

BRIEF



A woman carrying a child walks down stairs of a building affected by the land subsidence, in Joshimath, Thursday.

Seized

Thane: Police have arrested four persons on the charge of theft of autorickshaws in Navi Mumbai town and neighbouring places in Maharashtra and seized 10 stolen vehicles from them, an official said on Thursday. With this, the police claimed to have solved 10 cases of autorickshaw thefts - four of neighbouring Mumbai, and two each from Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar police commissionerate.

Accident

Jammu: Fifteen pilgrims were injured when a mini bus skidded off the the road and rolled down a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday, officials said. The accident took place when the pilgrims were en route to Katra from Shiv Khori.

Mishap

Srinagar: A labourer was killed after an avalanche hit Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said. The avalanche hit the Sarbala area close to Nilgrath where Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) is executing work on the Zojila Tunnel. "The body of a worker has been recovered from the avalanche site and shifted to the nearby hospital," the officials said.

Booked

Shimla: A bank employee has been booked for allegedly defrauding customers to the tune of over Rs 3 crore, police said here on Thursday. The accused, identified as Arvind Kumar, was posted at the New Shimla branch of ICICI Bank, they said. The branch manager, in his complaint, alleged that the accused employee collected funds from customers in the name of mutual funds but deposited the same in his bank account, police said.

Stone pelting

Visakhapatnam: Unidentified persons pelted stones at a coach of the new Vande Bharat train at the railway yard here breaking a glass window, police said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to virtually flag off the high-speed express train between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam on January 15.

Weather
High 29 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,858.20
SENSEX 59,958.03

BULLION
GOLD 55,858
SILVER 68,648

GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

'Your voice is India's voice'

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The world is in a state of crisis and the developing countries should come together to redesign global political and financial governance that can remove inequalities and enlarge opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a virtual summit of leaders of the Global South hosted by India.

In his remarks at the opening session of the two-day Voice of Global South Summit, Modi referred to pressing global challenges such as food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict, terrorism and the climate change and said the developing countries are feeling the impact of the situation though they were not responsible for it. "We have turned the page on another difficult year, that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions, rising food, fertil-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the opening session of the Voice of Global South Summit, via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Thursday.

izer and fuel prices, climate-change driven natural disasters, and lasting economic impact of the Covid pandemic," he said.

"It is clear the world is in a state of crisis. It is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last," Modi said.

He said there is a need to "re-energise" the world, and pitched for a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognise, Respect and Reform' to deal with the challenges.

"Respond to the priorities of the Global South by framing an inclusive and balanced international agenda, and recognise that the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' applies to all global challenges," he said. "Respect sovereignty of all nations, rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes and reform international institutions, including the United Nations, to make

them more relevant," Modi added. Leaders of several countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Guyana, Mozambique, Mongolia and Senegal were among those who attended the summit.

The 'global South' largely refers to the developing countries, especially those in Asia, Africa and South America. "As far as India is concerned, your voice is India's voice. Your priorities are India's priorities," Modi asserted. He said the global south should no longer be excluded from the fruits of development and they must attempt to redesign global political and financial governance. "For our G20 Presidency, we have picked the theme of - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This is in line with our civilizational ethos. We believe the path to realise 'oneness' is through human-centric development," he said.

RS 4,957 CR BANK FRAUD

CBI books Mumbai firm

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The CBI has filed an FIR against Mumbai-based Pratibha Industries Ltd and its four directors/guarantors for duping a Bank of Baroda-led consortium of 17 banks to the tune of Rs 4,957 crore, officials said Thursday.

The company was into development of infrastructure projects, which included designing, engineering and execution/construction of complex, integrated water transmission, distribution projects, water treatment plants, mass housing projects, precast design and construction, road construction and urban infrastructure, etc, a CBI spokesperson said. It is alleged that the accused had diverted huge amount of money from the borrower company to its related parties and subsidiaries and subsequently, these advances were written off by the company, the officials said.

Really Remarkable Reward!

Amul
Say Haan not Naa tu butter!

India's top stores raided for substandard toys

Over 18,500 toys seized from Hamleys, Archies and other retail stores

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said 18,600 toys have been seized in the last one month from major retail stores, including those of Hamleys and Archies, at airports and malls across India for lack of BIS quality mark and use of fake licences.

Meanwhile, consumer protection regulator CCPA has also issued notices to three major e-commerce players - Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal - for alleged violation of toys quality control order, it said.

Since January 1, 2021, the government has made it mandatory for toys to conform with safety norms specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a national standard setting body.

"We received complaints from domestic manufacturers of sale of toys that do not conform with the BIS standard. We conducted 44

raids in last one month and seized 18,600 toys from major retail stores," BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said in a press conference.

The seized toys were both locally manufactured as well as imported. Some of the toys did not have mandatory BIS quality mark, some had fake BIS licence number and some toys had 'origin of other countries', he said.

Tiwari said the raids were conducted in major retail stores, including those of Hamleys, Archies, WH Smith, Kids Zone and Cocomart, located at major airports and malls across the country.

According to the BIS, toys were seized from Hamleys' stores at New Delhi airport Terminal 1 and 2 as well as in Kolkata, Ranchi, Noida and SAS Nagar (Punjab).

Toys have also been seized from the Archies store at Ghaziabad's Pacific Mall, WH Smith stores at Hyderabad and Delhi airports, Cococart stores at Mumbai and Gujarat airports, and Tiara Toys Zone at Chennai airport, it said.

FAKE NEWS

Centre cracks down on 6 YouTube channels

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government has cracked down on six YouTube channels that were found to be spreading fake news to its nearly 20 lakh subscribers, an official statement said on Thursday. The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said these six channels were working in a coordinated manner and spreading false information and their videos had over 51 crore views. The YouTube channels were found to be spreading fake news about the elections, proceedings in the Supreme Court and Parliament, and the functioning of the government, the statement said.

The channels are - Nation TV with over 5.57 lakh subscribers, Samvaad TV with 10.9 lakh subscribers, Sarokar Bharat (21,100), Nation24 (25,400), Swarnim Bharat (6,070) and Samvaad Samachar (3.48 lakh), the statement said. A senior official said that the channels Samvaad Samachar, Samvaad TV and Nation TV changed their names to Inside India, Inside Bharat and Nation Weekly respectively, after being "busted" by the Fact Check Unit of PIB. The videos on the channels in question included false claims regarding ban on electronic voting machines, and false statements attributed to senior constitutional functionaries including the President and the Chief Justice of India.

UZBEK COUGH SYRUP CASE

Marion Biotech's production licence suspended

WHO issues medical product alert

Noida/Geneva, Jan 12 (PTI):

The production licence of Noida-based pharmaceutical firm Marion Biotech, allegedly linked with the deaths of children in Uzbekistan, has been suspended while the results of its controversial cough syrup are awaited, an Uttar Pradesh drug official said Thursday.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also issued a medical product alert on Ambronol and Dok-1 Max syrups, both

manufactured by Marion Biotech in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. A team of central agencies and the Uttar Pradesh drug department had carried out an inspection at the firm's office here on December 29 and taken six more samples for testing. During the inspection, the company representatives could not produce documents related to the production of 'Dok-1 Max' cough syrup, prompting the government to order halting of its production immediately, Gautam Buddh Nagar Drug Inspector Vaibhav Babbar said. "The production licence of the

firm remains suspended, as was ordered on December 29. Now the suspension order has been issued in writing to the firm on January 10 and has been acknowledged by the firm," Babbar told PTI. On the status of the test results, the officer said the samples were taken by the central agencies and their results are yet to arrive. Marion Biotech did not sell 'Dok-1 Max' and Ambronol in India and its only export has been to Uzbekistan, Babbar told PTI on Thursday and estimated that the company exported around 1 lakh Dok-1 Max syrups in 45 days.

FLAG-OFF CEREMONY



Cooperative Republic of Guyana-bound Ocean Going Passenger and Cargo Ferry Vessel 'MV MA Lisha' during its flag-off ceremony, in Kolkata, Thursday.

AAP gets recovery notice of Rs 163.62 cr for political advertisements

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The AAP has been issued a notice for recovery of Rs 163.62 crore for its political advertisements allegedly published in the garb of government advertisements, according to sources. The development comes nearly a month after Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena directed the chief secretary to recover Rs 97 crore from the AAP for political advertisements it published in the guise of government advertisements. The recovery notice issued by the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP) also includes the interest on the amount and makes it mandatory for the ruling party in Delhi to pay the whole amount

'BJP making illegitimate use of Delhi officers'



within 10 days, the sources said on Wednesday.

Security forces carried out aerial shelling in South Bastar, claim Maoists

Raipur, Jan 12:

The outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoists) has claimed that the security forces carried out aerial strikes using a helicopter and drones in Chhattisgarh's South Bastar region where an encounter had taken place on Wednesday. Chhattisgarh Police, however, said the claim seemed to be an attempt to mislead the local population, and the security forces never compromise on the safety of the local people during their operations. A press release, purportedly issued by the Naxalites, began to circulate on social media on Wednesday night following an encounter between the CoBRA commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

'Attempt to mislead'

Chhattisgarh Police, however, said the claim seemed to be an attempt to mislead the local population, and the security forces never compromise on the safety of the local people during their operations. "State police and the security forces deployed in Bastar are committed to bringing an end to the nefarious intent and act of the banned CPI Maoist outfit. At the same time, there is no compromise in our policy of keeping the wellbeing and safety of our people as the epicenter of our plan and action," the IG said.

and Maoists in South Bastar. The CRPF had on Wednesday said that a team of its elite CoBRA commandos was

descending from a helicopter in the jungles along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts when Maoists fired on them, and there was a gun-fight. No commando was injured while efforts were on to gather information about casualties on the Maoist side, it had said. Later, a one-page statement issued in the name of Ganga, secretary of the 'South Bastar Division Committee' of the Naxalites, claimed that a joint team of Chhattisgarh and Telangana police carried out shelling using drones and from a helicopter, targeting forests and hills in Pamed, Madkanguda, Mettaguda, Sakiler, Kannemarka, Rasapalli and other villages. A similar strike had been carried out on April 15, 2022, it claimed.

LAND SUBSIDENCE

More U'khand towns staring at disaster

Karnaprayag, Landour are some towns

Dehradun, Jan 11 (PTI)

The crisis in Joshimath has brought into focus the issue of land subsidence which has for years been threatening several places of Uttarakhand, including the pilgrim town of Karnaprayag and Landour. Around 80 km from Joshimath, at least 50 houses at Bahuguna Nagar in Karnaprayag have been developing cracks since 2015. Locals hold gradual land subsidence responsible for the fissures and attribute it to the widening of the national highway, violation of norms in construction



A resident shows cracks that appeared in a house, in Joshimath, Thursday.

works related to mandi parishad, erosion caused by the Pindar river and unsystematic flushing out of rainwater. Debris brought down by a landslide from above Bahuguna Nagar first inflicted damage to houses in 2015, former chairman of Karnaprayag municipal council Subhash Gairola said.

Huge cache of liquor seized; two smugglers held

Liquor was being smuggled from MP to CG in three vehicles



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: The camp "PrashashanTunharDwar" is being organised in different wards on different dates under the auspices of Durg Municipal Corporation. On January 13 the camp is being organised in Chief Minister Ward Office in Borsifrom 10:00 hrsto 13:30 hrs. Application for problems or complaints regarding drinking water, housing scheme, ration card, sanitation, illegal construction, street light,Gumasta license, birth-death, marriage registration, benefits under Chief Minister Slum Health Scheme and etc can be submitted at the Camp. Instructions have been given by the DurgMayor and Municipal Commissioner to ensure arrangements for quick redressal. The camps schedule is: On January 13 Chief Minister Ward Office, Borsi Ward 49, 50, 51, 52 ; on



January 16 at Government Primary School, Potiakala, Durg Ward 53, 54; on January 18 Sahu Bhawan, Bajrang Chowk, Pulgaon Ward 55; on January 20 at Government Pre-Secondary School, Katulboard Ward 59 and 60; on January 23at Government Primary School Kasaridih Ward 42, 43 and 44. Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar have asked the officers to clean the camp and to fix the arrangement of water as well as seating arrangements for the visiting beneficiaries and also instructed for quick disposal of the applications given by the beneficiaries.

Bhilai, Jan 12: Police have seized a huge cache of illicit liquor which was being smuggled from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. The liquor was being smuggled in three vehicles including a truck, a SVU and a car. One of the smugglers managed to escape after spotting the cops. Total

value of the seized liquor and vehicles is around Rs 55 lakhs. While addressing media persons at Dhamdha on Thursday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that as per the intentions of the state government, they are making all possible efforts to curb the illegal trade of liquor and narcotics. Cops are maintaining

vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers has been activated for the purpose. In this sequel, police received a tip off regarding some vehicles which were smuggling liquor from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. Acting on this tip off, Dhamdha Police swung into action and intercept-

ed a truck, a Tata Safari and a Datsun car. The SUV driver managed to escape from the spot while the Truck driver and the Car driver were taken into custody. On searching, police recovered 550 crates of Goa Whiskey worth Rs 30 lakhs from the vehicles. The arrested accused were identified as Vinod Patel (42) son of

Devsharan Patel a resident of Kohka, Bhilai and a native of Rampur; Sidhi (MP) and Dasherath Meena (45) son of Amar Singh Meena a resident of Geeta Colony, Indore (MP). They have been booked under the provisions of the Excise Act. SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that the accused Dasherath Meena has confessed that he smuggled

liquor about ten times in the last one year. However, on the basis of the call records and mobile locations, it is suspected that he has been smuggling liquor for the past several years and was visiting Chhattisgarh almost every month. Further investigations are on to explore the source of liquor and local people involved in this illegal trade.

Seven day NSS special camp of St Thomas College concludes



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: The closing ceremony of seven days NSS special Camp of St Thomas College, was organised at Village Chandkhuri the other day. The Chief Guest of this program was Hemlata Deshmukh, Sarpanch Village Chandkhuri. The program was presided over by Gulab Singh Dewangan, Head Master

Government Primary School Chandkhuri. At the outset, the NSS Program Officer of St Thomas College, Mahendrakhar presented a brief report on various activities conducted by the NSS volunteers during the camp. Sarpanch Hemlata Deshmukh congratulated all the volunteers for their outstanding work in the village. Head Master Gulab Singh Dewangan in

his address said that all the volunteers did memorable work with full dedication for the villagers. All the volunteers were awarded with certificates by the guests. NSS volunteers also presented colorful cultural programme. NSS volunteer KhomendraSahu and Prachi Sahu conducted the programme while NSS volunteer Dhananjay Yadav proposed the vote of thanks.

Chhattisgarhi film 'Le Chalhu Apan Duari' in theatres from today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Chhattisgarhi film "Le Chalhu Apan Duari" produced under the banner of Popcorn Films Production and directed by Bollywood director Mutyunjay Singh will be released on January 13 across 31 theatres in the state.

The Chhattisgarhi film will be screened at PVR Cinemas of Bhilai and Apsara Talkies of Durg, Krishna Talkies of Rajnandgaon and Shyam Talkies of Raipur informed director of this film Matyunjay Singh while addressing media persons here. Appreciating the film, the director said that the audience will love the movie as the story moves around three generations while preserving the folk culture. The making of the



film focuses on the rural backdrop of Chhattisgarh. Along with patriotism, emotion and comedy have also been included in this film. Film's lead roles being played by television star Sheel Verma, Pooja Sharma along with other stars of the films Jairam Bhagwani, Narendra Davda, Shamshir Sivani, writer Kaustan Sahu, DOP ArushiBageshwar, execu-

utive producer Abdul Wahid were present. The lead actors explained that all modern techniques have been used to ensure that there is no shortage in the making of the film. For this the entire technical team had come from Mumbai to Chhattisgarh. Director Mrityunjay Singh informed that the producers of this film are

Devnarayan Sahu and Uttara Kumar Sahu, while the writer of this film is The Kapil Sharma Show writer Kaustan Sahu who is from Chhattisgarh. The heroine of this film is Mohini fame Pooja Sharma, who has a subscription in crores. The hero of this film, Sheel Verma is famous for his role in TV serial Naagin 6 and Sasural Simar. Apart

from this, the best actors of Mumbai and Chhattisgarh have played in this film. The music of the film is given by Mohini and Preet's Dori fame Monika Verma and Tushant Kumar. Monika Verma, Tushant Kumar, Tushant Solanki and Siddhant Nirala have given their melodious voice to the songs of this film. The film is edited by Santu, while Abdul Wahid was in charge of production. The specialty of this film is that for the first time, a woman Arushi Bageshwar has captured the film in the best way while working as DOP. The shooting of the film has been done at various romantic and scenic places of Chhattisgarh. The writer, director and DOP of the film are all young men between the ages of twenty five and thirty.

Bhilai Chamber delegate meets SDM

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: A delegation of Bhilai Chamber of Commerce led by State General Secretary Ajay Bhasin and Bhilai Unit President Gargi Shankar Mishra met SDM Padmini Bhoi and Rawate. The delegation handed over a demand letter informing about the problems faced by the traders due to the depth of the underbridge being constructed at Supela railway gate. Along with discussing various points on the aforesaid subject and demanded meaningful initiative. On this, the officials assured to take positive initiative after discussing this matter with the railway officials. While giving this information, Chamber's State



General Secretary Ajay Bhasin said that as the depth of the underbridge being constructed at Supela railway crossing is too much, the route is badly affected, due to which traders of South

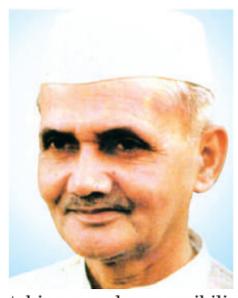
Gangotri and Akashganga are facing difficulties. Only recently B h i l a i M u n i c i p a l Corporation has allotted new plots in this area. About 70-80 percent shops from Supela railway cross-

ing to SupelaSquare and the vegetable market are affected by due to construction of the under-bridge. Bhilai Chamber President Gargi Shankar Mishra said that due to the

construction of flyover on GE Road, the road from National Highway to Sabzi Mandi has also become one-way. In such a situation, only the railway crossing route from Supela Chowk will be more useful. Also, the 20-foot road connecting South Gangotri to the National Highway is not sufficient to control traffic if it is being considered for use as an alternate route. Therefore, for the construction of the under-bridge, amendments should be made in the systematic alternative route and map, so that the traders of South Gangotri and Akashganga do not face much difficulties in business operations. Vinay Singh, Parmanand Yadav, Anil Singh, Rahul and Rajesh Khurana were part of the delegation.

There is enough food in the country because of Shastri ji: Qureshi

Bhilai, Jan 12: Former Minister Badruddin Qureshi paid heartfelt tribute to the second Prime Minister of India and Bharat Ratna Lalbahadur Shastri on his death anniversary. He said that Shastri was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary in Uttar Pradesh at a very young age and considering his merit, he was made the Home Minister. He came to New Delhi in 1951 and took charge of many departments of the Union Cabinet including Railways, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Home Minister. Lal Bahadur Shastri was the first minister of the country, to tender resignation



taking moral responsibility immediately after a train accident. Lalbahadur Shastri took oath as the second Prime Minister of the country and in 1965, Pakistan started a war and at that time the economic condition of our country was bad, and had to took upon other

countries for food grains. At this time, Shastri gave the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" to generate energy in the farmers and youth of the country and that slogan became so effective that after 1965, so much food grains were produced in the whole country that today it can meet the food demand for a population of 130 crores and Pakistan suffered defeat in the 1965 war. Baijnath Shukla, Samaylal Sahu, Sajjan Prasad Dixit, Sanjay Lakhe, Didar Bhai, Mohammad Jabbar, Abdul Qadir, Umar Khan, Lakhmi Soni, Munnillal Sharma, Ishwar Rao, Parvez Adam, Deepa Sahu, Naem Baig, Munni, Arun Singhwere present.

Labour law violation will not be tolerated: HS Mishra Youth Festival 2022-23: SSMV organises skit competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh State Working President of Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) and senior labour leader HS Mishra said that his union will not ignore the rights of any labourer even if the contractor has good relations with the union leaders. He clarified that the company, contractor and agency indulged in exploiting the laborers should not believe that they will get the benefit of their association with the union office bearers. He asserted that in case of labour laws violation, the union will initiate with agreement and can resort to legal contest if the matter is not settled. State's senior labour leader HS Mishra said that any factory runs because of the labourers. Contractors and agencies also depend on laborers to get their



work done. Hence the employers should respect the rights of workers. But many employers are denying the rights of the workers. Often, the employers ignore the demands of workers and believe that the union will not take any action as they have good relations with them. Mishra said that having relations with someone is a differ-

ent thing. Any employer cannot be allowed to play with the rights of the workers. He added that HMS union never calls any labourer. When the labourers approach the union with their complaint, the responsible officials of the union interact with the concerned company, contractor or agency to protect the labour rights. When the matter is not resolved through talks, the union is forced to take legal action. He condemned the employers for not providing the rights to the labourers. The factories and establishments are making profit just because of the hard work of the employees and labourers. Hence, there should be no hesitation in providing rights to the labourers. He said that the union takes initiative to get the maximum amount as final settlement to the labourers according to the mutual agreement.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalayaorganised skit competition in the Youth festival 2022-23, sponsored by Hemchand Yadav University.In this competition, students of 15 colleges assembled and exhibited their skills on different themes. The themes of skit varied form molestation to girl's education system, dowry system, child abuse, youth and social media, say no to plastic, terrorism, and women empowerment. The colleges that participated were Kalyan PG College, Krishna College, Govt AdarshMahavidyalaya, Badrinath Khandelwal College, Swami

Swaroopanand College, GovtShivnath College, Apollo College, Govt VYT Science College, Seth RC Surana College,Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya, SaiMahavidyalaya, Maitri College, Khalsa College,MJ. College, and Shaildevi college.The competition was judged by Jolly Sen, BSP; Varda Joshi, DrRajmani Patel, Deputy Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University,Durg. Principal of the college DrArchana Jha thanked Vice Chancellor and othermembers of Hemchand Yadav University for giving opportunity to be a part of this youthfestival. She urged the youth to channelize their energy so the festivals like these provide



anappropriate platform to gain valuable recognition. She further explained the rules to be followed by the participants. Jolly Sen expressed her overwhelmed

feeling to be in SSMV. She said activities in youthfestival provided an opportunity to the students to emerge as an artist. She further gavevarious tips

for the participant to perform their best in their future.Vardha Joshi motivated all the participants who came forward and gave their bestperformance in the front of audience. Further, she explained thedifference between TV Show and Stage Show. Dean Academics of the College, Dr JDurga Prasad Rao congratulated gave theorganising team & the volunteers for their hard work which made this function amemorable one for all. He also extended his gratitude towards the judges for givingtheir valuable feedback.The programme was mega hit due to the cooperation and coordination of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college and the audience.

Raipur, Ch'garh contributed in making Narendra as Vivekananda: Baghel

Lays stone for restoration work of Swami Vivekananda Memorial 'De-Bhawan' at Gandhi Maidan

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that to perpetuate the memory of Swami Vivekananda, Day Bhawan in Raipur will be developed as an international level monument. He expressed his views while addressing the programme after laying the foundation stone of the restoration work of Swami Vivekananda Memorial 'De-Bhawan' at Gandhi Maidan in the capital Raipur on the occasion of Youth Day today.

The Chief Minister said that Swami



Vivekananda was the man of the era and the creator of the era, who showed the whole world the way to serve humanity. Attributing Raipur and Chhattisgarh to establishment of Narendra Nath's identity as Swami Vivekananda Baghel said that Swami Vivekananda spent his 12 years to 14 years of adolescence in Raipur. Certainly

Chhattisgarh has played an important role in the life of Swami Vivekananda, he said. Earlier the Chief Minister inspected Dey Bhawan. He also paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi after reaching Gandhi Maidan.

Swami Vivekananda spent most of time of his life in Raipur after Kolkata. During his visit

to Raipur Vivekananda lived with his parents in Dey Bhawan Raipur, Baghel said. With laying of foundation stone the renovation work of Dey Bhawan began today. The renovation will be carried out at the cost of Rs 4.5 crore.

The Chief Minister also transferred total amount of Rs 19 crore 14 lakh 25 thousand to 7718

Rajiv Yuva Clubs of 21 districts. With this Rajiv Yuva Mitan Clubs have so far been given Rs 52.40 crore. The Chief Minister also announced to start the process of recruitment to fill up 971 posts of police sub inspector.

The programme was presided over by Swami Sarvattamanand Ji Maharaj, Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Belur West Bengal. Food and Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, President of Bhootnath Day Charitable Trust Dr HS Upadhyay, MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma, Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Aijaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey were present in the programme as special guests.

MARKET CONGESTION



The shop owners extending their shops outside the limits and the vendors are the leading cause behind congestion on roads in most of the market area of capital city these days.

BIS conducts raid in toys shop

● On charges of selling non-ISI mark toys

Raipur, Jan 12: Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) conducted raid in a toys shop in Katoratalab on charges of selling of non-standard mark toys and in

violation of India's Quality Control Order and BIS Act 2016. It is notable here that as per order from Ministry of Industry and Commerce, GoI, that the toys made for children below 14 yrs should carry ISI mark from 1 Jan 2021. As per orders and the Act,

no person can make non-ISI Mark toys, nor would be sell it as well. Set aside this they are also not allowed to store it. In case if any producer or seller is found violating the Act or order, then action will be taken under article 17 of BIS Act 2016

Three nabbed with 5.250 kg 'Ganja'

● Were taking it to MP

Raipur, Jan 12: It was on tip from an informer, that some persons are keeping 'Ganja' near New Bus Stand in Bhatagaon and are waiting for customers. On this information, the police team under leadership of TI Tikrapra thana raided and started inquiring the person and identified them. The police seized 5.250 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 52000 in their possession.

The Police when inquired the accused, they disclosed their name as Praman Kushram,



Ramkumar Rathore, and Sanjay Kumar Uikey, all R/o Madhya Pradesh. The three accused have put all the 'Ganja' inside a bag and were looking for customers. The police seized the entire 'ganja' and filed case under 20 (B) of Narcotics Act. The accused informed that they have brought 'ganja' from Malkangiri of Odisha and were taking it to MP via Mandala.

RGBKMNY is also providing assistance to landless farmers: CM

● Scale of development through the devp of a person

Central Chronicle News

Sihawa, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel stated that two-thirds of the assembly constituency had been covered under ongoing Bhent-Mulaqat. We determine the scale of development through the development of a person. We have worked on malnutrition and continue to work in the health sector. To boost people's income, individual action plans were developed for each section, from which



everyone benefited, he added. CM informed that earlier, 15 lakh farmers sold paddy and presently, there are around 25 lakh farmers. The area has also grown. This year's paddy procurement will

be higher than last year's. Work on lifting paddy is also gathering momentum and it would be completed by February or March.

CM said that Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhoomiheen Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana (RGBKMNY) is also providing assistance to landless families. 98 lakh quintals of cow dung have been purchased under the Godhan Nyay Yojana. Now the work of making natural paint from cow dung is also going on. A provision of one thousand crores has also been made for the upgradation of schools.

CM Baghel said Rs 3200 crore has been provided

as relief under the 'half bijli bill Yojana'. An announcement has been made to make 12 Devgudi and upgrade them in the Scheduled Area and 12 spots that are identified here. Members of the Rajiv Yuva Mitan club have also competed in the Chhattisgarhiya Olympics, and females have participated in great numbers.

CM informed that the state government has completed the procedure of granting a lease under the forest rights. It was also applied in urban areas. Announcements have been made according to the needs and demands of the locals in Belargaon and Khisora.

Dr Mahant for completion of Ministers' chamber before Budget session



Raipur, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant on Thursday inspected the construction work of the official chambers of Ministers at the Assembly premises.

Talking to the officials from Public Works

Department, Dr Mahant directed them to complete the construction works before the forthcoming Budget session of Assembly. He added that the quality and timely works should be ensured in the process of construction. He said that the timely construction of the official chambers would ensure the Ministers are able to work from their chamber during the forthcoming Budget session. Minister for Revenue Jaisingh Agrawal, Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma and senior officials were present on the occasion.

UCO Bank organises discussion on the occasion of World Hindi Day

Raipur, Jan 12: World Hindi Day was organised on January 10, 2023 at UCO Bank Zonal Office, Raipur. On this occasion, a discussion was organised on the topic 'Our role in expanding Hindi on the world stage'. Zonal head Mrs. Lucky Nayak inaugurated the function. On this occasion, Zonal Head, Mrs. Lucky Nayak read the World Hindi Day message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After this the discussion started on the topic 'Our role in expanding Hindi on the world stage'.

In the beginning, Mr. Subhash Chandra Shah, Chief Manager (Official Language), discussed the expansion of Hindi on the world stage by highlighting the background of World Hindi Day and World Hindi Conferences. He said that the purpose of celebrating World Hindi Day is to develop aware-



ness for the spread of Hindi at the global level. Hindi is rapidly moving forward at the world level through various mediums. We should also play our role in this.

Participating in the discussion, Deputy Zonal Chief Mr. Narendra Pratap Singh said that Hindi is the identity of India. Indianness is recognized through Hindi even

in foreign countries. He said that we should be proud of our language and culture. This is the basic mantra of development. In this era of globalisation Hindi is spreading all over the world due to its specialties. Many Hindi words are also being included in the Oxford dictionary.

In this era of information technology, Hindi is

progressing continuously due to the efforts of various institutions and organizations through internet, media etc., but the destination has not yet been achieved. Therefore, all of us should contribute to the Yagya of Hindi dissemination by working more and more in Hindi and ensuring the availability of more and more Hindi material on the Internet etc.

Addressing the function Mrs. Lucky Laik said that today Hindi is not only the language of the people of India, but it is also becoming very popular and prestigious at the world level. She said that Hindi is the language of communication, coordination and harmony. It serves to connect people. The culture of a country is preserved in its languages. More and more expansion of Hindi is necessary for the spread of Indian culture at the world level, she added. In

the present changing environment, Hindi has to be made more prosperous as the language of official and knowledge, science and technology etc. according to the time.

We all have an important responsibility in this. The more enriched Hindi becomes by establishing coordination with local languages in different parts of the country, the more speed it will spread globally. She called upon everyone to conduct their maximum work in Hindi to inspire others and to contribute in the spread of Hindi at the world level through technology etc. The function was attended by all the staff members of the bank. G. C. Pradhan, Chief Manager (Security) proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Subhash Chandra Shah, Chief Manager (Official Language) successfully conducted and coordinated the programme.

World Hindi Day celebrated in Bank of India

Raipur, Jan 12: World Hindi Day was organised on Tuesday, January 10th in Bank of India, Raipur Zone. Addressing the function, Mr. Vivek Prabhu, Zonal Manager of the Bank, told the staff members about the importance of World Hindi Day and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment towards Hindi. On this occasion, Mr. Neeraj Kumar Dutta, Deputy Zonal Manager of the Bank highlighted India's strong economy abroad and acceptance of Hindi on the world stage and



informed how Hindi is now strengthening its existence as an international language. The program was conducted by the Official Language Officer of Raipur Zone, Mr. Raman Kumar and also read the messages of the Prime

Minister and the Home Minister. The staff members took a pledge to play their important role in the promotion of Hindi. Along with this, the program ended successfully with the vote of thanks by the sub-zonal manager.

Govt patronizing forceful Religious Conversion by imposing NSA: BJP

Raipur, Jan 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that the state government has directed the administration to impose National Security Act (NSA) to patronize the Religious Conversion as attempts are being made by the Congress government to take tough action against the Religious Activists who have launched campaign

against the forceful conversion of innocent tribals.

In a statement issued here, the BJP General Secretary Kedar Kashyap said that the Bhubesh Baghel government is playing with the sentiments of tribals who are battling hard against the forceful Religious Conversion and added that it is under the directives of Congress supremo

Sonia Gandhi. He added that decision to impose NSA against the protestors of Religious Conversion is an attempt to end the tribal culture in Chhattisgarh. Kashyap said that the anti-tribal face of Congress has been exposed with the above move to impose NSA against the tribals who are opposing the Religious Conversion in their region.

Lok Aayog Secretary Khalko shifted to Mantralaya

IAS Anurag Pandey entrusted with additional responsibility

Raipur, Jan 12: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer of 2009 batch Anurag Pandey has been given additional responsibility of Secretary Lok Aayog Raipur with immediate effect. He would continue to hold the office of Special Secretary Water

Resources Department and Revenue and Rehabilitation. Lok IAS Officer of 2012 batch Sudhakar Khalko working as Secretary Lok Aayog has been shifted to Mantralaya as Joint Secretary but no portfolio has been given to him presently, stated an order issued from General Administration Department (GAD).

Meanwhile, the officials stated that fresh posting order of few more officers would be issued in next few days.

Main function of R-Day to be held at Police Parade Ground

Last rehearsal will be on January 24 from 8.30 am

Raipur, Jan 12: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure asked the departmental officers to ensure the success of the program with mutual coordination regarding all the preparations for the Republic Day programme. He told that the main function of Republic Day in Raipur will be held on January 26 at 9 am at Police Parade Ground Raipur. The Collector informed that the last rehearsal will be held on January 24 from 8.30 am at the Police Parade Ground.



