilgrimage sites of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, the Railways said on Monday. The tourist train with focus on the Puri temple in Odisha will be run under the Railways' ambitious Bharat Gaurav initiative.

Collision

Samastipur: At least 40 people were injured when the bus in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Bihar's Samastipur district on Monday, police said. According to police, the incident took place on National Highway-28 near Chandchor village.

Participate

Kohima: Even as the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) has declared not to participate in the ensuing state Assembly election, the 20 sitting legislators of the area decided to contest the polls. The decision of the Eastern Nagaland Legislators Union (ENLU) was arrived at during an emergency meeting held on Sunday.

Infected

Kochi: Kerala government on Monday said norovirus infection, a cause of acute gastroenteritis, was confirmed in two students here. The students of Class 1 and 2 of a school at Kakkad near here were found infected and three children are now under treatment.

Raped

Mumbai: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by the principal of a private school in Nagpada area of central Mumbai, police said on Monday. According to the police, the 50-year-old principal of a trust-run school had allegedly raped the victim last month and had again attempted to take advantage of her on Saturday.

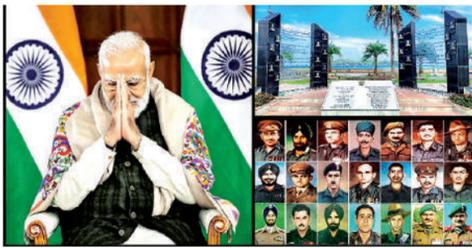
PM names 21 Andaman islands after PVC awardees

Unveils model of Netaji memorial

Port Blair, Jan 23 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday virtually unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, to be set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and said it will infuse feelings of patriotism among people.

Modi, on the occasion of Netaji's 126th birth anniversary, also named 21 islands of the Union Territory after Param Vir Chakra awardees.

"Today, it is a proud moment for me as I address the people of Andamans because this is the land,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the naming ceremony of 21 islands of Andaman & Nicobar after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Monday.

where Subhas Chandra Bose unfurled the national flag for the first time in 1943," the prime minister said. The freedom fighter had hoisted the Tricolour in the archipelago on December 30, 1943. PM Modi noted that the is-

lands, named after famous soldiers, including Major Somnath Sharma, Lt. Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa, Subedar Joginder Singh, Major Shahtan Singh, Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid, 2nd Lt.

'Islands renamed to gain popularity'

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday took potshots at the Centre's attempt to rechristen some islands, stating that such initiatives were made to just to "gain popularity", given that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had renamed Andaman and Nicobar as Shaheed and Swaraj Islands in 1943. Banerjee's reaction came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 islands in the archipelago after Param Vir Chakra awardees, on the occasion of Bose's 126th birth anniversary.

Arun Khetrapal and Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, will be a

source of inspiration for generations to come. "It gives me immense pleasure to announce the naming of 21 islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees and to inaugurate the model of a proposed memorial at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island (previously known as Ross Island).

"One should see the naming of 21 islands as Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and the memorial will infuse feelings of patriotism in the hearts of people," he said. PM Modi also mentioned that islands named earlier in the day after Param Vir Chakra awardees "will be the land of inspiration for generations to come".

ED attaches assets worth Rs 7.90 cr

In Punjab drug cases

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): Assets worth Rs 7.90 crore have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in connection with a probe linked to two narcotics trafficking cases of Punjab, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Monday.

The money laundering case stems from separate FIRs filed by the Punjab Police under various sections in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) against Gurdeep Singh Rano and Rajesh Kumar.

The ED case has been registered under the criminal sections of the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). "The attached assets include 16 immovable properties (land and building) in Punjab of Gurdeep Singh Rano and his family members and 11 immovable properties of Rajesh Kumar and his family members. "The assets also include movable properties like balance in bank accounts, cash and gold ornaments," the federal probe agency said in a statement. The ED, quoting the police FIR, alleged that Rano had "links" with suspected drugs smugglers, Simranjit Singh and Tanvir Bedi, who are residing abroad.

MONEY LAUNDERING

MP schools to teach Gita, Ramayan, Mahabharat

Bhopal, Jan 23 (PTI): Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said Hindu religious scriptures will be taught to students in government schools and issued a warning to those trying to insult these revered texts, saying their acts will not be tolerated.

The senior BJP leader's warning came in the backdrop of controversial statements made on the Ramcharitmanas, a Hindu religious book based on the Ramayan, by some political leaders in the last few days.

Addressing a programme here, Chouhan said ancient Hindu epics are invaluable holy texts and they help in building moral character of human beings.

"The Ramayan, the Mahabharat, the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bhagwad Gita are our invaluable scriptures. These texts have the ability to make a human being moral and complete. We will also (along with other subjects) teach these religious books in government schools. Why not study them?" he said.

For killing parents

Bhilai, Jan 23:

In a high profile case, the Upper Sessions Court of Durg on Monday awarded a double death sentence to a 42-year-old man for killing his father and mother. Upper Sessions Judge Shailesh Kumar Tiwari awarded double death sentence to renowned poet Sandeep Jain after finding him guilty. The court said that it is the height of cruelty to kill the parents. His crime fell in the category

HIGH PROFILE CASE

Man gets double death sentence



of rarest of rare cases. The court also sentenced him to five years of rigorous imprisonment under the Arms Act. Aggregating the double death penalties and im-

prisonment, the court sentenced Sandeep Jain to be hanged by the neck till he is dead. Two other accused Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and Shaileendra Sagar have been awarded five

years of rigorous imprisonment for supplying illegal pistol and cartridges to the prime accused Sandeep Jain. It needs to be mentioned here that Sandeep Jain had shot dead his father Ravalmal Jain and mother Surji Bai Jain in the wee hours of January 01, 2018 at their residence in Ganjpara, Durg. Ravalmal Jain was a renowned businessman of the city and was also the Trustee of Nagpura Jain Tirth. Sandeep Jain had also established himself as a renowned poet and businessman.

SpiceJet flier offloaded

New Delhi: SpiceJet on Monday offloaded a passenger from a Hyderabad-bound aircraft for unruly behaviour at the Delhi airport. The incident happened onboard a SpiceJet wet-leased Corendon aircraft that was scheduled to operate SG-8133 flight from Delhi to Hyderabad. "During boarding at Delhi, one passenger behaved in an unruly and inappropriate manner, harassing and causing disturbance to cabin crew. The crew informed PIC (Pilot In Command) and security staff of the same. The said passenger and a co-passenger, who were travelling together, were offloaded and handed over to the security team," the airline said in a statement.

After Co-WIN, govt launches U-WIN

To digitise India's universal immunisation prog

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): Carrying vaccination cards of children and pregnant women, struggling to keep a tab on the next jab and other such hassles may soon become a thing of the past. After the success of the Co-WIN platform, the government has now replicated it to set up an electronic registry for routine vaccinations.

Named U-WIN, the programme to digitise India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.

The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter, official sources told PTI.

The platform that replicates Co-WIN, which has served as the "digital backbone" for India's COVID-19 vaccination programme, was launched on January 11 in 65 districts.

The U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services, updating vaccination status, delivery outcome, planning of RI sessions and reports like antigen-wise coverage, etc.

"There will be digital registrations of all pregnant women and newborns for individualised tracking for vaccination, reminders for upcoming doses and follow-up of dropouts.

"Healthcare workers and programme managers will be able to generate real-time data of routine immunisation sessions and vaccination coverage for better planning and vaccine distribution," an

official explained. For pregnant women and children, vaccine acknowledgement and immunisation card linked to ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) will be generated and all states and districts can access a common database to track and vaccinate beneficiaries.

Besides, through the platform citizens can check nearby ongoing routine immunisation sessions, and book appointments, the official told PTI.

All states and UTs have been sensitised on U-WIN functionalities and objectives for the pilot in 65 districts and staff and healthcare workers have been trained on all modules of U-WIN.

"With this the entire vaccination system including records will get digitised, easing the tracking of beneficiaries.

SC dismisses CBI appeal against bail

To Maha ex-minister Anil Deshmukh

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

In a major relief for former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the CBI's appeal challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader in a corruption case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices V Ramasubramanian and JB Pardiwala noted that Deshmukh has also been granted bail in the related money laundering case. The top court said it was not inclined to entertain the Special Leave Petition against the grant

of bail by the high court to Deshmukh. "Since the observations in the impugned order of the High Court are confined to the question as to whether the respondent was entitled to the grant of bail, we clarify that these observations shall be construed only for that purpose.

"In other words, the observations shall not affect the merits of the trial or be pressed in any other collateral proceedings. The Special Leave Petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for the CBI in the matter. The CBI, in December last year, approached the apex court challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to Deshmukh in the graft case.

Two cyber thugs held over Rs 2.67 cr fraud

Noida, Jan 23 (PTI): The Noida Police has arrested two people, allegedly involved in duping a senior citizen of Rs 2.67 crore on the pretext of renewing his life insurance policy, almost two-and-a-half-year after the case was lodged, officials said on Monday. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said the complainant worked in an eminent private company and had retired in 2005. He currently lives in Vasant Kunj in Delhi. "In 2020, the complainant got a phone call from an unknown person who informed him that his insurance policy has lapsed and he would have to pay some money if he wanted the policy renewed. "Eventually, the complainant ended up paying Rs 2.67 crore in multiple accounts in lieu of policy renewal assurance," Dwivedi said. The complainant's daughter had lodged a complaint on behalf of the senior citizen after which an FIR was lodged at the Sector 20 police station here under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (fraud), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 34 (act done by several persons) as well as the IT Act and investigation launched.

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LIC/PI/2022-23/26/Eng

Court awards double death penalty to Sandeep Jain for killing parents

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 23: In the high profile double murder case of renowned litterateur, social worker and former journalist Ravalmal Jain and his wife Surji Bai Jain, the Upper Sessions Court of Durg awarded double death sentence to their 42-year-old son Sandeep Jain.

A well known poet and businessman, Sandeep Jain was found guilty of killing his father and mother. Upper Sessions Judge Shailesh Kumar Tiwari awarded double death sentence to Sandeep Jain. The court stated that it is the height of cruelty to kill the parents.

His crime fell in the category of rarest of rare cases. The court also sentenced him to five years of rigorous imprisonment under the Arms Act.



Late Ravalmal Jain and Surji Bai Jain

Aggregating the double death penalties and imprisonment, the court sentenced Sandeep Jain to be hanged by the neck till he is dead.

Two other accused Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and Shailendra Sagar have been awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment for supplying illegal pistol and cartridges to the prime accused

Sandeep Jain. It needs to be mentioned here that Sandeep Jain had shot dead his parents Ravalmal Jain and Surji Bai with a 7.65 caliber country-made pistol in the wee hours of January 01, 2018. Ravalmal Jain was a renowned litterateur, social worker and former journalist. He was one of the founders of Nagpura



Accused Sandeep Jain (file photo)

Jain Temple. Being the managing trustee, he contributed a major part of his life for construction and expansion of Nagpura Jain Teerth. Sandeep Jain had also established himself as a renowned poet and businessman. The convict Sandeep Jain had killed his parents by firing three - three rounds on his father and mother.



Accused in Durg Court premises

In this high profile case, the prosecution proved that Sandeep Jain was irritated by his father Ravalmal Jain due to his traditional conservative behaviour. Ravalmal used to send his servant to Sheonath River to fetch water for worshipping purposes and insisted on using tap water only for other purposes. Ravalmal disliked



Crowd gathered at court room

Sandeep's friendship with women and often scolded him. Ravalmal had even threatened Sandeep to disinherit him from property. Irritated by repeated scolding, Sandeep chalked out the plan to kill his father. He purchased a pistol and bullets from Agrasen Chowk Durg resident Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and kept it in the house. As per the plan,

he sent his wife and son to Dalli Rajhara at her maternal house. A servant Rohit Deshmukh used to sleep at their house in the night daily. On December 31, Sandeep asked him not to come that night. Around 05:45 hrs on January 01, 2018, Sandeep came down stairs and shot three rounds at his father, who was closing a door in the

gallery. Hearing the firing burst, his mother Surji Bai Jain started screaming from the bedroom. She made a call on Sandeep's mobile, but he did not respond.

Sandeep then moved to his mother's room and shot three rounds at her also. After killing his parents, Sandeep unlocked the main gate of the house and went to his room upstairs. He threw the gun out of the house from the rear window and tried to narrate a false story that some outsider trespassed into the house and killed his parents.

However, police succeeded to recover his blood stained clothes and murder weapon on the same day. Later he confessed the crime before police. The prosecution also succeeded in getting him convicted in the court.

DAV Hudco organises sensitization program on financial & use of digital tools

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 23: Understanding the need to sensitize teachers about the right approach to finances, that are relevant in current scenario DAV Public School Hudco, Bhilai organized a sensitization Programme on Financial Literacy and use of Digital Tools on Monday. Around 130 teacher delegates from DAV Jamul, DAV ISPAT Sec 2, DAV ISPAT Rajhara, BSP SSS Sec 7, Nirmala English Medium Sr Sec School Raihara, Angel Valley Public School Hudco along with the host school participated in the program to upgrade themselves and walk hand in hand with the current scenario.



The event started with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by BPSahu (ARO cum Principal DAV Nandini Mines), Resource person Rahul Dodeja (CA) from Raipur and currently pursuing Chartered Wealth Management from USA. Addressing the gathering BPSahu applauded the efforts of CBSE and said that the session will certainly help the educa-

tors stay updated to plan their finances in better way and also disseminate their learning so that they can deal with their finances vigilantly. He also added that financial literacy is the foundation of our relationship with money, and it is a lifelong journey of learning. Resource person Rahul Dodeja, conducted the session by laying focus on cre-

ating awareness about basic financial planning and how to avoid cyber frauds. It was quite an informative and insightful programme. The real-life experiences and anecdotes made the session interesting. The teachers actively clarified their doubts and got satisfactory answers. He further said that financial literacy makes it okay for us to make small or big

mistakes. On the other hand, being financial illiterate only makes those mistakes dire and regrettable. The session focused to create awareness about basic financial planning, how to avoid falling prey to phishing and cyber frauds, Importance of SIPs/shares/ mutual funds etc. This initiative is part of Activities related to Investor Education and Awareness Initiative in terms of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

The session concluded by presenting a memento to the guest speaker by BPSahu, who placed the heartiest gratitude on behalf of the entire DAV family. A certificate was issued to each participant by CBSE upon successful completion of the training program.

New records set in Sinter, Total Saleable Steel & TMT 25 production

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 23: It has been weekend of records at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. On Saturday, January 21, 2023, the Plant broke a two year old record by producing record volume of 20,620 Tonnes of Saleable Steel. The previous best record for saleable steel production in a day was 19,920 T on January 23, 2021.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, the Plant's Sinter Plant 3 broke a record set nearly 15 months back by producing record volume of 18,631 Tonnes of sinter, surpassing previous best of 18,611 T on October 28, 2021. On Friday, January 20, 2023, the Plant's Merchant Mill produced a record volume of 2190 T of TMT Bars in 25 mm diameter,

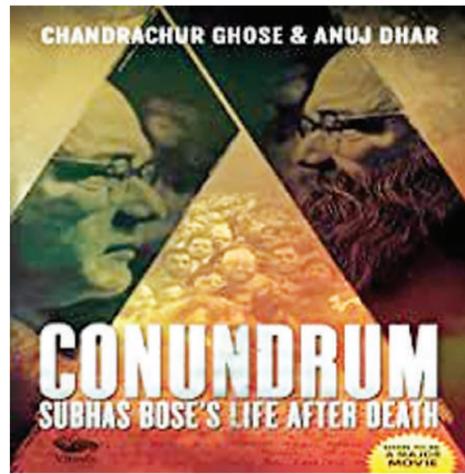
surpassing previous best of 2128 T of TMT 25 on January 13, 2023. Director in-charge Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta, Executive Director Works, Anjan Kumar and other senior officers of the Plant visited Sinter Plant 3 and congratulated the collective of SP 3 and associated departments for record-breaking performance.

Conundrum - Subhas Bose's life after death

Book Review: By Aparna Garg

Authors Chandrachur Ghose & Anuj Dhar

PARAKRAM DIWAS SPECIAL



indeed Netaji. Many dedicated journalists like Ashok Tandon, AdheerSom, Anuj Dhar and others investigated and wrote on the issue for months.

The second chapter talks about appearance of an unnamed sanyasi in Neemsar in UP. The sanyasi would stay behind the curtains. Chief Minister Sampurnand and descendants of Nawab of Awadh were among his followers. Prof Atul Sen of Calcutta was the first person from Calcutta to meet the Sanyasi now known as Bhagwanji. When Prof Sen asked him "are you the man who asked me to stand for Dhaka Legislative seat?" Bhagwanji replied "that man is dead now, mritabhooh". Nevertheless, recognising Netaji's voice Prof Sen wrote to Pandit Nehru. Its telling Pandit Nehru didn't outrightly reject his claims on the contrary he promptly asked people to investigate secretly.

National Army members. His close associates Leela Roy, Pavitra Mohan Roy and Prof Samar Guha came hunting for him once Prof Sen reported back. These are all prominent freedom fighters. Desh-Netri Leela Roy was then Chairwoman of Forward bloc a party Netaji Bose founded. After meeting Bhagwanji she retired from active politics. Pavitra Mohan Roy was Intelligence agent of INA. He was sentenced to death by the British. His death sentence was pardoned after Mahatma Gandhi wrote to the British government asking for clemency. The authors provide in detail the correspondence between these people; that was found in Bhagwanji's boxes. These prominent freedom fighters were close to Netaji Bose and all of them couldn't have mistaken someone else for him. There is a poignant poem Bhagwanji wrote for Leela Roy when she passed away. He calls her Lee and says she was the leeward side of his life.



Desh-netri Leela Roy

Mukherjee commission which is the third commission to be setup to find out what happened to Netaji. The Mukherjee commission investigated the case from 1999 to 2006. The key evidence before the commission was handwriting match between the pre 1945 documents and post 1945 documents. The book discusses in great detail the handwriting evidence that was examined and how government experts committed fraud and said the writing didn't match. Other internationally well-known experts said that writing of Netaji matched with Bhagwanji in two languages. Another key evidence which was fudged by the government was the DNA of the teeth which were found in the belongings of the deceased Bhagwanji. The authors go to great lengths to explain how this deception was carried out.

The seventh chapter discusses articles in Calcutta magazine called Jayashree with title "Oi Mahamanavase" (He was a superman). The eight chapter is devoted to exposing how the first commission i.e., the Shah Nawaj commission to find out about Netaji was an eyewitness. Netaji's brother Suresh Bose didn't accept this commission's finding and submitted a dissenting report. Similar was fate of fourth



Dr Pavitra Mohan Roy, INA

commission that is the Sahai commission which was setup in 2016. Noted Minister of Parliament Samar Guha after making contact with Bhagwanji wrote a book on how the Taihoku air crash never happened he personally visited Taihoku and investigated the documents. Justice Mukherji in 2006 concurred with him and said the air crash didn't take place. However, Justice Mukherji said he couldn't conclude that Bhagwanji was Netaji because there was no clinching evidence.

Chapter 9 throws light on stance of different Netaji family members on the matter. Chapter 10 discusses Netaji's days before Taihoku crash as well as what Bhagwanji told his followers about the crash. Bhagwanji mentioned in many conversations that he lived in Siberia for few years; that he had come back to India on foot across Nepal border. In an astonishing conversation the Sanyasi talked in detail about the Dalai Lama escape from Tibet. He mentioned to his followers that it was one General Shiva who lived with Khamba tribe who showed the way out and told Dalai Lama that he should go to India and planned the escape. He also revealed startlingly that India was not



Aparna Garg

given Independence in 1947 but was a dominion state. This fact is not common knowledge in India even today.

Chapter 11 talks about how Bhagwanji often gave hints that he felt betrayed by Bengal. A Sanyasi doesn't get aims in his own village he is said to have blurted out. At the battle of Imphal he said that British were about to surrender but 4 people defected from INA and gave away how stretched the INA was. "The British Indian Army fought with new vigour instead of surrendering and the beggar had to go back empty handed" he said. Bhagwanji would be furious about the mistakes of JLN combine (Jawahar Lal Nehru and his coterie) but said he had no rancour for Bapu.

Chapter 12 delves into why if Bhagwanji was Netaji he didn't come out. Bhagwanji talked about undivided motherland and wrote to Leela Roy in English "I know it as unalterable truth that divided wretched motherland will get back her undivided form and if someone's mental state so reacts to the situation then the undivided motherland will take larger form too". This chapter has an impressive lecture from the monk on what war is

about - "it's meant to break opponent's morale so he is forced to sue for peace". He talks in detail about China war with his comments written all over the book "Himalayan blunder". He was livid on Nehru's referral of Kashmir to UN he writes "A humiliating reptilian study of a stupid clown-posing statesmanship." I have read many critiques of Pandit Nehru including those of Ram Manohar Lohia but Bhagwanji's comments stand out as coming from a person who thinks he is on par with Nehru. On 1962 China war Bhagwanji made a sensational claim that he had intervened with Chinese to make a conciliatory offer to Nehru. With the offer went the message to Nehru that Bhagwanji wanted to come back but no reply came back from Nehru. He talks about Pakistan war and Tashkent agreement in great detail. He dropped hints to Pavitra Mohan Roy and Leela Roy about impending Bangladesh liberation and his plans and involvement in it. Bhagwanji talked in great detail about all the wars India had fought and war strategy in general. The deep insight he displayed is beyond a common man moreover its beyond most journalists. This book is worth reading just for this chapter on war strategy and understanding of wars India has fought. It's not surprising Gandhiji said at the time of partition to Shaheed Suharwadi that "Only Subhas could have saved the country today".

Bhagwanji lived in dire poverty living in open shelters at times and houses with roof leaking at other times. He would go hungry for many days. Once Leela Roy met him she made sure that he accepted help and at least his basic needs were met. He was known to have achieved highest level of sadhana or spiritual practice. He had deep

insight on politics, war, religion and social issues. He was said to have travelled outside India to many countries including Pakistan and China.

In the last chapter authors explore why Bhagwanji chose to stay hidden. To his followers he said he has been declared war criminal by Allied powers. And that if he came out it will cause problems for Indian government. This was much later proven to be true when John Major refused to take off Subhas Chandra Bose's name from war criminals list. The authors have also tried to understand and debated over the possibility of Bhagwanji suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder in light of his unsubstantiated claims.

In modern forensics handwriting is considered enough evidence to identify a person. Bhagwanji's writing with Netaji has matched in two languages hence with nearly 99% certainty one can say they were same persons. The authors have done a commendable job of examining a complex set of evidences from all angles. Considering the apathy on this issue from mainstream media the nation is indebted to the authors for bringing the life of Netaji post 1945 to the fore. Indeed, it's heartening to see the moral courage and determination of these two authors.

One small issue I faced with the book is that it has no index.

About the Author: Aparna Garg is a Computer Scientist and co-founder of an AI based start-up. She has a PhD in Computer Science from University of Manchester and MTEch from IIT Kharagpur. She currently makes her home in UK. She writes on impact of technology on social development in economically developing.

'Is Governor waiting for 'muhurat' to sign reservation bills'

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday accused Governor Anusuiya Uikey of misusing Constitutional rights by delaying the assent to two quota amendment bills and asked if she was waiting for 'muhurat' to sign them.

His remarks came a day after the governor told the media to wait "till March" when she was asked about the pending approval for the bills.

The amendment bills, passed by the state Assembly last December,

are related to quotas in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions in proportion to the population of different categories in the state.

"Why (is the governor) waiting till March? Is she looking for a muhurat (auspicious time)? There are exams scheduled following which admissions will start in educational institutions and recruitment exams to various government departments are also pending," he told reporters.

Baghel said the governor holding the bills is the

"misuse of rights granted under the Constitution".

"Which muhurat is scheduled in March when she will sign? These bills were passed in December. The BJP is silent on it. The bills have been halted at the behest of the BJP. This is an injustice to the youth of the state," he added.

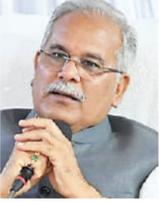
The Chhattisgarh Assembly on December 2, 2022, passed the Chhattisgarh Public Service (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Reservation) Amendment Bill and the Chhattisgarh

Educational Institutions (Reservation in admission) amendment bill related to quota in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions in proportion to the population of different categories in the state.

As per the bills, the Scheduled Tribe will get a quota of 32 per cent, Other Backward Classes 27 per cent, Scheduled Caste 13 per cent and the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) four per cent, taking the overall reservation in the state to 76 per cent.

CM chairs meeting of officers in Dharsinwa, reviews development works

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel held a meeting of district-level officials at the rest house in Dharsinwa and conducted a thorough review of the most recent status of development and construction projects, including the government's top priority programs. The Chief Minister gave the SSP Raipur strict instructions to avoid theft and unlawful possession.



In addition to efficiently managing Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan, officials were also instructed to quickly finish the task of establishing natural paint production facilities using a material derived from cow dung in Gauthans. Anita Yogendra Sharma, President of Mineral Development Corporation Mr. Girish Dewangan, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma, Secretary to Chief Minister Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Divisional Commissioner Yashwant Kumar, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure, SSP Prashant Agarwal along with officers were present.

BJP alleges Tender scam in Text Book Corporation

Chaudhary seeks resignation from Chairman

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday raised demand from the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to order investigation into Tender Scam worth several crores reported in Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation (CTBC).

In a statement issued here, the BJP General Secretary OP Chaudhary said that an e-Tender scam worth Rs 130 crore has surfaced in the Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation in

the process of purchase of paper for the school text book for the year 2023-24. He alleged that four different companies have submitted tender from the same computer system within an hour on September 19, 2022. Chaudhary expressed surprise and sought how such co incidence has occurred.

BJP leader said that the CTBC Chairperson should be shacked immediately and investigation should be carried out in the entire process. He added that the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel should not patronize the reported corruption as it is related with the education for the school children.

NIT Raipur first at All India Sports Meet



Raipur, Jan 23: National Institute of Technology Raipur got first place in All India Inter-NIT Sports Meet in Yoga Competition. The students have once again brought laurels to the institute. In the competition held at NIT

Suratkal, the male team of NIT Raipur secured the first position and achieved the gold medal. The female team of NIT Raipur also did not lag in this competition, they secured the second position in the female category and won the silver

medal. Along with this spectacular performance in the Yoga competition, Sudhanshu Patel, 4th semester, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering Department student of NIT Raipur, has also brought laurels to the in-

stitute by winning the title of Best Player of Yoga.

This competition was organized at NIT Suratkal from 20 January 2023 to 22 January 2023. Teams from 15 NITs across the country participated in this competition. Along with yoga competitions, various other games were also organized during this period. NIT Raipur's volleyball team also performed brilliantly during this period and won everyone's applause. During this event, Sandhya Mahadik from the Sports Department and Suraj Nishad, faculty HSS Department, were present with the team as team managers and provided proper guidance to the players.

Indian Heritage Extempore held as a part of 74th Republic Day celebrations

Raipur, Jan 23: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Literati: The Literary Committee organized an Indian Heritage Extempore as a part of 74th Republic Day celebrations on 21st January 2023. The event was organized under the supervision of Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Professor In-charge, Literati. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about the Indian Heritage and its culture while providing a platform for expressing thoughts and improving soft skills.

The event consisted of two rounds. First was a quiz round consisting of eight objective and two subjective questions. The



second round was the extempore which was judged by Dr. Anoop Kumar Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Science. Participants were given a two minute

logical organization, presentation skills and their enthusiasm. People from the audience were allowed to interject the speaker and points were allotted for a valid interjection. Q&A session for the audience was also conducted.

Anurag Deo, 4th Semester, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Lakshya Raj, 4th Semester, Chemical Engineering and Ishan Dutta, 4th Semester, Computer Science & Engineering were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placeholders respectively. The event concluded successfully with active participation of the students and prizes worth 12,000 distributed.

District Chess tournament on Jan 29

Raipur, Jan 23: District-level Chess tournament is being organized at Samta Colony on January 29 for the age group till 17 years in both the categories. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Raipur district Chess Association Secretary Navin Shukla said that prize worth Rs 25,000 would be distributed among the participants along with trophy, medals and certificates. Interested participants can get their names registered for the championship with Vikas Sharma on his contact no 9329100240.

Meeting held at Raj Bhavan for Republic Day celebrations-2023 preparations



Raipur, Jan 23: In view of preparations for the program to be organised on the occasion of Republic Day at Raj Bhavan, Deputy Secretary to the Governor, Deepak Kumar Agarwal took a meeting of various departments. He said that on the occasion of this national holy festival, a welcome ceremony will be organized in Raj Bhavan in the evening along with flag hoisting. For this, the officers of the concerned department should dis-

charge their responsibilities with caution and make the program a success. It was decided in the meeting that arrangements for the arrival and entry of the guests during the reception would be made jointly by the Superintendent of Police, Raipur and the Chief Security Officer, Raj Bhavan. The distribution of invitation letters for the function and the arrangements for bringing and taking back the freedom

fighters to the Raj Bhavan will be made by Collector Raipur, Commissioner Municipal Corporation was given the responsibility of cleanliness of Raj Bhavan premises and roads, arrangement of colourful flags, Horticulture Department was given the responsibility of cleaning ornamental plants and lawns. During the ceremony, traffic, security and law and order will be done by the Collector and Superintendent of Police. On this occasion, officers and employees of Raj Bhavan and Raipur Collectorate, Municipal Corporation, PWD, Electricity, Horticulture, AYUSH departments were present.

Junior doctors meet health minister amid indefinite strike

Singhdeo justifies the demands, writes a letter to CM

Raipur, Jan 23: Junior doctors met Health Minister TS Singhdeo amid indefinite strike, demanding increase in scholarship. During this, they informed Singhdeo that the scholarship of junior doctors in Chhattisgarh is very less as compared to other states. The demand to increase it has been made for years, but the government has not taken any action till now. During the discussion, Health Minister TS Singhdeo justified the demands



of junior doctors. He has written a letter to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to hike the scholarship. At the same time, by writing a letter to the Health Secretary, instructions have been given to take action on this under the rules. On this occasion, Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnu Dutt, Dean of Raipur Medical College Dr.

Trupti Nagriya were present. It is notable that 3,000 junior doctors of all government medical colleges across the state, including 650 of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, are on an indefinite strike since January 19. Due to their going on strike, the treatment of patients in the hospitals is getting affected. To make arrangements, the medical

college management has imposed the duty of senior doctors, but due to the problem of human resources, adequate arrangements have not been made. In OPD where treatments are being affected, surgeries have also reduced. The date is also being extended for major surgeries in hospitals.

Dr. Prem Chowdhary, president of the Junior Doctors Association, said, the Health Minister has justified the demand. He has assured that he will take action on this soon but we need solid assurance. He said that strike will continue until the demand is not met.

Man arrested in connection with incident of murder of a contractor

Raipur, Jan 23: Police have arrested a person from Ramkund area of Azad Chowk in connection with the incident of murder of a contractor in Ram Nagar area of Gudiary. According to information available Jairam Dhruv was wanted by the police in incident of murder of the contractor. He was at large after allegedly murdering a contractor named Dhaneshwar Prasad Pal with knives in broad daylight in Ramnagar area of Gudiary. Deceased Dhaneshwar

Prasad Pal was a contractor. Jairam's niece was playing with the children. Meanwhile, the contractor scolded Jairam's niece on something. Dispute cropping up with Jairam forbidding the contractor from scolding his niece soon led to contractor's murder. During interrogation Jairam admitted his involvement in murder incident in June 2021 in Seoni village of Mandir Hasaud. Jairam also admitted his involvement in connection with recovery of the dead body of Gudiary resident Rajeshwar

Sahu. Rajeshwar Sahu's body was found in the canal.

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24 जनवरी 2023

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- **बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना -**
बच्चों के जन्म के समय लिंग चयन तथा विभेद को समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से योजना प्रदेश के दो जिलों रायगढ़ एवं बीजापुर में संचालित। इसका विस्तार प्रदेश के सभी जिलों में किया जा रहा है।
- **नोनी सुरक्षा योजना -**
पात्र बालिकाओं हेतु 5 वर्ष तक प्रतिवर्ष रु. 5,000 /-, कुल रु. 25,000 /- विनियोजित, 18 वर्ष की आयु एवं 12 वी की शिक्षा पर रु. 1.00 लाख की सहायता राशि देय, योजना अंतर्गत 36 हजार से अधिक बालिकाओं को लाभ।
- **प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना -**
सामाजिक, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर परिवार को प्रथम बच्चे के जन्म पर रु. 5,000 /- की सहायता तथा 01 अप्रैल 2022 के उपरांत जन्मी द्वितीय बालिका संतान हेतु रु. 6,000 /- की सहायता, अब तक प्रदेश में 7,66,000 से अधिक महिलाओं को लाभ दिया गया है।
- **शुचिता योजना -**
शासकीय शालाओं / महाविद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत बालिकाओं को स्वच्छ एवं कम लागत का सेनेटरी नेपकिन सुगमता से उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से अब तक 3697 स्कूलों में संचालित।
- **किशोरी बालिका योजना -**
14 से 18 वर्ष की शाला त्यागी एवं शाला जाने वाली बालिकाओं को जीवन कौशल प्रशिक्षण एवं स्वास्थ्य सुविधा प्रदान करने तथा पोषण स्तर में सकारात्मक सुधार लाने हेतु टेक होम राशन प्रदाय किए जाने के उद्देश्य से योजना संचालित। दर्ज संख्या- 2,17,784
- **मिशन वात्सल्य -**
योजना अंतर्गत प्रदेश में बाल देखरेख संस्थाओं का संचालन कुल 16 बालिका गृह संचालित है।

श्रीमती अनिला भेड़िया
मान. मंत्री, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग

Education necessary for societal change: Baghel

Announcement of Swami Atmanand English School in Tarpongi and Barbanda, Rs 30 lakh for building in Tivaraya and for installation of a statue of 'Swami Atmanand' in Zero Point Assembly

CM attends conference of Chhattisgarh Manwa Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj



dreams. Along with this, he stated that education is essential for societal development. Our administration is working hard to ensure that children receive a high-quality education. During his address to the program, he stated that numerous plans are being launched to improve the economic status of the state's farmers. The government is dedicated to paying farmers a fair price for their produce. Farmers receive Rs 9,000 per acre under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Similarly, the Godhan Nyay Yojana provides advantages to the locals. Cow dung is being obtained to aid cattle rearers as well. Females in Gauthans are producing vermicompost. Farmers should make the most of it. This will improve the soil's quality as

well as the crop's quality. Swami Atmanand English medium schools are being opened in every village of the state to provide education to the children in English medium. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced Swami Atmanand English Schools at Tarpongi and Barbanda, while an amount of Rs 30 lakh for building at Tivaraya, and for the installation of Swami Atmanand's statue at Zero Point Assembly. Dharsinwa MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma, former Rajya Sabha MP Mrs. Chhaya Verma, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Text Book Corporation Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State

Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, former MLA Janakram Verma, Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure, SSP Prashant Agarwal along with other public representatives and office bearers of the society were present. Meanwhile, while addressing the gathering, the Central President of Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj, Chow Ram Verma, stated that we are glad that our Chief Minister is a descendant of the Kurmi community and that the leader of this state shares the same clan with our community. In addition, he expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire Kurmi community and the backward classes for granting the backward classes a 27 percent reservation.

Menstrual hygiene awareness campaign held

Amarkanthak, Jan 23:

The Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in collaboration with Pranam Narmada Yuva Sangh (P R A N Y U S), Amarkanthak, has organized a menstrual hygiene awareness campaign, "BLED WITH DIGNITY" inside the university campus. The programme mainly intent to sensitize the students regarding menstrual hygiene. This campaign also aims to know the level of knowledge each individual has about the menstrual cycle and Pre-Menstrual Syndrome. The MSW students emphasized to break the stereotypes prevalent in the society towards menstruation and to talk openly about periods.



being running for the last two years by the collaborating organisation PRANYUS in which regional tribal women are given awareness regarding menstruation and women health through many awareness programmes. The activities undertaken by the Bled with Dignity campaign

are of sharing self-stories, quiz competition, selfie stand, red dot challenge and fundraising for pad donation to rural females. The boys who have never ever bought pads to females were given tasks to gift a sanitary pad to unknown girl. Prof. Shri Prakash

Mani Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of IGNTU, has addressed the programme. He said that, menstruation is the gift of god given to women, so that she can bear a child in her womb. Prof. Rajesh Singh Vice Chancellor of DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Dr.Sumita Singh the Director of Agricultural Statistics, Mrs. Sheela Tripathi, President of Shree Sheel Mandal association, Mr. P. Siluvainathan Registrar of IGNTU, have joined hands in the initiative and given a speech on healthy women is everyone's responsibility. Young women and men should openly talk about this, leaving all the shyness behind. Dr. Krishnamani Bhagabati and Dr. Divya K also spoke at this event.

