



### BRIEF



Artists from Arunachal Pradesh perform a traditional dance on the occasion of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh Border Festival, in Bhalukpong of Arunachal Border, Monday.

### Principal booked

Ballia (UP): A principal of an inter-college under Gadwar police station area here was booked after an audio of him allegedly talking obscenely to a class 12 girl student went viral on social media, police said on Monday. In the audio, Ram Narayan Yadav could be heard talking obscenely to the girl and threatening her to obey him, police station in-charge Inspector Raj Kumar Singh said.

### Fake account

Shimla: Suspected cyber criminals have allegedly created a fake Instagram account of Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and are demanding money in his name. Arlekar said on Monday that some miscreants were demanding money using a fake account created in his name and asked people to be aware and not entertain their demands. Himachal Pradesh Police have already asked the authorities concerned to deactivate the account after registering a formal complaint.

### Fake certificate

Mumbai: A court here on Monday imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 each against Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Navneet Rana and her father for seeking adjournment in the hearing of a fake caste certificate case against them. The court also issued a proclamation order against the Amravati MP's father for not appearing before the court, despite being summoned multiple times. Rana and her father are accused of allegedly forging documents to obtain a caste certificate, as the Amravati seat is reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates.

### Technical snag

Amaravati: An aircraft, which took off from Gannavaram Airport near here with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and others onboard on Monday, had to return and land at the aerodrome after the pilot noticed a technical snag in mid-air. An official release said Jagan was to go to the national capital and participate in a preparatory meeting of the Global Investors Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam in March. "The pilot noticed a problem of pressurisation due to leakage in the AC valve.

## Opposition raises Adani issue, women quota bill

Govt says willing to discuss in Parliament all issues permitted by rules

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

Opposition parties on Monday raised the Adani issue and the conduct of governors in some states ruled by them at an all-party meeting on the eve of Parliament's Budget Session as the government asserted it was willing to discuss every matter allowed by rules and sought their cooperation.

With several regional parties signalling their intention to raise these issues besides unemployment, price rise and the Centre's alleged bias in sharing revenue with states, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the government has always been positive to discussing every topic but maintained that it should be held under the rules and with the Chair's permission.

"We seek the opposition's cooperation in running Parliament smoothly,



### President Murmu to address joint sitting of two Houses

New Delhi: The Budget session of Parliament begins on Tuesday with the maiden address of President Droupadi Murmu to the joint sitting of both Houses. While the government's priority will be to seek approval on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and the Finance Bill, the Opposition is raring to corner it on a range of issues, including the Adani-Hindenburg row, a nationwide caste-based economic census and the women's reservation bill.

### NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi, AAP leader Sanjay Singh and other leaders during an all-party meeting ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Monday.

Joshi told reporters after the meeting which was attended by 37 leaders, representing 27 parties. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the meeting.

As most Congress leaders were busy with the Bharat Jodo Yatra's conclusion, the main opposition party was not represented in the meeting. A Congress leader who had

to be present could not reach. Joshi said its floor leaders are likely to meet him on Tuesday to convey their views.

The meeting saw Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, RJD's Manoj Jha and leaders representing other opposition parties like the Shiv Sena faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray, the BRS, DMK and the Left raising the

## Govt allows private TV channels to share public service content

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

Granting relaxations, the government on Monday said the 30-minute daily obligatory public service broadcast by private broadcasters could be embedded in programmes telecast by other television channels. In an advisory, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also said the public service broadcast content need not be of 30 minutes at a stretch and could be spread over smaller time slots. "The time for which the public service broadcasting content is telecast in between commercial breaks shall not be accounted for the 12-minute limit for commercial breaks," the advisory said. The private broadcasters have to submit a

monthly report on the Broadcast Seva Portal. In November last year, the ministry had asked the private television channels to air public service broadcast content for 30 minutes every day under eight themes of national importance and social relevance as part of the new service obligations. The guidelines were stipulated in the new uplinking-downlinking rules prescribed by the ministry on November 9 last year. The fresh advisory was issued on Monday after holding extensive consultations with private satellite television channels and their associations. The government has also allowed sharing of content between the broadcasters and repeat telecasts on one or several television channels.

## Top brass of BJP will never undertake a walkathon in J-K as they are scared: Rahul

Srinagar, Jan 30 (PTI):

The BJP top brass would never undertake a walkathon like the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir as they are scared, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said here on Monday, asserting he continued his march in the Valley despite being advised against it as he is not afraid. "I can guarantee you that no BJP leader can walk like this in Jammu and Kashmir. They will not do it, not because they won't be allowed by the people of J-K, but because they are scared," Gandhi said, addressing a rally to mark the culmination of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a public rally at the end of party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Srinagar, Monday.

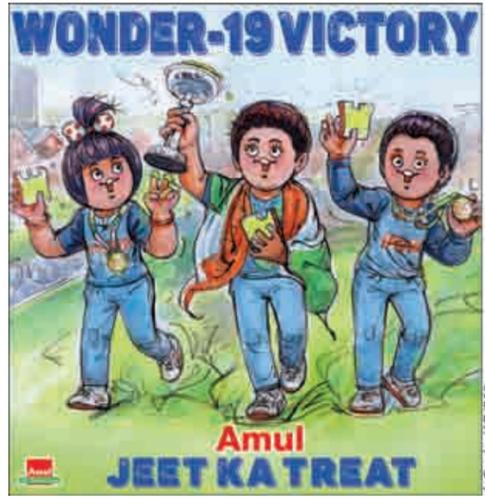
his nearly five month-long yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Speaking amidst heavy snowfall, Gandhi, who wore a 'pheran' — a Kashmiri cloak —

### Coal levy 'scam'

### ED attaches fresh benami assets of CM's deputy secy

New Delhi: The ED on Monday said it has attached benami assets worth Rs 17.48 crore of arrested accused Saumya Chaurasia, a deputy secretary in the Chhattisgarh chief minister's office, and coal trader Suryakant Tiwari in the coal levy "scam". Out of the total 51 provisionally attached properties, eight benami assets worth Rs 7.57 crore are "beneficially owned" by Chaurasia and the remaining 43 are "beneficially controlled" by Tiwari, the federal probe agency said in a statement.

The Enforcement Directorate had also issued last year a similar attachment order for assets under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) of the two accused and a few others. With the latest action, the total value of attached properties in this case stands at about Rs 170 crore. The ED investigation relates to "a massive scam in which illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency has alleged.



## Guj court convicts self-styled godman Asaram Bapu

Sentence order on Jan 31 in rape case

Gandhinagar: A court in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Monday convicted self-styled godman Asaram Bapu in a woman disciple rape case registered against him in 2013. Sessions court judge DK Soni reserved its order on the quantum of sentence for Tuesday (January 31). The court acquitted six other accused, including Asaram's wife, due to the lack of evidence. As per the FIR lodged at Chandkheda police station in

Ahmedabad, Asaram Bapu allegedly raped the woman on several occasions from 2001 to 2006 when she was living at his ashram on the outskirts of the city. "The court has accepted the prosecution case and convicted Asaram under sections 376 2(C) (rape), 377 (unnatural offences) and other provisions of the Indian Penal Code for illegal detention, among others," special public prosecutor RC Kodekar said on Monday.

## EC withholds Lakshadweep Lok Sabha bypoll

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

The Election Commission on Monday withheld the Lakshadweep Lok Sabha bypoll after the Kerala High Court suspended the conviction and sentence of sitting MP Mohammed Faizal in an attempt to murder case. The poll panel had announced the bypoll recently and it was to be held on February 27.

The by-election was announced following the disqualification Faizal on grounds of his conviction by a sessions court in Kavaratti. He had approached the high court against the order which suspended the conviction and sentence imposed on him.

### 'Aim of Bharat Jodo Yatra is to save liberal, secular ethos'

Srinagar: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the aim of his Bharat Jodo Yatra was to save the liberal and secular ethos of the country which, he claimed, was facing an assault from the BJP and the RSS. "I have not done this (Yatra) for myself or for the Congress but for the people of the country. Our aim is to stand against the ideology that wants to destroy the foundation of this country," he said at a rally here to mark the culmination of the 136-day march.

said he was advised against walking the four-day Kashmir lap of the yatra on the grounds that he might be attacked.

"When I was walking, the security people told me I can walk anywhere in India, even in Jammu, but

the last four days in Kashmir, 'you should drive in a car' A few days before I reached Kashmir, the administration told me, perhaps to scare me, that if I walk, then a grenade can be lobbed upon me," he said.

## SC upholds NCLAT order on payment of dues to former employees of Jet Airways

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

In a setback to the Jalan-Fritsch consortium, the new owners of the cash-strapped Jet Airways, the Supreme Court on Monday upheld an NCLAT order directing the payment of the provident fund and gratuity dues of the airline's former employees.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala said, "Anyone stepping in would know that there are overriding labour dues. Unpaid labour dues always take precedence. Somewhere, there has to be finality.

Sorry, we will not interfere."

The top court refused to entertain a plea moved by the consortium and upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) order.

At the outset, senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, who appeared in the court on behalf of the consortium, said they will now have to put in an additional amount of more than Rs 200 crore and it would be difficult to revive the airline.

He said once approved, the resolution plan cannot be modified or taken back.

Senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar and advocate Swarnendu

Chatterjee appeared in the court on behalf of the Association of Aggrieved Workmen of Jet Airways (AAWJA), comprising 270 former employees of the airline who had resigned on or after the carrier's insolvency commencement date.

The former employees had filed a caveat before the top court, anticipating the move of the consortium.

"This order is not only a path-breaking one, but also a ray of hope for all such workmen and employees who are entangled in these types of litigations," Chatterjee told reporters after the hearing of the matter.

## Nightclub gets bomb threat

Chandigarh, Jan 30 (PTI):

No suspicious item was found post a thorough check at a lounge-cum-nightclub here Monday after an anonymous caller claimed an explosion would take place there, police said. It was a hoax call and efforts are being made to trace the caller, they said. Earlier in the day, police said that the area was cordoned off and the entire stretch which houses other nightclubs and restaurants were also searched.

"The nightclub manager received an anonymous call regarding some explosive there... We conducted a thorough check, but no suspicious item was found.

## Air India urination case Witnesses not deposing in police favour: Court

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

The witnesses named by Delhi police in a case against Shankar Mishra, accused of urinating on a woman on board an Air India flight from New York to Delhi, are not deposing in the prosecution's favour, a court here observed on Monday while it reserved its order on his bail application.

Additional Sessions Judge Harjyot Singh Bhalla heard the arguments from the counsel appearing for the prosecution and the accused, and said he will pronounce the order on Mishra's bail application tomorrow. "The witness you

### Air India urination case

(Investigation agency) have named are not deposing in your favour... There is a contradiction in the complainant's statement and Ila Benarjee's (witness) statement," the judge noted during the proceedings.

Police opposed the bail application, saying "India has been defamed internationally because of the incident", to which the judge said, "It may be disgusting but that is another matter, let's not get into that. Let's go into how the law deals with it."

The prosecutor also claimed Mishra did not cooperate in the investigation and that he had switched off all his mobile

phones. The judge asked how the accused came to know about the FIR in the case, to which the prosecution said it was "through media".

The judge further asked the prosecution how the media knew about the FIR.

"It was everywhere," the prosecution told the court, adding that "he may influence the witnesses. He contacted the victim even after the FIR was lodged."

The judge then asked what did the accused say in the message, to which the counsel appearing for the complainant said, "Intimidating messages were sent."

## 46 killed, 120 injured in suicide blast at mosque in high-security zone

Peshawar, Jan 30 (PTI):

A powerful suicide blast ripped through a mosque during afternoon prayers on Monday in the high-security zone in Peshawar city in Pakistan, killing at least 46 people and wounding 120 others, mostly policemen, security and health officials said.

The blast occurred in the mosque in the Police Lines area around 1.40 pm when a suicide bomber present in the front row during the Zuhr (afternoon) prayers blew himself up, security officials said. Deputy Commissioner Shafiullah Khan told the media that 25 people were killed and 120 others injured in the



Security officials and rescue workers search bodies at the site of suicide bombing, in Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday.

powerful blast. There were mostly policemen among the injured, said the eyewitness. No militant group

has claimed responsibility for the attack. However, the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, known

as the Pakistan Taliban, has carried out a number of suicide attacks in the past, targeting security

personnel. Superintendent of Police (Investigation), Peshawar, Shazad Kaukab, whose office is close to the mosque, told the media that the blast occurred when he just entered the mosque to offer prayers. He said he luckily survived the attack.

The bomber entered the highly secured mosque inside police lines where four layers of security were in place to enter the mosque.

A police official said that a portion of the mosque collapsed and several people were believed to be under it.

The injured are being shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar, he said.

## 'Inherent powers of high courts should be exercised with care'

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

The inherent powers of high courts under section 482 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) should be exercised with care, caution and sparingly... The exercise of the said power must be for securing the ends of justice and only in cases where a refusal to exercise that power may result in an abuse of the process of law," the bench said.

The top court was hearing an appeal challenging a Calcutta High Court order that refused to quash the FIR against the accused in connection with the management of a school.

Indian Penal Code (IPC). "There can be no doubt with respect to the position that the jurisdiction under section 482, CrPC is to be exercised with care and caution and sparingly... The exercise of the said power must be for securing the ends of justice and only in cases where a refusal to exercise that power may result in an abuse of the process of law," the bench said. The top court was hearing an appeal challenging a Calcutta High Court order that refused to quash the FIR against the accused in connection with the management of a school.

**Weather**  
High 31 Low 17

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,648.95  
SENSEX 59,500.41

**BULLION**  
GOLD 56,764  
SILVER 68,558

## Tributes paid to Mahatma Gandhi



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP). He garlanded the statue at Mahatma Gandhi at Kalamandir

in Civic Centre on January 30, 2023. MM Gadre, ED (P & A), Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel), JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD) and other Senior officials of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant offered flowers and paid tributes to Gandhiji.

## SAIL-BSP sets new records in quick succession

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Merchant Mill, Sinter Plant 3 and RSM have set new production records in quick succession. Merchant Mill set a new day record of rolling 3021 T as against previous best of 3002 Tones on January 26, 2023.

This is also the best in any profile with SMS 3 billets. Merchant Mill also recorded the best ever monthly production of 58444 tonnes with SMS 3 billets in Jan 2023, sur-



passing previous best of 56622 T in March 2022.

Sinter Plant 3 set new record of highest production for the third day in a

row. SP 3 that had set new records of 18,666 Tones on January 26 & 18680 Tones on January 27, 2023 once again improved its per-

formance by producing 18821 T of Sinter on January 28, 2023.

Rail & Structural Mill created a new day record of 238 numbers of hot rails produced on January 28, 2023, surpassing previous best record of 225 numbers of hot rails produced on December 18, 2021. On January 27, 2023, Rail & Structural Mill had created a new shift record of producing 15 Rail welded panels and 50 welded joints as against previous best of 13 panels and 45 joints in B shift of January 11, 2023.

## Durg Police saves over 700 families from shattering

● Domestic and marital disputes resolved amicably

Central Chronicle News



Dr. Abhishek Pallava

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** In the last one year, the Mahila Thana of Durg Police succeeded in saving over 700 families from getting shattered. SP Dr. Abhishek Pallava informed that Durg Police received about 1447 cases of marital discord for consultation and counselling.

Out of these, about 700 cases were resolved by counselling in the last one year with a success rate of around 50 percent. More than two third cases had come after three years of marriage while the

same percentage of cases occurred in joint families. About 85 percent of the marital discords happened in cases in arranged marriages. Dowry related disputes and alcohol abuse were the most important reasons for discord. Another interesting fact was that more than 50 percent cases of marital discord occurred in families with two or more children.

## St Thomas College, Kailash Nagar celebrates Republic Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Republic day was celebrated with much splendour and glory at St Thomas College, Kailash Nagar. The event started with un-

furling of national flag by Administrator of the college Fr. Dr. Joshi Varghese.

Dr. Mariam Jacob, Principal, elaborated how Republic Day is important to Indians. Velwyn Sam of BBA

2nd semester delivered a speech on Preamble of the Constitution. Hritik Kumar of B Com 1st Year sang the famous patriotic song "Ae desh mere" on the auspicious day. Akash of BCA 1st year deliv-

ered an enduring poem. The students also performed a beautiful dance. Siji Reno Raj hosted the program and welcome note was given by Dagma David. The pro-

gramme ended with the National Anthem and Ankita Kannurkar extending her gratitude to all the esteemed guests in the event and to the students for their delightful performances.



## Maitri Vidya Niketan celebrates R-Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Maitri Vidya Niketan EMSS Risali, celebrated the 74th Republic Day with unprecedented patriotic fervour in the gracious presence of President MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran, Director MECA and Principal Dr. Sajitha Thambi, Principal Bhilai Maitri College Dr. Surekha Patil, Vice Principal Dr. Beena Sajeev, teachers and students.

