

BRIEF



An artist makes busts of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for his upcoming birthday, at Krishnanagar in Nadia, Friday.

Road rage

Bengaluru: A man was dragged on the bonnet of a car for a kilometre in a road rage incident in the city on Friday, police said. The CCTV footage of the incident has gone viral on social media showing one Darshan struggling to stay put on the car, allegedly driven by a woman identified as Priyanka. According to police, a road accident between Darshan's car and Priyanka's vehicle took place on the Jnanabharathi Main Road in the morning. As Priyanka's car allegedly crashed with Darshan's car, the latter came out of the vehicle. When Darshan tried to stop the car and speak to the occupants, Priyanka allegedly accelerated the car at high speed and drove away.

EC displeasure

New Delhi: Days after Congress leader Ajoy Kumar was allegedly attacked in Tripura, the Election Commission on Friday conveyed its "displeasure" to the state chief secretary and police chief and asked them to explain as to why the situation got escalated despite presence of sufficient number central forces, sources said. The poll panel also took "stringent" action against some officers "for not taking appropriate action in time". It ordered suspension and immediate removal of Jirania sub-division, West Tripura sub divisional police officer. The poll watchdog also ordered immediate removal of officer-in-charge of Ranibazaar police station and officer-in-charge of Jirania police station.

Girl suicide

Latur: A 14-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide citing mental harassment by her teacher in Maharashtra's Latur district, police said on Friday. Shrawani Sanjay Naiknaware, a Class 9 student at a private school, allegedly hanged herself at her house in AUSA Road on Wednesday evening, an official said. In a suicide note recovered from the scene, the victim claimed that a male teacher in the school had mentally harassed her by taunting her in class, he said. Based on a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the official said, adding that no arrest has been made in this regard.

Weather
High 30 Low 17

MARKET
NIFTY 18,027.65
SENSEX 60,621.77

BULLION
GOLD 56,625
SILVER 68,367

WFI chief compares wrestlers' protest with Shaheen Bagh stir

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh refuses to quit

Nandini Nagar (Gonda, UP), Jan 20 (PTI): Underfire Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Friday termed the protest by the country's top grapplers "dharna of Shaheen Bagh" and reiterated that he won't quit from the post. The agitating wrestlers on Friday reached out to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), demanding formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief. However, Singh has stuck to his stand to not relinquish the post. "The protest by wrestlers against me is the dharna of Shaheen Bagh," Singh, who is also a sixth-time Lok Sabha MP from UP's Kaisarganj constituency,



Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh arrives to speak with the media regarding recent allegations of sexual harassment against him, in Gonda district, Friday.

told reporters in his native place here. Singh also termed the protest in Delhi's Jantar Mantar an attack on BJP and orchestrated by the Congress party. Earlier speaking to a TV channel, he had said, "The protesting players have become a toy in the hands of Congress and Deepinder Hooda. This type of conspiracy was

done against me by the Congress almost three decades ago. Once again the conspiracy has been repeated. "I had earlier said that there was a conspiracy, and big powers are behind it. Now those forces are coming out in the open." He added, "The picture becomes more clear with the tweets and statements by Congress general

secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Deepinder Hooda. This attack is not only on me, but on the Bharatiya Janata Party through me," Singh had said. Singh is scheduled to hold a press conference at Nandini Nagar Stadium in Gonda later in the evening.

Top Indian wrestlers had on Thursday refused to back down from their demand to disband the WFI as they met union sports minister Anurag Thakur. Celebrated Indian wrestlers, including Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, world championship medallist Vinesh Phogat and others have been staging a sit-in protest for the past two days at Jantar Mantar against the WFI president, accusing him of sexual harassment and intimidation.

PARADE REHEARSALS



National Service Scheme volunteers march past during rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade 2023, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, Friday.

New York-Delhi flight urination incident DGCA slaps Rs 30 lakh fine on Air India, suspends pilot license for 3 mths

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Air India as well as suspended the license of the pilot-in-command of the New York-Delhi flight in which a person allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger.

In the incident, which happened on November 26, 2022, the watchdog has also slapped a fine of Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of in-flight services for failing to discharge her duties.

The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident, which came to the notice of the Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA) only on January 4. This is also the first time that DGCA has penalised an airline for unruly passenger behaviour onboard a flight. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it is in receipt of the DGCA order and studying it. "We respectfully acknowledge the gaps in our reporting and are taking relevant steps to ensure that the same are addressed. We are also strengthening our crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents involving unruly passengers," the airline spokesperson said. On Thursday, Air India had imposed a four-month flying ban on Mishra, who is in jail now. Earlier, the airline had

barred him from flying for 30 days. In its statement on Friday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said enforcement actions have been taken in the incident, which came to the notice of the regulator on January 4.

The watchdog had issued show cause notices to Air India's Accountable Manager, Director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

DGCA examined the written replies of Air India and the personnel involved and decided on the enforcement actions.

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

A charge sheet filed by an investigating agency is not a public document, the Supreme Court said on Friday, holding that putting it in public domain will violate the rights of both the victim and the accused.

The top court made the observations while hearing a plea by journalist Saurav Das seeking free public access to charge sheets and final reports filed as per Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. "If the relief as prayed in the present petition is allowed and all the

SC to hear plea of disqualified Lakshadweep MP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear on January 27 the plea of Mohammed Faizal, who was disqualified as Lok Sabha MP following his conviction in an attempt to murder case, challenging the Election Commission's press note announcing conduct of by-election in his erstwhile Lakshadweep constituency. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Faizal, that he wanted the Kerala High Court to decide on his plea for suspension of conviction and sentence before the by-election is notified.

chargesheets and relevant documents produced along with the chargesheets are put on the public domain or on the websites of the State Governments it will be contrary to the Scheme of

the Criminal Procedure Code and it may as such violate the rights of the accused as well as the victim and/or even the investigating agency. "Putting the FIR on the website cannot be equat-

ed with putting the charge sheets along with the relevant documents on the public domain and on the websites of the State Governments," a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said.

The top court dismissed the PIL for lack of merit. The apex court orally observed that if FIRs are given to those unrelated to the case like busybodies and NGOs, they might be misused. Advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted it is the duty of every public authority to put out that information suo motu (of its own accord).

Govt may announce PLI scheme for more sectors in Budget

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The government is likely to extend fiscal incentives for the production of toys, bicycles and leather and footwear in the forthcoming budget as it looks to expand production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to cover more high-employment potential sectors, sources said.

The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel.

The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results, sources said.

A proposal to extend PLI scheme benefits to different sectors such as toys and leather is at advanced stages of finalisation and there is a likelihood that it may figure in the Budget, they added.

One of the sources said there are some savings from this Rs 2 lakh crore which could be considered for other sectors.

The Budget for 2023-24 is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

Goddess Kali poster row

SC says no coercive action to be taken against filmmaker Leena Manimekalai

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

In a relief to filmmaker Leena Manimekalai, the Supreme Court on Friday granted her interim protection from coercive action in connection with FIRs registered against her in various states over a controversial poster of her upcoming documentary film showing goddess Kali smoking a cigarette.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha issued notices to the Centre, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments on her plea.

The top court noted that a look out circular has been issued against her. "No coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner either on the basis of FIRs or pursuant to any FIR which may have been lodged or may be lodged in relation of the same matter..."

"At this stage, it may be noted that lodging of FIRs in multiple case may be of serious prejudice. We are inclined to issue notice so that all FIRs can be consolidated in one place in accordance with law," the bench said.

Advocate Kamini Jaiswal, appearing for Manimekalai, submitted

she had no intention of hurting religious feelings. She said the objective of the film was to depict the goddess in an inclusive sense.

In her petition filed through advocate Indira Unninnayar, Manimekalai has said her attempt as a creative filmmaker was not to offend the religious sentiment of anyone but to depict the image of a radically inclusive goddess. She has said her documentary film shows the broad-minded traits of the goddess.

She has made the four states respondents in her plea along with some individuals.

Congress to launch campaign to spread Rahul's message across India

Kathua (J&K), Jan 20 (PTI):

The Congress will launch a two-month door-to-door campaign across India from next week to spread Rahul Gandhi's message among the masses, senior leader Jairam Ramesh said on Friday. The Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is a fight between the BJP-RSS combine's ideology and the Congress, which has always believed in unity and brotherhood, Ramesh said and mentioned that his party had prepared a "charge sheet" against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government. "The Congress has prepared a charge sheet against the Modi government that will be released in Delhi on Saturday. We will go with copies of the charge sheet along with the message of Rahul Gandhi to every household in the country," the Ramesh, the Congress general secretary said at the end of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's first day here.



(L-R) Krishna Menariya from Rajasthan, Azaan Kapoor from Punjab and Krishna Nimesh Sheth from Maharashtra who are selected for the National Bravery Award, during a press conference ahead of Republic Day 2023, in New Delhi, Friday.

ISRO spy case HC grants former cops advance bail

Kochi, Jan 20 (PTI): The Kerala High Court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to four people, including a former Director General of Police (DGP), in connection with the 1994 ISRO espionage case.

The Supreme Court on December 2 last year quashed the Kerala High Court order granting the anticipatory bail to the accused and remanded the matter back to the High Court and directed it to decide the issue within four weeks.

Justice K Babu, while granting the anticipatory bail, directed them to appear before the investigating officer on January 27. The High Court directed the investigating agency to grant them bail in

case the accused were arrested on that day and asked the accused to appear before the sleuths every Monday and Friday for the next two weeks after that. The court banned the accused also from travelling abroad and granted bail on sureties worth Rs one lakh.

The apex court had directed the High Court to decide the petitions "afresh on its own merits." The Supreme Court directive came on the CBI's appeal against the High Court order granting bail to former Gujarat DGP R B Sree Kumar, two former police officers of Kerala S Vijayan and Thampi S Durga Dutt, and a retired intelligence official P S Jayaprakash.

Woman naval air operations officer to lead Indian Navy's contingent at R-Day parade

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Lt Commander Disha Amrith, a woman naval air operations official posted at a strategic base, will lead the Indian Navy's Republic Day contingent of 144 young sailors and its tableau will showcase the 'Nari Shakti' in force.

Navy officials said three women and five men Agniveers will also participate in the parade at Kartavya Path.

Besides Amrith, another woman officer — Sub Lt Valli Meena S — will be among the three platoon commanders of the naval contingent. A Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from BMS College

of Engineering in Karnataka, 29-year-old Amrith was part of the National Cadet Corps's Republic Day team in 2008 and harboured the dream of being part of the marching contingents of one of the three services at the celebrations in Delhi.

"Since 2008, I was nurturing this dream of being part of the Republic Day contingent of the armed forces. It is an amazing opportunity that the Indian Navy has given me (to lead the naval contingent)," she said.

The officer, who hails from Mangaluru, got into the Navy in 2016 and has been posted at a key naval facility in the Andaman

and Nicobar islands after completing her training in 2017. "I am an aviator for Dornier aircraft and have been carrying out sorties in the plane," she told PTI.

Last month, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said the Navy is looking at opening all its branches for women from 2023.

Sharing her experience, Amrith said she always wanted to be part of the armed forces and it was partly inspired by her parents as well. "My father also wanted to be part of the services but could not. I am proud to be part of the Navy and will continue to serve the Navy with full zeal and dedication," she said.

Trainee IAS officers visit flagship schemes of CG Govt

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: On Friday, a team of 22 trainee IAS officers witnessed the ambitious projects of Chhattisgarh government. On their arrival to Bhilai, they met Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas. He detailed the team about the major schemes of the government.

After meeting the BMC Commissioner, the team went out to get acquainted with the important schemes of Chhattisgarh government. The team came to know about the health benefits people are getting from the camp of the Mobile Medical Unit.

Along with medical consultation, the beneficiaries are getting free pathology tests, medicines, etc. The team interacted with the doctors and the beneficiaries who had come for treat-



ment and inquired about the benefits of the health camp. Beneficiaries stated that health camps are organized near their home and locality through mobile medical units.

They do not need to go to other places and wait in long queues. Further, the treatment is done free of cost. The team members praised the scheme of Chhattisgarh Government. Trainee IAS team visited

Dhanwantri Medical Store where the people are getting medicines with 55 percent discount. The team said that this scheme will prove to be a boon for the poor and middle class people.

They expressed happiness over the availability of medicines through the scheme in the hospital premises itself. The team of IAS trainees also visited the C Mart and appreciated the collection of handmade



products from different districts of Chhattisgarh under one roof.

IAS Trainees also visited Swami Atmanand English Medium Government School Sector 6. They over-saw the different models made by children and inspected the Physics, Chemistry and Biology Lab. They received information about the concept and purpose of Swami Atmanand English

Medium School.