MSW student selected as Management Trainee

At SECL

Amarkanthak, Jan 23: Shikhar Singh Chouhan, an MSW student of the Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkanthak, Madhya Pradesh has been selected as a Management Trainee (MT) at South-East Coal



Limited (SECL), Road, Chhattisgarh,

Chouhan, who has recently joined his duty is the first student of the Department to secure a permanent job at a PSU. He has also qualified UGC-NET in Social Work in the December 2022 cycle. A resident of Pedra

Chouhan was a student of the 5th Batch MSW (2022-22). The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi, in a recent community extension program of the Department, felicitated him. The Department takes immense pride in the success of Chouhan and wishes him all the best in future endeavors.

CM Baghel pays homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose



On his birth anniversary

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the great freedom fighter and founder of Azad Hind Fauj, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 126th birth anniversary by offering flowers on his picture at his residential office today. During this Rajya Sabha MP, Phulo Devi Netam was also present. On this occasion, Chief Minister Baghel stated

that slogans such as "Tum Mujhe Khoon do, Main Tumhe Azadi Dunga," "Jai Hind," and "Dilli Chalo" of the great leader, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, 'has given the freedom movement a fresh vigor. These slogans have worked to energize citizens. His Azad Hind Fauj played an important role in the freedom struggle. Netaji represents the ideal of all Indians. His sacrifice, suffering, and vital commitment to the fight for liberty will never be forgotten.

Free treatment, Panchakarma process, and medicine distribution being done

To elders in 'Sian Jatan Clinic Scheme'

In the last 4 years, 6 lakh 19 thousand 52 persons got registered for treatment in OPD.

Rajnandgaon, Jan 23: The District's Ayurveda Department treats patients via several government programs. Because of the busy pace of life, the general population is becoming more interested in Ayurveda and Yoga for the treatment of stress, insomnia, and other diseases. As the government intended, the Ayurveda Department continues to provide medical services in the district. Ayush Polynic, 1 Ayush Wing, 3 Specialized Therapy Centers, 23 Ayurveda Dispensaries, and 2 Homeopathy Dispensaries make up the district's total of 30 Ayush centers. The National Ayush Mission organises



district and block-level camps. The value of the AYUSH method and the inauguration of the camp are explained by the people's representatives. Patients are being treated and medicines are being delivered at the camp using Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, and Unani methods. 14 thousand 117 patients have been treated in the development block

level camp Churiya over the last four years. 6 lakh 19 thousand 52 people have registered for OPD therapy. From April 2022, the Sian Jatan Clinic Yojana will provide free care, Panchakarma, and medicine distribution to the elderly on every Thursday of the month. Twenty thousand 525 people have registered for treatment at the OPD. In addition to this,

Ayushdeep sub-committee operates in six AYUSH centers in the Rajnandgaon district. Ayushdeep Committee organises free health camps, supplies medicines to Ayush centers, and provides various facilities such as furniture and other contingency materials. The Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Yojana imposes duties on officers and workers of AYUSH centers. In which allopathy and Ayush medicine are used to treat and distribute medicines to the people coming in Haat Bazar. In the district, 16 Ayurveda dispensaries are being established and operated as Ayush Health & Wellness Centers. Yoga instructors mandate individuals to do yoga every day, in addition to offering unique medical services. Doctors cure diseases, and medicines are supplied for free. This year this committee has provided treatment to many people and no of people registered for OPD was 3 lakh 40 thousand 808.

65 silver coins of Mughal era, other antiquities found



Rajnandgaon, Jan 23: A total of 65 silver coins of the Mughal era have been found kept in a pot, during the digging for laying water pipeline work in Village Bazar-Navagaon (Gram Panchayat Badgaon-Charbhatha) under Dongargaon development block of Rajnandgaon district. According to antique experts, these coins of the Mughal period date back to about 1700-1800 AD. Apart from this, 3 tiger-shaped rings of mixed metal and 2 bracelets of mixed metal have also been found. The work was being done under the 'Nal Jal Yojana'. Dongargaon Sub Divisional Officer Sunil Nayak said that the departmental team including Dr. Pratap Chand Parakh, deputy director, Dr. Vrishottam Sahu, ex-

cavation assistant, and Dr. Rajeev Minj and Dongargaon SDO under the direction of Vivek Acharya, Director Archaeology, Archives And Museums, Raipur inspected the site concerned and antiquities deposited to Dongargaon police station in-charge Shri Bareth. In a bid to preserve these antiquities, action is being taken to keep the same in Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum, Raipur. The Director of Culture and Archeology Department Acharya told that prima facie the silver coins found seem to be from the period of Mughal ruler Ahmad Shah Bahadur, which were minted in Cuttack. The script inscribed on the coins is Arabic-Persian.

Dashapal Panchayat building inaugurated



Bhond, Jan 23: MLA Shri Laksheshwar Baghel here inaugurated the Dashapal Panchayat building in Gram Panchayat Dashapal of Bakavand development block. In his address during the ceremony he said that Mahatma Gandhi considered himself a villager and had set-

tled in the village itself and to fulfill the needs of the village, he had established many institutions and tried his best to improve the physical, economic, social and moral condition of the villagers Mr. Baghel also told the villagers that the Gram Panchayat Development Plan is

a one-year plan for the development and basic services of the village, which is prepared by the Sarpanch, the Panch and the villagers together, keeping in mind the needs of the citizens and their priorities in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan with the available resources. Sarpanch Raghunath Kashyap, Ramesh Madhavani, Fisherman District President Madhunishad, Joint Secretary Virendra Sethia, Rural District General Secretary Vimal Bisai, Sarpanch Budru Ram, Tamen Bisai, NSUI President Nandu Bisai, Bahadur, Sada Bisai, Gopi Singh Thakur, Burdabai, Rajesh Kumar, workers and villagers were present.



Dental check up camp at Columbia Global School

Raipur, Jan 23: Columbia Global School organized a session on Study Techniques and Mind Power for the students of Grades 9 to 12 by JCI (Junior Chamber International, Raipur Chapter). The Guest speakers for the day were Santosh Dubey - a Zonal Trainer for JCI, who has an experience of more than 15 years enlightened the students with the different studying techniques to make them stress free during these examinations. Vikash Goel, a renowned psychologist, and a National Trainer for JCI who holds an experience of over 8 years inspired students to channelise their energy in a constructive way.



Dubey shared many study techniques related to reading practices with the students to help improve their performance. Along with it, he gave them many tips on time management and stress management, during the

examinations. Goel encouraged students to find a purpose in their life to be successful. It was an interactive session for the students. On this occasion, Director Ravinder Singh Hura, Principal Ivan Smith, Coordinator Ms. Amanpreet Kaur Saini along with the teachers were present. The school also organized a dental check-up and awareness camp on the school campus for all the pre primary students. Renowned dentists from Om Sai Dental Care Hospital Dr. Amit Poptani

and Dr. Amit Kukreja carried out a comprehensive dental check-up of students of Nursery, KG I and II classes. The tiny tots got a chance to interact with the dentists to enquire and gain knowledge concerning oral diseases. They got valuable tips and lessons from both doctors to maintain dental health and to brush their teeth twice a day. On completion of the dental check-up each student was given a kid's tooth paste, Dental Report Card with a summary of the diagnosis.

Congress Govt forgot the promise of liquor ban: Vikram Dhurve

Dallirajhara: BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha District President Balod and MP representative Vikram Dhurve has alleged the State Government regarding liquor ban. Vikram Dhurve said that at the time of the 2018 assembly elections, the Congress had taken an oath on Gangajal and said that when our government is formed, prohibition will be implemented, but after the elections, the results came in favor of the Congress and the promise was withheld. Vikram Dhurve accused the Congress government of backtracking and said that the payment of two years' outstanding bonus is pending as according to the manifesto, the announcement of giving pension to those above the age of 60 is also incomplete. The daily wage workers of the state were not regularized, he said and the government has forgotten Mahtari Samman Yojana, Widow Pension Scheme, by promising unemployment allowance of Rs 2500 to the youth. He said that the countdown has begun for the Congress government which has completed four years of terror, injustice, atrocities and corruption.



Rousing welcome to Pavan Ratre

At airport

Raipur, Jan 23: Adivasi Congress Bhavani Singh Markam offered rousing welcome to Pavan Ratre on his arrival at mana airport. Ratre has been appointed National

Coordinator of AICC SC Cell by AICC. While welcoming Ratre at the airport present among those present were Parakash Markande, G h a n s h y a m Vishwakarma, Raju Deharia, Parru Baghel, Amit Giri, Sohail Khan and others.

New office bearers of Linesh Club sworn-in



Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 23: The oath ceremony of Linesh Club (Lakshya) was held in a private hotel and in this as officer and area officer Linesh Nirmala Dhruv and advisor Shobha were invited for the oath ceremony. On this occasion Kavita Thadani was administered oath for the post of President;

Suman Soni for secretary and Gulab Dwivedi for the post of Treasurer.

In addition to this other office bearers for the post of Asst. Secretary, Vice Presidents and others were also administered oath. The chief guest in this oath ceremony was Pendra Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan. In his address he said that

'Murrum' on roads causing vehicles to slip

In road construction from Dongargarh to Jevartala

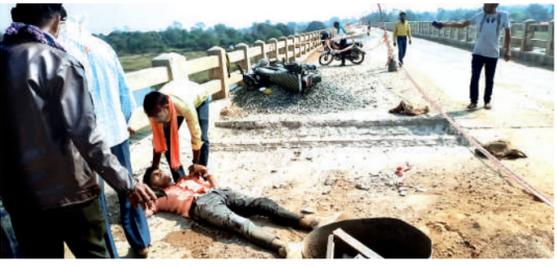
Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 23: The road construction work from Dongargarh to Jevartala route and bridge repair work in Khujji is causing inordinate delay to passer-by due to series of pot-holes and uneven surface, reducing their speed.

It is also causing minor incidents of people falling off from their vehicles and suffering from

injuries, especially the women. It is notable here that there are many spots from Matia to Khujji where many accidents are taking place on daily basis.

ADB department in its road construction work is using 'Murrum' in the solder filling work and now this 'murrum' has come to streets. Since it has not been removed for last many days, 'murrum' has spread on the road and acting as slip-



pery for vehicle.

On Jan 21, Mohan Mandavi along with his mother Dulari Bai was going from Jongara to Rajnandgaon, but his vehicle slipped on 'murrum' granules and both of

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Jan 23: Chief Guest MLA Bemetera Ashish Chabda took part in the 'Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan' organised in Gram Panchayat Kateli of Berla area here on Sunday.

He garlanded the photo of Lord Shri Ram and sought blessings for peace & prosperity of all in the region. On this occasion MLA dedicated a community building constructed at the cost of Rs 4 lakh in Kateli with contribution from MLA's funds.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Ashish Chabda said that it is an auspicious day that religious discourse on 'Ramayan' is being organised through this 'Manas Manch' and

PO small saving account campaign till Jan 28

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Jan 23: A saving account campaign in post offices is being organised by Indian Postal Department Raipur division from Jan 23-28 and it was inaugurated on Jan 23. Under this people are being provided information about various schemes of the Postal Department and would be motivated to open saving account in the Post office and to make them apprise about how this saving comes handy during any crisis. Recently the central government has increased

Listening 'Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan' makes life blissful: MLA

Attends 'Navdha Ramayana sammelan' in Gram Kateli



everybody should take advantage of the same.

It is an honour for all that we all are getting to hear the excerpts from the Epic Ramayan based upon the life and struggle of Lord Shri Ram. In this area, Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan is being organised in different villages of the region, he

added.

Speaking further MLA Ashish Chabda said that 'Aahand Navdha Ramayan' is basis of Chhattisgarhi culture and it is organised in every village for last many years.

Lord Shri Ram through his feelings of love, generosity and equality has fulfilled different roles as

Lord Shri Ram resides in every person and it is just by recalling his name only that one can attain true bliss and happiness. Ramayan is an Indian epic and 'Amrit Katha', which teaches a person to follow on the path shown by Lord Shri Ram and inspires a person to live a better life.

On this occasion Shakuntala Mangat Sahu, President Nagar Palika Parishad Bemetera, Lukesh Verma, President BCC Bemetera, Dayasingh Verma, member Mandi Board, Mahesh Verma, Sarpanch, Mithilesh Verma, member rep, Janpad Panchayat Bemetera, Maoj Sharma 'Sabhapati', Bodhan Sahu, Rashmi Mishra and others.

Cultural program concludes in Bharat Dewangan HSS



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Jan 23: A colorful cultural program was organized grandly in Bharat Dewangan Government Higher Secondary School. Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Premejai Singh Tekam, Minister of School Education, Government of Chhattisgarh.

The program was presided over by MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, Domeshwari Verma, District Panchayat

President, Raipur, Arvind Dewangan, President, School Management and Development Committee, Ishwari Prasad Dewangan, Founding Member, Asha Yadav, Child Protection Commission, were the special guests.

The chief guest said in his address that as soon as one reaches the school premises, the clean environment and greenery here fascinates the mind and the proverbs written at various places in the school inspire us. MLA

Anita Yogendra Sharma, president of the program, said in a motivational speech that the students of this school always pass the board examination by getting good marks; therefore students should pay more attention to their career building.

Mementos and flower pots were presented to the guests on behalf of the school family. Principal Rajani Minz, Domar Yadav, Rajni Tripathi, Shweta Sharma, Riti Rani Verma and others were present.

CEO Janpad Panchayat conducts inspection



Take trial of boating in 'Sarbahara'

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 23: A trial of boating in Smriti Vatika under construction in Sarbahara of Gourela was done on Friday, as there are plans for its dedication on

January 26.

As per instructions by the Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary, CEO Janpad Pachayat Gourela Dr Sanjay Sharma conducted inspection of all the works going on in Smriti Vatika and took trial of boating as well. He also held meeting with all

the members of Samiti of Smriti Vatika to ensure its smooth functioning.

On this occasion NRSL District Mission Manager Durgashankar Soni, Amol Pathak, Sarbahara Panchayats Panchs and officers and employees from Janpad Panchayat Gourela were present.

आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को एवद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है जोगेन्द्र साहू पिता स्व. उरत साहू निवासी कविलास नगर, भनपुरी, तहसील रायपुर, जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) ने विकेटा मदन लाल शर्मा पिता सुदामा शर्मा निवासी भनपुरी, तहसील व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) से ग्राम-भनपुरी, बंजारी माता बार्ड, प.ह.नं. 05, रा. नि.म. रायपुर-1, तहसील रायपुर जिला रायपुर में स्थित है। जिसका खसरा नं. 69/24 का भाग रुकना 500 वर्गफुट है को उप पंजीकृत कार्यालय रायपुर में विक्रय विलेख के माध्यम से दिनांक 03/09/2007 को पुरस्कृत क्र. अ-1, ग्रन्थ क्र. 37550, पृष्ठ 11 से 20 दर्तावेज क्र. 1962 ख. विकर उप पंजीकृत कार्यालय रायपुर में पंजीकृत किया गया है जिसकी मूल प्रति कहीं गुम हो गई है जिसकी सूचना थाना क्षेत्र खतारदई थाना में दी जा चुकी है। यह कि उपरोक्त सम्यक्ति को जोगेन्द्र साहू पिता स्व. उरत साहू द्वारा UGRO Capital रायपुर में ऋण हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है जो कि विचारार्थ है।

अतः उपरोक्त संव्यवहार से जिस किसी व्यक्ति, संस्था, बैंक, शासकीय एवं अर्द्धशासकीय निकाय इत्यादि को कोई उजर, दावा या आपत्ति हो तो इस आम सूचना प्रकाशन के 7 दिवस (सात दिवस) के भीतर मय दर्तावेज के साथ लिखित आपत्ति नोटी लिखे पते पर प्रस्तुत करें, समायाधि परतल बैंक के पक्ष में सामयिक बैंक कर लिया जावेगा एवं बाद में भी यदि आपत्ति अवैध व शून्य मानी जाएगी तथा मेरे पक्षकार पर बंधनकारी नहीं होगा। सो सूचना जाने रायपुर छ.ग.

दिनांक 23/01/2023 भवदीय आशीष कुमार शर्मा (अधि.) सी-33, सैक-1, देवेन्द्र नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Smt. Jaspal Kaur Bhatiya W/o Balbeer Singh, R/o Nagar Balod, Mohalla Jawaharpara, Ward No. 11, Tehsil & Dist. Balod (C.G.) has purchased a piece and parcel of land bearing khasra no. 530/15 area 0.017 hectare situated at Nagar Balod, Ward No. 11, Jawahar Ward, P.H.No. 06, R.M. Balod, Tehsil & Dist. Balod (C.G.), property under the boundaries of Nagar Palika Balod, from (1) Alok Kumar, (2) Vinay Kumar both S/o Late Balm Sahu, vide registered sale deed dated 11.07.2022. The said Alok Kumar & Vinay Kumar both had purchased the said property from Churaman Lal S/o Devsingh, vide registered sale deed dated 14.02.2012, the said Churaman Lal had purchased the said property from Dhanwan D/o Bisambhar vide registered sale deed dated 16.01.2009. The said deeds executed between (1) Alok Kumar & Vinay Kumar AND Churaman Lal dated 14.02.2012, (2) Churaman Lal AND Dhanwan dated 16.01.2009 was in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report has been lodged against the lost registered deeds on dated 20.01.2023. If the said lost registered sale deeds dated 14.02.2012 & 16.01.2009 is found by anybody, it is requested that the said deeds be handed over to my staff in my office. Any person having any right, title or interest or any claim, demand or objection of any nature whatsoever against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which no such claims, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained thereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances.

Date-21.01.2023

Subhro Chakravorty (Advocate)
For Ashwin Singh & Associates
12, Nagar Nigam Parisar, Supela, Bhalai, Durg (C.G.) | Mob. 9302887265

AFFIDAVIT

Shyam Sunder S/O Narayan Singh Age 42 years resident of - Village Telgara Teh-Charama Dist- North Bastar kanker CG. I, hereby declare that:-

- In fact, I work in the army department 21 Years in Uttaranchal Army no. 4198555H, NAYAK SHYAM SUNDER, 19 kumaon. And my son HIMANSHU RAJAK is born on 21.03.2004. Twenty one March two Thousand four Which is correct and true.
- That my Army service book record son's date of birth is 22.07.2005 is twenty two July two Thousand five, this is incorrect by mistake.
- That on the basis of my present time my son date of birth is 22.07.2005 on my service book record. Improves it and praise the right date of birth 21-03-2004 to be marked presented for what comes in handy.

Place- Kanker Date- 18-01-2023

VERIFICATION

I, Shyam Sunder S/O Narayan Singh Resident of - Village Telgara Teh- Charama Dist- North Bastar kanker CG. do solemnly verify that the facts mentioned in paragraphs 01 to 06 of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

Smt. Geeta Rajak husband Shyam Sunder Age 40 years Resident of - Village Telgara Teh- Charama Dist- North Bastar kanker CG. I, hereby declare that:-

- That my name and address is as above. Which is correct and true.
- This is my husband Army no. 4198555H, NAYAK SHYAM SUNDER, father Narayan Singh Village- Telgara Teh- Charama Dist- North Bastar kanker CG. doing job in army department 21 Years in Uttaranchal 19 kumaon.
- That in the service book record of my husband my name is Geeta Bai husband Shyam Sunder, this is incorrect by mistake.
- That my name in my husband army service book record should be corrected as Geeta Bai husband Shyam Sunder by mistake and correct name Smt. Geeta Rajak husband Mr. Shyam Sunder.

Place- Kanker Date- 18-01-2023

VERIFICATION

I, Smt. Geeta Rajak husband Shyam Sunder Resident of - Village Telgara Teh- Charama Dist- North Bastar kanker CG. do solemnly verify that the facts mentioned in paragraphs 01 to 06 of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Deponent

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public that the original Sale Deed dated 28/04/2016 is registered in the office of Sub-registrar Raipur Vide Book No A/1, Volume No. 70477, Serial No. 496 (HQ), Page No. 01 to 16 executed by Avinash Developers Pvt. Ltd. through Director Shri Mukesh Singhania S/O Shri Nareesh Singhania R/O Geeta Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Dr. Gurpreet Kour W/O Dr. Shri Prajwal Soni R/O Anurima Niwas, Thakur Para, Purani Basti, Raipur (C.G.) for Plot No. H-03, Area 1500 Sq. Ft., Situated at Village- Khapri, P. C. No. 18, RIC- Mandir Hasund, New Raipur, Tahsil - Arang, Dist. Raipur (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/misplaced by Owner Dr. Gurpreet Kour W/O Dr. Shri Prajwal Soni R/O Anurima Niwas, Thakur Para, Purani Basti, Raipur (C.G.). The FIR has been placed for lost of the above said Sale deed by the owner.

Now Dr. Gurpreet Kour has sale the above mentioned property so hereby invites claims & objections, if any, for the mortgage, Sale, Guarantee of the above said property within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur Dated 23/01/2023

Vijay Shankar Tiwari Advocate 779, "Gauri - Kesar Kunj", Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) Phone 0771-2242945, Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public that the original Sale Deed dated 30/08/2011 is registered in the office of Sub-registrar Raipur Vide Book No A/1, Volume No. 51887, Serial No. 2697, Page No. 45 to 56 executed by G. K. Colanizer & Builders through Director Shri Suresh Allani S/O Shri Golaram Allani R/O Ashoka Milenium, Ring Road No. 1, New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Dr. Gurpreet Kour S/O Late Shri Manindar Pal Singh R/O 61, Moti Lal Nehru Nagar, Bhalai, Durg (C.G.) for Old Part of C. No. 410/1, 411/1-2-3, As per Bhuiyan records Kh. No. 15006/26, Plot No. C-47, Area 1815 Sq. Ft., Situated at Romanesqu Villa, Labhandhi, Maharshi Valmiki Ward No. 28, P. C. No. 113/44, RIC- Raipur, Tahsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/misplaced by Owner Dr. Gurpreet Kour D/O Late Manindar Pal Singh R/O 61 Moti Lal Nehru Nagar, Bhalai, Durg (C.G.). The FIR has been placed for lost of the above said Sale deed by the owner.

Now Dr. Gurpreet Kour has sale the above mentioned property so hereby invites claims & objections, if any, for the mortgage, Sale, Guarantee of the above said property within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur Dated 23/01/2023

Vijay Shankar Tiwari Advocate 779, "Gauri - Kesar Kunj", Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) Phone 0771-2242945, Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

AXIS BANK LTD.
Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, and Mumbai - 400025.

APPENDIX-IV
[Rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS:
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AXIS BANK LTD., Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued, a demand notice, dated 11.04.2022 calling upon the borrowers viz. 1.) MR. KULDEEP BALCHANDRA SHARMA (alias) MR. KULDEEP SHARMA S/O SHRI BHALCHANDRA SHARMA (Borrower) 2.) MR. DIBYENDU MALTY (alias) MR. DIBYENDU NARAYANCHANDR MAITI (GUARANTOR) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 21,61,348 (Twenty One Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight ONLY) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013903228897 due as on 11.04.2022, being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till 11.04.2022) and further interest thereon, till the date of payment.

The borrowers and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 19th day of January of the year 2023.

The borrowers and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AXIS BANK LTD. for an amount Rs. 21,61,348 (Twenty One Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight ONLY) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013903228897 due as on 11.04.2022, being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till 11.04.2022) and further interest thereon, till the date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE SECURED IMMOVABLE ASSETS

APARTMENT NO.205 2ND FLOOR BLOCK -G AVINASH PRIDE VILLAGE - JARVAJ (HEERAPUR) WARD NO-1 VEER SAWARKAR NAGAR, TEHSILAND DIST -RAIPUR C.G BOUNDARIES- NORTH: OPEN SPACE SOUTH: CORRIDOR EAST: FLAT NO-G 206 WEST: FLAT NO.G-204

Date- 24.01.2023
Place- Raipur

Subhish Krishnan Kutty
Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd

APPENDIX IV
[See rule 8 (1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(for immovable property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED ("EARC") (CIN:U67100MH2007PLC174759), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 18.12.2021 calling upon the Borrowers MOHD SIDDIQUE MEMON ; B-17 MARUTI RESIDENCY, MALIDIH RAIPUR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, MOHD SIDDIQUE MEMON ; SHYAM SQUERE LIC BUILDING NEAR SHYAM MARKET PANDRI RAIPUR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, SANNABAR MEMON ; B-17 MARUTI RESIDENCY, MALIDIH RAIPUR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, BIJI REJY ; AKASH VIHAR COLONY, BEHIND ASHOKA HOGHTS, WARD NO.-27, MOWA RAIPUR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.33,09,622.87 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two and Paise Eighty Seven Only) as on 29.11.2021 against Loan Account No. HHLRPPR00329487 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 19.01.2023.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited as Trustee of EARC Trust - SC 439 for an amount Rs.33,09,622.87 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two and Paise Eighty Seven Only) as on 29.11.2021 and interest thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

KH. NO. 507/15, 508/16, PH. NO. 109/39, EARD NO. 27, MOUJA AMAN NAGAR, TAHsil & DIST RAIPUR CHHATTISGARH, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Date : 19.01.2023
Place: RAIPUR

Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
Trustee of EARC Trust - SC 439

BRIEF



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde pays tribute to Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray on his birth anniversary, in Mumbai, Monday.

Suicide

Jabalpur: A 43-year-old Indian Army colonel allegedly committed suicide by hanging at a training centre in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city, police said on Monday. The body of Colonel Nishith Khanna, posted as Commanding Officer in the 1-Technical Training Regiment (TTR), was found hanging from a ceiling fan in a room of the officers' mess in the One Signal Training Centre at around 10.30 pm on Sunday, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Priyanka Shukla said.

Booked

Saharanpur: A case has been registered against 12 policemen on the orders of the court over the death of a man in an alleged encounter with police in the Deoband area here, police said on Monday. According to the police, on September 5, 2021, an encounter took place between a police team and alleged cattle smugglers in Thithiki village under the Deoband police station area.

Inspect

Chennai: A Ministerial delegation from Tamil Nadu visited Kottayam in Kerala on Monday and inspected the Periyar memorial at Vaikom that reminisces the historic struggle and its connection with the Dravidian movement. Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports Minister E V Velu, accompanied by Information Minister M P Saminathan, said with the centenary of Vaikom sathyagraha coming up next year, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is likely to unveil plans to commemorate the event.

Indefinite strike

Ranchi: After contractual health employees, more than 42,000 Sahiyas (ASHA workers) from across Jharkhand went on indefinite strike from Monday demanding a hike in their remuneration. Sahiyas, who help mobilize the community and facilitate in access health and health related services such as immunization, antenatal check-up, post-natal check-up and others in rural areas, are demanding a hike in their remuneration.

Arrest

Chandigarh: Punjab police have arrested 255 people in the last one month for allegedly selling banned "Chinese manjha" or synthetic kite strings. The state police is cracking down on the sale of banned 'Chinese manjha' following a spate of unfortunate incidents during kite flying competitions.

Arms syndicate busted ahead of R-Day

● **Two held**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Ahead of Republic Day, the Delhi Police has busted an arms syndicate by arresting two men and recovering 34 pistols from their possession, officials said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Naved Rana (21) and Saleem (39), both residents Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh, they said. The consignment of firearms was supposed to be delivered to a member of the Gogi gang, police said. The police got a tip-off on January 13 and conducted a raid at a place on

the Delhi-Jammu Road in Narela and nabbed Rana who had 10 pistols in his possession.

The police then identified Rana's source — Saleem — who was arrested on Friday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

Based on the inputs given by Saleem, an illegal arms manufacturing unit was busted and huge cache of firearms and tools were recovered on Saturday from a sugarcane field at Kandhla village in Shamli district, the DCP said. A total of 24 finished single shot country-made pistols, six semi-finished automatic pistols, 10

body screws of country-made pistols, 20 freshly-cut barrels, one old barrel etc were recovered, Singh said. Rana told the police that his brother Asif is presently lodged in the Muzaffarnagar Jail of Uttar Pradesh in connection with various criminal cases, officials said.

He was informed about Saleem by Asif. He used to obtain illegal firearms and ammunition from Saleem and used to supply them at various places in Delhi-NCR and UP to members of crime syndicates, police said. Saleem has been involved in illegal firearms manufacturing and trading for last 10 years, police said.

Before 2012-13, he was in contact of various illegal arm dealers of western UP, but was not involved in any kind of illegal activity. Gradually, he learnt how to manufacture illegal firearms and ammunition and started his own set up at his home, police said.

Thereafter, he started supplying such firearms locally and also got associated with one Mukeem Kala gang, they said.

In 2015, he was booked in four criminal cases, including a rioting case, registered at the Kandhla police station. In the riot case, he was involved in setting a police station on fire along with many others, police said.

IIT Delhi's innovation hub to train students from over 100 schools

● **In robotics**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

IIT Delhi's Technology Innovation Hub will train class 9 and 10 students from more than 100 schools in the national capital in robotics during bootcamps, officials said on Monday.

IHFC (I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics), the technology innovation hub of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here will conduct the bootcamps which will be supported by its incubated startups — Rancho Labs and The Innovation Story.

"So far, over 800 students have benefited from 26 such bootcamps conducted during the last couple of weeks. The focus of these bootcamps is to encourage young minds to apply their skills and de-

velop robots in teams. The bootcamps will train students not only on the basics of robotics but also how to use robotics in everyday life," said SK Saha, Project Director at IHFC.

"It's incredible to see the overwhelming response from Delhi schools to the bootcamps, as well as the interest generated among students for the league.

"These young minds are our future, and we need to direct their brilliance in the right direction of ideation, conceptualisation, and creation of robots and their future possibilities at this age," Saha added.

The Delhi Robotics League (DRL), 2023 is open to all Delhi Schools and schools across all boards in Delhi are eligible to participate. The registration deadline is January 26.

'Attempts made to forget Netaji, our effort to honour him'



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah addresses at the naming ceremony of 21 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, in Andaman & Nicobar, Monday.

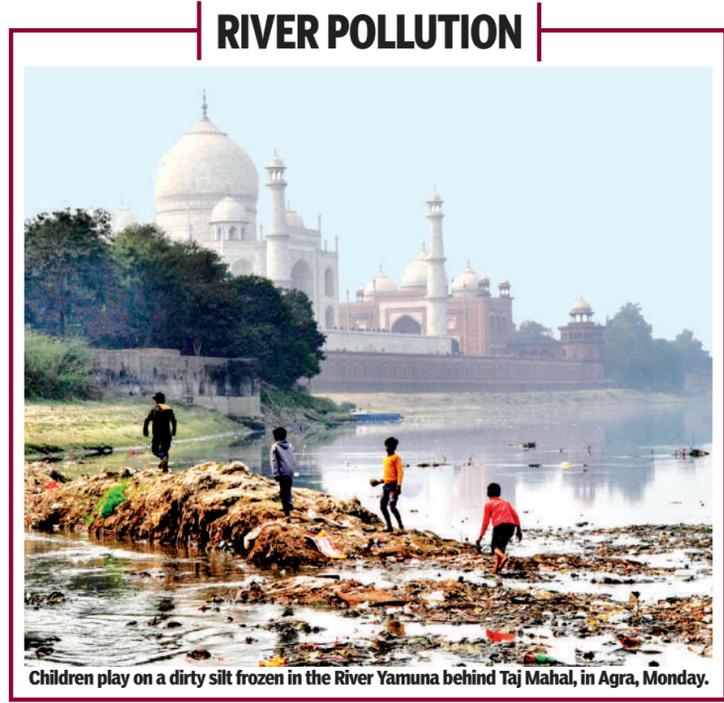
Port Blair, Jan 23 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday lamented that attempts were made to ensure Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gets forgotten, but the Narendra Modi government has taken sever-

al initiatives such as the setting up of a memorial in Andamans to honour his legacy.

Shah is on a visit here to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Addressing a gathering



Children play on a dirty silt frozen in the River Yamuna behind Taj Mahal, in Agra, Monday.

RIVER POLLUTION

'SHAKTI' TURNS 50

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, guitarist John McLaughlin to perform

● **On Jan 28**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Commemorating its 50th anniversary, the iconic Indo-Jazz fusion band "Shakti" — comprising legendary guitarist John McLaughlin, tabla player Zakir Hussain, vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopal and percussionist V Selvagesh — is all set to perform here in the national capital on January 28.

The much-awaited music concert, ready to enthrall the audience at Jawahar Lal Nehru indoor weightlifting auditorium, is widely presented by organisers as an 'east-meets-west musical confluence'. It is produced by live entertainment platform Paytm Insider.

"The band is returning to perform after three

years, and we are certain that the supergroup will sweep music lovers off their feet in an 'east-meets-west musical confluence'. We're so stoked to be a part of their 50th year tour," Varun Khare, business head, Paytm Insider, said in a statement.

The seeds of 'Shakti' was sowed when the British virtuoso guitarist John McLaughlin and visionary tabla player Zakir Hussain connected in the early 1970s. Teaming up with Hussain, violinist L Shankar, and ghatam player TH 'Vikku' Vinayakram, McLaughlin founded the band and gave birth to the genre of 'fusion music'.

So blending Jazz Rock, Hindustani classical and Carnatic, the transcontinental collaboration Shakti unified North and South India's music and western harmony.

Odisha disaster management authority bags central award

Along with Mizoram's Lunglei fire station

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and the Lunglei Fire Station in Mizoram have been selected for a central award for their excellent work in disaster management in the institutional category, the Union Home Ministry announced on Monday.

The Narendra Modi government has instituted an annual award, called Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in

India in the field of disaster management.

For 2023, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Lunglei Fire Station (LFS) in Mizoram have been selected for the award in the institutional category, according to a statement issued by the home ministry said. The award is announced every year on January 23 on the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

Under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, the country has significantly improved the disaster management practices, preparedness,

mitigation and response mechanisms resulting in significant reduction in casualties during natural calamities.

For the award for 2023, nominations were solicited from July 1, 2022.

As many as 274 valid nominations were received from institutions and individuals, the statement said. The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority was established in 1999 in the aftermath of the Super Cyclone.

The OSDMA embarked on multiple initiatives including raising of the Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF), Multi-hazard Early Warning Service (MHEWS) framework, and a cutting-edge technology-enabled web/smartphone-based platform called "S-TARK" (System for

Assessing, Tracking, and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge). The OSDMA provided effective response during various cyclones such as Hudhud (2014), Fani (2019), Amphan (2020) and Odisha floods (2020), the statement said. The OSDMA conducted disaster preparedness initiatives in building community resilience in 381 tsunami-prone villages and wards and 879 multi-purpose cyclone and flood shelters located within 1.5 km from coastline.

The Lunglei Fire Station responded efficiently and effectively to a massive forest fire which was reported on April 24, 2021 in the uninhabited forest areas that surrounded Lunglei town and spread to more than 10 village council areas.

SANSAD KHEL MAHOTSAV



Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with MP Rakesh Singh (R) plays a game of 'Slingshot' during a Sansad Khel Mahotsav programme, at Ranital Stadium in Jabalpur, Monday.

Pak woman illegally staying in Bengaluru arrested

Bengaluru, Jan 23 (PTI):

Police have arrested a 19-year-old Pakistani woman for allegedly forging her identity and illegally staying in the city.

According to the police, the woman identified as Iqra Jeevani had entered India last year through the porous India-Nepal border.

They said she is married to Mulayam Singh Yadav, a 25-year-old security guard from Uttar Pradesh, whom she met through a gaming app.

They are said to have met on the app and fell in love and later decided to get married, police sources said, following this she came to Nepal a few months ago where

they got married. The couple then came to India crossing the India-Nepal border and reached Bihar.

Yadav brought Iqra Jeevani to Bengaluru, where he worked as a security guard, and the couple rented a house in Junnasandra.

He even got an Aadhaar card done for Iqra Jeevani after changing her name to Rava Yadav, mentioning her as his wife, and later she even applied for an Indian passport.

Her identity came to light when the Intelligence Bureau tracked Iqra Jeevani's trail, as she was trying to contact her family members back in Pakistan and alerted the state intelligence.

'Siddaramaiah won't contest Assly polls from Kolar'

Belagavi (K'taka), Jan 23 (PTI):

Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa on Monday claimed that Congress leader Siddaramaiah was allegedly playing a drama and that he would not contest the Assembly polls from Kolar segment as announced by the latter, and may go back to his home district of Mysuru instead.