The function commenced with a march-past by the scout and guide students displaying troupes namely Maharani Laxmi Bai troupe, Shivaji troupe and Subhash troupe generating thoughts of pride.



President MECA Rajam Sudhakaran unfurled the tricolour followed by the National Anthem. Head Girl Jasleen Kaur administered the pledge to the students followed by wonderful slogans creating a patriotic fervour. Principal MVN Dr

Sajitha Thambi in her address to the students enlightened the preamble and the constitution. She emphasized on the responsibility that every citizen has towards the nation. The rules and regulation followed in a disciplined manner, the nation would

grow along with its responsible citizens. There were variety of flavour in the cultural program that followed later. Enthusiastic students of different wings displayed wonderful songs, dance, poetry recitations, skit and speeches with patriotic fervour commemorating the occasion. The prize distribution for various co-curricular activities was done and Gandhi house was declared as the best house for the session 2022-23. The program concluded with sweet distribution leaving everyone reminiscing the function. The program was jointly anchored by Akta Verma, Mrinali Sinha, Laxmi Sahu of XI standard.

## Holy festival of 'Basant Panchami' celebrated at Shaildevi College

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** The auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami was celebrated at Shaildevi College, Anda, Durg on January 26 with the worship of Goddess Saraswati. About 600 students, all faculties, Shaildevi College Chairman Rajan Kumar Dubey participated in this celebration.

As special guests, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School (Matwari) BK Gaun, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School (Bhilai), K. Lata Venugopal and Principal in-charge of



Government Higher Secondary School (Anda) CL Chandrakar joined the celebration. Amidst recital of the Vedic mantras by the Acharya, the statue of Goddess Saraswati was installed with complete rituals by Chairman and prayers

were offered. Thereafter, 5 Kundiya Mahayagya was conducted in which all the students of the college, chairman and invited guests made oblations.

The entire college campus reverberated with the sound of Ved Mantra and "Swaha" chanted by the

devotees. While bowing down at the feet of "Mata Mahasaraswati", the students along with all the dignitaries present, prayed for knowledge, happiness, peace and prosperity. All the devotees took the Prasad and considered themselves blessed.

## Lalit Kala Academy honours litterateurs and artists

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Chhattisgarh State Unit of Lalit Kala Academy (National Academy of Art), New Delhi, felicitated the litterateurs and artists with Rashtriya Sahitya Purodha Samman and Rashtriya Kala Purodha Samman during a simple function held at Sector 5 on Sunday.

Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel graced the function as Chief Guest. Dr. Ankush Kumar Dewangan (Member of Executive Board, Lalit Kala Academy) delivered the welcome address. MP Vijay Baghel honoured the litterateurs, journalists and artists with citation, shawl and srifal.

In his address, Baghel said that the litterateurs



and artists played a vital role in the formation of Chhattisgarh state. During the independence movement, the litterateurs and artists succeeded to unite and motivate the masses for a common goal.

In the present day also, they are making significant contributions in making the state and the country proceed on the path of

development. The litterateurs and artists have the capacity of creating a mass movement without any violence.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a litterateur and he understood the significance of creating a separate Chhattisgarh state. Due to this reason only, he gave a separate state as a

gift to the people. A corruption free, peaceful and progressive society cannot be imagined without the contributions of litterateurs and artists, he said.

Sudhakar Shevlikar, Kirti Madhav Vyas, Madan Sharma, Dushyant Harmukh, Rajni Rajak, Roopa Sahu, Durga Prasad Parkar, Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Dr. Shivnarayan

Dewangan, Bhavana Pandey, Md Zakir Hussein, Ghanshyam Parkar, Hari Sen, Shatrughan Swarnakar, BL Soni, Brijesh Tiwari, GK Nirmalkar, Umakant Thakur, Manish Tamrakar, Praveen Kaalmegh, Rajendra Sunguria, Haji Siddhiqui and Menaka Verma were felicitated.

## Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation celebrates Basant Panchami

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation celebrated the festival of Basant Panchami by felicitating eminent personalities who work for social cause.

After offering prayers to Goddess Saraswati, personalities who have been helping deprived children achieve their dream by extending monetary assistance for education were honoured. Those felicitated were NN Rao, the founder of Kittu's school Dimple Kaur & Nikhita Kaur and KK Soni.

They were honoured with shawl, coconut, memento and flower pots. Founder of the organization Arun Kumar



Srivastava, co-founder Seema Srivastava, secretary Jasveer Kaur, members Rajesh Kumar Dewangan, Kailash Tandi, Ramesh Kumar Pal, Akash Vaishnav and Yogesh Kumar were specially present.

Arun Kumar Srivastava informed that the organization has been conducting such social programmes from time to time and will continue to do so in future as well so bring awareness in the society.

## Annual day of Bhilai Mahila Samaj celebrated with zeal

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** Bhilai Mahila Samaj, a women-oriented organization of Bhilai, which is one of the leading women's organizations of the region in social work, celebrated its Annual day on January 29, 2023 with great enthusiasm. The ceremony was held at Mahatma Gandhi Kalamandir. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was present as the Chief Guest in the function. Triparna Dasgupta, President of Bhilai Mahila Samaj, presided over the programme. Anjali Kumar (ED Works), MM Gadre ED (P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), AK Chakraborty, (ED MM), and Senior officials were present on the occasion.



President, Bhilai Mahila Samaj, Mauli Chakraborty, Addl. Additional Vice -President (BMS), Ratna Rani Dokania, General Secretary (BMS), Gayatri Sahu, Treasurer (BMS), Mou Ray, Co-treasurer (BMS), Incharges of various clubs of Bhilai Mahila Samaj and members were present during the function. Sector-2 Club, Sector-5 Club, Sector-9 Club, Sector-10-B Club, Smriti Nagar Club of Bhilai Mahila Samaj participated in this function. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c

(BSP) conveyed his best wishes for the Annual day of Bhilai Mahila Samaj. He said that Bhilai Mahila Samaj has played an important role in making women self-reliant and empowered through its efforts. Bhilai Mahila Samaj has discharged its social responsibilities very well, he added. It is remarkable in the manner in which Bhilai Mahila Samaj has used its potential for the upliftment of the society. If women are empowered then the whole family and society is empowered,

he stated. Today women are discharging their responsibilities very well in various roles. Women have contributed significantly in the overall development of the society and Bhilai Mahila Samaj is a living example of this, he added.

Various clubs run by Bhilai Mahila Samaj were applauded by the audience for their presentations in the Annual day function. Dance, drama and other cultural programs presented by the members of various clubs of Bhilai Mahila Samaj, which were the centre of attraction of the ceremony. At the outset, Usha Srivastava, Secretary of Smriti Nagar Club gave the Welcome address. The programme was coordinated by Prabha Srinivasan and Anju Chandania. Archana Sahu, Secretary of Sector-5 Club, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

## People complain against builders over lack of basic facilities

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 30:** On Monday, the Collector Jandansh received over 100 complaints and applications from common people. Residents of Rajat Homes Apartment located in Hari Nagar Katulbod complained that the builder has not ensured compliance of the standard norms. The builder has also taken care of the basic amenities related to electricity, water, lift, fire fighting and security in the apartment.

Instead of two lifts in a block, only one lift has been provided that too with very less passenger capacity. The lift often remains out of order. There are 162 flats and 22 penthouses in Rajat Homes, for which only one bore well is available. Whereas as per the agreement, separate bore wells were to be provided for each block. Even the entry and exit gates are not con-



structed properly. Along with this, a major part of the project is incomplete. The citizens currently living here are mostly senior citizens and servicemen. The builder is not cooperating to resolve the irregularities of basic facilities like water, electricity and guards. The residents are making efforts to constitute a committee but the builder is not providing necessary documents. The residents of Rajat

Homes requested the Collector to intervene and take appropriate steps to resolve the problems. The Collector has asked the Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar to serve a notice to the colonizer. If the coloniser fails to discharge his responsibility, the Collector instructed to take appropriate legal action. At Agrasen Chowk in Durg, a food zone and temporary shops are stealing

electricity. The applicant stated that electricity is being provided to multiple shopkeepers through only one meter connection. Electricity is being provided illegally to the temporary stalls which operate during the evenings. The Collector sent the application to the concerned officer for taking proper cognizance of the matter and taking legal action. Vrindavan Tower Apartment located in Pradip Nagar Street 04, Durg, has created trouble for the nearby residential houses due to improper drainage. According to the applicant, there is no proper drainage system for the contaminated water coming out of the apartment. According to him earlier this water used to flow on the road but now this water is getting accumulated in the pit near his house. The Collector sent the application to the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Rohit Yyas.

## CM directs to sort out regularisation cases on top priority

**Expresses annoyance over the slow pace**

**For regularisation of Illegal Construction works**

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed annoyance over inordinate delay in disposing off regularisation of illegal construction work. He has directed the Collectors to sort out the cases on priority basis. CM said that this rule has been brought to favour common

men, as it is the state government who has given the chance to people to regularize the illegal construction work and of which they should take maximum benefit.

CM Baghel said that this should be extensively promoted among general public. Giving instructions to carry out this work on top priority, CM said that he would personally review the solution of such cases. CM also gave instructions to campaign about it and hold camps as well. As per information from the Addl. Director Town & Country

Planning Raipur, for regularisation of residential and non-residential illegal construction work, the state government has brought Chhattisgarh Illegal Development Regularisation Amendment 2022 Act and made this 2022 Act effective from 14 July 2022. In this the residential and non-residential and diversion of the land use done as on 14 July 2022 will be regularised. It is in compliance of sub-clause of Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha proceedings and work related rules, the

Chhattisgarh Illegal Construction Regularisation Bill 2022 was re-established on 4 Jan 2023. For solution of cases, District Regularisation Officer was formed and in which Collector Raipur was the President and the members included District SP, concerned urban body or the area's Commissioner, Chief Nagar Palika Officer, CEO of concerned RDA or of that area, officer in-charge of Town & Country Planning Department as the member secretary. Under this Act, applica-

tion will be accepted from the person who has done illegal construction work in a prescribed format for one year till 14 July 2023. To extend this for one month, the District Collector has been authorised. The application form can be submitted to Nagar Palika Nigam, Nagar Palika Parishad, and Chief Nagar Palika Officer of Nagar Panchayat and Planning area. But for outside the local body, it will be Joint Director Town & Country Planning office Raipur who has been authorised.

## DANCE & FOLK SONGS



Variety of folk songs and dance market the conclusion of three-day long State-Level Youth Festival here on Monday.

## Raipur gets representations in WIRC of ICSI



**Raipur, Jan 30:** The election of CS Institute was held for electing office bearers for various post of WIRC of ICSI. Raipur Chapters Past Chairman CS YC Rao got elected as

Vice Chairman of WIRC of ICSI for 2023. CS Ashish Jain and CS Sharad Kankani further informed that this is first time when a member from Raipur got elected for the post of Vice-

Chairman in WIRC of ICSI. CS Institute election for electing office bearers of Raipur Chapter was also held and CS Sharad Kankani, Chairman, CS Tanveer Kaur Tuteja, Vice-Chairperson, CS Shubham Kankani, Secretary, CS Neha Agrawal, Treasurer CS Akash Sahu, CS Vaibhav Mohdiwale and CS Prince Pandey, members were elected for the period 2023-2025. The tenure of the office bearers started from January 19th, 2023.

## Minister Daharia reviewed the schemes of Labour Welfare Board

**Instructions given to officers for better implementation of schemes**

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Daharia reviewed the progress of the schemes by taking a meeting of the officials of the Labor Welfare Board at Vishram Bhawan, Raipur and gave instructions for better implementation of the schemes run for the welfare of the workers. Shafi Ahmed, Chairman, Labour Welfare Board was specially present in the



meeting. Minister Dr. Daharia reviewed labour disabled assistance, tribute scheme, welfare friend and other

subjects in the meeting. He passed various proposals in the meeting and agreed to send them to the government for approval.

Dr. Daharia also held the review meeting for the financial assistance and rehabilitation assistance scheme for the workers

suffering from silicosis. Similarly, under the sports promotion scheme, the daughter of Mrs. Abhilasha Chauhan, a labourer, Sveccha Chauhan was given an incentive of Rs 25,000 for securing first position in state level under-14 weight lifting. Along with this, on getting more than 85 percent marks in class 10th and 12th under meritorious education promotion scheme, Vikas Kumar Sahu father of Janjgir-Champa district Mr. Krishna Kumar Sahu and Sheetal Thwait father Mr. Rakesh Thwait of Raipur

## 'Ryan Minithon' witnesses participation by 36 schools

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Ryan Minithon was organized by Ryan International School & St. Xavier's High School Raipur in association with the able guidance of Ryan International Sports Club. In the span of 23rd years the club has taken concrete steps, making an enormous impact on the young sporting enthusiastic through various sports activities. This year Ryan International Sports Club organized 23rd Ryan Minithon in 14 cities all over India. 29th January is the day of Ryan Minithon in the city of Raipur.



Around 3000 plus enthusiastic students from different schools in Raipur participated in this mega event. "Ryan Minithon 2023" was held from Marine Drive to Ryan School Campus. Ryan Minithon was conducted in groups allotted as per the age groups individually under Boys and Girls category. The Minithon began at 7.00 am with the Bible reading and Special Prayer followed by the felicitation of the guest. The Chief

Dr. Mejar Singh (Joint Secretary C.G. Yogasan Sports Association) and Dr. Karmishtha Shambharkar (Sports Officer and HOD in Physical Education in Govt. D.B. Girls College Raipur). The event was declared open by releasing the balloons. Approximately from 36 schools in and around Raipur athletes participated in the Mega Ryan Minithon 2023. The Second session of the event was prize distribution ceremony in which

dignitaries and sports personalities hailing from different fields of sports were invited. The program began with Bible reading, Prayer, welcome speeches, song followed by prize distribution. Eminent guest Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure (Collector, Raipur District), Rakesh Kumar (International Marathon Player), Rati Ram (National Marathon Player), Toran Lal (National NIS Kabaddi coach), Kundan Dewangan (National Dodge Ball Player), Rajan Singh (National Cricket Player), Miss Kritika Adil (National Badminton Player) Miss Sunita Dhruv (National Handball Player) and Miss Soni Devi (National Soft Ball & Hand Ball Player) were felicitated during the closing ceremony. The winners of different age groups were awarded in a scintillating ceremony with a number of distinguished guests in attendance. Amidst thunderous applause received the championship trophy.

## Governor participates in youth introductory meet

**Organised by Adivasi Sewa Mandal, Bhopal**

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Governor Anusuya Uikey attended the 18th youth introductory meet organized by Adivasi Sewa Mandal, Bhopal. On this occasion, the Governor duly offered prayers and wished for the success of the introductory meet, happiness and prosperity of the country and the state. According to tribal tradition, Governor Uikey was warmly welcomed at the program venue. On this occasion the Governor welcomed the young men and women who came to attend the introductory meet. Addressing the introductory meet, Uikey appreciated the efforts being made by the Adivasi Sewa Mandal for the upliftment and betterment of the tribal society. She said that Seva Mandal, Yuvak-Yuvati Parichay Sammelan, is playing its role in preserving the values and traditions of the society by organizing cultural programs based on



tribal folk arts. Along with this, it will also help in maintaining the customs and beliefs from generation to generation. Governor Uikey said that continuous efforts are being made through this platform to remove the difficulties faced by tribal youths and girls in search of a suitable life partner. This saves time as well as money. She described simplicity and mildness as the identity of the tribal society and urged everyone to be committed towards maintaining the rich tribal culture and traditions. The Governor told the enlightened people of the society to keep their attitude positive towards solving the problems of the tribals. If any person from

the tribal society comes to you with his problem, listen to them seriously and cooperate with them. This will increase mutual participation and trust in the society. In her address, the Governor asked to compulsorily send the boys and girls of tribal society to school and said

that education is necessary for progress. During this, she told that it is necessary to accept the goodness of other societies and to give more importance to the old culture instead of the wasteful expenditure of marriages which are getting expensive day by day. At the end of the address, she asked to extend the benefits of the meet of marriageable young men and women to as many needy as possible. Prakash Singh Thakur, young men and women, guardians and members of the society were present on this occasion.

