

BRIEF



Karnataka tableau artists during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2023, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Shot down

■ **Chandigarh:** In a joint operation by Border Security Force (BSF) and Punjab Police, a drone carrying drugs was shot down near the India-Pakistan international border in Amritsar on Sunday, officials said. The unmanned aerial vehicle carrying five kg of heroin was shot down in Kakkar village, Punjab Police said.

Man killed

■ **Ghaziabad:** A rickshaw puller was arrested here for allegedly killing a man and chopping his body into pieces over suspicion of him having illicit relations with his wife, police said on Sunday. Severed body parts of the victim, Akshay (24), a native of Rajasthan's Kotputli town, were recovered from the embankment road of Hindon canal on Saturday, they said.

Surrender

■ **Tezpur:** Four months after signing a peace accord with the government, over 46 leaders and cadres of All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA) laid down arms in Assam's Sonitpur district on Sunday, a police officer said. The former militants handed over weapons to top district police officers, including the Additional Superintendent of Police (crime) and the Deputy Superintendent of Police (border), at a ceremony in Dhekiajuli.

Gunfight

■ **Chaibasa:** Hours before the beginning of a 24-hour Jharkhand bandh called by banned CPI (Maoists) on Sunday, a gun battle took place between members of another red-rebel outfit and security forces in West Singhbhum district, police said.

Mishap

■ **Koderma:** A gas tanker driver was charred to death after his vehicle collided with a truck and caught fire in Jharkhand's Koderma district on Sunday afternoon, police said. The incident occurred in a valley area of the district, some 175 km from the state capital Ranchi, when the empty gas tanker collided head-on with the truck and the tanker cabin caught fire, police said.

Int'l meet

■ **New Delhi:** The Election Commission (EC) will host the second international conference beginning Monday on 'use of technology and elections integrity'. The two-day event will be inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar here, the EC said in a statement on Sunday.



Weather

High 31

Low 15

Bharat Jodo Yatra resumes under tight security cover

■ **Reaches J&K's Samba**
Samba (J&K), Jan 22 (PTI):

The Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress reached Samba in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday afternoon, after covering 21 kilometres in more than six hours from adjoining Kathua amid heightened security in the wake of twin blasts in Jammu.

The Congress said the foot march, being led by party leader Rahul Gandhi, will proceed according to its schedule and reach Jammu on Monday afternoon.

"This was the 128th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It started from Hiranagar (in Kathua) at 7 am and reached its destination at Chak Nanak (Samba district) at around 1.15 pm," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told reporters at the camp site.

He said the tremendous response the yatra has re-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', at Hiranagar in Kathua district, Sunday.

ceived from people has unnerved the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is allegedly doing everything possible to harm Gandhi's image and using diversionary tactics to mislead the public from the real issues they are facing today.

"The response of the people to the yatra in the BJP-ruled states was unprecedented and so has been the case since it arrived in Jammu and Kashmir. We

saw people being pushed back at several places, but they did not pay any heed and came out in large numbers to join Gandhi," Ramesh said. After a day's break, the march started on Sunday from Hiranagar, near the International Border along the Jammu-Pathankot highway, which was virtually sealed by police and other security forces, with all traffic diverted to other routes. Accompanied by Jammu

'Will not accept any compromise with Rahul's security'

A day after twin bomb blasts rocked a busy locality here leaving nine people injured, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said there will be no compromise on the security of Rahul Gandhi who is leading the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking about the security of the Gandhi scion, Ramesh said the party's stand is clear on terrorism and that there is no compromise in dealing with either the perpetrators or sponsors of terrorism. "There will be no compromise on the security of Gandhi. His security is our topmost priority and we are following the guidelines of security agencies in totality," he told reporters at Chak Nanak in Samba, where the Yatra will stop for the night after covering a distance of 21 km from Hiranagar.

'Rahul tarnishing India's image'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of creating hatred among people in order to regain power, and alleged that he was tarnishing India's image on international platforms. Addressing a programme organised by the Madhya Pradesh government to provide land rights of residential plots to the poor in Singrauli district of the state located around 650 kms from here, Singh asked Gandhi not to play with India's "prestige and pride". The minister also said that in the recent clash with the Chinese troops, Indian soldiers did a "charismatic job" and displayed bravery, and slammed the Congress for questioning the valour of the country's jawans.

and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla and hundreds of

volunteers carrying the tricolour, Gandhi was greeted by people waiting on both sides of the road.

NIA files charge sheet in Maoist cadres funding case

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

The NIA has filed a charge sheet in a special court in Jharkhand capital Ranchi against two accused in a case related to the funding of Maoist cadres, the agency said on Sunday.

The charge sheet was filed on January 20. The case "pertains to a conspiracy hatched by the members of CPI (Maoist), for its revival in Magadh zone and to raise funds for the organisation". The probe found that "huge funds were extorted from contractors and were routed through various channels", the federal agency said in a statement. The National Investigation Agency registered the case "suo motu" in

December 2021 and named two Jehanabad (Bihar) residents, Tarun Kumar and Pradyuman Sharma, in the charge sheet filed under various sections of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

"A prominent Communist Party of India (Maoist) cadre Pradyuman Sharma, along with Abhinav and others, was conspiring to revive the CPI (Maoist) organisation in the Magadh Zone." "In furtherance of this sinister motive, they conspired to raise funds for procurement of arms and ammunition and imparting training to Maoist cadres in the fabrication of improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).", the agency said.

BSF conducts 'Ops Alert' exercise to step up security

■ **On Indo-Pak border ahead of Republic Day**
Ahmedabad, Jan 22 (PTI):

The Border Security Force has started an "Ops Alert" exercise to enhance security along the India-Pakistan border from Sir Creek (marshy area) to the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat and Barmer district of Rajasthan," it said.

The BSF will carry out special operations in forward and depth areas as well as creeks and 'Harami Nalla' as part of the exercise. It has also planned public outreach programmes as part of the exercise, the release said.

The Indo-Pak border along Kutch in Gujarat is sensitive in view of a num-

said in a release. The 'Ops Alert' exercise commenced on January 21 and will continue till January 28 "all along the Indo-Pak international border from Sir Creek (marshy area) to the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat and Barmer district of Rajasthan," it said.

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The Indo-Pak border along Kutch in Gujarat is sensitive in view of a num-

ber of Pakistani nationals having been apprehended in the past after entering the Indian waters while moving on boats to catch fish. According to official data, the BSF apprehended 22 Pakistani fishermen, seized 79 fishing boats and heroin worth Rs 250 crore and charas worth Rs 2.49 crore from this region of Gujarat in 2022.

To enhance its security, "permanent vertical bunkers" of concrete are being constructed for the first time to station BSF troops right at the strategically significant Sir Creek and Harami Nalla marshy area, sources earlier said.

'Kashmir has almost totally mainstreamed'

Jaipur, Jan 22 (PTI):

Kashmir has "almost totally mainstreamed", with Pakistan out of Kashmiri minds and separatism and the Hurriyat "all finished", former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief A S Dulat said on Sunday.

He maintained that there was no need to scrap Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, saying there was nothing left in it and it was only a "fig leaf".

Speaking at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival here, he cited Prince Harry's recently released memoir "Spare" and said the former senior British royal wrote that "in the abnormalities of life, the only thing he found normal and enjoyed was Afghanistan". Dulat said he could say the same about Kashmir: Prince Harry had joined British troops on the front line fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. Dulat was also of the view that militancy will continue to



A S Dulat

come down but "terrorism will stay unless we sort it out with Pakistan" and batted for dialogue with the neighbouring country.

"Pakistan has been an inherent part of Kashmir. Since 1947, what the government of India has been trying to do is to mainstream Kashmir and get Pakistan out of the Kashmiri minds. And I think we've succeeded to a very large extent.

"Today, Kashmir has almost totally mainstreamed. The separatism, the Hurriyat that we talk about is all finished," said Dulat who headed the intelligence agency during 1999-2000.

Three charred to death as car catches fire

■ **After hitting tree**
Bilaspur, Jan 22:

Three persons were charred to death when their car caught fire after ramming into a tree in Bilaspur district, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred at Khaira-Podi village between Ratanpur and Pendra road on Saturday night, Ratanpur-Kota sub divisional officer of police (SDOP) Ashish Arora said.

A fire broke out in the car after it rammed into a tree on the side of the road. The victims could not get out of the vehicle and were charred to death, he said. The victims, whose skeletal

About the fire

The accident occurred at Khaira-Podi village between Ratanpur and Pendra road on Saturday night. A fire broke out in the car after it rammed into a tree on the side of the road. The victims could not get out of the vehicle and were charred to death. The victims, whose skeletal remains were found inside the car, are yet to be identified. The vehicle belongs to one Shah Nawaz Khan of Torva area in Bilaspur.

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SC HIJACKED CONSTITUTION

Law Minister cites judge with 'sane views' on collegium

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday sought to support the views of a retired high court judge, who said the Supreme Court "hijacked" the Constitution by deciding to appoint judges itself.

The government and the judiciary have been at loggerheads over the process of appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.

Rijiju shared the video of an interview of Justice R S Sodhi (retd), a former judge of the Delhi Court, saying it is "voice of a judge" and that



majority of people have similar "sane views". Justice Sodhi said the right to frame laws lies with Parliament.

The law minister also said that "actually majority of the people have similar sane views. It's only those people who disregard the provisions of the Constitution

FLUTE FEST



Flutists play flutists during the 14th flute festival organized by Gurukul Pratisthan, in Thane, Sunday.

VHP activists tear 'Pathaan' posters at Guj movie hall

Surat, Jan 22 (PTI):

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) activists barged into a movie theatre in Surat city in Gujarat and tore posters of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Pathaan", police said on Sunday.

Five activists have been arrested on the charge of rioting, an officer said. 'Pathaan' is facing backlash for showing Deepika Padukone in a saffron bikini in the song 'Besharam Rang'. Many leaders, including from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, have demanded a ban on the film, scheduled for January 25 release. The incident occurred at Rupali cinema located in Rander

locality of Surat on Saturday evening.

"We received information regarding a group of people tearing posters of the movie 'Pathaan' at Rupali cinema. We arrested five of them and booked them for rioting. They belong to VHP," police inspector AS Sonara said. A case was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections pertaining to unlawful assembly, intentional insult, and criminal intimidation among others, he said.

Recently, multiplex owners in Gujarat met Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi who assured providing police protection to theatres against anti-social elements.

NCB tableau to make R-Day parade debut

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will showcase a tableau for the first time during the Republic Day parade on January 26 here, with a universal message of saying no to drugs, a senior official said on Sunday.

The NCB tableau will be accompanied by some of its personnel and two members of its canine squad, when it rolls down the Kartavya Path.

The NCB, the nodal agency for drug law enforcement in India, comes under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Man killed by tusker

Ambikapur, Jan 22 (PTI):

A 32-year-old man was killed by an elephant in Surguja district, a forest department official said on Sunday. Prakash Karketta of Gadaghat village had gone missing three days ago after he set out for his in-laws house and his body was recovered this morning from Bansbadi area, Range Sanjay Lakda said. "He was trampled to death by an elephant that has been spotted in the area for the past few days after getting separated from its herd," he added.

WHITE MEADOWS CALLING

Tourists make beeline for snow-capped Gulmarg

■ **After snowfall**
Gulmarg (J-K), Jan 22 (PTI):

A white carpet of otherwise green meadows greets tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's "mini Switzerland". The recent spells of snowfall in the Union Territory have brought the resort - at an altitude of 8,000 feet, 50 km north of the summer capital Srinagar - to life with the place brimming with visitors.

Soumya Srivastav, a tourist from Australia, could not resist but marvel, "I feel like I am in heaven. It is so awesome here." The famous



ski-resort here is a top draw for tourists from across the country and abroad with over 6,000 visiting on a daily basis. Srivastav said, "I am basically from Kathmandu, married to a Kashmiri man and currently living in

Australia." The snow-capped mountains and white-carpet meadows form quite the backdrop for the resort, which also offers a wide range of winter activities such as skiing.

The last few years have

been good for the tourism sector in Kashmir - often poetically referred to as "paradise on Earth". The region witnessed booming tourism seasons, especially after countries reopened their borders in the aftermath of COVID-19.

According to the Union Territory government, last year was one of the best seasons for the tourism industry as the Valley witnessed a record number of tourist arrivals.

Gulmarg, especially in winter, is the most popular among the many places on Kashmir's tourist map. Tourist arrivals have spiked after the recent snowfall.

Patharia participates in 'New Blue Revolution' with Biofloc technology

- **SHG women expected to earn Rs 3.5 lakhs in 6 months**
- **Producing Tilapia fish in a well equipped Biofloc**

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: The district administration in Gram Panchayat Patharia of development block Dhamdha has taken an innovative step for expansion of fisheries through biofloc system. The venture has been started by 10 women of Mahila Gram Sangathan of Pathariya. They have put 15000 seeds of tilapia fishes in the biofloc.

Seven women of Nishad Samaj are engaged in fisheries at Gauthan of Patharia (Doma). Seven tanks have been built as biofloc infrastructure at a cost of Rs 7.50 lakh and an additional amount of Rs

50000 has been spent on fodder (probiotic) and other equipment. The trainer, who has received training from "Koytur Fish Farming", has given the training to these women. Deputy Director of Fisheries Department, Sudha Das said that the department has contacted experts working at the local level to give interactive training related to biofloc to the village organization workers. Kumhari resident Vandana Surendra was selected for training. Vandana Surendra has taken training from Koytur Fish Farming and is starting her own Biofloc in Kumhari. Ten women of the village organization have been given a one-day live session in an interactive manner. A WhatsApp group has been created for them to get continuous updates re-



lated to biofloc. Videos and related information are made available to them from time to time. After being given the status of new Tehsil to Bori in Patharia, the local market has been transformed into a big market from the point of view of supply and demand. Along with this, fish can be sold in the village as well as in nearby haat bazars. The women are expected to earn a net income of

Rs 3.50 lakh by producing 04 quintal fish in 6 months. Seven tanks of biofloc have been constructed here in which a total of 15000 fish seeds have been put. Each fish will grow to a weight of about 500 grams to 1 kilogram. The estimated figure is around 4 quintals. Accordingly, the net profit figure is expected to be around three and a half lakhs. Biofloc is equipped with a bird net, dissolve oxy-

gen, fresh water, salt water, testing kit and TDS meter. Different types of equipment have been installed in Patharia's biofloc tank system for ensuring successful operations. Dissolved oxygen testing kits have been made available because fishes normally ingest dissolved oxygen under water. Didis can now make decisions according to the actual situation by ascertaining the level

of oxygen in the water from time to time and achieve maximum fish growth. Apart from this, bird nets have also been installed inside the tank to keep the fish safe. Fresh Water, Salt Water, Testing Kit, TDS Meter, Water Pump, Ph Meter; temperature meter, solar panel and battery backup system etc are also available for biofloc tanks. Sweetie Singh of

Fishery Inspector Dhamdha, while giving special information regarding the biofloc system, said that biofloc is a symbiotic process that includes confined aquatic animals, heterotrophic bacteria and other microbial species in the water. The aquatic animals, host bacteria and microorganisms create an ecosystem through a symbiotic process. The host bacteria feed on the waste products of the fish and later convert it into high protein to feed the fish. Repetition of this process creates a cycle that keeps the water clean, keeps the fish safe from getting sick, and provides food for both the host bacteria and the fish in the same location. This is the reason why the Biofloc system supports both bio-security

and eco-friendly systems. Deputy Director of Fisheries Department, Sudha Das said that under the guidance of Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena, the latest Zero Budget Natural Farming like Biofloc is being adopted in the district so that maximum benefit can be given to the marginal fish farmers. She said that this business can be made cost effective by 50 to 70 percent with the initial investment and monitoring system through biofloc system. She added that in Chhattisgarh, where fisheries have been given the status of farming, there has been an increase in facilities for fish farming, while many women self-help groups are joining this business. In order to expand further, the information of Matsya Sampada Yojana and other schemes is being provided to people.

Two cousins killed in road accident

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Two cousins moving on a bike were killed in a road accident which occurred late evening on Saturday at Sirsa Gate Square in Old Bhilai. They were crushed to death by a speeding truck. According to information, the deceased were Ankit Singh (21) son of Suresh Singh a resident of Belpahar, Orissa and Aditya Singh (16) son of Hari Singh a resident of Bihar.

Aditya was presently residing at his maternal grandparents' place in Charoda for studies. He is a student of Class 11th at Jyoti Vidyalaya, Charoda.



Saturday, Aditya and Ankit had gone to Power House Railway Station to drop off their uncle and aunt, who had also come to attend the marriage. The cousins were returning home on a borrowed bike when a speeding truck hit them at Sirsa Gate Square. They suffered fatal injuries in the mishap. On information, a team of Old Bhilai Police Station reached the spot and the injured were rushed to the hospital. After examination, the doctors declared them brought dead. The truck driver escaped after the mishap. Police have lodged an FIR and are trying to arrest the absconding truck driver.

BSF sends third batch of tribal youth to Kochi under TYEP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 30 tribal youth including 15 boys and 15 girls from Kanker for a tour to Kochi (Kerala). It is the third group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising fourteen such tours this



year for about 290 youth. IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters,

Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh

Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Three held for staging fake robbery

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Police arrested three ruffians on charges of plotting a fake robbery to pocket over Rs 5 lakhs of a real estate dealer. During interrogation, the Dhamdha Police discovered that the complainant had lodged an FIR over the crime which never occurred. The investigation team examined footage of about 150 CCTV cameras of the route between Khairagarh to Raipur to solve this case. Police have recovered the stolen car, Rs 4.64 lakh cash and two mobiles from the accused. While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Sunday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on January 19, one Dilshad Ali of

Moudhapara Raipur had lodged a complaint at Dhamdha Police Station regarding theft of a Car and about Rs 5 lakh cash. The complainant stated that he had dropped some passengers from Raipur Railway Station to Khairagarh in his Car number CG04MP4194. While returning back to Raipur, he collected Rs 5 lakh from Ashok Baradia of Khairagarh and had to deliver the cash to Raipur based property dealer Yuvraj Verma. On the way, he stopped the car near Thelka Square to attend nature's call. Meanwhile, two masked bikers reached near the car and



escaped with the car and cash. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, Police launched investigations and examined footage of almost 150 CCTV cameras. Finding no merits in the complaint, Police strictly quizzed the complainant.