They also visited the astronomy lab. The team members stated that it is a great initiative in the education sector. They spoke to the students and were impressed with the quick response of children in English. Sub-Divisional Officer Jageshwar Kaushal, Superintending Engineer BK Dewangan and others were present during the visit.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Bhilai Unit on Friday accompanied the officials of National Highway, PWD Department and Municipal Corporation and inspected the under construction flyover on GE Road. During this, the traders, under the leadership of State General Secretary of the Chamber, Ajay Bhasin, demanded that parking arrangements be made under the flyover, on which the officials agreed and assured to make arrangements. In this regard, a detailed discussion took place between the chamber members and the officials.

Giving information in a press communique, State General Secretary of the Chamber, Ajay Bhasin said that the Chamber had been demanding for a parking



arrangement under the under-construction flyover on GE Road since long. He added that there is a lot of parking problem in the markets adjacent to GE Road including Power House and Supela Akashganga of the city. In such a situation, parking arrangement under the flyover will provide a lot of relief not only to the traders but also to the common people. It was in this regard that chamber delegation visited the spot. During this, the chamber members

talked about developing this place on the lines of Rajnandgaon, so that along with parking, a well-organized and beautiful arrangement can be made here. SK Jha from PWD Department, Abhijeet Soni from National Highways Department, Corporation Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Sanjay Sharma and chamber members Vinay Singh, Prakash Makhija, Babi, Sunil Mishra were mainly present during the discussion.

Cleaning of 'nullah' near Kelabari-Surana College initiated on war-footing

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: The cleaning of small and big drains located in the city including all those in various wards under Durg Municipal limits is being continuously done under strict monitoring. Where there are complaints of filling of garbage in the drains located in the wards, cleaning is being done on a priority basis by deploying cleaning gangs.

For this, the staff of the Health Department of the Municipal Corporation is active. On the directions of MLA Arun Vora, Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, the corpora-



tion staff is engaged in cleaning work with promptness.

On Friday, the cleaning work of Kelabari Surana College Ward No 40 drain has been started, and the entire stretch is being cleaned, which was in-

spected by Health Department in-charge Hameed Khokhar. Apart from this, cleaning of drains is done regularly in the whole city.

In the same sequence, ward number 40 drain cleaning work is in

progress. Cleaning of Shankar Nagar drain is being done continuously, from Malviya Nagar to Santrabari, Sindhi Colony, Shankar Nagar via Girdhari Nagar and all the drains of the city including Urla Basti.

20 youth depart for Chandigarh under Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 20 tribal youth including 10 boys and 10 girls from Kanker for a tour to Chandigarh. It is the second group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme.

The group of tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and one male officer / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising fourteen such tours this year for about 290 youth.

Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic



and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educa-

tional and employment opportunities available there.

They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu interacted with the youth at BSF Headquarters in Risali before their departure for Chandigarh. They extended greetings and best wishes to the youth.

Webinar organised on 'Human Trafficking- Modern Day Slavery'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Department of Education and Department of Sociology of St Thomas College jointly organised a Webinar on 'Human Trafficking- Modern Day Slavery'. The programme began with the welcome speech of principal Dr MG Roymon. Administrator of the college father Dr Joshi Varghese graced the occasion by giving his presence.

Dr Sudha Bharadwaj, Trade Unionist and Human Rights Lawyer, Mumbai was the Guest Speaker of the event. Dr Sudha Bharadwaj, focused on the



various causes of human trafficking and how it can be controlled and various Provisions in the Penal Code to curb this menace from the society. The students of BA and BEd actively participated in the discussion hour of the webinar and made it a sounding success. Head of Education Department, Dr

Sheeja Thomas, introduced the guest speaker and Head in charge of Sociology Department, Deepthi Santosh, proposed the Vote of Thanks. Dr Rupa Shrivastav conducted the program. Dr J Maju, Chandan Dekate and Dr Hari Prakash Sonwanji extended technical support.

PIL Champion Ashwini Upadhyay to deliver lecture on Ramrajya and Constitution

● At Kalamandir on January 22

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Renowned Supreme Court Lawyer and prolific PIL petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay is going to deliver a lecture on Ramrajya and Constitution of India at Kalamandir in Civic Centre on January 22. Prabuddha Parishad, Chhattisgarh is hosting this event. Retired Judge Maitreyi Mathur will preside over this program

while MP Vijay Baghel will be the special guest.

Media in-charge Akhil Mishra informed that Ashwini Upadhyay is an active lawyer at Supreme Court and has filed several Public Interest Litigations pertaining to social, legal, governance and a wide range of other issues including corruption, religious conversion, flexible laws, inaction of public representatives, etc. Aware citizens, social workers, lawyers, youth and women will attend the programme.

Ashwini Upadhyay, popularly known as PIL Man,



is known for fighting against the anomalies prevailing in the society. He studied law from Chaudhary Charan Singh University and after com-

pleting his law course, he started practicing in the Supreme Court.

After participating in Jan Lokpal Movement, he filed public interest litigations for the reforms in the Indian legal and political system. He is known for nationalist thoughts and sharing his views in the debates of top news channels. His pursuit for PILs has been so relentless that in July 2022, the Supreme Court said that it would need to set up a special court for Upadhyay's PILs.

He has filed more than 50 public interest litiga-

tions. In his PILs, Upadhyay has challenged certain sections of Places of Worship Act 1991; sought uniform divorce law for women; ban on the practice of polygamy and nikah halala in Muslim community.

He had sought fast tracing of criminal trials against MPs and MLAs besides seeking life ban on convicted politicians from contesting polls. In this PIL, the SC had ordered that public prosecutors cannot withdraw criminal cases against lawmakers without sanction from High Courts.

Ruffians held with stolen metal scrap worth Rs 3.60 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Police arrested three ruffians on charges of theft of metal scrap. About six tonnes of metal scrap worth Rs 3.60 lakhs loaded on a pickup truck was recovered from their possession.

The vehicle was parked in front of a godown. During interrogation, it was discovered that godown owner Shiv Sharma is the kingpin of the gang of thieves involved in thefts of metal scrap. Police are trying to trace the absconding accused Shiv Sharma.

CSP Prabhat Kumar (IPS) informed that on January 19, they received a complaint from one Ramesh Soni regarding theft of components of LN Tower and TTH Tower from Hathkhaj. The com-



ponents were made of angles and checker plates and were weighing around six tonnes.

Under the guidance of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, Old Bhilai Police launched investigations and the network of informers was activated. Meanwhile, police received a tip off regarding some ruffians who were trying to sell metal scrap. Acting on the tip off, the police team swung into action and the suspects

were taken into custody. During interrogation, the suspects revealed that one Shiv Sharma of Khursipar had asked them to steal LN Tower and TTH Tower components. After committing theft, they concealed some metal in the bushes in Engineering Park Hathkhaj and loaded the remaining metal on a Pickup Truck. They had parked this truck near the godown of Shiv Sharma.



Police arrested Bansilal Barle (25) son of Balaram Barle a resident of Shivaji Nagar, Khursipar; Harsh Taneja (21) son of Anil Kumar Taneja of Gol Market, Vaishali Nagar and Jasbir Singh (29) son of Late Jaswant Singh a resident of Khursipar under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380 of IPC. Police are trying to trace the absconding accused Shiv Sharma.

Released murder convict makes gang; commits thefts with three accomplices

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: With the arrest of four ruffians, police claimed to have solved six cases of thefts which occurred in Patan Police Station limits. They targeted the mobile shops, locked houses and grocery stores at 06 different places. They moved around on bike or car to conduct recce before committing thefts. They lifted the shop shutters with crowbars (Sabhal) to trespass into the locked shops and commit thefts. Kingpin of the gang has already spent 16 years in jail after being convicted for murder. He befriended other inmates of the jail and formed a gang after getting released from jail. Police recovered stolen booty worth Rs 10 lakh, one four wheeler (Tavera) used in theft and 3 two-wheelers from the accused. It was a joint action of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg; Police Station Patan and Police Station Jangaon (R).



While addressing media persons at Patan on Friday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that they have been receiving complaints regarding thefts at various villages of Durg district. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, joint teams of ACCU and police stations made efforts to trace the accused under the guidance of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu, SDO (Patan) Devansh Singh Rathore and DSP (Crime) Naasar Siddhiqui. The joint team led by ACCU I/c Inspector Santosh Mishra, SHO (Patan) Rajkumar Lahre, SHO (Jangaon) Sub-Inspector Radheshyam Juri rounded up a suspect in village Gadadeh.

The suspect Abhishek Joseph (24) son of John Herald a resident of Utai confessed involvement in thefts. He disclosed the names of his accomplices including Hitesh Kumar Sahu (35) son of Kishan Sahu a resident of Utai; Ghanshyam Rajput (24) son of Panchanand Singh Rajput a resident of Utai and Rajesh Ratre (40) son of Anand Ratre a resident of Patan. All four are friends and used to meet at Utai Bus Stand. About 03 months ago, they together planned and burgled 22 sacks of paddy, LCD TV etc from the house of Yogesh Kumar Narang in village Katro. Later on December 01, 2022, they

committed theft at the mobile shop of Hitesh Kumar Sahu in village Katro. On the intervening night of January 07 and 08, they targeted the Sahu Mobile Shop and Choice Center in village Gudhiyari. On the same night, they committed theft at Sewa Kendra and Mobile Shop of village Pauha. On January 10, they burgled groceries and other items from a Shop in village Sehgaon of Nandani Nagar. On January 17, they had stolen a Hydraulic Pump, Tullu Pump and tools from village Pandar. All the four accused have been arrested and sent to jail on judicial remand. The accused Rajesh Ratre has served 15 years of imprisonment on charges of murder. All the other accused also have criminal records. ACCU Assistant Sub-Inspector Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable Ruman Sonwani, Constable Rajkumar Chandra, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Constables Vikrant and Dinesh played a vital role in arresting the accused.

BJP to contest VS, LS polls on Centre's achievements



And on development by BJP gov't during its 15 yrs rule

BJP passes two political resolutions in the state working committee meeting

Expresses gratitude towards PM Modi for record victory in Gujarat and for paddy purchase above 1 cr MT in state

BJP State co-in-charge Nitin Nabin, BJP State President Arun Sao, BJP National V-P Dr Raman Singh, Union Minister of State Renuka Singh and general secretary BJP Pawan Sai were present.

BJP State President Arun Sao in his address said that the term of BJP National President JP Nadda has been extended for one year. BJP would be contesting the next Vidhan Sabha poll in Chhattisgarh and the LS polls on the achievements of the BJP's central government under leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the development works done by the BJP in 15 years of its rule in

Chhattisgarh and under leadership of BJP National President JP Nadda and with massive mandate of general public would definitely win the next polls.

Sao said that the younger generation should know that the new Chhattisgarh state was formed by the senior party leader and ex-PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and in 15 yrs of its rule, BJP wrote a new chapter in context of development in the state and took the sick and backward Chhattisgarh to front-running and well-developed state in the country. But now with Congress government in the state, the

CM's residence itself has become centre of corruption, he alleged.

In the meeting LS MP Santosh Pandey put up the political resolution and it was supported by the state general secretary Kedar Kashyap. Two proposals were passed in the BJP's meeting and in the first the PM Narendra Modi was lauded for record win in the Gujarat polls. In addition to this the committee expressed gratitude and greetings to PM Narendra Modi for purchase of over 100 cr MT of paddy in the state. In the meeting, the committee also expressed gratitude towards the BJP national leadership for the honour

of hosting the G-20 meeting and selecting Chhattisgarh for one of its meetings.

Amit Sahu put forth his views on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Purandhar Mishra on 'Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'; and BJ Pstate general secretary OP Choudhary expressed views on 'Mor Aawar Mor Adhikar'.

This working committee meeting was attended by BJP senior party leader Ramvihar Netam, Nandkumar Sai, Vishnu Deo Sai, Nankiram Kanwar, Ramsewak Paikra, Dharamlal Kaushik, Amar Agrawal, Rajesh Munat, Prem Prakash Pandey, Sarguja div. in-charge Sanjay Shrivastava, Kiran Dev, Raipur div. in-charge Saurabh Singh, state gen. secy. OP Choudhary, Akhilesh Soni, state spokesman Anurag Singh Dev, Kedar Gupta, Sandeep Sharam, BJP district president Lalan Pratap Singh, Major Anil Singh, Bhaiyyalal Rajwade and Kamalbhan Singh.