He has instructed all the officers to be present on time. Collector told that like last year, this year too, keeping in view the spread of Covid-19, the cultural program of school children will not be organized.

On the occasion of Republic Day, on January 26, 2023, all government buildings will be illuminated at night. He informed that tableaux will be presented by the interested departments this year at the Police Parade Ground. He said that the

programs to be organized on Republic Day in all the offices located in Raipur should be completed before 8 am. He informed that the flag hoisting would be done at the collectorate at 8 am and district level prizes would also be distributed.

The Collector directed the officers of the Police Department to ensure traffic and parking arrangements at the main program venue, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Raipur for

cleanliness and arrangement of drinking water at the Police Parade Ground, Forest Officer to arrange barricading at the Police Parade Ground, District Registrar for arrangement of balloons, Chhattisgarh Electricity Board officials to make uninterrupted power arrangements during the program.

The officer of the Horticulture Department was asked to make arrangements for pots and the Chief Medical Health Officer to conscientiously fulfill the responsibility given to the officers of various departments, including the arrangement of paramedical staff and ambulances along with medicines.

Assembly Speaker pays tributes to Swami Vivekananda



Raipur, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant paid floral tributes to his statue at the assembly premises remembering his birth anniversary today. Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal, Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma and senior officers of Assembly Secretariat were also present. In his message on this occasion, the Speaker

Dr Mahant said that Swami Vivekananda gave a new direction to the society with his thoughts. He has always been an inspiration to the youth and his message of "Arise, awake and march till you reach your goal" continues to inspire people even today, Dr Mahant said, adding that Swami Vivekananda had spent some time of his youth in Chhattisgarh.

State govt is fulfilling the promise made to the public: CM

CM reaches Khisora village of Sihawa assembly constituency under Dhamtari district

CM announced to start a sub-divisional officer revenue link court in Magarlod



Sihawa, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Khisora village of the Sihawa assembly constituency under the Dhamtari district as a part of his mammoth public interaction drive 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan'. He directly interacted with the villagers and took information about the implementation of the welfare schemes of the state government at the ground level. Addressing the villagers on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that he is fulfilling the promise he had made to the public. He further said that he has come to Khisora to meet the people and asked about their well-being. He said that Dhamtari is the largest producer of paddy and grains and has a maximum number of rice mills.

Referring to the farmer-friendly schemes, the Chief Minister said that as soon as the government was formed, we first waived the loans of the farmers. Chhattisgarh is the first state where farmers are getting Rs.2500 per quintal price of paddy including support price and input subsidy. He said that till now 3 installments of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana have been transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries and, the fourth installment will be released before 31st March. The Chief

Minister asked about paddy procurement, gunny bags, weighing, paddy lifting and payment. He said that they are fulfilling all the promises they have made. The Chief Minister said that the state government has decided to give 35 kg of rice to one family. The process of making everyone's ration card is in progress. He took information about the ration card from the villagers.

Chief Minister Baghel commenced the 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programme by garlanding the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari. The state song "Arpa Pari Ke Dhar" was also played and sung on the occasion. Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhediyi, MLA Dr. Lakshmi Dhruv were also present on this occasion.

Shobharam built his house from RGKMY's money

During the meeting, the Chief Minister asked the villagers whose loan was waived off. In response, hundreds of villagers raised their hands and said yes in one voice. Shobharam Sahu of village Channa told that he has 3 acres of land, his Rs.50 thousand loan was waived off, and he used the amount of the third installment of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana to build a house. He arranged the function of his grandson's naming ceremony with money received under this

scheme. Praising the arrangements made for paddy procurement, he thanked the Chief Minister and said that the farmers are now happy.

Farmers no need to rely on moneylenders, they are now turning to banks

Kamlesh Nishad of Khisora village said he owns 4.25 acres of land and that a loan of Rs 49 thousand had been waived off. Within two days of selling paddy, money was deposited into the account. The Chief Minister asked him about the money he received from the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Kamlesh said that he used this amount to purchase a Super Splendor vehicle and, he will inaugurate his new bike at his in-law's place. Meanwhile, Kamlesh said that the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana has benefited farmers. Previously, they use to go to moneylenders during festivals; now, they go to banks.

Getting benefit of RGGBKMY: Pyarelal

Pyarelal said that he is getting the benefit of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramteen Bhumihon Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana (RGGBKMY). He praised this scheme. Somesh Kumar Yadav of village Khisora told that he sold 215 quintals of cow dung, and earned Rs.65 thousand. He is managing the expenses of his children's education with

money and praised Godhan Nyay Yojana. A member of the women's SHGs told that by manufacturing vermicompost, her group earned an income of Rs.2 lakhs. Krishna Kumar earned Rs.57 thousand 770 by selling cow dung. He built a house by selling cow dung and used the amount to get treatment when he fell sick. Rukhmani told that the doctor in Haat Bazar Clinic gives free treatment. She is taking treatment for a year. She praised the plan. The Chief Minister also asked about the Khubchand Baghel Swasthya Sahayata Yojana, Vishesh Swasthya Sahayata Yojana and Forest Lease from the villagers.

Vimal Netam told that he has got land of 1 acre 60 decimals on lease. He also sells paddy on lease. He told that there is no Gauthan in the dependent village of Gram Panchayat. He also talked about making 'aavarti charai'. He also requested that instead of procuring 15 quintals per acre paddy, 20 quintals should be procured. The Chief Minister told that his intention is to procure all paddy from the farmers and also the paddy of the rabi crop. He also said that the state government will purchase all paddy of both Kharif and Rabi seasons when they receive approval from the Government of India to pro-

duce ethanol from surplus paddy.

The Chief Minister asked about the caste certificate. Shubham told that he is facing difficulty in making a caste certificate as his land record is not available. The Chief Minister said that he needs to get a proposal from the panchayat according to the rules for caste certificates. While being asked about the Rajiv Yuva Mitam Club Yojana, Ramkrishna Sahu said that under this scheme there is a total of 40 members of which 12 are females. The funds received under this scheme are used for sports, tree planting, village development, and panchayat assistance. He praised the scheme and said that the scheme is very good. Somesh Kumar of Khisora told that he is managing the household expenses by selling cow dung.

Announcements made by the Chief Minister in village Khisora of Sihawa assembly constituency

The Chief Minister made several announcements on the demand of villagers and public representatives in the village Khisora. He announced to start sub-divisional officer revenue link court in Magarlod two days a week, a sub-tehsil status to Karelbadi, construction of a high school in Khisora, construction of a new primary school building in Bastipara of Khisora Bala Talab. He also announced for a new building of Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society, construction of a community hall in Gram Panchayat Motimpur, solar dual pump to be set up at Budhigarh tourist place in Singpur area, Devgudi construction and repair work in Gram Panchayat Singpur and mini stadium in Khisora Maidan.

Direct recruitment will be done on 400 posts of training officers in ITI

● Advertisement to be released soon

Raipur, Jan 12: The state government has taken a big decision in the interest of the youth. There will be direct recruitment on 400 vacant posts of training officers in Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The state government has given sanction for this. According to the information received, the Director Employment and Training was given consent for direct recruitment on these posts by the Skill

Development, Technical Education and Employment Department on Tuesday. Along with this, the recruitment process will also start soon. For this, information has also been sought from all ITI institutes. It is notable that for the first time the process of recruitment of 400 posts of training officers in ITI will be done simultaneously. This will provide opportunities to unemployed youth. The process of recruitment for 210 posts has started by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission. For this, 1.82 lakh applications

have come from across the state. The preliminary examination of the Civil Services will be held on February 12. 3150 candidates will be selected for 210 posts, who will appear in the main exam. Selection will be done on the basis of this. Here the recruitment process is also being done by CGPSC for 48 posts of Civil Judge. Applications have just been invited. The exam will be conducted on 26 February. The exam will be in three phases. Selected candidates will be interviewed. Based on this the main selection list will be released.

'Pahadi Maina' creates a buzz in Chhattisgarhia Olympics



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 12: The atmosphere of the stadium filled with high energy levels when the mascot of Mukhyamantri Mitam Yojana suddenly entered in the state-level program of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics. In the indoor stadium located near Budha Talab in the capital

Raipur, when Mitam's mascot Pahadi Maina arrived among the participants to congratulate the winners of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics which started from October 2022. Players participated from every corner of the state at state-level competitions. Children, old and young women all took part in these competitions with enthusiasm.

Today was the concluding day of the mega event of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics which started from October 2022. Players participated from every corner of the state at state-level competitions. Children, old and young women all took part in these competitions with enthusiasm.

Road Safety Week to be organized till Jan 17

Various programs to be organized to create road safety awareness

Raipur, Jan 12: According to the information received from the Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Chhattisgarh, various programs related to road safety will be organized in the state during Road Safety Week from January 11 to 17. The program will be organized in collaboration with various voluntary organizations including the departments of Chhattisgarh Police, Health, Education and transport and inter-de-

partmental lead agency. It may be noted that the duration of the Road Safety Week has been fixed from January 11 to 17 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

During the road Safety Week in all the districts of Chhattisgarh, NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides, school students and traffic in-charges and other partner organisations will collaborate in the various programs to create public awareness on road safety. Under this, programs like Honoring the Good Samaritan, Essay Competition, Short Video competition, Selfie with Safety Warrior, and other Awareness Program in

various educational institutions have been included. Along with this, checking of the use of reflective tape on the side/rear side of trucks and tractors will be done, action will be taken to stop vehicles driving in the wrong direction and drivers will be given counseling and a special campaign to stop overloading will also be conducted.

Similarly, NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Transport Education, Health and Police officers will be guided through virtual meetings. This information has been given by Chairman, Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Mr. Sanjay Sharma.

Balconagar, Jan 12: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic Aluminium producer, crosses another milestone in its community developmental interventions with its Vedanta Skill School being awarded a 5-star rating under the Skill Management & Accreditation of Training Centers (SMART) programme by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This makes it the only skill center in Chhattisgarh with a 5-star rating and multiple accreditations from the NSDC and Sector Skill Council (SSC). The Vedanta Skill School is a one-of-its-kind institute that provides technical education and vocational training to local youth to make them employable and financially self-reliant. The institute



imparts free residential training in six trades, including Sewing Machine Operator, Electrician, Welding, Hospitality, Fitter-Leveling Alignment & Balancing & Solar PV Technician, along with fur-

ther helping the trainees with placements in companies of repute. The training program, ranging in duration from 45 to 65 days, is designed as per the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) guide-

lines. Since commencing in 2010, more than 10,000 students have graduated from the Vedanta Skill School till now and placed in reputed organizations across the country. They have gone on to bring additional household income and foster development of their communities at large.

Speaking about the certification, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO, said, "Empowered youth play a pivotal role in accelerating the development of a nation. It has been our earnest endeavour to make the local youth self-reliant by imparting them with employable skills and knowledge through the Vedanta Skill Schools. Our Skill Schools have helped bring about a positive transformation in the region, by enabling the youth to avail

various opportunities for their growth and progress. Our youth interventions also include unique programs such as Project Connect, wherein our employees volunteer to help school students perform better in STEM subjects through supplemental coaching." Expressing her gratitude, Pratibha, a student of the Vedanta Skill School who is now employed in a leading textile company, says, "Enrolling in the Vedanta Skill School has been one of the best decisions of my life. I am deeply thankful to BALCO and the school for making me financially independent which is helping me take care of my family. The institute has been instrumental in transforming my life and making me self-reliant."

Solar dryers for vegetables will be made available to the Gauthans: CM

Raipur, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said that solar dryers used for drying vegetables will be made available in Gauthans. Keeping in view the large-scale production of tomatoes in Dhamdha and Pathalgaon, the work of selling tomatoes can be started by drying them in the Gauthans of the area using solar dryers. Similarly, in other places, the vegetables grown commercially across the state can be sold after their drying process. This will help in boosting the income of farmers and other associated groups.

He was addressing a virtual programme organized for releasing funds to the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana at his residence office here today.

Chief Minister Baghel transferred an amount of Rs 7.05 cr to cattle rearers, cow dung sellers, Gauthan committees, and women self-help groups in the programme. This includes pay-



ment of Rs 4.59 crore to the cattle rearers, farmers, and the landless in the lieu of cow dung procured from them in the Gauthans from December 16 to December 31. Besides, an amount of Rs. 1.46 crore was released to Gauthan committees and Rs. 1 crore to women's groups associated with Gauthans.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain,

Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh and senior officers of Agriculture Department were present on the occasion.

Addressing the virtual programme, CM said "Godhan Nyaya Yojana (GNY) and Rural Industrial Park (RIP) will soon be globally recognized as a successful scheme to boost the income of villagers and create more employment in rural areas. The schemes are getting huge public support with villagers demanding to establish new enterprises. The assistance should be provided to villagers

and self-help groups to set up useful and profitable small and cottage industries according to local resources and market demand. The work of RIPA should be expedited."

Speaking about the initiative of natural paint production started in Gauthans, he said that the women groups are demanding to establish more such units for producing natural paint using cow dung. Besides, the work of producing vermicompost from cow dung is already a success in view of its demand and sales. In many Gauthans, the work of electricity generation from cow dung is also starting. The work of setting up power plants in Sukma and Jagdalpur will be completed in this month.

He added that products like 'Gau-Kash' and flower pots are also being prepared from cow dung. The vision of starting cottage industries in villages is now being realized. He said that out

of 10,894 sanctioned Gauthans, the construction of 9,591 Gauthans has been completed. About 50 per cent of Gauthans have become self-sufficient. A total of 4,564 self-supporting Gauthans have purchased cow dung worth Rs 35.19 crore using their own funds. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey said on the occasion that the vision of 'Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh' is now being realized in the state-run Gauthans. He said that so far 98.73 lakh quintal cow dung has been procured in Gauthans, in lieu of which Rs 197.45 crore has been paid to the cow dung vendors. Similarly, through this scheme, Rs 171.87 crore has been paid to Gauthan committees and women self-help groups so far. Self-help groups associated with Gauthans have so far earned Rs 105.18 crore from income-generating activities. Nearly 16.69 quintals vermicompost produced in Gauthans has been sold till now.

Workshop on Road Safety Awareness



Raipur, Jan 12: A three-day state workshop for road safety awareness was held on Monday at the Police Mess Auditorium located at Byron Bazar in the capital Raipur. The workshop was inaugurated by AIG and Joint Commissioner Transport (Road Safety) Mr. Sanjay Sharma. During the workshop, he gave detailed information

about the work being executed by the Transport Department involving the public for awareness regarding road safety and traffic rules in the state. Concerned agencies in the state are working together for smooth and safe traffic. The workshop has been organized by the Asian Institute of Transport Development and spon-

sored by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India (MORTH).

Deputy Commissioner, Delhi Mr. Anil Chikara has been invited to present the initiatives taken in Delhi for Faceless Automated Driving Testing, Automated Vehicle Testing, Faceless Mode, E-Challan etc.

BRIEF



Jerry White, co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winner, during a special session on 'Ethics and Business' at MCCIC (Merchant Chamber of Commerce & Industry), in Kolkata.

Crisis

Bhopal: Six members of a family consumed a poisonous substance allegedly over some financial issues in Bhopal on Wednesday but survived, police said. They are undergoing treatment at a hospital and are out of danger, an official said.

Booked

Muzaffarnagar: A Rastriya Lok Dal MLA and 60 party workers were booked on Wednesday for violation of prohibitory orders in Shamli district's Jalalabad town, police said. Prohibitory orders are in place in the city to maintain law and order in Jalalabad, they said.

Cultural fest

Chennai: The 28th edition of Saarang, the annual cultural festival of IIT-Madras, commenced on Wednesday. Saarang features nearly 100 events till January 15 and is expected to attract over 80,000 footfalls from nearly 500 colleges across the country.

Imprisonment

Sultanpur: A special court awarded three-month imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1,500 to AAP MP Sanjay Singh and five others on Wednesday in a case registered against them in 2001 over a protest against frequent power cuts in the Uttar Pradesh town.

Extensive arrangements done for smooth pilgrimage

● **Ahead of 'Makaravilakku' fest**

Pathanamthitta/Idukki (Kerala), Jan 12 (PTI): Ahead of the 'Makaravilakku' festival on January 14, the Pathanamthitta district administration on Wednesday gave details of the extensive preparations made by it for crowd control and ensuring safety of the thousands of devotees who are expected to turn up at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala on the occasion.

On January 14, devotees would be allowed to enter Sabarimala Sannidhanam in Pathanamthitta district only till noon and the 'Makaravilakku' puja will be held on the same day at 8.45 PM.

The devotees would be allowed to enter the hilltop shrine only from the next day onwards, a release issued by the Pathanamthitta district administration said.

The extensive measures put in place to ensure a smooth pilgrimage for the devotees include determining the number of people who can stay at each point, setting up barricades, strengthening health facilities and providing drinking water and refreshments to the pilgrims, the release said.

Cooking and burning fires are strictly prohibited in Sannidhanam and carrying gas cylinders and stoves on tractors is also prohibited, it said.

The district administration of Idukki is also putting in place extensive se-

curity arrangements at Pullumedu, Panchalimedu and Parunthumpara areas from where devotees can see the Makarajyoti that would be lit at Ponnambalamedu.

Clearing of obstructions on roads, setting up barricades and lights, putting in place water tanks at 14 points and deploying a 1,400 strong police force, are some of the measures taken by the Idukki district administration, according to a release issued by it. The forest department will also be assisting to make the pilgrimage safe for devotees by deploying rapid response teams and elephant squads in areas where disturbances due to wildlife are expected, the release said. The Lord Ayyappa shrine was reopened for

the 'Makaravilakku' festival on December 30, 2022 after it was closed at the conclusion of the 41-day long first leg of the annual Makaravilakku pilgrimage season on December 27 last year.

After the Makaravilakku ritual is held on January 14, the shrine would be closed on January 20, marking the end of the pilgrimage season. Over 30 lakh devotees reached the shrine on a hill during the 41-day-long season.

The TDB (Travancore Devaswom Board), which is in charge of the temple administration, had said in December that the shrine got Rs 222.98 crore as revenue during the first 39 days of the pilgrimage season.

'Expert panel on NEP submit observations to Bengal govt'

Kolkata, Jan 12 (PTI):

A committee of experts formed in West Bengal to examine the National Education Policy, 2020, has submitted its findings to the education department, one of its members said on Wednesday.

The panel, constituted in the first week of April in 2022, comprises Columbia University Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak,

Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Professor Suranjan Das and Harvard University Professor Sugata Bose, among others.

"Yes, the observations made by every member have been collated and communicated to the principal secretary of the education department for consideration. The department is in the process of evaluating the same," the senior academic told PTI.

The panel member also said the department will come up with an official response after carefully scrutinising the recommendations made.

It may also seek further guidance from other experts on certain aspects, he added. Education minister Bratya Basu had told PTI on Tuesday that the experts in the committee will guide the state as and when the NEP is implemented. "These are all re-

puted persons known for their accomplishments internationally (committee members). They have made us proud, our state proud. They will guide us (about) which part of the NEP has to be implemented and which portion discarded," he had said.

The Union government had on July 29, 2020 approved NEP 2020, replacing the 34-year old National Policy on Education, 1986.

Tribals to observe day's fast on Jan 30

● **Demand freeing of Parasnath hills from Jains**

Ranchi, Jan 12 (PTI):

Tribals will observe a day's fast on January 30 at Ulihatu in Khunti district, the birthplace of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in solidarity with their movement to "save" the Parasnath hills, a member of a joint forum of Adiva bodies said.

A large number of tribals on Tuesday assembled near the Parasnath hills in Giridih district, urging the state government and the Centre to free their holy site from the "clutches" of the Jain community. They also warned of se-

vere agitation if their demand was not met.

Hundreds of tribals from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha demonstrated in the hill area, carrying traditional weapons and beating drums.

"Marang Buru' (Parasnath) is the birthright of Jharkhand's tribals, and no power in the world can deprive them of this right," a member of the Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, which claims to be an outfit of over 50 bodies, asserted on Tuesday.

"Tribals will observe a day's fast on January 30 at Ulihatu in Khunti, the birthplace of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in solidarity with their movement, he said.

Jains across the country have been demanding the scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath hills as a tourist place, fearing this would lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site.

Even as the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath hills after protests by Jains, tribals jumped into the fray staking a claim to the land and asking for it to be freed.

The Santhal tribe, one of the largest Scheduled Tribe community in the country, has a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and

'Will bring one-time settlement scheme to clear water bill pendency'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

The Delhi government will bring a one-time settlement scheme within a week for complaints related to wrong and inflated water bills to clear pendency. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced Wednesday.

He also said in the last meeting of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), it was decided that those who did not pay their bills in time because of the bills being wrong or inflated will not have to pay the late surcharge.

Since then, 4.5 lakh people have paid bills worth Rs 252 crore, he said.

"Out of 26 lakh water connections, there are no problems with 18 lakh. But bills of eight lakh connec-

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Devotees take part in the celebrations of 'Petta Thullal' festival, in Kottayam, Wednesday.

Kharge invites 21 like-minded parties to join concluding function

● **Of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar**

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the yatra's message of truth, compassion and non-violence.

In a letter to the presidents of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participa-

tion of every like-minded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi, MPs of several political parties have joined it at different stages.

"I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge wrote.

"At this event, we will commit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of

truth, compassion and non-violence, and to defend the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all. At this time of crisis for our country, where public attention is systematically diverted from people's issues, the yatra has emerged as a powerful voice. I hope you will participate and further strengthen its message," he said.

The yatra, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar on January 30, with Rahul Gandhi hoisting the national flag there.



Manish Sisodia

tions were pending," the deputy chief minister said.

"We were getting complaints of people receiving inflated bills or wrong bills. Even MLAs had complained about it. It has been decided that the Delhi Jal Board will prepare a report within a

week to implement the scheme to settle inflated bills to remove pendency," Sisodia told reporters.

At a press conference, the deputy chief minister said several key decisions were taken during a meeting of the DJB on Wednesday.

Earlier, if someone had to install a new metre for an old connection, they would have to approach the government. They used to apply to the DJB but it could not replace their metres due to some issues, he said.

"From now on, people can either approach the DJB to replace their old metre or they can get it installed themselves. People will have the right to get a new metre installed in place of their old one for

an existing connection," Sisodia said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has a dream that Delhi should get a 24-hour water supply. Many key decisions have been taken to turn that into reality, he said. "The DJB approved several projects, including setting up 10 underground reservoirs. Under this, four old underground reservoirs will be upgraded while six will come up at new locations.

"The government will lay a 300-kilometre pipeline while 84 kilometres of the old pipeline will be upgraded. It will lay new sewer lines in 44 unauthorised colonies and 14 villages of Karawal Nagar, Burari and Narela," the deputy chief minister said.

SAMADHAN YATRA



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the 'Samadhan Yatra', in Madhubani, Thursday.

Thieves drill hole into underground pipeline

To steal crude oil Khagaria (Bihar), Jan 11 (PTI): Thieves dug a six-meters-deep pit and drilled a hole into an underground pipeline to steal crude oil in a village in Bihar's Khagaria district, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident came to light on Tuesday when petroleum started oozing out into the fields, leading to a mad scramble among villagers.

The thieves came in an oil tanker posing as officials and used a motor pump to steal oil from the pipeline on Monday night, Oil India Superintending Engineer Himanshu Singh, who headed a team that visited the village on Wednesday, told reporters.

The OIL team inspected the site and plugged the hole, following which the oil supply, which was suspended after the incident, was restored.

"We had initially thought that the pipeline, which goes all the way to Assam, had developed a leakage. But site inspection told a different story altogether.

"We found the illegally dug pit and a hole drilled into the pipeline. Villagers also confirmed having spotted an oil tanker close to the spot on Monday night.

WHO ANALYSIS

'No safe limit of alcohol consumption for health'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

There is no safe limit to alcohol consumption and any amount of drinking can severely impact one's health, according to a statement published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified alcohol along with asbestos, radiation and tobacco, as a high risk Group 1 carcinogen, contributing to cancer worldwide.

The agency has previously found that alcohol causes at least seven types of cancer, including the most common cancer types, such as bowel cancer and female breast cancer. It is also linked with oesophagus, liver and colorectal cancers.

Alcohol causes cancer through biological mechanisms as the compound breaks down in the body, which means that any bev-

verage containing alcohol, regardless of its price and quality, poses a risk of developing cancer.

In the WHO European Region where cancer is the leading cause of deaths, light to moderate alcohol consumption, that is less than 20 grammes of pure alcohol every day, resulted in 23,000 new cancer cases in 2017, constituting half of all alcohol associated cancers, and approximately 50 per cent of these were female breast cancers, the statement said.

"Currently available evidence cannot indicate the existence of a threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol switch on and start to manifest in the human body," WHO said. A safe level of alcohol consumption can only be defined if there is scientific evidence to prove that at or below the level, there is "no risk of illness or injury," the statement said.

WHO said that there are no studies to show that po-

tential benefits of alcohol on cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes outweigh the risk of cancer, but there is evidence to believe heavy episodic drinking increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

"Potential protective effects of alcohol consumption, suggested by some studies, are tightly connected with the comparison groups chosen and the statistical methods used, and may not consider other relevant factors," said Jurgen Rehm, member of the WHO Regional Director for Europe's Advisory Council for Noncommunicable Diseases.

The study also found that WHO European Region has the highest alcohol consumption level and has over 200 million people at risk of having alcohol-attributed cancer.

Amongst them, the vulnerable and disadvantaged population is more at risk because of the quality of alcohol they consume.

'Samosa Caucus' welcomes new Indian-American Congressman Thanedar to group

Washington, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Indian-American lawmakers of the 'Samosa Caucus' have welcomed Shri Thanedar's addition to the exclusive group of Democratic leaders representing the community in the US House of Representatives.

Entrepreneur-turned-politician and Democrat Thanedar became the fifth Indian-American to be elected to the US House of Representatives in November last year. His victory had come after all four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers Dr. Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi were re-elected to the US House of Representatives.

The 'Samosa Caucus' is an informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers who are either part of the House of Representatives or the Senate. The term was



Members of the 'Samosa Caucus', a group of Indian-American lawmakers.

coined by Congressman Krishnamoorthi to give credence to the growing number of "desi" lawmakers in the US Congress.

"When I first took office in 2013, I was the only Indian American Member of Congress and the third ever in history. Since that day, I have been committed to ensuring we grow our representation in Congress," said Congressman Bera.

"In the past decade, I am proud to be joined by in-

credible Indian-American colleagues from around the country - Representatives Jayapal, Khanna, and Krishnamoorthi. With the swearing-in of the 118th Congress, our coalition has grown to a record number with the election of Representative Thanedar," he said.

The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with in the US presidential elections. In the last elec-

tion, both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

"It's important that we reflect on the historic progress our country is making. I look forward to welcoming even more Indian American Members of Congress in the future!" Bera said.

"As we enter the most diverse Congress ever, I am reminded how much representation matters, for every community and culture across our country. I am a proud naturalised citizen, the first South Asian American woman elected to the House, and an immigrant woman of colour," Jayapal said.

MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PAGEANT



Contestants are introduced at the start of the preliminary round of the 71st Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in New Orleans.

Pak denies uranium-tainted cargo found at Heathrow Airport came from Karachi

Islamabad, Jan 12 (PTI):

Pakistan on Thursday rejected the reports in British media that a uranium-tainted cargo package that landed at London's Heathrow Airport last month originated from Karachi, saying the news is "not factual".

The BBC reported on Wednesday that British counterterrorism police were investigating after border officers seized cargo contaminated with uranium at Heathrow Airport last month.

The Sun newspaper, which first reported the news, said the uranium came from Pakistan, the report said, adding it was found in a shipment of

scrap metal. Responding to the reports, a top Pakistani official said they were "not factual", adding that no information had been shared by the UK with Pakistan officially.

"No information to this effect has been shared with us officially. We are confident that the reports are not factual," Foreign Office Spokes person Murtaz Zahra was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper on Thursday.

According to Pakistani officials, the shipment did not originate in Pakistan, as is being claimed by British media, it said.

It is learnt that the cargo package arrived at Heathrow Airport

Terminal 4 via Oman Air passenger flight WY 101, which arrived on the evening of December 29.

The flight originated from Pakistan, where UK officials believe the package was checked in as cargo, and had a stopover in Muscat, Oman.

Upon arrival, the package was detected by regular airport scanners, which alerted Border Force officials to analyse the contents. The package contained scrap metal and the uranium in question was "embedded into metal bars".

The Sun newspaper reported that the package was being shipped to UK-based Iranian nationals, with other media outlets

saying it was shipped to a London-based business owned by Iranians.

In the UK, the Metropolitan Police said its counter-terrorism command unit was informed by Border Force officials after the package.

Speaking at the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee on Wednesday, Commander Richard Smith, head of the Met Police counter-terrorism command, said that police will "follow every avenue" to find out the circumstances in which it arrived in the UK and its intended purpose.

He said there was no risk to public health, and that the "consignments that had been identified

included a very small amount of contaminated material".

Speaking to Sky News, former head of the British Army's chemical weapons unit, Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, said it was "a concern" that the material reached the UK all the way from Pakistan, the report said.

He added, however, that whatever the origin, the material "absolutely shouldn't be on a commercial airliner", it said.

Uranium is a radioactive metal found in rocks and is commonly used as fuel for nuclear power plants and reactors that power naval ships and sub-

TPF important step in sustained effort to strengthen India-US commercial ties: USIBC

Washington, Jan 12 (PTI):

The India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting that concluded here is an important step in the sustained effort to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries, a top American business body has said. The India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting was held here on Wednesday. It was co-chaired by US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

President of the US India Business Council (USIBC) Atul Keshap applauded the two countries for taking steps that would further enhance the trade ties. The lat-

est India-US Trade Policy Forum was an important

step in the sustained effort to strengthen commercial ties between the world's oldest and largest democracy, he said. "We are especially encouraged by both sides' expressed intent to reconvene the TPF on a quarterly basis, and by the statement's clear recognition that the potential of the bilateral trade partnership remains unfulfilled," Keshap said. "Overall, the joint statement reaffirmed both the US and India's commitment to greater economic cooperation, joint environmental stewardship, and demonstrated the mutual interest in enabling greater mobility of goods, services,

and skills between our societies," he said.

India and the United States on Wednesday launched a new TPF Working Group on Resilient Trade.

The creation of a new working group on resilient trade reflects the urgent demand for a high-standard, high-trust, and highly dependable trading ecosystem from industry and civil society, Keshap said. Moves to streamline the testing and certification of telecommunication equipment is a pivotal step in reducing compliance burden and promoting our joint leadership and cooperation in essential technologies, said the USIBC president.

US, Japan unveil plans to strengthen the alliance

Washington, Jan 12 (AP):

The United States and Japan unveiled plans Wednesday to strengthen their alliance to help counter threats from North Korea and China, which they called the greatest security challenge in the region.

In unusually blunt terms, the U.S. and Japanese foreign and defense ministers condemned China's increasing aggressiveness in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere, called out Russia for its war with Ukraine and castigated North Korea for ramping up its nuclear and missile programs.

In a joint statement, Secretary of State Antony

Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their Japanese counterparts, Yoshimasa Hayashi and Yasukazu Hamada, said China presents an "unprecedented" threat to international order and vowed to redouble their efforts to counter it. "China's foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order to its benefit and to employ China's growing political, economic, military, and technological power to that end," the statement said. "This behaviour is of serious concern to the alliance and the entire international community, and represents the greatest strategic challenge in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond."

The four men agreed to adjust the American troop presence on the island of Okinawa in part to enhance anti-ship capabilities that would be needed in the event of a Chinese incursion into Taiwan or other hostile acts in the South or East China seas. They also added a formal mention of outer space in the longstanding U.S.-Japan security treaty, making clear that "attacks to, from and within space" could trigger the mutual defense provisions of the treaty. That had previously been outside the scope of the agreement. In addition, the U.S. space agency NASA plans to sign a cooperation deal with Japan on Friday, they said.

Prior to the meeting, Japan's defense ministry announced it was ready to start construction on an uninhabited island where the two militaries will hold joint military exercises beginning in 2027.

Blinken said the agreement signed Wednesday reflects the two nations' effort to deepen cooperation "across all realms," including space, cybersecurity and emerging technologies.

He said the U.S.-Japan alliance has "been the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring the security, the liberty and prosperity of our people and people across the region."

Australia finalising new security pact with Pacific neighbour

Wellington, Jan 12 (AP):

The leaders of Australia and neighbouring Papua New Guinea said on Thursday they are finalising a new security treaty a move that comes as a challenge to China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Last year, China signed its own security pact with the nearby Solomon Islands, raising alarm that it could lead to a military buildup in the South Pacific region.

Australia and PNG haven't yet released details of their planned new treaty, but Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it would be based on the deep trust between the two nations.

He said the people of Papua New Guinea showed heroism and humanity during World War II battles.