During sustained interrogation, he confessed to have plotted a fake robbery with his accomplices Sikandar and Safat Khan. The accused revealed that he was in need of money and when the property dealer Yuvraj Verma asked him to bring money

from Khairagarh, he chalked out the plan to steal this money. As per the plan, Dilshad stopped his car near Thelka Square while returning back to Raipur. His friends Sikandar and Safat reached there in another car and took Dilshad's car with them. After travelling some distance, they took out the cash, mobile phones and other items from Dilshad's car and took it with them. They left Dilshad's car abandoned near Gabdi Nullah in Deokar and returned to Raipur in a bus. Police have arrested Dilshad Ali (28) son of Ajnas Ali a resident of

Moudhapara, Raipur; Sikandar (27) son of Sheikh Kalandar a resident of Moudhapara, Raipur and Safat Khan (22) son of Irfan Khan a resident of Moudhapara, Raipur. They were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand. SI Jagdeesh Mandavi, ASI Santram Thakur, Constables Amit Verma, Prashant sahu, Goverdhan Chauhan from Police Station Dhamdha and ASI Shamit Mishra, Constables Jagjeet Singh, Pradeep Singh Thakur, Khurram Baksh, Tileshwar Rathore, Chitrasen Sahu, Farukh Khan, Dharendra Yadav, Komal Rajput, Narendra Sahare and Vikrant Kumar played a vital role in solving the case.

Vansh Bahadur Singh appointed as Bastar in-charge

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: INTUC State General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh has been appointed as the in-charge of Bastar Division in the organisation. INTUC National General Secretary and CG State President Sanjay Kumar Singh entrusted this responsibility to Vansh Bahadur Singh for expanding and giving strength to the organisation in Bastar Division. He will work to integrate the workers of NMDC, Nagarnar Steel Plant and other unorganised sectors in Bastar. The office bearers of Steel



Vansh Bahadur Singh

Employees Union and state INTUC have congratulated Vansh Bahadur Singh for this new responsibility.

Madhya Pradesh IAS Officer appreciates Kesra Gauthan



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: VK Batham, IAS officer from Bhopal (MP), inspected and oversaw the Gauthan of village Kesra located in District Panchayat Patan. He sought information regarding purchase of vermi-compost and cow-dung from the women of self-help groups working in Gauthan. The women informed him that they have purchased about eight thousand quintal of cow dung and have sold 2100 quintal vermi compost.

Batham also oversaw the cow dung paint manufacturing unit located in Gauthan. Along with this, various types of vegetables have been planted by the women. The women of self-help groups are conducting several other activities from this Gauthan. Batham observed the works being done by the groups and appreciated the women. Considering the good quality of oil produced here, Batham purchased the oil to provide moral encouragement to the women.

1200 applications found valid after scrutiny for affordable housing

- **Good quality houses with proper ventilation being constructed at best locations**

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: The dream of having an own house remains a dream for many people in urban areas. The cost of land in a good location is so high that it is difficult for a common man to buy even a One BHK flat. With the help of the government's scheme, the dream of the tenants to have their own house is being fulfilled. Under the Affordable Housing Partnership Scheme, about 4,000 houses are being built in the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. In the first phase, when applications were invited for these houses, 4588 applications were purchased by people, in which 1250 applications have been submitted so far, out of which 1200 applications have been found



valid after scrutiny. Houses are being prepared for them in the best locality of the city. On the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the construction of houses is being done at a fast pace. The work of about 400 houses has been completed. Commissioner Rohit Vyas is continuously monitoring the implementation of the scheme under the guidance of Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena. The houses that are being built under the Affordable Housing Plan not only have a good location but the houses are also very nice according to the facilities provided in

One BHK. There is a gallery in front of the house. The ventilation in the kitchen and other rooms is good. The houses are airy. There is an arrangement of water in all the houses and tanks have been prepared to supply water. There is good drainage also. The government's contribution in Aas is Rs 1.5 lakh while in the Chinhari scheme it is Rs 4 lakh. The houses being constructed by the government are being allotted for both the schemes, Mor Makan - Mor Aas and Mor Makan - Mor Chinhari. Under Aas, the Central Government's contribution is Rs 1.5 lakh and the



beneficiary's contribution ranges from Rs 2.98 lakh to Rs 3.61 lakh. In Chinhari, the contribution of the center is Rs 1.5 lakh, the contribution of the state is Rs 2.5 lakh and the contribution of the beneficiary is Rs 75000. Kamaladevi Sharma, displaced from Canal Road, got accommodation in Amrapali Vananchal City. She said that they have given their contribution and the government has also given its contribution due to which they got a house. Chinhari's scheme is a good scheme which solves the problems of the displaced people.

Training organized about fortified rice

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: A training session was organized for the Rice Millers and officials of Food and Civil Supplies Corporation of the district regarding fortified rice in the meeting hall of District Panchayat Durg. Information about the production, licensing, packaging and labelling process and quality parameters of fortified rice was given by Kasturi Panda, Program Assistant, World Food Programme. Food Corporation of India and Civil Supplies Corporation have set a target to procure 100 percent FRK rice by 2024. Therefore, rice millers were informed about the process of compulsory license like FSSAI license, +F endorsement certificate for rice fortification. Apart from this, detailed information was given about iron spot test, bleeding efficiency test to be done during the production of fortified rice and the



facts to be noted while purchasing FRK rice were informed, so that Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) can be procured as per the intention of the government.

OBITUARY

Mohan Lal Agrawal

Bhilai: LIG 46 resident Mohan Lal Agrawal left for heavenly abode on Saturday. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence on January 23 around 10:00 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the father of Deepak, Manish and Nitesh.

Fire in Raipur market; 3 shops, godown gutted



Raipur, Jan 22: A fire broke out in a market area in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur on Sunday morning, gutting three shops and a godown, police said. No person was reported to be injured in the blaze which erupted at around 5.30 am near Phool Chowk area, Moudhapura police station house officer

Nitesh Thakur said.

A wedding cards shop, an electronic gadgets outlet, another shop and a godown were gutted in the fire, he said. After being alerted, police along with firefighters rushed to the spot, the official said. The intensity of fire was so high that its flames spread to the nearby houses. This

led to the evacuation of people from nearby houses.

Four fire tenders were deployed and efforts were still on to douse the blaze, he said. A preliminary investigation suggested short-circuit as the possible cause of the fire, the official said. The exact cause of the blaze would be as-

certained after a probe into the incident, he added.

According to information, a kitchen material shop located in Phool Chowk caught fire. The fire slowly spread to nearby shops. Due to this, the flames reached two more shops leading to release of smoke.

FIRE TIMELY DOUSED



The fire in three shops in Phul-Bazar market area was brought under control well on time and that too after lots of efforts and photo shows the amount of panic among the shopkeepers and nearby and heap of burnt and wet debris (inset) being taken out by the shopkeepers.

Yoga Aayog Chairman awards winners of soft tennis tournament

Pt RSU women team champion in All India Inter University Soft Tennis Tournament

Raipur, Jan 22: Chhattisgarh Yoga Aayog Commission Gyanesh Sharma attended the closing ceremony of All India Inter University Soft Tennis Tournament organized by Pt Ravishankar Shukla University (Pt RSU) in the capital Raipur on Saturday as the chief guest and awarded the winners.

The women team of Pt RSU won the title by defeating the Panjab University, Chandigarh team in the finals. The tournament was organized from 17 to 20 January. The program was presided over by the

Vice Chancellor of Pt RSU, Prof. Dr. Kesharilal Verma and Pankaj Sharma, President of District Cooperative Bank Raipur, also attended as a special guest. The program was coordinated by Rupendra Singh Chauhan, Senior Sports Officer.

In doubles, Urvashi and Nidhi of Pt RSU defeated Chandigarh's Riya and Radhika 5-1 to make the team the final winner. The third place went to Anna University, Chennai, who beat MDU Rohtak 2-0. In the men's section, Gujarat University won the title by defeating Panjab University Chandigarh by 2-0.

The third position was taken by Anna University, Chennai, which defeated Gujarat Tech University 2-1 to win the position.

Youth stabbed to death in broad daylight

Raipur, Jan 22: A youth was murdered in broad daylight near Kabir Chowk of Ramnagar Chowki under Gudhiyari thana here on Sunday. The incident took place around 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. The accused attacked the youth with a knife and in this the youth fell down and the accused ran away from the place. The youth was taken to the hospital, where he was declared dead.

As per information in this regard, Dhaneshwar Bagh used to work on daily-wages as labourer and contractor of the labourers. Like every day, he was busy in work at Kabir Chowk and during which he entered into controversy with some youths. On this the youth attacked him and stabbed him. He was lying in pool of blood. The police reached the site and sent the body for post-mortem and started the search for the accused youth absconding.

Two accused nabbed in fraud of Rs 27.48 lakh

Refused to pay amount for export of Black Rice

Raipur, Jan 22: The Police has nabbed the two Directors of Web E-Bharat Digital Media Pvt. Ltd., on charges of being involved in fraud with two of Bhilai/ Raipur in the name of import and exports. As per information in this regard, the complainant Rahul Borkar filed a complaint in Azad Chowk thana that he is resident of Panchsheel Nagar, west ward No. 17, Charouda, Bhilai



and is involved in travels business. He also invest in the import-export company of his brother in the name of Shuddhi Enterprises, Bilaspur.

Complainant informed that he had contacted the Director of Web E- Bharat Digital Media Pvt. Ltd., Indian exporter viz. Adarsh and Kuldeep Joshi and manager Kanish through internet. For export of

Ukraine importer VINCICS LLP for black-rice, he completed all the formalities for export of 250 Million tonne and transferred a total of Rs 27.48 lakh from his and his brother account in ICICI Samta Colony branch. On receiving the cash, the importer said that he is not need of import of Black Rice and said that entire money is gone into the process.

On this the complainant duo filed complaint against the Directors of the Company under section 420 and 34 of IPC and it was based upon this the accused were taken into arrest.

PCC in-charge visits house of Assembly speaker

Raipur, Jan 22: Congress general secretary and Chhattisgarh in-charge Kumari Selja paid courtesy visit to Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly speaker Dr Charandas Mahant at his residence here today. Selja was welcomed by Dr Mahant's wife and Korba MP Jyotsana Mahant, son Suraj Mahant.

During her visit Selja discussed state's development and parliamentary issues with Dr Mahant. The Speaker pre-



sented shawl, srfal and Mahatma Gandhi's idol to Pradesh Congress in-charge. Urban Administration Minister

Dr Shiv Kumar Dahria and Pali Tanakhar MLA Mohit Kerketta were also present on the occasion.

Nearly Rs 201 crore paid so far to cow dung vendors under GNY: Baghel

Ch'garh is the first state in the country to purchase cow dung

CM's Bhent-Mulaqat programme organized in village Math of Dharsiwa assembly constituency of Raipur district

Dharsiwa, Jan 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said that one lakh quintals of cow dung has been purchased from cow dung vendors under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana and Rs 201 crore has been paid to them so far. About 80,000 women are also getting employment by producing vermicompost from cow dung. Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country where cow dung is being procured.



Godhan Nyaya Yojana has become a medium of social and economic change in the villages.

He was addressing the villagers during the Bhent-Mulaqat programme organized at village Math of Dharsiwa assembly constituency of Raipur district today. Today, the Bhent-Mulaqat programme in Raipur district is starting from Dharsiwa assembly constituency. Chief Minister Baghel said that we have for-

mulated plans for all sections. First of all, we have waived off the loans of the farmers. He added that along with paddy, we are also buying Kodo, Kutki at the support price. Chhattisgarh ranks second after Punjab in paddy procurement in the country with 103 lakh metric tonnes of paddy today. About 23 lakh farmers in Chhattisgarh have been benefited by selling paddy. Earlier only 15 lakh farmers used to sell paddy and the area under

paddy was 22 lakh hectare, which has also increased now. Dharsiwa MLA Smt. Anita Yogendra Sharma, President of Mineral Development Corporation Shri Girish Dewangan, along with many public representatives, a large number of villagers and officers were present on the occasion. Stating the practical problems arising in the production of ethanol from paddy, Chief Minister said that the state government wants to buy huge quantities for this purpose. Permission has not been received for the same from the central government and the rate of ethanol produced from paddy has not been fixed. He added that the plant for making ethanol from sugarcane is about to start in Kawardha. Maize to ethanol plant will also start in Kondagaon in June. If the central government gives permission, we will buy each and every grain of paddy from the farmers.

Strike of junior doctors continues for 4th consecutive day

Raipur, Jan 22: The strike of junior doctors association Raipur entered 4th day on Sunday. The strike affected OPD and emergency services at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur. The junior doctors are on strike in support of three-point demand including hike in stipend.

A delegation of junior doctors on Sunday met health minister TS Singhdeo and talked to him over the demand. Since hike in stipend will put additional financial burden of Rs 60 crore on the government, Singhdeo talked of sending this proposal to CM. Junior Doctors Association president Dr

Prem Choudhary said that next course of action would be finalised after discussing the issue with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel tomorrow.

While being in strike junior resident doctors donated blood at various medical colleges across the state. As many as 25 junior resident doctors donated blood at

Medical College Hospital (Ambedkar Hospital) Raipur. Dr Shourya Choudhary (radiologist), Dr Anjali, Dr Vrittika, Dr Apurva, Dr Surabhi, Dr Siddharth, Dr Kamal, Dr Jyoshmi Ekka, Dr Vedvyas, Dr Anmol Agrawal and doctors from various other departments actively participated in blood donation.

Anand Jewels wins 'Leading Retail Chain of the Year award'

Presented by Retail Jeweller magazine



Raipur, Jan 22: The well-known Anand Jewels of Central India has been awarded with 'Leading Retail Chain of the Year' award by Retail Jeweller magazine. Anand Jewels has been provided quality jewellery at true prices to its clients since beginning and it is for this reason that they received this award. This love and confidence of the consumers towards Anand Jewels is not just limited to central India, but in entire country where Anand Jewels has carved a top identity for itself. Now a new national brand has

made its presence felt in Central India and Chhattisgarh.

It is notable here that Retail Jeweller magazine has been one of the most favourable and liked magazine of jewellery lovers in India. Dedicated purely on different subjects related to retail jewellery, this magazine has been established as a good analyst and thinker in the jewellery industry. Retail Jeweller MD-CEO has indepth knowledge and thinking about the awards, precious stones and all the major changes and achievements in the jewellery industry and in order to share the special success of new leaders of present-day generation, organises such award functions. This year Navaz Modi Singhania was the chief guest of the award ceremony.

Giving detailed information about this award, Director Anand Jewels Gaurav Anandji informed that the credit of Company's success goes to its consumers and clients, who have bestowed huge



confidence in our products and quality since beginning and also to the efforts being made by Anand Jewels to earn their confidence. The Company has provided true prices with quality, EF VVS diamond jewellery, 100% buy-back, lifetime free-repair; free-diamond testing and other such valuable services and facilities to its customers. 'Set aside this we have maintained complete transparency with our customers, which in turn strengthened our relations with them' he said. Seeing the rush and crowd of customers in all our three showrooms we are not only happy, but feel proud that

the customers have shown immense faith in our products and its quality and they always select us for their happier moments and occasions, he said and added that in the coming times Anand Jewels would continue to fulfill its rich tradition of honesty and truth and would achieve new heights in the jewellery business.

Anand Jewels has attained lot of popularity for presenting the topmost quality and designer jewellery to its customers in all its three showrooms in Indore, Bhopal and Raipur and has been one of the most favourite brands of all its consumers.

Twenty one differently abled couples tie nuptial knot

4th state level free differently abled mass marriage

Raipur, Jan 22: As many as 21 differently abled couples entered wedlock at state level 'Viklang Samuhik Vivah Samaroh' organized at Ashirwad Bhawan Baron Bazar Raipur finished on Sunday under the joint auspices of Akhil Bharatiya Viklang Chetna Parishad Chhattisgarh, Raipur Central Marwari Yuva Manch, Kanyakubj Sabha and Shiksha Mandal and Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Raipur. Convener Virendra



Pandey, Chhattisgarh Viklang Chetna Parishad president Satyendra Agrawal and pro-

gramme coordinator Ghanshyam Poddar said that former minister Brijmohan Agrawal (MLA Raipur

South), programme president Dr Vinay Pathak, national executive president of Viklang Chetna Parishad were present as chief guests at the function.

Arun Shukla, president Kanyakubj Brahman Samaj, Kanyakubj Sabha evam Shiksha Mandal secretary Suresh Mishra, Chetna Parishad state president, state general secretary Santosh Tiwari, national general secretary Madan Mohan and national vice president Anuradha Dubey, senior citizens welfare forum president KP Saxena, Marvadi Yuva Manch president Narayan Agrawal and secretary Yogesh Sharma were present.

Youngsters and traditional craftsmen are getting employment in the RIPA: CM

Industries in RIPA should be set up as per the interest of the local youth

Transfer of Rs 8.30 cr to the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana

So far, a total of Rs 201 cr has been paid to cow dung vendors so far, since the inception of Godhan Nyaya Yojana

Raipur, Jan 22: In his address to the virtual program organized for distribution of funds to the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the 'Rural Industrial Park' being developed in Gauthans is proving to be tremendously beneficial for the local youths. Baghel directed that the industries under RIPA should be established in accordance with the interests of the youth, as this would encourage the



youth participation. He also gave instructions to produce high-on-demand products in the units established under RIPA. He was glad to inform that the industrial units being established in gauthans do not cause pollution. Rural Industrial Parks are generating employment opportunities for youngsters and traditional craftsmen. Baghel congratulated the farmers for the bumper production and tremendous sale of paddy in the state. In the programme, Chief Minister paid an amount of Rs 8.30 cr to the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana (GNY).

Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh is creating records one after the other. So far more than 103 lakh metric tons of paddy has been procured, against the

target of 110 lakh metric tons. So far more than Rs 201 cr has been paid to cow dung vendors under Godhan Nyaya Yojana, since the inception of the scheme. Today, 60th installment was released under the scheme.

From January 1 to January 15, Chief Minister Baghel transferred an amount of Rs. 4 crore 27 lakh online to the cattle rearing villagers, farmers and landless in lieu of purchase of 2.13 lakh quintal cow dung from the Gothans. Similarly, Rs 2.23 crore was transferred to Gothan committees and Rs 1.53 crore as dividend to the accounts of women groups.

Chief Minister said in the program that along with vermicompost from cow dung, electricity and

natural paint are being prepared from cow dung. More than 3 lakh 98 thousand villagers have been benefited from Godhan Nyaya Yojana. Out of the 10 thousand 921 gauthans approved in the state, construction of 9596 gauthans has been completed. Women self-help groups are flourishing as a result of the income-oriented activities conducted in gauthans and have so far earned an income of Rs 105.18 crore from the livelihood activities held in gauthans. Women in rural areas are becoming self-reliant and financially empowered. Presently, one lakh 31 thousand 898 women of 11 thousand 477 women self-help groups are working in Gothans. Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Agricultural Production Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Director of Agriculture Department Dr. Ayyaz Tamboli, Mission Director of State Rural Livelihood Mission Avnish Sharan, Director Livestock Chandan Sanjay Tripathi, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Department Tulika Prajapati was also present.

Chief Minister further said that in response to his appeal, farmers have donated 15.68 lakh quintals of hay in gauthans. So far more than 27 lakh quintals of compost has been pro-

duced from cow dung. More than 3 lakh 98 thousand villagers have been benefited from Godhan Nyaya Yojana. Out of the 10 thousand 921 gauthans approved in the state, construction of 9596 gauthans has been completed. Women self-help groups are flourishing as a result of the income-oriented activities conducted in gauthans and have so far earned an income of Rs 105.18 crore from the livelihood activities held in gauthans. Women in rural areas are becoming self-reliant and financially empowered. Presently, one lakh 31 thousand 898 women of 11 thousand 477 women self-help groups are working in Gothans. Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Agricultural Production Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Director of Agriculture Department Dr. Ayyaz Tamboli, Mission Director of State Rural Livelihood Mission Avnish Sharan, Director Livestock Chandan Sanjay Tripathi, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Department Tulika Prajapati was also present.

Work in mutual coordination to provide basic facilities to the visitors: Rudrakumar

Giroudpuri fair will be organised from Feb 24 to 26

The meeting of the fair committee was organised under the chairmanship of Guru Gaddinshin Shri Vijay Guru

Raipur, Jan 22: The three-day Gurudarshan Mela held every year at Giroudpuri Dham in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district will be organized from 24 to 26 February 2023. Today in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district, the date of organizing the fair was decided in a high-level meeting organized by the Giroudpuri Fair Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of Jagatguru Guru Gaddinshin Shri Vijay Kumar Guru. On this occasion, Public Health Engineering and Village Industries Minister Guru Rudrakumar, Raj Rajeshwari Kaushal Mata, Rajmahant Gana along with Collector Mr. Rajat Bansal, SP Mr. Deepak Jha and senior officials of the district administration were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, Minister Guru Rudrakumar said that lakhs of devotees gather in the fair. It is the responsibility of the district administration to make better

arrangements for basic facilities for them. All the departments should work in coordination with each other and play their part in making this big event a success. He instructed the concerned officials to make new Jaithkham in place of the old Jaithkham in place of the old Jaithkham in the temple premises and Guru Ghasidas birthplace. In the meeting, in view of the gathering of lakhs of visitors in the fair, a detailed discussion was held regarding the preparations and the framework for the successful organization of the fair was finalized. Shri Vijay Kumar Guru also kept his views and suggestions in the meeting. Collector Mr. Rajat Bansal, while conducting the proceedings of the meeting, gave detailed information about the arrangements proposed for the fair. Kasdol SDM Mr. Bhupendra Agarwal has been appointed as Mela Officer and Co-Fair Officer, Tundra Tehsildar Chitralekha Chandravanshi to ensure all arrangements for the fair. Deputy Collectors and Joint Collectors will be deployed from the state level to assist them in security arrangements. For this, a letter has been written to the General Administration Department. There will be adequate arrangements for drinking water and waste water for the visitors coming to the fair. Collector Mr.

Bansal said that after cleaning the tanks of 30 lakh, 8 lakh and 75 thousand liters capacity installed at the fair site, filling of water has started. Separate water tanks will be arranged in the temple premises, Maharaji, Chatapahar and Panch Kundiya. There will be adequate arrangement of water in the fair for all the three days.

In addition to this, Dal-Bhat centres will be set up at concessional rate for the visitors coming to the fair. There will be a ban on serving food and other material in plastic items in the fair. The use of both metal and wood will be promoted. A committee has been formed for the allotment of shops in the fair site. There will be security arrangements at every nook and corner of the fair venue. During the organization of the fair, there will be no illegal liquor shop business in the radius of 10 kilometres of Giroudpuri Dham. For this, strict instructions have been given to Excise and Police. Sale of paan, gutkha and beedi will also be banned. On this occasion, the Rajmahants and the members of the organizing committee also gave suggestions for the systematic organization of their respective fairs. In addition, SP Deepak Jha, District Panchayat CEO Gopal Verma and concerned officers were present.

There should be equality in theory and practice, says CM

During Bhent-Mulaqat prog in Math in Dharsinwa constituency

Raipur, Jan 22: Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel reached the programme venue located at village Math of Dharsinwa assembly constituency on Sunday morning. He started the Bhent-Mulaqat programme by lighting the lamp and garlanding the portrait of 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari'. The state song was also sung and played on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering of villagers, the Chief Minister said that he has come to know whether they (people) are getting the benefit of the public welfare schemes of the state government. "Today, I



am starting the Bhent-Mulaqat programme in Raipur district from Dharsinwa assembly', he added.

Chief Minister Baghel said that there should be equality in theory and practice. We have formulated plans for all sections. First of all, we have waived off the loans of the farmers. Everyone expressed their consent on the matter of loan waiver by raising their hands.

Chief Minister said that

along with paddy, we are also procuring Kodo, Kutki at the support price. Chhattisgarh ranks second after Punjab in paddy procurement in the country, so far 103 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured. About 23 lakh farmers in Chhattisgarh have been benefited by selling paddy. Earlier only 15 lakh farmers used to sell paddy, earlier the area was also 22 lakh hectare which has also increased now.



Rukhmani Bai said she got the ration card

Math: Math resident Rukhmani Bai said that the ration card has been issued. She expressed her gratitude towards the chief minister saying that rice, sugar, salt and kerosene are all available now.

Knowledge cannot be gained without teacher: CM

Math: When the Swami Atmanand English Medium School Tilda-Neora, Class 12 student Varsha Yadav asked the Chief Minister what played a big role in your success and teachers or your experience, the Chief Minister replied that knowledge cannot be gained without a teacher.

CM sanctions financial aid of Rs 1 lakh for nursing course

Math: The student said that she has passed 12th standard from Swami Atmanand English Medium School, Tilda and has taken admission in nursing course, the course fee is around Rs 2 lakh. She sought financial help from the Chief Minister saying that she lost her father during the corona pandemic. Chief Minister announced a financial aid of Rs 1 lakh.

Announcements made by CM in Bhent-Mulaqat

- The middle school in village Math will be upgraded to high school.
- Considering the demand for lift irrigation in your area, it will be approved in Gram Panchayat Math, Mura, Pikridih, Bithia, Mudpar and Tildadih.
- Construction of the compound will be done in Prathmik Krishni Saksh Sahakari Samiti, Math.
- The widening of the road from village Khauli to village Kosrangi via Bhadaha-Budgahan-Farhada will be approved under Ram Van Gaman Path.
- Approval of staff in the Community Health

- Center Farhada.
- Swami Atmanand English Medium School will be opened in Gram Panchayat Ganiyari.
- Upgradation of Baronda Middle School as High School.
- Primary Health Center will be opened in Gram Panchayat Madahi and Jara-Kumhari.
- Access road will be constructed from the purani basti to the nayi basti in village Nakti, Kumhari.
- Approval of Rs 1.92 crore for construction of Gaurav Path in Kharora Nagar Panchayat.
- Approval to open a branch of District

- Cooperative Bank in village Saragaon.
- Primary Health Center Silyari to be named after Smt. Indira Baniram Verma (Land has been donated.)
- Community hall construction in Gram Panchayat Matia.
- ITI to be named after Late Smt. Gudvantin Bai Baghel, resident of Gram Panchayat Bangoli (donor donated Rs. 45 lakh cash and land for opening and running this building)
- He announced to install a statue of Dr. Khubchand Baghel in Pendra Van.

Talent and creativity marked the Graduation Day

● At St. Xavier's Raipur

Raipur, Jan 22: St. Xavier's High School Raipur celebrated Graduation day on 20th January with the theme 'Sow Good seeds for a brighter tomorrow'. The occasion was graced by eminent dignitaries of the state. The director of Ryan Group of institutions, Dr. Sonal Pinto graced the occasion with her august presence. Enthusiasm and joy filled the air as students performed in a number of colourful programmes.



The programme started with the Lord's Prayer and the melodious prayer songs set the stage for a musical show. More than 250 children of Montessori and grade 1 performed in the musical skit that left everyone enthralled. The

tiny tots of Montessori dancing to foot tapping songs stole the hearts of the audience. The orchestral rendition by the students was par excellence.

The graduation day was of equal importance for parents who eagerly waited to see their

children graduate from Montessori to primary school. Clad in blue and golden robes, the children received their scrolls in a grand fashion. The meritorious students from Montessori to grade 5 received awards from the guest of hon-

our. The much awaited moment was the declaration of the names of the prince and princess of each grade. They were crowned ceremoniously by Dr. Sonal Pinto amidst joyful cheering. The celebrations were organized under the guidance of Chairman Dr. A. F. Pinto, Managing Director Madam Dr. Grace Pinto. The programme ended with the closing chorus which was followed by the school anthem and National anthem. The day will remain in the memories of the children and their parents for days to come.

CM to inaugurate bird sanctuary in Lamani Park on Jan 26



Jagdalpur, Jan 22: The first bird sanctuary has been built in Lamani Park of Bastar district headquarters at a cost of 50 lakhs. A total of 30 species of birds will be kept here. These include both native and foreign birds. Presently 300 birds have been brought and kept. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate this bird sanctuary on January 26.

According to the information received, tourists will have to take tickets to see the birds that will be kept in this bird sanctuary built in Lamani Park. A separate ticket counter has also been arranged for this. However, it is not yet clear how much the ticket will be per person. A cactus garden has also been built in this park, which is



a center of attraction for tourists visiting here. Many types of cactus are present here. Now with the formation of a bird sanctuary, the curiosity of people to come here will increase.

Director of Lamani Biodiversity Park and Forest Ranger Devendra Verma said that for the last three years, the work of making a bird sanctuary is being done in this city park. Presently deer and swan are kept here. Now colorful birds of indigenous and foreign breeds will be kept. There is a crowd of tourists in this park throughout the year. He said that this decision has been taken keeping tourism in mind. At present, 300 birds have been brought here from Bengaluru.

BALCO leveraging digital technologies to build a sustainable safety culture

Balconagar, (Korba) , Jan 22: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer and a subsidiary of Vedanta Aluminium, has been one of the first companies in India to explore the field of smart technologies in the realm of industrial safety.

The Company has undertaken several endeavours to enhance safety culture at the workplace. Suraksha Sankalp Kutumbh is BALCO's umbrella project for digital transformation of safety, which is aimed at integrating five safety modules for enhancement of leading indicators in safety practices. These include Extended Reality Training Centre, Video Analytics, Sustainability Mobile App, E-learning course on Safety Modules for Competency Building, and Digitalization of Workforce Connectivity. The project aims at skill development, auto detection of unsafe acts and conditions, driving digital safe-



ty culture & safety interactions, work force safety, productivity improvement and tracking of red zones.

The Extended Reality Training Centre makes use of Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Mixed Reality technologies to enable simulation-based safety training thus ensuring an immersive, engaging and safe learning experience for the workforce. BALCO has already gone live with the Work at Height safety training for its employees, and will subsequently deploy other modules like Confined Space, Using PPEs, Forklift Driving, Pedestrian Safety and Use of

Fire Fighting Equipment etc.

As a result of innovation, an android based application for interlock protection safety has been developed in house. The application has been developed after mapping 5,000 interlocks across the plant and offers risk rating and real time information of bypassed interlocks at a time of the entire plant.

LED logo/sign projectors are extensively used for crosswalk and safety sign display across various locations where there is heavy vehicle movement.

Apart from this BALCO is taking steps to sensitize the families of employees and local communities to become a catalyst of change towards ensuring the highest safety standards. Towards this end, the organization is conducting several safety training workshops, training on defensive driving, fire safety sessions, awareness on road safety and establishing retro reflective safety sign boards etc.

Education has an important contribution in human devp: Jain



School, 15 girl students from Kurandi School, 42 girl students from Asana School, 12 girl students of Bhairamganj School, 14 girl students of Panarapara School, Free cycles were distributed under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme.

On this occasion, MLA Jagdalpur and Parliamentary Secretary

Rekhchand Jain said that education has played an important role in the development of human civilization. Inspiring the children to understand the importance of education, he recited the famous poem of Sohanlal Dwivediji, saying that 'the boat does not cross fearing the waves, those who try never lose'. He motivated the children

for the upcoming examinations. Like last year, this year too, he announced to provide incentive amount of Rs. 51000 to the students who got high position in Class 10 and 12.

He said that the work being done by the Chief Minister of our state Bhupesh Baghel in the field of education is being discussed in the whole country today. Seeing the importance of English education, Swami Atmanand English Medium School (SAGEMS) was started. Today, in the field of education, there is an important example for the whole

country. Expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister, he said that it is a privilege of his Jagdalpur constituency that four Swami Amanand English medium schools and one Swami Amanand English medium college have been established in his constituency. And another school is starting in the coming academic session. He said that our government is taking an innovative initiative of Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme to promote girl child education. Due to which it is easy for the girls to come to the school.

ABVP Kharora unit celebrates Youth Day

Kharora, Jan 22:

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Kharora unit celebrated Youth Day here on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the source of inspiration for the youth. The program was started after worshipping Mother India and Swami Vivekananda at the local Mangal Bhavan. During the programme, a cultural program was presented on patriotic songs by the children of Kharora High School, Shishu Mandir and Real Public School.

The chief guest of the program, Rajeev Aggarwal, said in his address that the efforts of Swami Vivekananda have



spread Indian culture and civilization in every corner of the world, and he inspired the youth to follow the path shown by Swami Vivekananda by taking inspiration from his life. Present in the same program, NP President Anil Soni, retired teacher

Sitaram Yadav while highlighting the life of Swami Vivekananda said that youth need to follow the path shown by Swami Vivekananda, because youth are the future of the country. During the program, Central Railway Board member Dr. Gulab

Tikriha, Vice President of Tilda Janpad Panchayat Tikeswar Manhare, Vice Principal Haris Dewangan, Principal of Saraswati Shishu Mandir Ashwani Patkar, Ex-Serviceman D.R. Verma, former councilor Vikas Thakur, Vidyarthi Parishad district convenor Radheshyam Sahu and other guests were honored by giving certificates and symbols to the talented children of nearby schools including Kharora. Retired teachers including ex-servicemen Mahesh Verma, Khilendra Singh Verma, Tekram Verma, Hitesh Sen were present during the programme. A large number of students and council workers were also present.

Ten city buses flagged off by Jaisingh Agarwal



Korba, Jan 22:

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Mr. Jaisingh Agrawal said today that the operation of city buses will provide convenient travel at low cost to the common citizens, and that they should not be operated commercially but with service spirit, so that people can get better transport facilities at less cost. Revenue Minister Jaisingh

Agrawal said these things today on the occasion of re-operation and inauguration program of city buses. The operations of the much-awaited city buses have been resumed and, at present 10 city buses will be run on 6 routes.

The program was presided over by Mayor Rajkishore Prasad, while Chairman Shyamsundar Soni, Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey and

members of the Mayor-in-Council, councilors and aldermen were especially present.

On this occasion, Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal further said in his address that after the closure of state transport buses, people used to face some difficulties in commuting, and said that journalists will be given free travel facility in city buses and they will

be able to travel free of cost.

Mayor Mr. Rajkishore Prasad in his address said that the common citizens after a gap of 02 years, will avail the services and at present the works of construction of roads, asphaltting etc. are being done at a fast pace, as a result of which the journey to and fro from Korba's sub-urban areas and other cities by city bus will be comfortable.

Chairman Minority Commission reviews schemes



Korea, Jan 22: Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Minorities Commission Mahendra Chhabra reached Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district on a one-day visit here, and presided a review meeting of the schemes run for the minorities by the government. In the second session, a seminar was organized in which the social, economic and educational development of the minority community was discussed in the presence of Manendragarh MLA Dr.

Vinay Jaiswal. In the meeting held in the first session, Vice Chairman of the Commission Mr. Hafeez Khan and Secretary Mr. MR Khan and Chairperson of Municipality Manendragarh Mrs. Prabha Patel were also present. In the meeting, various schemes were reviewed along with the schemes run by the Government of India and the State Government for the minority community. Mr. Chhabra gave instructions in the meeting to

form a Minorities Welfare Committee and a committee for the Prime Minister's new 15-point program according to the new district. In the meeting, he inquired about the benefits to the minority community from various schemes run under Tribal Development, Education, Health, Police, District Industries and Commerce, Electricity and Women and Child Development Departments. Similarly, all the main district panchayats and commissioners, municipal corporations and chief municipal officers were also informed about the benefits of the beneficiaries under the schemes. District Collector PS Dhruv, all SDMs and district level officers were present in the meeting.