### भूमि क्रय करने हेतु निविदा

छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट क्रिकेट संघ (CSCS) को राजधानी रायपुर के आसपास लगभग चौंस आकार की 40 (चालिस) एकड़ भूमि की आवश्यकता है जो सैलीबांधा चौक, रायपुर से लेकर उमरीया (एच एच कॉलेज, एच एच 6 तक) के मध्य मुख्य मार्ग अथवा नेशनल हाईवे से 1 से 2 किलोमीटर अंदर की ओर पूर्व दिशा में स्थित हो अथवा नया रायपुर क्षेत्र में अथवा रिंग रोड क्रमांक 3 (राजू दावा चौक से विधानसभा चौक) के मध्य मुख्य मार्ग अथवा हाईवे से 1 से 2 किलोमीटर अंदर की ओर पूर्व दिशा में स्थित हो। उक्त निविदा हेतु केवल वार्षिक भू स्वामियों से सील बंद लिफाफे में प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जा रहे हैं, निविदा की प्रमुख शर्तें निम्नानुसार हैं :-

- (1) प्रस्तावित भूमि उपरोक्त वर्गित लोकेशन में हो (2) प्रस्तावित भूमि मास्टर प्लान में शामिल न हो, यदि मास्टर प्लान अंतर्गत हो तो भू-उपयोग आवासीय, कॉमर्सियल एवं इंडस्ट्रियल न हो (3) प्रस्तावित भूमि तक लोक परिवहन आसानी से उपलब्ध हो (4) प्रस्तावित भूमि समतल होना चाहिए जिस पर कोई टैरन लाइन्, नाला, नहर, धार्मिक स्थल, कब्र इत्यादि न हो (5) भूमि सभी प्रकार के विचारों से मुक्त हो तथा भूमि से संबंधित कोई भी ऋण, दाय, प्रकरण, शिकायत आदि स्थिति न हो, उक्त सम्पत्ति बंधक, रुक अथवा गिरवी आदि न हो (6) भूमि किसी शासकीय योजना अथवा रोड आदि के लिए प्रस्तावित न हो (7) उक्त भूमि सभी प्रकार के भार, अधिभार से मुक्त हो तथा किसी भी प्रकार से उक्त भूमि पर कोई भी आपत्ति न हो (8) प्रस्तावित भूमियों के अवलोकन के समय समस्त असल (जोकिजल) दस्तावेज क्रेता संस्थान के समक्ष दिखाना (प्रस्तुत) किया जाना आवश्यक होगा।

जो भूमि स्वामी उपयुक्त शर्तों को पूरा करने हेतु वे अपने प्रस्ताव इस विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन होने की तिथि से 30 दिवस के भीतर कार्यालय समय पर 2 सील बंद लिफाफे में भेजे जिसमें लिफाफा क्रमांक 1 में - विज्ञापन हेतु प्रस्तावित भूमि के स्वामित्व से संबंधित एवं समस्त भू अभिलेखों की छाया प्रति जिसमें चालू एवं का खमरा, बी वन, खतोनी, ऊण पुस्तिका, पटवारी नक्शा, भू उपयोग प्रमाण पत्र, मुख्य सड़क से दूरी, भूमि के आकार क्षेत्रफल (लम्बाई-चौड़ाई) आदि की जानकारी हो। लिफाफा क्रमांक 2 में - भूमि की अपेक्षित कीमत अर्थात् प्रति एकड़ विक्रय मूल्य का स्पष्ट अक्षर एवं शब्दों में उल्लेख के साथ विक्रय संबंधी शर्तें एवं भू स्वामियों के आधार कांडों की छायाप्रति के साथ नाम, पता, मोबाइल नम्बर लिखा प्रस्ताव प्रेषित हो। उक्त दोनों लिफाफों पर प्रेक के स्थान पर निविदा प्रस्तुतकर्ता का नाम पता व मोबाइल नम्बर लिखा होना चाहिए। उक्त दोनों लिफाफे क्रमांक 1 एवं 2 को एक बड़े लिफाफे में बंद कर निम्न पते पर प्रेक विद्यमान के साथ प्रेषित किया जावे जिसके शीर्ष में निविदा /CS/CS/2023 लिखकर भेजें। किसी भी प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने, स्पष्ट निरीक्षण करने व अन्य समस्त पूर्ण अधिकार क्रेता के पास सुरक्षित रहेंगे तथा किसी भी प्रस्ताव को निरस्त करने का कोई भी कारण बताना आवश्यक नहीं होगा। (संस्था बाध्य नहीं होगी)।

निविदा /CS/CS/2023 का लिफाफा प्रेषित करने का पता छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट क्रिकेट संघ (CSCS) आर डी सी ए ग्राउण्ड, बुद्ध केस्टल होटल के पीछे, मेमेटी मॉल रोड, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

### WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS)

A unit of BCCI is looking forward for energetic professionals for its office at Raipur.

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Applicant must have knowledge of Tally & maintaining all financial deals, Responsible for timely preparation and submission of financial statements, overseeing the Statutory Auditing Process & Monitoring critical Financial Parameters. Ensuring Regulatory and Statutory filings and compliances of Taxes.

**General Manager - Cricket Operation**  
Applicant must have knowledge of cricket, five years of work experience and fluency in English.

**General Manager - Administration**  
Applicant must have postgraduate/MBA work experience of minimum five years and fluency in English.

**Asst. Manager- Cricket Operation (3 Post)**  
Applicant must have cricket knowledge, graduate degree, ability to conduct cricket activities, computer knowledge and fluency in English and good communication skill.

**Asst. Manager - Administration (2 Post)**  
Applicant must have graduate degree, ability to manage office work, logistic and work experience in similar domain of five years.

**Manager - Accounts**  
Applicant must have knowledge of tally/busy A/c. software to maintain accounts books, tax compliance of all type.

**Store Keeper (2 Post)**  
Applicant must have ability to keep track of all items in store, computer knowledge and graduate degree.

Apply within 7 days with complete resume at below address between 12 noon to 6 pm or e-mail to [cricketcs@gmail.com](mailto:cricketcs@gmail.com)

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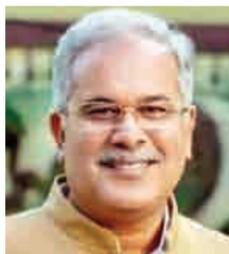
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## Delay in disposal of revenue cases cannot be tolerated: CM

**CM expresses displeasure over delay in disposal of revenue cases**

**Disciplinary action will be taken directly on collectors if delay is found in disposal of revenue cases**

**CM to review revenue matters in the last week of February**



that disciplinary action will be taken considering the collectors directly responsible for delay in the disposal of revenue matters.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister will chair a review meeting of district collectors in the last week of February to discuss the status of district-wise revenue cases including cases of name transfer, demarcation, diversion, land allotment, settlement, and free-hold cases, as well as regularization of illegal constructions

and land allotment to urban bodies at the rate of Rs 1 per square feet.

It is worth mentioning that quick disposal of revenue cases is among the top priorities of the state government. Instructions were issued by the government from time to time in this regard. However, keeping in view the slow progress than expected, Chief Minister has taken the matter seriously and given strict instructions to the officials concerned to do the needful.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is taking direct feedback from the general public regarding the government schemes including revenue matters as a part of his state-wide 'Bhent Mulaqat Abhiyan'. During these programmes, he gave instructions to the officials concerned to clear revenue-related cases fast.

## DAVians attend PPC-2023



**Bacheli, Jan 30:** On 27th January, 2023, the students of classes X & XI of DAVPS BACHELI along with their Principal -Dr. Chetna Sharma and teachers, watched the live telecast of sixth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC), conducted by the Ministry of Education, held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, started interacting with students, teachers and parents on the upcoming

board exams 2023. Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event in which the Prime Minister addressed the questions related to time management, board exam stress and anxiety. PM Modi's Mantra to tackle stress was, 'Zindagi ek hi station par nahi rukti'. He said, "There is a very thin line between criticism and obstruction. Parents must criticise in a constructive and positive way". He also added, "Teachers should connect with their students". They should main-

tain a strong bond with their students. If they don't know the answer to any question asked by the students, then it is the responsibility of teachers to research and provide the correct answers. Thus, every questions were beautifully and wisely answered by the Prime Minister and students, teachers and parents were satisfied and the event was concluded by taking away the thought that, 'Exam is not a reason of worry but a season of celebration'.

## IIM Raipur launches PG prog in Digital Health for doctors

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Digital Health Academy (an SBU of Digital Health Associates Pvt Ltd.) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur have launched a Programme in Digital Health for doctors and healthcare professionals. This year-long, online program targeting healthcare and management professionals will enable people to become Certified Digital Health Professional (CDHP).

Designed for physicians, allied healthcare professionals, healthcare administration specialists, and life sciences professionals, the CDHP course is an introduction to healthcare management. Course objectives include enhancing competence levels in using digital tools across the continuum of care. As the healthcare industry moves into the digital age, digitalization will be the next big thing. Digital health training remains a major challenge for clinicians, paramedics, and support staff. Given the big push from the government on Digital Health, and the need for digital health

across organizations in Private sector, this skilling program will fill the huge unmet need. Dr. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur, said, "Continuous education in any sector means staying on top of the game by sustaining the competition and mastering the emerging trends. As healthcare transitions to the digital age, our partnership with Digital Health Academy will facilitate global courses and will help in overall patient access solutions". According to Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Founder of Digital Health Academy, "India has become a world leader in Digital Health, and to achieve the vision set by the Prime Minister, we need to be a global leader in capacity building for Digital Health. Through CDHP, we aim to bring excellence in digital health globally. Doctors must learn the technology before technology learns medicine. Over the next three years, a million people will be required to be formally trained in digital health; Digital Health Academy will play a major role in training people in Digital Health".

## APS pays tribute to Mahatma on his Martyr's Day

**Bemetara, Jan 30:** The tributes were paid on 75th

Punya Tithi of Mahatma Gandhi. The event started by lighting a lamp in front of the portrait of Bapuji and garlanding it by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal, teachers and students. After that Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye, Peer Parai Jaane Re and Raghu Pati Raghav Raja Ram, Patit Pavaan Sita Ram were sung by the Principal, teachers and all the students of the school.

Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal said that Gandhi ji was not only a man but it is a philosophy. The country like India always remembers two personalities one as Sudharshan Chakradhari Mohan as the God of Hindu religion and another is Charkhadhari Mohan as the father of the nation. Gandhi ji is a path finder for everyone. He gave the



path of truth and non-violence which gave the invaluable gift of the freedom from the slavery of the British mutiny. If we want to see the Ramraj in our country then we have to follow the Gandhian philosophy which will give us the strength and indomitable will. The Gandhian philosophy is based on three pillars - Ahimsa, Satyagraha and Swaraj. Gandhi promoted an economic theory of simple living and high thinking focused the self-

sufficiency or import substitution, rather than generating exports to the universe. He envisioned a more agrarian India upon independence that would focus on meeting the material needs of its citizens prior to generating wealth and industrialisation. It is the prayer from Allons family to Bapuji and sacrificed holy soul on this rememberable martyrs' day for the strength and wisdom of the Gandhian philosophy to march ahead to make India as a developed

country. According to him Gandhi Ji is an embodiment of universal brotherhood, peace, harmony, equality, equity and love to each other. He wanted to bring secularism everywhere. We must not discriminate on the basis of religion, caste, creed, colour, languages and nationality because it is against the Gandhian philosophy. He will be remembered forever for his heroic deeds. He is not only an Indian leader and monk but achieved the universal fame. Gandhi ji started many movements for the independence of the country, no section or region of the country was left untouched by them. He started many movements such as the Champaran movement, the Rowlatt Act, the Khilafat Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement, the Non-Cooperation Movement,

the Quit India Movement. He removed many social evils from the society. Gandhiji was the sun of peace, truth and non-violence, whose rays are illuminating the whole world. He advised the students to follow the path shown by Babuji.

Two minutes silence was observed across the campus of Allons in the memory of Bapuji and the contribution of the martyr. Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Chauhan recited an English Poem and the English speech on Gandhiji was given by a student named Ankush Thakur and the Hindi speech was given by Rupanshu Anand.

Kamaljeet Arora, Chairman, Pushkal Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Administrator, teachers and students were present on this occasion.

## Ch'garh bags third position in Nat'l Thai Boxing



**Raipur, Jan 30:** The recently concluded Federation Cup National Thai Boxing Championship in Guwahati witnessed Chhattisgarh team bagging third position by winning 14 medals (04 Gold, 07 Silver and 03 Bronze). In the state team five players

of Shri Gujrati School played excellently and won three gold and two silver medals. All the players of Chhattisgarh team won medals. About 550 players participated in this tournament. The gold winners of Gujrati school are Manju Sahu, Tisa Sahu, Mansi Tandi and

Mohammed Haider. In this tournament Chhattisgarh Thai Boxing Sangh president Anis Memon and International Referee Tikeswari Sahu formed part of judges' panel. The team will return to Raipur on February 01. Warm welcome will be accorded to the team at the station.

## DAV Public School celebrate 74th R-Day

**Bacheli, Jan 30:** On this day, the school conducted special assembly comprising of only teaching and non teaching staff to commemorate this day. The celebrations began early in the morning with the unfurling of the National Flag by respected Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and the national anthem was sung.

This was followed by a stirring and heart breaking poem by Mr. R.K Pandey written on a painful adieu of Vibhuti Narayan Singh, a martyr in Kargil War. Later, the Principal delivered a speech telling how India won its political freedom and its significance in education. How important is it to liberate the society out of the shackles of illiteracy, poverty and communal-



ism. School Education must barge in the discrimination, uphold the principles of Constitution and should promote peace, fraternity among all communities and build strong and pragmatic citizens for future India.

Mr. Mukteshwar Singh proposed the vote of thanks. The national event was anchored by Mrs. Bindu K.

## Raipur district open Yogasan sports championship held

**Raipur, Jan 30:** District Yogasan Association (RDYSA) successfully organized "Raipur District Open Yogasan Sports Championship" on Jan 29 in Raipur.

As per the direction of the Government of India and under the guidance of National Yogasan Sports Federation (NYSF) and Chhattisgarh Yogasan Sports Association (CGYSA), RDYSA organizes this championship to encourage Yogasan sports in Raipur district and to provide platform to talented Yogasan players to showcase their talents.

In which 127 players participated and there were 2 events in this competition: Viz. 1. Traditional 2. Artistic Yogasana Pair. In which competition was held in 4 age categories:



under 14 years, under 17 years, under 19 years, over 19 years. Players of Columbia Global School Raipur won many medals in the competition. In the Artistic Yogasana Pair, under 17 years, in the girls category, Sakshi Verma gave her best performance and got the first gold medal and second place silver medal in the traditional competition category. In Artistic Yogasana Pair, below 14 years, in the girls category, Veena Singh Thakur and Yashika Verma got third place

bronze medal, Siddhi Shree and Sanskriti God got fourth place, Myra Khan and Manyata Sahu got fifth place.

Shivam Yadav and Rudra Singh Thakur secured fifth place in Artistic Yogasana Pair, under 14 years, boys category. Apart from this, consolation prizes were given to Antara Verma, Avni Verma, Navya Tiwari and Kanishka Verma.

Among other players, the performance of Adya Chandravanshi, Almyra Fatima, Ajna Sherwani,

## 'State-of-the-art robotic cancer surgeries being done for the first time in state'

**Raipur, Jan 30:** In a major medical achievement, doctors at Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital in Chhattisgarh have successfully performed the state's first robotic esophagectomy by the surgical team of Dr. Diwakar Pandey, Senior Surgical Oncologist at Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital. Along with this, the surgical team of Senior Surgical Oncologist Dr. Arpan Chaturmohta also performed a successful operation on a cancerous kidney of the patient to save kidney by removing the



cancerous tissues through a complex partial nephrectomy procedure with the help of state-of-the-art robotic and frozen techniques. Dr. Diwakar

Pandey explained about the Robotic Esophagectomy procedure, that this complex procedure (which involves removal of the esophagus)

has been successfully treated using state-of-the-art robotic surgical systems for the first time. A 45-year-old man suffering from esophageal cancer was operated upon at Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital, Raipur. This surgery (which usually takes several hours to complete) was completed in just two hours using a robotic system. After treatment, the patient is now fine.

Dr. Arpan Chaturmohta told that a 61-year-old woman suffering from kidney cancer underwent robotic partial nephrectomy and kidney saving sur-

gery with the help of frozen section technique. This complex procedure was performed with the help of a robotic system, allowing smaller incisions, dexterity of the robotic arms, and less blood loss, contributing to the success of the procedure and minimal harm to the patient. Earlier it was treated by removing the kidney, but with the help of advanced robotic system and frozen section technique, 85 percent of the kidney on one side and the entire kidney on the other side were saved. This is a huge achieve-

ment for the state of Chhattisgarh and the field of robotic surgery. The use of robotic systems is becoming increasingly common in complex procedures such as esophagectomy, partial nephrectomy, and is expected to continue to improve cancer patient outcomes and recovery times in the future. Both procedures allowed the use of robotic systems to increase control, resulting in less blood loss due to smaller incisions and a better and quicker patient recovery from the procedure than usual.