Preparations 85th plenary session of Congress

In-charge Selja visits venue, says CG's scheme an example for whole country

Raipur, Jan 20: Preparations are in full swing for the 85th plenary session of Congress to be held from 24-26 February in Nava Raipur. Pradesh Congress in-charge Kumari Selja, along with CM Bhupesh, PCC Chief Mohan Markam reached the venue of the session. Chief Minister and the in-charge reviewed the preparations and gave necessary instructions to the leaders.

Discussion on political, economic affairs, international affairs, issues pertaining to farmers and agriculture, social justice, youth educa-

tion and employment would be held during three day plenary session. Congress will chalk out political strategy for upcoming elections on all such issues. Talking to the reporters Selja said that Chhattisgarh got an opportunity to host the AICC plenary session. Everyone will work together for the success of the session, she said. Congress government is in the state for four years and it is a matter of pride that the scheme of Chhattisgarh has become an example for the whole country, Selja said. According to her BJP's Gujarat model has become hollow. Shailija will also discuss with senior leaders and workers about the preparation of 'Hath se Hath Jodo Abhiyan' on January 21 at 11 am in Rajiv Bhavan.

Manoj Verma appointed Raipur public prosecutor

Raipur, Jan 20: Manoj Verma has been appointed as Public Prosecutor of Raipur by Department of Law and Legislative Affairs, Chhattisgarh Government. Post of Raipur Public Prosecutor was lying vacant after the completion of 62 years of age of former Public Prosecutor of Raipur KK Shukla. After a prolonged appointment

process, Manoj Verma has been appointed as Public Prosecutor. Expressing delight over Manoj Verma's appointment as Public Prosecutor, the advocates including Hamid Jussain, Aditya Jha, Raghendra Singh, Arvind Singh Chima, Raju Ali, Nilesh Thakur, Deva Dewangan, Yasmin Begum, Vijay Kumar Bhoi, Vijay Lanje, Mahendra Dewangan,

Moinuddin Qureshi, Vivek Sahu, Morisha Naidu, Ranvir Singh Bhamra, Mohan Sahu, Nayeem Rizvi, Vinod Bharat, Shamim Parvin, Rakesh Singh, Tarachand Kosle, Sadik Ali and Rajendra Jain have expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, law and legal affairs minister Md Akbar and advocate general Satish Chandra Verma.

Ch'garh becomes the second biggest state

In terms of depositing the highest quantity of paddy to Central Pool

CM Baghel tweeted a congratulatory message, calls it a big achievement

ating new records in the field of agriculture for the past four years. He added that this is the result of the hard work of farmers and their revived trust in farming that the state is gaining new achievements. The Chief Minister, in his congratulatory message, said that this is a big achievement for the state that has broken old records.

Chief Minister Baghel said that this year, the state is creating a new record of paddy purchases. 103 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had been purchased till yesterday evening. Hopefully, by the last date of 31 January, we

will also surpass the estimated figure of 110 lakh metric tonnes.

According to the report released by the Government of India on 15 January, Chhattisgarh had donated 92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy to the Central Pool. It has become the second state to deposit the highest quantity of paddy. The farmer-friendly policies of the Chhattisgarh Government have brought pleasant changes in the field of agriculture and in the lives of farmers. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, to promote crop productivity and yield diversity, the Rajiv

Gandhi Kissan Nyaya Yojana launched by the Chhattisgarh Government has emerged as a new force, because of which there is a continuous increase in the number of farmers and farming acreage. The farmer-friendly schemes of the Government of Chhattisgarh have led to a steady increase in the number of farmer registrations in these four years. This year, 24.96 lakh farmers have registered, out of which 2.3 lakh farmers are new. This year 135 new procurement centers have started, because of which the total number of procurement centers has become 2617.

Cricket matches to be played among 70 wards

Raipur, Jan 20: The review meeting of the Education, Sports and Youth Welfare Committee of Municipal Corporation Raipur was held in the presence of the members of the committee under the chairmanship of Mayor Ejaz Dhebar in the conference hall on the third floor of Mahatma Gandhi Sadan. Many resolutions were passed in the meeting. The chairman of the

committee Jitendra Agrawal said that the mayor instructed to organize cricket matches among all the 70 wards and to give cash prize money to the teams coming in the first three places.

Ward teams will be led by the concerned corporators. Citizens of the wards will also be able to participate in cricket matches. The Mayor also suggested to organize

a show match among the women corporators. The said event will be conducted by the Municipal Corporation with the support of Rajiv Yuva Mitra at Netaji Subhash Stadium. Agrawal further said that on the demand of the members of the committee, instructions were given to the Superintending Engineer Rajesh Sharma to take action after obtaining proposals

for open gyms in all 70 wards. Instructions were given to prepare a proposal to select a place for indoor gym for women in Subhash Stadium. A proposal to award students who have brought laurels to the city by topping in eighth, tenth and twelfth board exams and to felicitate teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day on September 5 was also passed.

Maulvis to avoid teaching 'Nikah'

If DJ and fireworks are used in marriages

Big decision of Muslim society



will teach Nikah in such events. DJ and fireworks have also been prohibited completely in 'sandal' and 'chadar' taken out from time to time in the city. Pointing out some drawbacks in the society city Qazi and other Imams in the meeting appealed to the youth to follow the right path, Qazi Imran Ashrafi, Haji Abdul Hamid,

Nauman Akram Hamid and Maulana Mohammad Ali informed the reporters here. Fireworks and DJ are prohibited in Islam and their use causes air pollution, noise pollution and disrupts traffic.

They also appealed to the youth of the Muslim community to avoid doing works which can cause disturbance. Youth should work for maintaining peace in the state and the country, they said. Nauman Akram said that it was decided in the meeting that the Muslim so-

ciety would take steps to stop the malpractices in marriage and other programs of the Muslim society. All the Imams present unanimously decided that they will not teach Nikah in any such marriage where Baja and fireworks are used. All the Imams present unanimously decided that they will not teach Nikah in any such marriage where Baja and fireworks are used. Along with this, the cleric who has come from outside will also not be allowed to teach Nikah.

Both Thakur and Malik add value to team, who plays will depend on surface: Paras Mhambrey

Raipur, Jan 20 (PTI): Shardul Thakur was picked over Umran Malik in the first ODI because he adds "depth" to the Indian batting but the Jammu and Kashmir speedster remains very much in the scheme of things for the ODI World Cup at home this year, said bowling coach Paras Mhambrey on Friday.



Mhambrey said both Thakur and Malik add value to the team in different ways.

"That (batting) is one of the reasons why we picked him (Thakur). He adds depth to the batting. We will have to see the surface and decide the combination accordingly. He has performed well for India," Mhambrey said in the media interaction ahead of the second ODI.

On Malik, Mhambrey said: "The way he has progressed, it is very heartening to see. Pace does matter

is very difficult to replicate his skills. On the order side, it gives an opportunity for others to be tested at this level. We will find out what they bring to the table and how they deal with pressure."

When asked about Mohammed Siraj, he was all praise for the Hyderabad pacer.

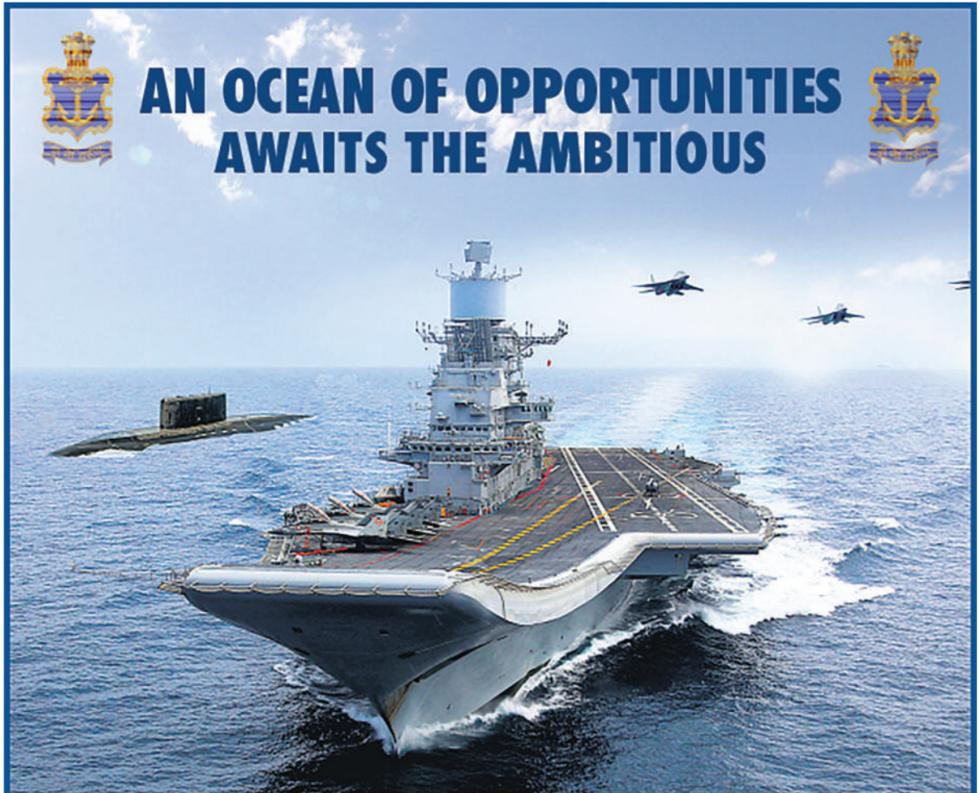
"I have seen him from the India A set up. He did exceedingly well with the red ball. He used to get the ball in but has worked on his seam position to get the ball away. He is a very important member of the team not only for World Cup but beyond that as well." New Zealand were able to score 206 runs despite losing six wickets for 131 runs on Wednesday. The bowling coach said the team discussed the issue at length. "When you score 350 on a surface like that you expect partnerships from the other side, they

lost six quick wickets but you expect in a game like that, there will be a partnership, and they bat till 8. Santner is a handy batter as well.

"What is important is you win games, you may be tested. We have charted out things we wanted to focus on and implement in this game. We are not looking at too much experimentation but we need to test players that we have shortlisted."

Mhambrey added that an early start for the ODI World Cup games at home is something that ICC can look into. "Ashwin raised a valid point. Dew does play a part in some venues. It depends when and where you are playing. When the ball does get old, it really tilts towards the batting side.

"The spin is not there and makes batting easy. It is something we can look into. The ICC and other members need to take this forward. It is not my call."



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Only generic medicines be prescribed: Health Secy

Meeting of civil surgeons and hospital consultants



Raipur, Jan 20: Health Secretary Prasanna R has instructed all the doctors to prescribe only generic medicines. Action should be taken in the matters of the display of posters of branded medicines in the hospital premises, he said at a meeting of civil surgeons and hospital consultants of all the districts, held at Indrawati Bhavan here today. He also instructed to take action against doctors prescribing branded medicines.

Prasanna R reviewed mental health facilities, maternity services, dental, lab facilities, fire safety, power audit, post mortem and infection control, X-ray, CT scan and ICU facility. Director of Health Services Bhim Singh, Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan and Director of Epidemic Control Dr Subhash Mishra also attended the review meeting. The Health Secretary also called for prohibiting the visit of medical representatives in the government hospital premises. He instructed to organize general body meeting, executive meeting, quality and infection control and other important meetings

regularly in district hospitals. Prasanna also instructed for expanding OPD and IPD services in district hospitals. Treatment of the patients coming to the hospital is the most important task and that time limit should be fixed for each work so that the patients can get the benefit of new facilities soon, he said. Director, Health Services Bhim Singh emphasized promotion of the free dialysis services available in the hospitals for the benefit of kidney pa-

tients. He also called for sickle cell test, monitoring of sickle cell positive patients and diabetes and blood pressure check up of all the patients visiting district hospitals. Under the Ayushman Bharat programme, he instructed to make Ayushman cards of the patients in the hospital premises and to treat all the patients with Ayushman cards. Singh asked districts to increase the number of beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Health Assistance Scheme.

Senior writer Sushila Takbhore delivers lecture

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 20: A special lecture of senior writer and litterateur Sushila Takbhore was organized on Wednesday on the topic 'Literary Journalism and Writing' in Smart Class of UTD, a wing by the Department of Journalism and Communication of Guru Ghasidas Central University.



At the beginning of the programme, Prof. Brijesh Tiwari, Dean of School of Arts, welcomed senior litterateur Sushila Takbhore with shawl and shreefal. Dr. Dheeraj Shukla, Head of the Department of Journalism and Communication presented the welcome speech.