Collector addresses public grievances in Janchoupal

Bemetara, Jan 22: The District Collector chaired the Janchoupal organized with the aim of redressing the problems of rural as well as urban citizens of Bemetara district. Collector Jitendra Kumar Shukla listened to the problems of the villagers who came from far-flung villages of the district including the urban ones.

The District Magistrate gave instructions to the officer of the concerned department to dispose of their applications as per the rules and instructed that in cases where it is technically not possible to settle the applications as per the rules, the applicant should also be informed separately in writing.

A total of 58 applications related to demands, complaints and problems were received. Kejabai, a resident of village Gunjera of the district, presented applications in connection with the supply of copy for the sale of the owned land in Janchoupal organized in the Collectorate meeting hall, and same way villagers of village Patharra Gave an application regarding removal of encroachment on government land by some peo-

ple of the village. Similarly, Kanshiram Dandekar, a resident of Parsbod village, submitted an application to the District Magistrate regarding taking action against a private showroom in Saja for not giving him the papers (documents) of the motorcycle and Bhagwati das, a resident of Shankar Nagar Ward 12 Nawagarh, applied for old age pension. Devendra Verma, a resident of village Kharra, submitted an application regarding getting the increased amount of old age pension.

Apart from this, application was given in relation to providing benefits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, old age pension, financial assistance, loan waiver, building dismantling etc. Ramoutin Bai, a resident of village Mohlai, submitted an application regarding the disbursement of funds under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana for the year 2020-21. District Panchayat CEO Leena Kamlesh Mandavi, Additional Collector Dr. Anil Bajpai, Joint Collector Umashankar Bande, Deputy Collector Vishwas Rao Maske, Heera Governa and other officials were present.

Pay attention to the quality of works of Jeevan Mission : Katiyar



Mungeli, Jan 22:

Director of Jal Jeevan Mission Alok Katiyar reached village Sanwa and Daruvankapa of Pathariya development block here and inspected the construction works there under Jal Jeevan Mission.

During this, he observed the new water tank and pipeline in village Sawa and after discussing with the villagers, inquired

about the water supply. He also inspected the site of the water tank in village Daruvankapa and took samples to check the quality of the pipe.

Director of Jal Jeevan Mission Mr. Katiyar took information from the officials about the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works in the district and said that special attention should be paid to the quality of construction works. He said that under the Jal

Jeevan Mission, pure drinking water will be made available in every house through tap connection and for this, he instructed to speed up the ongoing construction works under the scheme.

During the inspection, Chief Engineer Maskole, Superintending Engineer RK Gendle, Executive Engineer I.P. Mandavi, Kailash Madheria, S.K. N. Pandey, S. D.O. Sudhakar Sonkhursre were present.

Culture of Ch'garh reflected through Madai Mela: Chhabra



Berla, Jan 22:

Ashish Chhabra MLA Bemetara participated as chief guest in Mandai and Bhumi Pujan ceremony organized in Gram Panchayat Andu under Berla development block here and praised the participation of the mela in

promoting Chhattisgarh's art and culture. Addressing on this occasion, MLA Ashish Chhabra said that the work of saving the culture of Chhattisgarh is being done through Madai Mela, and this also creates an atmosphere of brotherhood and celebration in the vil-

lage, and the state government is also promoting the culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh. Along with promoting Chhattisgarhi culture, official holidays have been started in Teej-festivals; Madai fair in the village brings happiness for all. The BJP government always cheated the

farmers and in the 2018 assembly elections, as soon as the Congress government was formed in the state, Bhupesh Baghel, government is procuring paddy from the farmers at a support price of Rs 2500, he said. Lukesh Verma President Block Congress Committee Bemetara, Hemant Vaishnav Chairman, Dashru Ram Sahu, Chhotu Ram Sahu, Leela Diwakar Sahu Sarpanch, Tikeswari Naresh Sahu Deputy Sarpanch, Krishna Sahu, Pannalal Sahu Sarpanch Bhatgaon, A large number of villagers including Chowaram Sahu, Ishwar Sahu, Badriram Mijha, Motiram Sahu, Ramchand Sahu, Shiv Sahu, Ramkaran Sahu, Devcharan Sahu, Ganesh Sahu, Bhojram Sahu, Rama Sen, Gangu Sahu, Samelal were present.

District member Sanjay Bains submits memorandum to Collector

Balod, Jan 22:

District member Sanjay Bains, met District Collector Kuldeep Sharma and handed over a memorandum to make Kusumaksa to Chipra Bharritola Junwani access road soon. District Member Sanjay Bains told the District Magistrate that the funds for this road have been sanctioned for the last one year, yet the work is not being started due to the inaction of the officers of the department. He further informed that on these roads passers along with school children also walk, and the condition of the road is very bad presently. Sanjay Bains and Sarpanch



Shivram Shindrame, Deputy Sarpanch Deepak Yadav, Naeem Qureshi urged the District Magistrate also to remove the high tension wire as well and in the discussion, the people's representatives of

Kusumaksa told that the high tension wire has passed through the tribal girls' hostel and the entire locality, and there is a possibility of an accident every day, for the removal of this wire, a demand of 10 lakhs has been re-

ceived from the Gram Panchayat by the District Magistrate of the Electricity Department. On the demand of the Sarpanch, an appeal was also made to beautify and organize the Kusumaksa Haat market.

Dr Patnaik receives Netaji Bose award

Award ceremony hosted by Oasis World Records



New Delhi/Bilaspur, Jan 22: Social Worker and Director (PR) Amity University Chhattisgarh Dr Arun Patnaik on Sunday received Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose award on the occasion of Parakram Diwas, birthday of Netaji. The programme was organized by Oasis World Records at the Indian International Center (IIC, New Delhi) in which many talented people across the

country participated. He received this award for his outstanding contributions towards society in field of human values serving prisoners teaching human values and feeding poor people for the last 26 years. Dr Patnaik won many state national and international awards. On Sunday Dr Patnaik was also present as guest in the program along with Adnan Abu Alhajja, Ambassador of Palestine,

Dr. Godfrey Majoni Chipare, Ambassador Zimbabwe, Amb. Anil Trigunaya former ambassador Jordan Libya Malta, Major General Dr. Rajan Kochhar Vice Chairman, national council of news broadcasting, Somnath Bose grand son of Subash Chandra Bose, Dr. W. Selvamurthy Chancellor Amity University and President ASTF.

'Maize processing plant will change the fate of farmers'

Kondagaon, Jan 22: The maize processing plant being built in Kondagaon district at a cost of Rs 140 crore will improve the fortunes of numerous maize producing farmers of Chhattisgarh. It is noteworthy that this Cooperative Maize plant is being established in Kondagaon because Kondagaon has the maximum production of maize in the state. With the setting up of this plant, farmers are expected to get the maximum price for their maize. About 35 percent of the construction work of the processing plant has been completed. Moreover, this plant will prove beneficial not only for Kondagaon but also for numerous farmers of Chhattisgarh. The district administration has set a target to complete it by June 2023. It is noteworthy that according to the intention of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the establishment of agriculture and forest produce based industries has been kept in the special priority category in the industry policy of



the Chhattisgarh government. On the initiative of Kondagaon District administration, Collector Deepak Soni, local people's representatives, journalists, villagers and officials-employees performed shramdaan for the maize processing plant. Collector Deepak Soni said that according to the vision of the state government, and as per the instructions of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the district administration is taking a determined initiative to complete this maize processing plant by June 2023. Collector Mr. Deepak Soni, while doing shramdaan said that it is a

matter of great pleasure that from this morning itself, such a large number of people enthusiastically contributed to the shramdaan and engaged with full dedication in the construction of maize processing plant. Describing it as a positive effort, he thanked everyone for their cooperation in giving shape to the construction of processing plant infrastructure. On this occasion, elected representatives of District Panchayat and Janpad Panchayat, Sarpanch and CEO District Panchayat Prem Prakash Sharma, officers and employees of the district administration, public representatives of the area, journalists and representatives of agencies related to the construction of maize processing plant, and a large number of villagers were present. Other works including cooling tower and bossing wall have been completed in the maize processing plant being constructed at village Kokodi in Kondagaon district. Steel binding work is in progress.

Dr Khan pays courtesy visit to Bilaspur Collector and Commissioner



Bilaspur, Jan 22: Veteran Congress leader and social worker Dr Hamidullah Khan paid courtesy visit to Bilaspur collector Sourabh Kumar and Bilaspur Commissioner Kunal Duhawat. Dr Khan presented them bouquet and

welcomed them to Bilaspur. He hoped that posting of honest and hardworking officers will tighten the administration and bring about positive changes in day to day working. He wished both the officers a successful tenure in Bilaspur.

BRIEF



Cormorants perch on a tree trunk at the Thekkady lake in Kerala.

Denied

■ **Hyderabad:** Permission for a dance festival to be attended by renowned dancer Mallika Sarabhai at the Ramappa temple near Warangal in Telangana had been denied by Union Culture Minister G Kishen Reddy, a Kakatiya Heritage Trust official alleged on Saturday.

Floating jetty

■ **Tezpur:** The Centre will set up a modern floating jetty on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river in Assam's Sonitpur district to facilitate movement of cargo and passengers via waterways, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

Ransacked

■ **Palghar:** A hospital head was grievously injured after a group of people allegedly attacked him and vandalised the medical facility in Maharashtra's Palghar district following a dispute over the bill of a patient, police said.

Suicide

■ **Dhar:** Two men have died after allegedly consuming liquor mixed with pesticide in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, police on Sunday said adding they suspect it to be a case of suicide. The incident took place on Friday at Salriyapada village under Badnawar tehsil, 70 km from the district headquarters, Superintendent of Police (SP) Aditya Pratap Singh said.

Arrested

■ **New Delhi:** A man was arrested for allegedly staying at a five-star hotel here for about four months by posing as a functionary of the UAE royal family and fled with an outstanding bill of over Rs 23 lakh, police said.

Dead

■ **Sultanpur:** A newly married woman was found dead at her home here, with her parents accusing her in-laws of killing her for dowry, police said on Sunday: Station House Officer (SHO) of Kotwali Police Station, Ram Ashish Upadhyay, said, "Ruby Bano (24) was married to Intezar Ahmed of Panchopeeran on October last year.

Leopard attack

■ **Mysuru:** In a suspected case of a leopard attack, an 11-year-old boy, who had gone missing from T Narsipura taluk here, has been found dead, police said on Sunday. According to sources, this is said to be the second such human death in the last 48 hours, and the fourth since November 2022 in the taluk.

UP Police posts animated video

To educate people on road safety

Lucknow, Jan 22 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh Police has come up with an animated 16-second-long video on road safety to caution the citizens, especially the young generation against the dangers of rash driving. The cue for the exercise was taken after the police came across a video on social media of a man driving a scooter while a woman sat astride him facing the opposite direction. "Embrace Safe Riding". Flouting safety norms with your beloved will definitely 'crush' your dreams! Why end 'good times' on a deadly note? #DriveSafeRideSafe #RoadSafetyMonth," the UP Police said in a tweet with the video. The 16-second-long animation was captioned with the message: "If this

is the relationship goal you wish for? we're sure it'll end in a 'Hurt-break'. #FallForSafety, especially when you are with your loved ones! Road Safety Month 5th Jan to 4th Feb' is being played." According to the police, the video of the couple had surfaced on social media on January 15, and was shot by someone who was driving behind. On January 18, police arrested the rider, a 23-year-old Vikky, and booked him under sections 294 (obscene acts and songs) and 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) of the IPC. The girl was let-off with a warning as she is a minor, police had earlier said. A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police Rahul Srivastava, the in-charge of the social media

centre of UP Police, told PTI, "The tweet garnered over 11,923 impressions, over 300 likes and retweets and was appreciated by many for its innovative take while the incident is still fresh in the minds of most social media users." He added that this was not the first time that the UP Police had delivered a road safety message with a creative aside. In the past, incidents of videos of drunk driving, rash riding or any other nuisance on the road that undermine the safety of other road users have been creatively animated to pass on citizen-centric content on Twitter and Instagram, Srivastava said. UP Police is running a 'road safety month' from January 5 to February 4 to educate the public on road safety norms, he added.

JALLIKATTU EVENT



People try to take control of a bull as they participate in the 'Jallikattu' event, in Dharmapuri.

After long search, rogue elephant PT-7 tranquilised

Palakkad, Jan 22 (PTI):

A wild elephant, which has been wreaking havoc in a few villages in Kerala's Palakkad district for the past two years, was tranquilised by a forest department team on Sunday morning. The elephant, code-named Palakkad Tusker-7 (PT-7), roaming inside the forest at Dhoni and neighbouring villages in the district was found by the Rapid Response Team after a search that went on for several hours. A team led by chief veterinary surgeon, Dr Arun Zachariah, tranquilised the wild elephant around 7 am. Forest officials brought kumki elephants (elephants used to trap and train their

wild counterparts) to guide the rogue jumbo into a truck to shift it to a secured place in the district. Kerala Forest Minister A K Saseendran hailed the officials involved in the adventurous operation. "The forest officials did a commendable job in capturing the wild elephant. The animal was wreaking havoc the people of the Dhoni and neighbouring villages near forest in Palakkad," Saseendran told PTI. The minister said the elephant will be shifted to a cage. He said the forest department will monitor the health of the tusker at the cage set up near Dhoni and take further action regarding its rehabilitation.

Against fire operator

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

A court here dismissed a motor accident claim petition and called the police officers who filed the case "ignorant of basic law" for filing an FIR against a fire tender driver at the complaint of an illegal hawkker. It observed that registering an FIR against an official in this case, the fire tender driver going on an emergency reflected the "inefficiency of the system" where senior officers, such as the Station House Officer (SHO) and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), appeared "ignorant of basic law." The motor accident claims tribunal was hearing the plea of Arun

Kumar, a fruit vendor, who in his complaint claimed he sustained injuries at Matia Mahal Chowk in Central Delhi, when a fire tender, being driven in a rash and negligent manner, hit a cart, which in turn hit his leg on December 12, 2018. "I hereby hold that the petitioner Arun Kumar is not entitled to any compensation. The Detailed Accident Report (DAR) which was registered as a claim petition is hereby dismissed," Presiding Officer Kamini Lau said in a recent order. The court said that Kumar was not a licensed hawkker and was squatting in the area by illegally putting his cart. As he was causing obstructions to the public way because of illegal

hawking, the risks necessarily followed, the court said. On the other hand, Constable Somander, the driver of the fire tender posted at Jama Masjid fire station, had complete immunity from being prosecuted as he was discharging his official functions, being on emergency duty, the court said. "The manner in which the FIR has been registered against the respondent no. 1 (Somander) a public servant on official emergency duty (going to attend a call) and in favour of a wrongdoer, speak volumes about the inefficiency of the system where even the senior officers of the rank of SHO and ACP appear to be ignorant of basic law," the court said. It said the Investigating Officer (IO) of Chandni

Mahal Police Station had "seriously erred" in booking the vehicle and its driver. It is settled law that there is a yielding right of way for emergency vehicles and when such a vehicle approaches, it is to be given a free passage, the court said. It said the hawkker, who was seeking compensation, was himself found to be playing his trade in contravention of not only the Indian Penal Code, but also the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. With these observations, the court denied the sanction to prosecute Somander, ordered by a magisterial court in September 2019. The court also said the manner in which Somander was dragged in the case could "demoralise" other officials of the

fire department. It said the directions for registration of an FIR against the public officer engaged in discharge of official duty and protected by sovereign immunity was "per se illegal" and had caused him "immense harassment." "Securing monetary benefit by those who do not respect and follow existing law has become a trend and cannot be encouraged. "There can be no monetary compensation for those who violate the law and constitutional as well as legal rights of others," the court said. It said the "conscience of the nation" would be shaken if wrongdoers, specifically those who faked a claim by wrongly booking a public servant, were rewarded through a monetary benefit.

SERVICE MEET



Wives of IAS Officers' walk the ramp in a fashion show during the three-day Madhya Pradesh IAS Officers' Association Service Meet -2023, in Bhopal.

Akhilesh lauds Nitish on initiating caste census

Lucknow, Jan 22 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday lauded Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for initiating the caste census saying that the British too had thought in 1931 about the move, which alone could ensure the development of all castes. Talking to reporters at Janeshwar Mishra Park, named after the party member and former MP, Yadav said, "The caste census is not made today. The British had thought that a caste census should be done in 1931. The rights of the constitution can be given to different castes and communities only when their count is known." "I ap-

preciate and congratulate Bihar Chief Minister for this," he said, after paying his tributes to Mishra. He said that his party has been demanding such a census for long, and that he too had during his election rallies promised to initiate it within three months of formation of government. About his recent Telangana visit, Yadav said he had gone there at the invitation of Telangana Chief Minister, who had invited several other CMs too. On BJP he said, the party's days in the state are numbered. "I want to say today, when their state executive is sitting, that only 398 days are left."