Ending speculation, Siddaramaiah had earlier this month announced that he would be contesting the polls from Kolar, if the party high command agrees.

"Today itself I will say one thing, don't think I'm making a prediction, Siddaramaiah will not contest from Kolar for any reason, he is playing a drama and is trying to go back to Mysuru," Yediyurappa said.

Speaking to reporters here, the former Chief Minister said the Congress legislature party leader is aware that he would face a defeat and have to go home, if he contests from Kolar.

"He is playing political circus and drama, according to me, he will not contest from there (Kolar) and may try to go back to Mysuru, if that happens we will do the strategy we need to," he added.

Asked about talks that were doing rounds that Siddaramaiah may contest from two seats, Yediyurappa, who is the member of BJP's top parliamentary board, said, "I don't know about it, it is left to their party. Let him contest from two or three seats, but going home is certain."

Amid intense speculation that he may contest from



B S Yediyurappa

two seats like he did in 2018 Assembly polls, Siddaramaiah, a former Chief Minister, had recently made it clear that he would contest the upcoming polls from one constituency. Siddaramaiah, not wanting to contest from Badami, his current constituency, in Bagalkote district of north Karnataka region, was looking for a "safe seat",

and on January 9 had announced his willingness to contest from Kolar, if party permits. In the 2018 polls, he had contested from two seats- Chamundeshwari and Badami.

As the then sitting chief minister, he lost the polls in Chamundeshwari (in Mysuru) to JD(S) G T Deve Gowda by 36,042 votes. He, however, won Badami, the other constituency from where he had contested and defeated B Srimamulu (BJP) by 1,696 votes.

Making his debut in the Assembly in 1983, Siddaramaiah had got elected from Chamundeshwari on a Lok Dal Party ticket. He has won five times from this constituency and tasted defeat thrice. After neighbouring Varuna became a constituency in 2008 following delimitation,

Siddaramaiah represented it till he vacated the seat for his son Dr Yatindra (MLA) in the 2018 polls and went back to his old constituency of Chamundeshwari.

Siddaramaiah has made it clear several times that he would not contest from Chamundeshwari anymore, and if Yediyurappa's claims are to be believed, he may look for Varuna, in which case his son Yatindra would be left without a seat.

It is no secret that Siddaramaiah, who was Chief Minister between 2013-2018, is nursing his ambition for a second term in office, if the party wins the next Assembly polls.

With State Congress president D K Shivakumar too having similar aspirations, it has triggered a game of one-upmanship between the two leaders.

Pakistan suffers major power outage after grid failure

Islamabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

Pakistan faced a major power breakdown on Monday due to a "frequency variation" in the national grid, leaving millions of people in large parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, without electricity.



he was quoted as saying by Geo News.

Explaining the failure, he said the authorities shut down the power generation system at night due to lower demand in winter to save fuel costs.

But when the systems were turned on in the morning, "frequency variation and voltage fluctuation were observed in the south of the country somewhere between Dadu and Jamshoro" resulting in shutting down of power

generating units one by one, he said.

People in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi woke up on Monday with no electricity available anywhere in the metropolis. According to details, the major power breakdown also hit other cities across Pakistan but Karachi was the worst affected. In Peshawar, a city of over 2.3 million people, some people were reportedly unable to get drinking water as the pumps

were powered by electricity.

It is not the first time that the country has faced such a crisis.

Last year in October, Pakistan witnessed a 12-hour power outage due to technical glitches in the electricity distribution system.

Pakistan is grappling with one of the country's worst economic crises in recent years amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves. The crisis forced the government earlier this month to order shopping malls and markets to close by 8:30 pm for energy conservation purposes.

The sorry state of the country's power sector is emblematic of its ailing economy. The power outages occur frequently due to lack of funds to upgrade aging infrastructure.

PROTEST



Sri Lanka ports' trade union stage an anti-government protest to propose tax reforms against its economic crisis, outside the ports authority in Colombo on January 23.

Third Hindu temple vandalised in Australia within fortnight

Melbourne, Jan 23 (PTI):

A third Hindu temple has been vandalised within a fortnight in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti, according to a media report on Monday. The management of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple also known as the Hare Krishna Temple in Melbourne's Albert Park on Monday morning found the walls of the revered temple vandalised with graffiti "Hindustan Murbadab", The Australia Today website reported. "We are shocked and outraged with this blatant

disregard for respect for the place of worship," Bhakta Das, Director of Communication for ISKCON Temple, said.

"A complaint has been filed with Victoria Police and CCTV footage is being provided to assist them in their pursuit of culprits."

This is the third such incident in the country within a fortnight.

On January 16, the historic Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was vandalised in a similar manner.

On January 12, the Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was defaced by 'anti-social elements' with anti-India graffiti.

Acting Premier of Victoria Jacinta Allan told

The Australia Today, "All Victorians deserve to practice their faith free from racism, vilification and hatred." "This behaviour is not reflective of the majority of Victorians. The diversity of Victoria is one of our strongest assets, and we condemn these attacks," Allan added. This attack on ISKCON Temple came just two days after Victorian multi-faith leaders had an emergency meeting with the Victorian Multicultural Commission after which a statement of condemnation was issued against the spread of Hindu hate allegedly by Khalistani supporters.

"This is disgusting. We must not allow this to happen," Victorian Liberal Party MP Brad Battin has told The Australia Today.

Federal Member of Parliament Josh Burns also issued a statement saying, "I was shocked today to learn of the hateful attack on the Hare Krishna temple in Albert Park."

Russia expels Estonia ambassador amid 'destroyed' relations

Moscow, Jan 23 (AP):

Russia is expelling Estonia's ambassador and the country's diplomatic mission will be headed by a charge d'affaires, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Estonian Ambassador Margus Laidre was ordered to leave the country by February 7, the ministry said.

The statement said that Estonia's diplomatic representation from now on will be downgraded to a charge d'affaires heading the European Union country's mission in Moscow.

The ministry said that the move was made in retaliation for Estonia's "new unfriendly step to radically reduce the size of the Russian Embassy in Tallinn."

The Estonian Foreign Ministry earlier this month ordered Russia to reduce the number of its embassy staff to eight diplomats and 15 administrative,

technical, and service staff members in order to "reach parity in embassy staff" by February 1.

Estonia has reduced its bilateral relations with Moscow "to the absolute minimum" since the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine, Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu said in a statement on January 11.

"Now we are setting a limit to the number of Russian diplomats working in Estonia in order to achieve parity. Today's step is in correlation with the low point of our relations in general," he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday that "the Estonian leadership has purposefully destroyed the entire range of relations with Russia." "Total Russophobia, the cultivation of hostility towards our country have been elevated by Tallinn to the rank of state policy," the statement read.

Imran Khan says he will challenge Punjab caretaker CM's appointment in SC

Lahore, Jan 23 (PTI):

Pakistan's ex-premier Imran Khan has said he will challenge in the Supreme Court the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, describing him an "enemy" of his party and slamming the election commission for reducing the country to a "Banana Republic".

Naqvi was sworn in as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab on Sunday night, hours after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) unanimously decided to appoint him to the post.

His appointment came after the ruling party and the opposition in the province failed to reach consensus on a name for the post. Naqvi, who was one of the two candidates suggested by ex-Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz, is the owner of a media house and said to be very close to PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari.



Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) calls Naqvi "Zardari's front man in his corruption."

"PML-N has history of selecting their own umpires but it's incredible how ECP has selected a sworn enemy of PTI as caretaker CM Punjab a post meant for a non-partisan person," Khan said in a tweet. The PTI chief posted a picture of Naqvi's plea bargain to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) requesting that he be allowed to pay Rs 3.5 million as plea bargain in the Haris Steels Mills corruption case.

"Naqvi made a voluntary return deal with the anti-graft watchdog and the Supreme Court had de-

clared in a suo motu case no. 17/2016 that a person responsible for voluntary return could not hold any public office at federal or provincial level nor in any state organisation," he said.

"ECP has helped reduce Pak to a Banana Republic making our democracy a joke. I will be holding a presser tomorrow to expose this entire farce," he said on Sunday. Khan said Naqvi has been tasked with delaying the elections in Punjab and to sabotage the PTI. Mohsin Naqvi has come with a two-point agenda extend the present set-up's tenure for a year, and do all that he can to damage the PTI," Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PMLQ) senior leader Moonis Elahi tweeted.

Former Chief Minister of PTI Chaudhry Parvez Elahi dissolved the Punjab Assembly on January 12 on the wish of Khan to push the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led federal coalition to call for snap polls.

Biden's next climate hurdle: Enticing Americans to buy green

Washington, Jan 23 (AP):

President Joe Biden persuaded Democrats in Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars to fight climate change. Now comes another formidable task: enticing Americans to buy millions of electric cars, heat pumps, solar panels and more efficient appliances.

It's a public relations challenge that could determine whether the country meets Biden's ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.

Relying on tax credits and rebates made the climate legislation it was approved in August with only Democratic votes more politically palatable than regulations that force wholesale changes in polluting industries.

But it also means the administration's battle against global warming



will be waged "one household at a time," said Shannon Baker-Branstetter, who works on energy issues at the Centre for American Progress, a liberal think tank closely aligned with the White House.

"It is very incremental," she said. "So it requires a very sophisticated communications strategy."

Biden acknowledged the hurdle during a recent Cabinet meeting as he talked about the incentives that are becoming available this year. "Folks need to know how to take ad-

vantage of these benefits that we passed. That's on all of us around the table here to make sure we get that message out clearly," he said.

The White House says it is piecing together a plan to partner with state governments, contractors, retailers and social media influencers to get the word out. "Lowering utility bills is going to be a key driver," said Josh Peck, a senior policy adviser on clean energy issues. It's also collaborating with Rewiring America, a nonprofit focused on ways to electrify homes and businesses, and companies like Airbnb, Redfin and Lyft.

As part of the effort, Rewiring America created an online calculator that shows what credits or rebates homeowners might be eligible for, depending on their ZIP code and income.

India issues visa to 249 Pakistani pilgrims to visit Ajmer Sharif

Islamabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

India has issued visas to 249 Pakistani pilgrims to visit the tomb of Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Rajasthan, an official said on Sunday.

Citing a spokesperson of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, the state-run Radio Pakistan reported that 488 applicants had applied for visas, but only 249 pilgrims were granted visas.

The spokesperson said that all the pilgrims have been informed to reach Lahore from where they will embark on a journey to India on Tuesday.

He said six officials were deputed to take care of the pilgrims during their stay in

India. However, only one of them was granted permission to go with the pilgrims, he added.

The two countries allow pilgrims to travel under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, signed by India and Pakistan in September of 1974.

However, it has been witnessed that the two sides routinely reject visas of pilgrims on various grounds.

Kyiv, Jan 23 (AP):

The speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament warned Sunday that countries supplying Ukraine with more powerful weapons risked their own destruction, a message that followed new pledges of armoured vehicles, air defence systems and other equipment but not the battle tanks Kyiv requested.

Ukraine's supporters pledged billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine during a meeting at Ramstein Air Base in

Germany on Friday, though the new commitments were overshadowed by a failure to agree on Ukraine's urgent request for German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks. The issue appeared to

move close to a resolution late Sunday when Germany's top diplomat said her country would not object if Poland decided to send some of its Leopards to Ukraine.

Asian community reeling after Lunar New Year shooting

Monterey Park (US), Jan 23 (AP):

It was a joyful kickoff to the first Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park since before the pandemic, with large crowds filling the streets in the majority Chinese American city near Los Angeles for live entertainment, carnival rides and plenty of food.

But the celebrations were marred by tragedy Saturday night after a gunman entered a ballroom dance hall and opened fire, killing 10 people, wounding 10 more and sending panicked revellers into the streets.

The shooting that left 5 men and 5 women dead brought a jarring end to the planned two-day party to ring in the Year

of the Rabbit, which featured dragon dancers parading through downtown streets decorated with red lanterns.

Sunday's festivities were cancelled, though some Lunar New Year celebrations went on in neighbouring cities also home to large Asian-American populations.

"We haven't had a celebration like this in

three years, so this was momentous. People came out in droves," said Mayor Pro Tem Jose Sanchez, who was there with his 6-year-old daughter.

He estimated 100,000 people attended Saturday, and the festival is typically one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations in the state.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date :- 19.01.2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

- For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
- Bid Due Date - 07.02.2023
- Concern Division - Ambikapur Division

S. No.	N.I.T.No./Online System Number	Name of work	P.A.C. in lacs
1	195 121439 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Raghunathpur Lundra Dhourpur Road (Part 2) in/c Km. 27 to 41 = 15.00 Km. under CGRIDCL.	56.39
2	196 121440 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Ara Kundi Dakai Road Length 7.50 Km and Raghunathpur Lundra Dhourpur Road in/c Length 26.00 Km. under CGRIDCL.	56.69
3	197 121441 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Darima to Nawanagar Road i/c Culvert Length 22.40 Km. under CGRIDCL.	81.20

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle Ambikapur

G-97863/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला - गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.)
Email id - aephegaurella@gmail.com

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र 'अ' (प्रतिशत दर) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)
1	257 / 18.01.2023	121292	तेन्दुमुड़ा	मरवाही	124.55
2	258 / 18.01.2023	121299	लोहारी	मरवाही	234.27
3	259 / 18.01.2023	121309	मरवाही	मरवाही	225.29
4	260 / 18.01.2023	121332	दौजरा	गौरेला	64.40

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि :- निविदा क्रमांक 257 से 260 तक दिनांक 06.02.2023 समय :- 17:30 बजे तक

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें बरोहरे राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 23.01.2023 से देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वा.यां.खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही

G-97851/1



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Social media influencers cannot go scot-free

The decision of the Union government announced on Friday making it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose all "material" interests such as gifts, hotel accommodation, equity, discounts and awards which they receive when endorsing any products, services or scheme, is a very welcome move. What is more welcome is the second part of the announcement – that, failing to make such disclosure would attract strict legal action, including ban on endorsements can be taken. This decision of the government comes as a part of the continuing efforts to clamp down on misleading advertisements as also to protect the interests of consumers – the common people – in the backdrop of the expanding social influencer market. According to latest estimates, the social influencer market is projected to grow 20 per cent every year to reach Rs 2,800 crore by 2025. The government has also empowered the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to impose a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers, and penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh for the subsequent offences. In addition, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 will also remain applicable, the government said. The decision of the government is aimed at social media influencers which have material connection with the brand they want to promote on various social media platforms. This is also a kind of obligation for the social media influencers to behave responsibly as far as the disclosure is concerned to the consumers. It has been a trend in recent times across the globe for companies and manufacturers to actively collaborate with 'social media influencers' for marketing their products and brands. Influencer advertising is a major latest trend for gaining publicity, with manufacturers ranging from big multinational companies to local businesses resorting to this new game. With certain people attaining celebrity status through social media and thus becoming influencers, common people have been allegedly led into a trap, especially by unscrupulous companies and manufacturers. This in turn has opened up floodgates for the common people to be left cheated, especially when the innocent ones began to believe what the social media influencers say or endorse, not knowing that most of these people do not use or consume the products they endorse, and/or a sizable chunk of such products are not exactly what it is claimed to be.

The Ballot is stronger than the Bullet

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

National Voters Day is celebrated on January 25 every year since 2011. The first-ever National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 25, 2011, to encourage more young voters to take part in the electoral process. The national voter's day is undoubtedly a step forward in encouraging the right practices in the electoral system. National Voters day marks the foundation of Election commission of India which was laid on 25th of January, 1950. Every year, the government proposes a new theme to draw more youngsters to come forward and enroll themselves in the electoral rolls of the country. The aim is to encourage our voters to participate enthusiastically in the democratic process. And that is why the relevance of this day is even more pronounced on the eve of Republic Day. Young voters who have just turned 18 and got the right to vote for the first time. "Our Constitution empowers an independent Election Commission. And our election process makes every vote important, with the right to equality and freedom. A government is selected by voting in an election, which is every citizen's right to choose among several candidates for ruling their constituency. Voting generally takes place in polling booths. The constitution of India places utmost importance on maintaining the dignity of the voter. He has all the rights to cast votes according to his likes and dislikes. As such Indian democracy is known through the world for its maturity and stability." NVD is celebrated all over the country right from the national level to the far remote corners of our country down to each Polling Station location where new voters were felicitated with a badge carrying the logo 'Proud to be a Voter- Ready to Vote', administered the Pledge and handed over their Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs). India is the largest democracy in the world. Every citizen of this country is provided with basic rights to vote. He can exercise his franchise to select the leader he thinks is capable of leading the nation and bringing about a change. Voting is very important as it lets you decide and give your opinion about the choice of your leader. As a result it brings up your voting rights which every citizen above the age of 18 has got in every country. It is also said that wrong political parties are not won by the number of votes they received, but they win by the number of people who did not vote the correct or the good political parties. The day is very significant in the roots of India because the future of our country lies in the leaders we select today. A vote is a choice made by a particular group or a person in a meeting or an election. It is a means to express one's views in response to a poll. One must remember that when we vote, we give our opinion which is very important. Everyone has the right to vote because voting rights are constitutional rights. On this occasion let us encourage each and every voter in the country to exercise their right to vote. He lauded in their efforts to inspire the younger generation to come forward and vote and hoped even in the future; elections would be organized elections in a disciplined conduct.

R-DAY PARADE DRESS REHEARSAL

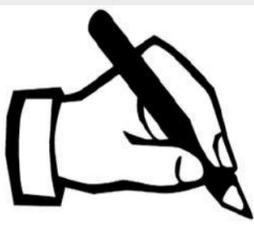


Maharashtra tableau on display during the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day Parade 2023, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, Monday, Jan. 23.

Pros and Cons of Foreign Educational Institutions in India



PRIYANKA SAURABH



The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but will also create healthy competition among institutions. But the new regulation allows free play to the foreign institution, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution "for example, they can decide their fees, and admission criteria, and have full say in faculty appointments". Can get freedom. "The policy will damage, weaken and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization.

The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but also create healthy competition among institutions. The government of India is ready for this. Welcome foreign universities like Harvard, Oxford, and Yale to India. Foreign universities ranked in the top 500 globally, as well as other "prestigious" foreign higher education institutions, can set up campuses in India - as outlined in the country's National Education Policy (NEP), which was adopted in 2020. The final plans were unveiled by the University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman who pointed out that foreign universities with Indian campus-

es can offer full-time programs only "offline" and not through online or distance learning.

The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but will also create healthy competition among institutions. In this environment, commercialization of the functioning of higher education institutions has become a top priority for Indian universities. Other challenges facing Indian higher education include demographic composition, poor performance, adherence to traditional systems, the digital divide, and struggles in scaling up. Over-centralization and lack of accountability and

professionalism are other issues. The burden of academic and administrative responsibilities has also increased significantly, undermining the core agenda of higher education, i.e. imparting knowledge, quality teaching and research, and improving governance structures. The lack of domain expertise in academic administrators has also hampered education reforms. hindered the progress of A primary reason for not prioritizing management reforms in India is that university leadership and academic administrators may not have the domain expertise to improve internal governance structures, processes, and managerial approaches. Meanwhile, uncertainty over funding of higher education, ever-increasing enrollment of students, global competition, the persistence of traditional systems, prioritization of digitization, and continued marketization of higher education indicate the need for complete modernization and commercialization of systems of higher education institutions.

A report by India-based business consulting firm Red Sear on higher education abroad estimated that the number of Indian students going for higher education abroad increased from 440,000 in 2016 to 770,000 in 2019. This is set to grow to around 1.8 million by 2024. Foreign spending was poised to increase from the current \$28 billion to \$80 billion (€18.5 billion to €74 billion) annually by 2024. Many students choose to go abroad for experience and earning opportunities abroad that are not available in India. However, some teachers are not sure how much of an impact the move will have and believe there is an urgent need to reform the current university system, where individuality is stifled. It is not clear whether the top foreign institutions that are being targeted by the scheme would be interested in coming to India, nor is the current political situation conducive for them. At

present, the space for any independent, critical analysis has been severely curtailed. This will certainly be on the minds of those who lead foreign universities being invited here. Establishing universities and campuses is a challenging proposition, not including developing curricula, building research facilities, hiring faculty staff, and relocating international workers, among other considerations.

The new regulation allows free play to foreign institutions, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution "for example, they can decide their fees, admission criteria, and complete freedom in faculty appointments". UGC's decision to allow foreign universities to set up branches in India will "damage" the country's higher education system. "The policy will damage, weaken and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization. This decision will make education costlier and will adversely affect Dalits, minorities, and the poor. The decision is a reflection of the pro-rich approach of the government." The establishment of foreign universities here was inevitable in the era of globalization, and given that there are barriers to the exchange of goods, services, and ideas, it was inevitable that education would be the final frontier, where all barriers would break. The proposal to allow foreign universities to set up offshore campuses in India in the New Education Policy 2020 could significantly change the dynamics of higher education in India. It can also save India a significant amount of foreign exchange and over time become a source of foreign exchange earnings if foreign students also choose to enroll in these campuses.

(Writer is Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, freelance journalist, and columnist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let gov and Supreme Court reconcile

Day in day out there are frequent talks of difference between gov and Supreme Court and a common citizen of country wish early end of this episode without further damage to the reputation of both. A few days ago a parliament committee had also suggested the same method. But still both appear to be adamant. The parliamentary committee, which has asked the executive and judiciary to do some "out-of-the-box thinking" to find a solution to the 'perennial problem' of vacancies in the high courts. In this regard the previous Chief Justice of India, TS Thakur made an emotional appeal to the Prime Minister to fill up the vacancies in the various High Courts and Supreme Court as the huge number of pending cases ultimately adversely impact the common man who still has faith in the judiciary. After the comments of the Parliamentary Committee it is the duty of the concerned parties to find ways and means to solve this matter amicably without bringing it into the public domain. The news emanating in the media on this issue are disgusting. Moreover, let the confusion be cleared on the collegium after the statement of Law Minister Kiren Rijju that there is no proposal to introduce the Bill of National Judicial Appointments Committee. It is well known that no system is full-proof and there is need for amendments with the passage of the time since over one hundred amendments had been made in the Constitution itself.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Evil designs

There seems more to the documentary than meets the eye. Local audiences seem to be the target of the utterances by the former British foreign secretary and Pakistan's foreign minister. PM Shehbaz Sharif's olive branch to India is a ploy to facilitate his begging and borrowings. India is aptly pushing for Sri Lanka's reconciliation with Tamils for peace in South Asia. Only self/business interests rule the roost in strategic partnerships today. It is imperative that our politicians keep politics for the hustings and synergise as members of a single political community to thwart the evil designs of India's adversaries.

Lalit Bharadwaj, Panchkula

Sense of entitlement

It is true that the West keeps throwing leftovers at India from time to time. The West believes that it has the sole prerogative and Asian 'scums' are to eternally live on the margins of the West. Since not even a single court in the country has found Prime Minister Modi guilty, from where are such 'noble truths' emerging? It seems like a part of a great conspiracy to not only denigrate Modi, but also to oust him from power. Several countries are relentlessly working to stop India's growth. In that nexus, even hardcore terrorist organisations are allying with apostles of democracy.

Jeevan VK, Pathankot

Union Budget 2023-24: Must provide relief to workforce

Dr. Gyan Pathak

Union Budget 2023-24 has a greater responsibility of protecting India's workforce at a time when they are at high risk of being forced into accepting lower quality jobs, as warned by ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trend 2023, large scale job cuts is adding into the woes of the employed, unemployment rate have been rising, and job opportunities are set to shrink considerably. It is because, Indian Economic growth projections have been revised downwards for 2023 and likely to be so revised further, given deteriorating domestic and global conditions and faster than anticipated monetary tightening as per IMF, household consumption will be held back by slow recovery of the labour market and by high inflation, as warned by the World Bank.

Working age population in India is above 90 per cent (about 126 crore) of the total population of the country which is likely remain above 87 per cent by 2030, as WESO Trend 2023

has estimated. However, as per CMIE data for December 2022, only 41 crore people were in job, and the unemployment rate was as high as 8.3 per cent. It clearly presents a case for framing of a National Employment Policy, as it was recommended long back in 2013 by Indian Labour Conference, the highest tripartite body of India for labour issues, but the Modi government has not been interested in it, an attitude that it must change for national interest. In contrast, Modi government has been pushing for implementation of the four labour codes after subsuming 29 labour laws. These codes were passed in the parliament in 2019 and 2020, and the labour rules are framed at the Centre and in majority of the states and UTs. PM Narendra Modi has labelled it as the biggest and long overdue labour reform in India. Government has said that they are ready to implement these codes, and hence it is expected that the Union Budget 2023-24 may announce its implementation from the next fiscal. Human resource Industry is expecting rollout of these

codes, while joint from to Central Trade Unions have been agitating for their roll back since they find these codes pro-corporate and anti-labour and fearing that these codes will bring modern day slavery to the workforce. This fear must be read with the WESO Trend 2023 warning that workforce in general would be forced into lower quality jobs. Therefore, rolling back these codes would be proper at this time of deteriorating job market as demanded by CTUs, rather than rolling them out. It is recalled that two months ago Central Trade Unions had boycotted the budget consultation exercise in the last week of November, since Union Finance Ministry did not give more than three minutes to every CTU. However, CTUs have sent a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stating their expectations and demand from the Union Budget 2023-24. Demands of the CTUs are worth noting which included taking such policy decisions that could boost demand to invigorate the sagging economy. It would require putting money into the hands

of the people. The importance of full social security coverage for the entire workforce lies here. They have demanded increase in allocation of MGNREGA the rural employment guarantee scheme for rural India. Given the higher unemployment rate in the urban India at about 11 per cent in December, the government must announce similar urban employment guarantee scheme for urban areas. CTUs demands also include giving scheme workers the status of government employees, paying them minimum wages, filling vacant posts, giving up plans to sell PSUs, shelving the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, not privatizing government hospitals, reducing GST burden on common people particularly in fuel and essential commodities, and increasing taxes on corporates and introduction of wealth tax to fund social sector programmes. Creation of new decent jobs is of utmost importance, which can be possible only through reverting back from profit oriented economic policies to human centered ones, as the UN and ILO has been

emphasizing since especially since the outbreak of COVID-19. Informalisation of the job market is on the rise, and AITUC has said that it has reached now to 97 per cent of all jobs, who have no social security coverage. It should also be noted that above 81 crore people have been surviving for the last three years on 5kg of free foodgrains per month. Union Budget 2023-24 must create jobs for them or provide full social security coverage.

The high level of unemployment shows that all the earlier schemes of the Modi government towards job creation and improving the labour market have failed which included PFI Scheme, Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, etc. It is imperative therefore for the Union Finance Ministry to announce correction measures in the Union Budget 2023-24. To bring the job market back on track Modi government does not only need human centric development policies, but also to reverse its present policy to promote gig or informal jobs to create decent jobs with full social security coverage.

BRIEF

Expansion

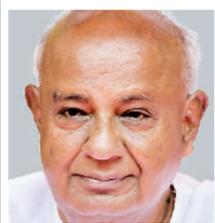


Varanasi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will complete expansion of its Vizag oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh to 15 million tonne per annum by June, its Chairman Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. HPCL is expanding the 8.33 million tonne per annum (MTPA) refinery and building a new one at Barmar in Rajasthan to bridge the gap between the fuel it produces and sells. "We have started commissioning activity and hope to complete it by June-end," he said. HPCL sells 50 per cent more petrol, diesel and LPG than it produces. The Vizag expansion as well as the 9 MTPA unit in Rajasthan expected by 2024-end, would bridge the gap. Joshi said HPCL's residue upgradation project at Vizag refinery will improve its distillate yield and will be ready by the end of 2023.

FTA

London: The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to be clinched this year but it won't involve any boost of free movement visa offers for Indians, British trade minister in charge of the negotiations has said. Kemi Badenoch, who was in New Delhi last month to kick off the sixth round of FTA talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, said that former prime minister Boris Johnson's "deal by Diwali" deadline last year was not feasible and had to be changed. In an interview with The Times' recently, the UK Secretary of State for Trade also ruled out any major similarities between the FTA the UK had struck with Australia one of the first post-Brexit trade deals and that with India. "We left the EU (European Union) because we didn't believe in free movement, we didn't think it was working. This is not a deal that's negotiating some kind of free movement with India," Badenoch told the newspaper, with reference to more visa offers.

VISL closure



Bengaluru: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to instruct the Ministry of Steel and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) authorities to drop the proposal for closure of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) at Bhadravati. The JD(S) supremo also has urged the Prime Minister to do the needful for the revival of VISL.

Apple looks to scale up manufacturing in India: Goyal

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

iPhone-maker Apple is looking to scale up its manufacturing in India as the business environment is helping global firms make the country their base, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. He said that India offers a rule of law, and transparent government policies and business models which help it become a preferred destination for foreign investors. Talking about success stories of certain foreign companies, he said Apple already have about 5-7 per cent of their manufacturing in India. "If I am not mistaken, they are targeting to go up to 25 per cent of their manufacturing. They launched their most recent models from India, manufactured in India." The minister was speaking at the inaugural session of the B20 India Inception Meeting here, which was organised by industry chamber CII.



Citing another example of a foreign company in the earth movers machine sector, the minister said that because of the competitiveness of India's manufacturing, that firm is supplying their products now to 110 countries at affordable competitive prices from India and also doing new launches. In November 2022, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said that the biggest unit to manufacture Apple iPhone in India is coming up at Hosur near Bengaluru, which will employ around 60,000 people. The compa-

ny gets iPhones manufactured by electronics giants - Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron in India. When asked about the global economic uncertainties, he said that this would be a challenging year for the world. He said that inflation in several countries is "very high" but in such a situation also, India has managed prices. During the tenure of this government so far, average inflation would be around 4.5 per cent, he said adding earlier 10-12 per cent of inflation was common.

At a time when developed economies are facing slow down, the Indian economy is emerging as one of the fastest growing in the world due to steps taken by the Modi government, Goyal said. On increasing interest rates in the country, he said that the rates have increased recently due to the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic and war between Ukraine and Russia.

Rupee falls 21 paise to 81.38 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 23: The rupee fell 21 paise to close at 81.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid rise in crude prices. However, strong sentiment at domestic equities market and a weak dollar restricted the fall of the local currency, forex traders said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 80.92 to a dollar against the previous close of 81.17. The local unit moved in a range of 81.47 to 80.93 during the day. On Friday, the rupee had appreciated by 19 paise to close at 81.17 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.35 per cent to 101.66 amid concerns over US economic growth. The Brent crude rose 0.26 per cent to USD 87.86 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 319.90 points or 0.53 per cent to 60,941.67, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 90.90 points or 0.5 per cent to settle at 18,118.55. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they sold shares worth Rs 2,002.25 crore, according to exchange data.

Honda launches new Activa at starting price of Rs 74,536

New Delhi, Jan 23:

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) on Monday launched a new version of its Activa scooter which conforms to the upcoming stricter emission norms, with price starting at Rs 74,536 (ex-showroom Delhi).

The new Activa is compliant with on board diagnostics (OBD 2) and is being offered in three trims tagged at Rs 74,536, Rs 77,036 and Rs 80,537. HMSI Managing Director, President and CEO Atsushi Ogata said the Activa has undergone multiple avatars for meeting the ever-changing expectations of customers.

"Today we unveil the new OBD2-compliant Activa with a host of segment first features offering more value to the customers," he added. From April this year, vehicles will need to have an on-board self-diagnostic device to monitor the real-time driving emission



levels. The device will constantly monitor key parts for meeting emission standards such as the catalytic converter and oxygen sensors, to keep a close watch on emissions. In a scenario where the emissions exceed the parameters, the device will indicate through warning lights

that the vehicle be submitted for a service. HMSI leads the gasoline powered scooter segment in the country with a market share of 56 per cent. The new Activa comes with various new features like the smart key which enables the customer to easily locate the vehicle.

Indigenously-developed 5G, 4G tech roll out this year: Vaishnaw

Will offer to world next year

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

Indigenously-developed 5G and 4G telecom technology stack will be rolled out in the country this year and the platform will be offered to the world from next year, Union telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. While speaking at The Business 20 (B20), the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community, Vaishnaw said that only five countries in the world have end-to-end 4G-5G telecom technology stack but now with the public-private partnership, India has developed its own technology which has been tested to handle 10 million simultaneous calls. "Our private and public partnership

approach has given us a solution where the core was developed, invested by the public sector, public funds, and everything else sitting on it comes from the private partners.

In this entire 2023, we will be rolling it out on about 50,000 to 70,000, towers, sites and then in 2024 will be offering it to the world," Vaishnaw said.

The minister also elaborated on four broad approaches directed towards economic management, digital economy, regulation in digital economy and development of new technology that India has taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help solve some of the pressing problems.

Hyundai drives in new Aura with price starting at Rs 6.29 lakh



New Delhi, Jan 23: Hyundai Motor India on Monday said it has launched an updated version of its compact sedan Aura with price starting at Rs 6.29 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The company said it has introduced the model with introductory prices ranging from Rs 6.29 lakh and Rs 8.57 lakh. "We have

worked towards delivering a world-class product for modern Indian families that will offer safety like never before. As a customer-centric brand, it has been a continuous endeavour to push boundaries and ensure customer delight through our class leading products," Hyundai Motor India MD

and CEO Unsoo Kim said in a statement. The new Aura comes with petrol and CNG trims with diesel variants discontinued in the new range. The company said it is offering the car with over 30 safety features including four airbags as standard fitment and 6 airbags as an option.

Hero Electric enters into long-term partnership with Maxwell

For battery management systems

New Delhi, Jan 23: Hero Electric on Monday said it has entered into a long-term partnership with Maxwell Energy Systems for the supply of advanced battery management systems. Under the partnership, Maxwell will supply more than 10 lakh units of its battery management systems (BMS) over the next three years to Hero Electric, the company said in a statement. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said the BMS solution from Maxwell will help the company provide safe and performance-oriented EVs to its customers. "This partnership will also help us build the local supply chain and support the

Make in India mission, further reducing our import dependency. With Maxwell on board, we now have two solid reliable partners to future proof our battery designs," he added. Maxwell's newly designed automotive-safe BMS supports multiple chemistries and configurations to cater to the entire e2W range of Hero Electric. It also comes with additional technical capabilities such as high-side switching and hot-plugging for seamless swapping, the statement said. The two partners will work on a new range of advanced electronics products for the Indian EV market, it added.

We are focused on strengthening quality parameters for long-term growth: Seth

Mumbai, Jan 23:

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, a new-age life insurance company, is committed to strengthening its business quality parameters to create a sustainable longer-term growth for its business. Towards this goal, the company is prioritising process optimisation to achieve customer and distributor delight. Anup Seth, Chief Distribution Officer, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance said, "We primarily look at 4 quality parameters, which are Claim Settlement Ratio, Grievance Ratio and Net Promoter Score (NPS) as the indicators of the robustness of our business.



We have worked on strengthening our risk management practices, enabling sourcing of quality business. This in turn will bolster all the metrics. We are also looking at digital enablement as a key lever for improving our customer and distributor experience." Barring the improvement in quality

parameters, the life insurer is also focussed on continuing its tradition of innovation in products. The focus currently is on personalization and modernizing the way customers are experiencing purchase and onboarding in insurance. "As digital becomes omnipresent, Personalization is becoming critical for the customer. It has a heavy influence on their purchase decision. We are excited about this opportunity and have marked our entry into personalization with a recent product called Flexi Savings Plan. Flexibility and customization is an evolving concept, and we are constantly learning what it means for customer," Seth added.

Reliance Jewels launches Dream Diamond Sale

Mumbai, Jan 23:

It's time to experience the unparalleled sparkle and shine with Reliance Jewels "Dream Diamond Sale". Reliance Jewels is committed to offering the best possible shopping experience to its customers through its focus on unique design, unique collections & various exciting offers. With the Personalization is becoming critical for the customer. It has a heavy influence on their purchase decision. We are excited about this opportunity and have marked our entry into personalization with a recent product called Flexi Savings Plan. Flexibility and customization is an evolving concept, and we are constantly learning what it means for customer," Seth added.



bring the wow factor to any special occasion. Patrons can shop and enjoy unbeatable savings on the diamond Jewellery collection during our Dream Diamond Sale with exciting discount of

Upto 25% off on Diamond Value. The offer is Valid till 14th February 2023 only. T&C apply. From Contemporary designs to timeless classics, the collection has something for everyone. Each diamond

piece is crafted with precision and attention to detail, making them a perfect choice for any special occasion.