Australia and Papua New Guinea have a chance to honour our shared history of

service in the cause of peace by adding to it," Albanese said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

E-TENDER NOTICE No.: NIT/14/23/2, Dated 03.01.2023.

South East Central Railway has implemented an e-system. On the behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, South East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items. Advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Closing/Opening Date	Qty.
1.	03222440	POH Kit for Constant Contact Polyurethane side bearer pad assembly	28.01.2023	13864 Sets
2.	03222709	Pad for secondary suspension	28.01.2023	630 Nos.
3.	03222970A	Repair kit for Automatic Pressure Modification	28.01.2023	6030 Sets
4.	03223185A	Door Assembly (Double link) for BOBRN Wagon	30.01.2023	248 Nos.
5.	03221401B	Air Brake hose coupling support for wagon	02.02.2023	23520 Nos.
6.	03222305A	Hand brake wheel (Fabricated) for BOBN HL wagons	02.02.2023	3400 Nos.
7.	04222406B	12V, 70AH for 110V train lighting system	02.02.2023	31 Sets

Tender Closing/Opening Time: At 10.30 hours

Railways reserves the right to issue any Corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link www.ireps.gov.in CPRI/10/402 For Principal Chief Materials Manager/Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

WATER RESOURCES CIRCLE, BILASPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (First Call)

System Tender No.: 119710/NIT No.: 14/SAC/2022-23
Dated: 10.01.2023
Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 31.01.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF 1200 MM DIA NP3 HUME PIPE CANAL BARREL FROM RD. 0 TO 810 M. & CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN TROUGH FROM RD 3300 M. TO 3720 M. OF MAIN CANAL & CONSTRUCTION OF PIPARAPARA MINOR CANAL OF LARIPARA DIVERSION SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 140.63 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 17-01-2023 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, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)

G-974791

WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)

33, General Mahadeo Singh Road
DEHRA DUN — 248001 (U.A.)

No. Recruitment/Director/WIHG/2023-Estt./

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications and/or nominations from Indian Nationals are invited for the post of Director, WIHG by 13.02.2023 (20.02.2023 for candidates in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Union territory of Ladakh Division, Jammu and Kashmir State, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep)

WIHG has been established by the Government of India as a specialized center of excellence for advance level of research in all aspects of geology and geodynamics of the Himalayas.

The Director will have the overall administrative control of the Institute and will provide high-level leadership to the Institute.

QUALIFICATIONS

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Mode of Recruitment: Direct Recruitment/Deputation/Contract/Re-employment.

Tenure: 3 to 5 years or on attaining the age of superannuation as per Govt. of India rules (60 years at present) whichever is earlier.

Age Limit: Not exceeding 56 years as on 01.01.2024.

Scale of Pay: Pay Level-15 HAG Scale plus admissible allowances as per Center Government Rules.

Mode of Application/Nominations: The detailed advertisement for the post, format of application and other details are available on the web www.wihg.res.in

Late or delayed applications/nominations will not be considered.

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Stop distressing scenes, Govt tells TV channels

The I & B Ministry's latest advisory to TV channels against telecast of distressing and disturbing footages has not come a day too soon. In the recent months, there have been umpteen instances of telecast of such sickening scenes – the television news coverage of cricketer Rishabh Pant's road accident in Uttarakhand being among the latest. The detailed advisory was issued after several instances of lack of discretion by television channels were noticed by the Ministry while reporting incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence including that against women, children and elderly in manners which grossly compromises on "good taste and decency". The Ministry said that television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people, including women, children and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher shown repeatedly over several minutes, including encircling the actions there by making it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots. It has further highlighted that the manner of reporting such incidents is distasteful and distressing for the audience. The advisory highlighted the impact such reporting has on various audience. It stated that such reports can also have an adverse psychological impact on the children. There is also a crucial issue of invasion of privacy which could be potentially maligning and defamatory, the advisory underlined. Television, being a platform usually watched by families in households with people from all cohorts – old aged, middle aged, small children, etc., and with various socio-economic backgrounds, there should be a certain sense of responsibility and discipline among the broadcasters, as enshrined in the Programme Code and the Advertising Code. The Ministry observed that in most cases, the videos are taken from social media and broadcast without editorial discretion and modifications to ensure compliance and consistency with the Programme Code. Citing a dozen examples of such broadcast content in the past few months, the Ministry said distressing images and videos of a cricketer injured in an accident, were shown without blurring, a reference to cricketer Pant, who suffered injuries on the head, along with a ligament injury on his right ankle when the Mercedes Coupe he was himself driving crashed into a road divider near Roorkee and caught fire on December 30. Pant, police said, lost control after he apparently dozed off at the wheel. The disturbing footage of a man dragging the dead body of a victim and also focusing on the face of the victim with blood splattered around, was another example. Raising concern over such telecast and in view of larger public interest involved and having regard to the nature of audience of television channels including elderly, women and children, the Ministry strongly advised all private television channels to attune their systems and practices of reporting incidents of crime, accidents and violence, including death in conformity with the Programme Code.

A Law is in need to handle heavy metals in Water

Vijaykumar H K

Heavy metal refers to any metallic chemical element that has a relatively high density (usually more than 5 gram per cubic centimetre) and is poisonous at low concentrations. The most popular heavy metals are lead, zinc, mercury, nickel, cadmium, copper, chromium, and arsenic. Although these heavy metals can be detected in traces; they are still hazardous. Other metals such as silver, iron, manganese, molybdenum, boron, calcium, antimony, cobalt, etc. are commonly available in wastewater and need to be removed. The presence of heavy metals in wastewater has been increasing with the growth of industry and human activities, e.g., plating and electroplating industry, batteries, pesticides, mining industry, rayon industry, metal rinse processes, tanning industry, fluidized bed bioreactors, textile industry, metal smelting, petrochemicals, paper manufacturing, and electrolysis applications industries are responsible for contaminating water bodies in the country. The heavy metal contaminated wastewater finding its way into the environment, threatening human health and the ecosystem in the country as per reports. The heavy metals are non-biodegradable and could be carcinogenic thus, the presence of these metals in water by improper amounts could result in critical health issues to living organisms. Heavy metals in water will also lead to several neurological problems in humans including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis. Removal of heavy metal ions from wastewater is of prime importance at present for a clean environment and human health. Rivers containing large quantity of heavy metals is a menace. India's major rivers are contaminated by one or more heavy metals, exceeding safe limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Indian National Science Academy reports that the major hazardous metals of concern for India in terms of their environmental load and health effects are lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, copper, and aluminium, that are released into the water through anthropogenic activities. It is important to develop filters to treat these effluents that are released into water bodies by industries to prevent pollution. There are different methods for efficient removal of heavy metals from water. Adsorption method is highly efficient low-cost, and ease of operation method. Therefore, our central Ministry of Mining should make a mandatory rule as soon as possible for industries across the country to adopt adsorption technology to treat large amounts of water contaminated with heavy metals.

JOSHIMATH LAND SUBSIDENCE

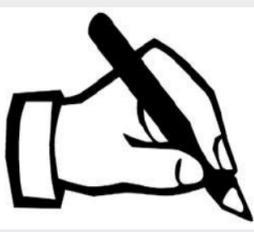


Joshimath: A residential area affected by land subsidence at Joshimath, in Chamoli district, Thursday, Jan. 12.

Artificial Intelligence Weapons: World at Risk



PRIYANKA SAURABH



There is an ethical contradiction in the use of these weapons, compromising the control, security, and accountability of AI weapon systems; It also increases the risk of shared liability between networked systems, especially when weapons are sourced from overseas. The challenge to policy making is because military doctrine is based on traditional understandings of conflict. eg. It is not yet clear whether unmanned maritime systems enjoy the status of "vessels" under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Artificial intelligence describes the action of machines performing tasks that have historically required human intelligence. It includes techniques like Machine Learning, Pattern Recognition, Big Data, Neural Networks, Self Algorithms, etc. AI, powered by deep learning, data analytics, and cloud computing, is set to transform the maritime battlefield, potentially revolutionizing military affairs in India.

But Stephen Hawking, the great scientist of the century, also warned us about the dangers of AI development. At the same time, Elon Musk believes that "Artificial Intelligence can prove to be both the best and the worst thing for humanity." Artificial Intelligence refers to an artificial intelligence that is capable of thinking, understanding, and executing things on its own. The term artificial intelligence was first coined by John McCarthy in 1955. Today he is called the Father of AI. AI makes decisions and acts on its own like a human mind, although it requires coding first.

AI-supported systems can go a long way in increasing efficiency, reducing wastage, and reducing the overall cost of logistics management of the Army. As cyber warfare becomes faster, more sophisticated, and more dangerous, militaries must develop both offensive and defensive cyber-warfare capabilities to protect their assets and communication links and to attack similar assets of opposing forces. It happens.

In intelligence, surveillance,

and reconnaissance, "intelligent" unmanned systems can be used to patrol harsh terrain and weather conditions, provide port security, and move the battlefield or conflict zone without danger to human troops. Scouting allows. These weapons can save the lives of soldiers if wars are fought by machines. Furthermore, in the hands of a responsible military, they can help soldiers target only combatants and avoid inadvertently killing friendly forces, children, and civilians.

But there is an ethical contradiction in the use of these weapons, compromising the control, security, and accountability of AI weapon systems; It also increases the risk of shared liability between networked systems, especially when weapons are sourced from overseas. The challenge to policy making is because military doctrine is based on traditional understandings of conflict. eg. It is not yet clear whether unmanned maritime systems enjoy the status of "vessels" under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Chemical weapons are considered more dangerous than any other weapon in the world. Chemical weapons are more deadly than dynamite, TNT, or nuclear weapons, because they have the highest firepower and these weapons cause more harm to the general public. Chemical weapons cannot target any particular person, rather they can destroy the entire city. Chemical weapons are not visible but can destroy an entire area. Their influence lasts for centuries. Chemical weapons are also cheap.

Experts have issued a warning about smart weapons being made in Terminator style around the world. Stuart Russell, a renowned US computer expert, and scientist at the University of California said the danger posed by killing machines equipped with artificial intelligence is so great that he wants them banned. Once these weapons lock their target, they can search for and kill it through their computer. Scientists from many countries including America, China, Russia, and Israel are working on such weapons.

Please tell me that chlorine was the world's first chemical weapon. Chlorine was created only to disarm people, because it suffocates, although it also causes death. It was used for the first time in 1915. A major gap still exists in the development of critical technologies, which are systems engineering, airborne and underwater sensors, weapon systems, and high-tech components. AI is characterized by a propensity for certain types of data.

This can affect rational decision-making, reducing trust in automated coping solutions. eg. It appears that AI automates the weapon systems in ways that are inconsistent with the laws of war. However, to fully exploit its potential, the Indian Army needs to forge close working relationships with the vibrant private technology sector in India, and in particular with start-ups doing exciting work in the AI space.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joshimath-Shall we learn anything?

Joshimath in Uttarakhand is the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Kemkund Sahib. It is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence, forcing more than 5,000 people to stay in relief camps. The sinking town has been declared disaster prone and construction activities have been banned in Joshimath and nearby areas. Demolition of residential houses, commercial establishments and few hotels are in progress. The expert panel tasked by the Centre had blamed unplanned infrastructure activities, including hydropower projects, thermal projects for the alarming situation. Tunnel construction by NTPC, Tapovan Vishnugard hydropower project, Helang bypass work, four-laning works using heavy machineries and blasting of the fragile hills in the region have contributed significantly for subsidence of the holy town. The 1976 report by an expert committee under the chairmanship of the then Garhwal Commissioner clearly stated that Joshimath was situated on an old landslide zone and could sink if development continue unabated. The committee recommended that construction activity be prohibited in Joshimath but no one took it seriously and activities against nature continued, resulting in the present disaster. The entire north-eastern region also stands equally fragile being prone to flood, erosion, landslide and earthquake. It is time for us to be alert. Nature is not happy with us.

Debajit Goswami, by mail

Road accidents

One of the major causes of fatalities, disabilities, and hospitalizations is traffic accidents. Given the significance of this issue, the government periodically adopts relevant Acts and changes policies for effective measures for national road safety. The two leading causes of traffic accidents are excessive speeding and drunk driving. On unpatrolled roadways, inebriated drivers have nothing to worry about. We are all aware of the dangers associated with drunk driving. According to data, there were severe injuries in one-third of the 4.1 lakh traffic accidents that were reported in 2021.

Chandan Kumar Nath, by mail

They also make the world better

Kajal chatterjee

When I entered my job sector in Kolkata, our family used to stay in a town of a neighbouring state. So for the first one year, I stayed in a relative's house. When our office used to give over at 5.15 pm, an overwhelming majority of the workers promptly rushed out. But a handful of those who accorded greater priority to office engagements used to leave much after 5.30 pm after completing the work demanding urgent necessity. Mr.C, the Head of my section, was among those exceptional few who were more concentrated on files instead of the watch. Since I didn't have any "home" as such with family engagements to perform and was also entrusted with lighter official work at that stage being the junior-most newly recruited employee; I used to linger on my seat despite office giving over and have a look at any newspaper or literary classic.

So everyday I used to see Mr.C completing his official engagements in an almost desolate workplace without any hurry and only thereafter pick-

ing up his side bag and leaving for home. But just before departure, religiously he used to put off the tube light and ceiling fan right above his chair. This responsible act of Mr.C had caught my respectful attention in the contrasting scenario of almost all lights and fans "shining" and "rotating" in "full glory" in all other sections throughout the vacant office.

Now, would Mr.C receive any personal benefit by putting off the light and fan in his domain. Would Mr.C get prosecuted if he leaves office by keeping those on. Obviously the answers are "NO". Yet he used to do so, thereby proving his impeccable responsibility towards the State, society, environment and of course to remain accountable to his conscience. The act of switching off the light enabled me to see Mr.C in a very special light.

In this society whoever has attained academic degrees, works in offices, dresses modestly gets dubbed as "Bhadralok". But certainly not all of them are real gentlemen with their behaviour, work, attitude speaking otherwise. But Mr.C was indeed an

actual Bhadralok in the truest sense of the term. Irrespective of posts or age, he used to act civil with all --- be it with colleagues or the outsiders who used to visit our office for various works. Without getting irritated, patiently he used to hear out the problems and grievances of the visitors, offer necessary advice and solutions. If some bottlenecks are there, he also used to highlight those in a most transparent manner in the most civilised fashion till the satisfaction of the visitor.

He was deeply attached with files related to appointment on compassionate grounds. So when the helpless spouse or children of any deceased employee used to approach him, he/she used to receive compassion from Mr.C both in verbal and official action as well. Later on as Administrative Officer also, what a service he rendered through his valuable advice and action.

On the date of his retirement, got very much stunned by discovering another aspect of him. On the basis of the speech of an colleague of ours, I came to know how Mr.C used to personally take care of his bit unwell

wife through days and years and handle all other domestic duties before reaching office and after returning home. Yet this man used to attend office almost everyday throughout the year (many Casual Leave and Extra Earned leave remaining unused) and sign attendance registers sharp at 10 am or even earlier.

Never ever did he advertise his Himalayan pressure at home, never did he try to earn any sort of sympathy by harping on his responsibilities in the domestic domain. Mr.C perceived duty --- be it in office or home --- as duty which does not demand beating of the trumpet. On that approaching winter dusk, my head simply bowed down to Mr.C in renewed respect and awe.

After speeches of all, it was the time for Mr.C to express his feelings. Along with narration of various experiences, he didn't forget to mention the contribution of a much junior Typist also who was sincere, efficient and hardworking to the utmost. People generally praise those who are right on the forefront, but who cares for an unsung typist "hidden" in the background. Mr. C was suffering

from a serious eye-related problem for years demanding continued medication. Yet his eyes were fixed not only upon files, but upon the contribution of a junior typist also compelling me to exclaim in mind "That's like Mr.C".

Nobody in this world can escape the ups and downs of life. Mr.C also naturally has his share of it. Yet, as usual, he smilingly moves on despite obstacles with his unconquerable spirit and sense of humour spot on. Also he remains in office through his work ethics and values which surely inspire me to religiously put off the light and fan in my domain before leaving my work space for the day and thanks to his unseen Asish (blessing), surely I will continue to perform this tiny but highly responsible duty towards the society till my last day in the office.

Just like tiny droplets make up an ocean, similarly the likes of Mr.C represent those people whose faces might not be recognisable in the crowd; but they indeed contribute in making the world a bit better, compassionate and livable through their unrecognised acts and thoughts.

BRIEF

Extension



New Delhi: The government has extended the term of State Bank of India Managing Director Challa Sreenivasulu Setty by two years with effect from January 20. In a regulatory filing, SBI said the government issued a notification to this effect on January 10. "... the central government hereby extends the term of office of Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, State Bank of India for a period of two years with effect from January 20, 2023," the filing said.

MoUs signing



Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government held a roadshow here in which 79 memorandums of understanding (MoU) worth Rs 76,000 crore were signed, an official release said. Industrial Development Department Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi addressed eminent industrialists in the roadshow and discussed the changes that have taken place in the state in the last five years and the investment-friendly policies of the Yogi Adityanath government while inviting them to invest in the state, as per the release. The investors who came to participate in the event appreciated the wind of change in the new Uttar Pradesh, it added.

Govt will take appropriate decision in March-April on lifting wheat export ban: Sarangi

Indore, Jan 12:

Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi on Thursday said the government will take an appropriate decision on the demand to lift the ban on wheat exports at the time of crop harvest around March-April.

Before this decision, a review will be done of the gap between the demand and supply of wheat in the country, he said.



The head of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) was

in Indore to participate in the Global Investors Summit 'Invest Madhya Pradesh' organised by the MP government. India banned wheat exports in May 2022 with immediate effect as part of measures to control rising domestic prices. Asked about the demand for lifting the ban, Sarangi told PTI, "The wheat crop is harvested in the country generally in March-April. Around that period, the government will take an appropriate

decision on this subject." "At the time when it will be felt that there is an equilibrium in the demand and supply of wheat, arrangements will be made to allow the export of this food grain," he said on the sidelines of the investors summit.

Sarangi also said special attention should be paid to promote exports from Madhya Pradesh in the area of textile production as there is a huge availability of cotton as the raw

material for this industry in the state. He also said along with wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables and spices, there is a scope of increasing the export of organic and non-organic chemicals and engineering products from the state. To a question, Sarangi said the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is currently being run for 14 sectors and could be expanded to some more areas.

Adani Group plans to invest Rs 60,000 cr in MP in various sectors

Indore, Jan 12:

Ports-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group on Wednesday said that it has plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in mineral exploration, energy, agriculture, renewable energy and coal sectors. The group, however, did not give timelines for the investment.

"During one-to-one interaction with Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on the sidelines of the two-day Global Investors Summit (GIS) here, Pranav Adani, managing director (Agro, Oil & Gas), and director of Adani Enterprises, said that his group has plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in the areas of mineral, energy, agriculture, renewable energy and

coal," an official release said. The GIS was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day. The chief minister asked him to give priority to the local youths in employment to which Adani said, "It is our duty". The group will run skill development centres as per its requirement to train the youths of the state and it also has plans to establish a hospital in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan also apprised him about opportunities to set up food processing units in the state, the release said. Meanwhile, addressing the GIS summit, Aditya Birla Group head Kumar Mangalam Birla said that his group is planning to invest Rs 15,000 crore in the state.

India, US 'thinking big', says Goyal, rules out mini trade deal or FTA

Washington, Jan 12:

The Modi government and the Biden administration are "thinking big" in terms of their trade and commerce relationship, a top Indian official said Wednesday as he ruled out the previously talked about mini trade deal or a free trade agreement and noted that revoking of GSP is not a priority for New Delhi. The previous Trump administration has revoked the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from India. The GSP allows eligible developing countries to export duty-free goods to the US. It is



during the previous administration as well that the two countries were on the verge of a mini trade deal, which has now been kicked out of the table. The Biden administration is also not in favour of a free trade agreement which

businesses from either side are now talking about. "I think in terms of GSP, I have not heard any significant clamour from the Indian industry. To focus our energies on the GSP issue, I have raised it today with my counterparts," Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters at a news conference at the conclusion of the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting which he co-chaired with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. "It's an issue, which is probably something that the Congress will have to take a call on.

MG showcases its Hydrogen Fuel-Cell technology in India at Auto Expo 2023

New Delhi, Jan 12:

Demonstrating the future of mobility in India with a greater focus on sustainability, MG Motor India today showcased new energy vehicles (NEVs) with its third-generation hydrogen fuel cell technology, at the Auto Expo 2023. The world-leading hydrogen fuel-cell system underlines MG's commitment to providing clean and efficient travel based on green, renewable power sources.

Mr Rajeev Chaba, President and Managing Director, MG Motor India,



said, "MG Motor has been a constant synonym for innovation over the years. We arrived in India with a vision of offering disruptive mobility solutions, in terms of both human-centric technologies and sus-

tainability. As the industry continues exploring alternate fuel technologies, we are delighted to showcase the world's leading hydrogen fuel-cell technology - PROME P390 to India." The hydrogen fuel-cell

system was first launched as the Phoenix No 1 fuel-cell vehicle project in 2001. Now the newly developed third-generation fuel-cell system, also known as PROME P390, comes with cutting-edge features such as integrated design, high power density, high durability, high reliability, and excellent environmental adaptability. With a system power of 92 kW, the world-leading fuel cell technology adheres to the highest safety standards and performs well over key performance indicators including those for comfort, fuel economy, and service life.

Sensex, Nifty close lower as oil, banking stocks decline

Mumbai, Jan 12:

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed with losses in a choppy trade on Thursday as investors preferred a cautious approach ahead of inflation and industrial production data to be released later in the day. Unabated foreign fund outflows also hit the investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 147.47 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 59,958.03. During the day, it declined 473.18 points or 0.78 per cent to 59,632.32. The broader NSE Nifty fell 37.50 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 17,858.20. From the Sensex pack, Reliance



Industries, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel and ITC were among the major laggards. UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies, Maruti, Nestle and HDFC were among the major winners.

Tata Group to make significant investments in electric mobility: N Chandrasekaran

Greater Noida, Jan 12:

Transition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster and the Tata Group will make significant investments in the sector to develop a range of products, Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. As part of its sustainability drive, Tata Motors aims to become net zero between 2040 and 2045 across its passenger and commercial vehicle businesses.

With focus on green mobility, the Mumbai-based auto major unveiled a range of electric products and technologies in the Auto Expo here.

"We believe that the tran-



sition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster than what we are imagining," he stated. He added that Tata Motors has a number of products lined up in order to cater to the evolving customer needs. "It is my commitment to you that our investments

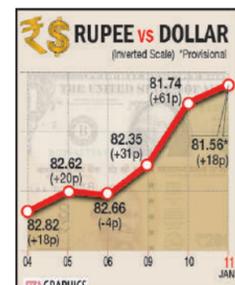
in this space will be significant so that we can accelerate not only the transition to electric mobility, but give consumers absolutely world class products," Chandra said. In the passenger vehicle space, the auto major unveiled Sierra.

EV, all-wheel drive electric SUV Harrier EV, AVINYA concept, a pure electric vehicle and ICE version of the Concept CURVV. It also showcased full boot space in Altroz iCNG and Punch iCNG. "We are driving towards a greener future mandate which demands an urgent collaborative action to reduce carbon emission.

Rupee gains 11 paise to close at 81.57 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 12:

The rupee gained 11 paise to close at 81.57 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking the overall weakness in the American currency. However, a muted trend in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund outflows capped the gains in the rupee, traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.54, but lost ground to quote an intraday low of 81.74 against the greenback. It finally ended at 81.57 (provisional), registering a rise of 11 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee settled at 81.68



against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.17 per cent to 103.01. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.92 per cent to USD 83.44 per barrel.

Electric vehicles steal the limelight on first day of Auto Expo 2023

Greater Noida, Jan 12:

Electric vehicles hogged the limelight on the first day of India's flagship motor show Auto Expo 2023 with the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Tata Motors and MG Motor showcasing their futuristic products, while also committing to invest in sustainable mobility. The show, returning after three years having been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, opened with the global premiere of Suzuki Motor Corporation's concept electric SUV 'eVX' which is slated to hit the market by 2025. The company's Indian arm Maruti Suzuki India is among the major manufacturers participating at the expo, in which some major manufacturers such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Skoda, Volkswagen and Nissan along with luxury car makers like Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi are not participating.

The Concept eVX is a mid-size electric SUV concept designed and developed by Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan. It will be powered by a 60 kWh battery pack offering up to 550 km of driving range on single charge. "We plan to bring it to market by 2025. At the Suzuki Group, addressing global warming is a priority," SMC Representative Director and President Toshihiro Suzuki said here at the expo while unveiling the product. On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India launched its all-electric model Ioniq 5 at an introductory price of Rs 44.95 lakh (ex-showroom) for the first 500 customers in the presence of Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan. The model is based on the company's dedicated battery electric vehicle platform E-GMP.



Toyota's BZ4X concept car on display during the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Visitors at Hyundai pavilion during the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Godawari electric scooters on display at the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Benelli's motorcycle 'Leoncino 800' being showcased at the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.

"Ioniq 5 represents our shift towards future mobility with tenets that encapsulate intelligent technology, innovation and sustainability," Hyundai Motor India MD and CEO Unsoo Kim said. Hyundai already sells one EV model, Kona Electric, in the country. Another carmaker Kia India, which unveiled an all-electric SUV Concept Kia Concept EV9, said it plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next four years to scale up its presence in the electric vehicle segment. Kia India Vice-President and Head - Sales & Marketing - Hardeep Singh Brar said the company's Andhra Pradesh-based manufacturing plant is ready to roll out EVs. "This Rs 2,000 crore we are talking about will go into R&D, manufacturing and infrastructure development," he told PTI on the sidelines of the expo. Keeping with the trend of electric and sustainable mobility, Tata Motors showcased over 20 products across its passenger and commercial vehicles portfolio. The highlight of the company's showcase is the electric SUV Sierra, which is likely to hit the market in 2025, and the EV version of its mid-sized SUV Harrier that's likely to be commercially launched next year. "We believe that the transition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster than what we are imagining," Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. He added that Tata Motors has a number of products lined up in order to cater to the evolving customer needs. "It is my commitment to you that our investments in this space will be significant so that we can accelerate not only the transition to electric mobility, but give consumers absolutely world class products," Chandra added.

Taapsee starts shooting for 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu has started shooting for the sequel of 'Hasseen Dillruba', which is titled 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'.

Filmmaker Anand L. Rai took to Twitter to announce that the shooting has commenced and also asked Taapsee as to why she hasn't shared the poster yet.

"O hamari hasseen dillruba Aaj shooting shuru ho gai hai 'phir aayi hasseen dillruba' kia @taapsee tujhe bola tha na 9 baje poster dalne ke liye. dala kyun nahi abhi tak? #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba," he wrote.

To which Taapsee replied: "Sir i'm not ready yet... Is baar toh le gayi hai character ko @KanikaDhillon! Pata nahi kya kha ke likhi hai yeh kahani. Aur har baar mere saath hi kiyun aesai..PhirAayiHasseenDillruba."

'Hasseen Dillruba' is a 2021 romantic thriller film directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon.

It stars Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane.

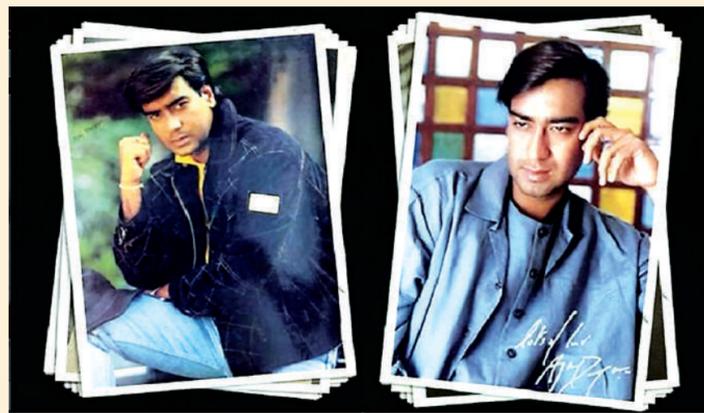
'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba' starred Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey in lead roles.

On National Youth Day, Ajay Devgn shares throwback pics from his younger days

On the occasion of National Youth Day on Thursday, Bollywood star Ajay Devgn treated his fans and followers with a string of pictures from his younger days.

Ajay took to Instagram, where he shared a reel featuring all his throwback pictures. The reel begins with Ajay's childhood days and a carousel of images to his most recent images can be seen in the clip.

"Youth is when you lay the foundation for a solid future for all your beliefs & dreams. You are the ones with stars in your eyes and hope in your heart. Even as you metamorphose, make sure your ideals remain rock solid. #YOLO #NationalYouthDay," he wrote as the caption. On



the acting front, Ajay has wrapped up shooting for his next 'Bhola', which also stars Tabu. The makers of the film recently announced that it is currently in post-production.

The film is produced by Ajay Devgn Films, T-Series Films, Reliance Entertainment and Dream Warrior Pictures. 'Bhola' is directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. It reportedly

tells the story of an ex-convict who decides to meet his daughter for the first time after being released from prison and gets trapped in serious situations.

Vidya Balan's hilarious reel leaves everyone in splits, Shubhangi says, 'sahi pakde hai'

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan recently shared a reel on Instagram in which she can be seen enacting Angoori Bhabhi's dialogue from the show 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain'.

Vidya captioned it: 'Angrezi ek sensuous bhaasha'. Shubhangi expressed her excitement over it and also wished to get a chance to work with Vidya.

Angoori, played by Shubhangi Atre, in the show, shared: "I saw this reel as soon as I woke up. I was very happy and excited. Sometimes, there are some reels on such trending audios which we both have made and I feel that we have similar choices



when it comes to this." "I was waiting to see what she will make now. But today I heard my own voice in her reels and I was super excited. She has done such great work and I hope to work with her some day. I want to thank her and I loved it, 'aap sahi pakde hai.'"

'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' is about to enter an emotional phase

Sony SAB's family drama Dil Diyaan Gallaan based on migration and misunderstandings is about to enter an emotional phase. The story revolves around a Punjabi family that is torn apart by the effects of migration. Amrita will finally come to know that Dilpreet is her grandfather and will break down emotionally. The previous episodes showed how Riya came to know about Amrita being her uncle Mandeep's daughter. Riya decides to never accept her uncle's family because they had hurt her grandfather and father Randeep. On the other hand, Amrita decides to leave after she discovers that the house she is living in is her grandfather's. But Veer will persuade her to stay and speak up for her father. Will Riya accept Amrita as her cousin? What steps will Riya take against Amrita will be an interesting watch. Will Veer and Amrita together bridge the gap between the Brar family? Paras Arora, who plays the role of Veer, said, "Veer adores Dilpreet and Sanjot and wishes for their family to reunite. As a result, he will do everything in his power to reunite the family. He gets Amrita to stay and sort out the misunderstandings among the family members.



Simi Garewal to have a 'rendezvous' with 'BB16' housemates



Veteran actor and celebrity chat show host Simi Garewal, who is popularly known for her show 'Rendezvous with Simi Garewal', will be seen talking to the housemates on 'Bigg Boss 16'.

Simi took to Instagram and shared a video of her meeting contestants inside the Bigg Boss house. Simi looked ravishing as she was seen wearing her signature all-white look as she chatted with Shalin Bhanot, Priyanka Chahar Choudhary and others.

In the video, contestants are seen entering a room decorated with mostly whites, inspired from Simi's iconic show.

A voiceover in Hindi is heard saying: "For the first time in 16 years, there will be rendezvous with Simi Garewal..."

The clip, then moves to Simi, who asks Priyanka to choose between two options love and fame.

Simi says "Aapke samne do plate hain, ek mein hai stardom, doosri plate main hain unconditional love. You have two plates in front of you... One plate has stardom while another has love." Priyanka chose love.

Simi then asks Shalin. While her complete question was not shared in the clip, Simi had said, "Ek (plate) mein Tina hai... (On one plate, you have Tina...)"

To which, Shalin replies: "Doosri plate mein kuch bhi aur hoga, mein woh doosri plate chununga (Whatever the second plate has, I will choose that). Defending Shalin, Simi jokingly says: "Don't be so hard on him."

TV Actors talk about inspiring Indian Youth Icons

National Youth Day commemorates the Indian thinker, philosopher, and social leader, Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. He catalysed global peace and prosperity and inspired the young generation all his life to bring change to society. On this day, &TV artists honour some young talents in their fields for their contributions. It includes Anita Pradhan (Malti Devi, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai).

Vidisha Srivastava, es-saying Anita Bhabhi in &TV's Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, says, "As a nature lover, I am quite focused on environmental issues. While several people are working on environmental protection and climate change, one person who I admire the most is India's child environmental activist Licypriya

Kangujam. She is one of the youngest climate activists globally. She addressed world leaders at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, Spain asking them to take immediate climate action. She travelled to Delhi with the help of her father to compel officials to act against climate change. Who thought about or worked on such major issues at a young age? Even now, as adults, we fail to step up and do our bit to save our planet. Licypriya, who has been travelling the world to raise awareness about climate change and watching her speak with such wisdom is stimulating. At the age of playing with kids, she is raising her voice on climate change, which is truly inspiring. On this National Youth Day, I appreciate young voices from India who inspire the world through their actions and words."