Sunil Kumar, DIG CRPF, decorated officer of force

B orn on September 19th 1968 in Bhagalpur District of Bihar & resident of Patna, Sunil Kumar S/o Late Shri Ram Briksha Prasad and Mrs Shanti Devi, after completing their graduation, joined the oldest and largest Para Military Force of the World as Directly Appointed Assistant Commandant on December 1st 1994. During his more than 28 years of his adorable service to the Nation, he remained deployed in most insurgent, naxal infested & terrorist affected places of J & K, North East & Chhattisgarh in various ranks. He also served in most difficult and disturbed areas of the country facing law & order problems. He performed his duties with great devotion, determination, dedication, zeal & enthusiasm as per the standards of the Force. He commanded the battalions successfully as a manager & leader. He made his full efforts to make the dignity of the CRPF

in person and the country as a whole. By his sincere efforts along with dynamic & efficient leadership, the flag of CRPF always go to the highest level. In his illustrious career spanning over more than two and half decades, Kumar is currently serving as Deputy Inspector General of Police in Central Sector Headquarters Lucknow. He has worked mostly in militancy and naxal affected provinces along with remote, difficult and disturbed areas of the country like Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Odisha, Bihar, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and other parts of the country. He always gave best services to maintain the unity and integrity of the motherland through his professional efficiency and effective leadership. As Assistant Commandant, Kumar initially served in the most sensitive and most terrorist affected areas like Srinagar, Doda and Badgam of Jammu

and Kashmir and led numerous Anti-Terrorist Operations efficiently and effectively prevented terrorist incidents and played a pivotal role in maintaining peace in that areas. As Deputy Commandant, in 100 BN Rapid Action Force by using the skillful leadership, professional acumen and overall experience of training, played an important role in restoring law and order in Surat within 48 hours when the violent Riots broke out after post Godhra carnage. Commendable work done by Kumar's team under his dynamic command, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, presently Prime Minister of the country along with CRPF & other senior officers, local populace, police & media had praised. During the devastating earthquake in Gujarat in the year 2001, Kumar along with his team at Ahmedabad saved the lives of 74 civilians from the debris by



risking their own lives, This noble & good deeds performance were also appreciated by Local populace, Civil Administration, Police, Electronic and Print Media &

CRPF Authorities. On promotion as Commandant, he had been assigned the responsibilities to command 195 Bn the Most Naxal Infested District of Dantewada, Sukma & Bijapur of Chhattisgarh to maintain peace & tranquillity. Many successful Naxal Operations were conducted under his able & dynamic command without giving any loss of life and property by proving his operational & professional efficiency. Because of his motivational speeches in far flunged, remote and Naxal infested of his area of responsibility most of the misguided youth who were under the clutches of Naxals came to the mainstream of the Country which was highly praised by the then DGP CRPF, local populace, Police, Administration & Media. Taking the initiative to re-establish the lost heritage and fame of the ancient and historical importance of Barsoor, Kumar requested the civil administra-

tion vigorously for two years and succeeded in his goal. Because of his continuous efforts, Barsoor brought on Tourist Map in Jan' 2012 and on the eve of holy/social festival of "Makarsankranti 2012", 1st BARSOOR MAHOTSAV was celebrated in the premises of Battisa Temple. Because of his dynamic leadership the then DG CRPF K.Vijay Kumar, IPS has given him responsibility of the most challenged and terrorist threatened pilgrimage of the Country Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Katra J&K and posted him in 06 Battalion. Kumar has proved his dynamic leadership, his professional competence and skillful strategy by thwarting the motives of the terrorist groups after the death sentence of dreaded terrorists Ajmal Kasab and Afzal Guru. To secure the Pilgrims city Katra, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Kumar took his personal initiative and main-

tained good rapport and relations by conducting regular meetings with the officers & Staffs of Mata Vaishno Shrine Board, Distt. SSP, Officers of sister security agencies and local populace alongwith electronic and print Media. Kumar is a very kind hearted & Social Police Officer, who is helping so many orphaned children as well as children of poor and weaker section of the societies on monthly basis from his salary. He has so far been awarded / decorated with a total of 120 Appreciation Letters/Commendation Certificates /Discs and best entries by the higher authorities of Force as well as the Honourable Personalities of Government & respective civil administration for his professional competence, steady dedication to duty, sterling qualities of performance, effective leadership/ Command and inspirational willpower & motivation.

Police: Gunman on the loose after killing 10 near LA

Monterey Park (US), Jan 22 (AP):

A gunman killed 10 people and wounded 10 others at a Los Angeles-area ballroom dance club following a Lunar New Year celebration, setting off a man-hunt for the suspect in the latest mass shooting tragedy in an American community.

Capt. Andrew Meyer of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said Sunday that the wounded were taken to hospitals and their conditions range from stable to critical. He said the 10 people died at the scene in the city of Monterey Park.

Meyer said people were "pouring out of the location screaming" when officers arrived on the scene at around 10:30 p.m. He said officers then went into the dance ballroom as firefighters treated the



wounded.

The Lunar New Year celebration had attracted thousands. Monterey Park is a city of about 60,000 people with a large Asian population about 10 miles (16 kilometres) from downtown Los Angeles.

It marked the fifth mass shooting in the US this month and the deadliest since 21 people were killed in a school in Uvalde,

Texas, according to The Associated Press/USA Today database on mass killings in the US. The latest violence comes two months after five people were killed at a Colorado Springs nightclub.

Seung Won Choi, who owns the Clam House seafood barbecue restaurant across the street from where the shooting happened, told the Los

Angeles Times that three people rushed into his business and told him to lock the door.

The people also told Choi that there was a shooter with a gun who had multiple rounds of ammunition on him. Choi said he believes the shooting took place at a dance club.

Wong Wei, who lives nearby, told The Los Angeles Times that his friend was in a bathroom at a dance club that night when the shooting started. When she came out, he said, she saw a gunman and three bodies.

The friend then fled to his home at around 11 p.m., Wei said, adding that his friends told him that the shooter appeared to fire indiscriminately with a long gun. "They don't know why, so they run," he told the newspaper.

Pakistan's interest expenses shoot up significantly

Islamabad, Jan 22 (PTI):

Amid reluctance to opt for debt restructuring, Pakistan's interest expenses have shot up significantly to Rs 2.57 trillion during the first half of this fiscal year, which is equal to 65 per cent of the annual debt servicing budget, and is forcing the government to cut out its other expenses except those on defence, according to a media report.

Sources in the Ministry of Finance told The Express Tribune that during the July-December period of the current fiscal year, there was an alarming increase of 77 per cent in the cost of interest on the federal government debt stock.

The fresh provisional details suggest that due to the precarious situation, there has been a cumula-

tive reduction of 15 per cent in all other non-development expenditures, excluding defence. The development expenses were slashed by 50 per cent to create room for other expenses, according to government sources.

The finance ministry paid about Rs 2.57 trillion in interest costs, up by Rs 1.1 trillion or 77 per cent, according to the sources. For the current fiscal year, the government had budgeted Rs 3.95 trillion for interest expenses but 65 per cent of it has been consumed in just six months.

Pakistan follows the July-June financial year.

Amid the high cost of debt servicing, the Monetary Policy Committee of the central bank is also scheduled to meet on Monday to review the possibility of further

increasing its interest rate to contain inflation and attract foreign inflows. Earlier this month, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that the cost of debt servicing may increase to nearly Rs 5 trillion in this fiscal year — more than half of this year's total budget of Rs 9.6 trillion.

Despite the precarious situation, the finance ministry seems to be in no mood to appreciate the biggest challenge threatening the country's long-term viability. There is an urgent need to restructure domestic debt to create some fiscal space, which can strengthen Pakistan's case for foreign debt restructuring.

But the government has come up with yet another austerity committee as its solution to Pakistan's "financial challenges".

Violent protest in downtown Atlanta over killing of activist

Atlanta, Jan 22 (AP):

A protest turned violent in downtown Atlanta on Saturday night in the wake of the death of an environmental activist who was killed by authorities this week after officials said the 26-year-old shot a state trooper.

Masked activists dressed in all black threw rocks and lit fireworks in front of a skyscraper that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation, shattering large glass windows.

They then lit a police cruiser on fire, smashed more windows and vandalized walls with anti-police graffiti as stunned tourists scattered.

The violent protesters were a subsection of hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered and marched up Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street to mourn the death of the protester, a nonbinary

person who went by the name Tortuguita and used they/it pronouns.

Tortuguita was killed on Wednesday as authorities cleared a small group of protesters from the site of a planned Atlanta-area public safety training centre that activists have dubbed "Cop City."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said Tortuguita was killed by officers after shooting and wounding a state trooper; but activists have questioned officials' version of events, calling it a "murder" and demanding an independent investigation.

According to the GBI, the incident was not recorded on body cameras. The bureau said on Friday that it determined the trooper was shot in the abdomen by a bullet from a handgun that was in Tortuguita's possession.

LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE



Performers with a dragon costume dance during the Lunar New Year parade in London, Sunday, Jan. 22. The parade is to mark the arrival of the Year of the Rabbit, with thousands of visitors expected to watch the spectacular show and Lion Dances in the capital.

India FTA can be clinched this year, but no more visa offers: UK trade minister

London, Jan 22 (PTI):

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.

The minister indicated a willingness to make concessions on issues like business mobility, but ruled out the prospect of Indians getting the same kind of deal as with Australia which allows under-35s to live and work

in the UK for three years.

The reciprocal UK-India Young Professionals Scheme, formally launched earlier this month, is seen as overcoming this hurdle by annually offering 3,000 18 to 30-year-old graduates visas to live and work in either country for up to two years.

"We have to make sure that each trade agreement we sign is tailored to the specific country. The kind of mobility offer I can do to a country like Australia is not going to be the same kind of mobility offer I can do with a country like India, which has got many times the population," said Badenoch.

"And what people from the UK want to do when they travel to Australia is probably slightly different from what they do when they travel to India, and vice versa as well," she told The Times'.

Brazil's army chief fired in aftermath of capital uprising



Brasilia, Jan 22 (AP):

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva fired Brazil's army chief just days after the leftist leader openly said that some military members allowed the January 8 uprising in the capital by far-right protesters.

The official website of the Brazilian armed forces said Saturday Gen. Julio Cesar de Arruda had been removed as head of the army. He was replaced by Gen. Tom s Miguel Ribeiro Paiva, who was head of the Southeast Military Command.

Lula, who did not comment publicly on the firing, met with Defence Minister Jose Mucio, chief of staff Rui Costa and the new army commander in Brasilia at the end of the day. Speaking to journalists afterward, Mucio said the January 8 riots had caused "a fracture in the level of trust" in the army's top levels and the government decided a change was needed.

In recent weeks, Lula targeted the military with criticism after supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed through government buildings and destroyed public property in an attempt to keep Bolsonaro in office. The uprising underlined the polarisation in Brazil between

the left and the right.

Lula said several times in public that there were definitely people in the army who allowed the rioting to occur, though he never cited Arruda.

During a breakfast with the press, Lula said earlier this week that "a lot of people from the military police and the armed forces were complicit" and had allowed protesters to enter the buildings with open doors. In another interview, the president said that "all the military involved in the coup attempt will be punished, no matter the rank."

The comments were followed by Lula scheduling several meetings with the defence minister and the armed forces' commanders. Mucio denied they had mentioned the January 8 rioting, but he said relations between the military and the government needed adjustment. On the eve of Arruda's firing, a video of a Paiva speech earlier in the week was released in which he said the election results should be respected in order to guarantee democracy. Rioters who stormed through the Brazilian Congress, the presidential palace and the Supreme Court in Brasilia sought to have the military intervene and overturn Bolsonaro's loss to Lula in the presidential election.

In a video posted on social media from inside the presidential palace on the day of the attack, a colonel is seen trying to stop police from arresting Bolsonaro's supporters who had invaded the building.

HOT AIR BALLOON



Hot air balloons take off during the 43th International Hot Air Balloon week, in the skiing resort of Chateau-d'Oex, in the Swiss Alps. Postponed twice because of the pandemic, The International Hot Air Balloon Festival of Chateau-d'Oex (VD) returns this year for a 43rd edition. 60 balloons from 15 countries will be taking part in the event between the 21th and the 29th of January in the Swiss mountain resort is famous for ideal flight conditions due to an exceptional microclimate.

Greece expanding border wall, calls for EU help on migration

Feres, Jan 22 (AP):

Greece prevented around 2,60,000 migrants from entering illegally in 2022 and arrested 1,500 traffickers, an official said.

Citizens' Protection Minister Takis Theodorikakos was speaking to ambassadors from other European Union countries plus Switzerland and the United Kingdom Saturday as he guided them to a still expanding border wall in the country's northeast.

Theodorikakos emphasised to the 28 envoys that Greece's border is also the EU's external border.

"The task (of protecting the border) needs the support ... of European public opinion, the European Union itself and its con-

stituent members individually," Theodorikakos said. "It is our steadfast position that member states of first reception cannot be (the migrants') only European destinations.

"There must be solidarity among member-states and a fair sharing of duties...close coordination is a must," he said.

The Greek minister's sentiments were echoed by Cypriot Ambassador Kyriakos Kenevezos, who spoke of the "need for understanding" from countries that don't have external EU borders.

UK Ambassador Matthew Lodge said that "our priority is to protect the human life and dignity endangered by the criminal trafficking networks ... even though we are no

longer an EU member, we are closely cooperating".

Greece's five-metre (16-foot) steel wall facing neighbouring Turkey to the east across the Evros River called Meric in Turkey currently extends more than 27 kilometres (17 miles) and, according to Greek authorities, helps cover another 10 kilometres (six miles). Greece is currently expanding the wall, adding a 35-kilometre (22-mile) stretch with the ultimate goal of extending it to cover most of the 192-kilometre (120-mile) border. Greece has repeatedly accused Turkey of weaponising the plight of migrants by encouraging them to cross the border to discomfit Greece and the rest of the EU effectively cooperating with traffick-

ers. Turkey accuses Greece of violent pushbacks that endanger the lives of migrants.

Turkey, whom the Cypriot ambassador called "the elephant in the room" in Saturday's meeting, also has its own migrants' problem hosting about 5 million of them. EU leaders are worried that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could encourage a mass exodus to the EU, where most of the migrants and refugees want to end up, preferably at one of the more prosperous bloc members.

The EU's border protection agency, Frontex, will add another 400 border guards in Greece 250 of them in February to the existing 1,800-member force, Theodorikakos said.

Peru closes Machu Picchu as anti-government protests grow

Lima, Jan 22 (AP):

Peru indefinitely shut the tourist site Machu Picchu in the latest sign that anti-government protests that began last month are increasingly engulfing the South American country.

The Culture Ministry said on Saturday that it had closed the country's most famous tourist attraction as well as the Inca Trail leading up to the site "to protect the safety of tourists and the population in general".

There are 417 tourists stuck in Machu Picchu who can't get out, more than 300 of whom are for-

eigners, Luis Fernando Helguero, the tourism minister, said at a news conference.

The closure of the Incan citadel that dates back to the 15th century and is often referred to as one of the new seven wonders of the world comes as protesters have descended on the capital of Lima, largely from remote Andean regions, to demand the resignation of President Dina Boluarte. Police raided Peru's most important public university in Lima on Saturday to evict protesters from far-away provinces who were being housed at the campus while participating

in big demonstrations that began in the capital Thursday.

Protests, which until recently had been concentrated in the country's south, began last month shortly after President Pedro Castillo, Peru's first leader with a rural Andean background, was impeached and imprisoned after he tried to dissolve Congress. More than 55 people have died in the ensuing unrest.

The latest death happened Friday night, when a protester was killed and at least nine others injured in clashes with police in the southern Puno region.

Militants attack police post in Pakistan, killing 2 officers

Peshawar, Jan 22 (AP):

Militants attacked a police checkpoint in northern Pakistan late on Saturday, killing two officers and wounding another, authorities said.

Police officer Tariq Khan said the gunmen fled after shooting three officers at the post in Zardad Dahri, which is in the Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He said two of the officers died before reaching the hospital while the third was being treated.

The shooting came two days after a similar attack in Khyber district that killed three police

officers and wounded two. No one claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack.

The outlawed Pakistani Taliban militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, claimed responsibility for the Khyber attack. The group is separate from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban.

The TTP restarted attacks in recent months on security forces in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and southwestern Baluchistan provinces, both bordering Afghanistan, after its talks with the government failed.



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Another terror strikes Jammu

Another set of twin blasts rocked Jammu City and the area chosen by the terrorists is again the Narwal belt, seven persons got injured and luckily nobody lost life this time. Time and again terrorists are making their presence felt in Jammu Division, every time authorities claim the culprits will not be spared but the fact is Sidhara encounter, Sidhara grenade attack, Dhangri in Rajouri and many mysterious blasts at various places are all still unresolved. Who left the IED device in a drain near Jammu Railway station or outside Phallian Mandal police post under Satwari Police Station? Only days back tiffin box IED was found and diffused near GMC Rajouri, again the question who installed it? All these acts of terrorism point to only one thing despite the highest level meeting by none else than the Home Minister himself and assurance of a safe Jammu Division by agencies to him, the foolproof mechanism is still not in place. The situation becomes more serious with the fact that time and again this entire stretch of the national highway from Kunjwani to Nagrota has been the target of the terrorists. Countervailing efforts of those in charge are not working. Depredation by terrorists remains unabated. Far-reaching is the fact that Republic Day is just a few days away and terrorists had again struck despite stringent security measures. The entire belt of this area requires proper sanitising, checking and immediate strengthening of intelligence. Indeed police cannot be deployed at every nook and corner but some mechanism can be put in place to nip these terror elements in the bud itself. There are well-organised clusters of OGWs and UGWs in the vicinity as such all those have to be traced and nabbed. The administration has already asked for all tenants' information but dabbling efforts are not going to work. A serious plan has to be drawn, all alluding way outs must be discarded now. Proper police verification of every person is the need of the hour, the entire process is onerous but has to be done. Jammu and Kashmir's Police is a thoroughly professional force and capable of delivering the desired result. Time and again denial of such incidents had been reported as cylinder blasts or mysterious blasts. A proactive approach is the need of the hour. The enemy is on the prowl, looking out for some soft target to strike and cause some major damage. Terrorism is very much here. They are among us only, they just buy the time, choose the place and strike. It is always better to be alert with proactive measures in place. Our army and foreign policy have already put enough pressure to isolate the enemy on international forums, they are in desperation mode as such looking for ways to make their presence felt. All Corporators along with Bazaar Presidents can be taken into confidence for their cooperation and active participation in decongesting markets, reporting any unwanted suspicious element in their area, get police verification of all outside employees and tenants. It is a collective effort and everyone has to contribute to make Jammu safe. There are too many obvious chink holes in our security apparatus right now, authorities will have to take necessary effective countermeasures, raise the stakes, take them head-on, and let them feel the pinch.