Commenting about the new collection, Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels said, "Our diamond jewellery collection is an exquisite combination of craftsmanship and ageless designs. These jewellery pieces are crafted with utmost care and attention to details to ensure that each piece is a timeless masterpiece. It is an embodiment of beauty, breathtaking luxury and a symbol of everlasting love. Diamond jewellery is the epitome of elegance and sophistication. With Reliance Jewels' diamond collection, we aim to provide our customers gorgeous designs that can be treasured for a lifetime."

Amazon.in announces Great Republic Day Sale

New Delhi, Jan 23:

Amazon India announces its much awaited 'Great Republic Day Sale' from January 15 until January 20, 2023, with Prime members getting 24 hours early access starting January 14. Customers can shop from millions of products offered by sellers including artisans & weavers, women entrepreneurs, start-ups, brands, and local neighborhood stores across categories including Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, Grocery, Fashion & Beauty essentials, Home & Kitchen, Large Appliances, TVs and more. This Great Republic Day Sale Co-powered by Xiaomi, customers can look forward to saving more with great offers from brands Xiaomi, Orion, Pampers, Techno, Ariel, Gillette, LG

Appliances, Samsung TV, Intel and more across categories. Customers shopping during the Amazon Great Republic Day Sale can enjoy an additional 10% instant discount with SBI Credit cards and Credit EMI; No-cost EMI using Bajaj Finserv EMI card, Amazon Pay ICICI Credit card, Amazon Pay Later and select Debit & Credit Cards. Additionally, customers can get a chance to win up to Rs 5,000 as rewards during the Pay & Shop Rewards Festival by making daily payments like sending money, paying bills and more to unlock exciting shopping rewards that can be redeemed during the Great Republic Day Sale. Customers can also use their voice to navigate and discover the best deals using Alexa on the Amazon shopping app (Android only).

B20 has important role to play; can be value adding for world: N Chandrasekaran

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

The Business-20 forum during India's leadership has a unique opportunity and a very important role to play in working out agenda that can be value adding for all G-20 nations and the rest of the world, B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said on Monday. The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. It is among the most prominent engagement groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants. In his address at the B20 India inception meeting here, Chandrasekaran, who is also the Chairman of Tata Sons, said during



India's leadership of the forum, various initiatives would be taken up in several areas, including global supply chain, creative skills, circular economy, digital transformation and financial inclusion. "India is in a very unique position in the world at a time (when) we are seeing several moving

parts, and B20, during India's leadership of G20, has a unique opportunity and has a very important role to play," he said. Chandrasekaran said industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been associated with the B20 forum for the last 12 years since 2010 in some form. "So, we've had the opportunity to look at the evolution and the progress (of B20) over the years and have been able to relate it to the context in which the world is functioning today and able to work out an agenda which we think is very exciting and can be value adding for all G20 nations or in fact for the rest of the world not only to India," he asserted.

Flipkart Wholesale announces Republic Day Special

Bengaluru, Jan 23:

Today, Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of India's home-grown Flipkart Group, kick-started the Republic Day Special for its B2B members. With the theme 'Munafa ki Parade', the company aims to increase the profits and savings of its members with never-seen-before deals on an expansive selection of products during the offer period. The event will be live from January 19 - 26, 2023, across Flipkart Wholesale's physical stores and online channels. With the focus on offering higher profits and more significant savings, this national mega event has been curated with var-

ious attractive offers and deals, including '74 Republic Deals', 'Brand Bill Busters', and more for walk-in and online members, especially those residing in T-2+ cities. Commenting on the kick-off of the event, Koteswar L N, Business Head of Flipkart Wholesale, said, "As we gear up for the 74th Republic Day, we are delighted to launch this special event with the theme Munafa ki Parade for our members who will immensely benefit in their business and enjoy increased savings. This endeavour will further our vision to provide value and empower small merchants in the country who are critical to the growth of our economy."

Richa Chadha's next is based on true stories of Covid second wave

Actress Richa Chadha will next be seen performing the role of a frontline worker during the second wave of the Covid crisis in a yet-untitled film. Talking about the film, which is under the banner of Zee Studios, Richa says it is based on "real incidents". "This is based on those real incidents that we all witnessed during the second wave of Covid. While there was loss and despair, there was also hope." "In fact I was so moved by this kindness of strangers that I had started Kindry, a small social media initiative that only amplified stories of goodness, selflessness through the second wave." The actress says that the "film takes a hard look at all our lives during the pandemic, where we were afraid to be human, there was enforced and mandatory distance." "It talks about the doctors and nurses who were doing their job selflessly. I am honoured to play the role of one such resilient nurse." The film is directed by Abhishek Acharya. Apart from that Richa has wrapped up the shoot of 'Girls will be Girls', the first movie of her co-owned home production. The film is an Indo-French co-production which is being jointly produced by Pushing Buttons Studios, Crawling Angel Films and the French company, Dolce Vita Films.

'I always stay true to my thoughts'

Sony Entertainment Television's latest fiction offering, Kathaa Ankahee, the official Hindi adaptation of the popular Turkish drama, 1001 Nights (Binbir Gece) has been ruling the hearts of its audience with an intriguing storyline, stellar star cast and a lot of drama. The show's plot revolves around an irreversible mistake that creates a rift between Kathaa (Aditi Dev Sharma) and Viaan (Adnan Khan) but yet keeps them bound, demonstrating how love can emerge from the darkest moments. The show has the charming actor Samar Vermani who essays the role of Ehsan who is Viaan's (Adnan Khan) best friend and his business partner. In a candid conversation, Samar talks about his role, the show, concept and much

more. Tell us about the show's narrative that has been inspired by the superhit Turkish series, 1001 Nights. How does it feel to be a part of the Hindi remake?

It is a great experience being a part of Kathaa Ankahee. When I saw the Turkish drama, I thought to myself, "Wow, this show is so well-made and has such an intriguing concept and plot!" Being a part of the Hindi remake of the same series is no less than a golden opportunity. The past two months of shooting have been an absolute delight and I look forward to more amazing days shooting with the wonderful team!

Tell us about your character Ehsan. As we see that he is Viaan's best friend but at the



same time he is catching feelings for Kathaa, how challenging or easy it is to play such a role?

My character Ehsan is Viaan's best friend and business partner. He never anticipated developing feelings for Kathaa.

While they started off as friends, with time Ehsan didn't realize that he was catching feelings for her. He considers Kathaa to be a genuine person with a lot of potential but at the same, is slowly but surely developing feelings for her. As someone who, in real life, tends to be a little carefree and optimistic, and who makes an effort to avoid dwelling on the past or the future in favour of savouring the now, I find that portraying this character is a breeze. My directors and co-stars are pleasant and very helpful, and I don't have to give much consideration to the role I'm playing on-screen since I always stay true to my thoughts and communicate them.

Tell us about the preparation you underwent to get into the character's skin?

This character is extremely close to me that's why perhaps I am having so much fun playing it. My preparation has always been the same that is to focus on the aim of the scene and thinking why am I saying and what am I saying so when I do that it becomes a little easy for me to do.

Any message for the viewers and fans?

Thank you so much to each of our viewers for taking the time to watch us, showering us with so much love and affection, and sending us so many messages of support. We respect your time and appreciate that you watch us every day.

Don't miss watching out Kathaa Ankahee every Monday to Friday at 8:30 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Dia Mirza shares her post-motherhood, green goals for the new year

For Dia Mirza, her work as an actor, producer, eco-entrepreneur and the UN Secretary General's Advocate for Sustainable Development Goals, coalesces around the passion to serve a higher purpose and somehow impact the world in a positive way. She says, "As a mother, I feel compelled more than ever to amplify urgent environmental causes like climate change because the clock is ticking and unless we work hard collectively to reverse its impact, we will pass on to our children an unsustainable and unhealthy planet." Dia cites the Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, which was a collective commitment to improve health and education markers, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, protect and preserve oceans and forests while countering climate change and says, "Every year, we must do all we can to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." In 2023 too, she says, her work at the individual and collective level will serve the larger vision of the SDGs. Adds Dia, "Because of COVID-19 and the debilitating after-effects of climate change, the SDGs have suffered many setbacks globally. We need to double up efforts to change that and especially work towards providing inclusive and accessible education to the girl child. In 2023, I am also hoping to put the spotlight on numerous environment champions across India and its heartlands. People like Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi from Dehradun with his innovative concept of GEP (Gross Environmental Product) which assesses monetary value of the quality and quantity of resources from the forest, air, water and soil and is one of the components of green GDP." She also mentions Dr Chetan Solanki, the man who is on a journey to make



India - Solar Literate and adds, "These are the kind of unsung icons I want to engage with to find and amplify solutions to further realise the SDGs in India. Conscious capitalism and circular economy are some of the other ideas that I would like to discuss more extensively this year." As an eco-investor, Dia has already committed resources and energy to green brands like Beco, Shume, Greendigo, and Alter and will also be on the lookout for more individuals and companies that are creating sustainable solutions and need a little help. She says, "We need to start looking at a more sustainable lifestyle as the norm and not the exception anymore. And to do that, more such green brands need to come into the mainstream. As an investor, my goal is to work towards that ideal."

As a producer and an actor, Dia says, her work will continue to address questions about gender, social and economic inequities, the right to education, to a healthy environment and a lot more. She concludes, "There is a thread of intentionality in everything I do so now I want to tell stories that can be powerful agents of change at some level and can generate ripples of positivity and inspire a sense of purpose in those who watch them."

If there's one actress known to ace both films and digital arena with her lucrativeness it's Shweta Tripathi Sharma! Besides being a rooted actress, Shweta has always championed causes that require attention and has been a crusader of positivity. Recently, Shweta pioneered the wave of sustainable clothing which was highly appreciated and acknowledged by the netizens as well as environmentalists. This time, with her recent Instagram post, Shweta has raised awareness about 'Local Tourism', and has also shared the reason behind using 'battatawada' as her social media username. Shweta added, "Just the way a potato engulfs the taste of every dish that it is added in, I aim to engulf, I aim to embrace every character that comes my way and make it my own. 'Battata' is a quintessential part of our lives; with my craft, I want to be a 'battata' in my work, I want to exude that ease and naturalness." In her Instagram reel, Shweta can be seen visiting the local gems of Mumbai. Shweta had recently asked for 'battatawada' recommendations from her fans in Mumbai and in the video, she obliged her fans by visiting the best joints in town that served 'battatawada.' On playing diverse characters and its connection with 'battatawada,' Shweta added, "If a character doesn't camouflage the plot of the story, will the content piece be consumed? Similarly, 'battata' just mixes up with anything and everything be it any dish, any cuisine! I feel happy when people address me by the names of my characters like Golu (Mirzapur universe), Shalu (Masaan). I feel that I could impact those people in a positive way. A 'battata' always brings happiness and that's what I aim to do!" Shweta, has massive releases lined up for 2023, including the most-awaited sequel of 2023, 'Mirzapur 3' along with 'Kanjoos Makkhichoo', and a couple of other untitled projects. Also, Shweta shall soon begin shooting for the sequel of her 2022 hit show, 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein,' reprising her role of Shikha.

Shweta Tripathi explores the streets of Mumbai for the best 'battatawada'



Rohit Purohit, Sheena Bajaj celebrate four years of wedded bliss

TV actors Rohit Purohit and Sheena Bajaj have been married for four years. As they celebrate their wedding anniversary today, Rohit expressed his love and gratitude towards his wife for always taking care of him and supporting him in his difficult times. Rohit shared their wedding picture and also dedicated the romantic track 'Tu Hai' from the Hrithik Roshan-starrer film 'Mohenjo Daro'. 'Dhadkan Zindaggi Kii' actor wrote in the caption: "All my feelings for you lies in this song...Happy 4th anniversary my love."



supportive, caring, loving and understanding..you make my life so easy..You are the one and only..I am Blessed to have a partner like you Sheena."

TV actors and his fans congratulated the couple on their special day. Actress Pankhuri Awasthy Rode, Hitesh Bharadwaj, Raghav Dhir, among others wished them a happy wedding anniversary and many more years of together-

ness. Rohit and Sheena got married on January 22, 2019, in Jaipur. They both met each other long back on the sets of the show 'Arjun' which premiered in 2012 and after dating for almost six years they tied the knot in 2019.

Rohit is known for his TV shows such as 'Razia Sultan', 'Porus', 'Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji', and 'Dhadkan Zindaggi Kii'.

Tanmay Bhat recalls his first meeting with Shah Rukh

In All About Movies, A Spotify Original Podcast, film critic Anupama Chopra speaks to leaders from the world of business, sports, politics, gastronomy, journalism, social media and more about their passion for cinema.

She takes them on a journey of their fondest movie memories, their childhood movie experiences, their guilty pleasures and the role films have played in catapulting them to success.

The first episode features Tanmay Bhat as he draws upon the moments he has spent backstage at Film Awards and comments upon the changing Film Industry.



Recalling his first meeting with Shah Rukh Khan, Tanmay says, "Before Filmfare happened, me and Rohan (Joshi) were writing a show for ICICI Awards, which Shah Rukh was hosting. He was going to come by 5, the show was at 6 and he was delayed by 15 minutes. He came, and we were like there's no

way he is doing this in 20 minutes. We go to his room and quickly run him through the script. It took him 10 minutes and he then comes up to us and he is like first this happens, then this happens and we were like how does he know everything? Shah Rukh looks at his phone and says that this player scored a goal and Rohan was like I haven't even kept up with the Football Match!"

Tanmay also goes on to comment upon the changing landscape of marketing in films as he mentions, "Earlier the layer of marketing was IIMs, but now it's going to be flooded by creators." Anupama Chopra, film critic and host of the podcast, says "I am a big fan of podcasts and am thrilled to kick off my first Spotify original - All About Movies. I think the films we love say something about who we are and this is a great way to get insights into some of our most celebrated and successful names!"

With an exciting lineup of the likes of Badminton champion PV Sindhu, Journalist Faye D'Souza, Mythology Scholar Devdutt Pattanaik, LGBTQIA+ activist and influencer Sushant Divgikar, Cred Founder Kunal Shah and many more, All About Movies explores topics like the impact unique stories have had on the guest and how accurately does cinema portray their professions.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

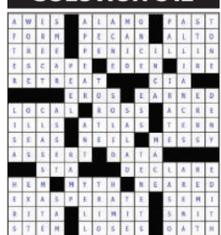
- Log float
- Drinking vessels
- Summed up
- On a cruise
- Norway's capital
- Monte _____
- Fishing spot
- Fort _____, FL
- Skin art
- _____ Magdalene
- Apiece
- Capone and Gore
- Foreigners
- Traps
- Folk _____
- Above, poetically
- Fertile desert spot
- Closest wood
- Impartial
- Recluse
- Surrealism's Salvador _____
- Forest path
- Defeated one

- Tue. follower
- _____ Pan
- Spiritualist meeting
- Evaluate
- Cooking vessel
- Physics, e.g. (abbr.)
- Barbecue rod
- Trying experience
- What a priest hears
- Marathon, e.g.
- Keyboard instrument
- Caribous' kin
- Uniform
- Young people
- More
- Actress Mae _____

DOWN

- Entranced
- Tibet's locale
- Tootsies
- Tooth deposit
- Huge
- Neighbor of Mex.
- Purple fruit
- Root beer, e.g.
- Type of paint
- Mom's man
- Curtain
- Comic _____ DeGeneres
- Active ones
- Memorable periods
- Toast topping
- Chilled
- Mushy
- Not far
- Diva's forte
- Trivial
- Consumes
- Only
- Daybreak
- Actor _____ Guinness
- Carousel, e.g.
- Ready to pick
- Reply
- Decreases
- _____ "Window"
- Chef's units (abbr.)
- President Jackson
- Dandy's neckwear
- Tally
- Burn slightly
- Enlightened one's words (2 wds.)
- Money drawer
- Roof edge
- Top pilots
- Fasting time
- Air circulator
- Solutions

SOLUTION 542



Middle order in focus as India eye series sweep against New Zealand

Indore, Jan 23 (PTI):

With a series sweep in sight, the middle order will be eager to give a better account of themselves as the Indian team management contemplates rotating its bowlers in the third and final ODI against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

Opener Shubman Gill has been in excellent form, having scored a sensational double hundred in the opener, followed by a 40-run knock in the low-scoring second ODI. Skipper Rohit Sharma, too, is having a good run.

However, the home team is aware that despite enjoying an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Shubman and Rohit have been the only two batters among runs for the hosts.

At the same time, it is also a fact that the others haven't been tested and the dead rubber will be the perfect opportunity for the likes of Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav to get some batting practice in match situations.

Kohli's problem against left-arm spin has come to the fore once again as the talismanic batter has repeatedly gotten dismissed by Mitchell Santner.



After notching three hundreds in four innings, the former skipper was dismissed cheaply in both the ODIs as New Zealand's star left-arm spinner exposed the chinks in Kohli's armour. With the World Cup just months away, Kohli would be keen for some much-needed course correction. In the absence

of Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar was expected to provide some firepower at the back end. However, the premier T20 batter failed to do that in the series-opener.

Hardik, too, has been underwhelming with the bat of late. He has had a mediocre series against Sri Lanka and hasn't im-

pressed against New Zealand yet.

The Indian bowlers were guilty of letting New Zealand score over 300 runs after being 131 for six in the first ODI, but the seamers came back strongly in the Raipur game.

Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Hardik were clinical while the spinners have also done a decent job.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be eager to grab a consolation win to boost their morale. For that to happen, the Black Caps, who are without the services of regular skipper Kane Williamson, will have to address their batting woes.

New Zealand's top six batters have scored 40 or more on just seven occasions in the last 30 innings. The only batter that has impressed in their line-up is Michael Bracewell, who along with Mitchell Santner almost took his side over the line in Hyderabad.

Even the bounce and smaller boundaries make the pitch at the Holkar Stadium batter-friendly and the bowlers will have to work hard to keep the scoring in check.

Match starts 1.30 PM IST.

Indian shuttlers eye redemption at Indonesia Masters

Jakarta, Jan 23 (PTI): Top Indian shuttlers, including Lakshya Sen, will look to quickly recover from the India Open disappointment when they begin their campaign at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament, starting here on Tuesday. India cut a sorry figure at home as the country's challenge ended in the second round following the early exits of P V Sindhu, Sen and the withdrawal of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy due to a hip injury last week. While Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag are not playing this week, Sen will look to get back his mojo after his second-round exit against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. A tough battle will be on the cards for the 21-year-old from Almora as he faces the fast and furious Kodai Naroka, who has been in sensational form, having reached the finals of the Malaysia Open. The Japanese, who is from the same 2018 batch as Sen, has a 3-1 career record against the Indian, having beaten him at the Denmark Open last October. Eighth seed HS Prannoy, too, will look for a good show after a first-round exit against Sen in the India Open. He had reached the quarterfinals in Malaysia and will take on Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama, a tricky customer, in his opener.

Sabalenka tops Bencic for her first QF spot in Australian Open



Melbourne, Jan 23 (AP): Fifth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated Belinda Bencic 7-5, 6-2 on Monday to reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the first time. Bencic double-faulted to drop the first set, which put Sabalenka in control from that point. No. 4-seeded Caroline Garcia faced Magda Linette later Monday for another place

in the women's quarterfinals. Garcia reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open last season but has never reached the quarterfinals in Australia. Top-seeded Iga Swiatek and No. 2 Ons Jabeur have both been eliminated, leaving No. 3 Jessica Pegula as the highest ranked women through to the final eight.

"I'm super happy with the win today," Sabalenka said. "She (Bencic) is an unbelievable player. She played so good. I'm really happy with the level today." Sabalenka said she had worked hard on controlling her emotions during matches. "It takes me a little while to understand that negative emotions are not going to help me on court," she said. "You just have to stay strong and believe no matter what." Sabalenka also said her fitness has improved. "We did a lot of work in the pre-season and I'm super happy that everything is working right now," she said. Novak Djokovic faced Alex de Minaur Monday for a place in the men's quarterfinals. Djokovic is aiming for this 10th title at the Australian Open and his 22nd Grand Slam title. The Grand Slam mark would tie him with Rafael Nadal for the most by any man.

Marry Kom to lead Oversight Committee to probe allegations against WFI president



New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Boxing great MC Mary Kom will lead a five-member Oversight Committee that will probe the sexual harassment charges against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The government-appointed committee will also run the day-to-day affairs of WFI for the next one month.

The other members of the panel are Olympic medalist wrestler

Yogeshwar Dutt, former badminton player and Mission Olympic Cell member Trupti Murgunde, ex-TOPS CEO Rajagopalan and former SAI executive director - teams - Radhica Sreeman. The announcement of the panel was made by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday.

Thakur had decided to form the committee on Saturday following a three-day sit-in protest by some of the country's top wrestlers including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang

Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya against the WFI and its chief.

The wrestlers ended their protest after a breakthrough was achieved during a marathon second round of talks with Thakur late on Friday night.

"The WFI president will not discharge his duties and stay away from day-to-day affairs of WFI. The day-to-day working of WFI will be looked after by the Oversight Committee till their mandated duration and it will also probe the serious allegations against WFI and its chief," Thakur said.

"The Oversight Committee will be under the chairmanship of world champion Mary Kom. Along with her, Yogeshwar Dutt, MOC member and Dronacharya awardee Trupti Murgunde, former TOPS CEO Rajagopalan and former ED Teams, SAI Radhica Sreeman will be part of the committee.

WIPL Team Bid: BCCI set for another 4000 cr windfall

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

The BCCI is all set to get richer by up to Rs 4000 crore with some of the top business houses set to bid aggressively for the five Women's IPL (WIPL) teams that would be auctioned on Wednesday.

According to market experts, the teams are expected to shell out in the "range of 500 to 600 crore INR" per team in the closed-bid auction.

"WIPL has huge potential but most of the legacy teams would like to mix optimism with pragmatism," an industry insider, who has previously worked on men's IPL team bid, told PTI ahead of auction.

"Expect a few bids in the range of Rs 500 crore upwards. Rs 800 crore plus could be a bit ambitious but BCCI won't complain," he added.

More than 30 odd companies have bought the bid documents



worth Rs 5 lakh including all the 10 men's IPL team. Well-known corporate houses such as Adani group, Torrent group, Haldiram's Prabhujii, Capri Global, Kotak and Aditya Birla Group have also shown interest in buying a team. Some of these companies were unsuccessful when BCCI in-

ited bids for two new men's teams in 2021. Among the traditional IPL teams, Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals, KKR could seriously contemplate to add to the bouquet of their already existing men's teams across the globe.

According to market insiders, there are two

principles on which these bids are placed by the business houses.

First one is "Return on Investment" (ROI), which is the core principal of any business. It is profit on what an entity spends.

The second one isn't a business principle as such but in business community they call it

"Return of Ego".

This is something where some of the biggest business names are ready to shell out any amount if they have their eyes on buying a particular property. Even if it takes five to seven years for touching breakeven point.

It's about wanting to purchase something at any cost.

An existing IPL franchise with its "steady revenue stream" in place can afford to "bleed" a bit more in initial years which is imperative.

A former IPL franchisee official, who had once worked on bids, explained the rationale which goes into the bidding.

"Let's say, a franchise makes a winning bid of Rs 500 crore for a period of five years. Now that's Rs 100 crore committed straightaway for each of next five years," the source explained.

First priority is to get 100 percent fit: Jadeja



Chennai, Jan 23 (PTI):

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who is making a return to competitive cricket after close to six months, on Monday said his first priority is to get "100 percent" match fit ahead of the crucial Test series against Australia. "I am feeling good to be back on the field.

Very excited. Hopefully it will come good as a team and as an individual also," Jadeja, who will lead Saurashtra in their final Ranji Trophy Group B league match against Tamil Nadu beginning here on Tuesday, told reporters.

"...See my first priority is to get on the field and be fit...100 per cent fit. Once I am 100 per cent fit, I will work more on my skills, whether it is batting or bowling. Now, my first priority is fitness..." Jadeja had to undergo a knee surgery last year after playing for India last in August. He said he had spent time at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru and added that he wanted game time before the Test series against the visiting Australians. "I was at the NCA for 20 days. I was doing batting and bowling. Match scenario is different. I wanted one game before the Australia series, that's why I am here." He has been picked in the India squad for the first two Tests subject to fitness. When asked if there was any discomfort now, Jadeja said: "Not really...after five months I am playing competitive cricket, so you don't feel confident initially.

Overdependence on Harmanpreet, Hardik's injury cost India dear in disastrous WC campaign



Bhubaneswar, Jan 23 (PTI): Patchy, inconsistent and lack of execution. These are the words used frequently by head coach Graham Reid during India's disastrous FIH Men's World Cup campaign, which undid the team's historic bronze-winning feat at the Tokyo Olympics. The choice of adjectives from the veteran coach and former

Australia international was indicative of the struggle of his wards in this World Cup. This despite having 12 players from the Tokyo Games squad. For a team that had come into the tournament with hopes of a first podium finish after the 1975 gold, crashing out before the quarterfinals was nothing short of a debacle. This team was good

enough to at least reach the quarterfinals, if not the semifinals. But who would have thought that the world number six home side would lose to 12th ranked New Zealand in the penalty shootout of the crossover match after being ahead by two goals on two occasions. With crores of rupees being spent on the team's training, exposure tours and

support staff salaries, it ought to have done better. This was the fourth worst performance for the country in the history of the World Cup. The best India can finish in this tournament is ninth, for which they will begin with their classification match against Japan on January 26 in Rourkela. India is one of the four teams to have taken part in all the 15 editions of the World Cup and they had finished below ninth on four occasions — in 1986 (12th), 1990 (10th), 2002 (10th) and 2006 (10th). They had finished ninth in 1998 and 2014. In the last edition, India had finished sixth after losing to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals. The reasons for the early exit are numerous, as Reid himself said at the post-match press conference on Sunday. Two main reasons were the abysmal rate of penalty corner conversion and the lack of finishing by the forwards. Adding to this was the inconsistency in defending.

Kohli, SKY, Pandya in ICC T20 Team of 2022

Dubai, Jan 23 (PTI): Former India captain Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and shortest format's number one batter Suryakumar Yadav were on Monday picked in ICC 'Men's T20 team of 2022'. The ICC also announced the Women's Team of 2022 with four Indians in the lineup — Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh. Kohli returned to his vintage form in 2022 and took the Asia Cup by storm, finishing as the second-highest run-getter with 276 runs in five games. He also brought an end to his century drought of close to three years with a magnificent century against Afghanistan. Kohli played one of the greatest T20 innings of 82 not out in India's heist against Pakistan in the World Cup opener in Melbourne. Kohli ended the tournament with three more fifties and finished as the highest run-scorer with 296 runs. Surya became the only second batter to score more than 1000 runs in a calendar year. He ended as the top-run getter (1164 runs) with two hundreds and nine half-centuries while striking at a stunning 187.43.

India's batting superstar Smriti Mandhana finished the year as the fourth highest run-scorer with 594 runs at an average of 33.00 and a strike-rate of

133.48. She also made two half-centuries and played a key role in India winning a historic silver at the Commonwealth Games. Off-spin all-rounder Deepti had a standout year and was the Player of the Tournament in India's Asia Cup triumph. She finished the year with 29 wickets, the joint third highest. She also made 370 runs averaging 37 with a strike-rate of 136.02.

Richa was named the wicket-keeper-batter following a stupendous year that saw her accumulate 259 runs in 18 matches.

With 22 T20I wickets at an average of 23.95 and an economy rate of 6.50, Renuka had a standout year and was one of the nominees for the ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year.

Men's Team: Jos Buttler (c/wk), Mohammed Rizwan, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Sam Curran, Wanindu Hasaranga, Haris Rauf and Josh Little.

Women's Team: Sophie Devine (c), Smriti Mandhana, Beth Mooney, Ash Gardner, Tahira McGrath, Nida Dar, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sophie Ecclestone, Inoka Ranaweera and Renuka Singh.

Delhi traffic crawls due to restrictions

For R-Day Parade rehearsal

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

The national capital saw massive traffic jams and a slowing down of vehicular movement in many areas on Monday owing to restrictions for the Republic Day Parade rehearsal, with commuters stuck for hours on roads. Major roads in and around Delhi including on the DND flyover and Ghaziabad border were affected from the morning rush hours till around 2 pm. Busy stretches including ITO, Sardar Patel Marg, Kashmeri Gate and Chankyapuri were also choked.

The Delhi Traffic Police had issued an advisory on the arrangements and restrictions for the smooth conduct of Monday's full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade. Many

office goers had come prepared for traffic diversions, but alternative routes also witnessed slow traffic. "Sri Aurbindo Marg was completely blocked due to traffic. Even as I took the other route via Malviya Nagar, there was traffic from Hauz Khas onwards. The road leading towards Parliament Street from Chankyapuri was completely blocked due to heavy traffic and caused a delay of at least an hour," said Ananya Basu (35).

Even those who left early for their destination failed to beat the traffic woes. "Today I had to leave for work 30 minutes early as there were some traffic restrictions issued by the Delhi traffic police. Although there was enough deployment of police personnel, traffic near Ram

Manohar Lohia hospital, which is usually smooth, was moving slowly," Silpi, who was heading to Parliament Street, said. Several people also opted for Delhi metro due to the traffic jams. "I usually commute by car but today I knew that roads will be chock-a-block, so I took the metro," said Krishan Pal.

Police said they received several calls from commuters reporting traffic woes. Vikas Marg (from Laxmi Nagar to ITO), Pragati Maidan, and Akshardham were three of several such stretches which witnessed intractable snarls. Ankita Singh, a commuter, said, "Traffic from Noida till Akshardham was heavy. The route leading towards ITO also had traffic jams and the GPS showed 40

minutes to cover a distance of around 6 kilometres."

Several commuters took to Twitter to inform others about the traffic situation in the city, with one of them reporting heavy jams on ITO, Pragati Maidan, and Geeta Colony flyover. While one said that traffic did not move at ITO for over an hour, another commuter, who said he was stuck for two hours, advised people against venturing out on roads. Prerna Singh, who works in central Delhi, said, "I live in the southern part of the city and reach my office within an hour and a half. However, there were several roads that were closed on Monday due to rehearsal of Republic Day and my cab took an extra 30 minutes to drop me at my place."

Adding to the woes, a

container truck got stuck under a metro track passing over a road in Noida on Monday morning, briefly leading to traffic congestion on the stretch leading to Delhi, officials said. Traffic congestion was witnessed on the road stretch from 8.30 am to around 9 am after which the flow of vehicles was at normal speed, the official added. Kautilya Marg, Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, and Hauz Khas also witnessed massive traffic. The Republic Day rehearsals started at 10.30 am from Vijay Chowk and the parade passed via the Kartavya Path, C-Hexagon, the roundabout statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Tilak Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, and Netaji Subhas Marg before concluding at the Red Fort.

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL



Indian Air Force's C-130 Hercules, center, with four Rafale fighter jets, flies past in a formation the Central Hall of Parliament House during the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day Parade 2023, in New Delhi, Monday.

Rahul Gandhi defends Bharat Jodo Yatra

Says Cong not allowed to raise public issues in Parl

Jammu, Jan 23 (PTI):

Defending Congress' decision to start Bharat Jodo Yatra to "unite" the country, Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the opposition party was forced to undertake the 3500-km foot march after it was not allowed to speak on the pressing public issues in Parliament.

He slammed the BJP government at the Centre for demonetisation, "hasty implementation" of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the recently launched Agniveer scheme.

Gandhi alleged that the government is "facilitating" flight of money into the coffers of a few corpo-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting during party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at Satwari Chowk, in Jammu, Monday.

rators and ruining the small businesses across the country. "The democracy in the country is under attack which is a major challenge for the nation. Before the com-

mencement of the Yatra, we tried to raise the issues like demonetisation, GST, farmers' bill and China's aggression in Parliament, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but we were

not allowed and the mikes were being switched off," the former Congress president told a gathering at Satwari chowk here.

Gandhi reached Jammu on the 129th day of the Yatra after resuming from Vijaypur in Samba district in the morning, covering over 20 kilometres in six-and-a-half hours. After a night stay in Sidhra, the Yatra is scheduled to leave for Kashmir and it will enter there after Republic Day.

"We have come to open the shops of love in the markets of hatred. With this Yatra, we could see lakhs and crores of people have opened their shops of love, braving rains, cold and hot weather."

'RSS and Netaji have same goal of making India great'

Kolkata, Jan 23 (PTI):

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday said the goals of his right-wing organisation and that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are similar - making India a great nation. His comment comes amid the criticism that the ideologies of the RSS and the freedom fighter were not the same.

Lauding Netaji's contribution to India's freedom struggle, Bhagwat urged everyone to imbibe the qualities and teachings of Bose and work towards making the country a "vishwa guru" (world leader). "We remember Netaji not only because we



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat speaks during a meeting at Shaheed Minar in Kolkata, Monday.

are grateful to him for his valuable contributions towards the freedom struggle but also to ensure that we imbibe his qualities. His dream of India, which he wanted to build, is still not fulfilled. We have to work to achieve it," he said.

Situations and paths might differ, but the destination remains the same, Bhagwat said while addressing a mega RSS event - 'Netaji Lohi Pronam' - at Shahid Minar Ground here. Critics pointed out that Netaji believed in secularism which

is "against the 'Hindutva' ideology of the RSS". "Subhas babu (Netaji) was first associated with the Congress and followed its path of 'satyagrah', and 'andolon', but when he realised that this was not enough and there was a need for freedom struggle, he worked towards it.

Paths differ, but the goals are the same," he said. The RSS chief also said, "We have Subhasbabu's ideals in front of us to follow. The goals he had are our goals too... Netaji had said India is a smaller version of the world and the country has to provide relief to the world. We all have to work towards it."

PROTEST RALLY



People from the Hindu community take part in a protest against forced religious conversion and cow slaughter, in Karad, Monday.

Delhi government's shopping fest delayed

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): The Delhi government's ambitious Delhi Shopping Festival has been postponed and is unlikely to happen in the next couple of months, officials said on Monday. The project was announced as a part of the Rozgar Budget in 2022 by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The festival was due to begin on January 28 and continue till February 26. However, the December elections have put it on hold. "The Delhi Shopping Festival has been indefinitely delayed. Meetings were held between the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DTTDC) and the Tourism Department, but due to the MCD and Gujarat polls in December, the consultations were put on hold," said a senior official. Due to be held at various markets, the festival also requires support from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the official said.

Berhampur ITI makes Netaji's 6 ft statue with scarp

Unveils it on his birthday

Berhampur (Odisha), Jan 23 (PTI):

Students of the government-run ITI here have built a six-foot-high statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose using automobile scraps after making one of Mahatma Gandhi. The 1.5 tonne statue was installed at the campus of the institute on Monday, the 126th birth anniversary of the nationalist leader, as a tribute to him.

Electric fan bearings, motorcycle chains, nuts and bolts, gears, iron rods and other scrap materials were used to make the statue. The ITI principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi said. "The students collected the scraps used for making the statue from

electric workshops and automobile garages free of cost... Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for creating wealth out of waste. Our institute has utilised waste and discarded materials to make different statues which dot the campus," he said.

There were two purposes in choosing scrap - promoting cleanliness and developing the innovative talents of students, the principal said. Around 30 students of the fitter, welder, painter and some other wings of the institute along with some faculty members took about 15 days to build the statue under his guidance, he said.

The statue will be kept in a glass box, Panigrahi

said. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti last year the institute's students had built a six-foot high statue of Mahatma Gandhi using automobile scrap. It won the first prize in the 'Trash to Treasure' section at the National Competition on Welded Marvels - 2022.

A replica of a fish also made of scraps by them bagged the second prize in the same competition, the principal said. The prizes were given away at a function in Chennai organised by the Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) last week in association with the Association of Welding Products Manufacturers. The two works will be displayed at the IIW, he added.

'Centre should ban upcoming movie on Godse'

Hyderabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has demanded the BJP-led Centre to ban an upcoming Hindi film on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse like it blocked the BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public meeting here on Sunday, the AIMIM leader said the Government of India has to take a clear-cut stand that a ban will be imposed on the movie 'Gandhi Godse - Ek Yudh' and it will not be released in any theatre.

"The Modi government blocked the BBC documentary on YouTube and Twitter in India on the basis of a colonial-era law. We want to ask the Prime Minister...were you not the chief minister of



Asaduddin Owaisi

Gujarat when the (2002) riots took place?...Bilkis Bano was raped...a former Congress MP was killed," the Hyderabad MP said.

The BJP (government) banned the documentary, he said and sought to know from the Prime Minister and BJP leaders their opinion on Nathuram Godse.

"Godse killed Gandhi.

Then who is the biggest terrorist of independent India? Now, a film is being made on Godse. Will the Prime Minister of India ban the movie on Godse or will tell the people go and watch it," Owaisi asked.