Senior writer and litterateur Sushila Takbhore threw light on various concerns of the society, especially related to the very backward and deprived society, as seen in writings in

newspapers and magazines. She said that newspapers and magazines are the mirror of the society and stressed that a newspaper is the voice of the people. She explained the right way of writing with sensibility on issues of social concern. Referring to the journalism of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Lokmanya Tilak, she gave special emphasis on the importance of writings on equality, social justice, harmony and social reform. While speaking about women's writing senior writer Sushila Takbhore said that a journalist should write

from a humanitarian point of view. She said that newspapers and magazines need to pay special attention to bring awareness to the women deprived of education, especially to the women of the backward society, who have been suffering for centuries. Prof. Brijesh Tiwari, Dean of the School of Arts, said that literary journalism has a deep connection with the concerns of the society. Literary journalism should carry a vision of writing which can give a positive direction to the society. Professor Pratibha J Mishra, In-charge of the

University Media Cell, said that there should not be a discriminatory approach in the writing of literary journalism. Writing should be done keeping social concerns in mind. At the end of the program, senior litterateur Sushila Takbhore was honored by presenting a memento. On this occasion, Prof. Pratibha J Mishra, in-charge of University Media Cell, Hindi Officer, Akhilesh Tiwari, Assistant Professor of Hindi Department Dr Ramesh Gohe, all teachers of Journalism and Mass Communication and a large number of students were present. The program was conducted by Dr. Amita, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Anupama Kumari.

Dy sarpanch alleges massive corruption in Kukanar Panchayat



Charges of withdrawing crores without meeting, due for last 1 yr



Konta/Sukma, Jan 20: The news of irregularities in the internal panchayats of Sukma district or in the construction works keep coming to the fore. But Kukanar which is situated on the side of NH 30 and district level officials and district level officials keep coming and going through this route, but till date no official has looked at the irregularities going on in

this panchayat. Accusing the present sarpanch of ignoring the panchayat rules as well as conducting the functions of the panchayat on his own, Mukund Das, Deputy Sarpanch of Kukanar, said that not a single monthly meeting is being held in the panchayat in the last one year.

Crores of rupees have been withdrawn by falsely misleading the panchayat, the bank and the administration by passing a fake proposal to withdraw crores of rupees without meeting. CEO said that Sarpanch Sarvesarva Upsarpanch has no importance Dy. Sarpanch Mukundadas said that many times requested the Sarpanch to correct his working style, despite no improvement, he complained to the District CEO CL Dewangan about this matter, then he irresponsi-

bly replied that the Sarpanch in the Panchayat. The survey is all, there is no importance of panch and sub-sarpanch. Sarpanch residence has turned into Panchayat building He also said that the panchayat building of Kukanar never opens on time, the residence of the sarpanch itself has taken the form of a panchayat building, and the needy people are unnecessarily getting worried due to non-opening of the panchayat building. Former Panch also demanded an inquiry Former Panch Sonadhar of Kukanar also accused the panchayat of irregularities and said that due to the negligence of the panchayat, many works are incomplete, the beneficiaries are not getting the benefits of PM housing, pension and other schemes, there should be a fair investigation of the panchayat.

BALCO implements Smart Technologies to optimize oil consumption

Balconagar, (Korba), Jan 20: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, is actively exploring and expanding the adoption of smart technologies within its manufacturing systems. From smart analytics for decision making at strategic business unit (SBU) level to real-time equipment monitoring at shopfloors, the company has deployed a slew of high-end digital solutions for ensuring business excellence. Recently, the company retrofitted its oil monitoring process with state-of-the-art Business Intelligence tools to track oil consumption and recovery at equipment and SBU level. This will help BALCO optimize and reduce oil consumption in technical vehicles and heavy machinery across its operations. The deployment of business intelligence tools like System Applications & Products and Material Return Voucher will help strategic business units optimize the fresh oil consump-



tion, recover and refine used oil with better planning and greater efficiency, resulting in significant cost savings and waste reduction. It will bolster the company's vision of zero waste, while enhancing productivity and efficiency. This is in line with the company's commitment towards sustainable manufacturing practices, which includes judicious usage of raw materials, transition to low-carbon fuels and decarbonization of plant operations. Speaking about BALCO's approach to technological transformation of its operations, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO,

said, 'We, at BALCO, are committed to achieving excellence across all our areas of operations, using new-age technology, sustainable practices, and disruptive innovation. Our technological interventions serve to bolster safety, productivity, and efficiency. An inhouse innovation such as oil balancing with digital technologies, will help us improve operational efficiency, reduce costs and decrease carbon footprint. Deployment of such smart solutions across all levels at this unprecedented scale will help us create a future-ready

organization that caters to India's aluminium needs and contribute to the expeditious development of the region and nation at large.' In addition, BALCO has been leveraging emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to bolster power plant efficiency, Robotic Process Automation across various sales and marketing activities, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to monitor movement of liquid aluminium-carrying vehicles inside plant premises, and a highly sophisticated security system for people and assets. Testimony to its technology-first approach, BALCO has received numerous coveted awards, including the prestigious 'Manufacturing Today - Reinventing the Future' Award. BALCO has also been declared 'Platinum Winner' at the 5th CII National Safety Practices Competition for its 'Suraksha Sankalp Kutumbh' project on safety digitalization.

Workshop organized for the protection of women's rights



Jagdalpur, Jan 20: A three-day divisional level training program was organized by the Women and Child Development Department for the Sakhi 'One Stop Center' officer staff and Nava Bihan's protection officers in the Astha meeting hall of the district office. The training program was inaugurated by welcoming the trainers present from Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai with a bouquet in the presence of District Program Officer Women and Child Development Jagdalpur. On the first day of this training program, the role of the officers and employees of

Sakhi One Stop Center and Nava Bihan was discussed in relation to the tasks to be done promptly including sensitivity, while giving detailed information on the subject of their work responsibilities. On the second day of the training, detailed informative information was given about the rights of women and various laws related to them, personal law, Hindu and Muslim law and amendments made in these laws from time to time. On the last day of the training, giving information about the process of medical examination of the victim by the officers, the Domestic Violence Act, the

Abortion Act 1971 and the orders issued by the court along with the process to be adopted during the counseling by the counselor of Sakhi Center discussed in detail. In this training programme, Dr. Sandali Thakur, Aarti Chandrasekhar, Balwant Singh, District Program Officer Manoj Kumar Sinha, Protection Officer Veenu Hirwani and women and child development department of all 7 districts of Bastar division were present in this training program. Officers of the police department were also involved along with the officers and employees.

'Jhumka Water Festival concludes with dazzling fireworks'

For two days, thousands of people attended the Jhumka Kinare Mahotsav Korea danced to Bollywood singer Sukhbir Singh's tunes



Korea, Jan 20: The first Jhumka Water Festival of Korea was grandly conducted at Jhumka Boat Club on January 17 and 18. On the second and final day, the event concluded with a spectacular fireworks show. During these two days, renowned artists from across the country

and state, as well as local artists and schoolchildren, gave multiple performances. The fascinating performances kept the crowd engaged until late in the evening. The last performance of the closing ceremony was

by Bollywood singer Sukhbir Singh who made everyone dance. Along with songs like Ishq Tera Tadpawe, Sauda Khara-Khara, Brown Munde, and Bijli Bijli, he performed on many Bollywood songs. Vice President of Surguja

Development Authority, Mr. Gulab Kamro was the special guest of the program along with the general public, could not stop himself and danced with Sukhbir. Earlier, Chhattisgarhi artist Mr. Sunil Soni sang Chal Jabo Jhumka Bandh Re with Hai Re Sarguja Nache, on which there was a lot of applause. Chhattisgarhi artist Sanjay Surila enthralled everyone with his Chhattisgarhi songs and popular songs like Meeth Meeth Maya Ke Bani. On the other hand, Sufi artist Mr. Nasir Ninder made the atmosphere Sufi with songs like Piya Haji Ali. On the first day of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav, the performances of interna-

tionally renowned Odissi dancer Purnashree Raut, Bollywood singer Vinod Rathore, Chhattisgarhi artists Anuj Sharma, Aaru Sahu, Sunil Manikpuri became the main attraction of the event. The crowd was enthralled by the wonderful performances of local artists and schoolchildren. The excitement of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav could be gauged from the crowd of people. Till the end of the program, with the presence of Gulab Kamro, Vice President of Surguja Development Authority, local public representatives, all the officers and employees of the district administration, thousands of people stood at the venue.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana a boon for Banshilal

Kondagaon, Jan 20: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is proven to be a blessing for many who were unable to build their own homes due to poverty and poor economic situation. PMAY is now realizing the dream of lakhs of people who had hoped to possess their own pucca house. Banshilal of Gram Panchayat Khalari in District Panchayat Baderajpur had a lifelong desire of building a pucca house for his family. However, due to the house's poor financial situation, he was unable to have his permanent home built. In such a case, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana proved to be a gift and fulfilled his desire. Meanwhile, Banshilal states that he and his three-member family were living in a run-down



and dilapidated house. He used to support his family by working hard as an agricultural laborer. His home's financial situation was weak. During the rainy season, water kept dropping from

the roof of his house, seeping through the walls, and entering the home. Water from the drain flowing from the side of the house also used to enter the house numerous times. Along with many challenges in living, there was a worry of dilapidated houses falling and animals such as snakes and scorpions entering the house. There was also a fear of health problems due to raw houses and moisture. In such a condition, his main wish was to buy his own pucca house. In this situation, he heard about the government's ambitious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) initiative, which he used to get a pucca house built in place of his kutcha house. His dream of constructing a pucca house was realized as a result of this. He stated

that, in addition to housing, we are now receiving benefits from various government welfare programs. The government looks after our necessities, from jobs to health care. We are overjoyed as a result, and we convey our heartfelt gratitude to the government. Banshilal is not the only one who has benefited from this government program. Many residents in the district have received their dream homes as a result of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Following the receipt of funding in District Panchayat Baderajpur, the construction of houses that had been halted since the time of Corona has accelerated, and the recipients are now seeing their homes built. So far, a total of 1538 houses

have been sanctioned in District Panchayat Baderajpur, with construction work on 1226 houses completed and 312 houses under construction. In addition to this, Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the amount has been provided as the first installment to 1538 beneficiaries, the second installment to 1495 beneficiaries, the third installment to 1308 beneficiaries, and the fourth installment to 790 beneficiaries in District Panchayat Baderajpur. This amount has been deposited directly into the bank accounts. Due to this, the work of housing construction has increased. At the same time, there is a wave of happiness among the beneficiaries that their dream homes will be built soon.

Lord Krishna's Janmotsav celebrated

Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 20: Lord Shri Krishna's Janmotsav was celebrated on the fifth day of ongoing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Ahiwara at Mangal Bhawan Ward no. 03. The main host is Natwar Tamarkar,

President Municipal Council, Ahiwara and wife Mallika Tamarkar, Ashuman Tamarkar, wife Bhavna Tamarkar, Pravin Salni Tamarkar, Suryanarayan Divya Tamarkar. Narrator Bramhachari Jyotimaryanand said that one should listen to

everyone's mind. Maharaj said that there is no difference between Hari in the world and Jagdish. Says Parmarth Gati, Jagdishji is the creator of this world as well, the one who stays in the shelter of God, his every work gets done.

18th National Scout Jamboree concludes



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Jan 20: Scouts of the district returned after a successful performance in the 18th National Scout Jamboree organized from January 4

to January 10 in Pali district of Rajasthan and gave a courtesy visit to the District Collector. District Education Officer Savita Rajput, District Organization Commissioner

Morajdhvaj Sapre and Preeti Khalsa, District Secretary Akash Parihar, District Organization Commissioner Guide Rohini Thakur were present on this occasion. District Training

Commissioner Amit Gupta said that in the 18th National Scout Jamboree, Chhattisgarh's march past parade under the leadership of District Rovers Jogesh and Yashwant has received 'A' grade all over India.

He said that nine Rover Rangers and two in-charges of the district had left on December 30 to attend the Jamboree and returned on January 12.

The Collector congratulated all from the Scout family and said that it is a matter of pleasure that the march past parade of the state under the leadership of the district rover has got 'A' grade all over India.

Party workers felicitated by BJP Backward Classes Morcha



Central Chronicle News

Gaurela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 20: BJP Backward Classes Morcha felicitated the workers here and honored the BJP Shakti Kendra in-charge, coordinator, co-coordinator, booth president in village Thar Pathra of Gaurela

Mandal by giving shawl and shreefal.

Giving information about the said program, Backward Classes Morcha District President Sandeep Jaiswal said that the country BJP's booth level workers are to be honored as per the wish of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state

BJP President Arun Sav and State President of Backward Class Morcha Bharat Verma. Simultaneously, booth unit presidents, community heads and seniors were honoured.