Jacinda Ardern: Role model of the world

Kajal Chatterjee

When sporting of hijab is being prohibited discouraged or frowned upon by India and many non-Islamic countries around the world, New Zealand has proved itself as a bright exception in this regard under the leadership of Jacinda Ardern who ensured promotion of a dress associated with people who are basically settlers in that country. Through her decision of inducting the hijab as part of its police uniform, Ardern has shown to the world what the essence of democracy is all about. Far from trying to kill diversity so as to establish a homogeneous way of life in the society which is actually nothing but crude desire of ensuring cultural dominance of majority or "mainstream" be it through language race or religion; an ideal democracy strives to literally accord equal status to each and every linguistic religious cultural groups residing within the country respecting their ethos sentiments sensitivities attire to dietary habits. Many countries around the world, under the ever increasing grasp of forces harboring majoritarian mindset and practicing parochial imperialist "philosophy" by making a mockery of diversities, should learn from Jacinda Ardern and New Zealand what respect towards diversity and sentiment of minorities are all about. Not to forget that when innocent Muslims were massacred in a Christchurch mosque in early 2019; Ardern not only sported a hijab, despite being a Christian, to show solidarity with the community; she also termed the Muslims as "THEY ARE US"! What an exemplary act of respecting diversity and religious sentiments of the minorities! And taking cue from her, Christian women, all over New Zealand, had put on head scarves and niqab during a Friday prayer in honor of the shooting victims. This is called humanity compassion and solidarity with fellow citizens along with respect towards diversity and cultural religious rights of all. With Jacinda Ardern and New Zealand shining bright, all people and countries should learn to choose its leaders and role models instead of remaining in awe of self-obsessed megalomaniacs and closed-minded orthodox ideologies. All sensible rational persons, irrespective of religious belief, should vehemently protest against the discrimination meted to the weaker communities in concerned regions facing prohibition in practicing their religion, wearing their attire or enjoying their food. Apart from her impeccable secularism humanity, Ardern led from the front while tackling the deadly pandemic ensuring minimum loss of precious human lives. Again what a contrast to many nations around the world whose leaders remained concentrated on pursuing their personal and political agendas when the virus was at its deadly worst resulting in deaths exceeding several lakhs. What a sense of accountability exemplified by the noble lady. And last but not the least. Just like an "ordinary" citizen, the New Zealand PM walks in with her partner in a Wellington cafe during the initial phase of unlock process. But due to physical distancing measures in place, the cafe was "full" and the PM was refused admission! Most sportingly Jacinda accepted it and moved on. So just like she moved on from the restaurant with utmost graciousness by respecting the laws of the land, the noble lady has now moved on from the highest chair of the land most voluntarily to remain accountable to the nation as she "being human" has "no more in the tank". What an honest humble confession unlike the self-declared "superhuman" leaders of many "mighty" democracies who instigate their blind admirers to launch physical attack on Government edifices on getting defeated in polls or shamelessly cling to their Chairs by hook or crook despite drastic failure in all sectors of governance and call names of their critics who dare to show them the mirror. Jacinda Ardern is indeed a Human -- rather an exceptional being full of humanity possessing an all-embracing mindset of loving and hugging weak vulnerable minorities with impeccable sense of secularism responsibility equality accountability and dignity shining bright.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com

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

SECURITY AT TAJ MAHAL



CISF personnel stand guard in view of Republic Day, at Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday, Jan. 22.

Economic slowdown to force workers into lower quality jobs

DR. GYAN PATHAK



Global economic slowdown is most likely to force workers to accept lower quality jobs in place of decent works. It has already adversely impacted the global employment growth which has been faltering, and pressure on decent work has considerably increased. Pressure on decent working conditions are even undermining social justice. It has been revealed in the ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023 (WESO Trends) report released today. The current global economic slowdown is likely to force more workers to accept lower quality, poorly paid jobs which lack job security and social protection, so accentuating inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. WESO Trends 2023, also projects that global employment growth will be only 1.0 per cent in 2023, less than half the level in 2022. Global unemployment is slated to rise slightly in 2023, by around 3 million, to 208 million (corresponding to a global unemployment rate of 5.8 per cent).

The moderate size of this projected increase is largely due to tight labour supply in high-income countries. This would mark a reversal of the decline in global unemployment seen between 2020-2022. It means that global unemployment will remain 16 million above the pre-crisis benchmark (set in 2019).

In addition to unemployment "job quality remains a key concern", the report says, adding that "Decent Work is fundamental to social justice". A decade of progress in poverty reduction faltered during the COVID-19 crisis. Despite a nascent recovery during 2021, the continuing shortage of better job opportunities is likely to worsen, the study says.

The current slowdown means that many workers will have to accept lower quality jobs, often at very low pay, sometimes with insufficient hours. Furthermore, as prices rise faster than nominal labour incomes, the cost-of-living crisis risks pushing more people into poverty. This trend comes on top of significant declines in income seen during the COVID-19 crisis, which in many countries affected low-income groups worst.

The report also identifies a new, comprehensive measure of unmet need for employment – the global jobs gap. As well as those who are unemployed, this measure includes people who want employment but are not actively searching for a job, either because they are discouraged or because

they have other obligations such as care responsibilities. The global jobs gap stood at 473 million in 2022, around 33 million above the level of 2019.

The labour market deterioration is mainly due to emerging geopolitical tensions and the Ukraine conflict, uneven pandemic recovery, and continuing bottlenecks in global supply chains, the WESO Trends says. Together, these have created the conditions for stagflation – simultaneously high inflation and low growth – for the first time since the 1970s.

Women and young people are faring significantly worse in labour markets. Globally, the labour force participation rate of women stood at 47.4 per cent in 2022, compared with 72.3 per cent for men. This 24.9 percentage point gap means that for every economically inactive man there are two such women.

Young people (aged 15–24) face severe difficulties in finding and keeping decent employment. Their unemployment rate is three times that of adults. More than one-in-five – 23.5 per cent – of young people are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

"The need for more decent work and social justice is clear and urgent," said ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo. "But if we are to meet these multiple challenges, we must work together to create a new global social contract. The ILO will be campaigning for a Global Coalition for Social Justice to

build support, create the policies needed, and prepare us for the future of work."

"The slowdown in global employment growth means that we don't expect the losses incurred during the COVID-19 crisis to be recovered before 2025," said Richard Samans, Director of the ILO's Research Department and report coordinator. "The slowdown in productivity growth is also a significant concern, as productivity is essential for addressing the interlinked crises we face in purchasing power, ecological sustainability and human well-being."

In 2023 Africa and the Arab States should see employment growth of around 3 per cent or more. However, with their growing working-age populations, both regions are likely to see unemployment rates decline only modestly (from 7.4 to 7.3 per cent in Africa and 8.5 to 8.2 per cent in the Arab States).

In Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, annual employment growth is projected to be around 1 per cent. In Northern America there will be few or no employment gains in 2023 and unemployment will pick up, says the report. Europe and Central Asia are particularly hard hit by the economic fallout from the Ukraine conflict. But while employment is projected to decline in 2023, their unemployment rates should increase only slightly given the back-drop of limited growth in the working-age population.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for open spaces

Rapid urbanization without adequate open spaces has become a major cause of concern for any responsible citizen. We all know that a lack of pleasurable activities in open spaces hinders the development of both the physical and mental health of a child. So, utmost importance should be given to preserving the existing open spaces so that there is no chance of encroachment in future. Also, the government should convert some of the open spaces into well-designed and well-planned amusement parks so that our future generations are not deprived of playing with their peers in open spaces. There is no ambiguity about the need for an amusement park in an urban area for the all-around development of a growing child.

Bhushan Ray, Bijni, Chirang

Make reading a habit

RR Martin, renowned American novelist, screenwriter and television producer said: "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies...The man who never reads lives only one." Reading is a skill that keeps on giving. Good reading bestows upon the reader not only necessary life skills and hours of literary enjoyment but also a greater intellectual ability and capacity for brain-building. When reading, stimulates areas in the brain responsible for empathy, emotion, decision-making and autobiographical memory. Reading also helps one to reduce the risk of dementia and cognitive decline. Researchers have proved that passionate readers are empowered with greater imagination, more knowledge and with greater vocabulary. Smart people often provide new and innovative ideas on how to handle new and existing things efficiently. However, to generate such ideas, the brain needs a "library" of general knowledge that can be amassed by reading a lot.

Ranganathan Sivakumar Chennai

Report alarming

The inference of the Annual Status of Education Report is alarming. During the Covid pandemic, schools were closed and students got hooked to TV and mobile phones. As children had ample time to fritter away, they remained glued to various social networking sites. There was, hence, a gradual decline in their study habits; and parents, teachers, mentors as well as educationists failed to awaken them to better habits. An irreparable loss has occurred.

Sunil Chopra, Ludhiana

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao



Vinod Chandrashekhhar Dixit

Children are God's most beautiful creations. 24th January is celebrated as National Girl Child Day to create awareness of the importance of girl children in our society. In 2008, the Ministry of Women and Child Development initiated National Girl Child Day to promote the eradication of the gender discrimination faced by girls in various phases of their lives. The existence of human life on the

earth is impossible without the equal participation of both women and men. They are equally responsible for the survival of the human race on the earth.

In India the population of girls has been decreasing. It's a common practice in India where people abort or kill girl child on birth. But, they should be saved given equal opportunity, and respect and opportunity to go ahead in life. We need to understand that girls are our fortune. Socio-economic empowerment of women is essential for making informed decisions and for change of the mind sets. A healthy male-female ratio is a social need. While female foeticide is bad in itself, the fact that millions of girls are "missing" in India has profound human and social implications.

A stronger law to deal with those resorting to sex-selective abortions needs to be enacted. The reasons for high number of incidence of female foeticide in India in-

clude a deep rooted traditional son preference, continued practice of dowry and concern for safety of the girl child and exploitation and abuse of women and girl children. In order to curb female foeticide and improve the sex ratio, a strong a multi-pronged strategy that includes legislative measures, advocacy, awareness generation and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women is needed.

Female foeticide is a shocking practice that has grown in the last few decades. Although the media and the government have made attempts to highlight the negative impact of pre-natal sex identification and selective abortion, the practice continues as reflected in the declining sex ratio. For saving girl child the government has taken many initiatives and launched many campaigns to save them. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the girl child) is the most recent initiative started by the government to

actively encourage people to save the girl.

There's a huge deficit of women because families fear the cost of raising a daughter. It is a commonly practiced tradition (despite being outlawed) that the bride's family pays a large sum of money to the groom's family at the wedding. Plus, women are generally not seen as breadwinners and or allowed to inherit wealth like men in some states. Sex-selection is now spreading to rural areas as the technology gets cheaper and enforcement of the law remains ineffectual.

The imbalance in sex ratio may increase violence, including rape, against women. With many men remaining unmarried, prostitution will increase substantially. Media exposes of doctors providing sex-selection services and offering to abort girls are commonplace, but they have little overall impact because demand is too strong. Doctors and radiologists conducting, or soliciting parents for, sex

determination tests can be imprisoned up to five years and fined up to Rs.50,000. Despite the PC & PNDT Act, the conviction rate is low and the selection of male child before conception and female foeticide continue to take place.

Despite rising levels of education, gender awareness and stringent pro-women laws, change has been slow and violence against women is increasing. Visionary leadership, stringent implementation of laws and a united effort to discourage dowry are the need of the hour. Educational programmes encouraging parents to view daughters as no less valuable than sons need to be mounted. Time has now come to formulate an action plan to launch a campaign to change the mindset of people and to promote female child birth rate. A girl child deserves a life where she is treated as equal to a boy. And she should be loved and respected like others.

BRIEF

Sanmar Group

■ **Chennai:** The 23-year-old Madhuram Narayanan Block set up at the Cancer Institute here was given a facelift by city-based The Sanmar Group, under its corporate social responsibility initiative, the company said on Sunday. The block at the institute located in Adyar in the city was set up in memory of Madhuram, the mother of late The Sanmar Group Chairman N Sankar at a cost of about Rs 6 crore in 2000. At an event held recently, the block was rededicated by Vice Chairman N Kumar and deputy chairman Vijay Sankar. The institute's Chairman and noted industrialist R Seshasayee said: "For N Sankar, the purpose was more important than the money involved."

Sebi

■ **New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi has launched an information database on municipal bonds. As part of efforts to develop the bond markets, an outreach programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance was organised by Sebi in the national capital on January 20 and 21, according to a release on Sunday. Representatives from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, municipal corporations, stock exchanges, credit rating agencies, merchant bankers and debenture trustees, participated in the programme.

CNG

■ **Varanasi:** Noisy and polluting boats on the Ganga river are now plying on environment-friendly CNG as part of a plan to cut noise and air pollution on the holy river. As many as 583 boats already have CNG engines and plans are afoot to replace the entire fleet of boats operating on banks of the holy city of Varanasi with environment-friendly fuel, Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said on Sunday. These boats are being supplied CNG from India's first floating CNG station built by GAIL at Namohat.

Adani Electricity

■ **Mumbai:** Adani Electricity Mumbai (AEML) on Saturday proposed an increase in power tariffs for residential consumers by 1 per cent for the next two financial years on account of a rise in renewable sources on the generation side. In the case of industrial and commercial consumers, the company has proposed to reduce tariffs by 11-18 per cent in FY24 and FY25, as per advertisements in local dailies on Saturday.

HDFC Life

■ **Mumbai:** Leading private sector life insurer HDFC Life expects its margins to improve further in the fourth quarter, having already neutralised the hit it had taken from the merger of Exide Life three quarters earlier than expected. The company closed the December quarter with a new business premium margin of 26.8 per cent.

Govt may not announce capital infusion for PSU banks in Budget 2023-24

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

The government is unlikely to announce capital infusion for public sector banks (PSBs) in the upcoming Budget as their financial health has improved significantly and they are on track to earn a combined profit of Rs 1 lakh crore, sources said.

Their capital adequacy ratio is much above the regulatory requirement and varies between 14-20 per cent. To augment their resources, banks are raising growth funds from the market and also by selling their non-core assets, they added.

The government last provided capital support to banks in 2021-22. It had earmarked Rs 20,000 crore for recapitalisation of PSBs through supplementary demands for grants. The government infused

Rs 3,10,997 crore to recapitalise banks during the last five financial years i.e., from 2016-17 to 2020-21, out of which Rs 34,997 crore were sourced through budgetary allocation and Rs 2,76,000 crore through issuance of recapitalisation bonds to these banks.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the fifth and final full Budget of the Modi 2.0 government on February 1.

All the 12 public sector banks earned a cumulative profit of about Rs 15,306 crore in the first quarter which increased to Rs 25,685 crore in the September quarter. On a year-on-year basis, the growth was 9 per cent in the first quarter while it surged to 50 per cent in the second quarter. During the second quarter, SBI re-

ported the highest-ever profit of Rs 13,265 crore. On a year-on-year basis, this was 74 per cent higher.

In the first half of FY23, the cumulative net profit of all PSBs increased by 32 per cent to Rs 40,991 crore. The combined profit more than doubled to Rs 66,539 crore in 2021-22 despite COVID-19 pressure.

Many state-owned banks after a hiatus also declared dividends in last financial year. In all, nine banks, including SBI, declared dividends of Rs 7,867 crore to shareholders.

Recently, the Finance Minister had said the government's efforts to reduce bad loans are yielding results with 12 PSBs reporting a 50 per cent jump in combined net profit at Rs 25,685 crore in the September quarter.

Increased E&P, import diversification, biofuels part of India's four-plank energy security strategy: Puri

Varanasi, Jan 22 (PTI):

India, the world's third largest energy consumer, is increasing domestic oil and gas exploration, diversifying import basket, switching to alternate sources and using gas and green hydrogen as a pathway to energy transition and security, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Sunday. Puri, who was here for an event showcasing age-old boats on the 'ghats' of the holy city switching to CNG instead of polluting diesel, said India is projected to contribute fourth of the world's energy demand growth in next couple of decades.

While the nation is dependent on imports to meet 85 per cent of its oil needs and 50 per cent of its natural gas requirements,



Participants ride their vintage car during Kolkata Vintage and Classic Car Rally 2023, in Kolkata, Sunday, Jan. 22.

Axis Bank launches the 7th Edition of 'Evolve'

For MSMEs

Bhopal, Jan 22:

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, hosted the 7th edition of 'Evolve', an annual knowledge sharing seminar for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Raipur. The 7th edition of Evolve focused on the broader theme - 'Indian SMEs: Shifting Gears for Next Level Growth' with sub themes 'Digitalization to Building Indian SMEs' and 'Export Opportunities for SMEs in the New World Order'. The seminar was addressed by Sangram Singh, President Commercial Banking Coverage Group (CBG), Axis Bank; Shantanu Paknikar, CEO & Lead Consultant, InsiWi Digital and Arvind Agarwal, Founder, VNR Group. The 7th edition of Evolve will delve into how technology and digitalization can help achieve exponential

growth from exports, which is a major area of focus for increasing profitability and market presence for MSMEs. Through Evolve, Axis Bank aims to provide a platform for MSMEs to interact and learn from industry thought leaders who have transformed their businesses over the years. During the launch, Sangram Singh, President, Commercial Banking Coverage Group, Axis Bank said, "We strongly believe that MSMEs are the engines of growth for our nation and as partners in progress, we at Axis Bank endeavour to offer both financial and non-financial services to help MSMEs expand their businesses holistically. With an aim to strengthen our commitment and role as a true partner in their journey, we have always extended our support to MSMEs beyond the traditional realm of banking."



Hardeep Singh Puri

India is mixing ethanol extracted from sugarcane and other agri produce in petrol to cut overseas reliance. It will achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, Puri said. "Our energy security strategy is based on four pillars of diversification of energy supplies, increasing exploration and production footprint, using alternate energy sources, and meeting energy transition through the gas-

based economy, green hydrogen and EVs," he said.

India increased the number of its crude oil suppliers from 27 countries in 2006-07 to 39 in 2021-22, adding new suppliers like Columbia, Russia, Libya, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea etc.