The AIMIM chief further said: "I have myself seen it...the movie talks about why Godse killed Gandhi. I want to ask Prime Minister and the BJP when the BBC shows something about you, it's problematic and it gets banned".

Challenging the BJP to ban the movie on Godse, he asked whether the BJP and RSS would ban the movie. "If anything is shown against Modi, then it is banned. And the one who shot dead Gandhi, there is no ban (on it). Why so much love for Godse?"

Digvijaya Singh questions surgical strikes

BJP accuses Cong of insulting armed forces in 'hate' for Modi

Jammu/New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday questioned the surgical strikes and accused the government of peddling lies, drawing furious reaction from the BJP which said the opposition party was blinded by its "hate" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has "insulted" the armed forces. Addressing a public meeting during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh alleged that the government did not agree to the CRPF request of flying its personnel from Srinagar to Delhi and 40 soldiers sacrificed their lives in Pulwama in 2019 to a terror attack.

"They talk of surgical strikes. They claim to have killed so many people but



Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jairam Ramesh at a public meeting during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Jammu, Monday.

no proof is given. They are ruling by peddling a bundle of lies," the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister, who has often courted controversy with his comments, said. In a tweet in Hindi later, he said, "From where did the terrorists get 300 kg of RDX in Pulwama incident? DSP Davinder Singh was caught

with terrorists but then why was he released? We also want to know about the friendship between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India." In his video message attached to the tweet, Singh said 40 CRPF personnel sacrificed their lives in Pulwama, but this government has not

been able to reveal from where three quintals of RDX came. "Besides, the government has not been able to answer where is DSP Davinder Singh, who was caught involved with terrorists. Why was he let free and why was a case of treason not registered against him?"

"We would also like to know from the prime minister as to what kind of relations he has with Pakistani prime minister that both are praising each other. At least, he should answer these questions," the Congress leader said in a video message. The BJP launched a sharp attack on the Congress, saying that such comments show that the Rahul Gandhi-led foot march

across the country is Bharat Jodo Yatra only in name while he and his party colleagues are working to "break" the country. It is essentially "Bharat todo yatra", BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

राइनोप्लास्टी
नाक को सही (रिश्पॉनिंग) करना
कालड़ा बर्न एवं
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.डी.के.सामन्, पीथी कालोनी एम् पार्क
नाका, प्रमोटी रोड, कलकत्ता मॉल के पास, रायपुर
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Aaj 9827144371



BRIEF



KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty's shaadi marks the first big fat celeb wedding of 2023. The couple, who have been together for over 3 years now, are finally husband and wife now. The cricketer and the actress tied the knot today, on January 23, at Suniel Shetty's Khandala farmhouse.

Ban

New Delhi: Operation of sub-conventional aerial platforms, including UAVs, paragliders, micro-light aircraft and hot air balloons, over the national capital has been prohibited from January 18 in view of Republic Day, the Delhi Police said on Monday.

Tourist train

New Delhi: The Shri Jagannath Yatra tourist train will embark on its eight-day journey on Wednesday, covering famous pilgrimage sites of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, the Railways said on Monday. The tourist train with focus on the Puri temple in Odisha will be run under the Railways' ambitious Bharat Gaurav initiative.

Collision

Samastipur: At least 40 people were injured when the bus in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Bihar's Samastipur district on Monday, police said. According to police, the incident took place on National Highway-28 near Chandchor village.

Participate

Kohima: Even as the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) has declared not to participate in the ensuing state Assembly election, the 20 sitting legislators of the area decided to contest the polls. The decision of the Eastern Nagaland Legislators Union (ENLU) was arrived at during an emergency meeting held on Sunday.

Infected

Kochi: Kerala government on Monday said norovirus infection, a cause of acute gastroenteritis, was confirmed in two students here. The students of Class 1 and 2 of a school at Kakkad near here were found infected and three children are now under treatment.

Raped

Mumbai: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by the principal of a private school in Nagpada area of central Mumbai, police said on Monday. According to the police, the 50-year-old principal of a trust-run school had allegedly raped the victim last month and had again attempted to take advantage of her on Saturday.

Weather
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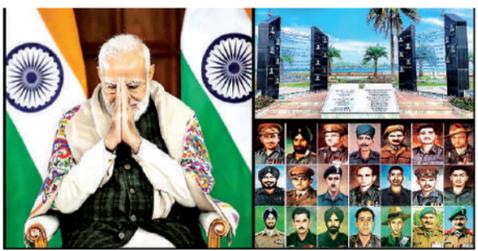
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PM names 21 Andaman islands after PVC awardees

Unveils model of Netaji memorial

Port Blair, Jan 23 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday virtually unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, to be set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and said it will infuse feelings of patriotism among people.

Modi, on the occasion of Netaji's 126th birth anniversary, also named 21 islands of the Union Territory after Param Vir Chakra awardees. "Today, it is a proud moment for me as I address the people of Andamans because this is the land,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the naming ceremony of 21 islands of Andaman & Nicobar after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Monday.

where Subhas Chandra Bose unfurled the national flag for the first time in 1943," the prime minister said. The freedom fighter had hoisted the Tricolour in the archipelago on December 30, 1943. PM Modi noted that the is-

lands, named after famous soldiers, including Major Somnath Sharma, Lt. Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa, Subedar Joginder Singh, Major Shahtan Singh, Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid, 2nd Lt.

'Islands renamed to gain popularity'

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday took potshots at the Centre's attempt to rechristen some islands, stating that such initiatives were made to just to "gain popularity", given that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had renamed Andaman and Nicobar as Shaheed and Swaraj Islands in 1943. Banerjee's reaction came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 islands in the archipelago after Param Vir Chakra awardees, on the occasion of Bose's 126th birth anniversary.

Arun Khetrapal and Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, will be a

source of inspiration for generations to come. "It gives me immense pleasure to announce the naming of 21 islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees and to inaugurate the model of a proposed memorial at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island (previously known as Ross Island). "One should see the naming of 21 islands as Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and the memorial will infuse feelings of patriotism in the hearts of people," he said. PM Modi also mentioned that islands named earlier in the day after Param Vir Chakra awardees "will be the land of inspiration for generations to come".

ED attaches assets worth Rs 7.90 cr

In Punjab drug cases

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): Assets worth Rs 7.90 crore have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in connection with a probe linked to two narcotics trafficking cases of Punjab, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Monday.

The money laundering case stems from separate FIRs filed by the Punjab Police under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) against Gurdeep Singh Rano and Rajesh Kumar.

The ED case has been registered under the criminal sections of the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). "The attached assets include 16 immovable properties (land and building) in Punjab of Gurdeep Singh Rano and his family members and 11 immovable properties of Rajesh Kumar and his family members. "The assets also include movable properties like balance in bank accounts, cash and gold ornaments," the federal probe agency said in a statement. The ED, quoting the police FIR, alleged that Rano had "links" with suspected drugs smugglers, Simranjit Singh and Tanvir Bedi, who are residing abroad.

MONEY LAUNDERING

MP schools to teach Gita, Ramayan, Mahabharat

Bhopal, Jan 23 (PTI): Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said Hindu religious scriptures will be taught to students in government schools and issued a warning to those trying to insult these revered texts, saying their acts will not be tolerated. The senior BJP leader's warning came in the backdrop of controversial statements made on the Ramcharitmanas, a Hindu religious book based on the Ramayan, by some political leaders in the last few days.

Addressing a programme here, Chouhan said ancient Hindu epics are invaluable holy texts and they help in building moral character of human beings. "The Ramayan, the Mahabharat, the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bhagwad Gita are our invaluable scriptures. These texts have the ability to make a human being moral and complete. We will also (along with other subjects) teach these religious books in government schools. Why not study them?" he said.

For killing parents

Bhilai, Jan 23:

In a high profile case, the Upper Sessions Court of Durg on Monday awarded a double death sentence to a 42-year-old man for killing his father and mother. Upper Sessions Judge Shailesh Kumar Tiwari awarded double death sentence to renowned poet Sandeep Jain after finding him guilty. The court said that it is the height of cruelty to kill the parents. His crime fell in the category

HIGH PROFILE CASE

Man gets double death sentence



of rarest of rare cases. The court also sentenced him to five years of rigorous imprisonment under the Arms Act. Aggregating the double death penalties and im-

prisonment, the court sentenced Sandeep Jain to be hanged by the neck till he is dead. Two other accused Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and Shaileendra Sagar have been awarded five

years of rigorous imprisonment for supplying illegal pistol and cartridges to the prime accused Sandeep Jain. It needs to be mentioned here that Sandeep Jain had shot dead his father Ravalmal Jain and mother Surji Bai Jain in the wee hours of January 01, 2018 at their residence in Ganjpara, Durg. Ravalmal Jain was a renowned businessman of the city and was also the Trustee of Nagpura Jain Tirth. Sandeep Jain had also established himself as a renowned poet and businessman.

SpiceJet flier offloaded

New Delhi: SpiceJet on Monday offloaded a passenger from a Hyderabad-bound aircraft for unruly behaviour at the Delhi airport. The incident happened onboard a SpiceJet wet-leased Corendon aircraft that was scheduled to operate SG-8133 flight from Delhi to Hyderabad. "During boarding at Delhi, one passenger behaved in an unruly and inappropriate manner, harassing and causing disturbance to cabin crew. The crew informed PIC (Pilot In Command) and security staff of the same. The said passenger and a co-passenger, who were travelling together, were offloaded and handed over to the security team," the airline said in a statement.

After Co-WIN, govt launches U-WIN

To digitise India's universal immunisation prog

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): Carrying vaccination cards of children and pregnant women, struggling to keep a tab on the next jab and other such hassles may soon become a thing of the past. After the success of the Co-WIN platform, the government has now replicated it to set up an electronic registry for routine vaccinations. Named U-WIN, the programme to digitise India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.

The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter, official sources told PTI.

official explained. For pregnant women and children, vaccine acknowledgement and immunisation card linked to ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) will be generated and all states and districts can access a common database to track and vaccinate beneficiaries. Besides, through the platform citizens can check nearby ongoing routine immunisation sessions, and book appointments, the official told PTI.

All states and UTs have been sensitised on U-WIN functionalities and objectives for the pilot in 65 districts and staff and healthcare workers have been trained on all modules of U-WIN.

"With this the entire vaccination system including records will get digitised, easing the tracking of beneficiaries.

RELIEF TO DESHMUKH

SC dismisses CBI appeal against bail

To Maha ex-minister Anil Deshmukh

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

In a major relief for former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the CBI's appeal challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader in a corruption case. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices V Ramasubramanian and JB Pardiwala noted that Deshmukh has also been granted bail in the related money laundering case. The top court said it was not inclined to entertain the Special Leave Petition against the grant

of bail by the high court to Deshmukh. "Since the observations in the impugned order of the High Court are confined to the question as to whether the respondent was entitled to the grant of bail, we clarify that these observations shall be construed only for that purpose. "In other words, the observations shall not affect the merits of the trial or be pressed in any other collateral proceedings. The Special Leave Petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for the CBI in the matter. The CBI, in December last year, approached the apex court challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to Deshmukh in the graft case.

Two cyber thugs held over Rs 2.67 cr fraud

Noida, Jan 23 (PTI): The Noida Police has arrested two people, allegedly involved in duping a senior citizen of Rs 2.67 crore on the pretext of renewing his life insurance policy, almost two-and-a-half-year after the case was lodged, officials said on Monday. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said the complainant worked in an eminent private company and had retired in 2005. He currently lives in Vasant Kunj in Delhi. "In 2020, the complainant got a phone call from an unknown person who informed him that his insurance policy has lapsed and he would have to pay some money if he wanted the policy renewed. "Eventually, the complainant ended up paying Rs 2.67 crore in multiple accounts in lieu of policy renewal assurance," Dwivedi said. The complainant's daughter had lodged a complaint on behalf of the senior citizen after which an FIR was lodged at the Sector 20 police station here under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (fraud), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 34 (act done by several persons) as well as the IT Act and investigation launched.

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Court awards double death penalty to Sandeep Jain for killing parents

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 23: In the high profile double murder case of renowned litterateur, social worker and former journalist Ravalmal Jain and his wife Surji Bai Jain, the Upper Sessions Court of Durg awarded double death sentence to their 42-year-old son Sandeep Jain.

A well known poet and businessman, Sandeep Jain was found guilty of killing his father and mother. Upper Sessions Judge Shailesh Kumar Tiwari awarded double death sentence to Sandeep Jain. The court stated that it is the height of cruelty to kill the parents.

His crime fell in the category of rarest of rare cases. The court also sentenced him to five years of rigorous imprisonment under the Arms Act.



Late Ravalmal Jain and Surji Bai Jain

Aggregating the double death penalties and imprisonment, the court sentenced Sandeep Jain to be hanged by the neck till he is dead.

Two other accused Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and Shailendra Sagar have been awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment for supplying illegal pistol and cartridges to the prime accused

Sandeep Jain. It needs to be mentioned here that Sandeep Jain had shot dead his parents Ravalmal Jain and Surji Bai with a 7.65 caliber country-made pistol in the wee hours of January 01, 2018. Ravalmal Jain was a renowned litterateur, social worker and former journalist. He was one of the founders of Nagpura



Accused Sandeep Jain (file photo)

Jain Temple. Being the managing trustee, he contributed a major part of his life for construction and expansion of Nagpura Jain Temple. Sandeep Jain had also established himself as a renowned poet and businessman. The convict Sandeep Jain had killed his parents by firing three - three rounds on his father and mother.



Accused in Durg Court premises

In this high profile case, the prosecution proved that Sandeep Jain was irritated by his father Ravalmal Jain due to his traditional conservative behaviour. Ravalmal used to send his servant to Sheonath River to fetch water for worshipping purposes and insisted on using tap water only for other purposes.



Crowd gathered at court room

Ravalmal disliked Sandeep's friendship with women and often scolded him. Ravalmal had even threatened Sandeep to disinherit him from property. Irritated by repeated scolding, Sandeep chalked out the plan to kill his father. He purchased a pistol and bullets from Agrasen Chowk Durg resident Bhagat Singh Gurudutt and kept it in the house. As per the plan,

he sent his wife and son to Dalli Rajhara at her maternal house. A servant Rohit Deshmukh used to sleep at their house in the night daily. On December 31, Sandeep asked him not to come that night. Around 05:45 hrs on January 01, 2018, Sandeep came down stairs and shot three rounds at his father, who was closing a door in the

gallery. Hearing the firing burst, his mother Surji Bai started screaming from the bedroom. She made a call on Sandeep's mobile, but he did not respond.

Sandeep then moved to his mother's room and shot three rounds at her also. After killing his parents, Sandeep unlocked the main gate of the house and went to his room upstairs. He threw the gun out of the house from the rear window and tried to narrate a false story that some outsider trespassed into the house and killed his parents.

However, police succeeded to recover his blood stained clothes and murder weapon on the same day. Later he confessed the crime before police. The prosecution also succeeded in getting him convicted in the court.

DAV Hudco organises sensitization program on financial & use of digital tools

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 23: Understanding the need to sensitize teachers about the right approach to finances, that are relevant in current scenario DAV Public School Hudco, Bhilai organized a sensitization Programme on Financial Literacy and use of Digital Tools on Monday. Around 130 teacher delegates from DAV Jamul, DAV ISPAT Sec 2, DAV ISPAT Rajhara, BSP SSS Sec 7, Nirmala English Medium Sr Sec School Raihara, Angel Valley Public School Hudco along with the host school participated in the program to upgrade themselves and walk hand in hand with the current scenario.



The event started with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by BPSahu (ARO cum Principal DAV Nandini Mines), Resource person Rahul Dodeja (CA) from Raipur and currently pursuing Chartered Wealth Management from USA. Addressing the gathering BPSahu applauded the efforts of CBSE and said that the session will certainly help the educa-

tors stay updated to plan their finances in better way and also disseminate their learning so that they can deal with their finances vigilantly. He also added that financial literacy is the foundation of our relationship with money, and it is a lifelong journey of learning.

Resource person Rahul Dodeja, conducted the session by laying focus on creating awareness about basic financial planning and how to avoid cyber frauds. It was quite an informative and insightful programme. The real-life experiences and anecdotes made the session interesting. The teachers actively clarified their doubts and got satisfactory answers. He further said that financial literacy makes it okay for us to make small or big

mistakes. On the other hand, being financial illiterate only makes those mistakes dire and regrettable. The session focused to create awareness about basic financial planning, how to avoid falling prey to phishing and cyber frauds, Importance of SIPs/shares/ mutual funds etc. This initiative is part of Activities related to Investor Education and Awareness Initiative in terms of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

The session concluded by presenting a memento to the guest speaker by BPSahu, who placed the heartiest gratitude on behalf of the entire DAV family. A certificate was issued to each participant by CBSE upon successful completion of the training program.

New records set in Sinter, Total Saleable Steel & TMT 25 production

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Jan 23: It has been weekend of records at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. On Saturday, January 21, 2023, the Plant broke a two year old record by producing record volume of 20,620 Tonnes of Saleable Steel. The previous best record for saleable steel production in a day was 19,920 T on January 23, 2021.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, the Plant's Sinter Plant 3 broke a record set nearly 15 months back by producing record volume of 18,631 Tonnes of sinter, surpassing previous best of 18,611 T on October 28, 2021. On Friday, January 20, 2023, the Plant's Merchant Mill produced a record volume of 2190 T of TMT Bars in 25 mm diameter,

surpassing previous best of 2128 T of TMT 25 on January 13, 2023. Director in-charge Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta, Executive Director Works, Anjan Kumar and other senior officers of the Plant visited Sinter Plant 3 and congratulated the collective of SP 3 and associated departments for record-breaking performance.

Conundrum - Subhas Bose's life after death

Book Review: By Aparna Garg

Authors Chandrachur Ghose & Anuj Dhar

PARAKRAM DIWAS SPECIAL

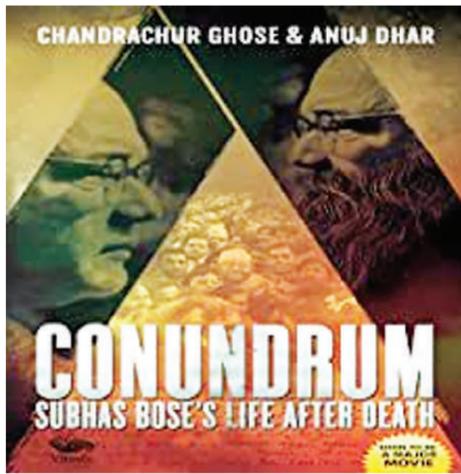
The book investigates the evidence on startling claims that an unseen monk in Uttar Pradesh was Netaji Bose. At this point I can hear readers exclaiming "what bosh and nonsense". My reaction was the same when my husband told me about the book, I told him he is being glib and has fallen for yet another conspiracy theory. Yet when I started reading the book it was not only unputdownable it subsumed everything else I was doing at time.

The authors explore three lines of reasoning on what could have happened to Netaji. The first is the accepted Indian government take that he died in Taihoku air crash. The second is that after cooking up the air crash story he ended up in Russia. The third line is that he came back to India.

The research presented in the book is impressive in its details the authors have left no end unexplored to the extent they could. The evidence they have presented is fascinating and jaw dropping. The book is extremely well written all 834 pages of it.

The blurb at the back mentions the old monk called Bhagwanji telling his followers about the layout of Jessore cantonment in East Pakistan. The followers understood the significance only when Jessore fell a few weeks later to the Indian Army. The book tells many such fascinating conversations recalled by his followers. Another interesting one is how owner of Mohan Meakin was a follower of Bhagwanji later on he named his bestselling rum 'Old Monk'.

The book begins with describing the events surrounding the death of unnamed, mostly unseen monk in Faizabad. It details the high-pitched daily reports by local newspapers investigating whether the monk was



indeed Netaji. Many dedicated journalists like Ashok Tandon, AdheerSom, Anuj Dhar and others investigated and wrote on the issue for months.

The second chapter talks about appearance of an unnamed sanyasi in Neemsar in UP. The sanyasi would stay behind the curtains. Chief Minister Sampurnand and descendants of Nawab of Awadh were among his followers. Prof Atul Sen of Calcutta was the first person from Calcutta to meet the Sanyasi now known as Bhagwanji. When Prof Sen asked him "are you the man who asked me to stand for Dhaka Legislative seat?" Bhagwanji replied "that man is dead now, mritabhooh". Nevertheless, recognising Netaji's voice Prof Sen wrote to Pandit Nehru. Its telling Pandit Nehru didn't outrightly reject his claims on the contrary he promptly asked people to investigate secretly.

The third chapter discusses visits by Netaji Bose's colleagues, the freedom fighters and Indian

National Army members. His close associates Leela Roy, Pavitra Mohan Roy and Prof Samar Guha came hunting for him once Prof Sen reported back. These are all prominent freedom fighters. Desh-Netri Leela Roy was then Chairwoman of Forward bloc a party Netaji Bose founded. After meeting Bhagwanji she retired from active politics. Pavitra Mohan Roy was Intelligence agent of INA. He was sentenced to death by the British. His death sentence was pardoned after Mahatma Gandhi wrote to the British government asking for clemency. The authors provide in detail the correspondence between these people; that was found in Bhagwanji's boxes. These prominent freedom fighters were close to Netaji Bose and all of them couldn't have mistaken someone else for him. There is a poignant poem Bhagwanji wrote for Leela Roy when she passed away. He calls her Lee and says she was the leeward side of his life.



Desh-netri Leela Roy

Mukherjee commission which is the third commission to be setup to find out what happened to Netaji. The Mukherjee commission investigated the case from 1999 to 2006. The key evidence before the commission was handwriting match between the pre 1945 documents and post 1945 documents. The book discusses in great detail the handwriting evidence that was examined and how government experts committed fraud and said the writing didn't match. Other internationally well-known experts said that writing of Netaji matched with Bhagwanji in two languages. Another key evidence which was fudged by the government was the DNA of the teeth which were found in the belongings of the deceased Bhagwanji. The authors go to great lengths to explain how this deception was carried out.

The seventh chapter discusses articles in Calcutta magazine called Jayashree with title "Oi Mahamanavase" (He was a superman). The eight chapter is devoted to exposing how the first commission i.e., the Shah Nawaj commission to find out about Netaji was an eyewitness. Netaji's brother Suresh Bose didn't accept this commission's finding and submitted a dissenting report. Similar was fate of fourth



Dr Pavitra Mohan Roy, INA

commission that is the Sahai commission which was setup in 2016. Noted Minister of Parliament Samar Guha after making contact with Bhagwanji wrote a book on how the Taihoku air crash never happened he personally visited Taihoku and investigated the documents. Justice Mukherji in 2006 concurred with him and said the air crash didn't take place. However, Justice Mukherji said he couldn't conclude that Bhagwanji was Netaji because there was no clinching evidence.

Chapter 9 throws light on stance of different Netaji family members on the matter. Chapter 10 discusses Netaji's days before Taihoku crash as well as what Bhagwanji told his followers about the crash. Bhagwanji mentioned in many conversations that he lived in Siberia for few years; that he had come back to India on foot across Nepal border. In an astonishing conversation the Sanyasi talked in detail about the Dalai Lama escape from Tibet. He mentioned to his followers that it was one General Shiva who lived with Khamba tribe who showed the way out and told Dalai Lama that he should go to India and planned the escape. He also revealed startlingly that India was not



Aparna Garg

given Independence in 1947 but was a dominion state. This fact is not common knowledge in India even today.

Chapter 11 talks about how Bhagwanji often gave hints that he felt betrayed by Bengal. A Sanyasi doesn't get aims in his own village he is said to have blurted out. At the battle of Imphal he said that British were about to surrender but 4 people defected from INA and gave away how stretched the INA was. "The British Indian Army fought with new vigour instead of surrendering and the beggar had to go back empty handed" he said. Bhagwanji would be furious about the mistakes of JLN combine (Jawahar Lal Nehru and his coterie) but said he had no rancour for Bapu.

Chapter 12 delves into why if Bhagwanji was Netaji he didn't come out. Bhagwanji talked about undivided motherland and wrote to Leela Roy in English "I know it as unalterable truth that divided wretched motherland will get back her undivided form and if someone's mental state so reacts to the situation then the undivided motherland will take larger form too". This chapter has an impressive lecture from the monk on what war is

about - "it's meant to break opponent's morale so he is forced to sue for peace". He talks in detail about China war with his comments written all over the book "Himalayan blunder". He was livid on Nehru's referral of Kashmir to UN he writes "A humiliating reptilian study of a stupid clown-posing statesmanship." I have read many critiques of Pandit Nehru including those of Ram Manohar Lohia but Bhagwanji's comments stand out as coming from a person who thinks he is on par with Nehru. On 1962 China war Bhagwanji made a sensational claim that he had intervened with Chinese to make a conciliatory offer to Nehru. With the offer went the message to Nehru that Bhagwanji wanted to come back but no reply came back from Nehru. He talks about Pakistan war and Tashkent agreement in great detail. He dropped hints to Pavitra Mohan Roy and Leela Roy about impending Bangladesh liberation and his plans and involvement in it. Bhagwanji talked in great detail about all the wars India had fought and war strategy in general. The deep insight he displayed is beyond a common man moreover its beyond most journalists. This book is worth reading just for this chapter on war strategy and understanding of wars India has fought. It's not surprising Gandhiji said at the time of partition to Shaheed Suharwardi that "Only Subhas could have saved the country today".

Bhagwanji lived in dire poverty living in open shelters at times and houses with roof leaking at other times. He would go hungry for many days. Once Leela Roy met him she made sure that he accepted help and at least his basic needs were met. He was known to have achieved highest level of sadhana or spiritual practice. He had deep

insight on politics, war, religion and social issues. He was said to have travelled outside India to many countries including Pakistan and China.

In the last chapter authors explore why Bhagwanji chose to stay hidden. To his followers he said he has been declared war criminal by Allied powers. And that if he came out it will cause problems for Indian government. This was much later proven to be true when John Major refused to take off Subhas Chandra Bose's name from war criminals list. The authors have also tried to understand and debated over the possibility of Bhagwanji suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder in light of his unsubstantiated claims.

In modern forensics handwriting is considered enough evidence to identify a person. Bhagwanji's writing with Netaji has matched in two languages hence with nearly 99% certainty one can say they were same persons. The authors have done a commendable job of examining a complex set of evidences from all angles. Considering the apathy on this issue from mainstream media the nation is indebted to the authors for bringing the life of Netaji post 1945 to the fore. Indeed, it's heartening to see the moral courage and determination of these two authors.

One small issue I faced with the book is that it has no index.

About the Author: Aparna Garg is a Computer Scientist and co-founder of an AI based start-up. She has a PhD in Computer Science from University of Manchester and MTEch from IIT Kharagpur. She currently makes her home in UK. She writes on impact of technology on social development in economically developing.

'Is Governor waiting for 'muhurat' to sign reservation bills'

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday accused Governor Anusuiya Uikey of misusing Constitutional rights by delaying the assent to two quota amendment bills and asked if she was waiting for 'muhurat' to sign them.

His remarks came a day after the governor told the media to wait "till March" when she was asked about the pending approval for the bills.

The amendment bills, passed by the state Assembly last December,

are related to quotas in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions in proportion to the population of different categories in the state.

"Why (is the governor) waiting till March? Is she looking for a muhurat (auspicious time)? There are exams scheduled following which admissions will start in educational institutions and recruitment exams to various government departments are also pending," he told reporters.

Baghel said the governor holding the bills is the

"misuse of rights granted under the Constitution".

"Which muhurat is scheduled in March when she will sign? These bills were passed in December. The BJP is silent on it. The bills have been halted at the behest of the BJP. This is an injustice to the youth of the state," he added.

The Chhattisgarh Assembly on December 2, 2022, passed the Chhattisgarh Public Service (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Reservation) Amendment Bill and the Chhattisgarh

Educational Institutions (Reservation in admission) amendment bill related to quota in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions in proportion to the population of different categories in the state.

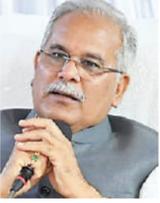
As per the bills, the Scheduled Tribe will get a quota of 32 per cent, Other Backward Classes 27 per cent, Scheduled Caste 13 per cent and the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) four per cent, taking the overall reservation in the state to 76 per cent.

CM chairs meeting of officers in Dharsinwa, reviews development works

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel held a meeting of district-level officials at the rest house in Dharsinwa and conducted a thorough review of the most recent status of development and construction projects, including the government's top priority programs. The Chief Minister gave the SSP Raipur strict instructions to avoid theft and unlawful possession.

The Chief Minister received information from the relevant department authorities during the meeting regarding the distribution of food grains and kerosene, the Narva program, the status of study teaching in schools, and the construction of

new roads. In addition to efficiently managing Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan, officials were also instructed to quickly finish the task of establishing natural paint production facilities using a material derived from cow dung in Gauthans. Anita Yogendra Sharma, President of Mineral Development Corporation Mr. Girish Dewangan, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma, Secretary to Chief Minister Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Divisional Commissioner Yashwant Kumar, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure, SSP Prashant Agarwal along with officers were present.



BJP alleges Tender scam in Text Book Corporation

Chaudhary seeks resignation from Chairman

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday raised demand from the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to order investigation into Tender Scam worth several crores reported in Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation (CTBC).

In a statement issued here, the BJP General Secretary OP Chaudhary said that an e-Tender scam worth Rs 130 crore has surfaced in the Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation in

the process of purchase of paper for the school text book for the year 2023-24. He alleged that four different companies have submitted tender from the same computer system within an hour on September 19, 2022. Chaudhary expressed surprise and sought how such co incidence has occurred.

BJP leader said that the CTBC Chairperson should be sacked immediately and investigation should be carried out in the entire process. He added that the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel should not patronize the reported corruption as it is related with the education for the school children.

NIT Raipur first at All India Sports Meet



Raipur, Jan 23: National Institute of Technology Raipur got first place in All India Inter-NIT Sports Meet in Yoga Competition. The students have once again brought laurels to the institute. In the competition held at NIT

Suratkal, the male team of NIT Raipur secured the first position and achieved the gold medal. The female team of NIT Raipur also did not lag in this competition, they secured the second position in the female category and won the silver

medal. Along with this spectacular performance in the Yoga competition, Sudhanshu Patel, 4th semester, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering Department student of NIT Raipur, has also brought laurels to the in-

stitute by winning the title of Best Player of Yoga.

This competition was organized at NIT Suratkal from 20 January 2023 to 22 January 2023. Teams from 15 NITs across the country participated in this competition. Along with yoga competitions, various other games were also organized during this period. NIT Raipur's volleyball team also performed brilliantly during this period and won everyone's applause. During this event, Sandhya Mahadik from the Sports Department and Suraj Nishad, faculty HSS Department, were present with the team as team managers and provided proper guidance to the players.

Indian Heritage Extempore held as a part of 74th Republic Day celebrations

Raipur, Jan 23: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Literati: The Literary Committee organized an Indian Heritage Extempore as a part of 74th Republic Day celebrations on 21st January 2023. The event was organized under the supervision of Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Professor In-charge, Literati. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about the Indian Heritage and its culture while providing a platform for expressing thoughts and improving soft skills.

The event consisted of two rounds. First was a quiz round consisting of eight objective and two subjective questions. The



second round was the extempore which was judged by Dr. Anoop Kumar Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Science. Participants were given a two minute

stipulation to present their thoughts in front of the jury and audience. Candidates were judged on the parameters of their content, clarity of thought, effective use of the English language,

logical organization, presentation skills and their enthusiasm. People from the audience were allowed to interject the speaker and points were allotted for a valid interjection. Q&A session for the audience was also conducted.

Anurag Deo, 4th Semester, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Lakshya Raj, 4th Semester, Chemical Engineering and Ishan Dutta, 4th Semester, Computer Science & Engineering were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placeholders respectively. The event concluded successfully with active participation of the students and prizes worth 12,000 distributed.

District Chess tournament on Jan 29

Raipur, Jan 23: District-level Chess tournament is being organized at Samta Colony on January 29 for the age group till 17 years in both the categories. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Raipur district Chess Association Secretary Navin Shukla said that prize worth Rs 25,000 would be distributed among the participants along with trophy, medals and certificates. Interested participants can get their names registered for the championship with Vikas Sharma on his contact no 9329100240.

Meeting held at Raj Bhavan for Republic Day celebrations-2023 preparations



Raipur, Jan 23: In view of preparations for the program to be organised on the occasion of Republic Day at Raj Bhavan, Deputy Secretary to the Governor, Deepak Kumar Agarwal took a meeting of various departments. He said that on the occasion of this national holy festival, a welcome ceremony will be organized in Raj Bhavan in the evening along with flag hoisting. For this, the officers of the concerned department should dis-

charge their responsibilities with caution and make the program a success. It was decided in the meeting that arrangements for the arrival and entry of the guests during the reception would be made jointly by the Superintendent of Police, Raipur and the Chief Security Officer, Raj Bhavan. The distribution of invitation letters for the function and the arrangements for bringing and taking back the freedom

fighters to the Raj Bhavan will be made by Collector Raipur, Commissioner Municipal Corporation was given the responsibility of cleanliness of Raj Bhavan premises and roads, arrangement of colourful flags, Horticulture Department was given the responsibility of cleaning ornamental plants and lawns. During the ceremony, traffic, security and law and order will be done by the Collector and Superintendent of Police. On this occasion, officers and employees of Raj Bhavan and Raipur Collectorate, Municipal Corporation, PWD, Electricity, Horticulture, AYUSH departments were present.

Junior doctors meet health minister amid indefinite strike

Singhdeo justifies the demands, writes a letter to CM

Raipur, Jan 23: Junior doctors met Health Minister TS Singhdeo amid indefinite strike, demanding increase in scholarship. During this, they informed Singhdeo that the scholarship of junior doctors in Chhattisgarh is very less as compared to other states. The demand to increase it has been made for years, but the government has not taken any action till now. During the discussion, Health Minister TS Singhdeo justified the demands



of junior doctors. He has written a letter to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to hike the scholarship. At the same time, by writing a letter to the Health Secretary, instructions have been given to take action on this under the rules. On this occasion, Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnu Dutt, Dean of Raipur Medical College Dr.

Trupti Nagriya were present. It is notable that 3,000 junior doctors of all government medical colleges across the state, including 650 of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, are on an indefinite strike since January 19. Due to their going on strike, the treatment of patients in the hospitals is getting affected. To make arrangements, the medical

college management has imposed the duty of senior doctors, but due to the problem of human resources, adequate arrangements have not been made. In OPD where treatments are being affected, surgeries have also reduced. The date is also being extended for major surgeries in hospitals.

Dr. Prem Chowdhary, president of the Junior Doctors Association, said, the Health Minister has justified the demand. He has assured that he will take action on this soon but we need solid assurance. He said that strike will continue until the demand is not met.

Man arrested in connection with incident of murder of a contractor

Raipur, Jan 23: Police have arrested a person from Ramkund area of Azad Chowk in connection with the incident of murder of a contractor in Ram Nagar area of Gudiary. According to information available Jairam Dhruv was wanted by the police in incident of murder of the contractor. He was at large after allegedly murdering a contractor named Dhaneshwar Prasad Pal with knives in broad daylight in Ramnagar area of Gudiary. Deceased Dhaneshwar

Prasad Pal was a contractor. Jairam's niece was playing with the children. Meanwhile, the contractor scolded Jairam's niece on something. Dispute cropping up with Jairam forbidding the contractor from scolding his niece soon led to contractor's murder. During interrogation Jairam admitted his involvement in murder incident in June 2021 in Seoni village of Mandir Hasaud. Jairam also admitted his involvement in connection with recovery of the dead body of Gudiary resident Rajeshwar

Sahu. Rajeshwar Sahu's body was found in the canal.