Actors of Star Bharat shares plan to make NY more auspicious

The actors of Star Bharat are prepared to celebrate the first festivals of the year, Makar Sankranti, Lohri, and Utarayan, to make this new year even more auspicious. Star Bharat is getting ready to welcome this new year with new series that will premiere in the following days. The actors discussed their festival celebration plans for this year.



Kajal Chauhan from the upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' aka Gaura- "I'll celebrate Lohri with my mom this year. Will take her out for some shopping first and

later I'll go to mandir to seek blessing for my upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' on Star Bharat. Every year I celebrate this festival in a

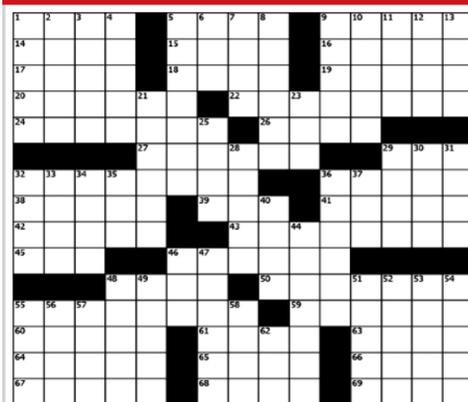
very simple manner and this year too will do the same. I'll help my mom with some household chores and make some sweet with her at home and later will go out to have little fun time at juhu beach.

Rachana Mistry from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' aka Vidhi- "I'm a Gujju born and born up in Maharashtra so I follow Utarayan and Makar Sankranti together. This festival brings back a lot of memories for me from my childhood as I remember my classmates who were Marathi used to bring 'Tilgud Ladoo' and we used to have it

and say 'Tilgud ghya god god bola' so I still remember that and talking about celebrating Utarayan we celebrated it with flying kites although back in the day we dint had an open terrace but now we do so it's a different feeling altogether. Also, a very interesting thing my mom used to do during this festival was she used to make Kurmura ladoo's and hide coins in that as a surprise for us so the festival is very close to my heart. This year in case if I get an off would definitely love to fly kite but also take care of the birds while doing so.

CROSSWORD

532



ACROSS

- Poses
- Wooden fasteners
- Upright
- "Star _____"
- Novelist _____ Rice
- Musical show
- Soothe
- Tragic king
- Soap _____
- Clothing

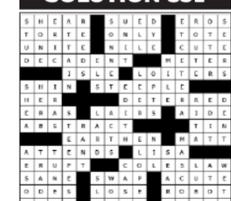
DOWN

- Sirloin, e.g.
- Incensed
- Irritable
- Yarn unit
- Artist's board
- Opposite of WSW
- Bothersome insect
- Peaceful
- Eat away
- Ward off
- At all times
- Make well
- Sad drop
- Uses the oven
- Agree silently
- Long periods
- Necessities
- _____ Fitzgerald of jazz
- Bed board

- Raised railroads
- Minister
- Teen's dance
- Motorcycle adjunct
- Occasional
- Until now (2 wds.)
- Vulture's claw
- Venture
- Become larger
- Travel _____
- Goad
- She, in Nice
- Positive responses
- Little piggies
- Realtor's sign

- Sit for a portrait
- _____ Winslet of "Titanic"
- Good's opponent
- Nail polish shades
- Mine find
- Coiffure (hyph.)
- List abbr.
- Moistens
- Lingers
- Seedcase
- Surrounded by
- Apt
- Raves
- Borders
- Monte _____
- Lagoon's boundary
- Marry again
- Remain
- Knight's assistant
- Bullring cheers
- Guitarist's aid
- Feel remorse

SOLUTION 531



FIH MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP

India seek first podium finish in 48 years, to play tricky Spain in opener

Rourkela, Jan 12 (PTI):

A historic bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics bringing them back among the international elite, India will seek their first podium finish in 48 years in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup as they begin their campaign against Spain in a tricky match here on Friday.

A medal in this showpiece will strengthen the claim that the former giants of the game with eight Olympic gold have turned the corner in world hockey. The country won a bronze in the inaugural tournament in 1971 and clinched a silver in the next edition in 1973. Ajit Pal Singh led the side to title triumph in 1975 but since then they have failed to even reach the semifinals.

From 1978 to 2014, India could not go past the group stage. The Indian team, no doubt, would be one of the medal contenders with the talented bunch led by Harmanpreet Singh emerging as a force to reckon with. The team has earned respect from other top countries in recent times.

Currently ranked sixth in the world, India have come into the tournament after an impressive show



Union Minister Anurag Thakur with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the FIH Hockey World Cup Opening Ceremony, in Cuttack.

against the world number one side Australia in an away five-match series though they lost the rubber 1-4. Graham Reid's side matched the Australians, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, in most departments of the game, notching up their first win in six years against their formidable opponents.

In the previous edition, also held in Bhubaneswar, India had exited at the quarterfinal stage after losing to the Netherlands, the eventual runners-up, and

they would be looking to reach at least the semifinals this time.

India have also done well in the FIH Hockey Pro League, finishing third in the 2021-22 season. The confidence and the winning mentality is back with the team.

Since Reid took over the head coach's position in 2019, India's stature has grown. He has been able to get the best out of the players, injecting a tactical discipline to their trademark skillful, fluid playing style,

making them a team that is respected and feared in equal measure.

"We focussed mainly on scenarios in our training, what if we are 0-1 down, what if we are playing with 10 men, what if they take their keeper off. Those types of scenarios which are important that we have dealt with," Reid said.

Captain and FIH Player of the Year Harmanpreet Singh, a fabulous defender and one of the best drag flickers in the game, will be key to India's success while

Match Starts at 7pm IST.

goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, mid-field ace Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh, and striker Mandeep Singh are all capable of bringing about game-changing moments.

Defender Amit Rohidas, who has captained the team in the past and also takes penalty corners, and forward Akashdeep Singh will be among the other India players to watch out for.

Reid said he wants to take some pressure off captain Harmanpreet, who is also a defensive bulwark.

India will hope to begin with a win, as that result can help them top Pool D for a direct quarterfinal berth and avoid playing cross-over matches (meant for second and third place teams of each of each of the four pools).

Qualifying for the quarterfinals through cross-over matches could lead to facing stronger teams in the last-eight stage like defending champions Belgium.

"It's an old adage that the first game is the most important, so we are just focussing on that and then take it forward. That's how we are approaching," Reid said.

Djokovic, Nadal can only meet in final at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 12 (AP):

Rivals Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal were placed on opposite halves of the Australian Open bracket in the draw Thursday, meaning the owners of a combined 43 Grand Slam singles titles could only meet in the final at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic, a nine-time champion in Australia, returns to the hard-court tournament after missing it last year when his visa was revoked and he was deported from the country because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. He also couldn't compete at the 2022 U.S. Open.

Fourth-seeded Djokovic will open his bid for a 10th Australian Open title against Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena in the tournament which begins Monday. Iga Swiatek, the women's No. 1-ranked player, takes on German Jule Niemeier, who is ranked No.68, in the opening round. The Polish player was a semifinalist at Melbourne Park in 2022, a year in which she won the French and U.S. Open titles. But the main first-round focus will be on Nadal, who faces a potentially challenging match against British player Jack Draper, who is 21, was a semifinalist in the Next Gen Championships in November and will also play in a semifinal of the



Adelaide International on Friday. Another opening-round highlight has five-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray against Italian Matteo Berrettini, a former Wimbledon finalist who is the No. 13-seeded player.

Murray defeated Australian Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-3 in an exhibition match on Thursday and is pleased with his form.

"It is always difficult in exhibition matches to play like it is the first round of a Grand Slam but I wanted to try to leave everything out on the court to give my body the best preparation, to see how I was moving, to see how I was serving, and it went well," Murray said.

The potential men's quarterfinals by seeding are: Nadal vs. No. 7 Daniil

Medvedev in what would be a rematch of last year's final at Melbourne Park, won by Nadal after dropping the initial two sets, and No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime in the top half; and Djokovic vs. No. 5 Andrey Rublev, and No. 2 Casper Ruud vs. No. 8 Taylor Fritz in the bottom half.

Nadal has a leading 22 Grand Slam singles titles, one more than Djokovic.

Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who faces Roman Safiullin in the opening round, will play Djokovic in an exhibition match on Friday in Melbourne.

"I am one of the best players in the world, so I am definitely going to go into the Australian Open and any Grand Slam with confidence," Kyrgios said.

Messi scores in 1st game after World Cup as PSG wins



PSG's Lionel Messi controls the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Angers at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France.

Paris, Jan 12 (AP):

Lionel Messi scored in his first game since leading Argentina to the World Cup title as French league leader Paris Saint-Germain beat Angers 2-0.

Nearly four weeks after the final against France in Qatar, Messi needed only five minutes to make an impact. He turned neatly near the penalty area and threaded a pass to right back Nordi Mukiele, whose cross was turned in by 20-year-old forward Hugo Ekkitik.

Messi then started the move that led to his 72nd-minute goal, with Ekkitik and Mukiele combining quickly to put him through before he side-footed home. His eighth league goal this season was initially disallowed for offside but then awarded following a video review. It was otherwise a poor performance overall from PSG against a team in last place, but the

Parisian club moved six points clear at the top after second-place Lens drew 2-2 at 19th-place Strasbourg.

Messi was given a warm ovation by the crowd at Parc des Princes, who chanted his name when he applauded them back.

He scored twice against France in a wild 3-3 draw on Dec. 18 and converted his penalty in the shootout. Messi and PSG teammate Kylian Mbappé, who scored a hat trick in the final, are front-runners to win the next men's Ballon d'Or award.

With Mbappé rested, Messi started in attack with Neymar and Ekkitik. But PSG was asleep for stretches of the game and Angers had two good chances before Messi's goal.

Prannoy enters quarterfinals of Malaysia Open

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy dished out another splendid show to progress to the men's singles quarterfinals with a thrilling win over Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament here on Thursday. The World number 8 Indian looked in fine fettle as he steved off the spirited challenge from world number 19 Chico 21-9 15-21 21-16 in an hour and four minutes. The 30-year-old from Kerala will take on either Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong or Japan's Kodai Naraoka next. Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought hard before going down 13-21 21-15 17-21 to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva in the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals. For Prannoy, it was his second meeting with Chico, who



had defeated him at the 2018 Syed Modi International. In the form of his life, Prannoy made a good start, showing better control and his attack also earned him dividends as he led 7-5 before grabbing a 11-5 cushion at the interval. With Chico struggling with the drifty conditions, Prannoy ran away with the opening game. After the change of ends, Chico showed better control as he

eked out a 6-2 lead following a net exchange with his opponent. The Indonesian seemed to attack more and soon moved to a 11-5 lead at the interval. Both players looked to push each other in the rallies but Prannoy made errors in his finishing as Chico marched to 17-11 with a reverse slice. The Indonesian soon roared back into contest after converting five game points.

In the decider, Prannoy was all fired up as he landed some precise returns on the lines to move to 5-2. He managed to keep his rival moving to and fro with his angled returns, extracting errors to take a handsome five-point lead at the break.

Prannoy was spot on with his shot selection, landing his straight and cross court smashes away from his diving opponent to accumulate points. Chico played some lovely shots but he was inconsistent during the rallies as Prannoy established his five-point advantage at 17-12. Another razor sharp straight jump smash followed by another shot at the backline gave Prannoy six match points. The Indonesian saved two before sending one to the net as Prannoy celebrated.

Earlier, Treasa and Gayatri, ranked 16th in the world, went down narrowly to the world No. 14 Stoeva sisters in a match

that clocked an hour and nine minutes.

The Stoeva sisters, who competed at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, were clearly the better players in the opening game as they quickly jumped to a 6-0 lead and then held their fort, despite a mini fightback from the Indians, who brought the equation down to 9-12 at one stage. The second game was a tight affair as Treasa and Gayatri kept breathing down their opponent's neck before breaking off at 14-14 to take the match to the decider.

In the third game, the Indian pair had slender leads of 6-4 and 14-13 but the Bulgarian combination didn't relent this time, moving ahead from 14-14 to seal the contest. Treasa and Gayatri will meet France duo of Margot Lambert and Anne Tran in their next tournament at India Open Super 750 next week.

Kasatkina and Badosa to meet in semifinals in Adelaide

Adelaide, Jan 12 (AP):

Fifth-seeded Daria Kasatkina has defeated No. 12 Petra Kvitova to reach the semifinals of the Adelaide International. Kasatkina won 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Thursday over the two-time former Wimbledon champion.

Paula Badosa also advanced and will face Kasatkina after defeating Beatriz Haddad Maia 7-6 (5), 7-5. Badosa is seeded No. 9. Kasatkina has won two of three previous matches against Badosa. Kasatkina said she was satisfied with her victory and her first "win over Kvitova. They met on clay in 2018 with Kvitova winning 6-4, 6-0. "I'm really happy with my performance," Kasatkina said, "the way I was able to keep my focus in the tiebreak."

Men's Hockey World Cup starts in Odisha



Cuttack (Odisha), Jan 12 (PTI):

Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 got underway on Wednesday evening with a spectacular opening ceremony at the picturesque Barabati Stadium in Cuttack that was witnessed by thousands of hockey lovers in attendance from across the country and abroad.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, International Hockey Federation presi-

dent Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India chairman Dilip Tirkey were present at the glittering ceremony to welcome members of all the 16 participating teams.

Ikram, in his address, complimented Odisha for hosting the mega event twice consecutively, the last one being in 2018, and called the state the "Land of Hockey". Thakur thanked the Odisha government for successfully hosting the event in grandeur and said the enthusiasm of the people of India and the state

showed their love for the game. He said the Centre will always extend support to states for hosting such sporting events.

Patnaik said Odisha has long been known for its hospitality and hoped every visitor takes back good memories of their stay in the state.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government for supporting Odisha in hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup twice consecutively. The hour-long open-



ing ceremony was preceded and succeeded by colourful cultural programmes that kept mesmerising the packed audience.

The celebration began with a stunning tribal dance art of the state, which was a fusion of at least six local dance forms choreographed by eminent dance guru Aruna Mohanty.

Odia singers Sniti Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, Lisa Mishra and a host of other performers, including actor-couple Sabyasachi

Mishra and Archita Sahu enthralled the audience.

Sixteen fan parks were set up at important locations across the city where thousands of hockey lovers and enthusiasts witnessed the opening ceremony on giant screens. Hundreds of singers from Bollywood and local artists sang the Hockey World Cup theme song that was composed by music director Pritam, who also performed on the stage along with some other singers. The matches will be held at two venues Birs

Mundra Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar - from January 13 to January 29. While 20 matches will be played at Rourkela, 24 matches, including the final, will be held in Bhubaneswar.

The state government has built a new hockey stadium in Rourkela ahead of the event. Odisha is hosting the international event for the second consecutive time, the previous one having been held in Bhubaneswar in 2018.

PONGAL PREPARATIONS



Puducherry Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan with Home Minister A. Namassivayam and others during Pongal celebrations at Raj Bhawan in Puducherry, Thursday.

'ECI committed to free, fair and inducement-free elections'

In Tripura
Agartala, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said it is 'committed and duty bound' to conduct free, fair, and inducement-free elections in Tripura. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the ECI has taken all arrangements to allow voters to join the festival of democracy and if a voter faces any threat or intimidation on the day of polling, he or she can use cVigil app to inform the election authorities.

"We had an in-depth discussion on the election process with the Chief Secretary, DGP, representatives of political parties, DMs, SPs and enforcement agencies for two days. The election commission is



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey addresses a press conference during his visit to poll-bound Tripura, in Agartala, Thursday.

committed and duty bound to conduct free, fair, violence-free and inducement-free election", Kumar said at a press conference here. Assembly elections in Tripura are due in February-March this year. "All political parties will have to inform the voters

about criminal cases if any of their candidates", he said. The CEC said each polling station will have a micro observer to ensure free and fair elections. Tripura has 3,328 polling stations. Kumar said security personnel will be engaged in poll duties on the

basis of randomization to ensure impartiality. The CEC said there will be a three-ring security arrangement from polling station to guarding strong rooms with CRPF manning the first layer of security. The Centre has already sent 100 companies of security personnel to Tripura for the Assembly election.

"DEOs and SPs were asked to provide level playing ground to all the political parties during the election process", he said, adding webcasting will be done in all the polling stations without any failure. Kumar, who arrived here on Wednesday along with two other Election Commissioners said that the banks and RBI will keep a close eye on the movement of cash in bulk. Besides, close vigil will also be kept at the airport.

500 kg of stale, frozen chicken seized from house

In Kerala

Kochi (Kerala), Jan 12 (PTI):

Around 500 kg of rotting frozen chicken was seized from a house here on Thursday, even as Kerala is witnessing a spate of food-poisoning incidents in recent times. An official of Kalamassery Municipality said complaints were received from several residents that frozen meat was being stored in freezers at the house in question and a foul smell emanating from there.

On Thursday, the house was raided. Chicken from two freezers, ingredients

and equipment used for roasting chicken and 'shawarma' were seized, the official said.

The seized chicken would be destroyed and a penalty imposed on the persons running the establishment. At the time of the raid, only a few employees were present and the persons running the establishment were not there, the official said. Secretary of Kalamassery Municipality Jayakumar P R told PTI that the fine to be imposed would also include the cost incurred by the local body in disposing of the seized meat.

He said the establishment was being run without a licence by a native of

Malappuram and the meat was stored there for supply to restaurants and eateries in Ernakulam for making roasted chicken, 'shawai' (grilled chicken) and the popular Mid-Eastern delicacy-shawarma.

Another official of the local body who was part of the raid said there could be similar establishments in various parts of Kochi city and inspections were to be conducted to find them out. Concerned over the food-poisoning, State Health Minister Veena George today came out with instructions for eateries - having licence and registration and maintaining hygiene and cleanliness.

IT dept seizes huge quantities of currency notes

From TMC MLA's offices, residences

Kolkata, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Income Tax department has seized huge quantities of currency notes from properties of TMC MLA and from West Bengal minister Jakir Hossain in Murshidabad, the city and the national capital, an official said.

The raids were conducted on Wednesday evening to Thursday morning, he said. There was no objection to the raids by Hossain, a two-time TMC MLA and a businessman. He, his family members and staff cooperated in the IT drive.

Huge quantities of currency notes were unearthed from the home

and office premises of Hossain in Murshidabad, Kolkata and as well as in Delhi during the period with assistance from the central forces, the official said.

"We are in the process of counting the money found in raids at different premises owned by Hossain, including from several places located in Murshidabad. We want to know the source of such huge cash," he added.

Repeated attempts to contact Hossain for his comments on the raids failed. TMC leader and West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim said the party will not comment on the issue.

'No explosion occurred on Mizoram side during aerial strikes in Myanmar'

Aizawl, Jan 12 (PTI):

Two days after the Myanmar military reportedly bombed a rebel camp along the country's border with India, with some local leaders claiming that one shell fell in Mizoram's Champai district, the Assam Rifles (AR) on Thursday rebuffed the assertion stating that the Indian side was unaffected by the aerial strikes.

Taking to PTI, a senior official of the AR, which guards the India-Myanmar border, also stated that several explosions occurred in the neighbouring country along the international boundary. A senior official of Champai district said

that an official statement would be issued in the matter only after a thorough verification of the details.

"I have sent a magistrate of the area concerned to verify the claims being made by some locals. An official report in the matter can be expected by Thursday evening," Champai deputy commissioner James Lalrinchhana said. He said that a detailed report will be sent to higher authorities once the verification is done.

Lalramliana, the president of Farkawn village council in Champai, however, said that a bomb was dropped near Tiau river on the Mizoram side. A truck owned by a village council

member has been damaged in the explosion, he said. The Myanmar military junta, on Tuesday, reportedly launched aerial strikes on Camp Victoria, the military headquarters of the Chin National Army (CNA), one of the most powerful ethnic insurgent groups in the neighbouring country.

A CNA leader in Mizoram told PTI on the condition of anonymity that five people, including two women, were killed and 15 others injured in the attack. The Champai DC said that initial reports received by the administration suggest that eight explosions have occurred in the neighbouring country.

Geophysical scientists from Hyd to study land subsidence issue

In Joshimath



An elderly resident affected by the gradual sinking of buildings in Joshimath, Thursday.

Hyderabad, Jan 12 (PTI):

A team of experts from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) will be leaving for Joshimath in Uttarakhand, which witnessed land subsidence recently, to conduct subsurface

physical mapping of the affected town, a senior scientist has said. The 10-member team headed by NGRI's senior principal scientist Anand K Pandey is expected to reach the site on January 13 and start their work from the following day. The tests are expected to continue for two weeks, and the collated data would then be analysed to ascertain the reason for the sinking of the ground there. Joshimath, the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli, is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence. "Our equipment is already on the way. On 13th January, the whole team will move to this site. And from 14th onwards, we will be there for at least two weeks to do the survey of that area. We are planning to do shallow subsurface physical mapping for water saturation and soil characteristics," Pandey told PTI.

LOHRI CELEBRATIONS



Professors of Guru Nanak Dev University dance as they celebrate the 'Lohri' festival, in Amritsar, Thursday.

ASI discovers two 1200 year-old miniature stupas

At Nalanda

Patna, January 12 (PTI):

Patna circle of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas during landscaping activities near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara', a world heritage site in Nalanda district in the state. The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures.

"These two votive stupas (offered in fulfilment of a vow) were discovered by the ASI officials during landscaping near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara' on January 4. These, carved from stone depicting Buddha figures, must be around 1200 year old. Our archeologists are examining it further", Goutami Bhattacharya, Superintendent Archaeologist (ASI, Patna circle) told PTI.

"Beginning in the 7th century CE in India, small miniature terracotta stupas became popular as votive offerings. Devout pilgrims visiting various holy sites and temples

throughout Asia would either purchase small votive offerings or make their own", said Bhattacharya.

The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

Lions Club International launches world's largest e-waste drive

New Delhi, Jan 12:

Keeping in mind its social commitment, Lions Club International today announced the launch of world's largest e-waste collection campaign titled as 'Dump and Donate' in partnership with Hindustan E-Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. (HEW), Primus Partners and National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA).

Announcing the launch of this campaign in a press conference held at The Constitution Club, A. P. Singh, International Third Vice President of Lions Clubs said, "India is hosting the G-20 summit



2023 and with this, the agenda also includes environmental protection and conservation. From January 13, 2023, this campaign will be started across over 120 cities of the country. Under this month-long campaign, the members of Lions Club

International, will reach out through various schools, institutions and other mediums, and create awareness among the masses about E-waste and its harmful impact on health and environment. Keeping social commitment at the forefront,

Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhas Sarkar lauded the efforts of Lions Club International in discharging its social commitment and responsibility. He also said that, "Our Prime Minister has already propagated the importance of e-Waste Management and different ministries have cleared their e-Waste inventories. India having taken the Presidency of G20, it is all the more an important endeavour taken up by Lions Clubs at this juncture".

Varanasi's Tent City to offer front-row view of Ganga aarti

PM to inaugurate today

Varanasi, Jan 12 (PTI):

On the sandy banks of the Ganga in Varanasi, over 200 tents offer tourists a panoramic view of the famed ghats of the holy city on the other side of the river along with live classical music, 'aarti' in the evening and yoga sessions.

The 'Tent City', to be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, has been developed on the lines of similar setups in Gujarat's Kutch and Rajasthan. Three clusters of 10 hectares each comprise

the Tent City and are expected to give a fillip to the city's tourism potential, said Kaushal Raj Sharma, the divisional commissioner of Varanasi. Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) Abhishek Goyal said the Tent City will be a confluence of religion, spirituality and culture.

"Guests at the Tent City will experience the sunrise, live music events in the morning, yoga session by the river as well as boat tours. Special care has been taken for the comfort, convenience and safety of all tourists," he said.

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BRIEF



A woman carrying a child walks down stairs of a building affected by the land subsidence, in Joshimath, Thursday.

Seized

Thane: Police have arrested four persons on the charge of theft of autorickshaws in Navi Mumbai town and neighbouring places in Maharashtra and seized 10 stolen vehicles from them, an official said on Thursday. With this, the police claimed to have solved 10 cases of autorickshaw thefts - four of neighbouring Mumbai, and two each from Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar police commissionerate.

Accident

Jammu: Fifteen pilgrims were injured when a mini bus skidded off the the road and rolled down a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday, officials said. The accident took place when the pilgrims were en route to Katra from Shiv Khori.

Mishap

Srinagar: A labourer was killed after an avalanche hit Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said. The avalanche hit the Sarbal area close to Nilgrath where Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) is executing work on the Zojila Tunnel. "The body of a worker has been recovered from the avalanche site and shifted to the nearby hospital," the officials said.

Booked

Shimla: A bank employee has been booked for allegedly defrauding customers to the tune of over Rs 3 crore, police said here on Thursday. The accused, identified as Arvind Kumar, was posted at the New Shimla branch of ICICI Bank, they said. The branch manager, in his complaint, alleged that the accused employee collected funds from customers in the name of mutual funds but deposited the same in his bank account, police said.

Stone pelting

Visakhapatnam: Unidentified persons pelted stones at a coach of the new Vande Bharat train at the railway yard here breaking a glass window, police said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to virtually flag off the high-speed express train between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam on January 15.

Weather
High 29 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,858.20
SENSEX 59,958.03

BULLION
GOLD 55,858
SILVER 68,648

GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

'Your voice is India's voice'

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The world is in a state of crisis and the developing countries should come together to redesign global political and financial governance that can remove inequalities and enlarge opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a virtual summit of leaders of the Global South hosted by India.

In his remarks at the opening session of the two-day Voice of Global South Summit, Modi referred to pressing global challenges such as food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict, terrorism and the climate change and said the developing countries are feeling the impact of the situation though they were not responsible for it. "We have turned the page on another difficult year, that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions, rising food, fertil-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the opening session of the Voice of Global South Summit, via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Thursday.

izer and fuel prices, climate-change driven natural disasters, and lasting economic impact of the Covid pandemic," he said.

"It is clear the world is in a state of crisis. It is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last," Modi said.

He said there is a need to "re-energise" the world, and pitched for a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognise, Respect and Reform' to deal with the challenges.

"Respond to the priorities of the Global South by framing an inclusive and balanced international agenda, and recognise that the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' applies to all global challenges," he said. "Respect sovereignty of all nations, rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes and reform international institutions, including the United Nations, to make

them more relevant," Modi added. Leaders of several countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Guyana, Mozambique, Mongolia and Senegal were among those who attended the summit.

The 'global South' largely refers to the developing countries, especially those in Asia, Africa and South America. "As far as India is concerned, your voice is India's voice. Your priorities are India's priorities," Modi asserted. He said the global south should no longer be excluded from the fruits of development and they must attempt to redesign global political and financial governance. "For our G20 Presidency, we have picked the theme of - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This is in line with our civilizational ethos. We believe the path to realise 'oneness' is through human-centric development," he said.

RS 4,957 CR BANK FRAUD

CBI books Mumbai firm

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The CBI has filed an FIR against Mumbai-based Pratibha Industries Ltd and its four directors/guarantors for duping a Bank of Baroda-led consortium of 17 banks to the tune of Rs 4,957 crore, officials said Thursday.

The company was into development of infrastructure projects, which included designing, engineering and execution/construction of complex, integrated water transmission, distribution projects, water treatment plants, mass housing projects, precast design and construction, road construction and urban infrastructure, etc, a CBI spokesperson said. It is alleged that the accused had diverted huge amount of money from the borrower company to its related parties and subsidiaries and subsequently, these advances were written off by the company, the officials said.

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India's top stores raided for substandard toys

Over 18,500 toys seized from Hamleys, Archies and other retail stores

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said 18,600 toys have been seized in the last one month from major retail stores, including those of Hamleys and Archies, at airports and malls across India for lack of BIS quality mark and use of fake licences.

Meanwhile, consumer protection regulator CCPA has also issued notices to three major e-commerce players - Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal - for alleged violation of toys quality control order, it said.

Since January 1, 2021, the government has made it mandatory for toys to conform with safety norms specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a national standard setting body.

"We received complaints from domestic manufacturers of sale of toys that do not conform with the BIS standard. We conducted 44

raids in last one month and seized 18,600 toys from major retail stores," BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said in a press conference.

The seized toys were both locally manufactured as well as imported. Some of the toys did not have mandatory BIS quality mark, some had fake BIS licence number and some toys had 'origin of other countries', he said.

Tiwari said the raids were conducted in major retail stores, including those of Hamleys, Archies, WH Smith, Kids Zone and Cocomart, located at major airports and malls across the country.

According to the BIS, toys were seized from Hamleys' stores at New Delhi airport Terminal 1 and 2 as well as in Kolkata, Ranchi, Noida and SAS Nagar (Punjab).

Toys have also been seized from the Archies store at Ghaziabad's Pacific Mall, WH Smith stores at Hyderabad and Delhi airports, Cococart stores at Mumbai and Gujarat airports, and Tiara Toys Zone at Chennai airport, it said.

FAKE NEWS

Centre cracks down on 6 YouTube channels

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government has cracked down on six YouTube channels that were found to be spreading fake news to its nearly 20 lakh subscribers, an official statement said on Thursday. The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said these six channels were working in a coordinated manner and spreading false information and their videos had over 51 crore views. The YouTube channels were found to be spreading fake news about the elections, proceedings in the Supreme Court and Parliament, and the functioning of the government, the statement said.

The channels are - Nation TV with over 5.57 lakh subscribers, Samvaad TV with 10.9 lakh subscribers, Sarokar Bharat (21,100), Nation24 (25,400), Swarnim Bharat (6,070) and Samvaad Samachar (3.48 lakh), the statement said. A senior official said that the channels Samvaad Samachar, Samvaad TV and Nation TV changed their names to Inside India, Inside Bharat and Nation Weekly respectively, after being "busted" by the Fact Check Unit of PIB. The videos on the channels in question included false claims regarding ban on electronic voting machines, and false statements attributed to senior constitutional functionaries including the President and the Chief Justice of India.

UZBEK COUGH SYRUP CASE

Marion Biotech's production licence suspended

WHO issues medical product alert

Noida/Geneva, Jan 12 (PTI):

The production licence of Noida-based pharmaceutical firm Marion Biotech, allegedly linked with the deaths of children in Uzbekistan, has been suspended while the results of its controversial cough syrup are awaited, an Uttar Pradesh drug official said Thursday.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also issued a medical product alert on Ambronol and Dok-1 Max syrups, both

manufactured by Marion Biotech in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. A team of central agencies and the Uttar Pradesh drug department had carried out an inspection at the firm's office here on December 29 and taken six more samples for testing. During the inspection, the company representatives could not produce documents related to the production of 'Dok-1 Max' cough syrup, prompting the government to order halting of its production immediately, Gautam Buddh Nagar Drug Inspector Vaibhav Babbar said. "The production licence of the

firm remains suspended, as was ordered on December 29. Now the suspension order has been issued in writing to the firm on January 10 and has been acknowledged by the firm," Babbar told PTI. On the status of the test results, the officer said the samples were taken by the central agencies and their results are yet to arrive. Marion Biotech did not sell 'Dok-1 Max' and Ambronol in India and its only export has been to Uzbekistan, Babbar told PTI on Thursday and estimated that the company exported around 1 lakh Dok-1 Max syrups in 45 days.

FLAG-OFF CEREMONY



Cooperative Republic of Guyana-bound Ocean Going Passenger and Cargo Ferry Vessel 'MV MA Lisha' during its flag-off ceremony, in Kolkata, Thursday.

AAP gets recovery notice of Rs 163.62 cr for political advertisements

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The AAP has been issued a notice for recovery of Rs 163.62 crore for its political advertisements allegedly published in the garb of government advertisements, according to sources. The development comes nearly a month after Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena directed the chief secretary to recover Rs 97 crore from the AAP for political advertisements it published in the guise of government advertisements. The recovery notice issued by the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP) also includes the interest on the amount and makes it mandatory for the ruling party in Delhi to pay the whole amount

'BJP making illegitimate use of Delhi officers'



within 10 days, the sources said on Wednesday.

Security forces carried out aerial shelling in South Bastar, claim Maoists

Raipur, Jan 12:

The outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoists) has claimed that the security forces carried out aerial strikes using a helicopter and drones in Chhattisgarh's South Bastar region where an encounter had taken place on Wednesday. Chhattisgarh Police, however, said the claim seemed to be an attempt to mislead the local population, and the security forces never compromise on the safety of the local people during their operations. A press release, purportedly issued by the Naxalites, began to circulate on social media on Wednesday night following an encounter between the CoBRA commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

'Attempt to mislead'

Chhattisgarh Police, however, said the claim seemed to be an attempt to mislead the local population, and the security forces never compromise on the safety of the local people during their operations. "State police and the security forces deployed in Bastar are committed to bringing an end to the nefarious intent and act of the banned CPI Maoist outfit. At the same time, there is no compromise in our policy of keeping the wellbeing and safety of our people as the epicenter of our plan and action," the IG said.

and Maoists in South Bastar. The CRPF had on Wednesday said that a team of its elite CoBRA commandos was

descending from a helicopter in the jungles along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts when Maoists fired on them, and there was a gun-fight. No commando was injured while efforts were on to gather information about casualties on the Maoist side, it had said. Later, a one-page statement issued in the name of Ganga, secretary of the 'South Bastar Division Committee' of the Naxalites, claimed that a joint team of Chhattisgarh and Telangana police carried out shelling using drones and from a helicopter, targeting forests and hills in Pamed, Madkanguda, Mettaguda, Sakiler, Kannemarka, Rasapalli and other villages. A similar strike had been carried out on April 15, 2022, it claimed.