## Khadi provides maximum employment opportunities for people: Rudrakumar



**Rural Industries Minister participated in the 'Talk-show on Khadi' program**

**Raipur, Jan 30:** Rural Industries Minister Guru Rudrakumar attended the "Talk-show on Khadi" program at the capital's Shaheed Smarak Auditorium. Speaking at the event, Minister Guru Rudra Kumar stated that work is being done to move Gandhiji's ideals and concepts forward under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. Efforts have been undertaken over the previous four years to offer individuals jobs through the Khadi programs. We'll take it a step further in the future to continue promoting khadi. Every attempt is being made to bring Khadi to the masses and promote Khadi clothing. Minister Guru Rudrakumar congratulated and wished the organizing committee, saying that more such events should be arranged so that 'Khadi' can gain a new identity.

A fashion exhibition was also held as part of Jandhara Multimedia Group's "Talk-show on Khadi" program. Khadi-clad housewives and models spread their charm on the runway by wearing clothes designed by the students of AAFU University. On this occasion, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Board Mr. Rajendra Tiwari, Editor-in-Chief of Jandhara Multimedia Group Mr. Subhash Mishra, Mr. Arun Bhadra, Mrs. Renu Tiwari and Rammilan Sahu, Chief Operating Officer Raipur Smart City Limited Mr. Ujjwal Porwal, officials of Rural Village Industries Department along with other People were present. Mr. Rajendra Tiwari and Mr. Subhash Mishra also addressed the program. During the program, Minister Guru Rudrakumar honored the members of Mor Raipur, a senior citizens group associated with Swachh Raipur, and employees of Raipur Police by presenting mementos for their excellent work.



## BRIEF



**Bollywood actor Neena Gupta during a lunch with Mumbai's Dabbawalas during a promotional event for their movie 'Shiv Shastri Balboa', in Mumbai, Monday.**

## State honour

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government on Sunday evening said state honour would be accorded to Naba Kishore Das, the health and family welfare minister who died in hospital hours after being shot by a policeman. A government release said there will be no official entertainment for three days from January 29-31 throughout the state.

## Disturbed

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said she was "shocked and disturbed" by the death of Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das and offered her deepest condolences to his family members. Das died on Sunday after he was shot allegedly by an assistant sub-inspector in Odisha's Jharsuguda district. The accused policeman is believed to be suffering from a mental disorder.

## Inaugurated

**Ranchi:** A school, built at Rs 8 crore grant from the Centre, was inaugurated in Jharkhand's Ranchi for students coming from economically weaker families. Dedicating the educational institute to underprivileged children, US-based Self-Realization Fellowship and India-headquartered Yogoda Satsanga Society president Swami Chidanand Giri said the modern school will be for those who do not have enough resources to fulfil basic needs such as education.

## Fake

**Shimla:** Suspected cyber criminals have allegedly created a fake Instagram account of Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and are demanding money in his name. Arlekar said on Monday that some miscreants were demanding money using a fake account created in his name and asked people to be aware and not entertain their demands. Himachal Pradesh Police have already asked the authorities concerned to deactivate the account after registering a formal complaint.

## Inspection

**Kolkata:** A mandatory inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) was conducted on Monday for the newly constructed Orange metro line between Kavi Subash and Hemanta Mukherjee stations, an official said. The inspection and clearance by the CRS is necessary for running commercial services in any new railway line.

# 'BJP to form next govt in Tripura'

## CM files nomination

Agartala, Jan 30 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday claimed that BJP will form the next government on its own strength in Tripura in the February 16 Assembly poll. Sarma accompanied Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha to file his nomination from Town Bardowali seat on Monday, the last day to file nominations. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh also accompanied them.

The party will emerge victorious because the development in the north-east state during the past five years under the BJP-led government, he told the media on the sidelines.



Himanta Biswa Sarma

"BJP will be able to form the next government in Tripura on its own strength because of development during the past five years. The saffron party has decided to fight the election alone for the unity and development of the state and to ensure the people's rights," said Sarma, who arrived here

on Sunday night to be present during the submission of nomination papers of Saha and BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee.

"There should not be any doubt about BJP's victory in the Assembly election on the basis of development that Tripura has witnessed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream for the country and the face of the chief minister," he said. The saffron party has an alliance with the IPFT like the last term as it is an "old friend", he said. Hitting out at the opposition, Sarma, who is also the chairman North East Democratic Alliance of BJP, said the Congress is "a big zero in the entire country while the CPI (M) is nowhere in the world".

# 'Acts of terrorism under control in Assam'

Kokrajhar (Assam), Jan 30 (PTI):

Acts of terrorism have been brought under control in Assam, DGP-designate Gyanendra Pratap Singh said, emphasising that the police force will now engage in development works.

Speaking on the occasion of the 74th Foundation Day of Village Defence Organisation on Sunday, Singh also underscored the need to fight against social evils like child marriage, drug abuse and human trafficking. "The acts of terrorism have almost come under control. Now, the Assam Police along with the VDP (Village Defence Party) will primarily engage in the development works as part of the nation-building measures," he said.

Singh, the Special DGP (Law and Order), appealed



Gyanendra Pratap Singh

to the VDPs across the state to extend all possible help and cooperation to the Assam Police in tackling social menaces. The senior officer will assume the top post of Assam Police on February 1.

Earlier during the day, Singh, in a series of tweets, urged officers to provide a platform to the people to exchange ideas and communicate with junior, middle and senior police leadership in times of crisis.

# Protest against eviction drive rocks Jammu

Jammu, Jan 30 (PTI):

Scores of people staged a protest in Sunjwan-Bathindi on the city's outskirts against the Jammu and Kashmir administration's ongoing anti-encroachment drive to retrieve "illegally occupied" land. The authorities have served public notices to violators in the area and ordered them to remove illegal constructions within seven days.

Carrying Tricolours, the protesters, including women and children, poured onto the main road in driving rain and tried to march towards the Civil Secretariat against the eviction order, officials said. However, police stopped the march while a sub-divisional magistrate tried to persuade the protesters to disperse.

The sub-divisional magistrate invited the demonstrators for talks and as-



Delegates being traditionally welcomed as they arrive to attend the G20 first education working group meeting from January 31, at the Chennai International Airport, in Chennai, Monday.

## Sunni Students' Federation

# 'No need to defame country to oppose policies of Govt'

Kozhikode (Kerala), Jan 30 (PTI):

The Sunni Students' Federation (SSF) has said the ruling dispensation of the country should be "corrected" but not by creating hatred against the nation.

A resolution passed on Sunday at the state conference of the SSF, the student wing of the A P K a n t h a p u r a m Aboobacker Musliyar faction of the Samastha Kerala Jem-Iyyathul Ulama, said there was no need to defame the country in order to oppose the policies of the government.

The resolution said Islam cannot accept turning hatred towards fascism and its violent nature into hate against the nation.

"The ruling government should be corrected but not by creating hatred against the country. The country and its ruling dispensation should be seen as two different entities. And there is no need to defame the country in order to oppose the policies of the government," the resolution read.

It said the values of the nation should be upheld uncompromisingly even while raising strong criticisms against the government.

"The Sangh Parivar's politics of hatred should not be countered by hate-mongering. A country is not its government. Our country has remained secular through ages. That culture must not be tainted," the resolution read.

## UNIQUE PROTEST



Kerala Students Union activists stage a protest with bananas against left leader and Kerala Youth Commission Chairperson Chintha Jerome, whose PhD Dissertation had allegedly attributed to another poet, in Thiruvananthapuram, Monday.

# Centenary celebration of 'Mathrubhumi' to mark beginning of 4th edition

## Of literary fest

**Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 30 (PTI):** The centenary celebrations of one of the leading media houses in the country - Mathrubhumi - would mark the beginning of the 4th edition of a literary fest in the State capital of Kerala.

The four-day long event - Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023) - would begin on February 2 and end on February 5, said a release from the media house. One of the

largest cultural events - MBIFL - would bring together global literary icons and formidable names in art, media, politics, social work and films to engage in absorbing conversations on an array of issues. Discussions would also be held on three literary classics - handalabhikshuki of Kumaran Asan, The Waste Land of T S Eliot, and The Prophet of Khalil Gibran.

The sessions of MBIFL would begin with a keynote address by Jnanpith Laureate M T Vasudevan Nair on February 2 and Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan would formally inaugurate the festival the same evening, the release said.

"MBIFL 2023, also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam, will witness a formidable line-up of Nobel and Booker Prize winners and Jnanpith awardees, who will be among more than 400 eminent names in creative fields," it said. The theme of the event is 'Shadows of History, Lights of the Future', it added.

On the inaugural day of MBIFL, Tanzania-born British author and Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak

Gurnah would speak on "Shadows of History; Lights of Future" while Booker Prize winner and Omani author Jokha Alharthi would give her perspective on "Fiction as a Tool for Social Change for Arab Women."

The list of speakers on the inaugural day includes also Jnanpith awardee Amitav Ghosh on "Stories of the More-Than-Human: Fiction in an Age of Planetary Crisis."

The festival would conclude with Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai addressing the valedictory session.

## Quake

**Ahmedabad, Jan 30 (PTI):** An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude hit Gujarat's Kutch district on Monday morning, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. There was no report of any loss of life or damage to property, district authorities said.

The earthquake was recorded at 6.38 am with its epicentre 11 km north-north east of Dudhai village in the district, the Gandhinagar-based ISR said in an update on its website.

## Emergency

**Kochi, Jan 30 (PTI):** A full emergency was declared briefly at the Cochin International Airport here Sunday evening as an Air India Express flight from Sharjah experienced suspected hydraulic failure during landing, a CIAL spokesperson said. All 183 passengers and six crew members onboard flight IX 412 were safe, an Air India Express spokesperson said.

# No parole for TADA convicts as per rules in Maha: HC

Nagpur, Jan 30 (PTI):

The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to grant parole to a prisoner convicted under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, noting that convicts of "terrorist crimes" are not eligible for parole, as per rules in Maharashtra.

A division bench of Justices S B Shukre and M W Chandwani on December 2, 2022 dismissed a petition filed by convict Hasan Mehndi Sheikh, serving life imprisonment in the Amravati Central Prison, seeking regular parole to see his ailing wife. Sheikh was convicted for various offences including under stringent provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive

Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA).

He approached the HC after the jail authorities rejected his application on the ground that he was not eligible for grant of parole under provisions of the Prisons (Bombay Furlough and Parole) Rules.

The high court in its order noted that there was a specific provision in the Rules which disqualifies a convict under TADA from getting benefit of regular parole.

"It is clear that there is a bar placed upon prisoners who are convicted for terrorist crimes, TADA is about terrorist crime, from being released on regular parole," the court said. "The petitioner is convicted under TADA and therefore he would not be eligible for grant of regular parole,"

the HC added. Sheikh had in his plea relied on a 2017 judgment of the Supreme Court holding that even if a convict is found to be guilty under the TADA provisions, this would not disqualify him from seeking regular parole.

The high court, however, refused to accept this and said the prisoner in the SC case was from Rajasthan and hence not governed by the Rules for prisoners in Maharashtra.

"The apex court has acknowledged the fact that many state governments have formulated guidelines on parole in order to bring out objectivity in the decision making and to decide as to whether parole needs to be granted in a particular case or not," the HC said.

# Man's heart flown to Pune for ailing Army soldier

Indore, Jan 30 (PTI):

The heart of a 34-year-old brain dead man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore was flown to Pune in a special plane of the Indian Army on Monday to be transplanted to a soldier suffering from a heart ailment, an official said.

Pradeep Aswani, a vegetable trader from Ujjain, sustained a serious head injury in a road accident on the night of January 20 and was admitted to a private hospital in Indore for treatment, the official from Indore Society for Organ Donation said.

Aswani's condition did not improve and the doctors declared him brain dead, he said.

The man's grief-stricken family agreed to donate his organs, following which surgeons retrieved his heart, liver, kidneys and



Neelam Khushlani, sister of 34-year-old Pradeep Aswani, shows a photo of her brother, who was declared brain dead after a road accident.

eyes, the official said.

Talking to PTI, Indore's Divisional Commissioner (Revenue) Dr Pawan Kumar Sharma said that a team of Army doctors took the heart harvested from Aswani's body to Pune in a special plane and the organ will be transplanted to the

soldier.

Aswani's elder sister Neelam Khushlani said, "It is a matter of great pride for our family that my late brother's heart is going to be transplanted to a soldier. I feel that (after the heart transplant) my brother will live as a soldier and serve the country." Meanwhile, Aswani's kidneys, liver and eyes will be transplanted to needy patients in local hospitals, said Sandipan Arya, a volunteer of "Muskan Group", an organisation associated with the Indore Society for Organ Donation.

According to eyewitnesses, Aswani's body was sent for last rites from a private hospital in the city.

Personnel from the Madhya Pradesh police sounded the bugle as a tribute to Aswani in the presence of local Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani and doctors.

## Drone attack targets defence facility in Isfahan: Iran

Dubai, Jan 29 (AP)

Bomb-carrying drones targeted an Iranian defence factory in the central city of Isfahan overnight, authorities said Sunday, causing some damage at the plant amid heightened regional and international tensions engulfing the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian Defence Ministry offered no information on who it suspected carried out the attack, which came as a refinery fire separately broke out in the country's northwest and a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck nearby, killing three people.

However, Tehran has been targeted in suspected Israeli drone strikes amid a shadow war with its Mideast rival as its nuclear deal with world powers collapsed. Meanwhile, tensions also remain high with neighbouring Azerbaijan after a gunman attacked that country's embassy in Tehran, killing its security chief and wounding two others.

Details on the Isfahan at-

tack, which happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday, remained scarce. A Defence Ministry statement described three drones being launched at the facility, with two of them successfully shot down. A third apparently made it through to strike the building, causing "minor damage" to its roof and wounding no one, the ministry said.

The state-run IRNA news agency later described the drones as "quadcopters equipped with bombs." Quadcopters, which get their name from having four rotors, typically operate from short ranges by remote control. Iranian state television later aired footage of debris from the drones, which resembled commercially available quadcopters.

State TV aired mobile phone video apparently showing the moment that drone struck along the busy Imam Khomeini Expressway that heads northwest out of Isfahan, one of several ways for drivers to go to the holy city of Qom and Tehran, Iran's capital. A small crowd stood

gathered, drawn by anti-aircraft fire, watching as an explosion and sparks struck a dark building.

"Oh my God! That was a drone, wasn't it?" the man filming shouts. "Yeah, it was a drone."

Those there fled after the strike.

That footage of the strike, as well as footage of the aftermath analyzed by The Associated Press, corresponded to a site near Minoo Street in northwestern Isfahan that's near a shopping center that includes a carpet and an electronics store. Later state TV footage confirmed the location and showed two points of damage at the facility's roof, likely from the explosion.

The Defence Ministry only called the site a "workshop," without elaborating. Isfahan, some 350 kilometers (215 miles) south of Tehran, is home to both a large air base built for its fleet of American-made F-14 fighter jets and its Nuclear Fuel Research and Production Center. The attack comes after Iran's Intelligence Ministry in

July claimed to have broken up a plot to target sensitive sites around Isfahan. A segment aired on Iranian state TV in October included purported confessions by alleged members of Komala, a Kurdish opposition party that is exiled from Iran and now lives in Iraq, that they planned to target a military aerospace facility in Isfahan after being trained by Israel's Mossad intelligence service.

Activists say Iranian state TV has aired hundreds of coerced confessions over the last decade. Israeli officials declined to comment on the attack.

Meeting later alongside his Qatari counterpart, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian criticized the "cowardly attack" when asked if it would affect the country's nuclear program. "Such moves can't impact our nuclear scientists will and intentions to achieve peaceful nuclear energy," Amirabdollahian said. Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said

he passed a message from the Americans to Iran that related to its nuclear program, without offering specifics.

Separately, Iran's state TV said a fire broke out at an oil refinery in an industrial zone near the northwestern city of Tabriz. An IRNA report later blamed the fire on "wear and tear" of the site's piping. Tabriz is some 520 kilometers (325 miles) northwest of Tehran. State TV also said the magnitude 5.9 earthquake killed three people and injured 816 others in rural areas in West Azerbaijan province, damaging buildings in many villages. Iran's theocratic government faces challenges both at home and abroad as its nuclear program rapidly enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels since the collapse of its atomic accord with world powers.

Nationwide protests have shaken the country since the September death of Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish-Iranian woman detained by the country's morality police.

## PROTEST RALLY



Muslim protesters burn posters during a rally outside the Swedish Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Trucks crash into commuters; 20 dead

Abuja, Jan 30 (AP):

Two separate road crashes involving trucks in southern Nigeria left 20 people dead, including children, authorities said, with many of the victims burned beyond recognition.