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राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस

24 जनवरी 2023

बेटी है, तो कल है

- **बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना -**
बच्चों के जन्म के समय लिंग चयन तथा विभेद को समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से योजना प्रदेश के दो जिलों रायगढ़ एवं बीजापुर में संचालित। इसका विस्तार प्रदेश के सभी जिलों में किया जा रहा है।
- **नोनी सुरक्षा योजना -**
पात्र बालिकाओं हेतु 5 वर्ष तक प्रतिवर्ष रु. 5,000 /-, कुल रु. 25,000 /- विनियोजित, 18 वर्ष की आयु एवं 12 वी की शिक्षा पर रु. 1.00 लाख की सहायता राशि देय, योजना अंतर्गत 36 हजार से अधिक बालिकाओं को लाभ।
- **प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना -**
सामाजिक, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर परिवार को प्रथम बच्चे के जन्म पर रु. 5,000 /- की सहायता तथा 01 अप्रैल 2022 के उपरांत जन्मी द्वितीय बालिका संतान हेतु रु. 6,000 /- की सहायता, अब तक प्रदेश में 7,66,000 से अधिक महिलाओं को लाभ दिया गया है।
- **शुचिता योजना -**
शासकीय शालाओं / महाविद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत बालिकाओं को स्वच्छ एवं कम लागत का सेनेटरी नेपकिन सुगमता से उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से अब तक 3697 स्कूलों में संचालित।
- **किशोरी बालिका योजना -**
14 से 18 वर्ष की शाला त्यागी एवं शाला जाने वाली बालिकाओं को जीवन कौशल प्रशिक्षण एवं स्वास्थ्य सुविधा प्रदान करने तथा पोषण स्तर में सकारात्मक सुधार लाने हेतु टेक होम राशन प्रदाय किए जाने के उद्देश्य से योजना संचालित। दर्ज संख्या- 2,17,784
- **मिशन वात्सल्य -**
योजना अंतर्गत प्रदेश में बाल देखरेख संस्थाओं का संचालन कुल 16 बालिका गृह संचालित है।

श्रीमती अनिला भेड़िया
मान. मंत्री, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग

Education necessary for societal change: Baghel

Announcement of Swami Atmanand English School in Tarpongi and Barbanda, Rs 30 lakh for building in Tivaraya and for installation of a statue of 'Swami Atmanand' in Zero Point Assembly

CM attends conference of Chhattisgarh Manwa Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj



dreams. Along with this, he stated that education is essential for societal development. Our administration is working hard to ensure that children receive a high-quality education. During his address to the program, he stated that numerous plans are being launched to improve the economic status of the state's farmers. The government is dedicated to paying farmers a fair price for their produce. Farmers receive Rs 9,000 per acre under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Similarly, the Godhan Nyay Yojana provides advantages to the locals. Cow dung is being obtained to aid cattle rearers as well. Females in Gauthans are producing vermicompost. Farmers should make the most of it. This will improve the soil's quality as

well as the crop's quality. Swami Atmanand English medium schools are being opened in every village of the state to provide education to the children in English medium. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced Swami Atmanand English Schools at Tarpongi and Barbanda, while an amount of Rs 30 lakh for building at Tivaraya, and for the installation of Swami Atmanand's statue at Zero Point Assembly. Dharsinwa MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma, former Rajya Sabha MP Mrs. Chhaya Verma, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Text Book Corporation Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State

Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, former MLA Janakram Verma, Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure, SSP Prashant Agarwal along with other public representatives and office bearers of the society were present. Meanwhile, while addressing the gathering, the Central President of Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj, Chow Ram Verma, stated that we are glad that our Chief Minister is a descendant of the Kurmi community and that the leader of this state shares the same clan with our community. In addition, he expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire Kurmi community and the backward classes for granting the backward classes a 27 percent reservation.

Menstrual hygiene awareness campaign held

Amarnathak, Jan 23:

The Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in collaboration with Pranam Narmada Yuva Sangh (P R A N Y U S) , Amarnathak, has organized a menstrual hygiene awareness campaign, "BLED WITH DIGNITY" inside the university campus. The programme mainly intent to sensitize the students regarding menstrual hygiene. This campaign also aims to know the level of knowledge each individual has about the menstrual cycle and Pre-Menstrual Syndrome. The MSW students emphasized to break the stereotypes prevalent in the society towards menstruation and to talk openly about periods.



being running for the last two years by the collaborating organisation PRANYUS in which regional tribal women are given awareness regarding menstruation and women health through many awareness programmes. The activities undertaken by the Bled with Dignity campaign

are of sharing self-stories, quiz competition, selfie stand, red dot challenge and fundraising for pad donation to rural females. The boys who have never ever bought pads to females were given tasks to gift a sanitary pad to unknown girl. Prof. Shri Prakash

Mani Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of IGNTU, has addressed the programme. He said that, menstruation is the gift of god given to women, so that she can bear a child in her womb. Prof. Rajesh Singh Vice Chancellor of DeenDayalUpadhyay Gorakhpur University, Dr.Sumita Singh the Director of Agricultural Statistics, Mrs. Sheela Tripathi, President of Shree Sheel Mandal association, Mr. P. Siluvainathan Registrar of IGNTU, have joined hands in the initiative and given a speech on healthy women is everyone's responsibility. Young women and men should openly talk about this, leaving all the shyness behind. Dr. Krishnamani Bhagabati and Dr. Divya K also spoke at this event.

MSW student selected as Management Trainee

At SECL

Amarnathak, Jan 23: Shikhar Singh Chouhan, an MSW student of the Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarnathak, Madhya Pradesh has been selected as a Management Trainee (MT) at South-East Coal



Limited (SECL), Road, Chhattisgarh,

Chouhan, who has recently joined his duty is the first student of the Department to secure a permanent job at a PSU. He has also qualified UGC-NET in Social Work in the December 2022 cycle. A resident of Pendra

Chouhan was a student of the 5th Batch MSW (2022-22). The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi, in a recent community extension program of the Department, felicitated him. The Department takes immense pride in the success of Chouhan and wishes him all the best in future endeavors.

CM Baghel pays homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose



On his birth anniversary

Raipur, Jan 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the great freedom fighter and founder of Azad Hind Fauj, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 126th birth anniversary by offering flowers on his picture at his residential office today. During this Rajya Sabha MP, Phulo Devi Netam was also present. On this occasion, Chief Minister Baghel stated

that slogans such as "Tum Mujhe Khoon do, Main Tumhe Azadi Dunga," 'Jai Hind,' and 'Dilli Chalo' of the great leader, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, 'has given the freedom movement a fresh vigor. These slogans have worked to energize citizens. His Azad Hind Fauj played an important role in the freedom struggle. Netaji represents the ideal of all Indians. His sacrifice, suffering, and vital commitment to the fight for liberty will never be forgotten.

Free treatment, Panchakarma process, and medicine distribution being done

To elders in 'Sian Jatan Clinic Scheme'

In the last 4 years, 6 lakh 19 thousand 52 persons got registered for treatment in OPD.

Rajnandgaon, Jan 23: The District's Ayurveda Department treats patients via several government programs. Because of the busy pace of life, the general population is becoming more interested in Ayurveda and Yoga for the treatment of stress, insomnia, and other diseases. As the government intended, the Ayurveda Department continues to provide medical services in the district. Ayush Polynic, 1 Ayush Wing, 3 Specialized Therapy Centers, 23 Ayurveda Dispensaries, and 2 Homeopathy Dispensaries make up the district's total of 30 Ayush centers. The National Ayush Mission organises



district and block-level camps. The value of the AYUSH method and the inauguration of the camp are explained by the people's representatives. Patients are being treated and medicines are being delivered at the camp using Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, and Unani methods. 14 thousand 117 patients have been treated in the development block

level camp Churiya over the last four years. 6 lakh 19 thousand 52 people have registered for OPD therapy. From April 2022, the Sian Jatan Clinic Yojana will provide free care, Panchakarma, and medicine distribution to the elderly on every Thursday of the month. Twenty thousand 525 people have registered for treatment at the OPD. In addition to this,

Ayushdeep sub-committee operates in six AYUSH centers in the Rajnandgaon district. Ayushdeep Committee organises free health camps, supplies medicines to Ayush centers, and provides various facilities such as furniture and other contingency materials. The Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Yojana imposes duties on officers and workers of AYUSH centers. In which allopathy and Ayush medicine are used to treat and distribute medicines to the people coming in Haat Bazar. In the district, 16 Ayurveda dispensaries are being established and operated as Ayush Health & Wellness Centers. Yoga instructors mandate individuals to do yoga every day, in addition to offering unique medical services. Doctors cure diseases, and medicines are supplied for free. This year this committee has provided treatment to many people and no of people registered for OPD was 3 lakh 40 thousand 808.

65 silver coins of Mughal era, other antiquities found



Rajnandgaon, Jan 23: A total of 65 silver coins of the Mughal era have been found kept in a pot, during the digging for laying water pipeline work in Village Bazar-Navagaon (Gram Panchayat Badgaon-Charbhatha) under Dongargaon development block of Rajnandgaon district. According to antique experts, these coins of the Mughal period date back to about 1700-1800 AD. Apart from this, 3 tiger-shaped rings of mixed metal and 2 bracelets of mixed metal have also been found. The work was being done under the 'Nal Jal Yojana'. Dongargaon Sub Divisional Officer Sunil Nayak said that the departmental team including Dr. Pratap Chand Parakh, deputy director, Dr. Vrishottam Sahu, ex-

cavation assistant, and Dr. Rajeev Minj and Dongargaon SDO under the direction of Vivek Acharya, Director Archaeology, Archives And Museums, Raipur inspected the site concerned and antiquities deposited to Dongargaon police station in-charge Shri Bareth. In a bid to preserve these antiquities, action is being taken to keep the same in Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum, Raipur. The Director of Culture and Archeology Department Acharya told that prima facie the silver coins found seem to be from the period of Mughal ruler Ahmad Shah Bahadur, which were minted in Cuttack. The script inscribed on the coins is Arabic-Persian.

Dashapal Panchayat building inaugurated



Bhond, Jan 23: MLA Shri Laksheshwar Baghel here inaugurated the Dashapal Panchayat building in Gram Panchayat Dashapal of Bakavand development block. In his address during the ceremony he said that Mahatma Gandhi considered himself a villager and had set-

tled in the village itself and to fulfill the needs of the village, he had established many institutions and tried his best to improve the physical, economic, social and moral condition of the villagers Mr. Baghel also told the villagers that the Gram Panchayat Development Plan is

a one-year plan for the development and basic services of the village, which is prepared by the Sarpanch, the Panch and the villagers together, keeping in mind the needs of the citizens and their priorities in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan with the available resources. Sarpanch Raghunath Kashyap, Ramesh Madhavani, Fisherman District President Madhunishad, Joint Secretary Virendra Sethia, Rural District General Secretary Vimal Bisai, Sarpanch Budru Ram, Tamen Bisai, NSUI President Nandu Bisai, Bahadur, Sada Bisai, Gopi Singh Thakur, Burdabai, Rajesh Kumar, workers and villagers were present.



Dental check up camp at Columbia Global School

Raipur, Jan 23: Columbia Global School organized a session on Study Techniques and Mind Power for the students of Grades 9 to 12 by JCI (Junior Chamber International, Raipur Chapter). The Guest speakers for the day were Santosh Dubey - a Zonal Trainer for JCI, who has an experience of more than 15 years enlightened the students with the different studying techniques to make them stress free during these examinations. Vikash Goel, a renowned psychologist, and a National Trainer for JCI who holds an experience of over 8 years inspired students to channelise their energy in a constructive way.



Dubey shared many study techniques related to reading practices with the students to help improve their performance. Along with it, he gave them many tips on time management and stress management, during the

examinations. Goel encouraged students to find a purpose in their life to be successful. It was an interactive session for the students. On this occasion, Director Ravinder Singh Hura, Principal Ivan Smith, Coordinator Ms. Amanpreet Kaur Saini along with the teachers were present. The school also organized a dental check-up and awareness camp on the school campus for all the pre primary students. Renowned dentists from Om Sai Dental Care Hospital Dr. Amit Poptani

and Dr. Amit Kukreja carried out a comprehensive dental check-up of students of Nursery, KG I and II classes. The tiny tots got a chance to interact with the dentists to enquire and gain knowledge concerning oral diseases. They got valuable tips and lessons from both doctors to maintain dental health and to brush their teeth twice a day. On completion of the dental check-up each student was given a kid's tooth paste, Dental Report Card with a summary of the diagnosis.

Congress Govt forgot the promise of liquor ban: Vikram Dhurve

Dallirajhara: BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha District President Balod and MP representative Vikram Dhurve has alleged the State Government regarding liquor ban. Vikram Dhurve said that at the time of the 2018 assembly elections, the Congress had taken an oath on Gangajal and said that when our government is formed, prohibition will be implemented, but after the elections, the results came in favor of the Congress and the promise was withheld. Vikram Dhurve accused the Congress government of backtracking and said that the payment of two years' outstanding bonus is pending as according to the manifesto, the announcement of giving pension to those above the age of 60 is also incomplete. The daily wage workers of the state were not regularized, he said and the government has forgotten Mahtari Samman Yojana, Widow Pension Scheme, by promising unemployment allowance of Rs 2500 to the youth. He said that the countdown has begun for the Congress government which has completed four years of terror, injustice, atrocities and corruption.



Rousing welcome to Pavan Ratre

At airport

Raipur, Jan 23: Adivasi Congress Bhavani Singh Markam offered rousing welcome to Pavan Ratre on his arrival at mana airport. Ratre has been appointed National

Coordinator of AICC SC Cell by AICC. While welcoming Ratre at the airport present among those present were Parakash Markande, Parakash Markande, Vishwakarma, Raju Deharia, Parru Baghel, Amit Giri, Sohail Khan and others.

New office bearers of Linesh Club sworn-in



Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 23: The oath ceremony of Linesh Club (Lakshya) was held in a private hotel and in this as officer and area officer Linesh Nirmla Dhruv and advisor Shobha were invited for the oath ceremony. On this occasion Kavita Thadlani was administered oath for the post of President;

Suman Soni for secretary and Gulab Dwivedi for the post of Treasurer. In addition to this the other office bearers for the post of Asst. Secretary, Vice Presidents and others were also administered oath. The chief guest in this oath ceremony was Pendra Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan. In his address he said that

Linesh Club is doing good work in the entire area in social field and extended greetings to all newly appointed office bearers. In this programme, Nitu Jain, Laxmi Agrawal, Neha Goekna, Sarita Sahu, Priya Trivedi, Aarti Agrawal, Shalu Agrawal, Chitrani Jaiswal and other members were present.

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Jan 23: Chief Guest MLA Bemetara Ashish Chabda took part in the 'Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan' organised in Gram Panchayat Kateli of Berla area here on Sunday.

He garlanded the photo of Lord Shri Ram and sought blessings for peace & prosperity of all in the region. On this occasion MLA dedicated a community building constructed at the cost of Rs 4 lakh in Kateli with contribution from MLA's funds.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Ashish Chabda said that it is an auspicious day that religious discourse on 'Ramayan' is being organised through this 'Manas Manch' and

'Murrum' on roads causing vehicles to slip

In road construction from Dongargarh to Jevartala

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 23: The road construction work from Dongargarh to Jevartala route and bridge repair work in Khujji is causing inordinate delay to passer-by due to series of pot-holes and uneven surface, reducing their speed.

It is also causing minor incidents of people falling off from their vehicles and suffering from injuries, especially the women. It is notable here that there are many spots from Matia to Khujji



where many accidents are taking place on daily basis.

ADB department in its road construction work is using 'Murrum' in the soder filling work and now this 'murrum' has come

to streets. Since it has not been removed for last many days, 'murrum' has spread on the road and acting as slippery for vehicle. On Jan 21, Mohan Mandavi along with his mother Dulari Bai was

going from Jongara to Rajnandgaon, but his vehicle slipped on 'murrum' granules and both of them fell down, with her mother suffering fracture of the back.

In the same way, PWD

Listening 'Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan' makes life blissful: MLA

Attends 'Navdha Ramayana sammelan' in Gram Kateli



everybody should take advantage of the same.

It is an honour for all that we all are getting to hear the excerpts from the Epic Ramayan based upon the life and struggle of Lord Shri Ram. In this area, Shri Akhand Navdha Ramayan is being organised in different villages of the region, he

added.

Speaking further MLA Ashish Chabda said that 'Ahand Navadha Ramayan' is basis of Chhattisgarhi culture and it is organised in every village for last many years.

Lord Shri Ram through his feelings of love, generosity and equality has fulfilled different roles as

that of son, brother, husband and a King and therefore he is known as 'Maryada Purshottam'.

The biggest lesson of Ramayan is that there is always victory of good over the evil and irrespective of how strong the bad or evil is, it is for a person with good intentions and qualities that always wins.

Lord Shri Ram resides in every person and it is just by recalling his name only that one can attain true bliss and happiness. Ramayan is an Indian epic and 'Amrit Katha', which teaches a person to follow on the path shown by Lord Shri Ram and inspires a person to live a better life.

On this occasion Shakuntala Mangat Sahu, President Nagar Palika Parishad Bemetara, Lukesh Verma, President BCC Bemetara, Dayasingh Verma, member Mandi Board, Mahesh Verma, Sarpanch, Mithilesh Verma, member rep, Janpad Panchayat Bemetara, Maoj Sharma 'Sabhapati', Bodhan Sahu, Rashmi Mishra and others.

PO small saving account campaign till Jan 28



Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Jan 23: A saving account campaign in post offices is being organised by Indian Postal Department Raipur division from Jan 23-28 and it was inaugurated on Jan 23. Under this people are being provided information about various schemes of the Postal

Department and would be motivated to open saving account in the Post office and to make them apprise about how this saving comes handy during any crisis. Recently the central government has increased the interest rates in the small saving schemes.

Presently through post offices among the saving

schemes generally are - Saving Account; Sukanya Samridhi account for girls upto 10 yrs; 'Aawarti Yojana' upto 5 yrs; term deposit for 1, 2, 3, and 5 yrs; senior citizen saving scheme; Provident Fund account and small saving scheme for general public which can be opened visiting the nearest post office.

CEO Janpad Panchayat conducts inspection



Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 23: A trial of boating in Smriti Vatika under construction in Sarbhara of Gourela was done on Friday, as there are plans for its dedication on

January 26. As per instructions by the Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary, CEO Janpad Pachayat Gourela Dr Sanjay Sharma conducted inspection of all the works going on in Smriti Vatika and took trial of boating as well. He also held meeting with all

the members of Samiti of Smriti Vatika to ensure its smooth functioning. On this occasion NRSI District Mission Manager Durgashankar Soni, Amol Pathak, Sarbahara Panchayats Panchs and officers and employees from Janpad Panchayat Gourela were present.

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Jan 23: A colorful cultural program was organized grandly in Bharat Dewangan Government Higher Secondary School. Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Preamsai Singh Tekam, Minister of School Education, Government of Chhattisgarh.

The program was presided over by MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, Domeswari Verma, District Panchayat President, Raipur, Arvind Dewangan, President, School Management and Development Committee, Ishwari Prasad Dewangan, Founding Member, Asha Yadav, Child Protection Commission, were the special guests.

Cultural program concludes in Bharat Dewangan HSS

The chief guest said in his address that as soon as one reaches the school premises, the clean environment and greenery here fascinates the mind and the proverbs written at various places in the school inspire us. MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, president of the program, said in a motivational speech that the students of this school always pass the board examination by getting good marks; therefore students should pay more attention to their career building.

Mementos and flower pots were presented to the guests on behalf of the school family. Principal Rajani Minz, Domar Yadav, Rajni Tripathi, Shweta Sharma, Rita Rani Verma and others were present.



NI work in Nagpur Division of SECR

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 23: The Rajnandgaon - Kalamna rail route is an important and busy rail route of the South East Central Railway, connecting the entire region to North India. New lines are being constructed to make the operations more smooth and to pave the way for new trains. Due to this development in infrastructure along with increase in new passenger facilities, passenger trains will also not be affected. Working actively in this direction, the work of third line is being done between Rajnandgaon and Kalamna. Under this, non-interlocking work will be done

to connect Gangajhari railway station of Rajnandgaon-Kalamna section with the third line. It may be noted that the length of the Rajnandgaon-Kalamna railway line is 228 km, various stations of which have been connected to the third line. This work is being completed in a phased manner.

In order to complete this work at a faster pace, non-interlocking work will be done on 15th February, 2023 from 10.00 am to 22.00 pm (i.e. in 12 hours) under 3rd line connectivity at Ganga Jhari station of Nagpur division.

The most important feature of this work is that no cancellation, regulation, rescheduling, short terminating, diverging of any passenger

train is being done in it. Under this non-interlocking work will be done in 01 day.

Rajnandgaon Kalamna 3rd Line is a very important line of South East Central Railway, which acts as a bridge to connect this region of Central India with North India. From Nagpur to Bilaspur and beyond, this entire region is connected to central India and important cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Madras, Kolkata, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Kota, Allahabad through this line.

As soon as the work of the third line is completed, new dimensions of economic and social development of this area will be paved with the movement of trains in future.

Tribute to Netaji on his 126th birth anniv



Bilaspur, Jan 23: South East Central Railway, along with headquarters in Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur Railway Division, paid tribute to the great freedom fighter and founder of Azad Hind Fauj, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 126th birth anniversary by offering flowers on his picture. It may be noted that his birth anniversary is celebrated as Bravery Day in the country. During this a large number of officers and employees of South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Headquarters were present.

Cricket tournament organised in village Injram

Of Bheji- a highly naxal-infested area

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jan 23: Sunit Kumar Rai, DIG, CRPF, Konta Range and Nitin Kumar, Commandant, 219th Battalion CRPF, in village Injram of Konta Block is one of the most sensitive naxal infested areas of the region. In 219th Battalion, a cricket tournament is being organized at Injram Camp under the 'Civic Action Program' 2022-23 and in this players took part enthusiastically.

The cricket tournament was inaugurated on Jan 21 by Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219th Battalion CRPF and Commandant addressed all the teams and encouraged all the players. Explaining the importance of sports in life, he spoke about the Indian players, as well as the government organizes various sports competitions at the state and district level from time to time. He appealed all to partici-



pate in those competitions as well. A large number of villagers from nearby villages were also present along with the players in the inaugural programme. Refreshments and food were arranged for all the players and villagers present in the inauguration ceremony. After the inauguration, the first match was played between Fandiguda and Landra team. In this very exciting match, Fandiguda's team won the match by one wicket by hitting a four of the last ball. Other 3 remaining teams will play 3 matches among themselves.

During this entire tournament, arrangements for stay and food for all the players have been made by the 219th Vahini of CRPF.

On this occasion, Neeraj Kumar Singh (Second Commanding Officer), Rehan Ali (Assistant Comm.), Dr. S.K. Sneha (Medical Officer), subordinate officers and other personnel of 219th Battalion CRPF were present. All the nearby villagers participated enthusiastically in this event, which clearly shows that the trust of the villagers in the government is increasing in this area.

Good relations and trust is being established between the common citizens and the security forces. The people of this area are joining the main stream of development leaving Naxalite ideology. A new ray of hope has awakened in all the villagers due to the development work done by the CRPF's 219th Battalion.

BRIEF



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde pays tribute to Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray on his birth anniversary, in Mumbai, Monday.

Suicide

Jabalpur: A 43-year-old Indian Army colonel allegedly committed suicide by hanging at a training centre in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city, police said on Monday. The body of Colonel Nishith Khanna, posted as Commanding Officer in the 1-Technical Training Regiment (TTR), was found hanging from a ceiling fan in a room of the officers' mess in the One Signal Training Centre at around 10.30 pm on Sunday, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Priyanka Shukla said.

Booked

Saharanpur: A case has been registered against 12 policemen on the orders of the court over the death of a man in an alleged encounter with police in the Deoband area here, police said on Monday. According to the police, on September 5, 2021, an encounter took place between a police team and alleged cattle smugglers in Thithiki village under the Deoband police station area.

Inspect

Chennai: A Ministerial delegation from Tamil Nadu visited Kottayam in Kerala on Monday and inspected the Periyar memorial at Vaikom that reminisces the historic struggle and its connection with the Dravidian movement. Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports Minister E V Velu, accompanied by Information Minister M P Saminathan, said with the centenary of Vaikom sathyagraha coming up next year, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is likely to unveil plans to commemorate the event.

Indefinite strike

Ranchi: After contractual health employees, more than 42,000 Sahiyas (ASHA workers) from across Jharkhand went on indefinite strike from Monday demanding a hike in their remuneration. Sahiyas, who help mobilize the community and facilitate in access health and health related services such as immunization, antenatal check-up, post-natal check-up and others in rural areas, are demanding a hike in their remuneration.

Arrest

Chandigarh: Punjab police have arrested 255 people in the last one month for allegedly selling banned "Chinese manjha" or synthetic kite strings. The state police is cracking down on the sale of banned 'Chinese manjha' following a spate of unfortunate incidents during kite flying competitions.

Arms syndicate busted ahead of R-Day

● **Two held**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Ahead of Republic Day, the Delhi Police has busted an arms syndicate by arresting two men and recovering 34 pistols from their possession, officials said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Naved Rana (21) and Saleem (39), both residents Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh, they said. The consignment of firearms was supposed to be delivered to a member of the Gogi gang, police said. The police got a tip-off on January 13 and conducted a raid at a place on

the Delhi-Jammu Road in Narela and nabbed Rana who had 10 pistols in his possession.

The police then identified Rana's source — Saleem — who was arrested on Friday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

Based on the inputs given by Saleem, an illegal arms manufacturing unit was busted and huge cache of firearms and tools were recovered on Saturday from a sugarcane field at Kandhla village in Shamli district, the DCP said. A total of 24 finished single shot country-made pistols, six semi-finished automatic pistols, 10

body screws of country-made pistols, 20 freshly-cut barrels, one old barrel etc were recovered, Singh said. Rana told the police that his brother Asif is presently lodged in the Muzaffarnagar Jail of Uttar Pradesh in connection with various criminal cases, officials said.

He was informed about Saleem by Asif. He used to obtain illegal firearms and ammunition from Saleem and used to supply them at various places in Delhi-NCR and UP to members of crime syndicates, police said. Saleem has been involved in illegal firearms manufacturing and trading for last 10 years, police said.

Before 2012-13, he was in contact of various illegal arm dealers of western UP, but was not involved in any kind of illegal activity. Gradually, he learnt how to manufacture illegal firearms and ammunition and started his own set up at his home, police said.

Thereafter, he started supplying such firearms locally and also got associated with one Mukeem Kala gang, they said.

In 2015, he was booked in four criminal cases, including a rioting case, registered at the Kandhla police station. In the riot case, he was involved in setting a police station on fire along with many others, police said.

IIT Delhi's innovation hub to train students from over 100 schools

● **In robotics**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

IIT Delhi's Technology Innovation Hub will train class 9 and 10 students from more than 100 schools in robotics during bootcamps, officials said on Monday.

IHFC (I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics), the technology innovation hub of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here will conduct the bootcamps which will be supported by its incubated startups — Rancho Labs and The Innovation Story.

"So far, over 800 students have benefited from 26 such bootcamps conducted during the last couple of weeks. The focus of these bootcamps is to encourage young minds to apply their skills and de-

velop robots in teams. The bootcamps will train students not only on the basics of robotics but also how to use robotics in everyday life," said SK Saha, Project Director at IHFC.

"It's incredible to see the overwhelming response from Delhi schools to the bootcamps, as well as the interest generated among students for the league.

"These young minds are our future, and we need to direct their brilliance in the right direction of ideation, conceptualisation, and creation of robots and their future possibilities at this age," Saha added.

The Delhi Robotics League (DRL), 2023 is open to all Delhi Schools and schools across all boards in Delhi are eligible to participate. The registration deadline is January 26.

'Attempts made to forget Netaji, our effort to honour him'



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah addresses at the naming ceremony of 21 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, in Andaman & Nicobar, Monday.

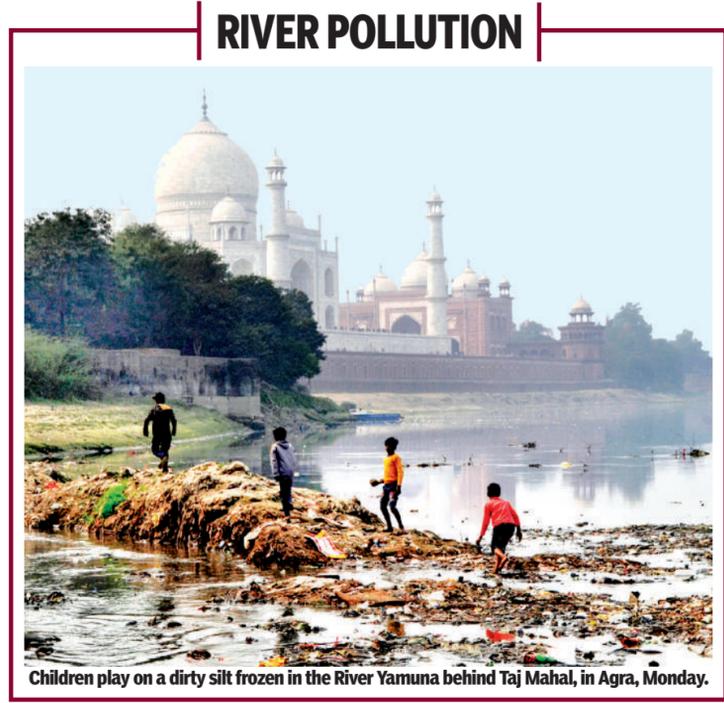
Port Blair, Jan 23 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday lamented that attempts were made to ensure Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gets forgotten, but the Narendra Modi government has taken sever-

al initiatives such as the setting up of a memorial in Andamans to honour his legacy.

Shah is on a visit here to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Addressing a gathering



Children play on a dirty silt frozen in the River Yamuna behind Taj Mahal, in Agra, Monday.

RIVER POLLUTION

'SHAKTI' TURNS 50

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, guitarist John McLaughlin to perform

● **On Jan 28**

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Commemorating its 50th anniversary, the iconic Indo-Jazz fusion band "Shakti" — comprising legendary guitarist John McLaughlin, tabla player Zakir Hussain, vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopal and percussionist V Selvagesh — is all set to perform here in the national capital on January 28.

The much-awaited music concert, ready to enthrall the audience at Jawahar Lal Nehru indoor weightlifting auditorium, is widely presented by organisers as an 'east-meets-west musical confluence'. It is produced by live entertainment platform Paytm Insider.

"The band is returning to perform after three

years, and we are certain that the supergroup will sweep music lovers off their feet in an 'east-meets-west musical confluence'. We're so stoked to be a part of their 50th year tour," Varun Khare, business head, Paytm Insider, said in a statement.

The seeds of 'Shakti' was sowed when the British virtuoso guitarist John McLaughlin and visionary tabla player Zakir Hussain connected in the early 1970s. Teaming up with Hussain, violinist L Shankar, and ghatam player TH 'Vikku' Vinayakram, McLaughlin founded the band and gave birth to the genre of 'fusion music'.

So blending Jazz Rock, Hindustani classical and Carnatic, the transcontinental collaboration Shakti unified North and South India's music and western harmony.

Odisha disaster management authority bags central award

Along with Mizoram's Lunglei fire station

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and the Lunglei Fire Station in Mizoram have been selected for a central award for their excellent work in disaster management in the institutional category, the Union Home Ministry announced on Monday.

The Narendra Modi government has instituted an annual award, called Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in

India in the field of disaster management.

For 2023, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Lunglei Fire Station (LFS) in Mizoram have been selected for the award in the institutional category, according to a statement issued by the home ministry said. The award is announced every year on January 23 on the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

Under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, the country has significantly improved the disaster management practices, preparedness,

mitigation and response mechanisms resulting in significant reduction in casualties during natural calamities.

For the award for 2023, nominations were solicited from July 1, 2022.

As many as 274 valid nominations were received from institutions and individuals, the statement said. The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority was established in 1999 in the aftermath of the Super Cyclone.

The OSDMA embarked on multiple initiatives including raising of the Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF), Multi-hazard Early Warning Service (MHEWS) framework, and a cutting-edge technology-enabled web/smartphone-based platform called "SARTARK" (System for

Assessing, Tracking, and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge). The OSDMA provided effective response during various cyclones such as Hudhud (2014), Fani (2019), Amphan (2020) and Odisha floods (2020), the statement said. The OSDMA conducted disaster preparedness initiatives in building community resilience in 381 tsunami-prone villages and wards and 879 multi-purpose cyclone and flood shelters located within 1.5 km from coastline.

The Lunglei Fire Station responded efficiently and effectively to a massive forest fire which was reported on April 24, 2021 in the uninhabited forest areas that surrounded Lunglei town and spread to more than 10 village council areas.

SANSAD KHEL MAHOTSAV



Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with MP Rakesh Singh (R) plays a game of 'Slingshot' during a Sansad Khel Mahotsav programme, at Ranital Stadium in Jabalpur, Monday.

Pak woman illegally staying in Bengaluru arrested

Bengaluru, Jan 23 (PTI):

Police have arrested a 19-year-old Pakistani woman for allegedly forging her identity and illegally staying in the city.

According to the police, the woman identified as Iqra Jeevani had entered India last year through the porous India-Nepal border.

They said she is married to Mulayam Singh Yadav, a 25-year-old security guard from Uttar Pradesh, whom she met through a gaming app.

They are said to have met on the app and fell in love and later decided to get married, police sources said, following this she came to Nepal a few months ago where

they got married. The couple then came to India crossing the India-Nepal border and reached Bihar.

Yadav brought Iqra Jeevani to Bengaluru, where he worked as a security guard, and the couple rented a house in Junnasandra.

He even got an Aadhaar card done for Iqra Jeevani after changing her name to Rava Yadav, mentioning her as his wife, and later she even applied for an Indian passport.

Her identity came to light when the Intelligence Bureau tracked Iqra Jeevani's trail, as she was trying to contact her family members back in Pakistan and alerted the state intelligence.

'Siddaramaiah won't contest Assly polls from Kolar'

Belagavi (K'taka), Jan 23 (PTI):

Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa on Monday claimed that Congress leader Siddaramaiah was allegedly playing a drama and that he would not contest the Assembly polls from Kolar segment as announced by the latter, and may go back to his home district of Mysuru instead.

Ending speculation, Siddaramaiah had earlier this month announced that he would be contesting the polls from Kolar, if the party high command agrees.

"Today itself I will say one thing, don't think I'm making a prediction, Siddaramaiah will not contest from Kolar for any reason, he is playing a drama and is trying to go back to Mysuru," Yediyurappa said.

Speaking to reporters here, the former Chief Minister said the Congress legislature party leader is aware that he would face a defeat and have to go home, if he contests from Kolar.

"He is playing political circus and drama, according to me, he will not contest from there (Kolar) and may try to go back to Mysuru, if that happens we will do the strategy we need to," he added.

Asked about talks that were doing rounds that Siddaramaiah may contest from two seats, Yediyurappa, who is the member of BJP's top parliamentary board, said, "I don't know about it, it is left to their party. Let him contest from two or three seats, but going home is certain."

Amid intense speculation that he may contest from



B S Yediyurappa

two seats like he did in 2018 Assembly polls, Siddaramaiah, a former Chief Minister, had recently made it clear that he would contest the upcoming polls from one constituency. Siddaramaiah, not wanting to contest from Badami, his current constituency, in Bagalkote district of north Karnataka region, was looking for a "safe seat",

and on January 9 had announced his willingness to contest from Kolar, if party permits. In the 2018 polls, he had contested from two seats- Chamundeshwari and Badami.

As the then sitting chief minister, he lost the polls in Chamundeshwari (in Mysuru) to JD(S) G T Deve Gowda by 36,042 votes. He, however, won Badami, the other constituency from where he had contested and defeated B Srimamulu (BJP) by 1,696 votes.

Making his debut in the Assembly in 1983, Siddaramaiah had got elected on Chamundeshwari on a Lok Dal Party ticket. He has won five times from this constituency and tasted defeat thrice. After neighbouring Varuna became a constituency in 2008 following delimitation,

Siddaramaiah represented it till he vacated the seat for his son Dr Yatindra (MLA) in the 2018 polls and went back to his old constituency of Chamundeshwari.

Siddaramaiah has made it clear several times that he would not contest from Chamundeshwari anymore, and if Yediyurappa's claims are to be believed, he may look for Varuna, in which case his son Yatindra would be left without a seat.

It is no secret that Siddaramaiah, who was Chief Minister between 2013-2018, is nursing his ambition for a second term in office, if the party wins the next Assembly polls.

With State Congress president D K Shivakumar too having similar aspirations, it has triggered a game of one-upmanship between the two leaders.

Pakistan suffers major power outage after grid failure

Islamabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

Pakistan faced a major power breakdown on Monday due to a "frequency variation" in the national grid, leaving millions of people in large parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, without electricity.



he was quoted as saying by Geo News.

Explaining the failure, he said the authorities shut down the power generation system at night due to lower demand in winter to save fuel costs.

According to the Ministry of Energy, the system of frequency of the national grid went down at 7:34 am local time, resulting in the breakdown.

"System maintenance work is progressing rapidly," it tweeted.

Energy Minister Khuram Dastgir said the restoration work was going on.

"I can assure you that power will be fully restored across the country within the next 12 hours,"

generating units one by one, he said.