LAND SUBSIDENCE

More U'khand towns staring at disaster

Karnaprayag, Landour are some towns

Dehradun, Jan 11 (PTI)

The crisis in Joshimath has brought into focus the issue of land subsidence which has for years been threatening several places of Uttarakhand, including the pilgrim town of Karnaprayag and Landour. Around 80 km from Joshimath, at least 50 houses at Bahuguna Nagar in Karnaprayag have been developing cracks since 2015. Locals hold gradual land subsidence responsible for the fissures and attribute it to the widening of the national highway, violation of norms in construction



A resident shows cracks that appeared in a house, in Joshimath, Thursday.

works related to mandi parishad, erosion caused by the Pindar river and unsystematic flushing out of rainwater. Debris brought down by a landslide from above Bahuguna Nagar first inflicted damage to houses in 2015, former chairman of Karnaprayag municipal council Subhash Gairola said.

BRIEF



A woman carrying a child walks down stairs of a building affected by the land subsidence, in Joshimath, Thursday.

Seized

Thane: Police have arrested four persons on the charge of theft of autorickshaws in Navi Mumbai town and neighbouring places in Maharashtra and seized 10 stolen vehicles from them, an official said on Thursday. With this, the police claimed to have solved 10 cases of autorickshaw thefts - four of neighbouring Mumbai, and two each from Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar police commissionerate.

Accident

Jammu: Fifteen pilgrims were injured when a mini bus skidded off the the road and rolled down a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday, officials said. The accident took place when the pilgrims were en route to Katra from Shiv Khori.

Mishap

Srinagar: A labourer was killed after an avalanche hit Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said. The avalanche hit the Sarbala area close to Nilgrath where Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) is executing work on the Zojila Tunnel. "The body of a worker has been recovered from the avalanche site and shifted to the nearby hospital," the officials said.

Booked

Shimla: A bank employee has been booked for allegedly defrauding customers to the tune of over Rs 3 crore, police said here on Thursday. The accused, identified as Arvind Kumar, was posted at the New Shimla branch of ICICI Bank, they said. The branch manager, in his complaint, alleged that the accused employee collected funds from customers in the name of mutual funds but deposited the same in his bank account, police said.

Stone pelting

Visakhapatnam: Unidentified persons pelted stones at a coach of the new Vande Bharat train at the railway yard here breaking a glass window, police said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to virtually flag off the high-speed express train between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam on January 15.

Weather
High 29 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,858.20
SENSEX 59,958.03

BULLION
GOLD 55,858
SILVER 68,648

GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

'Your voice is India's voice'

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The world is in a state of crisis and the developing countries should come together to redesign global political and financial governance that can remove inequalities and enlarge opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a virtual summit of leaders of the Global South hosted by India.

In his remarks at the opening session of the two-day Voice of Global South Summit, Modi referred to pressing global challenges such as food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict, terrorism and the climate change and said the developing countries are feeling the impact of the situation though they were not responsible for it. "We have turned the page on another difficult year, that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions, rising food, fertil-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the opening session of the Voice of Global South Summit, via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Thursday.

izer and fuel prices, climate-change driven natural disasters, and lasting economic impact of the Covid pandemic," he said.

"It is clear the world is in a state of crisis. It is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last," Modi said.

He said there is a need to "re-energise" the world, and pitched for a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognise, Respect and Reform' to deal with the challenges.

"Respond to the priorities of the Global South by framing an inclusive and balanced international agenda, and recognise that the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' applies to all global challenges," he said. "Respect sovereignty of all nations, rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes and reform international institutions, including the United Nations, to make

them more relevant," Modi added. Leaders of several countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Guyana, Mozambique, Mongolia and Senegal were among those who attended the summit.

The 'global South' largely refers to the developing countries, especially those in Asia, Africa and South America. "As far as India is concerned, your voice is India's voice. Your priorities are India's priorities," Modi asserted. He said the global south should no longer be excluded from the fruits of development and they must attempt to redesign global political and financial governance. "For our G20 Presidency, we have picked the theme of - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This is in line with our civilizational ethos. We believe the path to realise 'oneness' is through human-centric development," he said.

RS 4,957 CR BANK FRAUD

CBI books Mumbai firm

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The CBI has filed an FIR against Mumbai-based Pratibha Industries Ltd and its four directors/guarantors for duping a Bank of Baroda-led consortium of 17 banks to the tune of Rs 4,957 crore, officials said Thursday.

The company was into development of infrastructure projects, which included designing, engineering and execution/construction of complex, integrated water transmission, distribution projects, water treatment plants, mass housing projects, precast design and construction, road construction and urban infrastructure, etc, a CBI spokesperson said. It is alleged that the accused had diverted huge amount of money from the borrower company to its related parties and subsidiaries and subsequently, these advances were written off by the company, the officials said.

Really Remarkable Reward!

Amul
Say Haan not Naa tu butter!

India's top stores raided for substandard toys

Over 18,500 toys seized from Hamleys, Archies and other retail stores

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government on Thursday said 18,600 toys have been seized in the last one month from major retail stores, including those of Hamleys and Archies, at airports and malls across India for lack of BIS quality mark and use of fake licences.

Meanwhile, consumer protection regulator CCPA has also issued notices to three major e-commerce players - Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal - for alleged violation of toys quality control order, it said.

Since January 1, 2021, the government has made it mandatory for toys to conform with safety norms specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a national standard setting body.

"We received complaints from domestic manufacturers of sale of toys that do not conform with the BIS standard. We conducted 44

raids in last one month and seized 18,600 toys from major retail stores," BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said in a press conference.

The seized toys were both locally manufactured as well as imported. Some of the toys did not have mandatory BIS quality mark, some had fake BIS licence number and some toys had 'origin of other countries', he said.

Tiwari said the raids were conducted in major retail stores, including those of Hamleys, Archies, WH Smith, Kids Zone and Cocomart, located at major airports and malls across the country.

According to the BIS, toys were seized from Hamleys' stores at New Delhi airport Terminal 1 and 2 as well as in Kolkata, Ranchi, Noida and SAS Nagar (Punjab).

Toys have also been seized from the Archies store at Ghaziabad's Pacific Mall, WH Smith stores at Hyderabad and Delhi airports, Cococart stores at Mumbai and Gujarat airports, and Tiara Toys Zone at Chennai airport, it said.

FAKE NEWS

Centre cracks down on 6 YouTube channels

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

The government has cracked down on six YouTube channels that were found to be spreading fake news to its nearly 20 lakh subscribers, an official statement said on Thursday. The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said these six channels were working in a coordinated manner and spreading false information and their videos had over 51 crore views. The YouTube channels were found to be spreading fake news about the elections, proceedings in the Supreme Court and Parliament, and the functioning of the government, the statement said.

The channels are - Nation TV with over 5.57 lakh subscribers, Samvaad TV with 10.9 lakh subscribers, Sarokh Bharat (21,100), Nation24 (25,400), Swarnim Bharat (6,070) and Samvaad Samachar (3.48 lakh), the statement said. A senior official said that the channels Samvaad Samachar, Samvaad TV and Nation TV changed their names to Inside India, Inside Bharat and Nation Weekly respectively, after being "busted" by the Fact Check Unit of PIB. The videos on the channels in question included false claims regarding ban on electronic voting machines, and false statements attributed to senior constitutional functionaries including the President and the Chief Justice of India.

UZBEK COUGH SYRUP CASE

Marion Biotech's production licence suspended

WHO issues medical product alert

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Huge cache of liquor seized; two smugglers held

Liquor was being smuggled from MP to CG in three vehicles



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: The camp "PrashashanTunharDwar" is being organised in different wards on different dates under the auspices of Durg Municipal Corporation. On January 13 the camp is being organised in Chief Minister Ward Office in Borsifrom 10:00 hrsto 13:30 hrs. Application for problems or complaints regarding drinking water, housing scheme, ration card, sanitation, illegal construction, street light,Gumasta license, birth-death, marriage registration, benefits under Chief Minister Slum Health Scheme and etc can be submitted at the Camp. Instructions have been given by the DurgMayor and Municipal Commissioner to ensure arrangements for quick redressal. The camps schedule is: On January 13 Chief Minister Ward Office, Borsi Ward 49, 50, 51, 52 ; on



January 16 at Government Primary School, Potiakala, Durg Ward 53, 54; on January 18 Sahu Bhawan, Bajrang Chowk, Pulgaon Ward 55; on January 20 at Government Pre-Secondary School, Katulboard Ward 59 and 60; on January 23at Government Primary School Kasaridih Ward 42, 43 and 44. Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar have asked the officers to clean the camp and to fix the arrangement of water as well as seating arrangements for the visiting beneficiaries and also instructed for quick disposal of the applications given by the beneficiaries.

Bhilai, Jan 12: Police have seized a huge cache of illicit liquor which was being smuggled from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. The liquor was being smuggled in three vehicles including a truck, a SVU and a car. One of the smugglers managed to escape after spotting the cops. Total

value of the seized liquor and vehicles is around Rs 55 lakhs. While addressing media persons at Dhamdha on Thursday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that as per the intentions of the state government, they are making all possible efforts to curb the illegal trade of liquor and narcotics. Cops are maintaining

vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers has been activated for the purpose. In this sequel, police received a tip off regarding some vehicles which were smuggling liquor from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. Acting on this tip off, Dhamdha Police swung into action and intercept-

ed a truck, a Tata Safari and a Datsun car. The SUV driver managed to escape from the spot while the Truck driver and the Car driver were taken into custody. On searching, police recovered 550 crates of Goa Whiskey worth Rs 30 lakhs from the vehicles. The arrested accused were identified as Vinod Patel (42) son of

Devsharan Patel a resident of Kohka, Bhilai and a native of Rampur; Sidhi (MP) and Dashrath Meena (45) son of Amar Singh Meena a resident of Geeta Colony, Indore (MP). They have been booked under the provisions of the Excise Act. SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that the accused Dashrath Meena has confessed that he smuggled

liquor about ten times in the last one year. However, on the basis of the call records and mobile locations, it is suspected that he has been smuggling liquor for the past several years and was visiting Chhattisgarh almost every month. Further investigations are on to explore the source of liquor and local people involved in this illegal trade.

Seven day NSS special camp of St Thomas College concludes



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: The closing ceremony of seven days NSS special Camp of St Thomas College, was organised at Village Chandkhuri the other day. The Chief Guest of this program was Hemlata Deshmukh, Sarpanch Village Chandkhuri. The program was presided over by Gulab Singh Dewangan, Head Master

Government Primary School Chandkhuri. At the outset, the NSS Program Officer of St Thomas College, Mahendrakhar presented a brief report on various activities conducted by the NSS volunteers during the camp. Sarpanch Hemlata Deshmukh congratulated all the volunteers for their outstanding work in the village. Head Master Gulab Singh Dewangan in

his address said that all the volunteers did memorable work with full dedication for the villagers. All the volunteers were awarded with certificates by the guests. NSS volunteers also presented colorful cultural programme. NSS volunteer KhomendraSahu and Prachi Sahu conducted the programme while NSS volunteer Dhananjay Yadav proposed the vote of thanks.

Chhattisgarhi film 'Le Chalhu Apan Duari' in theatres from today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Chhattisgarhi film "Le Chalhu Apan Duari" produced under the banner of Popcorn Films Production and directed by Bollywood director Mutyunjay Singh will be released on January 13 across 31 theatres in the state.

The Chhattisgarhi film will be screened at PVR Cinemas of Bhilai and Apsara Talkies of Durg, Krishna Talkies of Rajnandgaon and Shyam Talkies of Raipur informed director of this film Matyunjay Singh while addressing media persons here. Appreciating the film, the director said that the audience will love the movie as the story moves around three generations while preserving the folk culture. The making of the



film focuses on the rural backdrop of Chhattisgarh. Along with patriotism, emotion and comedy have also been included in this film. Film's lead roles being played by television star Sheel Verma, Pooja Sharma along with other stars of the films Jairam Bhagwani, Narendra Davda, Shamshir Sivani, writer Kaustan Sahu, DOP ArushiBageshwar, execu-

utive producer Abdul Wahid were present. The lead actors explained that all modern techniques have been used to ensure that there is no shortage in the making of the film. For this the entire technical team had come from Mumbai to Chhattisgarh. Director Mrityunjay Singh informed that the producers of this film are

Devnarayan Sahu and Uttara Kumar Sahu, while the writer of this film is The Kapil Sharma Show writer Kaustan Sahu who is from Chhattisgarh. The heroine of this film is Mohini fame Pooja Sharma, who has a subscription in crores. The hero of this film, Sheel Verma is famous for his role in TV serial Naagin 6 and Sasural Simar. Apart

from this, the best actors of Mumbai and Chhattisgarh have played in this film. The music of the film is given by Mohini and Preet's Dori fame Monika Verma and Tushant Kumar. Monika Verma, Tushant Kumar, Tushant Solanki and Siddhant Nirala have given their melodious voice to the songs of this film. The film is edited by Santu, while Abdul Wahid was in charge of production. The specialty of this film is that for the first time, a woman Arushi Bageshwar has captured the film in the best way while working as DOP. The shooting of the film has been done at various romantic and scenic places of Chhattisgarh. The writer, director and DOP of the film are all young men between the ages of twenty five and thirty.

Bhilai Chamber delegate meets SDM

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: A delegation of Bhilai Chamber of Commerce led by State General Secretary Ajay Bhasin and Bhilai Unit President Gargi Shankar Mishra met SDM Padmini Bhoi and Rawate. The delegation handed over a demand letter informing about the problems faced by the traders due to the depth of the underbridge being constructed at Supela railway gate. Along with discussing various points on the aforesaid subject and demanded meaningful initiative. On this, the officials assured to take positive initiative after discussing this matter with the railway officials. While giving this information, Chamber's State



General Secretary Ajay Bhasin said that as the depth of the underbridge being constructed at Supela railway crossing is too much, the route is badly affected, due to which traders of South

Gangotri and Akashganga are facing difficulties. Only recently B h i l a i M u n i c i p a l Corporation has allotted new plots in this area. About 70-80 percent shops from Supela railway cross-

ing to SupelaSquare and the vegetable market are affected by due to construction of the under-bridge. Bhilai Chamber President Gargi Shankar Mishra said that due to the

construction of flyover on GE Road, the road from National Highway to Sabzi Mandi has also become one-way. In such a situation, only the railway crossing route from Supela Chowk will be more useful. Also, the 20-foot road connecting South Gangotri to the National Highway is not sufficient to control traffic if it is being considered for use as an alternate route. Therefore, for the construction of the under-bridge, amendments should be made in the systematic alternative route and map, so that the traders of South Gangotri and Akashganga do not face much difficulties in business operations. Vinay Singh, Parmanand Yadav, Anil Singh, Rahul and Rajesh Khurana were part of the delegation.

There is enough food in the country because of Shastri ji: Qureshi

Bhilai, Jan 12: Former Minister Badruddin Qureshi paid heartfelt tribute to the second Prime Minister of India and Bharat Ratna Lalbahadur Shastri on his death anniversary. He said that Shastri was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary in Uttar Pradesh at a very young age and considering his merit, he was made the Home Minister. He came to New Delhi in 1951 and took charge of many departments of the Union Cabinet including Railways, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Home Minister. Lal Bahadur Shastri was the first minister of the country, to tender resignation



taking moral responsibility immediately after a train accident. Lalbahadur Shastri took oath as the second Prime Minister of the country and in 1965, Pakistan started a war and at that time the economic condition of our country was bad, and had to took upon other

countries for food grains. At this time, Shastri gave the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" to generate energy in the farmers and youth of the country and that slogan became so effective that after 1965, so much food grains were produced in the whole country that today it can meet the food demand for a population of 130 crores and Pakistan suffered defeat in the 1965 war. Baijnath Shukla, Samaylal Sahu, Sajjan Prasad Dixit, Sanjay Lakhe, Didar Bhai, Mohammad Jabbar, Abdul Qadir, Umar Khan, Lalki Soni, Munnillal Sharma, Ishwar Rao, Parvez Adam, Deepa Sahu, Naem Baig, Munni, Arun Singhwere present.

Labour law violation will not be tolerated: HS Mishra

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh State Working President of Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) and senior labour leader HS Mishra said that his union will not ignore the rights of any labourer even if the contractor has good relations with the union leaders. He clarified that the company, contractor and agency indulged in exploiting the laborers should not believe that they will get the benefit of their association with the union office bearers. He asserted that in case of labour laws violation, the union will initiate with agreement and can resort to legal contest if the matter is not settled. State's senior labour leader HS Mishra said that any factory runs because of the labourers. Contractors and agencies also depend on laborers to get their



work done. Hence the employers should respect the rights of workers. But many employers are denying the rights of the workers. Often, the employers ignore the demands of workers and believe that the union will not take any action as they have good relations with them. Mishra said that having relations with someone is a differ-

ent thing. Any employer cannot be allowed to play with the rights of the workers. He added that HMS union never calls any labourer. When the labourers approach the union with their complaint, the responsible officials of the union interact with the concerned company, contractor or agency to protect the labour rights. When the matter is not resolved through talks, the union is forced to take legal action. He condemned the employers for not providing the rights to the labourers. The factories and establishments are making profit just because of the hard work of the employees and labourers. Hence, there should be no hesitation in providing rights to the labourers. He said that the union takes initiative to get the maximum amount as final settlement to the labourers according to the mutual agreement.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalayaorganised skit competition in the Youth festival 2022-23, sponsored by Hemchand Yadav University.In this competition, students of 15 colleges assembled and exhibited their skills on different themes. The themes of skit varied form molestation to girl's education system, dowry system, child abuse, youth and social media, say no to plastic, terrorism, and women empowerment. The colleges that participated were Kalyan PG College, Krishna College, Govt AdarshMahavidyalaya, Badrinath Khandelwal College, Swami

Swaroopanand College, GovtShivnath College, Apollo College, Govt VYT Science College, Seth RC Surana College,Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya, SaiMahavidyalaya, Maitri College, Khalsa College,MJ. College, and Shaildevi college.The competition was judged by Jolly Sen, BSP; Varda Joshi, DrRajmani Patel, Deputy Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University,Durg. Principal of the college DrArchana Jha thanked Vice Chancellor and othermembers of Hemchand Yadav University for giving opportunity to be a part of this youthfestival. She urged the youth to channelize their energy so the festivals like these provide



anappropriate platform to gain valuable recognition. She further explained the rules to be followed by the participants. Jolly Sen expressed her overwhelmed

feeling to be in SSMV. She said activities in youthfestival provided an opportunity to the students to emerge as an artist. She further gavevarious tips

for the participant to perform their best in their future.Vardha Joshi motivated all the participants who came forward and gave their bestperformance in the front of audience. Further, she explained thedifference between TV Show and Stage Show. Dean Academics of the College, Dr JDurga Prasad Rao congratulated gave theorganising team & the volunteers for their hard work which made this function amemorable one for all. He also extended his gratitude towards the judges for givingtheir valuable feedback.The programme was mega hit due to the cooperation and coordination of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college and the audience.

Raipur, Ch'garh contributed in making Narendra as Vivekananda: Baghel

Lays stone for restoration work of Swami Vivekananda Memorial 'De-Bhawan' at Gandhi Maidan

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that to perpetuate the memory of Swami Vivekananda, Day Bhawan in Raipur will be developed as an international level monument. He expressed his views while addressing the programme after laying the foundation stone of the restoration work of Swami Vivekananda Memorial 'De-Bhawan' at Gandhi Maidan in the capital Raipur on the occasion of Youth Day today.

The Chief Minister said that Swami



Vivekananda was the man of the era and the creator of the era, who showed the whole world the way to serve humanity. Attributing Raipur and Chhattisgarh to establishment of Narendra Nath's identity as Swami Vivekananda Baghel said that Swami Vivekananda spent his 12 years to 14 years of adolescence in Raipur. Certainly

Chhattisgarh has played an important role in the life of Swami Vivekananda, he said. Earlier the Chief Minister inspected Dey Bhawan. He also paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi after reaching Gandhi Maidan.

Swami Vivekananda spent most of time of his life in Raipur after Kolkata. During his visit

to Raipur Vivekananda lived with his parents in Dey Bhawan Raipur, Baghel said. With laying of foundation stone the renovation work of Dey Bhawan began today. The renovation will be carried out at the cost of Rs 4.5 crore.

The Chief Minister also transferred total amount of Rs 19 crore 14 lakh 25 thousand to 7718

Rajiv Yuva Clubs of 21 districts. With this Rajiv Yuva Mitra Clubs have so far been given Rs 52.40 crore. The Chief Minister also announced to start the process of recruitment to fill up 971 posts of police sub inspector.

The programme was presided over by Swami Sarvettamanand Ji Maharaj, Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Belur West Bengal. Food and Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, President of Bhoonthath Day Charitable Trust Dr HS Upadhyay, MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma, Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Aijaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey were present in the programme as special guests.

MARKET CONGESTION



The shop owners extending their shops outside the limits and the vendors are the leading cause behind congestion on roads in most of the market area of capital city these days.

BIS conducts raid in toys shop

● On charges of selling non-ISI mark toys

Raipur, Jan 12: Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) conducted raid in a toys shop in Katoratalab on charges of selling of non-standard mark toys and in

violation of India's Quality Control Order and BIS Act 2016. It is notable here that as per order from Ministry of Industry and Commerce, GoI, that the toys made for children below 14 yrs should carry ISI mark from 1 Jan 2021. As per orders and the Act,

no person can make non-ISI Mark toys, nor would be sell it as well. Set aside this they are also not allowed to store it. In case if any producer or seller is found violating the Act or order, then action will be taken under article 17 of BIS Act 2016

Three nabbed with 5.250 kg 'Ganja'

● Were taking it to MP

Raipur, Jan 12: It was on tip from an informer, that some persons are keeping 'Ganja' near New Bus Stand in Bhatagaon and are waiting for customers. On this information, the police team under leadership of TI Tikrapra thana raided and started inquiring the person and identified them. The police seized 5.250 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 52000 in their possession.

The Police when inquired the accused, they disclosed their name as Praman Kushram,



Ramkumar Rathore, and Sanjay Kumar Uikey, all R/o Madhya Pradesh. The three accused have put all the 'Ganja' inside a bag and were looking for customers. The police seized the entire 'ganja' and filed case under 20 (B) of Narcotics Act. The accused informed that they have brought 'ganja' from Malkangiri of Odisha and were taking it to MP via Mandala.

RGBKMNY is also providing assistance to landless farmers: CM

● Scale of development through the devp of a person

Central Chronicle News

Sihawa, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel stated that two-thirds of the assembly constituency had been covered under ongoing Bhent-Mulaqat. We determine the scale of development through the development of a person. We have worked on malnutrition and continue to work in the health sector. To boost people's income, individual action plans were developed for each section, from which



everyone benefited, he added. CM informed that earlier, 15 lakh farmers sold paddy and presently, there are around 25 lakh farmers. The area has also grown. This year's paddy procurement will

be higher than last year's. Work on lifting paddy is also gathering momentum and it would be completed by February or March.

CM said that Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhoomiheen Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana (RGBKMNY) is also providing assistance to landless families. 98 lakh quintals of cow dung have been purchased under the Godhan Nyay Yojana. Now the work of making natural paint from cow dung is also going on. A provision of one thousand crores has also been made for the upgradation of schools.

CM Baghel said Rs 3200 crore has been provided

as relief under the 'half bijli bill Yojana'. An announcement has been made to make 12 Devgudi and upgrade them in the Scheduled Area and 12 spots that are identified here. Members of the Rajiv Yuva Mitra club have also competed in the Chhattisgarhiya Olympics, and females have participated in great numbers.

CM informed that the state government has completed the procedure of granting a lease under the forest rights. It was also applied in urban areas. Announcements have been made according to the needs and demands of the locals in Belargaon and Khisora.

Dr Mahant for completion of Ministers' chamber before Budget session



Raipur, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant on Thursday inspected the construction work of the official chambers of the Ministers at the Assembly premises.

Talking to the officials from Public Works

Department, Dr Mahant directed them to complete the construction works before the forthcoming Budget session of Assembly. He added that the quality and timely works should be ensured in the process of construction. He said that the timely construction of the official chambers would ensure the Ministers are able to work from their chamber during the forthcoming Budget session. Minister for Revenue Jaisingh Agrawal, Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma and senior officials were present on the occasion.

UCO Bank organises discussion on the occasion of World Hindi Day

Raipur, Jan 12: World Hindi Day was organised on January 10, 2023 at UCO Bank Zonal Office, Raipur. On this occasion, a discussion was organised on the topic 'Our role in expanding Hindi on the world stage'. Zonal head Mrs. Lucky Nayak inaugurated the function. On this occasion, Zonal Head, Mrs. Lucky Nayak read the World Hindi Day message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After this the discussion started on the topic 'Our role in expanding Hindi on the world stage'.



ness for the spread of Hindi at the global level. Hindi is rapidly moving forward at the world level through various mediums. We should also play our role in this.

Participating in the discussion, Deputy Zonal Chief Mr. Narendra Pratap Singh said that Hindi is the identity of India. Indianness is recognized through Hindi even

in foreign countries. He said that we should be proud of our language and culture. This is the basic mantra of development. In this era of globalisation Hindi is spreading all over the world due to its specialties. Many Hindi words are also being included in the Oxford dictionary.

In this era of information technology, Hindi is

progressing continuously due to the efforts of various institutions and organizations through internet, media etc., but the destination has not yet been achieved. Therefore, all of us should contribute to the Yagya of Hindi dissemination by working more and more in Hindi and ensuring the availability of more and more Hindi material on the Internet etc.

Addressing the function Mrs. Lucky Laik said that today Hindi is not only the language of the people of India, but it is also becoming very popular and prestigious at the world level. She said that Hindi is the language of communication, coordination and harmony. It serves to connect people. The culture of a country is preserved in its languages. More and more expansion of Hindi is necessary for the spread of Indian culture at the world level, she added. In

the present changing environment, Hindi has to be made more prosperous as the language of official and knowledge, science and technology etc. according to the time.

We all have an important responsibility in this. The more enriched Hindi becomes by establishing coordination with local languages in different parts of the country, the more speed it will spread globally. She called upon everyone to conduct their maximum work in Hindi to inspire others and to contribute in the spread of Hindi at the world level through technology etc. The function was attended by all the staff members of the bank. G. C. Pradhan, Chief Manager (Security) proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Subhash Chandra Shah, Chief Manager (Official Language) successfully conducted and coordinated the programme.

World Hindi Day celebrated in Bank of India

Raipur, Jan 12: World Hindi Day was organised on Tuesday, January 10th in Bank of India, Raipur Zone. Addressing the function, Mr. Vivek Prabhu, Zonal Manager of the Bank, told the staff members about the importance of World Hindi Day and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment towards Hindi. On this occasion, Mr. Neeraj Kumar Dutta, Deputy Zonal Manager of the Bank highlighted India's strong economy abroad and acceptance of Hindi on the world stage and



informed how Hindi is now strengthening its existence as an international language. The program was conducted by the Official Language Officer of Raipur Zone, Mr. Raman Kumar and also read the messages of the Prime

Minister and the Home Minister. The staff members took a pledge to play their important role in the promotion of Hindi. Along with this, the program ended successfully with the vote of thanks by the sub-zonal manager.

Govt patronizing forceful Religious Conversion by imposing NSA: BJP

Raipur, Jan 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that the state government has directed the administration to impose National Security Act (NSA) to patronize the Religious Conversion as attempts are being made by the Congress government to take tough action against the Religious Activists who have launched campaign

against the forceful conversion of innocent tribals.

In a statement issued here, the BJP General Secretary Kedar Kashyap said that the Bhubesh Baghel government is playing with the sentiments of tribals who are battling hard against the forceful Religious Conversion and added that it is under the directives of Congress supremo

Sonia Gandhi. He added that decision to impose NSA against the protestors of Religious Conversion is an attempt to end the tribal culture in Chhattisgarh. Kashyap said that the anti-tribal face of Congress has been exposed with the above move to impose NSA against the tribals who are opposing the Religious Conversion in their region.

Lok Aayog Secretary Khalko shifted to Mantralaya

IAS Anurag Pandey entrusted with additional responsibility

Raipur, Jan 12: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer of 2009 batch Anurag Pandey has been given additional responsibility of Secretary Lok Aayog Raipur with immediate effect. He would continue to hold the office of Special Secretary Water

Resources Department and Revenue and Rehabilitation. Lok IAS Officer of 2012 batch Sudhakar Khalko working as Secretary Lok Aayog has been shifted to Mantralaya as Joint Secretary but no portfolio has been given to him presently, stated an order issued from General Administration Department (GAD).

Meanwhile, the officials stated that fresh posting order of few more officers would be issued in next few days.

Main function of R-Day to be held at Police Parade Ground

Last rehearsal will be on January 24 from 8.30 am

Raipur, Jan 12: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure asked the departmental officers to ensure the success of the program with mutual coordination regarding all the preparations for the Republic Day programme. He told that the main function of Republic Day in Raipur will be held on January 26 at 9 am at Police Parade Ground Raipur. The Collector informed that the last rehearsal will be held on January 24 from 8.30 am at the Police Parade Ground.



He has instructed all the officers to be present on time. Collector told that like last year, this year too, keeping in view the spread of Covid-19, the cultural program of school children will not be organized.

On the occasion of Republic Day, on January 26, 2023, all government buildings will be illuminated at night. He informed that tableaux will be presented by the interested departments this year at the Police Parade Ground. He said that the

programs to be organized on Republic Day in all the offices located in Raipur should be completed before 8 am. He informed that the flag hoisting would be done at the collectorate at 8 am and district level prizes would also be distributed.

The Collector directed the officers of the Police Department to ensure traffic and parking arrangements at the main program venue, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Raipur for

cleanliness and arrangement of drinking water at the Police Parade Ground, Forest Officer to arrange barricading at the Police Parade Ground, District Registrar for arrangement of balloons, Chhattisgarh Electricity Board officials to make uninterrupted power arrangements during the program.

The officer of the Horticulture Department was asked to make arrangements for pots and the Chief Medical Health Officer to conscientiously fulfill the responsibility given to the officers of various departments, including the arrangement of paramedical staff and ambulances along with medicines.

Assembly Speaker pays tributes to Swami Vivekananda



Raipur, Jan 12: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant paid floral tributes to his statue at the assembly premises remembering his birth anniversary today. Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal, Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma and senior officers of Assembly Secretariat were also present. In his message on this occasion, the Speaker

Dr Mahant said that Swami Vivekananda gave a new direction to the society with his thoughts. He has always been an inspiration to the youth and his message of "Arise, awake and march till you reach your goal" continues to inspire people even today, Dr Mahant said, adding that Swami Vivekananda had spent some time of his youth in Chhattisgarh.

State govt is fulfilling the promise made to the public: CM

CM reaches Khisora village of Sihawa assembly constituency under Dhamtari district

CM announced to start a sub-divisional officer revenue link court in Magarlod



Sihawa, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Khisora village of the Sihawa assembly constituency under the Dhamtari district as a part of his mammoth public interaction drive 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan'. He directly interacted with the villagers and took information about the implementation of the welfare schemes of the state government at the ground level. Addressing the villagers on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that he is fulfilling the promise he had made to the public. He further said that he has come to Khisora to meet the people and asked about their well-being. He said that Dhamtari is the largest producer of paddy and grains and has a maximum number of rice mills.

Referring to the farmer-friendly schemes, the Chief Minister said that as soon as the government was formed, we first waived the loans of the farmers. Chhattisgarh is the first state where farmers are getting Rs.2500 per quintal price of paddy including support price and input subsidy. He said that till now 3 installments of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana have been transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries and, the fourth installment will be released before 31st March. The Chief

Minister asked about paddy procurement, gunny bags, weighing, paddy lifting and payment. He said that they are fulfilling all the promises they have made. The Chief Minister said that the state government has decided to give 35 kg of rice to one family. The process of making everyone's ration card is in progress. He took information about the ration card from the villagers.

Chief Minister Baghel commenced the 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programme by garlanding the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari. The state song "Arpa Pari Ke Dhar" was also played and sung on the occasion. Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhediyi, MLA Dr. Lakshmi Dhruv were also present on this occasion.

Shobharam built his house from RGKNY's money

During the meeting, the Chief Minister asked the villagers whose loan was waived off. In response, hundreds of villagers raised their hands and said yes in one voice. Shobharam Sahu of village Channa told that he has 3 acres of land, his Rs.50 thousand loan was waived off, and he used the amount of the third installment of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana to build a house. He arranged the function of his grandson's naming ceremony with money received under this

scheme. Praising the arrangements made for paddy procurement, he thanked the Chief Minister and said that the farmers are now happy.