Crude oil extracted from below the earth's surface is refined to produce fuels like petrol and diesel. Natural gas too is found below the surface and is used to generate electricity, make fertilizer and convert into CNG to run automobiles and piped to homes for cooking purposes. Energy prices globally shot up following Russia's invasion of Ukraine but consumers in India were largely insulated as state-owned retailers did not raise prices commensurate with the spurt.

Adani Group to spin off hydrogen, airports, data centre businesses by 2028: CFO

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group plans to spin off businesses like hydrogen, airports and data centre between 2025 and 2028 after they achieve a certain investment profile, it's Chief Financial Officer Jughesinder Singh said.

Adani Enterprises Ltd, which is looking to raise Rs 20,000 crore in a follow-on share sale, is the business incubator for the group. Over the years, businesses such as ports, power and city gas were first incubated in AEL before being spun off or demerged into separate listed companies.

AEL currently houses new businesses such as hydrogen, where the



group plans to invest USD 50 billion over the next 10 years across the value chain, flourishing airport operations, mining, data centre and roads and logistics.

"The businesses have to achieve a basic investment profile and maturity before being considered for a demerger. Between 2025 and 2028 we

think these businesses can achieve the desired levels for a demerger," Singh told PTI.

The group is looking to become one of the lowest cost producers of hydrogen — a fuel of the future that has zero carbon footprint. It is also betting big on its airport business with an aim to become the largest service base in the country in the coming years, outside of government services.

Adani, 60, started as a trader and has been on a rapid diversification spree, expanding an empire centred on ports and coal mining to include airports, data centres and cement as well as green energy. He now owns a media company too.

HARVESTING TEA LEAVES



Theni: Farm workers harvest tea leaves at the Megamalai tea estate in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

Govt schemes needed till penetration of electric vehicles crosses particular threshold: Girish Wagh

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Support provided by the government to promote electric and zero emission vehicles through schemes such as FAME II, need to be continued till penetration of such automobiles crosses a particular threshold with a good level of localisation, according to Tata Motors Executive Director Girish Wagh.

There is also a case to consider the extension of the FAME II scheme, which will come to an end next year and include bigger electric buses to avail of subsidy, he told PTI.

"The government has done a terrific job to promote I would say, ignite electric vehicle or zero emission vehicle demand. Whether it is FAME phase I, phase II, now PLI and



state level incentives, a lot of policy measures, the government has really done a terrific job," he said. Wagh further said, "So, our expectation would be that the government continues with this till the electric vehicle penetration crosses a particular threshold where there is a good level of localisation. Once you have a particular threshold on the road,

the anxiety issues of the customers at large also will get addressed and then I think it will be on its own."

He was responding to queries on expectations from the upcoming Union Budget.

Specific to FAME II, when asked if there is a case to extend the duration of the scheme beyond next year, Wagh said, "I can speak only for my industry. So, yes, I think for buses, it is going to be very important and currently, I think it is also limited to the smaller vehicles."

Probably, there is also a case to look at some of the other categories of vehicles that are goods carrying, which otherwise are not there under the scheme, such as the medium category in the 19-20 tonne range, he added.

B20 India inception meeting begins; policymakers, global CEOs participating

Gandhinagar, Jan 22 (PTI):

Several policymakers, including Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal besides business leaders and senior executives representing businesses of the G20 countries are participating in the three-day B20 India inception meeting, which commenced here on Sunday. As India holds the presidency of G20 in 2023, it will host the 18th G20 Summit in September. The Business 20 (B20) is amongst the most prominent official engagement groups in G20, with companies, business associations and multilateral organizations as participants. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental



The Business 20 (B20) inception meeting being organised in Gujarat's Gandhinagar city from Sunday as part of India's G20 presidency.

forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India,

Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU). The Confederation

of Indian Industry (CII) has been formally designated as the B20 secretariat by Government of India to lead and host B20 during India's G20 presidency. "The inception meeting will bring together several policymakers, thought leaders, business leaders, CEOs and senior executives representing businesses of the G20 countries along with the presence of the representatives of several multilateral organisations, stimulating enriching discussions and deliberations on the business agenda under B20 India," CII said in a statement. B20 India will work through seven task forces and two action councils.

Mira Rajput plays 'Deva Deva' on piano in her new home

Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput shared a video of her playing the song 'Deva Deva' from the film 'Brahmastra Part One: Shiva'.

Taking to Instagram, Mira shared a reel in which she can be seen playing the song at her new home.

She wrote: "day to be grateful" along with a sun emoji in her caption for the video.

Mira and Shahid, who recently moved out from their Juhu residence to their new duplex house in Worli, got married in 2015. The two welcomed their first born, a daughter named Misha in 2016, and son in 2018.

'Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva', is an adventure fantasy starring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Amitabh Bachchan. It is directed by Ayan Mukerji.

The film tells the tale of a young man on the brink of falling in love, gets his world turned upside down when he discovers he has the power to control fire and a connection to a secret society of guardians.

Nick Jonas' affirmations help me overcome insecurities: Priyanka

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas praises her American pop-star husband Nick Jonas for being wise "beyond his years."

Married to Nick since 2018, the actress revealed how he helps her to overcome her insecurities, reports [aceshowbiz.com](https://www.aceshowbiz.com).

"He's a wise man beyond his years ... I get affirmations from him all the time, to remind me of my value when I forget or when I get insecure. He just sees through the fog for me. He sees the best in people," the star said.

Priyanka and Nick, 30, have both enjoyed huge success during their careers. And the couple, who have a 12-month-old daughter called Malti,



have a unique ritual that helps them to stay connected. Priyanka told British Vogue magazine:

"We didn't know each other's careers before we met. Like, didn't know them well. So we do a show

and tell once in a while and share random things that we've done to show the other person what we

were like when we were younger."

The actress enjoyed significant success in the Indian film industry before she made the switch to Hollywood. The 'Baywatch' star hopes that she can become an inspiration for other aspiring actresses in Asia.

Priyanka, who was born in Jamshedpur in India, said: "Hopefully I'll open doors for the next generation of girls. Hopefully we'll see more Indian or South Asian actors in Hollywood. I want to commemorate the success and achievements of South Asians outside of India, in the international sphere, because we deserve that position. Why shouldn't we be on the main stage?"

Mythological series 'RadhaKrishna' wrapped up

Star Bharat's longest running show 'RadhaKrishna' produced by Swastik Productions that successfully run for four year comes to an end. The mythological series starred Sumedh Mudhgalkar and Mallika Singh in the role of Lord Krishna and Radha respectively. The mythological series earned huge love and appreciation as the show delivered meaningful message which reached the hearts of audience bringing them closer to god. As the show has come to an end, it's a very emotional phase for the audience but then every beginning has an ending too. On the wrap of the show the whole team expressed their emotions as the



show was much important for them and the audience as well. On the wrap of the show Sumedh Mudhgalkar says "Sumedh Mudgalkar says, "It has

been a privilege to play the character of Lord Krishna as several popular actors have enacted this character. Initially, it was a mammoth task to crack the assignment, but eventually, I realized that it was my journey and it was a competition against myself.

It has been four years of shooting, and almost seven years that I have been associated with the show. Now the perceptions are changing, everything right from the set to the environment is changing. And suddenly you realize that you won't be able to see these things again and thus you start appreciating them more. You suddenly feel emotional, I really cannot imagine my life after the show."

Raveena Tandon's daughter getting ready for bollywood debut

2023 is going to be an eventful year for a lot of young talent to make their acting debut in the Bollywood film industry. There are certain other star kids who will also be seen shining on the silver screen. Of which, one in particular is none other than Raveena Tandon's 17 year old daughter, Rasha Thadani. Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Raveena Tandon, will be seen in Abhishek Kapoor's next. Rasha Thadani, 17, the daughter of Raveena and Anil Thadani, will make her acting debut in the action-adventure movie directed by Abhishek Kapoor. Aaman Devgn and she will be partnered together. Rasha, in Abhishek's opin-



ion, is the perfect choice to play the part because it's a very unique character. His leading actors have already begun preparing for the picture. They have to go through a few training sessions,

which they have already started. According to a person familiar with the situation, both of the young actors are really eager to begin working under Abhishek's direction. In terms of beauty, Rasha not only gives a tough competition to her mother Raveena Tandon but also to many star kids. Apart from being glamorous, Rasha is also very talented. She holds a black belt in Taekwondo and also enjoys wildlife photography. Rasha is fond of singing and she also shares her videos many times on social media. Academically, Rasha has always been an A plus student. Looks like a new star is on the way.

Actors talk about their love for farming



Actors get popular for their onscreen performances but very few know about their hobbies that they pursue in their free time. On Kisan Diwas, &TV artists Ashok (Mohit Dagg), Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri) and Angoori Bhabi (Shubhangi Atre) reveal their farming background, fond memories on farming fields and choosing farming as a way of life. Himani Shivpuri, essaying Katori Amma in &TV show Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "I come from a farmers' family. My father was a Sanskrit teacher, for which he later had to move to The Doon School. However, my uncle took care of our farms and orchards. I have grown up amidst apple, plum, and almond plants in Uttarakhand. After my uncle's demise, my aunt and her daughter-in-law take care of the farming occupation. Whenever I am in my hometown, I do visit the farm and recall all my fond

childhood memories. I spend hours looking around the field and helping them sometimes. I have learned numerous basics of farming from my uncle, like sowing, harvesting, weeding, storage, etc. Let me tell you, farming is one of the toughest jobs. I am so proud to have been born and brought up in a farmer's family. I love farming so much that at my Mumbai residence, I do some organic farming. I grow spinach, fenugreek, curry leaves, spearmint, bitter melon, chilies, lemons, and many more green vegetables. These plants are like babies to me, and I nurture them with utmost care. Being in the field made me realize that farming is not just an occupation but a way of life as well."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Sushmita Sen gets herself car worth whopping Rs 1.92 crore



Actress and former beauty queen Sushmita Sen has gifted herself a luxury car worth a whopping Rs 1.92 crore

Taking to Instagram on Saturday, Sushmita shared a glimpse of her car, a black Mercedes AMG GLE 53 Coupe.

In the clip shared on the photo-sharing website,

Sushmita is dressed in an outfit as she unveiled her vehicle. According to Car Dekho, a website which gives prices of the cars, stated that the car costs Rs 1.63 crore (ex-show-room) and Rs 1.92 crore (on-road) in Mumbai. She captioned the clip: "And the Woman who LOVES to drive... gifts herself this powerful beauty. Thank

you @pardesiinderjit@mercedesbenzindia @autohanger@theretreatmumbai for making this such a memorable moment! I love you guys! #duggadugga." She then shared a picture posing with the car and captioned it: "Beauty & the Beast #yourstruly #officialpicture ove love love!"

Returning to the stage after four years, Beyonce performs in Dubai

It's been four years since singer Beyonce's last headlining show, and her performance in Dubai was a fittingly grand return.

The star-studded show began on Saturday night like a theatrical production. Violinists crowned with metallic gold headpieces and voluminous red skirts hit the stage first, and Beyonce's dancers and more musicians followed in matching garb, standing still with their hands folded in front of the Egyptian-themed backdrop, reports Variety.

As guests at the invite-only, hour-long performance started screaming with excitement, Beyonce raised up on a platform wearing a yellow corseted dress, topped with a feathered skirt and a feathered backpiece. Fireworks exploded above the venue as the iconic artist opened the show singing Etta



James 'At Last' into a gold microphone. Then, she announced to the crowd that her mom, Tina Knowles, father, Mathew Knowles, her "beau-

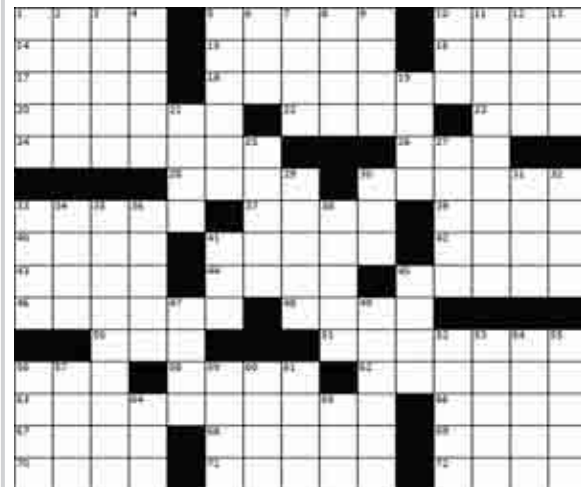
tiful husband" Jay-Z and their children, Blue Ivy, Rumi, and Sir Carter were all in the audience to support her. While Jay-Z stayed in his seat when Beyonce performed 'Crazy in Love' (she started it off with the '50 Shades of Grey' version and wrapped with the original), Blue Ivy hit the stage for a collab.

The 11-year-old continued to prove she's a star-in-the-making when she strolled out in a red sequined jumpsuit with a billowy skirt, and flipped her braids while she walked down to her mom's side.

As Beyonce started performing 'Brown Skin Girl', Blue Ivy stood beside her and danced, nailing the choreography that the dancers were doing beside her. When the song ended, she hugged her mom, walked up the steps, and struck a pose, even blowing kisses to the crowd like a pro before she left the stage.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

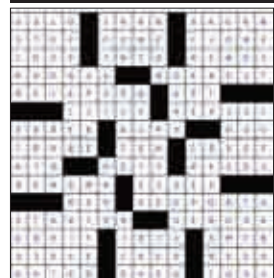
- Intimidates
- Texas landmark
- Bygone
- Mold
- Praline nut
- Female voice
- Lumber source
- Common antibiotic
- Flee
- Adam's garden
- Fury

DOWN

- Behind
- Inferior
- Put up
- Greasy streak
- Materialize
- Dixie general
- Skin woe
- Hotel employee
- Formerly
- Buddy
- Partnerships
- Bustle
- Hue
- Indian of Peru
- Fruit skin
- Rich dessert
- Wrathful
- Compact
- Snaky curve

- Disordered
- Declare
- Computer output
- Bus depot (abbr.)
- State
- Dress edge
- Legendary story
- Approached
- Annoy
- Highway vehicle
- Glamorous _____ Hayworth
- Fit of temper
- Mushroom part
- Misplaces
- Promise
- Proves human
- Refute
- Kudrow of "Friends"
- Bullring cries
- School friend
- Item of value
- Lettuce dish
- Colony insect
- Aromatic spice
- Sloping walkway
- Articles of faith
- Rodeo rope
- Ring
- Send money
- Mrs. Bunker
- Towel inscription
- Way out
- Holler
- Threesome
- Bad actors
- America's Uncle
- Ascot

SOLUTION 541



Hockey World Cup 2023

New Zealand eliminate India in a penalty shootout

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22:

India failed to qualify for the Hockey World Cup 2023 quarter-finals as the hosts lost to New Zealand in the shootout of the must-win crossover match at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar on Sunday. India and New Zealand remained tied at 0-0 in the first quarter as neither of the two could manage to pose much threat. India's Harmanpreet Singh came close to breaking the deadlock in the dying minutes but misjudged it, making it easier for Simon Child to stop him. In the opening quarter, the New Zealand captain faced a two-minute suspension as he got a green card for tackling India's Abhishek. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay finally handed India an advantage in the second quarter as he cleared an easy goal in the left corner. Lalit ran in after Akashdeep got possession of the ball and passed it to Shamsher, who eventually passed the ball to Lalit and he made no mistake in the 18th minute. India earned a penalty corner but



this time Lalit missed it. Seven minutes later, Sukhjeet Singh doubled the lead to 2-0 in favour of India. Sukhjeet got a touch in a penalty corner as he deflected the ball off the rebound Harmanpreet Singh tried to score. Soon, New Zealand pulled one back through Sam Lane in the 29th minute. Lane and Child combined before Lane scored near the backline as India and New Zealand went into half-time at 2-1. India earned another penalty corner in the third quarter and Varun Kumar scored a goal in the 41st minute. Varun flicked the ball through the

legs of New Zealand goalkeeper Dixon as India led New Zealand 3-1. The hosts' happiness was short-lived as Kane Russell converted a penalty corner to keep New Zealand alive in the match. In the fourth quarter, New Zealand won a penalty corner and Sean Findlay found the ball off the rebound in the 50th minute to level the score at 3-3 with India. Soon, India won a penalty corner but the hosts failed to capitalise. Simon Child had almost taken New Zealand home but India's Pathak saved it by a whisker, taking the match into the shootout.

Spain beat Malaysia in penalty shootout in first crossover match

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22 (PTI):

Spain beat Malaysia 4-3 in penalty shootout in a thrilling crossover match to qualify for the quarter-finals of the FIH Men's World Cup after the two sides were locked 2-2 here on Sunday. Spain now face title contenders and Pool A toppers Australia in the last-eight stage on Tuesday. After the two sides were goalless at half time, Faizal Saari put Malaysia ahead in the 35th minute but Marc Miralles (41st) and Xavier Gisbert (42nd) scored in quick succession to put Spain 2-1 up. Shello Silverius then scored a fine field goal to make the scoreline 2-2. In the penalty shootout, it was 3-3 after the first set of five players took their shots. Firhan Ashari, Faizal Saari and Suhaimi Shahmie Irfan scored for Malaysia, while Marhan



Jalil and Shello Silverius missed. Marc Miralles, Bonastre Jordi and Gisbert Xavier scored for Spain while Alvaro Iglesias and Marc Reyne failed to score. As the two teams were tied 3-3, sudden death was applied. Spain's Marc Miralles scored while Firhan Ashari missed. Spain, who had finished third in Pool D behind England and India, dominated the match with a lot of circle penetration

but the speedy Malaysians were impressive in the counter-attack. Spain got as many as eight penalty corners but wasted all of them. Malaysia earned one PC which they could not convert. Malaysia were able to put the ball in the Spanish goal in the first minute of the fourth quarter but the goal was disallowed with the umpire ruling that the ball had touched the back stick of Faizal Saari.

Chopra, Tiwari rout Sri Lanka; India top group



India's Parshavi Chopra outfoxed Vishmi Gunaratne with a googly.

Potchefstroom, Jan 22:

After a disappointing outing in its first Super Six encounter against Australia, team India have made a resounding comeback against Sri Lanka. The Women in Blue won the game by seven wickets and opened its account in the Super Six stages.