The chief guest of the program was district president Kanhaiya Rathore and

special guest Dilip Yadav, in-charge of Backward Class Morcha. Rakesh Chaturvedi, Brijlath Rathore, Mukesh Dubey, Bhagirath Yadav, Sameera Paikra, Geeta Gupta, Kuldeep Singh Dheeraj, Dev Pratap Rajput, Murari Yadav and others were present.

Center of Excellence inaugurated at IB group

Central Chronicle News

Rajnandgaon, Jan 20: Indian leading Poultry Company IB Group always strives to keep its employees equipped with new techniques and for their progress, the group inaugurated the state-of-the-art training center 'Center of Excellence and Training Facility' and MD office on January 13 in its corporate premises.

ment and innovation labs, in which accessible digital classroom culture will be created through efficient business plans.

The Center will not only enhance the skills of IB employees but also train the next generation, who aspire to be a part of IB's success journey in future. The center is equipped with modern library, hi-tech board room, interactive board in class form, qualified trainers, where 250 technicians can be trained at a time. Keeping in view the banking needs of the employees, the company has also started a branch of HDFC Bank at its Corporate Office, which was inaugurated by the MD of the company, Bahadur Ali.

INC shows unity in DCC meeting



Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Jan 20: In the past, some councilors of Nagar Panchayat Fingeshwar had given an application of no-confidence motion against Vice President Rukhmani Mandalay to the District Collector.

Taking cognizance of this, MLA Amitesh Shukla directed District Congress Committee President Bhavsingh Sahu to hold a meeting of all councilors and Aldermen of Fingeshwar Nagar Panchayat and brainstorm the whole matter. As per the instructions

unity of the party and the workers in full coordination.

The Congress government in the state is working for the development and economic prosperity of the people and rural farmers have great faith in the party.

The councilors were of the opinion that Mrs. Mandalay is a woman with a very simple and clean image and we will not allow the intentions of the opponents to be fulfilled under any circumstances.

Bhavsingh Sahu told the councilors that even if there are some differences, we have to keep in mind the unity of the party and drop the no-confidence motion against the Vice President with a huge majority.

Gram Sabha passes proposal to close down dabha



Being illegally run without Gram Panchayat's permission

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 20: The villagers got agitated over illicit sale of liquor and were forced to take it to streets here on Monday. The villagers have taken a decision to fight against all the illegal business and practices being undertaken by selected few with protection of some or the other government authority or institution.

It is based upon the proposal passed in the Gram Sabha in Gram Kalyanpur, the villagers submitted a memorandum to concerned department in context of technical assistance from the local administration and the government. Villagers

in Gram Kalyanpur passed a proposal here on Monday and submitted a memorandum to SDM demanding closure of 'dabha's' illegally being run in the village.

In the memorandum it was said that in the decision taken in the Gram Sabha of village on Jan 11, it has come to fore that one Rajat Phule, S/o Nagoraj Phule, R/o Gram Kalyanpur is illegally running a 'dabha' in the village panchayat without its prior permission.

This is disturbing the peace and tranquility in the village and there are chances of some incident taking place. So in order to avoid any such incident and its ill effects in the near future, the Gram Sabha has decided to close down this 'dabha' being illegally run. SDM was urged to issue orders to close this 'Dabha' at the earliest.

Panchkoshi Yatra concludes with devotion



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 20: Panchkoshi Yatra concluded here in Lomas Rishi Ashram premises, in which devotees have been traveling on foot continuously since last January 12. After worship, Bhairav farewell was given led by Panchkoshi Peethadhiswar Siddheshwar and Maharaj and in the rituals the pilgrims thronged near the Yajna Kund to offer oblations and Bhog Prasadi was offered to all the deities including Gauri Ganesh, Navagraha, and 10 Digpals.

the jagati floor of Kuleshwar Nath Mahadev Temple and in the night, a story was presented on Shiva through Ramayana in which the marriage ceremony of Mother Parvati and Bhole Shankar took place.

It is necessary to tell that in the Panchkoshi Parikrama, devotees started with Pateshwarnath Mahadev at Pateva first, then Champakeshwarnath Mahadev at Champaran, Brahmaneshwar Nath Mahadev at Bamhani, Phaniakeshwarnath

Mahadev at Fingeshwar, Karpureshwar Nath Mahadev at Kopra, Aughadnath Mahadev at Lafandi, Panchmukhi Kuleshwarnath Mahadev at Prayag Nagri Rajim and Rajivlochan Bhagwan and used to walk for 15 to 20 kilometers every day.

It is believed that Panchkoshi Yatra is superat- nantal, and in the whole world only Rajim has got the recognition of Panchkoshi Parikrama, due to which devotees remain engrossed in reverence and devotion to visit this Dham.

Government Tribal Girls Ashram inspected by CM

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inspected Government Tribal Girls Ashram of village Khapri and spoke to the little girls studying in the ashram. He inquired about the studies of the girls and inquired about the facilities, food, security, sports and entertainment arrangements for staying in the ashram. During this, the Chief Minister was greatly impressed by the prompt response of the girls and lauded their self-confidence.

The Chief Minister also played carom, Ludo, and Snakes and Ladders with the little girls and also gave them tips to win. Instructions were also given to the officers for assistance and accurate implementation of government schemes.

On this occasion, the



Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the facilities available in the ashram and he also gave gifts to the girls and advised them to study with honesty and bring laurels to Chhattisgarh and the country. Along with Chief

Minister Baghel, Revenue Minister and Minister in-charge of the district Jaisheng Agrawal, Parliamentary Secretary and Takhatpur MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh were also present in the inspection of the hostel.

Before leaving, the devotees kept praising Panchkoshi Dham and paid their obeisance to Lord Rajeev Lochan Temple, Jagannath Temple, Charon Dham Varah Avatar, Narsingh Avatar, Vaman Avatar, Badrinarayan Avatar, Lord Ganesh, Surya Dev Narayan, Mahamaya Temple, Ramchandra Deval, Baba Garib Nath, Someshwar Nath Mahadev, Lakshmi Narayan since morning. Temple, Rajim Bhaktin Mata Mandir, Raj Rajeshwar Nath Mahadev, Dan Daneshwar Nath Mahadev, Ganga Maiya, Yamuna Maiya, Durga Devi, Annapurna Mata, Shyam Kartikeya, Kali Mata, Sheetla Devi, Nandi Maharaj etc.

Many Panchkoshi pilgrims stayed under the open sky for night rest on

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362268
 Branch Office- Sky Park, unit Nos. 402 & 403, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001

APPENDIX IV (See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Possession Notice for Immovable Property

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 11.05.2021 calling upon the borrowers MOHAN SONKAR, and KUNTI SONKAR to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 27,05,588.83 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight and Paise Eighty Three Only), within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 19th day of January of the year 2023.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of Rs. 27,05,588.83 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight and Paise Eighty Three Only), and interest thereon.

The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: -
 KH. NO. - 515/2 P. H. NO. 46 SUBHASH WARD NO. 20, BAGDEIPARA, MOUJA NAWAPARA, R. I. C. NAWAPARA, TAH ABHANPUR AND DIST RAIPUR, Nawapara Rajim S.O., RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, INDIA - 493881.

Date: 19th Jan'23
 Place: Raipur
 Authorised Officer
 Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
 (FORMERLY, MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED)
 REGISTERED OFFICE: 602, 6th FLOOR, ZERO ONE IT PARK, SR. No. 79/1, GHORPADI, MUNDHWA ROAD, PUNE - 411036

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned Borrowers/ Co-borrowers /Guarantors have availed Home loans/Loans against Property facility (ies) by mortgaging your Immovable property/ies from Magma Housing Finance Ltd "MHFL" now renamed as Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd "PHFL". You defaulted in repayment and therefore, your loan/s was classified as Non-Performing Assets. A Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 for the recovery of the outstanding dues sent on last known addresses however the same have returned un-served. Hence the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3(1) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of Alternate Service upon you.

Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Guarantors, Securities, Outstanding Dues, Demand Notice sent under Section 13(2) and Amount claimed there under are given as under

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor and Loan Amount	Details of the Secured Asset	Demand Notice Date	Amount Due in Rs.
1.	RAMA GOYAL, PRAVEEN KUMAR GOYAL, BHATERI BAI GOYAL, SIYA RAM GOYAL, M S GOYAL TELECOM, Loan Amount: Rs.10452544.07/- Loan No: HL/0024/H/13/100999	All That Piece And Parcel Of Mortgage Property Of Mouja-Gourella, Ph No-23, Kh No-379/1,382 (Part), BlockGourella, Nagar Panchayat, Ward No-7, Subhash Chandra Ward, Thependra Road, Dist-Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Bilaspur Pin 49511	10-Nov-22	Rs. 11983202.31 (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakh EightyThree Thousand Two Hundred Two Paise ThirtyOne Only) together with further interest @ 16.55% p.a till repayment.
2.	SANTOSH KUMAR SONI, UMA SONI Loan Amount: Rs.1475000/- Loan No: HF/0022/H/19/100075	All That Piece And Parcel Of Part Of Old Kh. No. 136/11, New Kh. No. 15 136/33, Area 0.018 Hect, Situated At VillageTulsai, P. C. No. 17, R. I. C. Tilda, Tahsil Tilda, Dist. Raipur (C.G.) Boundries As Per Sale Deed: North: Seller Sold To Nitu Soni, South: House Of Surendra Verma, East: Road, West: Land Sold By Purushottam Agrawal.	9-Jan-23	Rs. 1285636.13 (Rupees Twelve Lakh EightyFive Thousand Six Hundred ThirtySix Paise Fifteen Only) together with further interest @ 14.75% p.a till repayment.
3.	GANESH VERMA, RANI VARMA, SHREE GANESH CONSTRUCTIONS Loan Amount: Rs.3650000/- Loan No: HL/0022/H/13/100085	All That Piece And Parcel Of Khata No. 895, Diverted Kh No. 60/3, 61/5, 63/8, 64/2 Ka Part Area 4000 Sq.Ft. Situated At Mova, Mahatma Gandhi Ward No. 25, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries East: Open Land, West: Road, North: Land Of Jayat Khan, South: Aarson Motors Boundary Wall	9-Jan-23	Rs. 2644388.63 (Rupees TwentySix Lakh FortyFour Thousand Three Hundred EightyEight Paise SixtyThree Only) together with further interest @ 14.05% p.a till repayment.

You the Borrower/s and Co-Borrower/s/Guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above-mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 Days of this Notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above mentioned security/ies. Please Note that as per Section 13(13) of The Said Act, You are in the meanwhile, restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

Place: Chattisgarh
 Date: 21.01.2023

FOR POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LTD (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Ltd) Authorised Officer

Union Bank of India
 Branch- GE Road, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

CORRIGENDUM

In the Public Notice Published in Central Chronicle- Raipur Edition on 26/12/2022 for which Through this notice, we also wish to draw the attention of all Customer of our GE Road Branch (SOLID 17691), Union bank of India located at Vasant Vilas Door No 9/10, Shesh Bada, Tayapara, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G. 492001, will shifted to Our Ashram Road Branch premises situated at Shop No G1 and G2, Guru Ghansi das Plaza, Ashram Road, Aamapara, Raipur 492001 on 10.02.2023. Please note to call on us in the above new premises for operation of locker from 11.02.2023. These lines has not mentioned on previous advt.. So please read / treated as this.

Date: 21.01.2023 Senior Manager, Union Bank of India, G.E. Road, Raipur Branch

BRIEF



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspect developmental works in Mirzapur village during his 'Samadhan Yatra' in Bihar Sharif, Friday.

Himachal HC

New Delhi: Justice Sabina, the senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, was on Friday, appointed its acting chief justice. In a notification, the Department of Justice in the Union law ministry said she would assume charge on January 21 following the retirement of Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Sayed demits office on Friday on attaining the age of 62 years. "In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint, Smt Justice Sabina, senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that high court, with effect from January 21 consequent upon the retirement of Shri Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed, Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court," the notification read.

Lion spotted

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat forest department's efforts to develop new habitats for the Asiatic lion got a boost as a big cat has been spotted in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in the state's Porbandar district for the first time since Independence, officials said on Friday. The three-and-half-year-old male lion entered the sanctuary some two days ago after spending considerable time near Porbandar town and preying on cattle, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Nityanand Srivastava said. "It is a good sign a lion has been spotted inside Barda Wildlife Sanctuary for the first time after Independence. The Forest Department has been trying to develop this sanctuary as a second home for lions. We also run a breeding centre for herbivores in the sanctuary to increase the prey base," Srivastava informed.