People in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi woke up on Monday with no electricity available anywhere in the metropolis. According to details, the major power breakdown also hit other cities across Pakistan but Karachi was the worst affected. In Peshawar, a city of over 2.3 million people, some people were reportedly unable to get drinking water as the pumps

were powered by electricity.

It is not the first time that the country has faced such a crisis.

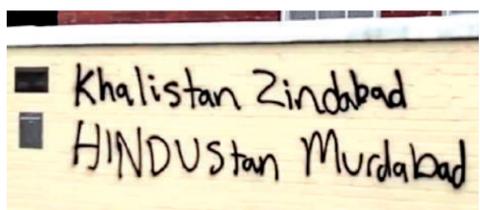
Last year in October, Pakistan witnessed a 12-hour power outage due to technical glitches in the electricity distribution system. Pakistan is grappling with one of the country's worst economic crises in recent years amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves. The crisis forced the government earlier this month to order shopping malls and markets to close by 8:30 pm for energy conservation purposes. The sorry state of the country's power sector is emblematic of its ailing economy. The power outages occur frequently due to lack of funds to upgrade aging infrastructure.

PROTEST



Sri Lanka ports' trade union stage an anti-government protest to propose tax reforms against its economic crisis, outside the ports authority in Colombo on January 23.

Third Hindu temple vandalised in Australia within fortnight



Melbourne, Jan 23 (PTI):

A third Hindu temple has been vandalised within a fortnight in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti, according to a media report on Monday. The management of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple also known as the Hare Krishna Temple in Melbourne's Albert Park on Monday morning found the walls of the revered temple vandalised with graffiti "Hindustan Murdabad". The Australia Today website reported. "We are shocked and outraged with this blatant

disregard for respect for the place of worship," Bhakta Das, Director of Communication for ISKCON Temple, said.

"A complaint has been filed with Victoria Police and CCTV footage is being provided to assist them in their pursuit of culprits."

This is the third such incident in the country within a fortnight.

On January 16, the historic Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was vandalised in a similar manner.

On January 12, the Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was defaced by 'anti-social elements' with anti-India graffiti.

Acting Premier of Victoria Jacinta Allan told

The Australia Today, "All Victorians deserve to practice their faith free from racism, vilification and hatred." "This behaviour is not reflective of the majority of Victorians. The diversity of Victoria is one of our strongest assets, and we condemn these attacks," Allan added. This attack on ISKCON Temple came just two days after Victorian multi-faith leaders had an emergency meeting with the Victorian Multicultural Commission after which a statement of condemnation was issued against the spread of Hindu hate allegedly by Khalistani supporters.

"This is disgusting. We must not allow this to happen," Victorian Liberal Party MP Brad Battin has told The Australia Today.

Federal Member of Parliament Josh Burns also issued a statement saying, "I was shocked today to learn of the hateful attack on the Hare Krishna temple in Albert Park."

Russia expels Estonia ambassador amid 'destroyed' relations

Moscow, Jan 23 (AP):

Russia is expelling Estonia's ambassador and the country's diplomatic mission will be headed by a charge d'affaires, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Estonian Ambassador Margus Laidre was ordered to leave the country by February 7, the ministry said.

The statement said that Estonia's diplomatic representation from now on will be downgraded to a charge d'affaires heading the European Union country's mission in Moscow.

The ministry said that the move was made in retaliation for Estonia's "newly unfriendly step to radically reduce the size of the Russian Embassy in Tallinn." The Estonian Foreign Ministry earlier this month ordered Russia to reduce the number of its embassy staff to eight diplomats and 15 administrative,

technical, and service staff members in order to "reach parity in embassy staff" by February 1.

Estonia has reduced its bilateral relations with Moscow "to the absolute minimum" since the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine, Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu said in a statement on January 11.

"Now we are setting a limit to the number of Russian diplomats working in Estonia in order to achieve parity. Today's step is in correlation with the low point of our relations in general," he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday that "the Estonian leadership has purposefully destroyed the entire range of relations with Russia." "Total Russophobia, the cultivation of hostility towards our country have been elevated by Tallinn to the rank of state policy," the statement read.

Imran Khan says he will challenge Punjab caretaker CM's appointment in SC

Lahore, Jan 23 (PTI):

Pakistan's ex-premier Imran Khan has said he will challenge in the Supreme Court the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, describing him an "enemy" of his party and slamming the election commission for reducing the country to a "Banana Republic".

Naqvi was sworn in as the caretaker chief minister of Punjab on Sunday night, hours after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) unanimously decided to appoint him to the post.

His appointment came after the ruling party and the opposition in the province failed to reach consensus on a name for the post. Naqvi, who was one of the two candidates suggested by ex-Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz, is the owner of a media house and said to be very close to PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari.



Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) calls Naqvi "Zardari's front man in his corruption."

"PML-N has history of selecting their own umpires but it's incredible how ECP has selected a sworn enemy of PTI as caretaker CM Punjab a post meant for a non-partisan person," Khan said in a tweet. The PTI chief posted a picture of Naqvi's plea bargain to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) requesting that he be allowed to pay Rs 3.5 million as plea bargain in the Haris Steels Mills corruption case.

"Naqvi made a voluntary return deal with the anti-graft watchdog and the Supreme Court had de-

clared in a suo motu case no. 17/2016 that a person responsible for voluntary return could not hold any public office at federal or provincial level nor in any state organisation," he said.

"ECP has helped reduce Pak to a Banana Republic making our democracy a joke. I will be holding a presser tomorrow to expose this entire farce," he said on Sunday. Khan said Naqvi has been tasked with delaying the elections in Punjab and to sabotage the PTI. Mohsin Naqvi has come with a two-point agenda extend the present set-up's tenure for a year, and do all that he can to damage the PTI," Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PMLQ) senior leader Moonis Elahi tweeted.

Former Chief Minister of PTI Chaudhry Parvez Elahi dissolved the Punjab Assembly on January 12 on the wish of Khan to push the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led federal coalition to call for snap polls.

Biden's next climate hurdle: Enticing Americans to buy green

Washington, Jan 23 (AP):

President Joe Biden persuaded Democrats in Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars to fight climate change. Now comes another formidable task: enticing Americans to buy millions of electric cars, heat pumps, solar panels and more efficient appliances.

It's a public relations challenge that could determine whether the country meets Biden's ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.

Relying on tax credits and rebates made the climate legislation it was approved in August with only Democratic votes more politically palatable than regulations that force wholesale changes in polluting industries.

But it also means the administration's battle against global warming



will be waged "one household at a time," said Shannon Baker-Branstetter, who works on energy issues at the Centre for American Progress, a liberal think tank closely aligned with the White House. "It is very incremental," she said. "So it requires a very sophisticated communications strategy."

Biden acknowledged the hurdle during a recent Cabinet meeting as he talked about the incentives that are becoming available this year. "Folks need to know how to take ad-

vantage of these benefits that we passed. That's on all of us around the table here to make sure we get that message out clearly," he said.

The White House says it is piecing together a plan to partner with state governments, contractors, retailers and social media influencers to get the word out. "Lowering utility bills is going to be a key driver," said Josh Peck, a senior policy adviser on clean energy issues. It's also collaborating with Rewiring America, a nonprofit focused on ways to electrify homes and businesses, and companies like Airbnb, Redfin and Lyft. As part of the effort, Rewiring America created an online calculator that shows what credits or rebates homeowners might be eligible for, depending on their ZIP code and income.

India issues visa to 249 Pakistani pilgrims to visit Ajmer Sharif

Islamabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

India has issued visas to 249 Pakistani pilgrims to visit the tomb of Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Rajasthan, an official said on Sunday.

Citing a spokesperson of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, the state-run Radio Pakistan reported that 488 applicants had applied for visas, but only 249 pilgrims were granted visas.

The spokesperson said that all the pilgrims have been informed to reach Lahore from where they will embark on a journey to India on Tuesday.

He said six officials were deputed to take care of the pilgrims during their stay in

India. However, only one of them was granted permission to go with the pilgrims, he added.

The two countries allow pilgrims to travel under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, signed by India and Pakistan in September of 1974.

However, it has been witnessed that the two sides routinely reject visas of pilgrims on various grounds.

Kyiv, Jan 23 (AP):

The speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament warned Sunday that countries supplying Ukraine with more powerful weapons risked their own destruction, a message that followed new pledges of armoured vehicles, air defence systems and other equipment but not the battle tanks Kyiv requested.

Ukraine's supporters pledged billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine during a meeting at Ramstein Air Base in

Germany on Friday, though the new commitments were overshadowed by a failure to agree on Ukraine's urgent request for German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks. The issue appeared to

move close to a resolution late Sunday when Germany's top diplomat said her country would not object if Poland decided to send some of its Leopards to Ukraine.

Asian community reeling after Lunar New Year shooting

Monterey Park (US), Jan 23 (AP):

It was a joyful kickoff to the first Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park since before the pandemic, with large crowds filling the streets in the majority Chinese American city near Los Angeles for live entertainment, carnival rides and plenty of food.

But the celebrations were marred by tragedy Saturday night after a gunman entered a ballroom dance hall and opened fire, killing 10 people, wounding 10 more and sending panicked revellers into the streets.

The shooting that left 5 men and 5 women dead brought a jarring end to the planned two-day party to ring in the Year

of the Rabbit, which featured dragon dancers parading through downtown streets decorated with red lanterns.

Sunday's festivities were cancelled, though some Lunar New Year celebrations went on in neighbouring cities also home to large Asian-American populations. "We haven't had a celebration like this in

three years, so this was momentous. People came out in droves," said Mayor Pro Tem Jose Sanchez, who was there with his 6-year-old daughter.

He estimated 100,000 people attended Saturday, and the festival is typically one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations in the state.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date :- 19.01.2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

- For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
- Bid Due Date - 07.02.2023
- Concern Division - Ambikapur Division

S. No.	N.I.T.No./Online System Number	Name of work	P.A.C. in lacks
1	195 121439 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Raghunathpur Lundra Dhourpur Road (Part 2) in/c Km. 27 to 41 = 15.00 Km. under CGRIDCL.	56.39
2	196 121440 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Ara Kundi Dakai Road Length 7.50 Km and Raghunathpur Lundra Dhourpur Road in/c Length 26.00 Km. under CGRIDCL.	56.69
3	197 121441 1st Call D Class and Above	Road Furniture work in Construction of Darima to Nawanagar Road i/c Culvert Length 22.40 Km. under CGRIDCL.	81.20

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle Ambikapur

G-97863/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला - गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.) Email id - aephegaurella@gmail.com

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र 'अ' (प्रतिशत दर) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)
1	257 / 18.01.2023	121292	तेन्दुमुड़ा	मरवाही	124.55
2	258 / 18.01.2023	121299	लोहारी	मरवाही	234.27
3	259 / 18.01.2023	121309	मरवाही	मरवाही	225.29
4	260 / 18.01.2023	121332	दौजरा	गौरेला	64.40

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि :- निविदा क्रमांक 257 से 260 तक दिनांक 06.02.2023 समय :- 17:30 बजे तक

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें बरोहरे राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 23.01.2023 से देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वा.यां.खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही G-97851/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 295

Social media influencers cannot go scot-free

The decision of the Union government announced on Friday making it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose all "material" interests such as gifts, hotel accommodation, equity, discounts and awards which they receive when endorsing any products, services or scheme, is a very welcome move. What is more welcome is the second part of the announcement – that, failing to make such disclosure would attract strict legal action, including ban on endorsements can be taken. This decision of the government comes as a part of the continuing efforts to clamp down on misleading advertisements as also to protect the interests of consumers – the common people – in the backdrop of the expanding social influencer market. According to latest estimates, the social influencer market is projected to grow 20 per cent every year to reach Rs 2,800 crore by 2025. The government has also empowered the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to impose a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers, and penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh for the subsequent offences. In addition, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 will also remain applicable, the government said. The decision of the government is aimed at social media influencers which have material connection with the brand they want to promote on various social media platforms. This is also a kind of obligation for the social media influencers to behave responsibly as far as the disclosure is concerned to the consumers. It has been a trend in recent times across the globe for companies and manufacturers to actively collaborate with 'social media influencers' for marketing their products and brands. Influencer advertising is a major latest trend for gaining publicity, with manufacturers ranging from big multinational companies to local businesses resorting to this new game. With certain people attaining celebrity status through social media and thus becoming influencers, common people have been allegedly led into a trap, especially by unscrupulous companies and manufacturers. This in turn has opened up floodgates for the common people to be left cheated, especially when the innocent ones began to believe what the social media influencers say or endorse, not knowing that most of these people do not use or consume the products they endorse, and/or a sizable chunk of such products are not exactly what it is claimed to be.

The Ballot is stronger than the Bullet

Vinod Chandrashekhara Dixit

National Voters Day is celebrated on January 25 every year since 2011. The first-ever National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 25, 2011, to encourage more young voters to take part in the electoral process. The national voter's day is undoubtedly a step forward in encouraging the right practices in the electoral system. National Voters day marks the foundation of Election commission of India which was laid on 25th of January, 1950. Every year, the government proposes a new theme to draw more youngsters to come forward and enroll themselves in the electoral rolls of the country. The aim is to encourage our voters to participate enthusiastically in the democratic process. And that is why the relevance of this day is even more pronounced on the eve of Republic Day. Young voters who have just turned 18 and got the right to vote for the first time. "Our Constitution empowers an independent Election Commission. And our election process makes every vote important, with the right to equality and freedom. A government is selected by voting in an election, which is every citizen's right to choose among several candidates for ruling their constituency. Voting generally takes place in polling booths. The constitution of India places utmost importance on maintaining the dignity of the voter. He has all the rights to cast votes according to his likes and dislikes. As such Indian democracy is known through the world for its maturity and stability." NVD is celebrated all over the country right from the national level to the far remote corners of our country down to each Polling Station location where new voters were felicitated with a badge carrying the logo 'Proud to be a Voter- Ready to Vote', administered the Pledge and handed over their Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs). India is the largest democracy in the world. Every citizen of this country is provided with basic rights to vote. He can exercise his franchise to select the leader he thinks is capable of leading the nation and bringing about a change. Voting is very important as it lets you decide and give your opinion about the choice of your leader. As a result it brings up your voting rights which every citizen above the age of 18 has got in every country. It is also said that wrong political parties are not won by the number of votes they received, but they win by the number of people who did not vote the correct or the good political parties. The day is very significant in the roots of India because the future of our country lies in the leaders we select today. A vote is a choice made by a particular group or a person in a meeting or an election. It is a means to express one's views in response to a poll. One must remember that when we vote, we give our opinion which is very important. Everyone has the right to vote because voting rights are constitutional rights. On this occasion let us encourage each and every voter in the country to exercise their right to vote. He lauded in their efforts to inspire the younger generation to come forward and vote and hoped even in the future; elections would be organized elections in a disciplined conduct.

R-DAY PARADE DRESS REHEARSAL

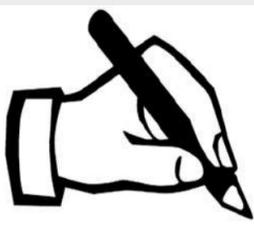


Maharashtra tableau on display during the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day Parade 2023, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, Monday, Jan. 23.

Pros and Cons of Foreign Educational Institutions in India



PRIYANKA SAURABH



The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but will also create healthy competition among institutions. But the new regulation allows free play to the foreign institution, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution "for example, they can decide their fees, and admission criteria, and have full say in faculty appointments". Can get freedom. "The policy will damage, weaken and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization.

The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but also create healthy competition among institutions. The government of India is ready for this. Welcome foreign universities like Harvard, Oxford, and Yale to India. Foreign universities ranked in the top 500 globally, as well as other "prestigious" foreign higher education institutions, can set up campuses in India - as outlined in the country's National Education Policy (NEP), which was adopted in 2020. The final plans were unveiled by the University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman who pointed out that foreign universities with Indian campus-

es can offer full-time programs only "offline" and not through online or distance learning.

The decision of the Government and the University Grants Commission to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome step. This initiative will not only provide access to global quality education to our students but will also create healthy competition among institutions. In this environment, commercialization of the functioning of higher education institutions has become a top priority for Indian universities. Other challenges facing Indian higher education include demographic composition, poor performance, adherence to traditional systems, the digital divide, and struggles in scaling up. Over-centralization and lack of accountability and

professionalism are other issues. The burden of academic and administrative responsibilities has also increased significantly, undermining the core agenda of higher education, i.e. imparting knowledge, quality teaching and research, and improving governance structures. The lack of domain expertise in academic administrators has also hampered education reforms. hindered the progress of A primary reason for not prioritizing management reforms in India is that university leadership and academic administrators may not have the domain expertise to improve internal governance structures, processes, and managerial approaches. Meanwhile, uncertainty over funding of higher education, ever-increasing enrollment of students, global competition, the persistence of traditional systems, prioritization of digitization, and continued marketization of higher education indicate the need for complete modernization and commercialization of systems of higher education institutions.

A report by India-based business consulting firm Red Seal on higher education abroad estimated that the number of Indian students going for higher education abroad increased from 440,000 in 2016 to 770,000 in 2019. This is set to grow to around 1.8 million by 2024. Foreign spending was poised to increase from the current \$28 billion to \$80 billion (€18.5 billion to €74 billion) annually by 2024. Many students choose to go abroad for experience and earning opportunities abroad that are not available in India. However, some teachers are not sure how much of an impact the move will have and believe there is an urgent need to reform the current university system, where individuality is stifled. It is not clear whether the top foreign institutions that are being targeted by the scheme would be interested in coming to India, nor is the current political situation conducive for them. At

present, the space for any independent, critical analysis has been severely curtailed. This will certainly be on the minds of those who lead foreign universities being invited here. Establishing universities and campuses is a challenging proposition, not including developing curricula, building research facilities, hiring faculty staff, and relocating international workers, among other considerations.

The new regulation allows free play to foreign institutions, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution "for example, they can decide their fees, admission criteria, and complete freedom in faculty appointments". UGC's decision to allow foreign universities to set up branches in India will "damage" the country's higher education system. "The policy will damage, weaken and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization. This decision will make education costlier and will adversely affect Dalits, minorities, and the poor. The decision is a reflection of the pro-rich approach of the government." The establishment of foreign universities here was inevitable in the era of globalization, and given that there are barriers to the exchange of goods, services, and ideas, it was inevitable that education would be the final frontier, where all barriers would break. The proposal to allow foreign universities to set up offshore campuses in India in the New Education Policy 2020 could significantly change the dynamics of higher education in India. It can also save India a significant amount of foreign exchange and over time become a source of foreign exchange earnings if foreign students also choose to enroll in these campuses.

(Writer is Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, freelance journalist, and columnist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let govt and Supreme Court reconcile

Day in day out there are frequent talks of difference between govt and Supreme Court and a common citizen of country wish early end of this episode without further damage to the reputation of both. A few days ago a parliament committee had also suggested the same method. But still both appear to be adamant. The parliamentary committee, which has asked the executive and judiciary to do some "out-of-the-box thinking" to find a solution to the 'perennial problem' of vacancies in the high courts. In this regard the previous Chief Justice of India, TS Thakur made an emotional appeal to the Prime Minister to fill up the vacancies in the various High Courts and Supreme Court as the huge number of pending cases ultimately adversely impact the common man who still has faith in the judiciary. After the comments of the Parliamentary Committee it is the duty of the concerned parties to find ways and means to solve this matter amicably without bringing it into the public domain. The news emanating in the media on this issue are disgusting. Moreover, let the confusion be cleared on the collegium after the statement of Law Minister Kiren Rijju that there is no proposal to introduce the Bill of National Judicial Appointments Committee. It is well known that no system is full-proof and there is need for amendments with the passage of the time since over one hundred amendments had been made in the Constitution itself.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Evil designs

There seems more to the documentary than meets the eye. Local audiences seem to be the target of the utterances by the former British foreign secretary and Pakistan's foreign minister. PM Shehbaz Sharif's olive branch to India is a ploy to facilitate his begging and borrowings. India is aptly pushing for Sri Lanka's reconciliation with Tamils for peace in South Asia. Only self/business interests rule the roost in strategic partnerships today. It is imperative that our politicians keep politics for the hustings and synergise as members of a single political community to thwart the evil designs of India's adversaries.

Lalit Bharadwaj, Panchkula

Sense of entitlement

It is true that the West keeps throwing leftovers at India from time to time. The West believes that it has the sole prerogative and Asian 'scums' are to eternally live on the margins of the West. Since not even a single court in the country has found Prime Minister Modi guilty, from where are such 'noble truths' emerging? It seems like a part of a great conspiracy to not only denigrate Modi, but also to oust him from power. Several countries are relentlessly working to stop India's growth. In that nexus, even hardcore terrorist organisations are allying with apostles of democracy.

Jeevan VK, Pathankot

Union Budget 2023-24: Must provide relief to workforce

Dr. Gyan Pathak

Union Budget 2023-24 has a greater responsibility of protecting India's workforce at a time when they are at high risk of being forced into accepting lower quality jobs, as warned by ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trend 2023, large scale job cuts is adding into the woes of the employed, unemployment rate have been rising, and job opportunities are set to shrink considerably. It is because, Indian Economic growth projections have been revised downwards for 2023 and likely to be so revised further, given deteriorating domestic and global conditions and faster than anticipated monetary tightening as per IMF, household consumption will be held back by slow recovery of the labour market and by high inflation, as warned by the World Bank.

Working age population in India is above 90 per cent (about 126 crore) of the total population of the country which is likely remain above 87 per cent by 2030, as WESO Trend 2023

has estimated. However, as per CMIE data for December 2022, only 41 crore people were in job, and the unemployment rate was as high as 8.3 per cent. It clearly presents a case for framing of a National Employment Policy, as it was recommended long back in 2013 by Indian Labour Conference, the highest tripartite body of India for labour issues, but the Modi government has not been interested in it, an attitude that it must change for national interest. In contrast, Modi government has been pushing for implementation of the four labour codes after subsuming 29 labour laws. These codes were passed in the parliament in 2019 and 2020, and the labour rules are framed at the Centre and in majority of the states and UTs. PM Narendra Modi has labelled it as the biggest and long overdue labour reform in India. Government has said that they are ready to implement these codes, and hence it is expected that the Union Budget 2023-24 may announce its implementation from the next fiscal. Human resource Industry is expecting rollout of these

codes, while joint from to Central Trade Unions have been agitating for their roll back since they find these codes pro-corporate and anti-labour and fearing that these codes will bring modern day slavery for the workforce. This fear must be read with the WESO Trend 2023 warning that workforce in general would be forced into lower quality jobs. Therefore, rolling back these codes would be proper at this time of deteriorating job market as demanded by CTUs, rather than rolling them out. It is recalled that two months ago Central Trade Unions had boycotted the budget consultation exercise in the last week of November, since Union Finance Ministry did not give more than three minutes to every CTU. However, CTUs have sent a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stating their expectations and demand from the Union Budget 2023-24. Demands of the CTUs are worth noting which included taking such policy decisions that could boost demand to invigorate the sagging economy. It would require putting money into the hands

of the people. The importance of full social security coverage for the entire workforce lies here. They have demanded increase in allocation of MGNREGA the rural employment guarantee scheme for rural India. Given the higher unemployment rate in the urban India at about 11 per cent in December, the government must announce similar urban employment guarantee scheme for urban areas. CTUs demands also include giving scheme workers the status of government employees, paying them minimum wages, filling vacant posts, giving up plans to sell PSUs, shelving the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, not privatizing government hospitals, reducing GST burden on common people particularly in fuel and essential commodities, and increasing taxes on corporates and introduction of wealth tax to fund social sector programmes. Creation of new decent jobs is of utmost importance, which can be possible only through reverting back from profit oriented economic policies to human centered ones, as the UN and ILO has been

emphasizing since especially since the outbreak of COVID-19. Informalisation of the job market is on the rise, and AITUC has said that it has reached now to 97 per cent of all jobs, who have no social security coverage. It should also be noted that above 81 crore people have been surviving for the last three years on 5kg of free foodgrains per month. Union Budget 2023-24 must create jobs for them or provide full social security coverage.

The high level of unemployment shows that all the earlier schemes of the Modi government towards job creation and improving the labour market have failed which included PFI Scheme, Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, etc. It is imperative therefore for the Union Finance Ministry to announce correction measures in the Union Budget 2023-24. To bring the job market back on track Modi government does not only need human centric development policies, but also to reverse its present policy to promote gig or informal jobs to create decent jobs with full social security coverage.

BRIEF

Expansion



Varanasi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will complete expansion of its Vizag oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh to 15 million tonne per annum by June, its Chairman Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. HPCL is expanding the 8.33 million tonne per annum (MTPA) refinery and building a new one at Barmar in Rajasthan to bridge the gap between the fuel it produces and sells. "We have started commissioning activity and hope to complete it by June-end," he said. HPCL sells 50 per cent more petrol, diesel and LPG than it produces. The Vizag expansion as well as the 9 MTPA unit in Rajasthan expected by 2024-end, would bridge the gap. Joshi said HPCL's residue upgradation project at Vizag refinery will improve its distillate yield and will be ready by the end of 2023.

FTA

London: The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to be clinched this year but it won't involve any boost of free movement visa offers for Indians, British trade minister in charge of the negotiations has said. Kemi Badenoch, who was in New Delhi last month to kick off the sixth round of FTA talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, said that former prime minister Boris Johnson's "deal by Diwali" deadline last year was not feasible and had to be changed. In an interview with The Times' recently, the UK Secretary of State for Trade also ruled out any major similarities between the FTA the UK had struck with Australia one of the first post-Brexit trade deals and that with India. "We left the EU (European Union) because we didn't believe in free movement, we didn't think it was working. This is not a deal that's negotiating some kind of free movement with India," Badenoch told the newspaper, with reference to more visa offers.

VISL closure

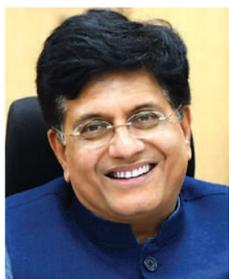


Bengaluru: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to instruct the Ministry of Steel and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) authorities to drop the proposal for closure of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) at Bhadravati. The JD(S) supremo also has urged the Prime Minister to do the needful for the revival of VISL.

Apple looks to scale up manufacturing in India: Goyal

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

iPhone-maker Apple is looking to scale up its manufacturing in India as the business environment is helping global firms make the country their base, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. He said that India offers a rule of law, and transparent government policies and business models which help it become a preferred destination for foreign investors. Talking about success stories of certain foreign companies, he said Apple already have about 5-7 per cent of their manufacturing in India. "If I am not mistaken, they are targeting to go up to 25 per cent of their manufacturing. They launched their most recent models from India, manufactured in India." The minister was speaking at the inaugural session of the B20 India Inception Meeting here, which was organised by industry chamber CII.



Citing another example of a foreign company in the earth movers machine sector, the minister said that because of the competitiveness of India's manufacturing, that firm is supplying their products now to 110 countries at affordable competitive prices from India and also doing new launches. In November 2022, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said that the biggest unit to manufacture Apple iPhone in India is coming up at Hosur near Bengaluru, which will employ around 60,000 people. The compa-

ny gets iPhones manufactured by electronics giants - Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron in India. When asked about the global economic uncertainties, he said that this would be a challenging year for the world. He said that inflation in several countries is "very high" but in such a situation also, India has managed prices. During the tenure of this government so far, average inflation would be around 4.5 per cent, he said adding earlier 10-12 per cent of inflation was common.

At a time when developed economies are facing slow down, the Indian economy is emerging as one of the fastest growing in the world due to steps taken by the Modi government, Goyal said. On increasing interest rates in the country, he said that the rates have increased recently due to the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic and war between Ukraine and Russia.

Rupee falls 21 paise to 81.38 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 23: The rupee fell 21 paise to close at 81.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid rise in crude prices. However, strong sentiment at domestic equities market and a weak dollar restricted the fall of the local currency, forex traders said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 80.92 to a dollar against the previous close of 81.17. The local unit moved in a range of 81.47 to 80.93 during the day. On Friday, the rupee had appreciated by 19 paise to close at 81.17 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.35 per cent to 101.66 amid concerns over US economic growth. The Brent crude rose 0.26 per cent to USD 87.86 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 319.90 points or 0.53 per cent to 60,941.67, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 90.90 points or 0.5 per cent to settle at 18,118.55. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they sold shares worth Rs 2,002.25 crore, according to exchange data.

Honda launches new Activa at starting price of Rs 74,536

New Delhi, Jan 23:

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) on Monday launched a new version of its Activa scooter which conforms to the upcoming stricter emission norms, with price starting at Rs 74,536 (ex-showroom Delhi).

The new Activa is compliant with on board diagnostics (OBD 2) and is being offered in three trims tagged at Rs 74,536, Rs 77,036 and Rs 80,537. HMSI Managing Director, President and CEO Atsushi Ogata said the Activa has undergone multiple avatars for meeting the ever-changing expectations of customers.

"Today we unveil the new OBD2-compliant Activa with a host of segment first features offering more value to the customers," he added. From April this year, vehicles will need to have an on-board self-diagnostic device to monitor the real-time driving emission



levels. The device will constantly monitor key parts for meeting emission standards such as the catalytic converter and oxygen sensors, to keep a close watch on emissions. In a scenario where the emissions exceed the parameters, the device will indicate through warning lights

that the vehicle be submitted for a service. HMSI leads the gasoline powered scooter segment in the country with a market share of 56 per cent. The new Activa comes with various new features like the smart key which enables the customer to easily locate the vehicle.

Indigenously-developed 5G, 4G tech roll out this year: Vaishnaw

Will offer to world next year

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

Indigenously-developed 5G and 4G telecom technology stack will be rolled out in the country this year and the platform will be offered to the world from next year, Union telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. While speaking at The Business 20 (B20), the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community, Vaishnaw said that only five countries in the world have end-to-end 4G-5G telecom technology stack but now with the public-private partnership, India has developed its own technology which has been tested to handle 10 million simultaneous calls. "Our private and public partnership

approach has given us a solution where the core was developed, invested by the public sector, public funds, and everything else sitting on it comes from the private partners.

In this entire 2023, we will be rolling it out on about 50,000 to 70,000, towers, sites and then in 2024 will be offering it to the world," Vaishnaw said.

The minister also elaborated on four broad approaches directed towards economic management, digital economy, regulation in digital economy and development of new technology that India has taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help solve some of the pressing problems.

Hyundai drives in new Aura with price starting at Rs 6.29 lakh



New Delhi, Jan 23: Hyundai Motor India on Monday said it has launched an updated version of its compact sedan Aura with price starting at Rs 6.29 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The company said it has introduced the model with introductory prices ranging from Rs 6.29 lakh and Rs 8.57 lakh. "We have

worked towards delivering a world-class product for modern Indian families that will offer safety like never before. As a customer-centric brand, it has been a continuous endeavour to push boundaries and ensure customer delight through our class leading products," Hyundai Motor India MD

and CEO Unsoo Kim said in a statement. The new Aura comes with petrol and CNG trims with diesel variants discontinued in the new range. The company said it is offering the car with over 30 safety features including four airbags as standard fitment and 6 airbags as an option.

Hero Electric enters into long-term partnership with Maxwell

For battery management systems

New Delhi, Jan 23: Hero Electric on Monday said it has entered into a long-term partnership with Maxwell Energy Systems for the supply of advanced battery management systems. Under the partnership, Maxwell will supply more than 10 lakh units of its battery management systems (BMS) over the next three years to Hero Electric, the company said in a statement. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said the BMS solution from Maxwell will help the company provide safe and performance-oriented EVs to its customers. "This partnership will also help us build the local supply chain and support the

Make in India mission, further reducing our import dependency. With Maxwell on board, we now have two solid reliable partners to future proof our battery designs," he added. Maxwell's newly designed automotive-safe BMS supports multiple chemistries and configurations to cater to the entire e2W range of Hero Electric. It also comes with additional technical capabilities such as high-side switching and hot-plugging for seamless swapping, the statement said. The two partners will work on a new range of advanced electronics products for the Indian EV market, it added.

We are focused on strengthening quality parameters for long-term growth: Seth

Mumbai, Jan 23:

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, a new-age life insurance company, is committed to strengthening its business quality parameters to create a sustainable longer-term growth for its business. Towards this goal, the company is prioritising process optimisation to achieve customer and distributor delight. Anup Seth, Chief Distribution Officer, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance said, "We primarily look at 4 quality parameters, which are Claim Settlement Ratio, Grievance Ratio and Net Promoter Score (NPS) as the indicators of the robustness of our business.



We have worked on strengthening our risk management practices, enabling sourcing of quality business. This in turn will bolster all the metrics. We are also looking at digital enablement as a key lever for improving our customer and distributor experience." Barring the improvement in quality

parameters, the life insurer is also focussed on continuing its tradition of innovation in products. The focus currently is on personalization and modernizing the way customers are experiencing purchase and onboarding in insurance. "As digital becomes omnipresent, Personalization is becoming critical for the customer. It has a heavy influence on their purchase decision. We are excited about this opportunity and have marked our entry into personalization with a recent product called Flexi Savings Plan. Flexibility and customization is an evolving concept, and we are constantly learning what it means for customer," Seth added.

Reliance Jewels launches Dream Diamond Sale

Mumbai, Jan 23:

It's time to experience the unparalleled sparkle and shine with Reliance Jewels "Dream Diamond Sale". Reliance Jewels is committed to offering the best possible shopping experience to its customers through its focus on unique design, unique collections & various exciting offers. With the Dream Diamond Sale the brand is offering their patrons an opportunity to experience a wide range of Diamond Jewellery Designs with exquisite craftsmanship. With sparkling diamonds and designs hand-crafted to perfection, the diamond collection showcases mesmerizing designs in necklace sets, pendant sets, bangles, bracelets, rings and more that are sure to



bring the wow factor to any special occasion. Patrons can shop and enjoy unbeatable savings on the diamond Jewellery collection during our Dream Diamond Sale with exciting discount of

Upto 25% off on Diamond Value. The offer is Valid till 14th February 2023 only. T&C apply. From Contemporary designs to timeless classics, the collection has something for everyone. Each diamond

piece is crafted with precision and attention to detail, making them a perfect choice for any special occasion.

Commenting about the new collection, Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels said, "Our diamond jewellery collection is an exquisite combination of craftsmanship and ageless designs. These jewellery pieces are crafted with utmost care and attention to details to ensure that each piece is a timeless masterpiece. It is an embodiment of beauty, breathtaking luxury and a symbol of everlasting love. Diamond jewellery is the epitome of elegance and sophistication. With Reliance Jewels' diamond collection, we aim to provide our customers gorgeous designs that can be treasured for a lifetime."

Amazon.in announces Great Republic Day Sale

New Delhi, Jan 23:

Amazon India announces its much awaited 'Great Republic Day Sale' from January 15 until January 20, 2023, with Prime members getting 24 hours early access starting January 14. Customers can shop from millions of products offered by sellers including artisans & weavers, women entrepreneurs, start-ups, brands, and local neighborhood stores across categories including Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, Grocery, Fashion & Beauty essentials, Home & Kitchen, Large Appliances, TVs and more. This Great Republic Day Sale Co-powered by Xiaomi, customers can look forward to saving more with great offers from brands Xiaomi, Orion, Pampers, Techno, Ariel, Gillette, LG

Appliances, Samsung TV, Intel and more across categories. Customers shopping during the Amazon Great Republic Day Sale can enjoy an additional 10% instant discount with SBI Credit cards and Credit EMI; No-cost EMI using Bajaj Finserv EMI card, Amazon Pay ICICI Credit card, Amazon Pay Later and select Debit & Credit Cards. Additionally, customers can get a chance to win up to Rs 5,000 as rewards during the Pay & Shop Rewards Festival by making daily payments like sending money, paying bills and more to unlock exciting shopping rewards that can be redeemed during the Great Republic Day Sale. Customers can also use their voice to navigate and discover the best deals using Alexa on the Amazon shopping app (Android only).

B20 has important role to play; can be value adding for world: N Chandrasekaran

Gandhinagar, Jan 23:

The Business-20 forum during India's leadership has a unique opportunity and a very important role to play in working out agenda that can be value adding for all G-20 nations and the rest of the world, B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said on Monday. The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. It is among the most prominent engagement groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants. In his address at the B20 India inception meeting here, Chandrasekaran, who is also the Chairman of Tata Sons, said during



India's leadership of the forum, various initiatives would be taken up in several areas, including global supply chain, creative skills, circular economy, digital transformation and financial inclusion. "India is in a very unique position in the world at a time (when) we are seeing several moving

parts, and B20, during India's leadership of G20, has a unique opportunity and has a very important role to play," he said. Chandrasekaran said industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been associated with the B20 forum for the last 12 years since 2010 in some form. "So, we've had the opportunity to look at the evolution and the progress (of B20) over the years and have been able to relate it to the context in which the world is functioning today and able to work out an agenda which we think is very exciting and can be value adding for all G20 nations or in fact for the rest of the world not only to India," he asserted.