In Nigeria's commercial hub of Lagos, a truck carrying a heavy container landed on a commercial

bus on a busy bridge in the Ojuelegba area of the city. Dr. Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu with the state emergency response agency said in a statement Sunday.

"Further investigations revealed that the bus was picking up passengers when the truck lost control and fell over the side of the bridge," he said.

Only one woman sur-

vived while nine passengers, including two children, died in the crash, he added.

Residents quickly gathered at the scene minutes after the truck fell on the bus but none of the passengers could be pulled out under the weight of the 20-foot container until officials arrived with rescue tools about one hour later.

## At least 22 dead in Benin bus crash

Cotonou (Benin), Jan 30 (AP):

At least 22 people were killed and nearly two dozen injured when a public bus crashed into a truck in the centre of Benin, the government on Monday.

The president's director of communications posted on Facebook that first responders had immediately been dispatched to the scene of the crash that occurred near the town of Dassa-Zoume on Sunday.

"In this painful circumstance, the government expresses its sympathy to the whole nation and presents its deepest condolences to all the grieving families. This tragedy has once again reminded us that safety on our roads remains a constant challenge and urges us to take even stronger actions for a

more effective safety of people and goods," the director said.

A crisis unit has been set up for relatives to get information.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

An investigation has been opened into the circumstances of the crash, said authorities. Images and videos of the crash shared on social chat groups and seen by The Associated Press show the bus in flames and a charred body on the ground as one man tried to put out the fire with a jerry can of water.

About 21 people had burn injuries to varying degrees, said Benjamin Hounkpatin, the health minister during an interview with state television on Sunday.

## Imran Khan to contest all 33 parliamentary seats

In upcoming bypolls

Lahore, Jan 30 (PTI):

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan will contest all 33 parliamentary seats in the bypolls to be held in March, his party has announced.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday evening, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice-chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the decision was taken during the party's core committee meeting.

"Imran Khan will be PTI's sole candidate in all 33 parliamentary seats. The decision was taken in the party's core committee meeting which was presided over by Khan at

Zaman Park Lahore on Sunday," Qureshi said.

On Friday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that bypolls to 33 seats of the National Assembly will be held on March 16.

Khan's party had quit the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan parliament, en masse following his ouster from power in April last in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence.

However, Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf did not accept the resignations and said he needed to individually verify if the lawmakers were resigning of their own accord.

Last month, the speaker accepted the resignations of 35 PTI lawmakers, after which the ECP de-notified them.

## Tunisian voters shun elections seen as test for democracy

Tunis, Jan 30 (AP):

Voters in Tunisia massively shunned parliamentary elections seen as an important test for their president and their country's troubled democracy, according to preliminary figures. Independent observers reported scattered violations. Turnout was just 11.3 per cent of Tunisia's 8 million voters, according to preliminary estimates from the national electoral commission on Sunday. That is about the same level of participation as in the first round of voting last month. Many disaffected Tunisians stayed away, and the influential Islamist party Ennahdha and other opposition movements boycotted. The runoff elections

were being watched around the Arab world. They're seen as a conclusive step in President Kais Saied's push to consolidate power, tame Islamist rivals and win back lenders and investors needed to save the teetering economy.

But the low turnout casts doubt on the future parliament's legitimacy and could complicate Saied's plans. Election officials are expected to announce the official preliminary results on Wednesday.

Voters were choosing lawmakers to replace the last parliament, led by Ennahdha, which Saied suspended in 2021 and later disbanded. He then had the constitution rewritten to give more power to the president and less to the legislature.

Analysts note a growing crisis of confidence between citizens and the political class since Tunisia's 2011 revolution unleashed Arab Spring uprisings across the region, and led Tunisians to create a new democratic political system once seen as a model. It's now seen as disintegrating.

In the first-round elections, 10 candidates secured seats outright in the 161-seat parliament without winning any votes because they ran unopposed. No candidates bothered to run in seven constituencies; electoral officials say those seats will be filled in special elections at a later date. At a voting station in the Tunis suburb of Soukra, people trickled in to mark their ballots and drop them in a plastic box.

Multiple independent organisations reported violations in Sunday's voting. In a statement, the associations Chahed (Witness) and Mourakiboun (Controllers) said some polling station heads refused to provide their observers access to data on turnout rates or the number of voters in their constituencies. Chahed also reported violations of rules prohibiting election-day campaigning and said authorities used administrative vehicles to transport voters to polling stations. The vice president of the National Union of Tunisian Journalists, Amira Mohamed, said on Mosaïque radio that journalists were barred from some voting stations, contrary to electoral rules.

## 'COVID still an emergency but nearing 'inflection' point'



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Geneva, Jan 30 (AP):

The coronavirus remains a global health emergency, the World Health Organization chief said Monday, after a key advisory panel found the pandemic may be nearing an "inflection point" where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths. Speaking at the opening of WHO's annual executive board meeting, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "there is no doubt that we're in a far better situation now" than a year ago when the highly transmissible Omicron variant was at its peak.

But Tedros warned that in the last eight weeks, at least 1,70,000 people have died around the world in connection with the coronavirus. He called for at-risk groups to be fully vaccinated, an increase in testing and early use of antivirals,

an expansion of lab networks, and a fight against "misinformation" about the pandemic.

"We remain hopeful that in the coming year, the world will transition to a new phase in which we reduce hospitalizations and deaths to the lowest possible level," he said.

Tedros' comments came moments after WHO released findings of its emergency committee on the pandemic which reported that some 13.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered with nearly 90 per cent of health workers and more than four in five people over 60 years of age having completed the first series of jabs. "The

committee acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic may be approaching an inflection point," WHO said in a statement. Higher levels of immunity worldwide through vaccination or infection "may limit the impact" of the virus that causes COVID-19 on "morbidity and mortality," the committee said.

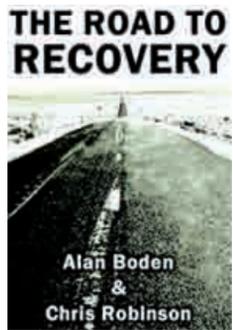
"(B)ut there is little doubt that this virus will remain a permanently established pathogen in humans and animals for the foreseeable future," it said. While Omicron versions are easily spread, "there has been a decoupling between infection and severe disease" compared to that of earlier variants.

## New book documents revival of Gandhi's Tolstoy Farm in SA

Johannesburg, Jan 30 (PTI):

A new book launched at the historic Tolstoy Farm, the commune started by Mahatma Gandhi during his tenure in Johannesburg at the turn of the 19th century, was officially launched here ahead of the iconic leader's 75th death anniversary.

The book titled Tolstoy Farm the Road to Recovery was launched on Sunday and shares how Gandhian enthusiast Mohan Hira almost single-handedly changed the completely vandalised Tolstoy Farm, overgrown by grass and bush, to where it today has a Garden of Remembrance, fruit orchards, a library and a museum.



The author, a veteran South African journalist and PTI Correspondent in South Africa Fakir Hassen, shared how this book came about. "This book is not a complete historical record of the revival of Tolstoy Farm, nor is it an academic exercise on its relevance today, but rather just a collection of some of what I have reported over the last two decades or so," he said. Hassen has written

books on the contemporary history of South African Indians, including three on Gandhi. Gandhi, the father of the nation, was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on this day in 1948.

The author said the idea of this book was initiated in November 2022 when he joined Indian Consul General Anju Ranjan at Tolstoy Farm as speakers at the official opening of the library, put up in

record time by Hira and his colleagues at the Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organisation (MGRO).

"I had known about Tolstoy Farm from the 1970s when I was a young journalist with the Lenasia Times. I recall seeing some fruit trees and the remains of the wood and iron building that was once Gandhi's home during his tenure in Johannesburg," he said.

**Directorate of Medical Education**  
Old Nurses Hostel, DKS Bhawan Parisar, Raipur (C.G.)  
Ph. No. 0771-2234450, 2222212 E-mail - cgdme@rediffmail.com

No. 841/Estt-1/DME/2023 Raipur, Dated 25/01/2023

**Walk in interview**

Applications are invited on behalf of Govt. Dental College, Raipur (C.G.) for the following vacant posts through walk in interview on Dated 08-02-2023 The qualification and maximum age limit would be as per current DCI norms and as per Chhattisgarh Contractual Appointment Rules-2012.

S.N.	POST (SUBJECT)	SANCTIONED POST	VACANCY	CATEGORY	Consolidated Salary (per Month)	Qualifications
				UR ST SC OBC		
<b>PROFESSOR (DENTAL)</b>						
1	Community Dentistry	01	01	01	Rs. 1,80,000/-	As per current DCI Norms

Regarding details of terms & conditions, application and declaration form for the above posts and current vacancy status kindly visit our website [www.cgdme.in](http://www.cgdme.in) or [www.govtdentalcollege.raipur.in](http://www.govtdentalcollege.raipur.in).

**Director of Medical Education**  
Chhattisgarh

G-98036/1

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**Tender Notice (1st Call)**

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works:-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
147/120031	Construction of Tahsil Office at Dharsiwa, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Rs. 63.46 Lakh
156/120040	Road Fixture & Road Marking in Various Internal Road Under Maintenance Sub-Division at Raipur, Vidhansabha West Area. 1. Construction of B.T. & C.C. Road Hanuman Mandir Main Road, Bajrang Nagar Bhim Nagar & Vasudevpara. 2. Construction of C.C. & B.T. Work Internal Roads Under Mangal Bazar, Idgabhata. 3. Construction of C.C. & B.T. Work Internal Roads Under Ashok Nagar Area. 4. Construction of B.T. & C.C. Road From Sukwari Bazar to Masjid Road, Kabir Cowk Via Janhit Cowk to Braman Para Distt-Raipur (C.G.) 5. Construction of New C.C. Road & Bt Work Over Damage C.C. & B.T. Road at Kota Area Fourway Direction Distt-Raipur. 6. Construction of Bt Work over Damage C.C. & B.T. Road at Gudhiyari Fourway Area District-Raipur	Rs. 110.27 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 17.02.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note - All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Superintending Engineer**  
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1  
Raipur (C.G.)

G-980172

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**  
HASDEO BASIN, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, BILASPUR (C.G.)

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

**(SECOND CALL)**

System Tender No. : 121722/NIT No. : 15/SAC/2022-23  
Dated : 27.01.2023

Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 13.02.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION C.C. LINING MAIN CANAL OF SALKA DIVERSION SCHEME BETWEEN R.D. 3640M TO 9120M. AND LAYING OF TWO ROW R.C.C. HUME PIPE 1200MM BETWEEN R.D. 3450M TO 3640M, 4410M TO 5880M, 7590 TO 8190M & 10980 TO 11380M INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICE ROAD, AND C.C. LINING OF AMALI MINOR FORM R.D. 0M TO 390. INCLUDING OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

Probable Amount of Contract: -Rs. 713.52 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 03.02.2023 at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note : 1. All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/ supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

2. Probable Amount of Contract (P.A.C.) is as per S.O.R. 01.08.2010. (As Amendments 01.08.2014).

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION KOTA (C.G.)  
For, Chief Engineer  
Hasdeo Basin, Water Resources Deptt., Bilaspur (C.G.)

G-98044/2



## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Troubled waters of the Indus

India's notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is an unprecedented move. It means the treaty can be opened for re-negotiations for the first time in over six decades. The bilateral agreement was signed in September, 1960, and survived three wars, the Kargil conflict, and the terror attacks in Mumbai and Kashmir. The objective of the notice for modification is to provide Pakistan an opportunity to enter into inter-governmental negotiations within 90 days to rectify the material breach of IWT. Pakistan's "intransigence" forced India to issue the notice of modification and update the treaty to "incorporate the lessons learned over the last 62 years". The IWT was signed by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan in Karachi on September 19, 1960, after nine years of negotiations between the two countries. "All the waters of the Eastern Rivers shall be available for the unrestricted use of India, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Article," states Article II (1) of the treaty, referring to Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. On Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, the treaty's Article III (1) states: "Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all those waters of the Western Rivers which India is under obligation to let flow under the provisions..." India is constructing the Kishanganga project on the river by the same name, which is a tributary of Jhelum, and Rattle on the Chenab. Kishanganga has the capacity to generate 330 MW electricity, and Rattle 850 MW. Delhi says that while India has always been a "steadfast supporter" and a "responsible partner" in implementing the treaty in letter and spirit, Pakistan's actions have "adversely impinged" on its provisions and their implementation. The IWT is one of the few major treaties between the two neighbours and has stood for more than 60 years. But since 2015, Pakistan has been trying to subvert it, including by persistently raising objections regarding India's Kishenganga and Rattle hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir. While the projects are on the Chenab and Jhelum, for which Pakistan has unrestricted use under IWT, the treaty also allows India to use these rivers in non-consumptive ways. In fact, Pakistan had taken its objections to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2010. But the court ruled that Kishenganga was a run-of-the-river project permitted under IWT. The same opinion was reiterated by the World Bank - also a party to IWT - in 2017. Nonetheless, Pakistan first unilaterally insisted on the appointment of a neutral expert and then switched to demanding a court of arbitration to adjudicate its objections, in contravention of IWT's graded dispute settlement mechanism. At the heart of Pakistan's objections is the fictitious claim that India is using river waters as a hybrid warfare tool. Plus, it complains that given India's international standing, Pakistan can hardly expect a fair hearing from the international community. The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding the use of waters of several rivers. It gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" - the Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej - to India, while control over the waters of the three "western rivers" - the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum - to Pakistan. India has about 20% of the total water carried by the Indus system, while Pakistan has 80%. The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc. It lays down detailed regulations for India in building projects over the western rivers. The Indus Waters Treaty is considered one of the most successful water-sharing endeavours in the world today.

### Nurture the best of India

Kajal Chatterjee

As I stepped into Vellore Fort, the lofty Jalakandeshwarar Temple came into my immediate attention. The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, was built during the reign of Vijayanagara King Sadasiwadeva Maharaja. After visiting the temple, as I was exploring the Fort, found myself in front of the Chand Sahib mosque - a rectangular lime and brick structure, built by Nawab Chand Sahib of Carnatic empire. In another corner of the fort complex exists St. John's Church - built by the erstwhile Government of Madras for the officers and staff of East India Company. There are innumerable shrines of all religious groups throughout the country; but these 3 shrines are not only located in a single town, rather make it's divine presence felt within a single complex named Vellore Fort in Tamil Nadu. Though it remains the fact that no single political entity has built up all these shrines; but also it remains the fact that these temples mosques churches are all assets or legacy of medieval India - heterogeneous since centuries with amalgamation of cultures around the globe. Then the home-bound train journey was another reflection of the land of the remarkable diversity named India. Not only did Tamil signboards, as in Katpadi Junction, yield place to Telugu version as the train crossed into Andhra Pradesh; the rocky terrain and barren hillocks of Vellore region also gave away to lush green fertile plains of Rayalaseema with forested hills of various shapes and sizes appearing in the horizon. Next morning Odiya signboards greeted me at Berhampore with increased greenery. Not to speak of the typical Kalinga style architecture of the temples right upto Balasore. Then Danton Railway station welcomes us with Bangla script. And what an amalgamation of religious heterogeneity witnessed around the railway track in Southern Andhra Pradesh! Amidst green fields and hills, the rural habitations were presenting us with unique frames - Temple and Mosque, Mosque and Church or Church and Temple! Though not known exactly what is the historical social cultural context of the region, there lies no doubt to the fact that Southern Andhra is an astonishing beautiful salad bowl (all ingredients coexisting close to each other by keeping respective identities intact) of Hinduism Islam and Christianity. Though the stretch from Tamil Nadu to West Bengal, along the Eastern coast, represents a mere slice of this vast country; still it bears testimony to all sorts of diversities which form the hallmark of India. And this colourful mosaic of innumerable languages religion race architecture geographical features in this essence of diversity is the best thing about being an Indian. However, it must also be kept in mind that true love and respect merit constructive criticism as well, else complacency and vanity are bound to denigrate our object of affection also. So mere shout of "I love my India" will not save my dear country from destruction if we do not learn to stand unitedly and protest against the dark forces which are hell-bent on demolishing the idea of India by posing grave assault upon its very foundation i.e. diversity. By imposing a particular religious lingual casteist school of thought upon this heterogeneous country, a very orthodox imperialist camp is working all-out to kill the diversities in the name of "unifying" the nation. So if we truly love India or desire to retain the best thing about being an Indian, we must also challenge the divisive elements so that the merchants of hatred can be permanently uprooted from this great country of us. In these vitiated times of hatred and dominant mindset with fanatic display of muscle; Vellore Fort represents the divine essence of multi cultural India. Let this amalgamation continue to thrive in this country not only for the sake of humanity, but also for the survival of "Bharat Tirtha" (the pilgrimage named India) as envisaged by Rabindranath Tagore while welcoming and embracing diversities of all possible hues.