Politically redundant

Tikamgarh (MP): Madhya Pradesh Congress chief and ex-CM Kamal Nath on Friday said his former party colleague and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who dethroned him two years ago, has become "politically redundant" even in his pocket borough Gwalior, expressing confidence that his party will win the assembly elections due by the year-end. "When Scindia was there, why did they (Bharatiya Janata Party) lose the mayoral elections in Gwalior and its adjoining city Morena to the Congress last year," he asked. Nath was in Tikamgarh, about 270 km from the state capital Bhopal, for an event.

Students detained for protesting against 'ban' on non-veg food at Hansraj College

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Forty students staging a demonstration outside DU's Hansraj College against a "ban" on non-vegetarian food were allegedly detained by police on Friday, a students' organisation representative said.

Scores of protesters had gathered outside the college to protest against the decision but the students claimed that the college refused them entry and locked its gates.

According to the police, there were around 30 to 35 students protesting against the ban.

The Hansraj College unit of the Students' Federation of India (SFI)

on Wednesday called for a protest outside the college hostel against the "discontinuation" of non-vegetarian food at the institution.

"We began our protest peacefully. However, the college administration did not let us in. They have shut all gates and no officials are coming out to talk to us," SFI activist Sama said.

"We wish to submit a memorandum but they are not allowing us entry," she added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "The protesting students were asked to disperse from the spot, however, when they did not disperse, 14 to 15 students were detained

and later released."

The students had said Hansraj College stopped serving non-vegetarian food at its canteen and hostel after it reopened following the pandemic in February last year.

The SFI has claimed that there have also been instances where the Hansraj administration confiscated eggs from students who brought them to the hostel.

The majority of students of Hansraj are against this ban on non-vegetarian food and see this as an attempt to establish cultural hegemony, the student group said.

Hansraj College principal Rama Sharma has refused to withdraw the

order despite facing widespread criticism and asserted the DU constituent college follows Arya Samaj's philosophy.

Speaking to PTI, Sharma has also claimed that 90 per cent of the students are vegetarian and they had earlier protested over non-veg food being served in the hostel.

"We are not going to withdraw the notice regarding non-veg food. It is an Arya Samaj college. We have our philosophy and that is why we won't serve non-veg food. We conduct 'havan' regularly. We follow our rules. It is written in the hostel prospectus that non-veg food will not be served in the hostel," she had said.

SC refuses to entertain pleas against Bihar govt's decision to hold caste survey

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a batch of pleas challenging the Bihar government's decision to conduct a caste survey in the state.

A bench of justices BR Gavai and Vikram Nath said there is no merit in the petitions and dismissed them with liberty to the petitioners to approach the high court concerned.

"So this is publicity interest litigation. How can we issue directions on how much reservation should be granted to such and such caste? How will they (state) determine how much reservation is to be

granted to whom? Sorry, we can't issue such directions and can't entertain these petitions," the bench told the counsel for the petitioners.

The top court, which was hearing three petitions on the issue including one filed by an NGO, said the petitioners can approach the Patna High Court for an appropriate remedy.

"All the petitions are dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to seek appropriate remedies in law," the bench ordered.

On January 11, the top court had said that it would take up the matter on January 20, after one of the petitioners mentioned an urgent listing of the matter.

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Delhi government has "again sent" a proposal to the Lt Governor's Office to send teachers of state-run schools for a training programme to Finland, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday, days after VK Saxena allegedly rejected a similar proposal.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also expressed hope that permission would be granted for the teachers to travel abroad for the programme.

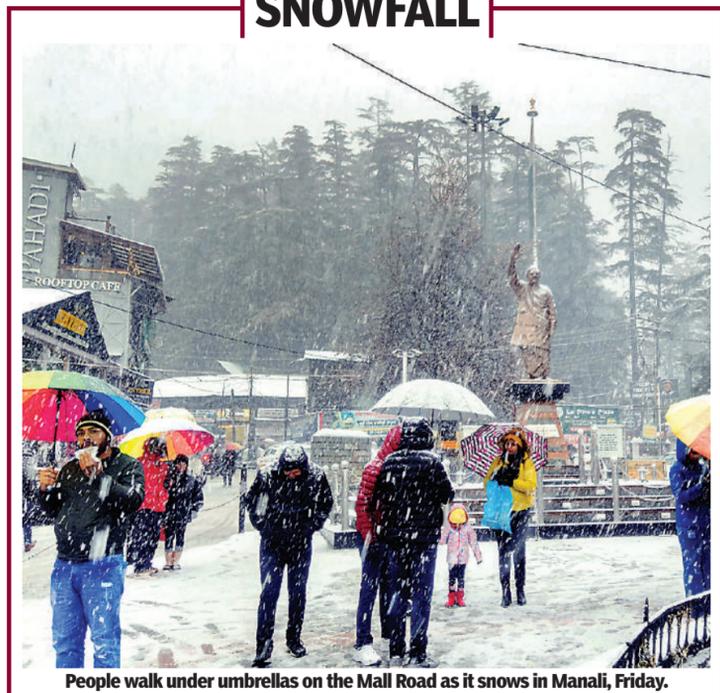
The Delhi government had alleged that while returning the earlier proposal, Saxena asked them to first conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the programme.

Members of the AAP,

led by Atishi, protested outside the Lt Governor's residence last week over the issue.

The Raj Niwas, however, said at the time that the "LG has not rejected the proposal for the training programme for primary-in-charges in Finland. Any statement on the contrary is misleading and mischievously motivated". Sisodia, who is also the Education minister, said in a tweet in Hindi, "The proposal to send Delhi government teachers to Finland for training has been sent again to the LG."

Quoting Sisodia's tweet, Kejriwal said, "I hope the Hon'ble LG will permit Delhi government school teachers to go abroad for training."



People walk under umbrellas on the Mall Road as it snows in Manali, Friday.

SNOWFALL

Delhi govt again sends Finland training programme file to LG

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Delhi government has "again sent" a proposal to the Lt Governor's Office to send teachers of state-run schools for a training programme to Finland, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday, days after VK Saxena allegedly rejected a similar proposal.

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Quoting Sisodia's tweet, Kejriwal said, "I hope the Hon'ble LG will permit Delhi government school teachers to go abroad for training."

The fresh proposal was sent amid rising tensions between the Kejriwal government and Saxena over several issues.

Kejriwal had earlier said Saxena twice returned a file containing the proposal, asking if a cost-benefit analysis of the programme had been done.

The Raj Niwas, in a series of tweets, then clarified that the Lt Governor had only advised the Delhi government to evaluate the proposal in totality and assess the effectiveness of such foreign training programmes undertaken in the past.

Saxena advised the government to identify similar training programmes in Indian institutions, it had said.

56 incidents of stone pelting reported under NFR in 2022

Guwahati, Jan 20 (PTI)

Over 50 incidents of stone pelting were reported under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in 2022, and an "intensified" awareness drive has been launched in the wake of multiple reports of stone throwing on the new Vande Bharat Express, an official said. An NFR statement said 56 incidents of stone pelting were reported under it in 2022, while three such instances have been reported till January 17. Three persons have so far been arrested this year in connection with such incidents, it said.

"Stone pelting on trains happens routinely. We conduct awareness programmes among people to not be involved in such ac-

tivities as these are criminal offences under the Railway Act," the NFR official, who requested anonymity, said.

"We have launched an intensified drive to create awareness about the issue, especially after multiple incidents of stone pelting on the Vande Bharat Express in recent times," he said. At least two such incidents were reported under the NFR on January 2 and January 3 when miscreants pelted stones on the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, which was flagged-off on December 30. The official said youngsters are mostly found to be involved in such incidents, and emphasis is laid on covering this section during the drive.

IAF chief stresses on utilising available resources to best potential

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 20 (PTI)

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, on Friday emphasised that the IAF should derive relevant lessons from the recent geopolitical scenarios and effectively utilise all available resources to their best potential.

While delivering an address at the Southern Air Command headquarters here, he reiterated on the challenges faced by the IAF to adapt to the ever-changing situations and technological advancements.

He underlined that efficient training and innovations are necessary to en-

sure that the IAF remains a future-ready force, a defence statement said.

The Air Force chief lauded the efforts of Southern Air Command on IAF's performance during military exercises with friendly foreign armed forces, particularly in offensive air operations.

He said that due to the high professional standards of the IAF, many foreign nations are keen on carrying out joint military exercises with Indian armed forces, it said.

Chaudhari was here to attend the Commanders' Conference of Southern Air Command.

He was accompanied by Neeta Chaudhari,

President, Air Force Family Welfare Association (AFFWA).

On arrival, the Chief of Air Staff was presented with a ceremonial guard of honour, a defence statement here said.

Subsequently, Air Marshal J Chalapati, AOC-in-C, Southern Air Command, briefed the IAF chief on the operational preparedness of the wing for the air defence of the Indian peninsula and the island territories, the enhanced capability in maritime air operations and the strong potential capability of IAF assets which provide the nation with an effective deterrence, the statement added.

Assam govt committed to protect cultural heritage of all ethnic groups: CM

Morigaon, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Assam government is committed to preserve the cultural heritage of all indigenous groups of the state, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

The BJP government is "very sensitive" to the preservation and promotion of the language, culture and traditions of all ethnic groups of Assam, he said at the open session of the three-day Jonbeel Mela, a unique fair of the Tiwa community where barter exchange of goods takes place. "We are committed to do all that is re-

quired to protect the culture of all tribes, including the Tiwas," Sarma said. The chief minister also assured the organisers of the fair that all possible financial assistance will be provided to maintain the unique elements of the event, besides allotment of 20 bighas of land for organising it. Sarma handed over cheques of royal subsistence grant of Rs 1.25 lakh each to 18 ceremonial kings of the Tiwa Kingdom. The Jonbeel Mela, usually held on the Thursday after Bhogali Bihu, is a community festival believed to have begun in the 14th century.

Maliwal dragging case 'Accused harassed another woman on Jan 17'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Friday alleged that the man accused of harassing her outside AIIMS had also "preyed on another woman" in a similar fashion earlier this month.

Maliwal alleged that she was molested by a drunk man while on an inspection at night and dragged for 10-15 metres by his car outside AIIMS with her hand stuck in the vehicle's window. The accused, a 47-year-old man, has been arrested. "The person who harassed me has also preyed

on other women. One woman reported on the 181 helpline that on January 17 this man had repeatedly circled around her with his car on Lodhi Road, asking her to get in. I am thankful that I got him caught. I appeal to everyone to not be afraid but raise your voice," Maliwal said in a tweet in Hindi. Maliwal also shared a video of the woman narrating her ordeal of being harassed by the man. "In today's newspaper I saw that the chairperson of Delhi Commission (for Women) had been harassed and there was a picture of the perpetrator.

Let administration decide on Bharat Jodo Yatra route in Kashmir: Congress

Srinagar, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Congress wants to take the Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, through the interiors of the Kashmir valley, but has left the decision on the route of the foot march to security agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, party leader Chetan Chauhan has said here.

"We have carried out reconnaissance and submitted two routes — one through the national highway and another through the interiors of Kashmir. Now it is up to security officials and the administration whether they will allow us or not," Chauhan told PTI as the yatra entered Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

He said the Congress has not released the yatra's route plan in Kashmir due to security



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves after the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Kathua district, Friday.

reasons. "We have not released the route of this yatra in Kashmir (yet) because we have not received a clearance from the security officials so far," he added.

Chauhan, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) coordinator, is here to review the arrangements for the yatra, which is likely to

enter the valley on January 27.

"Some hoardings have been installed. As the yatra comes closer to Kashmir, more will be installed," he said.

The Congress leader said the yatra, which began from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu in September, will culminate in Srinagar on January

30, after covering a distance of almost 3,500 kilometres.

"On January 30, a huge rally will be held at the cricket stadium in Srinagar for which all preparations have been made. It will be a historical event. People are enthusiastic (about it)," he added. Chauhan said 12 to 15 political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), will join the yatra.

"We are getting a huge response and support from the locals in the valley," he said. Chauhan said the aim of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to counter the hate being spread in the country and raise the real issues being faced by people. "Since the beginning of the yatra, the BJP has been trying to fool the country.

AAP hits back at Cong over Rahul Gandhi's 'remote control' remarks

Chandigarh, Jan 20 (PTI)

The ruling AAP in Punjab has attacked Rahul Gandhi over his allegation that the government in the state was being remote controlled, saying the Congress used to summon former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi often to Delhi.

On Thursday, Gandhi at a rally in Pathankot had alleged that the Bhagwant Mann government in

Punjab was being run with a remote control as he sought to point towards Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha for calling the shots in the state.