Flipkart Wholesale announces Republic Day Special

Bengaluru, Jan 23:

Today, Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of India's home-grown Flipkart Group, kick-started the Republic Day Special for its B2B members. With the theme 'Munafa ki Parade', the company aims to increase the profits and savings of its members with never-seen-before deals on an expansive selection of products during the offer period. The event will be live from January 19 - 26, 2023, across Flipkart Wholesale's physical stores and online channels. With the focus on offering higher profits and more significant savings, this national mega event has been curated with var-

ious attractive offers and deals, including '74 Republic Deals', 'Brand Bill Busters', and more for walk-in and online members, especially those residing in T-2+ cities. Commenting on the kick-off of the event, Koteswar L N, Business Head of Flipkart Wholesale, said, "As we gear up for the 74th Republic Day, we are delighted to launch this special event with the theme Munafa ki Parade for our members who will immensely benefit in their business and enjoy increased savings. This endeavour will further our vision to provide value and empower small merchants in the country who are critical to the growth of our economy."

Richa Chadha's next is based on true stories of Covid second wave

Actress Richa Chadha will next be seen performing the role of a frontline worker during the second wave of the Covid crisis in a yet-untitled film. Talking about the film, which is under the banner of Zee Studios, Richa says it is based on "real incidents". "This is based on those real incidents that we all witnessed during the second wave of Covid. While there was loss and despair, there was also hope." "In fact I was so moved by this kindness of strangers that I had started Kindry, a small social media initiative that only amplified stories of goodness, selflessness through the second wave." The actress says that the "film takes a hard look at all our lives during the pandemic, where we were afraid to be human, there was enforced and mandatory distance." "It talks about the doctors and nurses who were doing their job selflessly. I am honoured to play the role of one such resilient nurse." The film is directed by Abhishek Acharya. Apart from that Richa has wrapped up the shoot of 'Girls will be Girls', the first movie of her co-owned home production. The film is an Indo-French co-production which is being jointly produced by Pushing Buttons Studios, Crawling Angel Films and the French company, Dolce Vita Films.

'I always stay true to my thoughts'

Sony Entertainment Television's latest fiction offering, Kathaa Ankahee, the official Hindi adaptation of the popular Turkish drama, 1001 Nights (Binbir Gece) has been ruling the hearts of its audience with an intriguing storyline, stellar star cast and a lot of drama. The show's plot revolves around an irreversible mistake that creates a rift between Kathaa (Aditi Dev Sharma) and Viaan (Adnan Khan) but yet keeps them bound, demonstrating how love can emerge from the darkest moments. The show has the charming actor Samar Vermani who essays the role of Ehsan who is Viaan's (Adnan Khan) best friend and his business partner. In a candid conversation, Samar talks about his role, the show, concept and much

more. Tell us about the show's narrative that has been inspired by the superhit Turkish series, 1001 Nights. How does it feel to be a part of the Hindi remake?

It is a great experience being a part of Kathaa Ankahee. When I saw the Turkish drama, I thought to myself, "Wow, this show is so well-made and has such an intriguing concept and plot!" Being a part of the Hindi remake of the same series is no less than a golden opportunity. The past two months of shooting have been an absolute delight and I look forward to more amazing days shooting with the wonderful team!

Tell us about your character Ehsan. As we see that he is Viaan's best friend but at the



same time he is catching feelings for Kathaa, how challenging or easy it is to play such a role?

My character Ehsan is Viaan's best friend and business partner. He never anticipated developing feelings for Kathaa.

While they started off as friends, with time Ehsan didn't realize that he was catching feelings for her. He considers Kathaa to be a genuine person with a lot of potential but at the same, is slowly but surely developing feelings for her. As someone who, in real life, tends to be a little carefree and optimistic, and who makes an effort to avoid dwelling on the past or the future in favour of savouring the now, I find that portraying this character is a breeze. My directors and co-stars are pleasant and very helpful, and I don't have to give much consideration to the role I'm playing on-screen since I always stay true to my thoughts and communicate them.

Tell us about the preparation you underwent to get into the character's skin?

This character is extremely close to me that's why perhaps I am having so much fun playing it. My preparation has always been the same that is to focus on the aim of the scene and thinking why am I saying and what am I saying so when I do that it becomes a little easy for me to do.

Any message for the viewers and fans?

Thank you so much to each of our viewers for taking the time to watch us, showering us with so much love and affection, and sending us so many messages of support. We respect your time and appreciate that you watch us every day.

Don't miss watching out Kathaa Ankahee every Monday to Friday at 8:30 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Dia Mirza shares her post-motherhood, green goals for the new year

For Dia Mirza, her work as an actor, producer, eco-entrepreneur and the UN Secretary General's Advocate for Sustainable Development Goals, coalesces around the passion to serve a higher purpose and somehow impact the world in a positive way. She says, "As a mother, I feel compelled more than ever to amplify urgent environmental causes like climate change because the clock is ticking and unless we work hard collectively to reverse its impact, we will pass on to our children an unsustainable and unhealthy planet." Dia cites the Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, which was a collective commitment to improve health and education markers, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, protect and preserve oceans and forests while countering climate change and says, "Every year, we must do all we can to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." In 2023 too, she says, her work at the individual and collective level will serve the larger vision of the SDGs. Adds Dia, "Because of COVID-19 and the debilitating after-effects of climate change, the SDGs have suffered many setbacks globally. We need to double up efforts to change that and especially work towards providing inclusive and accessible education to the girl child. In 2023, I am also hoping to put the spotlight on numerous environment champions across India and its heartlands. People like Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi from Dehradun with his innovative concept of GEP (Gross Environmental Product) which assesses monetary value of the quality and quantity of resources from the forest, air, water and soil and is one of the components of green GDP." She also mentions Dr Chetan Solanki, the man who is on a journey to make



India - Solar Literate and adds, "These are the kind of unsung icons I want to engage with to find and amplify solutions to further realise the SDGs in India. Conscious capitalism and circular economy are some of the other ideas that I would like to discuss more extensively this year." As an eco-investor, Dia has already committed resources and energy to green brands like Beco, Shumee, Greendigo, and Alter and will also be on the lookout for more individuals and companies that are creating sustainable solutions and need a little help. She says, "We need to start looking at a more sustainable lifestyle as the norm and not the exception anymore. And to do that, more such green brands need to come into the mainstream. As an investor, my goal is to work towards that ideal."

As a producer and an actor, Dia says, her work will continue to address questions about gender, social and economic inequities, the right to education, to a healthy environment and a lot more. She concludes, "There is a thread of intentionality in everything I do so now I want to tell stories that can be powerful agents of change at some level and can generate ripples of positivity and inspire a sense of purpose in those who watch them."

If there's one actress known to ace both films and digital arena with her lucrativeness it's Shweta Tripathi Sharma! Besides being a rooted actress, Shweta has always championed causes that require attention and has been a crusader of positivity. Recently, Shweta pioneered the wave of sustainable clothing which was highly appreciated and acknowledged by the netizens as well as environmentalists. This time, with her recent Instagram post, Shweta has raised awareness about 'Local Tourism', and has also shared the reason behind using 'battatawada' as her social media username. Shweta added, "Just the way a potato engulfs the taste of every dish that it is added in, I aim to engulf, I aim to embrace every character that comes my way and make it my own. 'Battata' is a quintessential part of our lives; with my craft, I want to be a 'battata' in my work, I want to exude that ease and naturalness." In her Instagram reel, Shweta can be seen visiting the local gems of Mumbai. Shweta had recently asked for 'battatawada' recommendations from her fans in Mumbai and in the video, she obliged her fans by visiting the best joints in town that served 'battatawada.' On playing diverse characters and its connection with 'battatawada,' Shweta added, "If a character doesn't camouflage the plot of the story, will the content piece be consumed? Similarly, 'battata' just mixes up with anything and everything be it any dish, any cuisine! I feel happy when people address me by the names of my characters like Golu (Mirzapur universe), Shalu (Masaan). I feel that I could impact those people in a positive way. A 'battata' always brings happiness and that's what I aim to do!" Shweta, has massive releases lined up for 2023, including the most-awaited sequel of 2023, 'Mirzapur 3' along with 'Kanjoos Makkhichoos,' and a couple of other untitled projects. Also, Shweta shall soon begin shooting for the sequel of her 2022 hit show, 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein,' reprising her role of Shikha.

Shweta Tripathi explores the streets of Mumbai for the best 'battatawada'



Rohit Purohit, Sheena Bajaj celebrate four years of wedded bliss

TV actors Rohit Purohit and Sheena Bajaj have been married for four years. As they celebrate their wedding anniversary today, Rohit expressed his love and gratitude towards his wife for always taking care of him and supporting him in his difficult times. Rohit shared their wedding picture and also dedicated the romantic track 'Tu Hai' from the Hrithik Roshan-starrer film 'Mohenjo Daro'. 'Dhadkan Zindaggi Kii' actor wrote in the caption: "All my feelings for you lies in this song...Happy 4th anniversary my love."



supportive, caring, loving and understanding..you make my life so easy..You are the one and only..I am Blessed to have a partner like you Sheena." TV actors and his fans congratulated the couple on their special day. Actress Pankhuri Awasthy Rode, Hitesh Bharadwaj, Raghav Dhir, among others wished them a happy wedding anniversary and many more years of togeth-

ness. Rohit and Sheena got married on January 22, 2019, in Jaipur. They both met each other long back on the sets of the show 'Arjun' which premiered in 2012 and after dating for almost six years they tied the knot in 2019. Rohit is known for his TV shows such as 'Razia Sultan', 'Porus', 'Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji', and 'Dhadkan Zindaggi Kii'.

Tanmay Bhat recalls his first meeting with Shah Rukh

In All About Movies, A Spotify Original Podcast, film critic Anupama Chopra speaks to leaders from the world of business, sports, politics, gastronomy, journalism, social media and more about their passion for cinema. She takes them on a journey of their fondest movie memories, their childhood movie experiences, their guilty pleasures and the role films have played in catapulting them to success. The first episode features Tanmay Bhat as he draws upon the moments he has spent backstage at Film Awards and comments upon the changing Film Industry. Recalling his first meeting with Shah Rukh Khan, Tanmay says, "Before Filmfare happened, me and Rohan (Joshi) were writing a show for ICICI Awards, which Shah Rukh was hosting. He was going to come by 5, the show was at 6 and he was delayed by 15 minutes. He came, and we were like there's no



way he is doing this in 20 minutes. We go to his room and quickly run him through the script. It took him 10 minutes and he then comes up to us and he is like first this happens, then this happens and we were like how does he know everything? Shah Rukh looks at his phone and says that this player scored a goal and Rohan was like I haven't even kept up with the Football Match!" Tanmay also goes on to comment upon the changing landscape of marketing in films as he mentions, "Earlier the layer of

marketing was IIMs, but now it's going to be flooded by creators." Anupama Chopra, film critic and host of the podcast, says "I am a big fan of podcasts and am thrilled to kick off my first Spotify original - All About Movies. I think the films we love say something about who we are and this is a great way to get insights into some of our most celebrated and successful names!" With an exciting lineup of the likes of Badminton champion PV Sindhu, Journalist Faye D'Souza, Mythology Scholar Devdutt Pattanaik, LGBTQIA+ activist and influencer Sushant Divgikar, Cred Founder Kunal Shah and many more, All About Movies explores topics like the impact unique stories have had on the guest and how accurately does cinema portray their professions. Tune into All About Movies with Anupama Chopra, A Spotify Original, with new episodes releasing every Thursday.

CROSSWORD

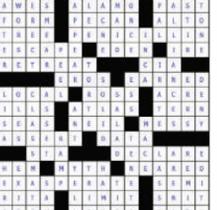
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- ACROSS**
- Log float
 - Drinking vessels
 - Summed up
 - On a cruise
 - Norway's capital
 - Monte _____
 - Fishing spot
 - Fort _____, FL
 - Skin art
 - _____ Magdalene
 - Apiece
 - Capone and Gore
 - Foreigners
 - Traps
 - Folk _____
 - Above, poetically
 - Fertile desert spot
 - Closest wood
 - Impartial
 - Recluse
 - Surrealism's Salvador _____
 - Forest path
 - Defeated one

- DOWN**
- Entranced
 - Tibet's locale
 - Tootsies
 - Tooth deposit
 - Huge
 - Neighbor of Mex.
 - Purple fruit
 - Root beer, e.g.
 - Type of paint
 - Mom's man
 - Curtain
 - Comic _____ DeGeneres
 - Active ones
 - Memorable periods
 - Toast topping
 - Chilled
 - Mushy
 - Not far
 - Diva's forte
 - Trivial
 - Consumes
 - Only
 - Daybreak
 - Actor _____ Guinness
 - Carousel, e.g.
 - Ready to pick
 - Reply
 - Decreases
 - "Window"
 - Chef's units (abbr.)
 - President Jackson
 - Dandy's neckwear
 - Tally
 - Burn slightly
 - Enlightened one's words (2 wds.)
 - Money drawer
 - Roof edge
 - Top pilots
 - Fasting time
 - Air circulator
 - Solutions

SOLUTION 542



Middle order in focus as India eye series sweep against New Zealand

Indore, Jan 23 (PTI):

With a series sweep in sight, the middle order will be eager to give a better account of themselves as the Indian team management contemplates rotating its bowlers in the third and final ODI against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

Opener Shubman Gill has been in excellent form, having scored a sensational double hundred in the opener, followed by a 40-run knock in the low-scoring second ODI. Skipper Rohit Sharma, too, is having a good run.

However, the home team is aware that despite enjoying an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Shubman and Rohit have been the only two batters among runs for the hosts.

At the same time, it is also a fact that the others haven't been tested and the dead rubber will be the perfect opportunity for the likes of Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav to get some batting practice in match situations.

Kohli's problem against left-arm spin has come to the fore once again as the talismanic batter has repeatedly gotten dismissed by Mitchell Santner.



After notching three hundreds in four innings, the former skipper was dismissed cheaply in both the ODIs as New Zealand's star left-arm spinner exposed the chinks in Kohli's armour. With the World Cup just months away, Kohli would be keen for some much-needed course correction. In the absence

of Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar was expected to provide some firepower at the back end. However, the premier T20 batter failed to do that in the series-opener.

Hardik, too, has been underwhelming with the bat of late. He has had a mediocre series against Sri Lanka and hasn't im-

pressed against New Zealand yet.

The Indian bowlers were guilty of letting New Zealand score over 300 runs after being 131 for six in the first ODI, but the seamers came back strongly in the Raipur game.

Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Hardik were clinical while the spinners have also done a decent job.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be eager to grab a consolation win to boost their morale. For that to happen, the Black Caps, who are without the services of regular skipper Kane Williamson, will have to address their batting woes.

New Zealand's top six batters have scored 40 or more on just seven occasions in the last 30 innings. The only batter that has impressed in their line-up is Michael Bracewell, who along with Mitchell Santner almost took his side over the line in Hyderabad.

Even the bounce and smaller boundaries make the pitch at the Holkar Stadium batter-friendly and the bowlers will have to work hard to keep the scoring in check.

Match starts 1.30 PM IST.

Indian shuttlers eye redemption at Indonesia Masters

Jakarta, Jan 23 (PTI): Top Indian shuttlers, including Lakshya Sen, will look to quickly recover from the India Open disappointment when they begin their campaign at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament, starting here on Tuesday. India cut a sorry figure at home as the country's challenge ended in the second round following the early exits of P V Sindhu, Sen and the withdrawal of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy due to a hip injury last week. While Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag are not playing this week, Sen will look to get back his mojo after his second-round exit against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. A tough battle will be on the cards for the 21-year-old from Almora as he faces the fast and furious Kodai Naroka, who has been in sensational form, having reached the finals of the Malaysia Open. The Japanese, who is from the same 2018 batch as Sen, has a 3-1 career record against the Indian, having beaten him at the Denmark Open last October. Eighth seed HS Prannoy, too, will look for a good show after a first-round exit against Sen in the India Open. He had reached the quarterfinals in Malaysia and will take on Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama, a tricky customer, in his opener.

Sabalenka tops Bencic for her first QF spot in Australian Open



Melbourne, Jan 23 (AP): Fifth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated Belinda Bencic 7-5, 6-2 on Monday to reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the first time.

Bencic double-faulted to drop the first set, which put Sabalenka in control from that point. No. 4-seeded Caroline Garcia faced Magda Linette later Monday for another place

in the women's quarterfinals. Garcia reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open last season but has never reached the quarterfinals in Australia. Top-seeded Iga Swiatek and No. 2 Ons Jabeur have both been eliminated, leaving No. 3 Jessica Pegula as the highest ranked women through to the final eight.

"I'm super happy with the win today," Sabalenka said. "She (Bencic) is an unbelievable player. She played so good. I'm really happy with the level today." Sabalenka said she had worked hard on controlling her emotions during matches. "It takes me a little while to understand that negative emotions are not going to help me on court," she said. "You just have to stay strong and believe no matter what." Sabalenka also said her fitness has improved. "We did a lot of work in the pre-season and I'm super happy that everything is working right now," she said. Novak Djokovic faced Alex de Minaur Monday for a place in the men's quarterfinals. Djokovic is aiming for this 10th title at the Australian Open and his 22nd Grand Slam title. The Grand Slam mark would tie him with Rafael Nadal for the most by any man.

Marry Kom to lead Oversight Committee to probe allegations against WFI president



New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Boxing great MC Mary Kom will lead a five-member Oversight Committee that will probe the sexual harassment charges against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The government-appointed committee will also run the day-to-day affairs of WFI for the next one month.

The other members of the panel are Olympic medalist wrestler

Yogeshwar Dutt, former badminton player and Mission Olympic Cell member Trupti Murgunde, ex-TOPS CEO Rajagopalan and former SAI executive director - teams - Radhica Sreeman. The announcement of the panel was made by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday.

Thakur had decided to form the committee on Saturday following a three-day sit-in protest by some of the country's top wrestlers including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang

Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya against the WFI and its chief.

The wrestlers ended their protest after a breakthrough was achieved during a marathon second round of talks with Thakur late on Friday night.

"The WFI president will not discharge his duties and stay away from day-to-day affairs of WFI. The day-to-day working of WFI will be looked after by the Oversight Committee till their mandated duration and it will also probe the serious allegations against WFI and its chief," Thakur said.

"The Oversight Committee will be under the chairmanship of world champion Mary Kom. Along with her, Yogeshwar Dutt, MOC member and Dronacharya awardee Trupti Murgunde, former TOPS CEO Rajagopalan and former ED Teams, SAI Radhica Sreeman will be part of the committee.

WIPL Team Bid: BCCI set for another 4000 cr windfall

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

The BCCI is all set to get richer by up to Rs 4000 crore with some of the top business houses set to bid aggressively for the five Women's IPL (WIPL) teams that would be auctioned on Wednesday.

According to market experts, the teams are expected to shell out in the "range of 500 to 600 crore INR" per team in the closed-bid auction.

"WIPL has huge potential but most of the legacy teams would like to mix optimism with pragmatism," an industry insider, who has previously worked on men's IPL team bid, told PTI ahead of auction.

"Expect a few bids in the range of Rs 500 crore upwards. Rs 800 crore plus could be a bit ambitious but BCCI won't complain," he added.

More than 30 odd companies have bought the bid documents



worth Rs 5 lakh including all the 10 men's IPL team. Well-known corporate houses such as Adani group, Torrent group, Haldiram's Prabhujii, Capri Global, Kotak and Aditya Birla Group have also shown interest in buying a team. Some of these companies were unsuccessful when BCCI in-

cluded bids for two new men's teams in 2021.

Among the traditional IPL teams, Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals, KKR could seriously contemplate to add to the bouquet of their already existing men's teams across the globe.

According to market insiders, there are two

principles on which these bids are placed by the business houses.

First one is "Return on Investment" (ROI), which is the core principal of any business. It is profit on what an entity spends.

The second one isn't a business principle as such but in business community they call it

"Return of Ego".

This is something where some of the biggest business names are ready to shell out any amount if they have their eyes on buying a particular property. Even if it takes five to seven years for touching breakeven point.

It's about wanting to purchase something at any cost.

An existing IPL franchise with its "steady revenue stream" in place can afford to "bleed" a bit more in initial years which is imperative.

A former IPL franchisee official, who had once worked on bids, explained the rationale which goes into the bidding.

"Let's say, a franchise makes a winning bid of Rs 500 crore for a period of five years. Now that's Rs 100 crore committed straightaway for each of next five years," the source explained.

First priority is to get 100 percent fit: Jadeja



Chennai, Jan 23 (PTI):

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who is making a return to competitive cricket after close to six months, on Monday said his first priority is to get "100 percent" match fit ahead of the crucial Test series against Australia. "I am feeling good to be back on the field.

Very excited. Hopefully it will come good as a team and as an individual also," Jadeja, who will lead Saurashtra in their final Ranji Trophy Group B league match against Tamil Nadu beginning here on Tuesday, told reporters.

"...See my first priority is to get on the field and be fit...100 per cent fit. Once I am 100 per cent fit, I will work more on my skills, whether it is batting or bowling. Now, my first priority is fitness..." Jadeja had to undergo a knee surgery last year after playing for India last in August. He said he had spent time at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru and added that he wanted game time before the Test series against the visiting Australians. "I was at the NCA for 20 days. I was doing batting and bowling. Match scenario is different. I wanted one game before the Australia series, that's why I am here." He has been picked in the India squad for the first two Tests subject to fitness. When asked if there was any discomfort now, Jadeja said: "Not really...after five months I am playing competitive cricket, so you don't feel confident initially.

Overdependence on Harmanpreet, Hardik's injury cost India dear in disastrous WC campaign



Bhubaneswar, Jan 23 (PTI): Patchy, inconsistent and lack of execution. These are the words used frequently by head coach Graham Reid during India's disastrous FIH Men's World Cup campaign, which undid the team's historic bronze-winning feat at the Tokyo Olympics. The choice of adjectives from the veteran coach and former

Australia international was indicative of the struggle of his wards in this World Cup. This despite having 12 players from the Tokyo Games squad. For a team that had come into the tournament with hopes of a first podium finish after the 1975 gold, crashing out before the quarterfinals was nothing short of a debacle. This team was good

enough to at least reach the quarterfinals, if not the semifinals. But who would have thought that the world number six home side would lose to 12th ranked New Zealand in the penalty shootout of the crossover match after being ahead by two goals on two occasions. With crores of rupees being spent on the team's training, exposure tours and

support staff salaries, it ought to have done better. This was the fourth worst performance for the country in the history of the World Cup. The best India can finish in this tournament is ninth, for which they will begin with their classification match against Japan on January 26 in Rourkela. India is one of the four teams to have taken part in all the 15 editions of the World Cup and they had finished below ninth on four occasions — in 1986 (12th), 1990 (10th), 2002 (10th) and 2006 (10th). They had finished ninth in 1998 and 2014. In the last edition, India had finished sixth after losing to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals. The reasons for the early exit are numerous, as Reid himself said at the post-match press conference on Sunday. Two main reasons were the abysmal rate of penalty corner conversion and the lack of finishing by the forwards. Adding to this was the inconsistency in defending.

Kohli, SKY, Pandya in ICC T20 Team of 2022

Dubai, Jan 23 (PTI): Former India captain Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and shortest format's number one batter Suryakumar Yadav were on Monday picked in ICC 'Men's T20 team of 2022'. The ICC also announced the Women's Team of 2022 with four Indians in the lineup — Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh. Kohli returned to his vintage form in 2022 and took the Asia Cup by storm, finishing as the second-highest run-getter with 276 runs in five games. He also brought an end to his century drought of close to three years with a magnificent century against Afghanistan. Kohli played one of the greatest T20 innings of 82 not out in India's heist against Pakistan in the World Cup opener in Melbourne. Kohli ended the tournament with three more fifties and finished as the highest run-scorer with 296 runs. Surya became the only second batter to score more than 1000 runs in a calendar year. He ended as the top-run getter (1164 runs) with two hundreds and nine half-centuries while striking at a stunning 187.43.

India's batting superstar Smriti Mandhana finished the year as the fourth highest run-scorer with 594 runs at an average of 33.00 and a strike-rate of

133.48. She also made two half-centuries and played a key role in India winning a historic silver at the Commonwealth Games. Off-spin all-rounder Deepti had a standout year and was the Player of the Tournament in India's Asia Cup triumph. She finished the year with 29 wickets, the joint third highest. She also made 370 runs averaging 37 with a strike-rate of 136.02.

Richa was named the wicket-keeper-batter following a stupendous year that saw her accumulate 259 runs in 18 matches.

With 22 T201 wickets at an average of 23.95 and an economy rate of 6.50, Renuka had a standout year and was one of the nominees for the ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year.

Men's Team: Jos Buttler (c/wk), Mohammed Rizwan, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Sam Curran, Wanindu Hasaranga, Haris Rauf and Josh Little.

Women's Team: Sophie Devine (c), Smriti Mandhana, Beth Mooney, Ash Gardner, Tahira McGrath, Nida Dar, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sophie Ecclestone, Inoka Ranaweera and Renuka Singh.

Delhi traffic crawls due to restrictions

For R-Day Parade rehearsal

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

The national capital saw massive traffic jams and a slowing down of vehicular movement in many areas on Monday owing to restrictions for the Republic Day Parade rehearsal, with commuters stuck for hours on roads. Major roads in and around Delhi including on the DND flyover and Ghaziabad border were affected from the morning rush hours till around 2 pm. Busy stretches including ITO, Sardar Patel Marg, Kashmeri Gate and Chankyapuri were also choked.

The Delhi Traffic Police had issued an advisory on the arrangements and restrictions for the smooth conduct of Monday's full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade. Many

office goers had come prepared for traffic diversions, but alternative routes also witnessed slow traffic. "Sri Aurbindo Marg was completely blocked due to traffic. Even as I took the other route via Malviya Nagar, there was traffic from Hauz Khas onwards. The road leading towards Parliament Street from Chankyapuri was completely blocked due to heavy traffic and caused a delay of at least an hour," said Ananya Basu (35).

Even those who left early for their destination failed to beat the traffic woes. "Today I had to leave for work 30 minutes early as there were some traffic restrictions issued by the Delhi traffic police. Although there was enough deployment of police personnel, traffic near Ram

Manohar Lohia hospital, which is usually smooth, was moving slowly," Silpi, who was heading to Parliament Street, said. Several people also opted for Delhi metro due to the traffic jams. "I usually commute by car but today I knew that roads will be chock-a-block, so I took the metro," said Krishan Pal.

Police said they received several calls from commuters reporting traffic woes. Vikas Marg (from Laxmi Nagar to ITO), Pragati Maidan, and Akshardham were three of several such stretches which witnessed intractable snarls. Ankita Singh, a commuter, said, "Traffic from Noida till Akshardham was heavy. The route leading towards ITO also had traffic jams and the GPS showed 40

minutes to cover a distance of around 6 kilometres." Several commuters took to Twitter to inform others about the traffic situation in the city, with one of them reporting heavy jams on ITO, Pragati Maidan, and Geeta Colony flyover. While one said that traffic did not move at ITO for over an hour, another commuter, who said he was stuck for two hours, advised people against venturing out on roads. Prerna Singh, who works in central Delhi, said, "I live in the southern part of the city and reach my office within an hour and a half. However, there were several roads that were closed on Monday due to rehearsal of Republic Day and my cab took an extra 30 minutes to drop me at my place."

Adding to the woes, a

container truck got stuck under a metro track passing over a road in Noida on Monday morning, briefly leading to traffic congestion on the stretch leading to Delhi, officials said. Traffic congestion was witnessed on the road stretch from 8.30 am to around 9 am after which the flow of vehicles was at normal speed, the official added. Kautilya Marg, Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, and Hauz Khas also witnessed massive traffic. The Republic Day rehearsals started at 10.30 am from Vijay Chowk and the parade passed via the Kartavya Path, C-Hexagon, the roundabout statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Tilak Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, and Netaji Subhas Marg before concluding at the Red Fort.

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL



Indian Air Force's C-130 Hercules, center, with four Rafale fighter jets, flies past in a formation the Central Hall of Parliament House during the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day Parade 2023, in New Delhi, Monday.

Rahul Gandhi defends Bharat Jodo Yatra

Says Cong not allowed to raise public issues in Parl

Jammu, Jan 23 (PTI):

Defending Congress' decision to start Bharat Jodo Yatra to "unite" the country, Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the opposition party was forced to undertake the 3500-km foot march after it was not allowed to speak on the pressing public issues in Parliament.

He slammed the BJP government at the Centre for demonetisation, "hasty implementation" of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the recently launched Agniveer scheme.

Gandhi alleged that the government is "facilitating" flight of money into the coffers of a few corpo-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting during party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at Satwari Chowk, in Jammu, Monday.

rators and ruining the small businesses across the country. "The democracy in the country is under attack which is a major challenge for the nation. Before the com-

mencement of the Yatra, we tried to raise the issues like demonetisation, GST, farmers' bill and China's aggression in Parliament, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but we were

not allowed and the mikes were being switched off," the former Congress president told a gathering at Satwari chowk here.

Gandhi reached Jammu on the 129th day of the Yatra after resuming from Vijaypur in Samba district in the morning, covering over 20 kilometres in six-and-a-half hours. After a night stay in Sidhra, the Yatra is scheduled to leave for Kashmir and it will enter there after Republic Day.

"We have come to open the shops of love in the markets of hatred. With this Yatra, we could see lakhs and crores of people have opened their shops of love, braving rains, cold and hot weather."

'RSS and Netaji have same goal of making India great'

Kolkata, Jan 23 (PTI):

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday said the goals of his right-wing organisation and that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are similar - making India a great nation. His comment comes amid the criticism that the ideologies of the RSS and the freedom fighter were not the same.

Lauding Netaji's contribution to India's freedom struggle, Bhagwat urged everyone to imbibe the qualities and teachings of Bose and work towards making the country a "vishwa guru" (world leader). "We remember Netaji not only because we



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat speaks during a meeting at Shaheed Minar in Kolkata, Monday.

are grateful to him for his valuable contributions towards the freedom struggle but also to ensure that we imbibe his qualities. His dream of India, which he wanted to build, is still not fulfilled. We have to work to achieve it," he said.

Situations and paths might differ, but the destination remains the same, Bhagwat said while addressing a mega RSS event - 'Netaji Lohi Pronam' - at Shahid Minar Ground here. Critics pointed out that Netaji believed in secularism which

is "against the Hindutva ideology of the RSS". "Subhas babu (Netaji) was first associated with the Congress and followed its path of 'satyagrah', and 'andolon', but when he realised that this was not enough and there was a need for freedom struggle, he worked towards it.

Paths differ, but the goals are the same," he said. The RSS chief also said, "We have Subhasbabu's ideals in front of us to follow. The goals he had are our goals too... Netaji had said India is a smaller version of the world and the country has to provide relief to the world. We all have to work towards it."

PROTEST RALLY



People from the Hindu community take part in a protest against forced religious conversion and cow slaughter, in Karad, Monday.

Delhi government's shopping fest delayed

New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI): The Delhi government's ambitious Delhi Shopping Festival has been postponed and is unlikely to happen in the next couple of months, officials said on Monday. The project was announced as a part of the Rozgar Budget in 2022 by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The festival was due to begin on January 28 and continue till February 26. However, the December elections have put it on hold. "The Delhi Shopping Festival has been indefinitely delayed. Meetings were held between the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DTTDC) and the Tourism Department, but due to the MCD and Gujarat polls in December, the consultations were put on hold," said a senior official. Due to be held at various markets, the festival also requires support from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the official said.

Berhampur ITI makes Netaji's 6 ft statue with scarp

Unveils it on his birthday

Berhampur (Odisha), Jan 23 (PTI):

Students of the government-run ITI here have built a six-foot-high statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose using automobile scraps after making one of Mahatma Gandhi. The 1.5 tonne statue was installed at the campus of the institute on Monday, the 126th birth anniversary of the nationalist leader, as a tribute to him.

Electric fan bearings, motorcycle chains, nuts and bolts, gears, iron rods and other scrap materials were used to make the statue. The ITI principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi said. "The students collected the scraps used for making the statue from

electric workshops and automobile garages free of cost... Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for creating wealth out of waste. Our institute has utilised waste and discarded materials to make different statues which dot the campus," he said.

There were two purposes in choosing scrap - promoting cleanliness and developing the innovative talents of students, the principal said. Around 30 students of the fitter, welder, painter and some other wings of the institute along with some faculty members took about 15 days to build the statue under his guidance, he said.

The statue will be kept in a glass box, Panigrahi

said. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti last year the institute's students had built a six-foot high statue of Mahatma Gandhi using automobile scrap. It won the first prize in the 'Trash to Treasure' section at the National Competition on Welded Marvels - 2022.

A replica of a fish also made of scraps by them bagged the second prize in the same competition, the principal said. The prizes were given away at a function in Chennai organised by the Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) last week in association with the Association of Welding Products Manufacturers. The two works will be displayed at the IIW, he added.

'Centre should ban upcoming movie on Godse'

Hyderabad, Jan 23 (PTI):

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has demanded the BJP-led Centre to ban an upcoming Hindi film on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse like it blocked the BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public meeting here on Sunday, the AIMIM leader said the Government of India has to take a clear-cut stand that a ban will be imposed on the movie 'Gandhi Godse - Ek Yudh' and it will not be released in any theatre.

"The Modi government blocked the BBC documentary on YouTube and Twitter in India on the basis of a colonial-era law. We want to ask the Prime Minister...were you not the chief minister of



Asaduddin Owaisi

Gujarat when the (2002) riots took place?...Bilkis Bano was raped...a former Congress MP was killed," the Hyderabad MP said.

The BJP (government) banned the documentary, he said and sought to know from the Prime Minister and BJP leaders their opinion on Nathuram Godse. "Godse killed Gandhi.

Then who is the biggest terrorist of independent India? Now, a film is being made on Godse. Will the Prime Minister of India ban the movie on Godse or will tell the people go and watch it," Owaisi asked.

The AIMIM chief further said: "I have myself seen it...the movie talks about why Godse killed Gandhi. I want to ask Prime Minister and the BJP when the BBC shows something about you, it's problematic and it gets banned".

Challenging the BJP to ban the movie on Godse, he asked whether the BJP and RSS would ban the movie. "If anything is shown against Modi, then it is banned. And the one who shot dead Gandhi, there is no ban (on it). Why so much love for Godse?"

Digvijaya Singh questions surgical strikes

BJP accuses Cong of insulting armed forces in 'hate' for Modi

Jammu/New Delhi, Jan 23 (PTI):

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday questioned the surgical strikes and accused the government of peddling lies, drawing furious reaction from the BJP which said the opposition party was blinded by its "hate" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has "insulted" the armed forces. Addressing a public meeting during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh alleged that the government did not agree to the CRPF request of flying its personnel from Srinagar to Delhi and 40 soldiers sacrificed their lives in Pulwama in 2019 to a terror attack.

"They talk of surgical strikes. They claim to have killed so many people but



Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jairam Ramesh at a public meeting during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Jammu, Monday.

no proof is given. They are ruling by peddling a bundle of lies," the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister, who has often courted controversy with his comments, said. In a tweet in Hindi later, he said, "From where did the terrorists get 300 kg of RDX in Pulwama incident? DSP Davinder Singh was caught

with terrorists but then why was he released? We also want to know about the friendship between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India." In his video message attached to the tweet, Singh said 40 CRPF personnel sacrificed their lives in Pulwama, but this government has not

been able to reveal from where three quintals of RDX came. "Besides, the government has not been able to answer where is DSP Davinder Singh, who was caught involved with terrorists. Why was he let free and why was a case of treason not registered against him?"

"We would also like to know from the prime minister as to what kind of relations he has with Pakistani prime minister that both are praising each other. At least, he should answer these questions," the Congress leader said in a video message. The BJP launched a sharp attack on the Congress, saying that such comments show that the Rahul Gandhi-led foot march

across the country is Bharat Jodo Yatra only in name while he and his party colleagues are working to "break" the country. It is essentially "Bharat todo yatra", BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.



राइनोप्लास्टी
नाक को सही (रिश्पिंग) करना
कालड़ा बर्न एवं
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.डी.के.सामन्, चौथे कालोनी एम् पार्क
नाका, प्रमोटी रोड, कलकत्ता मॉल के पास, रायपुर
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