Farmers no need to rely on moneylenders, they are now turning to banks

Kamlesh Nishad of Khisora village said he owns 4.25 acres of land and that a loan of Rs 49 thousand had been waived off. Within two days of selling paddy, money was deposited into the account. The Chief Minister asked him about the money he received from the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Kamlesh said that he used this amount to purchase a Super Splendor vehicle and, he will inaugurate his new bike at his in-law's place. Meanwhile, Kamlesh said that the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana has benefited farmers. Previously, they use to go to moneylenders during festivals; now, they go to banks.

Getting benefit of RGGBKMY: Pyarelal

Pyarelal said that he is getting the benefit of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramteen Bhumiheer Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana (RGGBKMY). He praised this scheme. Somesh Kumar Yadav of village Khisora told that he sold 215 quintals of cow dung, and earned Rs.65 thousand. He is managing the expenses of his children's education with

money and praised Godhan Nyay Yojana. A member of the women's SHGs told that by manufacturing vermicompost, her group earned an income of Rs.2 lakhs. Krishna Kumar earned Rs.57 thousand 770 by selling cow dung. He built a house by selling cow dung and used the amount to get treatment when he fell sick. Rukhmani told that the doctor in Haat Bazar Clinic gives free treatment. She is taking treatment for a year. She praised the plan. The Chief Minister also asked about the Khubchand Baghel Swasthya Sahayata Yojana, Vishesh Swasthya Sahayata Yojana and Forest Lease from the villagers.

Vimal Netam told that he has got land of 1 acre 60 decimals on lease. He also sells paddy on lease. He told that there is no Gauthan in the dependent village of Gram Panchayat. He also talked about making 'aavarti charai'. He also requested that instead of procuring 15 quintals per acre paddy, 20 quintals should be procured. The Chief Minister told that his intention is to procure all paddy from the farmers and also the paddy of the rabi crop. He also said that the state government will purchase all paddy of both Kharif and Rabi seasons when they receive approval from the Government of India to pro-

duce ethanol from surplus paddy.

The Chief Minister asked about the caste certificate. Shubham told that he is facing difficulty in making a caste certificate as his land record is not available. The Chief Minister said that he need to get a proposal from the panchayat according to the rules for caste certificates. While being asked about the Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club Yojana, Ramkrishna Sahu said that under this scheme there is a total of 40 members of which 12 are females. The funds received under this scheme are used for sports, tree planting, village development, and panchayat assistance. He praised the scheme and said that the scheme is very good. Somesh Kumar of Khisora told that he is managing the household expenses by selling cow dung.

Announcements made by the Chief Minister in village Khisora of Sihawa assembly constituency

The Chief Minister made several announcements on the demand of villagers and public representatives in the village Khisora. He announced to start sub-divisional officer revenue link court in Magarlod two days a week, a sub-tehsil status to Karelbadi, construction of a high school in Khisora, construction of a new primary school building in Bastipara of Khisora Bala Talab. He also announced for a new building of Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society, construction of a community hall in Gram Panchayat Motimpur, solar dual pump to be set up at Budhigarh tourist place in Singpur area, Devgudi construction and repair work in Gram Panchayat Singpur and mini stadium in Khisora Maidan.

Direct recruitment will be done on 400 posts of training officers in ITI

● Advertisement to be released soon

Raipur, Jan 12: The state government has taken a big decision in the interest of the youth. There will be direct recruitment on 400 vacant posts of training officers in Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The state government has given sanction for this. According to the information received, the Director Employment and Training was given consent for direct recruitment on these posts by the Skill

Development, Technical Education and Employment Department on Tuesday. Along with this, the recruitment process will also start soon. For this, information has also been sought from all ITI institutes. It is notable that for the first time the process of recruitment of 400 posts of training officers in ITI will be done simultaneously. This will provide opportunities to unemployed youth. The process of recruitment for 210 posts has started by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission. For this, 1.82 lakh applications

have come from across the state. The preliminary examination of the Civil Services will be held on February 12. 3150 candidates will be selected for 210 posts, who will appear in the main exam. Selection will be done on the basis of this. Here the recruitment process is also being done by CGPSC for 48 posts of Civil Judge. Applications have just been invited. The exam will be conducted on 26 February. The exam will be in three phases. Selected candidates will be interviewed. Based on this the main selection list will be released.

'Pahadi Maina' creates a buzz in Chhattisgarhia Olympics



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 12: The atmosphere of the stadium filled with high energy levels when the mascot of Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana suddenly entered in the state-level program of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics. In the indoor stadium located near Budha Talab in the capital

Raipur, when Mitan's mascot Pahadi Maina arrived among the participants to congratulate the winners for their victory, everyone cheered. Players and spectators vied for photographs and selfies with mascot. Along with the players, Mitan's mascot also danced on the theme song of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics and Mukhyamantri Mitan

Yojana. Today was the concluding day of the mega event of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics which started from October 2022. Players participated from every corner of the state at state-level competitions. Children, old and young women all took part in these competitions with enthusiasm.

Road Safety Week to be organized till Jan 17

Various programs to be organized to create road safety awareness

Raipur, Jan 12: According to the information received from the Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Chhattisgarh, various programs related to road safety will be organized in the state during Road Safety Week from January 11 to 17. The program will be organized in collaboration with various voluntary organizations including the departments of Chhattisgarh Police, Health, Education and transport and inter-de-

partmental lead agency. It may be noted that the duration of the Road Safety Week has been fixed from January 11 to 17 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

During the road Safety Week in all the districts of Chhattisgarh, NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides, school students and traffic in-charges and other partner organisations will collaborate in the various programs to create public awareness on road safety. Under this, programs like Honoring the Good Samaritan, Essay Competition, Short Video competition, Selfie with Safety Warrior, and other Awareness Program in

various educational institutions have been included. Along with this, checking of the use of reflective tape on the side/rear side of trucks and tractors will be done, action will be taken to stop vehicles driving in the wrong direction and drivers will be given counseling and a special campaign to stop overloading will also be conducted.

Similarly, NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Transport Education, Health and Police officers will be guided through virtual meetings. This information has been given by Chairman, Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Mr. Sanjay Sharma.

Balconagar, Jan 12: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic Aluminium producer, crosses another milestone in its community developmental interventions with its Vedanta Skill School being awarded a 5-star rating under the Skill Management & Accreditation of Training Centers (SMART) programme by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This makes it the only skill center in Chhattisgarh with a 5-star rating and multiple accreditations from the NSDC and Sector Skill Council (SSC). The Vedanta Skill School is a one-of-its-kind institute that provides technical education and vocational training to local youth to make them employable and financially self-reliant. The institute



imparts free residential training in six trades, including Sewing Machine Operator, Electrician, Welding, Hospitality, Fitter-Leveling Alignment & Balancing & Solar PV Technician, along with fur-

ther helping the trainees with placements in companies of repute. The training program, ranging in duration from 45 to 65 days, is designed as per the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) guide-

lines. Since commencing in 2010, more than 10,000 students have graduated from the Vedanta Skill School till now and placed in reputed organizations across the country. They have gone on to bring additional household income and foster development of their communities at large. Speaking about the certification, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO, said, "Empowered youth play a pivotal role in accelerating the development of a nation. It has been our earnest endeavour to make the local youth self-reliant by imparting them with employable skills and knowledge through the Vedanta Skill Schools. Our Skill Schools have helped bring about a positive transformation in the region, by enabling the youth to avail

various opportunities for their growth and progress. Our youth interventions also include unique programs such as Project Connect, wherein our employees volunteer to help school students perform better in STEM subjects through supplemental coaching."

Expressing her gratitude, Pratibha, a student of the Vedanta Skill School who is now employed in a leading textile company, says, "Enrolling in the Vedanta Skill School has been one of the best decisions of my life. I am deeply thankful to BALCO and the school for making me financially independent which is helping me take care of my family. The institute has been instrumental in transforming my life and making me self-reliant."

Solar dryers for vegetables will be made available to the Gauthans: CM

Raipur, Jan 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said that solar dryers used for drying vegetables will be made available in Gauthans. Keeping in view the large-scale production of tomatoes in Dhamdha and Pathalgaon, the work of selling tomatoes can be started by drying them in the Gauthans of the area using solar dryers. Similarly, in other places, the vegetables grown commercially across the state can be sold after their drying process. This will help in boosting the income of farmers and other associated groups.

He was addressing a virtual programme organized for releasing funds to the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana at his residence office here today.

Chief Minister Baghel transferred an amount of Rs 7.05 cr to cattle rearers, cow dung sellers, Gauthan committees, and women self-help groups in the programme. This includes pay-



ment of Rs 4.59 crore to the cattle rearers, farmers, and the landless in the lieu of cow dung procured from them in the Gauthans from December 16 to December 31. Besides, an amount of Rs. 1.46 crore was released to Gauthan committees and Rs. 1 crore to women's groups associated with Gauthans.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain,

Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh and senior officers of Agriculture Department were present on the occasion.

Addressing the virtual programme, CM said "Godhan Nyaya Yojana (GNY) and Rural Industrial Park (RIP) will soon be globally recognized as a successful scheme to boost the income of villagers and create more employment in rural areas. The schemes are getting huge public support with villagers demanding to establish new enterprises. The assistance should be provided to villagers

and self-help groups to set up useful and profitable small and cottage industries according to local resources and market demand. The work of RIPA should be expedited."

Speaking about the initiative of natural paint production started in Gauthans, he said that the women groups are demanding to establish more such units for producing natural paint using cow dung. Besides, the work of producing vermicompost from cow dung is already a success in view of its demand and sales. In many Gauthans, the work of electricity generation from cow dung is also starting. The work of setting up power plants in Sukma and Jagdalpur will be completed in this month.

He added that products like 'Gau-Kash' and flower pots are also being prepared from cow dung. The vision of starting cottage industries in villages is now being realized. He said that out

of 10,894 sanctioned Gauthans, the construction of 9,591 Gauthans has been completed. About 50 per cent of Gauthans have become self-sufficient. A total of 4,564 self-supporting Gauthans have purchased cow dung worth Rs 35.19 crore using their own funds. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey said on the occasion that the vision of 'Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh' is now being realized in the state-run Gauthans. He said that so far 98.73 lakh quintal cow dung has been procured in Gauthans, in lieu of which Rs 197.45 crore has been paid to the cow dung vendors. Similarly, through this scheme, Rs 171.87 crore has been paid to Gauthan committees and women self-help groups so far. Self-help groups associated with Gauthans have so far earned Rs 105.18 crore from income-generating activities. Nearly 16.69 quintals vermicompost produced in Gauthans has been sold till now.

Workshop on Road Safety Awareness



Raipur, Jan 12: A three-day state workshop for road safety awareness was held on Monday at the Police Mess Auditorium located at Byron Bazar in the capital Raipur. The workshop was inaugurated by AIG and Joint Commissioner Transport (Road Safety) Mr. Sanjay Sharma. During the workshop, he gave detailed information

about the work being executed by the Transport Department involving the public for awareness regarding road safety and traffic rules in the state. Concerned agencies in the state are working together for smooth and safe traffic. The workshop has been organized by the Asian Institute of Transport Development and spon-

sored by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India (MORTH).

Deputy Commissioner, Delhi Mr. Anil Chikara has been invited to present the initiatives taken in Delhi for Faceless Automated Driving Testing, Automated Vehicle Testing, Faceless Mode, E-Challan etc.

Colourful prog presented under 'Nav Pahal'

In Govt School Nandini-Khundini

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Jan 12: Under the 'Nav Pahal' programme of Govt School Nandini-Khundini, a colourful programme on 'Laika Madhai' was organised at 'Sankul-level'. It was inaugurated by chief guest Sarpanch Ghanshyam Yadav, Dy. Sarpanch Lokesh Nahata and Asst. BEO GBR Verma.

In this programme, students of five school put up stalls on variety of eatables apart from this Science models and also



presented cultural programmes.

It is notable here that last year Ghanshyam Yadav donated 40% TV monitors for Smart Class and it was stolen by the

anti-social elements. It is keeping in mind the interest of the students, Yadav once again donated 42 TV monitors once again through this programme and establish an

example of benevolence. Both the villagers and school family were all praise for this benevolent work.

In this programme, member of Shala Prabandhan Samiti and all teachers of Sankul were present. Apart from this chief guest Sarpanch Vaman Sahu, Lokesh Nahata, and Bhagwat Yadav were also present. The guests also felicitated the students with good performance in the cultural programmes. On this occasion, Head Master Suresh Kumar Shivhare, CAC Virendra Sahu, and all other staff provided valuable support.

Collector directs to improve facilities to patients

In the working committee meeting of Jeevandeep Samiti

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Jan 12: The meeting of Jeevandeep Samiti was held under the chairmanship of President Jeevan working committee and District Collector Jitendra Kumar Shukla at conference hall of the District Hospital here on Wednesday.

In the meeting discussions were held on providing better health facilities to people of the district and what else can be done to better it, so that citizens get timely medical facilities.

On this issue, members of Samiti held discussions. Samiti asked the medical staff and doctors to main-



tain cordial behaviour with the patients and for food part for the employees and provide power back-up in the hospital, apart from ensuring all works for fulfillment of human re-

sources. In this meeting, members of Jeevandeep Samiti raised the issue of hike in honorarium to the employees, plinth protection in the district hospital premises,

improving the drainage system, parking facility in the premises, generator facility; repair of streetlights in DH and providing glow-sign board, 'shulabh shouchalaya' for family members of poor patients; construction of drainage system near the road of Hospital premises.

On this the Collector assured them to take action as per the rules and take positive initiative in this regard. CHMO JL Tandon, EE PWD Nirmal Singh, Chief Municipal officer Bhupendra Upadhyay, Civil Surgeon SR Churendra and other members of Samitis were present.

CoBRA commandos, Naxalites exchange fire

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Jan 12: An encounter broke out between commandos of CRPF's elite unit and Naxalites on Wednesday when the security personnel were descending from a helicopter in the south Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, officials said. The exchange of fire took place on the border of Bijapur-Sukma districts adjoining Telangana in the morning and the guns fell silent when Naxalites escaped from the spot.

Commandos were unharmed, while effort was on to gather information about

the loss caused to Naxalites, they said. "Operations are being continuously carried out against Naxalites in the bordering area of Bijapur-Sukma (Chhattisgarh)-Telangana. In this line, a unit of the CRPF's CoBRA's battalion was being dispatched to a forward operating base in a chopper," a statement issued by the office of Inspector General, CRPF's Chhattisgarh sector, said. The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is an elite anti-Naxal unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

"When the team was de-

scending from the helicopter, an encounter broke out between CoBRA commandos and Naxalites. On finding that security personnel were zeroing on them, Naxalites escaped. No harm was reported to the CoBRA commandos and effort was on to gather information about the loss caused to Naxalites in the incident. A search operation was underway in the area," it added. According to a senior state police official, the helicopter landed in the Elmagunda area in Sukma district where a camp of security forces is located.

DRM awards 3 railwaymen with safety award

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 12: Safe train operation is the first priority of the railway administration. For this, various awareness campaigns related to safety are being conducted regularly. Along with this, safety award is also being given to encourage staff who have made commendable contribution in safety.

In this episode, during his duty in the past days, recognizing the hot axle and sensing the abnormal situation, Deputy Station Superintendent Badhwabara, KP Gupta, Loco Pilot Bilaspur and Assistant Loco Pilot R K Bajpayee, who played a



commendable role in averting a possible accident and safe rail operations by giving information to all concerned were selected for the Safety Award.

During the review meeting held in the Divisional

Railway Manager meeting room, Divisional Railway Manager Praveen Pandey honored these three employees by giving them safety awards appreciating their commendable work related to safety.

Divisional Railway Manager wished everyone to continue working with the same enthusiasm in the future as well. On this occasion, Additional Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Sundar, Devraj and all branch officers were present.

Notice to INC leader for campaigning in favor of Sarpanch candidate

In village Kalkasa by-election

Dongargarh, Jan 12: On the charge of supporting and campaigning for sarpanch candidate in the by-election of Gram Panchayat Kalkasa, a notice has been served to Joint General Secretary of the District Congress Committee, Netram Sahu. A committee has been constituted by Block President Suresh Sinha and a report has been called for by the committee in 3 days. The decision has been taken by the Congress President after placing the report in the meeting of the Block Congress Committee.

Meanwhile, in his clarity Netram Sahu has said that the panchayat elections were not being held on party basis, the candidate whom he has supported has been participating in the programs of the Congress and as the Congress had not fielded its candidate, such a situation has arisen.

As per information, in the by-elections of village Kalkasa and Bachherabata Gram Panchayat, which are considered to be the stronghold of Congress, Panchganas first removed Congress-dedicated sarpanch with the help of no-confidence motion, after which the BJP candidate registered a one-sided victory in the by-election.

Apart from this, instead of taking cognizance of the poor performance of the Congress in the by-election held in Ward No. 6, punishment was issued to the Congressmen of Belgaum for campaigning for the Sarpanch candidate of village Kalkasa, who participated in the program organized by the Congress organization. Also the weak political activities of Congress organization and elected public representatives and self-involvement in corruption to earn economic benefits, has also led to the enthusiasm of the BJP workers in the region which can take a turn in the coming elections.

Recital of 'Hanuman Chalisa' every Tuesday

To be done by HRM at Hanuman's temple

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Jan 12: For recital of 'Hanuman Chalisa' at Lord Shri Hanuman's temple in Gram Parsuli, the members of Hindu Raksha Manch (HRM) took a pledge in the presence of villagers and seniors and youth to express their views on the religion.

Gram Parsuli became the first village where 'Hanuman Chalisa' will be recited in group and its objective is not to worry or trouble anyone. HRM members counter that when 'Namaz' can be read out in the public places or even on roads, then why



cannot 'Hanuman Chalisa' cannot be recited in public and in group.

Learnt from Narayanpur incident: Convener Hindu Raksha Manch (HRM) Harshraj Sahu informed that the incident which has taken place in Narayanpur district is more or less related to religious conversion

and to ensure that it does not happens in their place, it is a small effort on our part for a secular state.

All the people have the right to follow or accept any religion, but nobody is allowed to forcefully make one follow religious conversion. All the more the main objective of this is to ensure that one has more

of faith and loyalty towards his own religion and is in no way an attempt to misguide others to divert them from their religion.

What seniors said: Gram Sarpanch Motiram Dewangan and patron Jitendra Rajput said that it is responsibility of all that recital of

'Hanuman Chalisa' is done regularly on every Tuesday and now it will be done on regular basis and for which timing will be finalised. Pujari of temple Adhin Sinha said that as per 'sanatan' culture, all children should be given information about this culture and tradition right since childhood.

On this occasion convener of Samiti Harsh Sahu, V-P Tribhuvan Sinha, Treasurer-Puneshwar Sahu, Secretary Tejeshwar Kumar, Asst. Secy. Khemlal Sahu, Samiti members Surendra Thakur, Tarun Sahu, Umesh Sinha, Bhopendra Sinha, Bhavesh, Ravi Meshram told children to be part of this specially and safeguard 'santan' culture.

SSS delegation meets MLA Ranjana Sahu

Apprises here about 'Jansamvad Abhiyan'

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Jan 12: A delegation of people from Sarsawati Shiksha Sansthan (SSS) Dhamtari, under leadership of Departmental co-ordinator Manik Sahu, Aman Rao and Thansingh paid a courtesy call to MLA Ranjana Sahu at her official residence here on Tuesday. MLA hailed the objectives being fulfilled by the Saraswati Shiksha Sansthan for welfare of students and their parents.

On this occasion the delegation of SSS gave information to MLA Ranjana Sahu about the 'Jansamvad Abhiyan' on

'Shiksha Vimarsh' being carried out from Jan 1-15, 2023. The delegation informed that under this campaign the students studying in Shishu Mandir and their parents and noted citizens are being given information about the education system and obtain their opinion.

Apart from this more than 2600 workers contacted 17000 persons through 1111 schools. Through this campaign the workers of the institution are meeting ex-students and parents and they are also meeting noted citizens, artists, litterateurs, musicians and historians and apprising them about the campaign.

Dr. Bijay Kumar Shahi to participate in Int'nl Hindi seminar in Malaysia

Is a teacher of Gurukul Public School

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Jan 12: It is certainly a matter of immense pleasure and delight that Gurukul Public School (Kawardha, C.G.) Hindi Teacher, Dr. Bijay Kumar Shahi has been opted and invited to attend the International Hindi Seminar (scheduled from Jan 17 - Jan 25) in Malaysia, Asia. It'll be organized by High Commission of India, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Culture Center, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of India's Independence. Dr. Bijay Kumar Shahi will present a research paper titled 'Global Form of Indian Culture' in the seminar. He will also recite a self-composed poem at the International Poet Conference organized in this seminar. Dr. Shahi is



well known teacher, writer and Chhattisgarhi film actor. With twenty five years of teaching experience. He has published twenty five books and acted in seven Chhattisgarhi films. On this occasion, the research book edited by Dr. Shahi, 'The Cultural Consciousness of India' will be released by the guests. On this achievement of Dr. Shahi, President of the School Managing Committee Atul Deshlahara, Treasurer Santosh Bothra, Principal Jagdish Sankhla and Vice Principal Sonali Patra have congratulated him and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

Fertilizer shortage started appearing in cooperatives

Rajnandgaon, Jan 12: Complaints are coming in the co-operative societies that there is not enough storage of manure. In such a situation, the farmers are also facing a lot of difficulties to ensure the storage of advance manure. According to the information received, a provision has been made for storage of manure within a certain time limit in the cooperative societies falling under the newly formed district Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki, Khairagarh-Chhuikehadan-Gandai district including Nandgaon, but manure storage is still not available in Nandgaon district. 'I am getting complaints of excessive arbitrariness'. During Kharif crop, farmers had to face a lot of problems for urea and DAP fertilizers as well as other fertilizers, while now they have to go round and round for fertilizers during Rabi crop as well. In most of the committees, there is an acute shortage of urea, DAP and other fertilizers. Farmers are being advised to collect vermicompost by creating pressure. After continuous complaints of shortage of manure, finally a provision is being made to ensure storage of DAP manure. After reaching the racks of DAP manure in Nandgaon district, Markfed is ensuring the storage of DAP manure in the committees.

Collector flags off Embed malaria and dengue campaign chariot

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Jan 12: 'Prachar Rath' will go to 150 villages of Bastar district and campaign in Halbi, Gondi, Boli dialect and Hindi language for prevention and treatment of Malaria and Dengue.

Collector Bastar District Chandan Kumar and CMHO Bastar District Dr. R. O. Chaturvedi flagged off the Embed-Malaria and Dengue campaign chariot of the Embed project run by District Health Society and Godrej Embed Project, Family Health India District Bastar, Jagdalpur.

The Embed project is being implemented by Godrej and Family Health India in collaboration with the Health Department for malaria eradication in 159 villages of Bastar district and 196 villages of Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh state and Dengue control in 200 settlements of Raipur. Through the Embed



project, along with bringing public awareness regarding the measures and treatment to avoid malaria and dengue in people's behavior; to ensure timely malaria and dengue testing, to ensure complete treatment and to avoid mosquitoes by the people. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure that the measures are used in every household.

In this episode, the Embed-Malaria and

Dengue campaign chariot has been flagged off today. Due to which people will be aware in the villages of Bastar district and will know about the prevention and treatment of dengue and malaria.

Embed Malaria and Dengue Prachar Rath will go to 150 villages of Bastar district Bastanar, Darbha, Lohandiguda and Tokapal blocks to make people aware through miking in Gondi, Halbi and Hindi

languages. Preventing people from Malaria and Dengue, when and where to take treatment, get blood test done in 24 hours after fever, take complete treatment of Malaria, apply insecticide mosquito nets daily, keep cleanliness around the house, through audio miking, people will be made aware in Hindi, Halbi and Gondi languages on topics like pouring burnt oil or kerosene into the accumulated water every seven days.

Along with the symptoms of dengue, ways to avoid dengue, prompting people to seek immediate treatment in case of dengue, TECBC will conduct activities. The purpose of Prachar Rath is to make people aware about diseases like Malaria and Dengue. During this, Regional Coordinator Raipur-Embed Project, Family Health India, Awadhesh Singh, BCCF of Embed Project, Embed Volunteer and others were present.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, LEKHRAJ SAHU S/O UMASHANKAR SAHU resident of Dhamni, Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh-495691 have changed my old name LEKHRAJ SAHU S/O UMASHANKAR SAHU. So in future I should be recognized by my New Name that is ARJUN SAHU S/O UMASHANKAR SAHU in all Government and other documents.

ARJUN SAHU

Dhamni, Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh-495691

BRIEF



Jerry White, co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winner, during a special session on 'Ethics and Business' at MCCI (Merchant Chamber of Commerce & Industry), in Kolkata.

Crisis

Bhopal: Six members of a family consumed a poisonous substance allegedly over some financial issues in Bhopal on Wednesday but survived, police said. They are undergoing treatment at a hospital and are out of danger, an official said.

Booked

Muzaffarnagar: A Rastriya Lok Dal MLA and 60 party workers were booked on Wednesday for violation of prohibitory orders in Shamli district's Jalalabad town, police said. Prohibitory orders are in place in the city to maintain law and order in Jalalabad, they said.

Cultural fest

Chennai: The 28th edition of Saarang, the annual cultural festival of IIT-Madras, commenced on Wednesday. Saarang features nearly 100 events till January 15 and is expected to attract over 80,000 footfalls from nearly 500 colleges across the country.

Imprisonment

Sultanpur: A special court awarded three-month imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1,500 to AAP MP Sanjay Singh and five others on Wednesday in a case registered against them in 2001 over a protest against frequent power cuts in the Uttar Pradesh town.

Extensive arrangements done for smooth pilgrimage

● **Ahead of 'Makaravilakku' fest**

Pathanamthitta/Idukki (Kerala), Jan 12 (PTI): Ahead of the 'Makaravilakku' festival on January 14, the Pathanamthitta district administration on Wednesday gave details of the extensive preparations made by it for crowd control and ensuring safety of the thousands of devotees who are expected to turn up at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala on the occasion.

On January 14, devotees would be allowed to enter Sabarimala Sannidhanam in Pathanamthitta district only till noon and the 'Makarasmakrama' puja will be held on the same day at 8.45 PM.

The devotees would be allowed to enter the hilltop shrine only from the next day onwards, a release issued by the Pathanamthitta district administration said.

The extensive measures put in place to ensure a smooth pilgrimage for the devotees include determining the number of people who can stay at each point, setting up barricades, strengthening health facilities and providing drinking water and refreshments to the pilgrims, the release said.

Cooking and burning fires are strictly prohibited in Sannidhanam and carrying gas cylinders and stoves on tractors is also prohibited, it said.

The district administration of Idukki is also putting in place extensive se-

curity arrangements at Pullumedu, Panchalimedu and Parunthumpara areas from where devotees can see the Makarajyoti that would be lit at Ponnambalamedu.

Clearing of obstructions on roads, setting up barricades and lights, putting in place water tanks at 14 points and deploying a 1,400 strong police force, are some of the measures taken by the Idukki district administration, according to a release issued by it. The forest department will also be assisting to make the pilgrimage safe for devotees by deploying rapid response teams and elephant squads in areas where disturbances due to wildlife are expected, the release said. The Lord Ayyappa shrine was reopened for

the 'Makaravilakku' festival on December 30, 2022 after it was closed at the conclusion of the 41-day long first leg of the annual Makaravilakku pilgrimage season on December 27 last year.

After the Makaravilakku ritual is held on January 14, the shrine would be closed on January 20, marking the end of the pilgrimage season. Over 30 lakh devotees reached the shrine on a hill during the 41-day-long season.

The TDB (Travancore Devaswom Board), which is in charge of the temple administration, had said in December that the shrine got Rs 222.98 crore as revenue during the first 39 days of the pilgrimage season.

'Expert panel on NEP submit observations to Bengal govt'

Kolkata, Jan 12 (PTI):

A committee of experts formed in West Bengal to examine the National Education Policy, 2020, has submitted its findings to the education department, one of its members said on Wednesday.

The panel, constituted in the first week of April in 2022, comprises Columbia University Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak,

Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Professor Suranjit Das and Harvard University Professor Sugata Bose, among others.

"Yes, the observations made by every member have been collated and communicated to the principal secretary of the education department for consideration. The department is in the process of evaluating the same," the senior academic told PTI.

The panel member also said the department will come up with an official response after carefully scrutinising the recommendations made.

It may also seek further guidance from other experts on certain aspects, he added. Education minister Bratya Basu had told PTI on Tuesday that the experts in the committee will guide the state as and when the NEP is implemented. "These are all re-

puted persons known for their accomplishments internationally (committee members). They have made us proud, our state proud. They will guide us (about) which part of the NEP has to be implemented and which portion discarded," he had said.

The Union government had on July 29, 2020 approved NEP 2020, replacing the 34-year old National Policy on Education, 1986.

Tribals to observe day's fast on Jan 30

● **Demand freeing of Parasnath hills from Jains**

Ranchi, Jan 12 (PTI):

Tribals will observe a day's fast on January 30 at Ulihatu in Khunti district, the birthplace of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in solidarity with their movement to "save" the Parasnath hills, a member of a joint forum of Adiva bodies said.

A large number of tribals on Tuesday assembled near the Parasnath hills in Giridih district, urging the state government and the Centre to free their holy site from the "clutches" of the Jain community. They also warned of se-

vere agitation if their demand was not met.

Hundreds of tribals from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha demonstrated in the hill area, carrying traditional weapons and beating drums.

"Marang Buru' (Parasnath) is the birthright of Jharkhand's tribals, and no power in the world can deprive them of this right," a member of the Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, which claims to be an outfit of over 50 bodies, asserted on Tuesday.

"Tribals will observe a day's fast on January 30 at Ulihatu in Khunti, the birthplace of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in solidarity with their movement, he said.

Jains across the country have been demanding the scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath hills as a tourist place, fearing this would lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site.

Even as the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath hills after protests by Jains, tribals jumped into the fray staking a claim to the land and asking for it to be freed.

The Santhal tribe, one of the largest Scheduled Tribe community in the country, has a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and

'Will bring one-time settlement scheme to clear water bill pendency'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

The Delhi government will bring a one-time settlement scheme within a week for complaints related to wrong and inflated water bills to clear pendency. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced Wednesday.

He also said in the last meeting of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), it was decided that those who did not pay their bills in time because of the bills being wrong or inflated will not have to pay the late surcharge.

Since then, 4.5 lakh people have paid bills worth Rs 252 crore, he said.

"Out of 26 lakh water connections, there are no problems with 18 lakh. But bills of eight lakh connec-

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Devotees take part in the celebrations of 'Petta Thullal' festival, in Kottayam, Wednesday.

Kharge invites 21 like-minded parties to join concluding function

● **Of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar**

New Delhi, Jan 12 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the yatra's message of truth, compassion and non-violence.

In a letter to the presidents of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participa-

tion of every like-minded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi, MPs of several political parties have joined it at different stages.

"I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge wrote.

"At this event, we will commit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of

truth, compassion and non-violence, and to defend the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all. At this time of crisis for our country, where public attention is systematically diverted from people's issues, the yatra has emerged as a powerful voice. I hope you will participate and further strengthen its message," he said.

The yatra, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar on January 30, with Rahul Gandhi hoisting the national flag there.



Manish Sisodia

tions were pending," the deputy chief minister said.

"We were getting complaints of people receiving inflated bills or wrong bills. Even MLAs had complained about it. It has been decided that the Delhi Jal Board will prepare a report within a

week to implement the scheme to settle inflated bills to remove pendency," Sisodia told reporters.

At a press conference, the deputy chief minister said several key decisions were taken during a meeting of the DJB on Wednesday.

Earlier, if someone had to install a new metre for an old connection, they would have to approach the government. They used to apply to the DJB but it could not replace their metres due to some issues, he said.

"From now on, people can either approach the DJB to replace their old metre or they can get it installed themselves. People will have the right to get a new metre installed in place of their old one for

an existing connection," Sisodia said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has a dream that Delhi should get a 24-hour water supply. Many key decisions have been taken to turn that into reality, he said. "The DJB approved several projects, including setting up 10 underground reservoirs. Under this, four old underground reservoirs will be upgraded while six will come up at new locations.

"The government will lay a 300-kilometre pipeline while 84 kilometres of the old pipeline will be upgraded. It will lay new sewer lines in 44 unauthorised colonies and 14 villages of Karawal Nagar, Burari and Narela," the deputy chief minister said.

SAMADHAN YATRA



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the 'Samadhan Yatra', in Madhubani, Thursday.

Thieves drill hole into underground pipeline

To steal crude oil Khagaria (Bihar), Jan 11 (PTI): Thieves dug a six-meters-deep pit and drilled a hole into an underground pipeline to steal crude oil in a village in Bihar's Khagaria district, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident came to light on Tuesday when petroleum started oozing out into the fields, leading to a mad scramble among villagers.