Opposition parties in the state have been attacking Mann, claiming that his government is being remote controlled by AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Congress' 52-year-old

youth @RahulGandhi ji eats almonds, your memory has become weak!" the AAP's Punjab unit tweeted late Thursday night after Gandhi rally, which was a part of the Congress' Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Gandhi family used to often summon the then chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and he used to go to Delhi, the party said in its tweet in Hindi.

Delhi Assembly to organise Delhi Youth Parliament from January 23-25

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Delhi Assembly will organise Delhi Youth Parliament 2023' from January 23-25 on its premises and 84 students from esteemed universities and colleges of the city will take part in the event, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said on Friday. Addressing a press conference, Niwas said the

youth parliament will provide these students with an opportunity to understand the parliamentary process of law-making and discuss urgent matters of public importance in a real-time frame. "The youth of Delhi would be educated about various legislative processes like resolutions on steps to discourage Chinese products and promote indige-

nous goods', increasing enrollments in higher education', steps to address over-filled landfills' and steps to improve women's security," Niwas said. "Questions on issues related to the public interest, two bills namely Advancement of Higher Education Bill, 2023 and Universal Healthcare Bill, 2023 will be raised," he added.

Existing international order created for West interest; world needs new one: Zardari

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

The existing international order was created keeping in mind interests of the West and the world needs a new one where voice of the Global South can be heard, Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Friday.

Speaking at a session during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023 here, he also favoured peace negotiations to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

"Unfortunately, geopolitics is reflecting a lot of domestic politics these days. There is a hyper polarisation that is happening. Similarly the international order and institutional frameworks that held the world together, those are also being undermined by the hyper polarised times



Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with other panellists at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023, in Davos, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 20.

and hyper partisan," he said. Zardari said the old international order for dispute resolution has certainly failed and there is a need for a new and an improved rules-based international order to address the issues.

"And for building that new order, voice of Global South must be heard for it to be successful...The entire international order is

structured in the interest of the western world, which may be so because it was created in a colonial world. We need to take into account the Global South, Africa and Asia," the minister said. The Pakistani leader said the Ukraine war is the first time when international order and the UN security council resolutions have been violated. "I believe that diplomacy is the key thing that

is missing. I want to tell my Ukrainian friends that NATO was there in my neighbourhood too, but the Afghan tragedy finally ended when all sides sat together on a table," he added. "I fail to see why we can't have some serious international players try peace negotiations side by side. What is the worst that can happen? It will fail but still that must be tried," he added.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST



Lima: Anti-government protesters who traveled to the capital from across the country to march against Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, pelted the police with rocks during clashes in Lima, Peru. Protesters are seeking immediate elections, Boluarte's resignation, the release of ousted President Pedro Castillo and justice for up to 48 protesters killed in clashes with police.

Defence leaders meet amid dissent over tanks for Ukraine

Ramstein Air Base, Jan 20 (AP):

Defence leaders gathered at Ramstein Air Base in Germany heard an impassioned plea for more aid Friday from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as they struggled to resolve ongoing dissent over who will provide battle tanks and other military aid to his embattled country.

"This is a crucial moment. Russia is regrouping, recruiting and trying to re-equip," U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin warned as the meeting opened.

Zelenskyy, speaking live via video link, told the gathering that "terror does not allow for discussion." He said "the war started by Russia does not allow delays." Calling it a decisive moment for Ukraine and a "decisive decade for the world," Austin said the group's presence in Germany signalled their unity and commitment to continue supporting Ukraine.

"We need to keep up our momentum and our resolve. We need to dig even deeper," Austin told the gathering of as many as 50 defense leaders who were

attending in person and by video. Austin and U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were expected to discuss the latest massive package of aid the U.S. is sending, which totals 2.5 billion and includes Stryker armored vehicles for the first time.

But broader hesitation over sending tanks to Ukraine has roiled the coalition. Germany faces mounting pressure to supply Leopard 2 tanks to Kyiv, or at least clear the way for other countries, such as Poland, to deliver the German-made Leopards from their own stocks. The U.S. has also declined, at least so far, to provide M1 Abrams tanks, citing the extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehicle. The U.S. believes it would be more productive to send Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops would only have to get trained on that one,

versus needing far more training on the more difficult Abrams.

The United Kingdom announced last week that it would send Challenger 2 tanks, describing it as a natural progression of military aid to Ukraine.

At a Pentagon briefing Thursday, spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said the Leopard and Challenger aren't comparable to the Abrams tanks because the Abrams is much harder to maintain and wouldn't be a good fit. "It's more of a sustainment issue. I mean, this is a tank that requires jet fuel, whereas the Challenger, it's a different engine." The Leopard and Challenger are "a little bit easier to maintain," Singh said. "They can maneuver across large portions of territory before they need to refuel. The maintenance and the high cost that it would take to maintain an Abrams it just doesn't make sense to provide that to the Ukrainians at this moment."

Mahinda Rajapaksa thanks India for supporting Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe (R) shakes hands with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar during their meeting in Colombo.

Colombo, Jan 20 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday held discussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on a range of issues of mutual interest and thanked the Indian government for its steadfast commitment to assisting his country during its troubled times.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign as the prime minister in May last year following street protests in

the country against the government led by his brother and former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling of the unprecedented economic crisis. "Had successful discussions with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar & discussed a range of issues of mutual interest," Mahinda Rajapaksa tweeted.

"Also thanked the Indian govt. for its steadfast commitment in assisting #SriLanka during its

troubled times & the strong ties shared between Sri Lanka & India," the 77-year-old leader tweeted.

Jaishankar is in Sri Lanka to meet the country's top leaders to enhance bilateral ties and finalise a debt restructuring plan to help Colombo carve out a path from its economic crisis.

The IMF facility would enable the island nation to obtain bridging finance from markets and other lending institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022 due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family, which has dominated Sri Lankan politics for over two decades.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the patriarch of the Rajapaksa family, served as president from 2005 to 2015. He also served as the prime minister from 2004 to 2005, 2018, and 2019 to 2022.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजेन्द्र पार्क चौक, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
 दूरभाष क्र. 0778-2323633, E-mail: eedurg-phe-cg@nic.in

// निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना //

इस कार्यालय के निविदाओं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित निविदाओं को जीरो/पी.क्यू. में अपात्र होने के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

नि.सू.क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम
185, 210, 216, 211, दिनांक 02.12.2022, 06.12.2022, 22.12.2022, 06.12.2022	116104, 116332, 118026, 116333	राजपुर, चोंडा, कनहारपुरी, रीता, परसदाखुर्द, खिलौराकखुर्द, फुण्डा, गाड़गावट

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-978272

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग सेतु निर्माण संभाग दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

निविदा विज्ञापन क्र. 259/NIT-03/2022-23/व.से.लि. दिनांक 17.01.2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीयन ठेकेदार से निम्नलिखित मैनुअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

एन.आइ.टी. क्र. निविदा क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
6 T0022	राजनेंद्रगंज-अर्जुन-गुण्डरदेही मार्ग (एस.एच.-23) के कि.मी. 17/2 पर कुमालपुरी नाला पर निर्मित पुल के गेन्डी बोर्ड के विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	9.59
6 T0023	राजनेंद्रगंज-अर्जुन-गुण्डरदेही मार्ग (एस.एच.-23) के कि.मी. 8/6 पर डोहिया नाला पर निर्मित पुल के गेन्डी बोर्ड के विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	9.95

नोट:-
 1. निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.01.2023
 2. उपरोक्त निविदा की जानकारी विभागीय वेब पोर्टल www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur से भी अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 लो.नि.वि. सेतु निर्माण संभाग
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-978221

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

Applications are invited for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission

The details of eligibility etc and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website www.persmin.nic.in. The last date for receipt of applications in the Department is **22nd February 2023.**

CBC-32201/11/0008/2223

Nawaz Sharif blames Gen Bajwa & Gen Faiz for Pakistan's current turmoil



London/Islamabad, Jan 20 (PTI):

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif has blamed the ex-Army chief and ex-ISI head for the current turmoil in the country by rigging the 2018 general elections and installing Imran Khan-led government.

The former prime minister held ex-Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence Lt

Gen Faiz Hamid responsible for spinning Pakistan around for their personal wishes and whims, the Geo News reported.

Talking to the media on Thursday in London after meeting with a delegation of senior PML-N leaders from Pakistan, Sharif recalled his 2016 Gujranwala speech at the PML-N public gathering where he directly accused the ex-military men of rigging elections to make way for installing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in 2018.

At the time, Sharif blamed the military top brass for installing PTI's Khan as the prime minister in violation of the Constitution, removing his government, muzzling the media, pressurising the ju-

diciary, and victimising opposition politicians, the report said. When asked if he held Gen Bajwa and Gen Hamid responsible for the

state of the country, he said: "The reality is before everyone. Now no name or face is hidden. Pakistan was used for personal gain.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
 "A MINI RATNA COMPANY"
NOTICE

All the tenders issued by SECL for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of SECL <http://www.secl-cil.in>, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>

S-35384/13

NMDC Limited
 (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
 'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
 CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT - ENGINEERING & PROJECT DIVISION
 E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)
 Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/ DSICT/PLC/CP14 & DH14/KDL/2022/895 dated 21.12.2023
 [MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/93/22-23/ET/821]

NMDC Limited, a "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India invites online bids for 'DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF COMPLETE AUTOMATION SYSTEM OF CP-14 & DH 14 (01 SET) THROUGH REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT RELAY LOGIC SYSTEM (RLC) BY PLC AUTOMATION AT BIOM, KIRANDUL COMPLEX, CHATTISGARH WITH CAMC FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS AFTER WARRANTY PERIOD ON LUMPSUM TURNKEY (LSTK) BASIS' from prospective domestic bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.

Detailed NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/downloaded from 21.01.2023 to 20.02.2023 through the following websites:

- NMDC website: <https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender>
- Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>
- MSTC portal: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp

For accessing the bid document from NMDC website, the bidder has to register as 'New User' at NMDC's website link <https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender> For accessing the bid document from MSTC, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp and search the Tender Number NMDC/HO/93/22-23/ET/821. For further help, refer to 'Vendor Guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT.

The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC website/ CPP portal/ MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, CGM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax: 040-23534746, Tel: 040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief Manager (Contracts)

G-97765/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा, संभाग दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
 Email id : ee-res.durg@gov.in

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक-38

ज्ञा.क्र. 3762/व.से.वि./ग्रा.यां.से./2022-23 दुर्ग, दिनांक 13/01/2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीयन ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	स्वामी आत्मानंद उत्कृष्ट अंग्रेजी विद्यालय जामगांव (एम) में अतिरिक्त कक्ष निर्माण कार्य S.T.No. 120803	26.65

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में अथवा कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय में उपस्थित होकर दिनांक 13/01/2023 से देखी जा सकती है एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 27.01.2023 तक है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा संभाग
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-97752/1

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता,
जल संसाधन एवं भू-जल सर्वेक्षण मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए दिनांक 06.02.2023 समय 17:30 तक ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसकी जानकारी निम्नानुसार है:-

स.क्र.	कार्य का नाम	सिस्टम निविदा क्र./निविदा सूचना क्र. एवं दिनांक	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)
1.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड घरसीवा की बुड्डेरा जलाशय योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्ट्रूस का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 900 मी. एवं आर.डी. 0 से 180 मी. तक रिमोडलिंग एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी. एवं 10 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120099/28/वलेलि/2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	101.23 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के ए.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)
2.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तिलवा की परस्ता जलाशय योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्ट्रूस का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 1170 मी. एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी. एवं 07 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120100/29/वलेलि/2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	119.36 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के ए.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)
3.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड घरसीवा की मलौद ब्यपर्वतन योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्ट्रूस का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 1200 मी. रिमोडलिंग एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी., 02 नग फाल एवं 09 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120101/30/वलेलि/2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	125.85 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के ए.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 24.01.2023 समय 17:31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

नोट:- निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता,
 जल संसाधन संभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
 कृते, अधीक्षण अभियंता, जल संसाधन एवं भू-जल सर्वेक्षण मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-97765/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 109

WEF's Global Risk's report 2023: What it means for Indian Economy?