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.

### FLOWER EXHIBITION



Flower exhibition organised at Pune's Empress Botanical Garden.

### Indo-China border dispute: The alternative way forward

BISHALDEEP KAKATI



Holding weapons to make posts, clubs covered with wires, they in the night assembled together and moved across high cliffs above the Galwan Valley, and engaged in battles fighting for hours, as forces for each country. This statement often remains the actual story whenever we confabulate about the Indo-China conflict. The Indo-China border conflict traces its roots to the colonial period in India. And the major reason behind the conflict is the disputes between both the countries regarding areas covering the borders of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. According to the Treaty of Amritsar (1846), the British recognised Raja Gulab Singh as the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir; an area which also included the area of Ladakh. Post that, William Johnson, a British surveyor, surveyed the region and incorporated the Aksai Chin region to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. This demarcated boundary line later came to be known as the Johnson Line. However, the British revised the borders again and this time they put Akshai Chin on the Chinese side, and this line came to be known as Macartney-Macdonald Line.

The exit of the British from India marked the end of the colonial rule, leading to the formation of two new countries in the form of India and Pakistan and this led to the start of a fresh dispute between both the newly-formed countries as both the countries wanted claim of whole of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. India's claim regarding the princely state was based on the instrument of accession which was signed by its last ruler, while Pakistan's claim was based on the Muslim majority in the state. However, China's dispute regarding this matter was distinctively different as China wanted claim the Macartney-Macdonald Line, while India wanted claim of the Johnson Line that marked India's border with China in that region. A significant event that took place was the pact between China and Pakistan as post this pact, border issues between Pakistan and China were resolved and as such both the countries regarded Macartney-Macdonald Line to be the legitimate border between both the countries, and this led to Pakistan agreeing to the sovereignty of China over the territories claimed by China including the Aksai-Chin. But on the contrary, there have been continuous battles between India and China as both the countries have not come to a concrete border demarcation as both the nations still claim Aksai-Chin to be theirs.

After China's claim over Tibet, China built a road in that particular jurisdiction, leading to protests in India and with the Dalai Lama seeking refuge in India, China claimed the resurgence of anti-China activities in India which ultimately resulted in the Indo-China war of 1962. The consequence of that particular war was India losing some of its territories to China while China strengthened its control in Aksai-Chin. History speaks loud that the base of Indo-China conflicts is still the unclear demarcation of borders, while China's expansionist government and India's political instability in the initial post-Independence years worsened the situation. Competition still exists between both the countries in building infrastructure along the LOC, and the construction made by India of a new road to a high altitude base can be regarded as one of the major reasons behind the deadly confrontation between both the countries in 2020. Another face-off was recorded in January, 2021 which resulted in injuries to soldiers from both the countries and the event occurred in the state of Sikkim, near the Bhutan and Nepal borders. A lot of deliberation and talks ensured that both the countries did not engage into a clash for more than a year till another clash very recently happened near the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh. Engagement in clashes can be deadly for both the countries as both the countries are established nuclear powers and a falling out would also mean economic degradation for China, as India still remains one of the biggest trading partners of China.

De-escalation of wars is a notion that countries across the globe are committed to follow and the same should apply to India and China as well. And as such, both the countries need to operate with a new modus operandi to solve the continuing border disputes. To bring in normalcy, it is desirable that a new set of rules must be established to manage the LOC. In this regard, a few radical steps are seen to be adopted in the form of No-Patrol Zones. No-patrolling zones basically mean disengagement of wars between two countries in areas where both have been in eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation to each other. In fact no-patrolling zones have already been established in Galwan and Pangong Tso and, additionally, more such zones can be established in areas such as Depsang and Kugrang, where the Chinese have been often blocking the access of the Indians, to de-escalate the threat of war. Since no-patrolling zone means disallowing troops from either side for a certain length of time, it can come handy in the case of India and China as both the countries have an undecided boundary and disagreement to the LAC. Another solution to the escalating border dispute between India and China can be found in the statement given by Chinese scholar Qian Feng in FORCE. The Chinese scholar commented about replacing the concept of the line of actual control with the concept of a zone of control and adopt the method of delimiting the disputed border 'belf' in question which do not involve population adjustment, and thereby going beyond the traditional concept of a 'border line'.

Some kind of normalcy can also be expected regarding the border dispute if the Chinese government do not apply their expansionist mindset in an exaggerated manner and not look at their ties with India through the perspective of its relations with third countries. This idea of asking China to not to look at their ties with India keeping in mind third country relations was forwarded by Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar at a meeting between him and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at the sidelines of the SCO Ministerial meeting at Dushanbe. As much as it is difficult to predict China's way forward keeping in mind its opaque geo-political strategies as an Asian power, it is high time for India, as a growing counterpart, to tackle the issue diplomatically by moving ahead with non-traditional notions of controlling the borders. In the present context, one cannot also deny the co-existing nature of India-China relations in terms of trading as well as balance of power in Asian sub-continent. Thus, Indo-China conflicts can never be solved through war, but only through mutual negotiations, and if required even by going astray from the conventional ways of solving border disputes.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

### Padma awards

It has now become a practice to present Padma awards to unsung heroes. The country should feel proud of such personalities. A veteran doctor, snake catchers, Rasna creator, a Kannada author, an agricultural scientist etc., have figured on the list this year. Many of the awardees have been silently working for the betterment of society. This practice should continue in the future. These awards should be awarded to unsung heroes so that it may have a positive impact on future generations.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

### Cricket bat industry in Kashmir stares into oblivion amid growing willow cleft shortage

The 102-year-old cricket bat industry in Kashmir has upped its standards over the years to compete with manufacturers that work with the famed English willow. But bat-makers fear a shortage of clefts might force closure of the Rs 300-crore enterprise that provides livelihood to over 100,000 people. "We have been manufacturing cricket bats for the past 102 years. The quality of our bats is good and approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC). So quality-wise, we are not lacking. We are at par with (manufacturers that use) English willow, if not better," said Fawzul Kabir, spokesperson for Cricket Bats Manufacturing Association of Kashmir.

"This was evident from the fact that the longest six in the recent ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia was hit using a Kashmir willow bat," Kabir told PTI. The UAE's Junaid Siddique

hit the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup's longest six against Sri Lanka using a bat manufactured by Anantnag-based GR8 Sports. However, the 400-odd bat manufacturing units are staring at an uncertain future as they fear a shortage of willow clefts might force their factories to close within five years. "Willow produce is dwindling fast and we fear that it might become extinct within the next five years. We have been requesting the government to go for a willow plantation drive to ensure a sustainable supply," Kabir said. He also highlight the afforestation drives undertaken in Canada and Pakistan to drive home his point. He said more than a lakh people, not only from Jammu and Kashmir but from Jalandhar in Punjab and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, rely on the industry for their livelihoods. "In a scenario where an industry is on the verge of collapse, the government needs to

work on a war footing," he said. Kabir said while the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology provided them 1,500 willow saplings last year for replacement, each unit needs a supply of around 15,000 clefts a year. "As cricket is growing fast, the demand for bats will also increase. We had a dozen countries playing cricket two decades ago. Today, that number has gone up to around 160. "Ten years ago, 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh bats were manufactured in Kashmir. These days, 30 lakh bats are made every year," he said, adding that the industry's annual turnover is over Rs 300 crore. Kabir suggested that the government should consider allowing sapling plantations in the wetlands and on the riverbanks where willow trees used to be grown earlier. "If willow trees are planted in these places again, the bat industry

can survive," he said. GR8 Sports Production Manager Mohammad Niyaz said the government had taken steps for plantation of willow saplings but it was not at the scale required to support the industry. "More and more cricket leagues are coming up around the world and the demand for bats is only going to increase. While the industry can provide employment to artisans, finished bats can keep youngsters involved in sports and away from evils such as drug abuse," he added. An Industries and Commerce department official said while there was no dearth of willow in Kashmir, the main issue facing the units was a lack of modern seasoning technology and smuggling of clefts to factories outside Kashmir. "In Kashmir, seasoning of clefts is still done in the traditional way and it can take anywhere between six months to a year. It blocks precious capital of the unit holder and puts strain on his financial situation. This has, in some cases, led to the closure of a unit," the official, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said on the condition of anonymity. The official said a proposal to set up a seasoning plant was approved a few years ago but was shelved due to the outbreak of COVID-19. "A new proposal to set up an electric or solar plant that will reduce the seasoning time to just 15 days is under consideration of senior officials," he added. Steps had to be taken to curb cleft smuggling from the Valley to factories in other parts of country, mainly in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the official said. He said land measuring 20 hectares had been earmarked to growing willow trees that have been developed by scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

**BRIEF**

**NPA recovery**



**New Delhi:** Punjab & Sind Bank managing director Swarup Kumar Saha has said the bank is expecting a Rs 500 crore recovery in the fourth quarter, as many of the resolution processes of NPA accounts are at the final stages. The state-owned bank's total recovery and upgradation stood at Rs 1,178 crore in the three quarters of the current financial year. Resolution of Meenakshi Energy is at the final stage at the National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL), while Sintex and Srei resolutions are also at an advanced stage under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, he told PTI.

**Largest derivatives**

**New Delhi:** The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has again emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022, in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA). This is the fourth consecutive year when the exchange earned the top spot, the NSE said in a statement on Sunday. In addition, the exchange was ranked third in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022, an advancement from the previous year when it was in the fourth position, as per statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). The calendar year witnessed the benchmark equity index the Nifty 50 touching lifetime high of 18,887.60. Further, significant strengthening in liquidity was seen in several product categories, including equity, equity derivatives and currency derivatives.

**Semiconductor shortage**



**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India continues to witness an impact on its production as semiconductor supplies still remain challenging and unpredictable, according to the company's CFO Ajay Seth. In order to deal with the situation, the auto major is now working on ways to maximise its output from available supply of electronic components. Although the supply situation improved in the third quarter ended December 31, 2022 as compared to the second quarter of this fiscal, the country's largest carmaker could not produce around 46,000 units in the October-December period owing to the semiconductor shortage.

## Expectations running high as Sitharaman gears up to present her 5th Budget

New Delhi, Jan 30:



With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman getting ready to present the last full budget of the Modi 2.0 government, expectations are high that she will meet the demands of all stakeholders, including the common man who is reeling under the price rise.

The finance minister has held several rounds of discussions with various stakeholders, and final touches are being given to the Union Budget for 2023-24 which will be unveiled in the Lok Sabha on February 1. "The Budget to be announced will be an exercise of managing several objectives: movement to fiscal prudence, stimulating growth without accompanying inflation, garnering more resources through non-tax measures and providing sops where necessary. "As all these objectives would run in different directions, the FM

will exercise considerable dexterity to move ahead decisively on all counts," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. Since this will be the last full Budget before the 2024 general elections, Sitharaman may also announce income tax relief for salary earners, and people in small businesses. Shailendra Kumar, the Chairman of TIOL Knowledge Foundation, said the government should enhance various deductions limits. "Given the precipitous drop in the national gross savings

from 37 per cent to 27 per cent, the perimeter of Section 80C of the IT Act needs to be expanded to Rs 2.5 lakh. This will put more money in the hands of the government to bankroll the infrastructure sector or higher capex," he said. There is also a demand for raising exemption limits for home loans with a view to encouraging more people to buy residential properties, and give a boost to the real estate sector, which is the second largest job creator after agriculture. "With the Union Budget 2023 around the corner, the government may introduce conducive measures to provide relief to borrowers. Hopefully, the government will consider the long-pending demand to enhance the deduction limit against home loan interest from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh," said V Swaminathan, executive chairman, Andromeda Loans and Annapaisa.

## Keeping a tab on development related to Adani Group: PNB MD

New Delhi, Jan 30:



Punjab National Bank (PNB) which has about Rs 7,000 crore exposure in Adani Group entities on Monday said it is keeping a close watch on situation developing following the damning disclosures by a US short seller. The state-owned bank has total exposure of about Rs 7,000 crore. Out of that Rs 2,500 crore is related to the airport business. "Whatever exposure we are having is backed by cash flow. Total exposure include investment of Rs 42 crore and remaining credit," PNB managing director Atul Kumar Goel said while announcing quarterly numbers. As on date there is no

worry as the bank has not too much exposure keeping the size of the lender, he said, "we are keeping a close watch on development (on Adani front) in times to come." Adani group's listed companies have lost over USD 70 billion since the January 24 report of the New York

firm that flagged high debt levels at the ports-to-energy conglomerate and the alleged use of offshore entities in tax havens. Hindenburg Research had alleged that the ports-to-energy-to-cement conglomerate had engaged in "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" for decades. The Adani Group has denied all charges and threatened to sue the US firm. Shares of Adani group firms have faced heavy drubbing since Tuesday's close last week, after Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations against the conglomerate. Most of the group firms fell for the third day running on Monday.

## Foreign liquor, beer prices set to rise in UP from April 1

Lucknow, Jan 30:

The prices of foreign liquor and beer in Uttar Pradesh will increase by 10 per cent with the implementation of the new excise policy from April 1, an official statement said on Sunday. The new excise policy 2023-24 was cleared by Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Saturday. According to the statement, an increment of 10 per cent has been made on licence fees of foreign liquor, beer, cannabis retail shops and model shops. The government has also increased the fee for running the canteen facility at model shops to Rs 3 lakh from the present Rs 2 lakh in the new excise policy. With the new policy, the

government has also increased the licence fee and security for bonded warehouse licenses (BWFL-2A, 2B, 2C) of foreign liquor, beer and wine. The registration and renewal fees of the master warehouse have been increased too. "The increase in licence fee and that of running canteen facility along with warehouse licences will eventually lead to rise in liquor prices," said Devesh Jaiswal of the UP Liquor Sellers' Welfare Association. "It will be too early to comment on how much the prices will increase," he added. A 10 per cent increase on the minimum guarantee quota (MGQ) of country-made liquor has also been made in the new liquor policy

## Sensex, Nifty close higher in volatile trade as IT, oil shares recover

Mumbai, Jan 30:

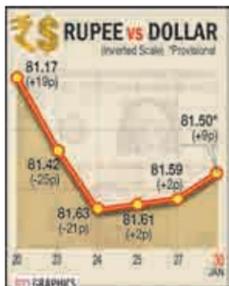


Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a highly volatile trade on Monday, riding on the back of a recovery in IT, oil and financial stocks after a two-day fall. The 30-share Sensex recovered 169.51 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 59,500.41. During the day, it rose by 313.34 points or 0.52 per cent to 59,644.24. The broader NSE Nifty gained 44.60 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 59,648.95 as 29 of its stocks advanced. From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Asian Paints, Infosys, Wipro, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata

Consultancy Services were among the major winners. Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors, State Bank of India and HDFC were among the laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the green.

## Rupee gains 9 paise to close at 81.50 against US dollar

New Delhi, Jan 30:



The rupee rose by 9 paise to close at 81.50 (provisional) against the US currency in a restricted trade on Monday, supported by a weak greenback in the overseas markets and a decline in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower at 81.69 and touched a low of 81.72 against the US dollar in line with losses in the equity markets. Later, it recovered ground and touched a high of 81.49 before settling at 81.50, shoring gains of nine paise over the previous close of 81.59 on Friday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.16 per cent to 101.76. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.25 per cent to USD 86.44 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Paribas, a weak Dollar index and a decline in crude oil prices cushioned the downside. Further, FPO-related foreign inflows also supported the rupee at lower levels, he said. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias amid a weak tone in the domestic markets and expectations that the US Dollar may rise on safe-haven appeal." Choudhary further said that month-end dollar demand from importers and selling pressure from FIIs may also put downward pressure on the rupee. "Traders may remain cautious ahead of India's union budget and US FOMC meeting later this week.

## US to start receiving H1B visa applications from March 1

Washington:

The highly anticipated H1B visa filing season for fiscal 2023-24 will officially begin on March 1 when the US immigration agency will start accepting applications for skilled foreign workers visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT professionals. The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, it will accept applications between March 1 and March 17 petitions for H-1B visas that allow them to work and live in the US for up to six years in specialised fields such as technology, engineering, and medicine. After six years, it opens up pathways to permanent residency or Green Card.