The thieves came in an oil tanker posing as officials and used a motor pump to steal oil from the pipeline on Monday night, Oil India Superintending Engineer Himanshu Singh, who headed a team that visited the village on Wednesday, told reporters.

The OIL team inspected the site and plugged the hole, following which the oil supply, which was suspended after the incident, was restored.

"We had initially thought that the pipeline, which goes all the way to Assam, had developed a leakage. But site inspection told a different story altogether.

"We found the illegally dug pit and a hole drilled into the pipeline. Villagers also confirmed having spotted an oil tanker close to the spot on Monday night.

WHO ANALYSIS

'No safe limit of alcohol consumption for health'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

There is no safe limit to alcohol consumption and any amount of drinking can severely impact one's health, according to a statement published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified alcohol along with asbestos, radiation and tobacco, as a high risk Group 1 carcinogen, contributing to cancer worldwide.

The agency has previously found that alcohol causes at least seven types of cancer, including the most common cancer types, such as bowel cancer and female breast cancer. It is also linked with oesophagus, liver and colorectal cancers.

Alcohol causes cancer through biological mechanisms as the compound breaks down in the body, which means that any bev-

erage containing alcohol, regardless of its price and quality, poses a risk of developing cancer.

In the WHO European Region where cancer is the leading cause of deaths, light to moderate alcohol consumption, that is less than 20 grammes of pure alcohol every day, resulted in 23,000 new cancer cases in 2017, constituting half of all alcohol associated cancers, and approximately 50 per cent of these were female breast cancers, the statement said.

"Currently available evidence cannot indicate the existence of a threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol switch on and start to manifest in the human body," WHO said. A safe level of alcohol consumption can only be defined if there is scientific evidence to prove that at or below the level, there is "no risk of illness or injury," the statement said.

WHO said that there are no studies to show that po-

tential benefits of alcohol on cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes outweigh the risk of cancer, but there is evidence to believe heavy episodic drinking increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

"Potential protective effects of alcohol consumption, suggested by some studies, are tightly connected with the comparison groups chosen and the statistical methods used, and may not consider other relevant factors," said Jurgen Rehm, member of the WHO Regional Director for Europe's Advisory Council for Noncommunicable Diseases.

The study also found that WHO European Region has the highest alcohol consumption level and has over 200 million people at risk of having alcohol-attributed cancer.

Amongst them, the vulnerable and disadvantaged population is more at risk because of the quality of alcohol they consume.

'Samosa Caucus' welcomes new Indian-American Congressman Thanedar to group

Washington, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Indian-American lawmakers of the 'Samosa Caucus' have welcomed Shri Thanedar's addition to the exclusive group of Democratic leaders representing the community in the US House of Representatives.

Entrepreneur-turned-politician and Democrat Thanedar became the fifth Indian-American to be elected to the US House of Representatives in November last year. His victory had come after all four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers Dr. Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi were re-elected to the US House of Representatives.

The 'Samosa Caucus' is an informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers who are either part of the House of Representatives or the Senate. The term was



Members of the 'Samosa Caucus', a group of Indian-American lawmakers.

coined by Congressman Krishnamoorthi to give credence to the growing number of "desi" lawmakers in the US Congress.

"When I first took office in 2013, I was the only Indian American Member of Congress and the third ever in history. Since that day, I have been committed to ensuring we grow our representation in Congress," said Congressman Bera.

"In the past decade, I am proud to be joined by in-

credible Indian-American colleagues from around the country - Representatives Jayapal, Khanna, and Krishnamoorthi. With the swearing-in of the 118th Congress, our coalition has grown to a record number with the election of Representative Thanedar," he said.

The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with in the US presidential elections. In the last elec-

tion, both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

"It's important that we reflect on the historic progress our country is making. I look forward to welcoming even more Indian American Members of Congress in the future!" Bera said.

"As we enter the most diverse Congress ever, I am reminded how much representation matters, for every community and culture across our country. I am a proud naturalised citizen, the first South Asian American woman elected to the House, and an immigrant woman of colour," Jayapal said.



Contestants are introduced at the start of the preliminary round of the 71st Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in New Orleans.

Pak denies uranium-tainted cargo found at Heathrow Airport came from Karachi

Islamabad, Jan 12 (PTI):

Pakistan on Thursday rejected the reports in British media that a uranium-tainted cargo package that landed at London's Heathrow Airport last month originated from Karachi, saying the news is "not factual".

The BBC reported on Wednesday that British counterterrorism police were investigating after border officers seized cargo contaminated with uranium at Heathrow Airport last month.

The Sun newspaper, which first reported the news, said the uranium came from Pakistan, the report said, adding it was found in a shipment of

scrap metal.

Responding to the reports, a top Pakistani official said they were "not factual", adding that no information had been shared by the UK with Pakistan officially.

"No information to this effect has been shared with us officially. We are confident that the reports are not factual," Foreign Office Spokes person Murtaz Zahra was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper on Thursday.

According to Pakistani officials, the shipment did not originate in Pakistan, as is being claimed by British media, it said.

It is learnt that the cargo package arrived at Heathrow Airport

Terminal 4 via Oman Air passenger flight WY 101, which arrived on the evening of December 29.

The flight originated from Pakistan, where UK officials believe the package was checked in as cargo, and had a stopover in Muscat, Oman.

Upon arrival, the package was detected by regular airport scanners, which alerted Border Force officials to analyse the contents. The package contained scrap metal and the uranium in question was "embedded into metal bars".

The Sun newspaper reported that the package was being shipped to UK-based Iranian nationals, with other media outlets

saying it was shipped to a London-based business owned by Iranians.

In the UK, the Metropolitan Police said its counter-terrorism command unit was informed by Border Force officials after the package.

Speaking at the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee on Wednesday, Commander Richard Smith, head of the Met Police counter-terrorism command, said that police will "follow every avenue" to find out the circumstances in which it arrived in the UK and its intended purpose.

He said there was no risk to public health, and that the "consignments that had been identified

included a very small amount of contaminated material".

Speaking to Sky News, former head of the British Army's chemical weapons unit, Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, said it was "a concern" that the material reached the UK all the way from Pakistan, the report said.

He added, however, that whatever the origin, the material "absolutely shouldn't be on a commercial airliner", it said.

Uranium is a radioactive metal found in rocks and is commonly used as fuel for nuclear power plants and reactors that power naval ships and sub-

TPF important step in sustained effort to strengthen India-US commercial ties: USIBC

Washington, Jan 12 (PTI):

The India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting that concluded here is an important step in the sustained effort to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries, a top American business body has said. The India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting was held here on Wednesday. It was co-chaired by US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

President of the US India Business Council (USIBC) Atul Keshap applauded the two countries for taking steps that would further enhance the trade ties. The lat-

est India-US Trade Policy Forum was an important step in the sustained effort to strengthen commercial ties between the world's oldest and largest democracy, he said.

"We are especially encouraged by both sides' expressed intent to reconvene the TPF on a quarterly basis, and by the statement's clear recognition that the potential of the bilateral trade partnership remains unfulfilled," Keshap said.

"Overall, the joint statement reaffirmed both the US and India's commitment to greater economic cooperation, joint environmental stewardship, and demonstrated the mutual interest in enabling greater mobility of goods, services, and skills between our societies," he said. India and the United States on Wednesday launched a new TPF Working Group on Resilient Trade. The creation of a new working group on resilient trade reflects the urgent demand for a high-standard, high-trust, and highly dependable trading ecosystem from industry and civil society, Keshap said. Moves to streamline the testing and certification of telecommunication equipment is a pivotal step in reducing compliance burden and promoting our joint leadership and cooperation in essential technologies, said the USIBC president.

US, Japan unveil plans to strengthen the alliance

Washington, Jan 12 (AP):

The United States and Japan unveiled plans Wednesday to strengthen their alliance to help counter threats from North Korea and China, which they called the greatest security challenge in the region.

In unusually blunt terms, the U.S. and Japanese foreign and defense ministers condemned China's increasing aggressiveness in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere, called out Russia for its war with Ukraine and castigated North Korea for ramping up its nuclear and missile programs.

In a joint statement, Secretary of State Antony

Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their Japanese counterparts, Yoshimasa Hayashi and Yasukazu Hamada, said China presents an "unprecedented" threat to international order and vowed to redouble their efforts to counter it. "China's foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order to its benefit and to employ China's growing political, economic, military, and technological power to that end," the statement said. "This behaviour is of serious concern to the alliance and the entire international community, and represents the greatest strategic challenge in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond."

The four men agreed to adjust the American troop presence on the island of Okinawa in part to enhance anti-ship capabilities that would be needed in the event of a Chinese incursion into Taiwan or other hostile acts in the South or East China seas. They also added a formal mention of outer space in the longstanding U.S.-Japan security treaty, making clear that "attacks to, from and within space" could trigger the mutual defense provisions of the treaty. That had previously been outside the scope of the agreement. In addition, the U.S. space agency NASA plans to sign a cooperation deal with Japan on Friday, they said.

Prior to the meeting, Japan's defense ministry announced it was ready to start construction on an uninhabited island where the two militaries will hold joint military exercises beginning in 2027.

Blinken said the agreement signed Wednesday reflects the two nations' effort to deepen cooperation "across all realms," including space, cybersecurity and emerging technologies.

He said the U.S.-Japan alliance has "been the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring the security, the liberty and prosperity of our people and people across the region."

Australia finalising new security pact with Pacific neighbour

Wellington, Jan 12 (AP):

The leaders of Australia and neighbouring Papua New Guinea said on Thursday they are finalising a new security treaty a move that comes as a challenge to China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Last year, China signed its own security pact with the nearby Solomon Islands, raising alarm that it could lead to a military buildup in the South Pacific region.

Australia and PNG haven't yet released details of their planned new treaty, but Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it would be based on the deep trust between the two nations.

He said the people of Papua New Guinea showed heroism and humanity during World War II battles.

Australia and Papua New Guinea have a chance to honour our shared history of service in the cause of peace by adding to it," Albanese said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
E-TENDER NOTICE No.: NIT/14/23/2, Dated 03.01.2023.

South East Central Railway has implemented an e-system. On the behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, South East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items. Advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Closing/Opening Date	Qty.
1.	03222440	POH Kit for Constant Contact Polyurethane side bearer pad assembly	28.01.2023	13864 Sets
2.	03222709	Pad for secondary suspension	28.01.2023	630 Nos.
3.	03222970A	Repair kit for Automatic Pressure Modification	28.01.2023	6030 Sets
4.	03223185A	Door Assembly (Double link) for BOBRN Wagon	30.01.2023	248 Nos.
5.	03221401B	Air Brake hose coupling support for wagon	02.02.2023	23520 Nos.
6.	03222305A	Hand brake wheel (Fabricated) for BOBN HL wagons	02.02.2023	3400 Nos.
7.	04222406B	12V, 70AH for 110V train lighting system	02.02.2023	31 Sets

Tender Closing/Opening Time: At 10.30 hours

Railways reserves the right to issue any Corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link www.ireps.gov.in CPRI/10/402 For Principal Chief Materials Manager/Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(First Call)

System Tender No. : 119710/NIT No. : 14/SAC/2022-23
 Dated : 10.01.2023
 Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 31.01.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF 1200 MM DIA NP3 HUME PIPE CANAL BARREL FROM RD. 0 TO 810 M. & CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN TROUGH FROM RD 3300 M. TO 3720 M. OF MAIN CANAL & CONSTRUCTION OF PIPARAPARA MINOR CANAL OF LARIPARA DIVERSION SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 140.63 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 17-01-2023 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, Superintending Engineer
 Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)

G-974791

WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY
 (An Autonomous Institution under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
33, General Mahadeo Singh Road
DEHRA DUN — 248001 (U.A.)

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CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 284

Stop distressing scenes, Govt tells TV channels

The I & B Ministry's latest advisory to TV channels against telecast of distressing and disturbing footages has not come a day too soon. In the recent months, there have been umpteen instances of telecast of such sickening scenes – the television news coverage of cricketer Rishabh Pant's road accident in Uttarakhand being among the latest. The detailed advisory was issued after several instances of lack of discretion by television channels were noticed by the Ministry while reporting incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence including that against women, children and elderly in manners which grossly compromises on "good taste and decency". The Ministry said that television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people, including women, children and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher shown repeatedly over several minutes, including encircling the actions there by making it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots. It has further highlighted that the manner of reporting such incidents is distasteful and distressing for the audience. The advisory highlighted the impact such reporting has on various audience. It stated that such reports can also have an adverse psychological impact on the children. There is also a crucial issue of invasion of privacy which could be potentially maligning and defamatory, the advisory underlined. Television, being a platform usually watched by families in households with people from all cohorts – old aged, middle aged, small children, etc., and with various socio-economic backgrounds, there should be a certain sense of responsibility and discipline among the broadcasters, as enshrined in the Programme Code and the Advertising Code. The Ministry observed that in most cases, the videos are taken from social media and broadcast without editorial discretion and modifications to ensure compliance and consistency with the Programme Code. Citing a dozen examples of such broadcast content in the past few months, the Ministry said distressing images and videos of a cricketer injured in an accident, were shown without blurring, a reference to cricketer Pant, who suffered injuries on the head, along with a ligament injury on his right ankle when the Mercedes Coupe he was himself driving crashed into a road divider near Roorkee and caught fire on December 30. Pant, police said, lost control after he apparently dozed off at the wheel. The disturbing footage of a man dragging the dead body of a victim and also focusing on the face of the victim with blood splattered around, was another example. Raising concern over such telecast and in view of larger public interest involved and having regard to the nature of audience of television channels including elderly, women and children, the Ministry strongly advised all private television channels to attune their systems and practices of reporting incidents of crime, accidents and violence, including death in conformity with the Programme Code.

A Law is in need to handle heavy metals in Water

Vijaykumar H K

Heavy metal refers to any metallic chemical element that has a relatively high density (usually more than 5 gram per cubic centimetre) and is poisonous at low concentrations. The most popular heavy metals are lead, zinc, mercury, nickel, cadmium, copper, chromium, and arsenic. Although these heavy metals can be detected in traces; they are still hazardous. Other metals such as silver, iron, manganese, molybdenum, boron, calcium, antimony, cobalt, etc. are commonly available in wastewater and need to be removed. The presence of heavy metals in wastewater has been increasing with the growth of industry and human activities, e.g., plating and electroplating industry, batteries, pesticides, mining industry, rayon industry, metal rinse processes, tanning industry, fluidized bed bioreactors, textile industry, metal smelting, petrochemicals, paper manufacturing, and electrolysis applications industries are responsible for contaminating water bodies in the country. The heavy metal contaminated wastewater finding its way into the environment, threatening human health and the ecosystem in the country as per reports. The heavy metals are non-biodegradable and could be carcinogenic thus, the presence of these metals in water by improper amounts could result in critical health issues to living organisms. Heavy metals in water will also lead to several neurological problems in humans including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis. Removal of heavy metal ions from wastewater is of prime importance at present for a clean environment and human health. Rivers containing large quantity of heavy metals is a menace. India's major rivers are contaminated by one or more heavy metals, exceeding safe limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Indian National Science Academy reports that the major hazardous metals of concern for India in terms of their environmental load and health effects are lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, copper, and aluminium, that are released into the water through anthropogenic activities. It is important to develop filters to treat these effluents that are released into water bodies by industries to prevent pollution. There are different methods for efficient removal of heavy metals from water. Adsorption method is highly efficient low-cost, and ease of operation method. Therefore, our central Ministry of Mining should make a mandatory rule as soon as possible for industries across the country to adopt adsorption technology to treat large amounts of water contaminated with heavy metals.

JOSHIMATH LAND SUBSIDENCE

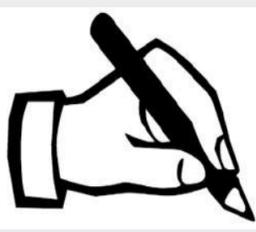


Joshimath: A residential area affected by land subsidence at Joshimath, in Chamoli district, Thursday, Jan. 12.

Artificial Intelligence Weapons: World at Risk



PRIYANKA SAURABH



There is an ethical contradiction in the use of these weapons, compromising the control, security, and accountability of AI weapon systems; It also increases the risk of shared liability between networked systems, especially when weapons are sourced from overseas. The challenge to policy making is because military doctrine is based on traditional understandings of conflict. eg. It is not yet clear whether unmanned maritime systems enjoy the status of "vessels" under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Artificial intelligence describes the action of machines performing tasks that have historically required human intelligence. It includes techniques like Machine Learning, Pattern Recognition, Big Data, Neural Networks, Self Algorithms, etc. AI, powered by deep learning, data analytics, and cloud computing, is set to transform the maritime battlefield, potentially revolutionizing military affairs in India.

But Stephen Hawking, the great scientist of the century, also warned us about the dangers of AI development. At the same time, Elon Musk believes that "Artificial Intelligence can prove to be both the best and the worst thing for humanity." Artificial Intelligence refers to an artificial intelligence that is capable of thinking, understanding, and executing things on its own. The term artificial intelligence was first coined by John McCarthy in 1955. Today he is called the Father of AI. AI makes decisions and acts on its own like a human mind, although it requires coding first.

AI-supported systems can go a long way in increasing efficiency, reducing wastage, and reducing the overall cost of logistics management of the Army. As cyber warfare becomes faster, more sophisticated, and more dangerous, militaries must develop both offensive and defensive cyber-warfare capabilities to protect their assets and communication links and to attack similar assets of opposing forces. It happens.

In intelligence, surveillance,

and reconnaissance, "intelligent" unmanned systems can be used to patrol harsh terrain and weather conditions, provide port security, and move the battlefield or conflict zone without danger to human troops. Scouting allows. These weapons can save the lives of soldiers if wars are fought by machines. Furthermore, in the hands of a responsible military, they can help soldiers target only combatants and avoid inadvertently killing friendly forces, children, and civilians.

But there is an ethical contradiction in the use of these weapons, compromising the control, security, and accountability of AI weapon systems; It also increases the risk of shared liability between networked systems, especially when weapons are sourced from overseas. The challenge to policy making is because military doctrine is based on traditional understandings of conflict. eg. It is not yet clear whether unmanned maritime systems enjoy the status of "vessels" under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Chemical weapons are considered more dangerous than any other weapon in the world. Chemical weapons are more deadly than dynamite, TNT, or nuclear weapons, because they have the highest firepower and these weapons cause more harm to the general public. Chemical weapons cannot target any particular person, rather they can destroy the entire city. Chemical weapons are not visible but can destroy an entire area. Their influence lasts for centuries. Chemical weapons are also cheap.

Experts have issued a warning about smart weapons being made in Terminator style around the world. Stuart Russell, a renowned US computer expert, and scientist at the University of California said the danger posed by killing machines equipped with artificial intelligence is so great that he wants them banned. Once these weapons lock their target, they can search for and kill it through their computer. Scientists from many countries including America, China, Russia, and Israel are working on such weapons.

Please tell me that chlorine was the world's first chemical weapon. Chlorine was created only to disarm people, because it suffocates, although it also causes death. It was used for the first time in 1915. A major gap still exists in the development of critical technologies, which are systems engineering, airborne and underwater sensors, weapon systems, and high-tech components. AI is characterized by a propensity for certain types of data.

This can affect rational decision-making, reducing trust in automated coping solutions. eg. It appears that AI automates the weapon systems in ways that are inconsistent with the laws of war. However, to fully exploit its potential, the Indian Army needs to forge close working relationships with the vibrant private technology sector in India, and in particular with start-ups doing exciting work in the AI space.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joshimath-Shall we learn anything?

Joshimath in Uttarakhand is the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Kemkund Sahib. It is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence, forcing more than 5,000 people to stay in relief camps. The sinking town has been declared disaster prone and construction activities have been banned in Joshimath and nearby areas. Demolition of residential houses, commercial establishments and few hotels are in progress. The expert panel tasked by the Centre had blamed unplanned infrastructure activities, including hydropower projects, thermal projects for the alarming situation. Tunnel construction by NTPC, Tapovan Vishnugard hydropower project, Helang bypass work, four-laning works using heavy machineries and blasting of the fragile hills in the region have contributed significantly for subsidence of the holy town. The 1976 report by an expert committee under the chairmanship of the then Garhwal Commissioner clearly stated that Joshimath was situated on an old landslide zone and could sink if development continue unabated. The committee recommended that construction activity be prohibited in Joshimath but no one took it seriously and activities against nature continued, resulting in the present disaster. The entire north-eastern region also stands equally fragile being prone to flood, erosion, landslide and earthquake. It is time for us to be alert. Nature is not happy with us.

Debajit Goswami, by mail

Road accidents

One of the major causes of fatalities, disabilities, and hospitalizations is traffic accidents. Given the significance of this issue, the government periodically adopts relevant Acts and changes policies for effective measures for national road safety. The two leading causes of traffic accidents are excessive speeding and drunk driving. On unpatrolled roadways, inebriated drivers have nothing to worry about. We are all aware of the dangers associated with drunk driving. According to data, there were severe injuries in one-third of the 4.1 lakh traffic accidents that were reported in 2021.

Chandan Kumar Nath, by mail

They also make the world better

Kajal chatterjee

When I entered my job sector in Kolkata, our family used to stay in a town of a neighbouring state. So for the first one year, I stayed in a relative's house. When our office used to give over at 5.15 pm, an overwhelming majority of the workers promptly rushed out. But a handful of those who accorded greater priority to office engagements used to leave much after 5.30 pm after completing the work demanding urgent necessity. Mr.C, the Head of my section, was among those exceptional few who were more concentrated on files instead of the watch. Since I didn't have any "home" as such with family engagements to perform and was also entrusted with lighter official work at that stage being the junior-most newly recruited employee; I used to linger on my seat despite office giving over and have a look at any newspaper or literary classic.

So everyday I used to see Mr.C completing his official engagements in an almost desolate workplace without any hurry and only thereafter pick-

ing up his side bag and leaving for home. But just before departure, religiously he used to put off the tube light and ceiling fan right above his chair. This responsible act of Mr.C had caught my respectful attention in the contrasting scenario of almost all lights and fans "shining" and "rotating" in "full glory" in all other sections throughout the vacant office.

Now, would Mr.C receive any personal benefit by putting off the light and fan in his domain. Would Mr.C get prosecuted if he leaves office by keeping those on. Obviously the answers are "NO". Yet he used to do so, thereby proving his impeccable responsibility towards the State, society, environment and of course to remain accountable to his conscience. The act of switching off the light enabled me to see Mr.C in a very special light.

In this society whoever has attained academic degrees, works in offices, dresses modestly gets dubbed as "Bhadralok". But certainly not all of them are real gentlemen with their behaviour, work, attitude speaking otherwise. But Mr.C was indeed an

actual Bhadralok in the truest sense of the term. Irrespective of posts or age, he used to act civil with all --- be it with colleagues or the outsiders who used to visit our office for various works. Without getting irritated, patiently he used to hear out the problems and grievances of the visitors, offer necessary advice and solutions. If some bottlenecks are there, he also used to highlight those in a most transparent manner in the most civilised fashion till the satisfaction of the visitor.

He was deeply attached with files related to appointment on compassionate grounds. So when the helpless spouse or children of any deceased employee used to approach him, he/she used to receive compassion from Mr.C both in verbal and official action as well. Later on as Administrative Officer also, what a service he rendered through his valuable advice and action.

On the date of his retirement, got very much stunned by discovering another aspect of him. On the basis of the speech of an colleague of ours, I came to know how Mr.C used to personally take care of his bit unwell

wife through days and years and handle all other domestic duties before reaching office and after returning home. Yet this man used to attend office almost everyday throughout the year (many Casual Leave and Extra Earned leave remaining unused) and sign attendance registers sharp at 10 am or even earlier.

Never ever did he advertise his Himalayan pressure at home, never did he try to earn any sort of sympathy by harping on his responsibilities in the domestic domain. Mr.C perceived duty --- be it in office or home --- as duty which does not demand beating of the trumpet. On that approaching winter dusk, my head simply bowed down to Mr.C in renewed respect and awe.

After speeches of all, it was the time for Mr.C to express his feelings. Along with narration of various experiences, he didn't forget to mention the contribution of a much junior Typist also who was sincere, efficient and hardworking to the utmost. People generally praise those who are right on the forefront, but who cares for an unsung typist "hidden" in the background. Mr. C was suffering

from a serious eye-related problem for years demanding continued medication. Yet his eyes were fixed not only upon files, but upon the contribution of a junior typist also compelling me to exclaim in mind "That's like Mr.C".

Nobody in this world can escape the ups and downs of life. Mr.C also naturally has his share of it. Yet, as usual, he smilingly moves on despite obstacles with his unconquerable spirit and sense of humour spot on. Also he remains in office through his work ethics and values which surely inspire me to religiously put off the light and fan in my domain before leaving my work space for the day and thanks to his unseen Asish (blessing), surely I will continue to perform this tiny but highly responsible duty towards the society till my last day in the office.

Just like tiny droplets make up an ocean, similarly the likes of Mr.C represent those people whose faces might not be recognisable in the crowd; but they indeed contribute in making the world a bit better, compassionate and livable through their unrecognised acts and thoughts.

BRIEF

Extension



New Delhi: The government has extended the term of State Bank of India Managing Director Challa Sreenivasulu Setty by two years with effect from January 20. In a regulatory filing, SBI said the government issued a notification to this effect on January 10. "... the central government hereby extends the term of office of Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, State Bank of India for a period of two years with effect from January 20, 2023," the filing said.

MoUs signing



Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government held a roadshow here in which 79 memorandums of understanding (MoU) worth Rs 76,000 crore were signed, an official release said. Industrial Development Department Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi addressed eminent industrialists in the roadshow and discussed the changes that have taken place in the state in the last five years and the investment-friendly policies of the Yogi Adityanath government while inviting them to invest in the state, as per the release. The investors who came to participate in the event appreciated the wind of change in the new Uttar Pradesh, it added.

Govt will take appropriate decision in March-April on lifting wheat export ban: Sarangi

Indore, Jan 12:

Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi on Thursday said the government will take an appropriate decision on the demand to lift the ban on wheat exports at the time of crop harvest around March-April.

Before this decision, a review will be done of the gap between the demand and supply of wheat in the country, he said.



The head of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) was

in Indore to participate in the Global Investors Summit 'Invest Madhya Pradesh' organised by the MP government. India banned wheat exports in May 2022 with immediate effect as part of measures to control rising domestic prices. Asked about the demand for lifting the ban, Sarangi told PTI, "The wheat crop is harvested in the country generally in March-April. Around that period, the government will take an appropriate

decision on this subject."

"At the time when it will be felt that there is an equilibrium in the demand and supply of wheat, arrangements will be made to allow the export of this food grain," he said on the sidelines of the investors summit.

Sarangi also said special attention should be paid to promote exports from Madhya Pradesh in the area of textile production as there is a huge availability of cotton as the raw

material for this industry in the state. He also said along with wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables and spices, there is a scope of increasing the export of organic and non-organic chemicals and engineering products from the state. To a question, Sarangi said the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is currently being run for 14 sectors and could be expanded to some more areas.

Adani Group plans to invest Rs 60,000 cr in MP in various sectors

Indore, Jan 12:

Ports-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group on Wednesday said that it has plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in mineral exploration, energy, agriculture, renewable energy and coal sectors. The group, however, did not give timelines for the investment.

"During one-to-one interaction with Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on the sidelines of the two-day Global Investors Summit (GIS) here, Pranav Adani, managing director (Agro, Oil & Gas), and director of Adani Enterprises, said that his group has plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in the areas of mineral, energy, agriculture, renewable energy and

coal," an official release said. The GIS was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day. The chief minister asked him to give priority to the local youths in employment to which Adani said, "It is our duty". The group will run skill development centres as per its requirement to train the youths of the state and it also has plans to establish a hospital in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan also apprised him about opportunities to set up food processing units in the state, the release said. Meanwhile, addressing the GIS summit, Aditya Birla Group head Kumar Mangalam Birla said that his group is planning to invest Rs 15,000 crore in the state.

India, US 'thinking big', says Goyal, rules out mini trade deal or FTA

Washington, Jan 12:

The Modi government and the Biden administration are "thinking big" in terms of their trade and commerce relationship, a top Indian official said Wednesday as he ruled out the previously talked about mini trade deal or a free trade agreement and noted that revoking of GSP is not a priority for New Delhi. The previous Trump administration has revoked the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from India. The GSP allows eligible developing countries to export duty-free goods to the US. It is



during the previous administration as well that the two countries were on the verge of a mini trade deal, which has now been kicked out of the table. The Biden administration is also not in favour of a free trade agreement which

businesses from either side are now talking about. "I think in terms of GSP, I have not heard any significant clamour from the Indian industry. To focus our energies on the GSP issue, I have raised it today with my counterparts," Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters at a news conference at the conclusion of the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting which he co-chaired with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. "It's an issue, which is probably something that the Congress will have to take a call on.

MG showcases its Hydrogen Fuel-Cell technology in India at Auto Expo 2023

New Delhi, Jan 12:

Demonstrating the future of mobility in India with a greater focus on sustainability, MG Motor India today showcased new energy vehicles (NEVs) with its third-generation hydrogen fuel cell technology, at the Auto Expo 2023. The world-leading hydrogen fuel-cell system underlines MG's commitment to providing clean and efficient travel based on green, renewable power sources.

Mr Rajeev Chaba, President and Managing Director, MG Motor India,



said, "MG Motor has been a constant synonym for innovation over the years. We arrived in India with a vision of offering disruptive mobility solutions, in terms of both human-centric technologies and sus-

tainability. As the industry continues exploring alternate fuel technologies, we are delighted to showcase the world's leading hydrogen fuel-cell technology - PROME P390 to India."

The hydrogen fuel-cell system was first launched as the Phoenix No 1 fuel-cell vehicle project in 2001. Now the newly developed third-generation fuel-cell system, also known as PROME P390, comes with cutting-edge features such as integrated design, high power density, high durability, high reliability, and excellent environmental adaptability. With a system power of 92 kW, the world-leading fuel cell technology adheres to the highest safety standards and performs well over key performance indicators including those for comfort, fuel economy, and service life.

Sensex, Nifty close lower as oil, banking stocks decline

Mumbai, Jan 12:

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed with losses in a choppy trade on Thursday as investors preferred a cautious approach ahead of inflation and industrial production data to be released later in the day. Unabated foreign fund outflows also hit the investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 147.47 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 59,958.03. During the day, it declined 473.18 points or 0.78 per cent to 59,632.32. The broader NSE Nifty fell 37.50 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 17,858.20. From the Sensex pack, Reliance



Industries, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel and ITC were among the major laggards. UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies, Maruti, Nestle and HDFC were among the major winners.

Tata Group to make significant investments in electric mobility: N Chandrasekaran

Greater Noida, Jan 12:

Transition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster and the Tata Group will make significant investments in the sector to develop a range of products, Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. As part of its sustainability drive, Tata Motors aims to become net zero between 2040 and 2045 across its passenger and commercial vehicle businesses.

With focus on green mobility, the Mumbai-based auto major unveiled a range of electric products and technologies in the Auto Expo here.

"We believe that the tran-



sition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster than what we are imagining," he stated. He added that Tata Motors has a number of products lined up in order to cater to the evolving customer needs. "It is my commitment to you that our investments

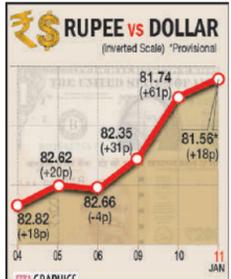
in this space will be significant so that we can accelerate not only the transition to electric mobility, but give consumers absolutely world class products," Chandra said. In the passenger vehicle space, the auto major unveiled Sierra.

EV, all-wheel drive electric SUV Harrier EV, AVINYA concept, a pure electric vehicle and ICE version of the Concept CURVV. It also showcased full boot space in Altroz iCNG and Punch iCNG. "We are driving towards a greener future mandate which demands an urgent collaborative action to reduce carbon emission.

Rupee gains 11 paise to close at 81.57 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 12:

The rupee gained 11 paise to close at 81.57 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking the overall weakness in the American currency. However, a muted trend in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund outflows capped the gains in the rupee, traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.54, but lost ground to quote an intraday low of 81.74 against the greenback. It finally ended at 81.57 (provisional), registering a rise of 11 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee settled at 81.68



against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.17 per cent to 103.01. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.92 per cent to USD 83.44 per barrel.

Electric vehicles steal the limelight on first day of Auto Expo 2023

Greater Noida, Jan 12:

Electric vehicles hogged the limelight on the first day of India's flagship motor show Auto Expo 2023 with the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Tata Motors and MG Motor showcasing their futuristic products, while also committing to invest in sustainable mobility. The show, returning after three years having been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, opened with the global premiere of Suzuki Motor Corporation's concept electric SUV 'eVX' which is slated to hit the market by 2025. The company's Indian arm Maruti Suzuki India is among the major manufacturers participating at the expo, in which some major manufacturers such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Skoda, Volkswagen and Nissan along with luxury car makers like Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi are not participating.