The Islanders had no answers to a disciplined

bowling performance from India. Batting first, Sri Lanka never looked in the game and could only managed 59 runs in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, Shafali Verma came out all guns blazing but was scalped soon. However, that did not stop the Women in Blue to complete a convincing victory over their neighbours by seven wickets.

Kunlavut, An Seyoung emerge champions at India Open

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn and Korea's An Seyoung emerged champions at the India Open after stunning wins over two-time world champions Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi in their men's and women's singles finals, respectively, here on Sunday.

Kunlavut beat Olympic champion Axelsen of Denmark 22-20, 10-21, 21-12 in 64 minutes to claim his maiden Super 750 tournament title, while An saw off world No. 1 Yamaguchi 15-21 21-16 21-12 in the women's singles summit showdown.

World No. 11 Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang came out as the winners in men's doubles after seeing off star Malaysian third



Kunlavut



An Se Young

seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 14-21 21-19 21-18 in the final for their second World Tour title following the triumph at Japan Open last year.

The other two doubles matches didn't happen following two withdrawals, both featuring Chinese

pairs, on the final day of the tournament due to ill health. Wang Yi Lyu, who was due to play the mixed doubles final with Huang Dong Ping, and Chen Qing Chen, who was to feature in the women's doubles final with Jia Yi Fan, reported sick. They were suf-

fering from diarrhoea and withdrew from their respective matches.

Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino won the mixed doubles title, while Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida, also from Japan, claimed the women's doubles crown.

Penalty-corner defence has improved, not easy for drag-flickers now: Rupinder

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22 (PTI):

Former India drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh feels that international teams will find it increasingly difficult to score from penalty corners as the use of technology in the game - such as video analysis by opponents - has made the exponents of the craft difficult to beat the defenders.

Rupinder, who was a part of the Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning team but retired soon after, said penalty-corner defence has improved manifold in recent years and that was why drag-flickers all over the world have been finding it difficult to score.

"Defending penalty corners has become an art in recent years. Every team now has video analysis to study how the opponents take their PCs. They will



analyse how the drag flickers of the opposition team flick and how they use variations, and accordingly train to prevent goals," Rupinder told PTI on phone from his home in Punjab.

"It is the same in the case of India. We are also very good at defending penalty

corners as we saw against England (in this World Cup). Our first rushers, Amit Rohidas and Manpreet Singh, are very quick to rush out and close the angle," said Rupinder who formed a potent pair of drag flickers in the Tokyo Olympics, along with current India captain

Harmanpreet Singh. India have scored three goals from penalty corners out of the 16 they earned in the ongoing World Cup, which is less than one-fifth of the total goals. Overall, 43 goals have been scored from PCs in this World Cup out of a total of 130 goals scored from 24 matches at the end of the pool stages.

"It's a World Cup, not any international tournament or bilateral Test. Every team will try to score the most from PCs and, at the same time, they will try to defend the PCs the best they can," the 32-year-old said. Rupinder said that apart from the video analysis of opposition teams, better quality equipment, such as knee and mouth guard, gloves and head guard have made rushers fear the drag flick less than in the past, and so they can defend better now.

Shami advises Umran: If you work on line and length you can rule the world

Raipur, Jan 22 (PTI):

Veteran Indian pacer Mohammed Shami feels young Umran Malik, with his raw pace, has a bright future ahead and the youngster "can rule the world" if he works on his line and length.

The Jammu and Kashmir speedster has impressed with his express pace, bowling at 150 clicks consistently but has struggled with accuracy.

"There's only one piece of advice I want to give. I don't think it's easy to play against the pace that you have. Just that we need to work a little on line and



length. If we can get a command over it, we can rule the world. "You have a lot of power, future is bright. Best wishes for you, hope you do well," Shami said during a chat with Umran, which has been posted by bcci.tv.

Shami and Mohammed Siraj generated considerable seam movement to run through the New Zealand's top-order as the hosts cantered to an eight-wicket win in the second ODI to seal the three-match series here on Saturday.

Tri-series: Indian women start favourites against West Indies

East London, Jan 22 (PTI):

Hoping for its seniors to return to the playing XI, the Indian team will look to continue the winning run, when it takes on the West Indies in the Women's T20 Tri-Series match here on Monday.

The Indians, without skipper Harmanpreet Kaur in the win over hosts South Africa, gave a good account of themselves in their opener.

The captain missed the tie against South Africa owing to illness and it remains to be seen if she returns for the match against the West Indies, who are coming off a big loss against the home side.

India's playing XI also



didn't feature the returning Shikha Pandey, Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar in their first game. Handed the India cap by stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana, debutant Amanjot Kaur made her first outing a memorable one with a fine

performance. Reeling at 69 for five at one stage, India went out to make a fighting 147 for six after Amanjot's 30-ball 41 while batting at number seven. Fitting, she was named the Player of the Match in a 27-run victory. Irrespective of whether

the seniors return or not against the West Indies, a bit of focus will surely be on the 21-year-old Amanjot here on Monday, when the Women in Blue will look to consolidate their position in the tournament.

"It's an unreal feeling. I had never thought my first match for India would go this way. This is my first press conference. And to be the Player of the Match - that was even more unexpected," Amanjot said after the opening match here. The tri-series is significant as it is the last tournament before the Women's T20 World Cup which South Africa is hosting next month. The tri-series is slated to end on February 2.

Ashleigh Gardner faults Australia Day match vs. Pakistan



Sydney, Jan 22 (AP):

An indigenous Australian member of the Australian national women's cricket team has condemned a decision to play a Twenty20 international against Pakistan on Australia's national day.

The holiday on Jan. 26 commemorates the arrival in 1788 of the "first fleet" which brought first white settlers to Australia.

But some indigenous Australians commemorate the day as Invasion Day or Colonization Day because the arrivals set in motion the seizure of lands and the diminution of the indigenous Australian culture.

Ashleigh Gardner who is the second indigenous Australian woman to play test cricket for Australia said Jan. 26 is a "day of hurt and a day of mourning" for her people. In a tweet Gardner said playing a match on the day "certainly doesn't sit well with me as an individual but also all the people I'm representing.

Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 22 (AP):

It all came so seemingly easy for Iga Swiatek last season two Grand Slam trophies, eight titles overall, a 37-match winning streak, a lengthy stay at No. 1 in the rankings.

Those accomplishments made everyone else expect constant greatness from Swiatek, which she can't do anything about. They also changed the way she approached big moments, and a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open's fourth round Sunday made Swiatek wonder whether



she needs to reassess her outlook. "I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit more," Swiatek said. "I felt the pressure, and I felt that I don't want to lose" instead of I want to win."

So there will not be a showdown between

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina celebrates victory against Poland's Iga Swiatek during their women's singles match on day seven of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.

Sania loses in women's doubles

Sania Mirza's last women's doubles Grand Slam match ended in defeat as she went down 4-6 6-4 2-6 in the second round of the Australian Open here on Sunday. Mirza and her Kazakh partner Anna Danilina, seeded eighth, lost to Belgium's Alison Van Uytvanck and Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina in a clash lasting little over two hours. The Indian men's doubles pair of N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan's run in the competition was also halted by the French duo of Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin in the second round. Balaji and Nedunchezhiyan, who came into the tournament as an alternate team, were handed a 4-6 4-6 defeat, ending India's challenge in the men's doubles event. A set down and trailing 0-3 in the second, Mirza and Danilina fought back as they won three games in a row. They got a crucial break in the seventh game when Kalinina and Van Van Uytvanck hit a forehand wide, sending the match into the decider. However, in the third set the Indo-Kazakh were not able to carry forward the winning momentum as they were broken thrice. Mirza is, however, still alive in the mixed doubles draw with veteran Rohan Bopanna. The duo had dispatched locals Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville 7-5 6-3 in their opening round on Saturday.

Swiatek and No. 7 seed Coco Gauff in the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park. Instead, it will be Rybakina taking on 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, a 7-5, 6-3 winner against Gauff, with a semi-final berth at stake. "I kept her under so much pressure," Ostapenko said. Add Swiatek's loss to Week 1 exits by Ons Jabeur, Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud, and this Australian Open marks the first Grand Slam tournament in the Open era which began in 1968 with the top two women's seeds and top two men's seeds all gone before the quarterfinals. In men's re-

sults, 22-year-old American Sebastian Korda whose father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by edging No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7), unseeded Jiri Lehecka upset No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3), and No. 18 Karen Khachanov eased past No. 31 Yoshihito Nishioka 6-0, 6-0, 7-6 (4).

Until Sunday, both Swiatek and Gauff looked fairly dominant for a week, winning every set they contested. Swiatek dropped a total of just 15 games, Gauff just 19, through three matches.

TABLEAU ARTISTS



Jammu and Kashmir tableau artists during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2023, in New Delhi, Sunday,

Mobile application comes in handy for healthcare workers

Ahmedabad, Jan 22 (PTI): A mobile application is helping bridge the gap in knowledge regarding tuberculosis for thousands of healthcare workers as the Central government strives to achieve its ambitious target to reduce the TB burden by 2025. After its initial launch in January 2022, the "Ni-kshay Setu" app has helped over 17,000 frontline healthcare workers and other staff at the district, state and national levels to gain knowledge regarding various aspects of the disease, including diagnosis, treatment, and assessment of their training through digital modules, according to officials. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), the total number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) in 2021 in India was 19,33,381, a 19 per cent rise compared to the previous year.

MP to raise honey bee armies

To ward off marauding elephants

Bhopal, Jan 22 (PTI):

In an attempt to prevent incidents of human-elephant conflict, the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to pit tiny honey bees against wild elephants that stray into farms and destroy crops in the border districts of the state. Intoxicated on mahua flowers, pachyderms wander into the border districts and leave a trail of destruction before they are driven away or return to neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

In a circular issued last week, the state government listed a standard operating procedure (SOP) with a host of do's and don'ts for people in the eastern part of the state, officials said. As one of the measures,

people have been advised to install bee boxes in the affected areas to ward off elephants, they said. Elephants have a natural fear of bees, as they dislike being stung on their trunks and eyes.

Beekeeping will be promoted in the villages of Sidhi, Singrauli, Shahdol, Anuppur, Umaria, Dindori and Mandla districts that have a significant indigenous population, officials said. The latest step will not only protect crops and property, but it will also provide livelihood to indigenous population in the districts bordering Chhattisgarh, officials said.

According to officials, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, through its flagship "Honey Mission" pro-

gramme, had distributed 100 bee boxes to 10 beneficiaries in Morena district last year. The state forest department has roped in NGOs to spread awareness among local communities about tricks to tame and drive away tuskiers, they said.

"We have asked NGOs that have experience of working in areas affected by wild elephants to impart training and share their experiences with the local communities," principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) J S Chauhan told PTI.

With a little bit of understanding about the animal and by exercising restraint, people can avoid damage to life and property to a great extent, he said. Tuskiers can be chased away using high intensity

lights, firecrackers, burning cow dung cakes laced with chilli powder, buzzing sound of bees and by beating drums, the official said.

"Our department is sharing these time-tested techniques with locals. We are constituting 'hathi mitra dals' to bridge the gap and share information with our field staff," said Chauhan, who is also the chief wildlife warden of the state. Apart from this, solar fencing will be put up in sensitive areas to keep elephants at bay, he said.

Locals will be told not to hurl stones at elephants or confront them, as it may agitate the animals, the official added. As per official data, more than eight people were killed last year by wild elephants that wandered into the state from Chhattisgarh.

In Lucknow's 'Anokha Mall', poor can take clothes for free

Lucknow, Jan 22 (PTI):

In Anokha Mall' here, poor people can come and take away warm clothes or other accessories of their choice with no strings attached. These clothes donated by well-wishers help rickshaw pullers, labourers, slum-dwellers and other deprived sections of society to beat the chill of the winter months, besides removing inhibition of them being as "receivers". The mall operates for three months -- December, January and February -- at Raheem Nagar here, takes woollens from donors and keeps them on display for the poor. This cycle has been repeating for the past five years.

Dr Ahmed Raza Khan, a BUMS practitioner and

who operates the mall, told PTI, "Unlike other places and occasions when woollen clothes are distributed to the needy, the recipient is generally hesitant to accept them. However, at Anokha Mall, the person taking the woollen clothes can easily enter as if he or she is entering a shopping mall, see and check the clothes, and then takes them as per his choice."

Khan said a proper record is maintained of the donors as well as those taking the clothes. "This is done so that no one can tend to take any undue advantage of the mall helping the needy persons. In the past, some people had taken clothes from here and sold them in market," he said. Besides clothes, sandals, suitcases, school



A woman collects warm clothes kept at Anokha Mall for the needy, in Lucknow.

uniforms, blankets and quilts are also being kept available for the poor at the mall, Khan said. He said most of the donors are doctors. We ensure that the clothes and other items are clean and fit to wear, he added.

"The mall is operated by a staff of four persons from 10 am to 6 pm daily. Last year, around 3,000 to 4,000 persons took clothes from the mall," Khan said. "Most of the persons who take the clothes are rickshaw pullers, labourers and slum-dwellers," he said. On the name of the mall, Khan said, "Anokha means unique. This is a mall, where you can donate your clothes, take them as well. And (most importantly), you are not begging for alms," Khan said.

Five centuries of cashless transactions

In Tiwa fair

Jagiroad (Assam), Jan 22 (PTI):

Cashless transactions have gained currency in recent years but barter existed long before it and is still being used by the Tiwa tribe in their annual trade fair for five centuries.

In the three-day 'Jonbeel Mela', which historians date to the 15th century, the age-old barter system prevails instead of the use of money for procuring and selling goods, making it perhaps the only one of its kind in the country.

During the mela, held in a small hamlet about 32 km from here, members of Karbi, Khasi and Jaintia tribes from neighbouring hills, besides the Tiwas come with their products and exchange them, says Jorsing Bordoloi, the secretary of Jonbeel Mela Development Samiti.



Another significant aspect of the fair is its theme of harmony and brotherhood among various tribes and communities. It is celebrated with their traditional dance and music, he said. The event is held by the Tiwas, a tribe of central Assam and neighbouring Meghalaya, in the third week of January at

Morigaon.

The products usually traded in during the fair are food materials like ginger, bamboo shoots, turmeric, pumpkin, dried fish and 'pithas' (rice cakes), besides medicinal herbs. The large water body which is shaped like the crescent moon (Jun) and the wetland (beel) near which the fair is held gives it its name.

The fair is declared open ceremonially by Tiwa 'king' Deep Sing Deoraja after 'Agni Puja' (obeisance to the fire god). The Tiwa 'king' is also called Gova Raja as the ancient kingdom of the Tiwas was known as Gova. He attends the community feast along with his 'courtiers' and then collects a customary tax from his subjects.

Traditional community fishing is held on the second day of the fair and people from all walks of life participate in it.

BRAVERY AWARDS

Prez to confer national award to 11 children today

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday will confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2023 on 11 children for their exceptional achievements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the awardees on Tuesday.

Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will also interact with the children and congratulate them in the presence of Minister of State for Women and Child Development Munjpara Mahendrabhai, according to an official statement.

There are six boys and five girls among the awardees from 11 states and UTs

Each awardee of the

PMRBP will be given a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a certificate.

The Union government the PMRBP award to children for their exceptional achievements. The award is conferred on children in the age group 5-18 for their excellence in six categories, viz art and culture, bravery, innovation, scholastic, social service and sports, which deserve national recognition.

This year, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar will be conferred on 11 children selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievement in the field of art and culture (4), bravery (1), innovation (2), social service (1), and sports (3), the statement said.

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Has work from home violated boundaries of employees? Does gender play a role in remote work being productive? Is working from office better to maintain work life balance? Experts at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Amritsar have the answers.

Teams from the two reputed institutes conducted an investigation into the situation to analyse whether the boundary between work and home is blurred during remote work, and whether work affects family life negatively and vice versa. The

WORK FROM HOME DILEMMA

IIT Madras, IIM Amritsar experts decode violation of employee boundaries

study has also been published in noted journal "Employee relations".

According to them, the COVID-19 pandemic forced many organisations to assign their employees work-from-home. This choice pleased many organisations as they saved on risks and maintenance costs. Big employers have continued the trend. However, not all employees are happy.

"Work-from-home caused an incredible amount of stress on both male and female employees, especially those who were married. New complications had arisen that had never been dealt with before, for instance, a fear of COVID-19, pandemic-related job insecurity, and

so on," Rupashree Baral, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras told PTI.

"The boundary between work and home was blurred, work affected family life negatively and vice versa, which is known as 'work-family conflict'. Employees find the situation 'unbearable'. They also feel like a failing parent and a failing professional.

The persistent traditional gender ideology in a country like India increased the stress during peak pandemic, especially for women since they were expected to take care of the household, children and their profession all at once and in one place," she added.

The study found that a 'problem-focused coping strategy' was vital to deal with the boundary breakage between work and home and prevent either from them negatively affecting the other.

The researchers recommended that individuals can practice this strategy by focusing on information-seeking, planning, and problem-solving activities to face the issue at hand. Actively reaching out to one's support system (spouse, family, and friends) was found to be necessary. The researchers also called upon organisations and employers to suggest such strategies to their employees and ensure they were followed.

Mumbai civic body rejects allegation of 'scam'

In setting up of jumbo COVID-19 centres

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has said the allegation of a Rs 100 crore scam in setting up of jumbo COVID-19 centres is "baseless" as only Rs 33.13 crore has been spent on providing manpower at two such facilities in the city. Also, the matter of verification whether the partnership deed, stamp paper for the contract with a hospital management services company is fake is concerned with the Registration and Controller of Stamps Department and does not fall under the BMC's purview.

Therefore, it is totally wrong to accuse the municipal administration in this regard, BMC chief Iqbal Singh Chahal said in a statement on Saturday. On the issue of

different dates mentioned on the stamp paper and the last page of the partnership deed, the contractor stated before an inquiry committee of the BMC that this was an "inadvertent typographical error", the statement said.