## Electronics export from India to cross Rs 1.28 lakh crore next fiscal: MoS IT

New Delhi, Jan 30:



Electronics export from India is expected to cross Rs 1.28 lakh crore in the next financial year, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said. The minister, in an interview with PTI, said the government is now going to broaden and widen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem with a new production-linked incentive scheme for hearable-wearable, IT hardware and component makers. "Electronics manufacturing as a whole, we see next year that we will at least do exports worth Rs 1.28 lakh crore. I have already said that we will see mobile phone exports reaching Rs 1 lakh crore in 2023-24," Chandrasekhar said. There has been a focus on mobile phones because it is the fastest-growing segment in electronics across the world, he added. "Value addition in manufacturing is a function of scale. First, you need to hit the scale. The component industry is the one which

does value addition. Components will not come if the scale of manufacturing is not there. The next stage of our PLI is to get components PLI, hearable-wearable PLI and the IT server PLI," the minister said. The government will do 100 per cent hand-holding of component players to boost the local ecosystem, he noted. Electronics component makers' body ELCINA has requested the government to allocate USD 10 billion (about Rs 80,000 crore) for 8 years to boost manufacturing of electronic components and key modules other than semiconductors. It has sought a four-year extension to the Scheme for Promotion of

Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS), with an increased outlay of Rs 16,000 crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24. According to ELCINA, the upgraded PLI will facilitate investments of around Rs 64,000 crore with a targeted output of USD 24 billion (about Rs 1.95 lakh crore) for all components other than semiconductors.

The industry body has also sought reinstatement of income tax relief for the investment made in research and development. It has also asked for a PLI scheme with a focus on domestic electronics manufacturing services companies.

India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) has requested the government to convert the PLI scheme into a design-led manufacturing scheme and impose an import duty of 10 per cent on any imported electronics equipment and assembled printed circuit board (PCB) to boost local manufacturing.

## 9 lakh govt vehicles, buses older than 15 yrs to go off the road from Apr 1, says Gadkari

New Delhi, Jan 30:



More than nine lakh vehicles, owned by central and state governments, transport corporations and public sector undertakings, that are older than 15 years will go off the road from April 1 and new vehicles will replace them, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. Addressing an event organised by industry body FICCI, Gadkari said the government is taking many steps to facilitate the use of ethanol, methanol, bio-CNG, bio-LNG and electric vehicles. "We have now approved the scrapping of more than nine lakh government vehicles, which are

more than 15 years old, and polluting buses and cars will go off the road and new vehicles with alternative fuels will replace them. "This will further reduce air pollution to a great extent," the road transport and highway minister said. According to a recent notification by the road transport and highways ministry, from April 1, all vehicles owned by central and state governments, including buses owned by transport corporations and public sector undertakings, that are older than 15 years will be de-registered and scrapped. The rule shall not apply to the special purpose vehicles (armoured and other spe-

cialised vehicles) used for operational purposes for the defence of the country and for the maintenance of law and order and internal security, the notification had said. "Disposal of such vehicles shall, after the expiry of 15 years from the date of the initial reg-

istration of the vehicle, (should) be ensured through the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility set up in accordance with the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021," it had said. Announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, the policy provides for fitness tests after 20 years for personal vehicles and 15 years for commercial vehicles. Under the new policy which is effective from April 1, 2022, the Centre has said states and Union Territories will provide up to 25 per cent tax rebate on road tax for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles.

## Developed world hasn't acted on \$100 bn/yr climate finance pledge: Kant

Mumbai, Jan 30:



India's G-20 sherpa Amitabh Kant on Monday said the developed world has not helped the developing countries with USD 100 billion of climate finance per year, despite committing to it way back in 2009. The former bureaucrat said multilateral financial institutions are not equipped to do the same, and there is a need to transform them. "If India has to go for climate change (action), the developed world has to give us finance which it had agreed to. We have not polluted the world, yet we will be impacted by climate change," Kant said, speaking at the inauguration of model G-20 summit at the

Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership at Uttan near here. He reminded that the developed world had agreed on the principle of climate justice as part of which the finance was to be made available and the challenge before a country like India is centred around transforming into an industrialised country without impacting the planet.

## Adani issues 413-page response, calls Hindenburg allegations attack on India

New Delhi, Jan 30:



People look at share prices displayed on a screen at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) building, in Mumbai, Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. After Hindenburg report over Adani Group, BSE Sensex oscillated between gains and losses on Monday.

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group on Sunday likened the damning allegations made by short seller Hindenburg Research to a "calculated attack" on India, its institutions and growth story, saying the allegations are "nothing but a lie". In a 413-page response, Adani Group said the report was driven by "an ulterior motive" to "create a false market" to allow the US firm to make financial gains. "This is not merely an unwarranted attack on any specific company but a calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity and quality of

Indian institutions, and the growth story, and ambition of India," it said. Stating that the allegations in Hindenburg Research's January 24 re-

port are "nothing but a lie", it said the document is "a malicious combination of selective misinformation and concealed facts relating to baseless

and discredited allegations to drive an ulterior motive". "This is rife with conflict of interest and intended only to create a false market in securities to enable Hindenburg, an admitted short seller, to book massive financial gain through wrongful means at the cost of countless investors," it said. It went on to question the credibility and ethics of Hindenburg, and said the mala fide intention underlying the report were apparent given its timing when Adani Enterprises Limited is undertaking one of the largest ever further public offering of equity shares in India.

## &TV viewers will witness various plot twists



In &TV's show Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai this week, the viewers will witness various plot twists, which will be entertaining and shocking. About &TV's Doosri Maa track, Krishna shares, "Under the influence of Mahuva, Aastha (Adhika Sharma) will confine Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) in a room of an isolated school (Manisha Arora). As Yashoda (Neha Joshi) and her family begin looking for him, Aastha admits to Mahuva that she has locked Krishna in the room. While Yashoda and Ashok search for Krishna, he writes help on a piece of paper, throws it out the window, and later falls un-

conscious while attempting to flee. Ashok and Yashoda find him in an unconscious state. Aastha becomes terrified of her truth being revealed and begs Krishna not to tell anyone that she was behind all of this. Meanwhile, the police arrive and question Krishna." About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track, Rajesh shares, "To apprehend gangster Jonny Brigenza urf Janeman, Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali), Daroga Happu Singh (Yogesh Tripathi), and Manohar begin a secret mission to Munni Baai's kotha. Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) suspects something is amiss and asks Beni

(Vishwanath Chatterjee) to investigate Happu's whereabouts at night. He follows him and films him enjoying a dance performance at a brothel. When Rajesh discovers this, she gets enraged and seeks the assistance of Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri) to catch him red-handed. When she visits the brothel the next day, she finds out that Munni is an old friend of Katori Amma." About &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai track, Angoori Bhabhi shares, "Ammaji (Soma Rathod) informs Angoori (Shubhangi Atre) that they are in danger of losing their lives. Pandit Ramphal has said that to save them, Angoori must perform mujra (dance) and earn 11 lakhs. When

Vibhuti (Aasif Sheikh) arrives at Tiwari's (Rohitashv Gour) house, he gets shocked to see the setup and Angoori dressed in tawaif attire. He questions Angoori about her actions, but she remains silent because Amma has told her not to mention it to anyone. Meanwhile, Amma enters the house and throws Vibhuti out, telling him that if he wants to enjoy her dance performance, he must get money. Leaving him puzzled and shocked." **Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!**

## TV actors' favourite tourist spots

National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on January 25 to promote and encourage tourism in India. On this day, &TV artists and wanderlusts talk about their favourite destinations and must-visit places in their states. These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda), RJ Mohit (Manoj), Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna) from Doosri Maa, Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh), Charull Malik (Rusa), Sapna Sikarwar (Bimlesh) from Happu ki Ultan Paltan, Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabhi), Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra), and Saanand Verma (Anokhe Lal Saxena) from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. Neha Joshi, essaying Yashoda in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "I am currently shooting for my show in Jaipur. Though I love being there, I surely miss the streets of my home in Mumbai. Even being one of India's most populous and largest cities, it is called the 'City of Dreams'. Gateway of India, Marine Drive, and Worli Sea Link are picturesque and filled with interesting stories. Mumbai's vada pav, pav bhaji, and pani puri

at Juhu Cowpati is a must-try for all tourists. While Mumbai is my home, other beautiful places in the state allow me to take a break and rejuvenate. One of my favourite destinations in Maharashtra is Nashik which is also my hometown. The city is situated on the banks of the river Godavari and is a Hindu pilgrimage site for visitors. The city is called the "Wine Capital of India", as more than half of India's vineyards and wineries are located here. Apart from that, Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Igatpuri and Lonavala are some of my favourite hill stations in Maharashtra that I keep visiting with my family and enjoy our time relaxing, eating and enjoying the lush green hills." Sapna Sikarwar, essaying Bimlesh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "The connection I feel with the state of Chattisgarh is special. I often visit my relatives and have explored the city quite a bit. I love how the place has evolved as a smart city but still preserved its art and craft beautifully. Tourist places like Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary, Chitrakot waterfall, Shri Rajiv

Lochan Mandir, Ibrahim Rauza tomb, and Makdu Dweep, a small island in the Bilaspur district, are some of the state highlights. The state also hosts grand festivals like Sircpur Mahotsav, Chakradhar Samaroh, Bastar Lokotsav, and Rajim Kumbh. I love shopping in Bastar city for handicrafts and traditional fabrics." Yogesh Tripathi, essaying Happu Singh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "Uttar Pradesh is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in India. Several cities in the state are must-see destinations for tourists from all over the world. But my favourite cities are Varanasi and Lucknow. Famously called the city of Lord Shiva, my visit to Kashi has always been a divine and marvelous experience. The Ganga Aarti at Assi Ghat is not to be missed, and a visit to the world-renowned Kashi Vishwanath temple is a must. Let me tell you that I am a big foodie, and this place offers a multitude of cuisines and street food: Litti Chokha, Choora Matar, Tamatar Chaat, Kachori, and Samosa

with kulhad wali chai. Lucknow is the heart of cuisine, dance, art, and culture. I have always loved visiting the Bara Imambara in Lucknow. It has a beautiful mosque and the Bhul Bhulaiya, a magical form of architecture. The intricate Chikan art done by the local artists in the place is something I cannot stop shopping for my family. Uttar Pradesh offers many historical sites like the Taj Mahal, Rumi Darwaza, Panch Mahal and Chunar Fort for lovers of history and architecture. But what I love most about the place is its magical food. If you are ever in Uttar Pradesh in winter, do not miss the Makhan Malai."

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



## Riyaz Ganji to make wedding costumes for Dev and Vidhi's wedding sequence



Riyaz Ganji is been approached to design the wedding costumes for Rachana Mistry and Iqbal Khan playing the role of Vidhi and Dev respectively. Riyaz Ganji is a well-known fashion designer and owner of the brand Libas. Specially known for his wedding collection he is approached by the makers to give his touch to the wedding costumes and design the dress for Dev and Vidhi, aka Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry respectively. To make the character more opulent and alluring, designer Riyaz Ganji will create a designer Sherwani for the dashing groom Iqbal Khan as Dev Raichand and a designer embroidery lehenga for the stunning bride Rachana Mistry or Vidhi in the show. The clothing is from designer Riyaz Ganji's bridal line. The show has already begun with the wedding preparations where the audience will witness the grand wedding of Dev and Vidhi.

Star Bharat's show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' captured the attention of its audience with its magnificent story and fantastic representation of Dev and Vidhi's relationship, portrayed by Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry, respectively, have finally shown the audience through their characters that love has no boundaries as they are getting ready for their marriage. Finally, the big day has arrived in Dev and Vidhi's and it's going to be a grand celebration. Adding star to this celebration it's said that top fashion designer

**Stay tuned to witness the 'Anokhi Shadi of the year' from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on Star Bharat.**

## Celebrities congratulate Raveena Tandon on receiving Padma Shri



with the Padma Award on Wednesday. The multi-talented actress achieved her Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award. Raveena Tandon has described as A renowned film actor; she is known for her versatile roles and has worked in films. Not only Raveena Tandon but even her colleagues celebrated her win with congratulatory messages pouring in on social media. Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Karan Johar, Yash, Vishnu Manchu, Chiranjeevi, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Sharmila Tagore, Shabana Azmi, Sonali Bendre, Manish Malhotra Neelam Kothari, Madhuri Dixit Nene, Satish Kaushik, Madhur Bhandarkar, Ruchi Narain, Om Raut (director of Adipurush and Tanhaji) Bunty Walia, Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, Rohan Sippy,

Farah Khan, Vidya Balan, Priya Dutt, Oscar award winner Resul Pookkuttu, Boney Kapoor, David Dhawan among many others sending congratulatory messages to the actress. Raveena Tandon is best known for her striking performances in films such as Daman, Shool, Satta and Maatr. Tandon has portrayed impactful and memorable characters in her career spanning over three decades. She won the coveted National Film Award for Best Actress for her performance in Kalpana Lajmi's Daman: A Victim of Marital Violence. The talented actress won Screen Awards, IIFA, Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards as well as the Filmfare Award for her performance in Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's Aks. Her award-winning powerhouse performance for Shobhna's 7

Nights film, won Outstanding Performance Female' at the Houston International Film Festival and Chicago South Asian Film Festival also Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF). Meanwhile, on the work front, Raveena was last seen in the blockbuster KGF: Chapter 2 which was the second highest-grossing film. The movie has set a new benchmark in the Indian film industry by breaking all box office records. She also made a big wave with 'Aranyak' on OTT for which she has bagged a lot of awards. Raveena will be next seen in T-series family entertainer Ghudchadi alongside Sanjay Dutt, Arbaaz Khan's upcoming social drama Patna Shukla. She has recently finished shooting for a Disney plus Hotstar web series. She will soon start shooting for Aranyak Season 2.

actress Raveena Tandon has portrayed impactful and memorable characters in her career spanning over three decades. She made her debut with the film Patthar Ke Phool for which she received the Filmfare Award. The actress is best known for her work in films such as Daman, Satta, Shool, Aks and Maatr, for which she was honoured



## Niti Taylor to play Prachi Kapoor in 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2

Sony Entertainment Television's fan-favourite television show, 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' has enthralled viewers with its mature portrayal of a romantic relationship between Ram Kapoor (Nakuul Mehta) and Priya Kapoor (Disha Parmar). Taking the engaging story forward is a 20-year leap that will witness many new faces being introduced to the fresh narrative. Essaying one of the most pivotal characters is the much-loved actor Niti Taylor who has been roped in to play Ram and Priya's youngest daughter, Prachi Kapoor. Prachi has never known her parents, so her sole guardian, mentor and guide has been

her elder sister Pihu. While she would go to great lengths to ensure that she never lets her sister down, she craves parental love. Much like Ram, she is a little naive and wants to always believe the best in people. Sharing her excitement on joining the show, Niti Taylor says, "Coming back to the world of television with such an iconic show is a huge honour and I am excited to return to the Bade Achhe Lagte Hai franchise. It feels like life has come full circle for me as I have been a part of the first season of the show as well. This time around, the story continues with the introduction of my character, Prachi and while the pressure is

immense, I am looking forward to giving my best." She further adds saying, "Prachi is vibrant and sweet natured but comes with her own set of complexities. She doesn't share Pihu's cynicism but emotionally, she is going through a turmoil and bringing alive this multi layered personality is very exciting for me as an actor. The upcoming leap will certainly surprise the audiences and I hope they connect with the story progression and shower us with their continued love and support." **Tune in to Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2, every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.**

## Krishna Bharadwaj to play a 17th century prince

Known for creating shows that are truly unique and showcase a range of emotions, Sony SAB's upcoming family romance drama, Dhruv Tara follows the journey of Dhruv and Tara, who belong to two different eras. The show, which further strengthens the channel's proposition of creating content that resonates with the entire family, is all set to break the clutter with a love story that has never been witnessed before on Indian television. Going against the boundaries of time, Tara (played by Riya Sharma), a princess from 17th century time travels and comes to the present day, where she crosses paths with Dhruv (played by Ishaan Dhawan). Alongside the leads of

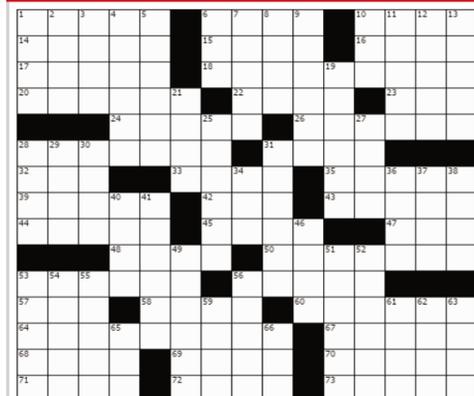


the show Dhruv and Tara, seasoned actor Krishna Bharadwaj will be seen playing the role of Mahaveer, who is Tara's brother. Krishna Bharadwaj was last seen on Sony SAB's one of the most loved shows Tenali Rama as Tenali. It will be interesting to see him yet again on the channel but in a different avatar, much

to the delight of his fans! Krishna Bharadwaj, playing the character of Mahaveer, said, "I have a long association with Sony SAB. I was a part of some amazing shows on the channel years back and it feels amazing to return with a show like Dhruv Tara now. In the past, I have had opportunities to play characters similar to

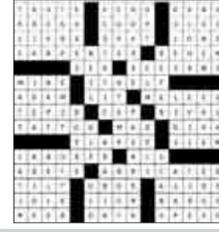
what I have portrayed on screen before, however I wanted to be a part of something new and move away from comedy. So, when I learned about the story and the script of Dhruv Tara, I was convinced because it gave me the opportunity to play a different role - one that is more emotional, and dramatic. I will be playing the role of Mahaveer, Tara's brother, he is a lively character who serves as the prince of Vallabhgad in the 17th century. He exudes the aura of a prince and is a tough but caring brother. I am confident that the audience will have a magical journey with Dhruv Tara." **Dhruv Tara Samay Sadi Se Pare launches soon on Sony SAB, stay tuned for more updates.**

## CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Slip-up
  - Garden tool
  - Flows back
  - Utopian
  - Genesis garden
  - Mortgage
  - Gent (sl.)
  - Provide fresh air
  - Landed manor
  - Harbor
  - Pronoun
  - Earn
  - Bunny
  - Craftsperson
  - Hero shop
  - Sock tip
  - Speak indistinctly
  - Boise's state
  - D-Day beach
  - Physicians' org.
  - Surrendered
  - Office notes
  - Designate
- DOWN**
- Existence
  - Thirst quenchers
  - Skin
  - Spicy sausage
  - Delights
  - Clergy mem.
  - Proficient
  - Casino game
  - Main course
  - House wing
  - Brag
  - Wash
  - Show contempt
  - Slanting type
  - Historic times
  - Away from the coast
  - Faction
  - Energy source
  - European capital
  - Squad
  - Serious plays
  - Thurman of "Kill Bill"
  - Does sums
  - Warmth
  - ends
  - Time period
  - Evaluate
  - Great Lake
  - Igloo dweller
  - Mischivous one
  - Repeat performance
  - Soft drinks
  - Sister's daughter
  - First Greek letter
  - Make amends
  - Detail
  - Pinnacle
  - Indigent
  - Hearing organs
  - Above, in verse
  - Sprint

## SOLUTION 547



# Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid resigns

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid on Monday resigned from his position following the host nation's disastrous outing at the just-concluded World Cup.