The Concept eVX is a mid-size electric SUV concept designed and developed by Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan. It will be powered by a 60 kWh battery pack offering up to 550 km of driving range on single charge. "We plan to bring it to market by 2025. At the Suzuki Group, addressing global warming is a priority," SMC Representative Director and President Toshihiro Suzuki said here at the expo while unveiling the product. On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India launched its all-electric model Ioniq 5 at an introductory price of Rs 44.95 lakh (ex-showroom) for the first 500 customers in the presence of Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan. The model is based on the company's dedicated battery electric vehicle platform E-GMP.



Toyota's BZ4X concept car on display during the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Visitors at Hyundai pavilion during the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Godawari electric scooters on display at the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.



Benelli's motorcycle 'Leoncino 800' being showcased at the Auto Expo 2023, in Greater Noida, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.

"Ioniq 5 represents our shift towards future mobility with tenets that encapsulate intelligent technology, innovation and sustainability," Hyundai Motor India MD and CEO Unsoo Kim said. Hyundai already sells one EV model, Kona Electric, in the country. Another carmaker Kia India, which unveiled an all-electric SUV Concept Kia Concept EV9, said it plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next four years to scale up its presence in the electric vehicle segment. Kia India Vice-President and Head - Sales & Marketing - Hardeep Singh Brar said the company's Andhra Pradesh-based manufacturing plant is ready to roll out EVs. "This Rs 2,000 crore we are talking about will go into R&D, manufacturing and infrastructure development," he told PTI on the sidelines of the expo. Keeping with the trend of electric and sustainable mobility, Tata Motors showcased over 20 products across its passenger and commercial vehicles portfolio. The highlight of the company's showcase is the electric SUV Sierra, which is likely to hit the market in 2025, and the EV version of its mid-sized SUV Harrier that's likely to be commercially launched next year. "We believe that the transition to electric mobility in India will happen much faster than what we are imagining," Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. He added that Tata Motors has a number of products lined up in order to cater to the evolving customer needs. "It is my commitment to you that our investments in this space will be significant so that we can accelerate not only the transition to electric mobility, but give consumers absolutely world class products," Chandra added.

Taapsee starts shooting for 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu has started shooting for the sequel of 'Hasseen Dillruba', which is titled 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'.

Filmmaker Anand L. Rai took to Twitter to announce that the shooting has commenced and also asked Taapsee as to why she hasn't shared the poster yet.

"O hamari hasseen dillruba Aaj shooting shuru ho gai hai 'phir aayi hasseen dillruba' kia @taapsee tujhe bola tha na 9 baje poster dalne ke liye. dala kyun nahi abhi tak? #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba," he wrote.

To which Taapsee replied: "Sir i'm not ready yet... Is baar toh le gayi hai character ko @KanikaDhillon! Pata nahi kya kha ke likhi hai yeh kahani. Aur har baar mere saath hi kiyun aesai..PhirAayiHasseenDillruba."

'Hasseen Dillruba' is a 2021 romantic thriller film directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon.

It stars Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane.

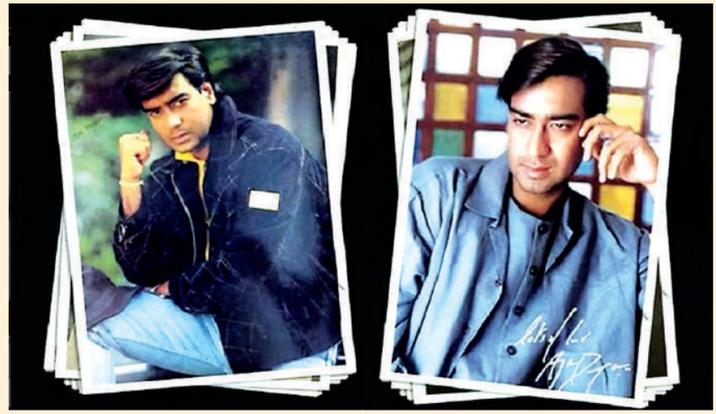
'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba' starred Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey in lead roles.

On National Youth Day, Ajay Devgn shares throwback pics from his younger days

On the occasion of National Youth Day on Thursday, Bollywood star Ajay Devgn treated his fans and followers with a string of pictures from his younger days.

Ajay took to Instagram, where he shared a reel featuring all his throwback pictures. The reel begins with Ajay's childhood days and a carousel of images to his most recent images can be seen in the clip.

"Youth is when you lay the foundation for a solid future for all your beliefs & dreams. You are the ones with stars in your eyes and hope in your heart. Even as you metamorphose, make sure your ideals remain rock solid. #YOLO #NationalYouthDay," he wrote as the caption. On



the acting front, Ajay has wrapped up shooting for his next 'Bhola', which also stars Tabu. The makers of the film recently announced that it is currently in post-production.

The film is produced by Ajay Devgn Films, T-Series Films, Reliance Entertainment and Dream Warrior Pictures. 'Bhola' is directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. It reportedly

tells the story of an ex-convict who decides to meet his daughter for the first time after being released from prison and gets trapped in serious situations.

Vidya Balan's hilarious reel leaves everyone in splits, Shubhangi says, 'sahi pakde hai'

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan recently shared a reel on Instagram in which she can be seen enacting Angoori Bhabhi's dialogue from the show 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain'.

Vidya captioned it: 'Angrezi ek sensuous bhaasha'. Shubhangi expressed her excitement over it and also wished to get a chance to work with Vidya.

Angoori, played by Shubhangi Atre, in the show, shared: "I saw this reel as soon as I woke up. I was very happy and excited. Sometimes, there are some reels on such trending audios which we both have made and I feel that we have similar choices



when it comes to this." "I was waiting to see what she will make now. But today I heard my own voice in her reels and I was super excited. She has done such great work and I hope to work with her some day. I want to thank her and I loved it, 'aap sahi pakde hai'."

'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' is about to enter an emotional phase

Sony SAB's family drama Dil Diyaan Gallaan based on migration and misunderstandings is about to enter an emotional phase. The story revolves around a Punjabi family that is torn apart by the effects of migration. Amrita will finally come to know that Dilpreet is her grandfather and will break down emotionally. The previous episodes showed how Riya came to know about Amrita being her uncle Mandeep's daughter. Riya decides to never accept her uncle's family because they had hurt her grandfather and father Randeep. On the other hand, Amrita decides to leave after she discovers that the house she is living in is her grandfather's. But Veer will persuade her to stay and speak up for her father. Will Riya accept Amrita as her cousin? What steps will Riya take against Amrita will be an interesting watch. Will Veer and Amrita together bridge the gap between the Brar family? Paras Arora, who plays the role of Veer, said, "Veer adores Dilpreet and Sanjot and wishes for their family to reunite. As a result, he will do everything in his power to reunite the family. He gets Amrita to stay and sort out the misunderstandings among the family members."



Simi Garewal to have a 'rendezvous' with 'BB16' housemates



Veteran actor and celebrity chat show host Simi Garewal, who is popularly known for her show 'Rendezvous with Simi Garewal', will be seen talking to the housemates on 'Bigg Boss 16'.

Simi took to Instagram and shared a video of her meeting contestants inside the Bigg Boss house. Simi looked ravishing as she was seen wearing her signature all-white look as she chatted with Shalin Bhanot, Priyanka Chahar Choudhary and others.

In the video, contestants are seen entering a room decorated with mostly whites, inspired from Simi's iconic show.

A voiceover in Hindi is heard saying: "For the first time in 16 years, there will be rendezvous with Simi Garewal..."

The clip, then moves to Simi, who asks Priyanka to choose between two options love and fame.

Simi says "Aapke samne do plate hain, ek mein hai stardom, doosri plate mein hai unconditional love. You have two plates in front of you... One plate has stardom while another has love." Priyanka chose love.

Simi then asks Shalin. While her complete question was not shared in the clip, Simi had said, "Ek (plate) mein Tina hai... (On one plate, you have Tina...)"

To which, Shalin replies: "Doosri plate mein kuch bhi aur hoga, mein woh doosri plate chununga (Whatever the second plate has, I will choose that). Defending Shalin, Simi jokingly says: "Don't be so hard on him."

TV Actors talk about inspiring Indian Youth Icons

National Youth Day commemorates the Indian thinker, philosopher, and social leader, Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. He catalysed global peace and prosperity and inspired the young generation all his life to bring change to society. On this day, &TV artists honour some young talents in their fields for their contributions. It includes Anita Pradhan (Malti Devi, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai).

Vidisha Srivastava, es-saying Anita Bhabhi in &TV's Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, says, "As a nature lover, I am quite focused on environmental issues. While several people are working on environmental protection and climate change, one person who I admire the most is India's child environmental activist Licypriya

Kangujam. She is one of the youngest climate activists globally. She addressed world leaders at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, Spain asking them to take immediate climate action. She travelled to Delhi with the help of her father to compel officials to act against climate change. Who thought about or worked on such major issues at a young age? Even now, as adults, we fail to step up and do our bit to save our planet. Licypriya, who has been travelling the world to raise awareness about climate change and watching her speak with such wisdom is stimulating. At the age of playing with kids, she is raising her voice on climate change, which is truly inspiring. On this National Youth Day, I appreciate young voices from India who inspire the world through their actions and words."

Kajal Chauhan from the upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' aka Gaura- "I'll celebrate Lohri with my mom this year. Will take her out for some shopping first and later I'll go to mandir to seek blessing for my upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' on Star Bharat. Every year I celebrate this festival in a



Actors of Star Bharat shares plan to make NY more auspicious

The actors of Star Bharat are prepared to celebrate the first festivals of the year, Makar Sankranti, Lohri, and Utarayan, to make this new year even more auspicious. Star Bharat is getting ready to welcome this new year with new series that will premiere in the following days. The actors discussed their festival celebration plans for this year.



Kajal Chauhan from the upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' aka Gaura- "I'll celebrate Lohri with my mom this year. Will take her out for some shopping first and later I'll go to mandir to seek blessing for my upcoming show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' on Star Bharat. Every year I celebrate this festival in a

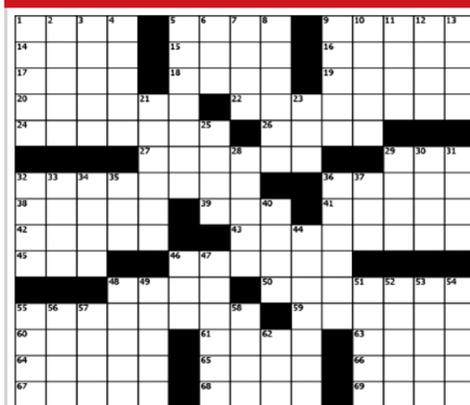
very simple manner and this year too will do the same. I'll help my mom with some household chores and make some sweet with her at home and later will go out to have little fun time at juhu beach.

Rachana Mistry from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' aka Vidhi- "I'm a Gujju born and born up in Maharashtra so I follow Utarayan and Makar Sankranti together. This festival brings back a lot of memories for me from my childhood as I remember my classmates who were Marathi used to bring 'Tilgud Ladoo' and we used to have it

and say 'Tilgud ghya god god bola' so I still remember that and talking about celebrating Utarayan we celebrated it with flying kites although back in the day we dint had an open terrace but now we do so it's a different feeling altogether. Also, a very interesting thing my mom used to do during this festival was she used to make Kurmura ladoo's and hide coins in that as a surprise for us so the festival is very close to my heart. This year in case if I get an off would definitely love to fly kite but also take care of the birds while doing so.

CROSSWORD

532



ACROSS

- Poses
- Wooden fasteners
- Upright
- "Star _____"
- Novelist _____ Rice
- Musical show
- Soothe
- Tragic king
- Soap _____
- Clothing

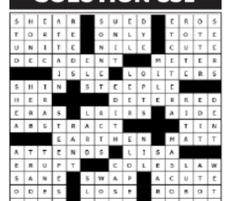
DOWN

- Sirloin, e.g.
- Incensed
- Irritable
- Yarn unit
- Artist's board
- Opposite of WSW
- Bothersome insect
- Peaceful
- Eat away
- Ward off
- At all times
- Make well
- Sad drop
- Uses the oven
- Agree silently
- Long periods
- Necessities
- _____ Fitzgerald of jazz
- Bed board

- Raised railroads
- Minister
- Teen's dance
- Motorcycle adjunct
- Occasional
- Until now (2 wds.)
- Vulture's claw
- Venture
- Become larger
- Travel _____
- Goad
- She, in Nice
- Positive responses
- Little piggies
- Realtor's sign

- Sit for a portrait
- _____ Winslet of "Titanic"
- Good's opponent
- Nail polish shades
- Mine find
- Coiffure (hyph.)
- List abbr.
- Moistens
- Lingers
- Seedcase
- Surrounded by
- Apt
- Raves
- Borders
- Monte _____
- Lagoon's boundary
- Marry again
- Remain
- Knight's assistant
- Bullring cheers
- Guitarist's aid
- Feel remorse

SOLUTION 531



FIH MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP

India seek first podium finish in 48 years, to play tricky Spain in opener

Rourkela, Jan 12 (PTI):

A historic bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics bringing them back among the international elite, India will seek their first podium finish in 48 years in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup as they begin their campaign against Spain in a tricky match here on Friday.

A medal in this showpiece will strengthen the claim that the former giants of the game with eight Olympic gold have turned the corner in world hockey. The country won a bronze in the inaugural tournament in 1971 and clinched a silver in the next edition in 1973. Ajit Pal Singh led the side to title triumph in 1975 but since then they have failed to even reach the semifinals.

From 1978 to 2014, India could not go past the group stage. The Indian team, no doubt, would be one of the medal contenders with the talented bunch led by Harmanpreet Singh emerging as a force to reckon with. The team has earned respect from other top countries in recent times.

Currently ranked sixth in the world, India have come into the tournament after an impressive show



Union Minister Anurag Thakur with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the FIH Hockey World Cup Opening Ceremony, in Cuttack.

against the world number one side Australia in an away five-match series though they lost the rubber 1-4. Graham Reid's side matched the Australians, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, in most departments of the game, notching up their first win in six years against their formidable opponents.

In the previous edition, also held in Bhubaneswar, India had exited at the quarterfinal stage after losing to the Netherlands, the eventual runners-up, and

they would be looking to reach at least the semifinals this time.

India have also done well in the FIH Hockey Pro League, finishing third in the 2021-22 season. The confidence and the winning mentality is back with the team.

Since Reid took over the head coach's position in 2019, India's stature has grown. He has been able to get the best out of the players, injecting a tactical discipline to their trademark skillful, fluid playing style,

making them a team that is respected and feared in equal measure.

"We focussed mainly on scenarios in our training, what if we are 0-1 down, what if we are playing with 10 men, what if they take their keeper off. Those types of scenarios which are important that we have dealt with," Reid said.

Captain and FIH Player of the Year Harmanpreet Singh, a fabulous defender and one of the best drag flickers in the game, will be key to India's success while

Match Starts at 7pm IST.

goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, mid-field ace Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh, and striker Mandeep Singh are all capable of bringing about game-changing moments.

Defender Amit Rohidas, who has captained the team in the past and also takes penalty corners, and forward Akashdeep Singh will be among the other India players to watch out for.

Reid said he wants to take some pressure off captain Harmanpreet, who is also a defensive bulwark.

India will hope to begin with a win, as that result can help them top Pool D for a direct quarterfinal berth and avoid playing cross-over matches (meant for second and third place teams of each of the four pools).

Qualifying for the quarterfinals through cross-over matches could lead to facing stronger teams in the last-eight stage like defending champions Belgium.

"It's an old adage that the first game is the most important, so we are just focussing on that and then take it forward. That's how we are approaching," Reid said.

Djokovic, Nadal can only meet in final at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 12 (AP):

Rivals Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal were placed on opposite halves of the Australian Open bracket in the draw Thursday, meaning the owners of a combined 43 Grand Slam singles titles could only meet in the final at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic, a nine-time champion in Australia, returns to the hard-court tournament after missing it last year when his visa was revoked and he was deported from the country because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. He also couldn't compete at the 2022 U.S. Open.

Fourth-seeded Djokovic will open his bid for a 10th Australian Open title against Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena in the tournament which begins Monday. Iga Swiatek, the women's No. 1-ranked player, takes on German Jule Niemeier, who is ranked No.68, in the opening round. The Polish player was a semifinalist at Melbourne Park in 2022, a year in which she won the French and U.S. Open titles. But the main first-round focus will be on Nadal, who faces a potentially challenging match against British player Jack Draper, who is 21, was a semifinalist in the Next Gen Championships in November and will also play in a semifinal of the



Adelaide International on Friday. Another opening-round highlight has five-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray against Italian Matteo Berrettini, a former Wimbledon finalist who is the No. 13-seeded player.

Murray defeated Australian Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-3 in an exhibition match on Thursday and is pleased with his form.

"It is always difficult in exhibition matches to play like it is the first round of a Grand Slam but I wanted to try to leave everything out on the court to give my body the best preparation, to see how I was moving, to see how I was serving, and it went well," Murray said.

The potential men's quarterfinals by seeding are: Nadal vs. No. 7 Daniil

Medvedev in what would be a rematch of last year's final at Melbourne Park, won by Nadal after dropping the initial two sets, and No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime in the top half; and Djokovic vs. No. 5 Andrey Rublev, and No. 2 Casper Ruud vs. No. 8 Taylor Fritz in the bottom half.

Nadal has a leading 22 Grand Slam singles titles, one more than Djokovic.

Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who faces Roman Safiullin in the opening round, will play Djokovic in an exhibition match on Friday in Melbourne.

"I am one of the best players in the world, so I am definitely going to go into the Australian Open and any Grand Slam with confidence," Kyrgios said.

Messi scores in 1st game after World Cup as PSG wins



PSG's Lionel Messi controls the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Angers at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France.

Paris, Jan 12 (AP):

Lionel Messi scored in his first game since leading Argentina to the World Cup title as French league leader Paris Saint-Germain beat Angers 2-0.

Nearly four weeks after the final against France in Qatar, Messi needed only five minutes to make an impact. He turned neatly near the penalty area and threaded a pass to right back Nordi Mukiele, whose cross was turned in by 20-year-old forward Hugo Ekkitik.

Messi then started the move that led to his 72nd-minute goal, with Ekkitik and Mukiele combining quickly to put him through before he side-footed home. His eighth league goal this season was initially disallowed for offside but then awarded following a video review. It was otherwise a poor performance overall from PSG against a team in last place, but the

Parisian club moved six points clear at the top after second-place Lens drew 2-2 at 19th-place Strasbourg.

Messi was given a warm ovation by the crowd at Parc des Princes, who chanted his name when he applauded them back.

He scored twice against France in a wild 3-3 draw on Dec. 18 and converted his penalty in the shootout. Messi and PSG teammate Kylian Mbappé, who scored a hat trick in the final, are front-runners to win the next men's Ballon d'Or award.

With Mbappé rested, Messi started in attack with Neymar and Ekkitik. But PSG was asleep for stretches of the game and Angers had two good chances before Messi's goal.

PSG's players warmed up wearing T-shirts with Pelé's face on. The Brazilian great who won a record three World Cups, died in late December at the age of 82.

Prannoy enters quarterfinals of Malaysia Open

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy dished out another splendid show to progress to the men's singles quarterfinals with a thrilling win over Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament here on Thursday. The World number 8 Indian looked in fine fettle as he steved off the spirited challenge from world number 19 Chico 21-9 15-21 21-16 in an hour and four minutes. The 30-year-old from Kerala will take on either Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong or Japan's Kodai Naraoka next. Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought hard before going down 13-21 21-15 17-21 to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva in the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals. For Prannoy, it was his second meeting with Chico, who



had defeated him at the 2018 Syed Modi International. In the form of his life, Prannoy made a good start, showing better control and his attack also earned him dividends as he led 7-5 before grabbing a 11-5 cushion at the interval. With Chico struggling with the drifty conditions, Prannoy ran away with the opening game. After the change of ends, Chico showed better control as he

eked out a 6-2 lead following a net exchange with his opponent. The Indonesian seemed to attack more and soon moved to a 11-5 lead at the interval. Both players looked to push each other in the rallies but Prannoy made errors in his finishing as Chico marched to 17-11 with a reverse slice. The Indonesian soon roared back into contest after converting five game points.

In the decider, Prannoy was all fired up as he landed some precise returns on the lines to move to 5-2. He managed to keep his rival moving to and fro with his angled returns, extracting errors to take a handsome five-point lead at the break.

Prannoy was spot on with his shot selection, landing his straight and cross court smashes away from his diving opponent to accumulate points. Chico played some lovely shots but he was inconsistent during the rallies as Prannoy established his five-point advantage at 17-12. Another razor sharp straight jump smash followed by another shot at the backline gave Prannoy six match points. The Indonesian saved two before sending one to the net as Prannoy celebrated.

Earlier, Treasa and Gayatri, ranked 16th in the world, went down narrowly to the world No. 14 Stoeva sisters in a match

that clocked an hour and nine minutes.

The Stoeva sisters, who competed at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, were clearly the better players in the opening game as they quickly jumped to a 6-0 lead and then held their fort, despite a mini fightback from the Indians, who brought the equation down to 9-12 at one stage. The second game was a tight affair as Treasa and Gayatri kept breathing down their opponent's neck before breaking off at 14-14 to take the match to the decider.

In the third game, the Indian pair had slender leads of 6-4 and 14-13 but the Bulgarian combination didn't relent this time, moving ahead from 14-14 to seal the contest. Treasa and Gayatri will meet France duo of Margot Lambert and Anne Tran in their next tournament at India Open Super 750 next week.

Kasatkina and Badosa to meet in semifinals in Adelaide

Adelaide, Jan 12 (AP):

Fifth-seeded Daria Kasatkina has defeated No. 12 Petra Kvitova to reach the semifinals of the Adelaide International. Kasatkina won 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Thursday over the two-time former Wimbledon champion.

Paula Badosa also advanced and will face Kasatkina after defeating Beatriz Haddad Maia 7-6 (5), 7-5. Badosa is seeded No. 9. Kasatkina has won two of three previous matches against Badosa. Kasatkina said she was satisfied with her victory and her first "win over Kvitova. They met on clay in 2018 with Kvitova winning 6-4, 6-0. "I'm really happy with my performance," Kasatkina said, "the way I was able to keep my focus in the tiebreak."

Men's Hockey World Cup starts in Odisha



Cuttack (Odisha), Jan 12 (PTI):

Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 got underway on Wednesday evening with a spectacular opening ceremony at the picturesque Barabati Stadium in Cuttack that was witnessed by thousands of hockey lovers in attendance from across the country and abroad.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, International Hockey Federation presi-

dent Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India chairman Dilip Tirkey were present at the glittering ceremony to welcome members of all the 16 participating teams.

Ikram, in his address, complimented Odisha for hosting the mega event twice consecutively, the last one being in 2018, and called the state the "Land of Hockey". Thakur thanked the Odisha government for successfully hosting the event in grandeur and said the enthusiasm of the people of India and the state

showed their love for the game. He said the Centre will always extend support to states for hosting such sporting events.

Patnaik said Odisha has long been known for its hospitality and hoped every visitor takes back good memories of their stay in the state.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government for supporting Odisha in hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup twice consecutively. The hour-long open-



ing ceremony was preceded and succeeded by colourful cultural programmes that kept mesmerising the packed audience.

The celebration began with a stunning tribal dance art of the state, which was a fusion of at least six local dance forms choreographed by eminent dance guru Aruna Mohanty.

Odia singers Sniti Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, Lisa Mishra and a host of other performers, including actor-couple Sabyasachi

Mishra and Archita Sahu enthralled the audience.

Sixteen fan parks were set up at important locations across the city where thousands of hockey lovers and enthusiasts witnessed the opening ceremony on giant screens. Hundreds of singers from Bollywood and local artists sang the Hockey World Cup theme song that was composed by music director Pritam, who also performed on the stage along with some other singers. The matches will be held at two venues Birsa

Mundra Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar - from January 13 to January 29. While 20 matches will be played at Rourkela, 24 matches, including the final, will be held in Bhubaneswar.

The state government has built a new hockey stadium in Rourkela ahead of the event. Odisha is hosting the international event for the second consecutive time, the previous one having been held in Bhubaneswar in 2018.

PONGAL PREPARATIONS



Puducherry Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan with Home Minister A. Namassivayam and others during Pongal celebrations at Raj Bhawan in Puducherry, Thursday.

'ECI committed to free, fair and inducement-free elections'

In Tripura
Agartala, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said it is 'committed and duty bound' to conduct free, fair, and inducement-free elections in Tripura. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the ECI has taken all arrangements to allow voters to join the festival of democracy and if a voter faces any threat or intimidation on the day of polling, he or she can use cVigil app to inform the election authorities.

"We had an in-depth discussion on the election process with the Chief Secretary, DGP, representatives of political parties, DMs, SPs and enforcement agencies for two days. The election commission is



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey addresses a press conference during his visit to poll-bound Tripura, in Agartala, Thursday.

committed and duty bound to conduct free, fair, violence-free and inducement-free election", Kumar said at a press conference here. Assembly elections in Tripura are due in February-March this year. "All political parties will have to inform the voters

about criminal cases if any of their candidates", he said. The CEC said each polling station will have a micro observer to ensure free and fair elections. Tripura has 3,328 polling stations. Kumar said security personnel will be engaged in poll duties on the

basis of randomization to ensure impartiality. The CEC said there will be a three-ring security arrangement from polling station to guarding strong rooms with CRPF manning the first layer of security. The Centre has already sent 100 companies of security personnel to Tripura for the Assembly election.

"DEOs and SPs were asked to provide level playing ground to all the political parties during the election process", he said, adding webcasting will be done in all the polling stations without any failure. Kumar, who arrived here on Wednesday along with two other Election Commissioners said that the banks and RBI will keep a close eye on the movement of cash in bulk. Besides, close vigil will also be kept at the airport.

500 kg of stale, frozen chicken seized from house

In Kerala

Kochi (Kerala), Jan 12 (PTI):

Around 500 kg of rotting frozen chicken was seized from a house here on Thursday, even as Kerala is witnessing a spate of food-poisoning incidents in recent times. An official of Kalamassery Municipality said complaints were received from several residents that frozen meat was being stored in freezers at the house in question and a foul smell emanating from there.

On Thursday, the house was raided. Chicken from two freezers, ingredients

and equipment used for roasting chicken and 'shawarma' were seized, the official said.

The seized chicken would be destroyed and a penalty imposed on the persons running the establishment. At the time of the raid, only a few employees were present and the persons running the establishment were not there, the official said. Secretary of Kalamassery Municipality Jayakumar P R told PTI that the fine to be imposed would also include the cost incurred by the local body in disposing of the seized meat.

He said the establishment was being run without a licence by a native of

Malappuram and the meat was stored there for supply to restaurants and eateries in Ernakulam for making roasted chicken, 'shawai' (grilled chicken) and the popular Mid-Eastern delicacy-shawarma.

Another official of the local body who was part of the raid said there could be similar establishments in various parts of Kochi city and inspections were to be conducted to find them out. Concerned over the food-poisoning, State Health Minister Veena George today came out with instructions for eateries - having licence and registration and maintaining hygiene and cleanliness.

IT dept seizes huge quantities of currency notes

From TMC MLA's offices, residences

Kolkata, Jan 12 (PTI):

The Income Tax department has seized huge quantities of currency notes from properties of TMC MLA and from West Bengal minister Jakir Hossain in Murshidabad, the city and the national capital, an official said.

The raids were conducted on Wednesday evening to Thursday morning, he said. There was no objection to the raids by Hossain, a two-time TMC MLA and a businessman. He, his family members and staff cooperated in the IT drive.

Huge quantities of currency notes were unearthed from the home

and office premises of Hossain in Murshidabad, Kolkata and as well as in Delhi during the period with assistance from the central forces, the official said.

"We are in the process of counting the money found in raids at different premises owned by Hossain, including from several places located in Murshidabad. We want to know the source of such huge cash," he added.

Repeated attempts to contact Hossain for his comments on the raids failed. TMC leader and West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim said the party will not comment on the issue.

'No explosion occurred on Mizoram side during aerial strikes in Myanmar'

Aizawl, Jan 12 (PTI):

Two days after the Myanmar military reportedly bombed a rebel camp along the country's border with India, with some local leaders claiming that one shell fell in Mizoram's Champai district, the Assam Rifles (AR) on Thursday rebuffed the assertion stating that the Indian side was unaffected by the aerial strikes.

Taking to PTI, a senior official of the AR, which guards the India-Myanmar border, also stated that several explosions occurred in the neighbouring country along the international boundary. A senior official of Champai district said

that an official statement would be issued in the matter only after a thorough verification of the details.

"I have sent a magistrate of the area concerned to verify the claims being made by some locals. An official report in the matter can be expected by Thursday evening," Champai deputy commissioner James Lalrinchhana said. He said that a detailed report will be sent to higher authorities once the verification is done.

Lalramliana, the president of Farkawn village council in Champai, however, said that a bomb was dropped near Tiau river on the Mizoram side. A truck owned by a village council

member has been damaged in the explosion, he said. The Myanmar military junta, on Tuesday, reportedly launched aerial strikes on Camp Victoria, the military headquarters of the Chin National Army (CNA), one of the most powerful ethnic insurgent groups in the neighbouring country.

A CNA leader in Mizoram told PTI on the condition of anonymity that five people, including two women, were killed and 15 others injured in the attack. The Champai DC said that initial reports received by the administration suggest that eight explosions have occurred in the neighbouring country.

Geophysical scientists from Hyd to study land subsidence issue

In Joshimath



An elderly resident affected by the gradual sinking of buildings in Joshimath, Thursday.

Hyderabad, Jan 12 (PTI):

A team of experts from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) will be leaving for Joshimath in Uttarakhand, which witnessed land subsidence recently, to conduct subsurface

physical mapping of the affected town, a senior scientist has said. The 10-member team headed by NGRI's senior principal scientist Anand K Pandey is expected to reach the site on January 13 and start their work from the following day. The tests are expected to continue for two weeks, and the collated data would then be analysed to ascertain the reason for the sinking of the ground there. Joshimath, the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli, is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence. "Our equipment is already on the way. On 13th January, the whole team will move to this site. And from 14th onwards, we will be there for at least two weeks to do the survey of that area. We are planning to do shallow subsurface physical mapping for water saturation and soil characteristics," Pandey told PTI.

LOHRI CELEBRATIONS



Professors of Guru Nanak Dev University dance as they celebrate the 'Lohri' festival, in Amritsar, Thursday.

ASI discovers two 1200 year-old miniature stupas

At Nalanda

Patna, January 12 (PTI):

Patna circle of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas during landscaping activities near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara', a world heritage site in Nalanda district in the state. The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures.

"These two votive stupas (offered in fulfilment of a vow) were discovered by the ASI officials during landscaping near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara' on January 4. These, carved from stone depicting Buddha figures, must be around 1200 year old. Our archaeologists are examining it further", Goutami Bhattacharya, Superintendent Archaeologist (ASI, Patna circle) told PTI.

"Beginning in the 7th century CE in India, small miniature terracotta stupas became popular as votive offerings. Devout pilgrims visiting various holy sites and temples

throughout Asia would either purchase small votive offerings or make their own", said Bhattacharya.

The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

Lions Club International launches world's largest e-waste drive

New Delhi, Jan 12:

Keeping in mind its social commitment, Lions Club International today announced the launch of world's largest e-waste collection campaign titled as 'Dump and Donate' in partnership with Hindustan E-Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. (HEW), Primus Partners and National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA).

Announcing the launch of this campaign in a press conference held at The Constitution Club, A. P. Singh, International Third Vice President of Lions Clubs said, "India is hosting the G-20 summit



2023 and with this, the agenda also includes environmental protection and conservation. From January 13, 2023, this campaign will be started across over 120 cities of the country. Under this month-long campaign, the members of Lions Club

Lions Club International has designed this campaign in a unique manner".

Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhas Sarkar lauded the efforts of Lions Club International in discharging its social commitment and responsibility. He also said that, "Our Prime Minister has already propagated the importance of e-Waste Management and different ministries have cleared their e-Waste inventories. India having taken the Presidency of G20, it is all the more an important endeavour taken up by Lions Clubs at this juncture".

Varanasi's Tent City to offer front-row view of Ganga aarti

PM to inaugurate today

Varanasi, Jan 12 (PTI):

On the sandy banks of the Ganga in Varanasi, over 200 tents offer tourists a panoramic view of the famed ghats of the holy city on the other side of the river along with live classical music, 'aarti' in the evening and yoga sessions.

The 'Tent City', to be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, has been developed on the lines of similar setups in Gujarat's Kutch and Rajasthan. Three clusters of 10 hectares each comprise

the Tent City and are expected to give a fillip to the city's tourism potential, said Kaushal Raj Sharma, the divisional commissioner of Varanasi. Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) Abhishek Goyal said the Tent City will be a confluence of religion, spirituality and culture.

"Guests at the Tent City will experience the sunrise, live music events in the morning, yoga session by the river as well as boat tours. Special care has been taken for the comfort, convenience and safety of all tourists," he said.

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