Reid, who was appointed India coach in April 2019, led the team to a historic bronze medal finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. The 58-year-old Australian submitted his resignation to Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, a day after the conclusion of the World Cup in Bhubaneswar, where Germany beat Belgium in a penalty shoot-out to emerge as champions.

"It is now time for me to step aside and hand over the reins to the next management," Reid said, announcing his retirement.

Reid's term was till next year's Paris Olympics.



"It has been an honour and privilege to work with the team and Hockey India and I have enjoyed every moment of this epic journey. I wish the team all the very best," he added.

Reid took the decision after HI chief Tirkey and secretary general Bholanath Singh met with the players and support staff to discuss the team's performance and strategy going forward. Besides

Reid, the team's analytical coach Greg Clark and scientific advisor Mitchell David Pemberton also tendered their resignations on Monday morning.

The trio will be serving a notice period of one month before relinquishing their duties.

Under Reid, India achieved a lot of success, including an Olympic medal after 41 years, a silver in last year's

Commonwealth Games and a third-place finish in the FIH Hockey Pro League season in 2021-22.

Reid's successful outings with India also includes the FIH Series Final title victory in 2019. The team made the Tokyo Games by winning the qualifiers in Bhubaneswar in the same year.

Tirkey accepted the trio's resignations and said the country will always remain grateful for their services.

"India will always have gratitude towards Graham Reid and his team of support staff who have brought good results to the country, particularly the Olympic Games," he said.

"As all journeys move to different phases, it is now time for us to move on towards a new approach for our team."

# Murali Vijay calls time on international career

Chennai, Jan 30 (PTI):

Out-of-favour India player Murali Vijay on Monday announced he was retiring from international cricket.

The right-handed batter who featured in 61 Tests, 17 ODIs and nine T20 Internationals last played for the country in the Perth Test against Australia in December 2018.

His Test debut was against Australia in the 2008-09 season at Nagpur as a replacement for Gautam Gambhir.

He featured in first-class and List A cricket for Tamil Nadu late in 2019. As far as professional cricket is concerned, he last turned out for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in 2020.

"Today, with immense gratitude and humility, I announce my retirement from all forms of interna-



tional cricket," Vijay said in a statement on Twitter.

"I am excited to announce that I will be exploring new opportunities in the world of cricket and the business side of it, where I will also continue to participate in the sport that I love and challenge myself in new and different environments," the 38-year-old Vijay added. "I believe this is the next step in my jour-

ney as a cricketer and I look forward to the next chapter in my life."

He thanked the BCCI, TNCA, CSK and Chemplast Sanmar and said, "I am grateful for the opportunities given to me by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, Chennai Super Kings and Chemplast Sanmar." "To all my team-mates, coach-

es, mentors and support staff: It has been an absolute privilege to have played with you all, and, I thank you for helping me turn my dream into reality," he further said.

Thanking fans for their support through his ups and downs, he said, "I will forever cherish the moments I spent with you all and your support has always been a source of motivation for me."

"Lastly, I would like to thank my family & friends for their unconditional love and support throughout my career. They have been my backbone and without them, I would not have been able to achieve what I have today," he said.

In 61 Tests, Vijay scored 3982 runs at an average of 38.28 with a highest score of 167. He hit 12 hundreds and 15 half-centuries.

In 17 ODIs, he made 339 runs and in seven T20Is, he got 169 runs.

# This is just the beginning, says Shafali after U-19 WC triumph

Potchefstroom, Jan 30 (PTI):

Not content with the U-19 T20 World Cup triumph, batting sensation Shafali Verma has already set her sights on replicating the success with the senior women's team in less than two weeks' time.

She will get her chance when the Women's T20 World Cup gets underway from February 10 in South Africa, the same country where the country just won the inaugural U-19 world tournament.

Shafali, 19, has already established herself in India's senior side and wants to make the visit to South Africa even more memorable with another silverware.

"No, the big one also," Shafali said when asked if the U-19 trophy was the only one she was hoping to



take back from South Africa.

"I am someone who focuses on task at hand. When I entered the Under-19s, I only focused on winning the Under-19 Cup and we have won that today (Sunday).

"I will look to take this winning confidence with me and win the senior

World Cup. I will try and forget this and get involved with the senior setup and gel with the team and win the World Cup," she was quoted as saying by the ICC.

India on Sunday won their maiden ICC title in women's cricket as a bunch of supremely talented teenagers lifted the

## I see three to four members of Women's U-19 WC squad graduating to highest level: Mithali

**New Delhi:** India great Mithali Raj sees at least three to four members of the triumphant Women's U-19 T20 World Cup squad graduating to the senior level and potentially playing a key role in the ODI World Cup at home in 2025. Leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, opener Shweta Sehrawat, pacer Titas Sadhu, off-break bowler Archana Devi and left-arm spinner Mannat Kashyap were among the standout performers of the U-19 side that outplayed England in the final in Potchefstroom on Sunday. Mithali, who was invited by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to interact with the cricketers ahead of the inaugural edition, feels women's cricket has finally got a platform from where the players can be fast-tracked or groomed for the future.

inaugural U-19 World Cup with a seven-wicket victory over England.

The Shafali-led India squad managed to do what their seniors could not by clearing the final hurdle in a global event.

India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target

in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy.

Shafali was part of India's squad that fell at the final hurdle at the 2020 T20 World Cup, when Australia defeated the side by 85 runs in front of more than 85,000 fans at the MCG.

She said she still feels the pain from the loss.

# Curator is right person to answer that question: Mhambrey on Ekana pitch

Lucknow, Jan 30 (PTI):

India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said the curator is the "right person" to describe the track prepared for the second T20I against New Zealand here.

India skipper Hardik Pandya on Sunday slammed the standard of pitches used in the ongoing series against New Zealand and called the pitch at the Ekana Cricket Stadium a "shocker".

The ball turned in the first T20I in Ranchi and it was no different on Sunday when New Zealand were restricted to 99 for eight.

India chased down the target with only one ball to spare. "The curator is the right person to answer

that question (on pitch). But definitely we knew it would be a big challenge and luckily we controlled the game.

"Anything in the range of 120-130 would have been really challenging. We did well to restrict them to 99 and it was an achievable target," Mhambrey said at the post-match press conference.

Mhambrey further said the wicket looked challenging from the outset.

"When we saw the wicket, we realised it was on the drier side. There was a little grass covering on the middle, but there was none on both ends. When we came yesterday, it looked like it would turn and we realised it would be challenging," he said.

The former Mumbai

seamer lauded the bowlers for doing a fine job in the second match.

India left out tearaway pacer Umran Malik for an extra spinner in Yuzvendra Chahal, who bagged figures of 2-1-4-1.

The other three spinners in Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, and Deepak Hooda also took one wicket each while bowling economically.

He said Chahal bowled in the powerplay as a right-hander was batting during that phase of the game on a turning wicket.

"Chahal was included because we felt an additional spinner would help us. It really did as he bowled well for us."

"You take decisions on the basis of surface and instincts.

# German resilience triumphs in high-quality World Cup

India's long wait for medal continues

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30 (PTI):

In a World Cup of high-quality hockey, the German "culture of resilience" triumphed, ending Belgium's five-year reign as the most successful team, while hosts India's nearly five-decade long wait for a medal continued.

The Germans made another stunning comeback from a two-goal deficit to beat defending champions Belgium 5-4 in a penalty shootout of a classic summit clash. The two sides were locked 3-3 in the regulation time of 60 minutes on Sunday.

This was the third time in the showpiece that Germany had won after trailing 0-2 and their fa-

bled mental strength and never-say-die attitude came to the fore again. They had done so against England in the quarterfinals and against Australia in the semifinals.

Germany joined Australia and Netherlands to have clinched the World Cup title three times. Only Pakistan have won the World Cup four times. Germany's earlier triumphs had come in 2002 and 2006. They were runners-up in 1982 and 2010 and finished sixth and fifth in the 2014 and 2018 editions respectively.

The triumph also took Germany to the top of FIH world rankings from the pre-tournament fourth place. "This triumph is incredible, I don't have any

words to describe this feat," German coach Andre Henning said after his side's first title win since 2006.

"We came back from 0-2 down in the quarterfinals, semifinals and now in the final. You cannot now say it is luck, it is due to the quality in this team. We had the belief throughout that we can win this World Cup."

Netherlands, who had finished runners-up in the last two editions, clinched their fourth straight medal after beating Australia 3-1 in the bronze play-off. They had also won a bronze in the 2010 edition.

For Australia, this was the first time they returned home without a

medal after they finished fourth in the 1998 edition. They had won a bronze in the last edition.

German striker Niklas Wellen, who scored a last-minute goal against Australia in the semifinals and another one in the final, was fittingly named player of the tournament. He was also the joint third highest scorer with seven strikes, sharing the position with Netherlands captain Thierry Brinkman.

Australia's Jeremy Hayward emerged as the tournament's top scorer with nine goals in six matches while Tom Boon of Belgium, Victor Charlet of France and Jip Janssen of Netherlands were joint second with eight goals each.

# PSG held to 1-1 draw after Reims equalizes in stoppage time

Paris, Jan 30 (AP):

Striker Folarin Balogun equalized deep into stoppage time as Reims earned a 1-1 draw at French league leader Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday, keeping PSG three points ahead of second-place Lens.

Balogun, who began his career at Premier League team Arsenal and stood out throughout the game with his movement, latched onto a long pass in the sixth minute of injury time. He easily beat veteran defender Sergio Ramos for pace before confidently shooting past goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

It was the 21-year-old forward's 11th league goal of the season and



one less than PSG's scorer Neymar.

Neymar struck in the 51st to move one behind league top scorer and teammate Kylian Mbappé, before PSG had midfielder Marco Verratti

sent off for a dangerous tackle on Japan winger Junya Ito in the 59th. Verratti made his return from a thigh injury when he came on for the second half. Midtable Reims extended its un-

beaten run to 12 games, which included holding PSG to a 0-0 draw at home in October, and was the better side in the first half.

Donnarumma almost gave a goal away after 23 seconds when he hacked a back pass straight to the opposition but got away with it.

Balogun went close midway through the first half and teammate Marshall Munetsi a midfielder with Zimbabwe also caused problems for PSG's static defense.

Referee Ruddy Buquet awarded Reims a penalty shortly after Neymar's goal for a foul on Balogun but changed his mind following a video review.

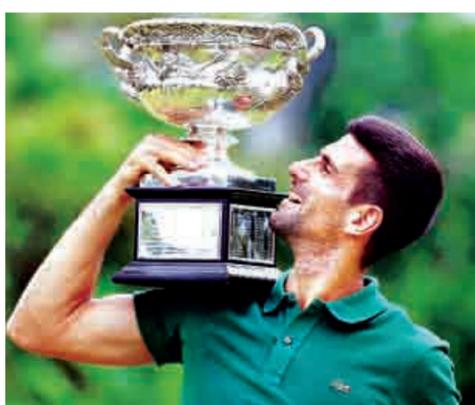
In the end, Balogun had his say.

# Novak Djokovic clearly not done dominating tennis

Melbourne, Jan 30 (AP):

Novak Djokovic clearly is not done dominating his sport. He says so. His coach says so. And, most importantly, his performances throughout a draining run to a record-extending 10th Australian Open championship and recording 22nd Grand Slam title, plus his return Monday to No. 1 in the ATP rankings, say so. His message Sunday night, essentially, was: Look out.

"I still have lots of motivation. Let's see how far it takes me. I really don't want to stop here. I don't have intention to stop here," the 35-year-old Djokovic said after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas, a man more than a decade his junior, by a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5) score in the final at



Melbourne Park. "I feel great about my tennis. I know that when I'm feeling good physically, (and) mentally present, I have a chance to win any Slam against anybody."

**Hard to argue.**

Not only has no man won more major trophies (Rafael Nadal also has 22; Margaret Court, with 24; and Serena Williams, with 23, are the only players in history with more), but Djokovic just keeps apply-

ing constant pressure on opponents regardless of the surface or any apparent obstacles in his way.

He returned to Australia with some trepidation, unsure of what sort of reception awaited a year after he was deported for not being vaccinated against COVID-19, and was fine. He dealt with a sore left hamstring, and was fine, dropping one set along the way to the title. He was bothered by the unusual circumstances that kept his father who had last attended the Australian Open 15 years ago away from Rod Laver Arena for Djokovic's semifinal and final, and was fine.

Well, able to bottle all of that up, anyway, until the last point was played. That's when Djokovic "emotionally collapsed,"

as he put it, sobbing in the stadium. "It required an enormous mental energy, really, to stay present, to stay focused, to take things day by day," he said, wearing a white zippered jacket with "22" printed on the chest, "and really see how far I can go." His strokes are pure as can be. His athleticism, too. His resolve? Off the charts. "Novak is a player that pushes you to your limits," is the way Tsitsipas explained it.

He would know. He has lost 10 consecutive matches to Djokovic, two in Grand Slam finals.

"I don't see this as a curse. I don't see this as something, like, annoying," Tsitsipas continued. "This is very good for the sport to have competitors like him, to have champions like him."

## Khelo India Youth Games

# Technical officials struggle for basics in 'brand new' accommodation

New Delhi, Jan 30 (PTI):

The absence of basic facilities in a "brand new" hotel, where the table tennis technical officials are being put up, has come to light on day one of the competition in the fifth Khelo India Youth Games, in Indore.

The competition officials were shocked to find out that the hotel they were being accommodated in was inaugurated on the day of their arrival on January 28.

"The company (a leading travel company) who is responsible for booking the hotel for the officials was probably not aware the facility was not yet ready for use. Some of the

rooms have no chairs and tables while the others have no mirrors.

"Most of the officials are 50 plus and are having a hard time staying in the hotel. Two female staff decided to stay in competition venue after seeing the state of affairs in the hotel," a source told PTI on Monday.

Madhya Pradesh is hosting the central government-backed multi-sporting event across nine cities — Bhopal, Gwalior, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat, Khargone (Maheshwar) besides Indore to conduct 27 disciplines.

The table tennis event is taking place at the Abhay Prashal Indoor

Stadium in Indore, with 31 players participating in the U-19 category.

Among other logistical issues faced by the event, a few players had complained of not getting their uniform on time.

"A couple of Karnataka players approached the technical officials over the delay in getting playing kits but a system error showed they had already received it. The issue was then sorted out by the officials," the source added.

Fifteen boys and 16 girls are taking part in the event with Suhana Saini from Haryana and Ankur Bhattacharjee from West Bengal being favourites to win the singles titles.