As a part of the tradition of the global CEO's body World Economic Forum (WEF), the annual five day jamboree at Davos has started and the Global Risk Report 2023 has been released mentioning both the existing risks as also the new dangers threatening the global economy. As a journalist who attended Davos meet two decades ago as a journalist, I can vouch with confidence that nothing much has changed in the approach of the MNC CEOs and the top thought leaders of the western world in the last 25 years, the only difference is the participants talk more of inequality these days since Oxfam simultaneously releases its global inequality report. Indian participation is sponsored by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This year, Indian Prime Minister is not attending. The industry participants always talk of the success of the economic reforms in transforming the Indian economy and how they are contributing to the economic growth of the country. The Indian CEOs take the view that the present problems are due to halting reforms and in so many words, their thrust is that the very democratic character of the country's political system creates the problem as the present government's moves are getting stalled at different levels. In the last eight years of rule by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, most of the industry bodies have fully identified with the Modi regime. This gets its full reflection at all the Davos conclaves in the last eight years. The basic issue of the Indian economy is growth is taking place at the cost of employment and widening of inequality. The industry people have made full use of the pandemic period to streamline their operations through job cuts and lowering of wages. They have taken the facilities and the concessions offered by the Narendra Modi government but have not transferred the benefits to their workers. In 2022 and now in 2023, Indian labour is being mistreated even after the easing of the pandemic and the uptick in the economy. As 2023 begins, according to the WEF report, the world is facing a set of risks that feel both wholly new and eerily familiar. We have seen a return of "older" risks - inflation, cost-of-living crises, trade wars, capital outflows from emerging markets, widespread social unrest, geopolitical confrontation and the spectre of nuclear warfare - which few of this generation's business leaders and public policy-makers have experienced. These are being amplified by comparatively new developments in the global risks landscape, including unsustainable levels of debt, a new era of low growth, low global investment and de-globalization, a decline in human development after decades of progress, rapid and unconstrained development of dual-use (civilian and military) technologies, and the growing pressure of climate change impacts and ambitions in an uncertain world. As the WEF's Global Risks Report sees it, next decade will be characterized by environmental and societal crises, driven by underlying geopolitical and economic trends. "Cost-of-living crisis" is ranked as the most severe global risk over the next two years, peaking in the short term. "Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse" is viewed as one of the fastest deteriorating global risks over the next decade, and all six environmental risks feature in the top 10 risks over the next 10 years. Nine risks are featured in the top 10 rankings over both the short and the long term, including "Geoeconomic confrontation" and "Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarisation", alongside two new entrants to the top rankings: "Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity" and "Large-scale involuntary migration".

The Report observes that the economic aftereffects of covid-19 and the war in Ukraine have ushered in skyrocketing inflation, and started a low growth, low investment era. In the New Year, inflation is under control in India but the low growth and low investment era is continuing. Earlier, many think tanks have predicted that the investment from China will be shifted to India, but the latest opening up of the Chinese economy and the moves of Beijing to take extra measures for keeping the wages in China at lower level to attract the investors, may have to be reckoned by India. Already, many foreign institutional investors have shifted from Indian stock market to China. There is need for ensuring the flow of foreign direct investment in the areas of the Indian economy needing latest technology. The WEF Report has talked of accentuation of livelihood crisis in the coming period and this is very relevant to India. The Report categorically mentions that even if some economies experience a softer-than-expected economic landing, the end of the low interest rate era will have significant ramifications for governments, businesses and individuals. The knock-on effects will be felt most acutely by the most vulnerable parts of society and already-fragile states, contributing to rising poverty, hunger, violent protests, political instability and even state collapse. Further, economic pressures will also erode gains made by middle-income households, spurring discontent, political polarization and calls for enhanced social protections in countries across the world. Governments will continue to face a dangerous balancing act between protecting a broad swathe of their citizens from an elongated cost-of-living crisis without embedding inflation - and meeting debt servicing costs as revenues come under pressure from an economic downturn, an increasingly urgent transition to new energy systems, and a less stable geopolitical environment. The resulting new economic era may be one of growing divergence between rich and poor countries and the first rollback in human development in decades. There is clear message from the Report to India which the Modi Government can transform into actual action in favour of the vulnerable sections of the population. India is among the most affected countries with minimum social security for the unorganized as also a section of organized. The acute distress of those who lost jobs during pandemic has only led to the further downhill journey of poverty level as also the fall in the living standard of the poor and middle class. This issue can be tackled effectively by implementing a minimum basic income scheme for the people below the poverty line and the jobless till they get jobs. This is being implemented in some Latin American countries. Leading economists like Amartya Sen, Abhijit Banerjee and Dr. Pranab Bardhan have supported this scheme. The issue is in a country like India, where the social protection schemes are so limited, the basic income scheme can not only protect the millions, this scheme will lead to the pepping up of consumption and consequent demand. The 2023-24 budget makers can take signals from the WEF report and do something really substantial for the vulnerable sections of the country's population by adopting the basic income scheme and simultaneously taking up measures for the crash generation of jobs. That is the prerequisite for a growth oriented budget for fiscal 2023-24.

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

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

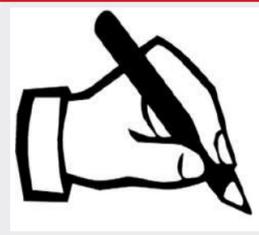
JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL



Tanzanian-British novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah speaks during the Jaipur Literature Festival, in Jaipur, Friday, Jan. 20.

Union Budget 2023-24 must ensure inclusive education

DR. GYAN PATHAK



Poor households of the country have increasingly been put into precarious conditions as far as education of their children are concerned. Public educational institutions, which are the only destination for poor students, are deteriorating in imparting quality education due to a range of issues including insufficient budget among others. Even fundamental right to education has not been honoured, which is reflected in decline in budgetary allocation for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan compared to 2020-21, while population is increasing. Education, beyond this primary level, have been made costlier through a range of policies, a general trend under PM Modi rule since 2014. Tuition fees have been increased and taxes have been imposed on educational services and input materials that have made reading and writing materials unaffordably costly for poor students.

Such an environment has been creating two distinct worlds of privileged and unprivileged students. The entire education system is heading toward disempowering the unprivileged students through blocking their paths to quality and universal education - right from simple reading and writing materials to quality and affordable educational institutions. Union Budget 2023-24 should therefore must in-

creased budgetary support to public education system, and ensure that private educational institutions also must earmark certain number of seats for unprivileged students since most of them derive benefits from public resources and certain other facilities from the government. The last three years under the shadow of COVID-19 is marked with huge learning losses at all level of education. Union government is yet to come out with effective programmes to make up this learning loss. The crisis has led to a new system of education which is known as online education. Online and offline education are now to stay. However, poor students are still not able to access online education or virtual classroom due to lack of proper electricity and internet connectivity and instruments like mobile, laptops, or desktops.

Huge digital gaps are there not only between students of poor and rich households but also between the urban and rural areas. This gap is also visible between the girls and boy students, and the students from educated and uneducated households. This is a measure of concern which need to be properly addressed now since the future economies and employments would be heavily dependent on traditional and digital knowledge, skills and trainings. It would be very unfair if we do not provide equal educational access but would insist on 'competition' between the privileged and unprivileged, only to insure that students from privileged households only succeed an all spheres of life. Budget 2022-23 had increased Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan budget by Rs6000 crore, but was still below the budgetary allocation for 2020-21. Budgetary allocation for teachers training and adult education was reduced to almost half from Rs250 crore in 2021-22

to Rs127 crore in 2022-23. Union government must take note of the new requirement of teachers training in the light of hybrid (physical classroom and digital) education, and also for the effective implement of the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 right from pre-primary to higher education level. Teachers and students both need to be technology enabled.

Imposing GST on educational services is indeed a bad idea which includes Ed-Tech, training, coaching and other related educational activities. Taxing education is a greed and no civil society should tax it. Union Budget 2023-24 must remove all taxes on services and goods that make education costly and unaffordable for majority of Indians at a time when more than 81 crore people out of 140 crore population survive on 5 kg free foodgrains per month. The NEP2020 emphasizes a new framework for pre-primary education. How can it be implemented if there would not be any clear policy for funding and appropriately trained teachers and other personnels? The Union Budget 2023-24 therefore clearly needs to have appropriate allocation in this regard. NEP lays much emphasis on compulsory and vocational training from secondary education level. It would need huge funding and trained human resources if we really want our students to have an exposure to vocational education from their early school days.

Education sector expenditure have been almost stagnant over the last few years at 3.1 per cent of the GDP. According to the Economic Survey for 2021-22, it was only 2.8 per cent in 2019-20, and 3.1 per cent in 2020-21 revised estimate and 3.1 per cent in 2021-22 budgeted estimate. The NEP-2020 has said that the government would make efforts

to increase it to 6 per cent of the GDP, but did not mention the year by which Modi government intends to do it. Universal school education remains a dream. NEP 2020 aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 per cent gross enrolment ratio in school education by 2030, will bring 2 crore out-of-school children back into the mainstream, gross enrolment ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 per cent by 2035 with 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education, among others. All these are easier said than done. Union Budget 2023-24 will need to considerably enhance the educational expenditure if there are to be achieved.

Among these sugar-coated words a contradiction exists that says every college would develop into either an autonomous degree-granting college or a constituent college of a university. It only means making education even more costly, since the burden of funding education would be ultimately shifted to students, and only those student could be able to access higher education who can afford it. Budget allocation for education in 2022-23 was only Rs 1,04,278 crore (2.6 per cent of the total Union budget) as against Rs 93,224 crore (2.7 per cent of the Union budget) in 2021-22. However, the revised estimate for 2021-22 shows that the Centre spent only Rs 88,002 crore which was only 2.3 per cent of the total budget, even less than 2.4 per cent in 2020-21 (actual). We hope that Centre must utilize the allocated fund and refrain from making higher allocation only to boast that allocation has been increased. Common people need access to education and the Union Budget 2023-24 must ensure it, and must not left them behind by making education further unaffordable for them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jacinda Kate Laurell Arden

New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Kate Laurell Arden, has said she is resigning, in an unexpected announcement that came as she confirmed a national election for October. Jacinda Arden became the world's youngest female head of government when she was elected the 40th Prime Minister (PM) in 2017 at 37. Her term as prime minister will conclude no later than 7 February but she will continue as an MP until the election this year. Interestingly, she also made headlines again in 2018, when she became only the second prime minister in the world to give birth to her daughter while in office - after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990. During her tenure as the PM, she has led New Zealand through the Covid-19 pandemic, and a series of disasters including the terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch, and the White Island volcanic eruption. After doing great work for her country when in service and now stepping down the moment Arden feels she can't carry on with her duties in an expected manner instead this is time required for daughter Neve Te Aroha and get married with Clarke Gayford. She values life's priorities. As a sensational female leader and PM leaving the job gracefully. Whereas from the next day of accession in the PM chair, our PM only focus is how to get re-elected for next term again through a 400 days program even after two terms. That's why though New Zealand is a small but developed country and we are not.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Drug syndicate

The higher incidence of cross-border drug smuggling and the recent busting of a drug syndicate have again raised serious concerns. Despite major drug seizures from time to time and the arrest of petty peddlers and erring policemen, successive governments have failed to check the menace, courtesy the nexus between politicians and the police. The government should show political will and devise a strategy to bust this well-organised racket. With a proactive NCB and the state police, the political leadership should take strict action against the drug lords.

DS Kang, Hoshiarpur

With a pinch of salt

Pakistan's temporary overtures of peace with India can't be taken at its face value. The conciliatory tone by the Pakistan PM, followed by an immediate U-turn, is nothing new. Pakistan's policy of belligerence, cross-border terrorism, hate and falsehood against India, irrespective of any government - military or civil - is predictable and consistent. Its collusion with China to thwart India's growing international clout is all too obvious, besides bleeding India through daily cuts in J&K. All political parties in Pakistan are in a fierce competition to show this animosity, as was evident by their recent immature utterances of its foreign minister. Nothing positive and tangible can be read into it. It is a ploy to tide over its present financial nightmare and diplomatic challenges. India must not lower its guards and should remain ever alert against unreliable neighbours whose inimical intentions are too obvious.

Capt. JS Boparai (Retd), by mail

Divorce isn't always the best answer



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Divorce, today, has gone to an average home which is generally the last line of defence for any society like ours. It is rightly pointed out that "The impact of divorce on children can be deep and life long". Marriage is now no longer a sacred word and divorces no longer a dirty one. Marriages are changing because women are changing - both in the metropolis and in the smaller towns. A signifi-

cantly growing number of Indians are flooding the divorce courts to escape from unhappy marriages and assert their newfound independence. The number of broken families has increased after became easy. Society has treated divorce as taboo for long. There are a thousand reasons for a marriage to break. But there is one more reason for a compromise. Marriages survive on account of moral fear. Change in attitudes towards divorce is a part of the process of secularization in Indian society. Secularization refers to the declining influence of religion. Divorce is not a happy option for couples.

Marriage is considered to be an unbreakable union of life according to Hindu scriptures, regardless of its success or failure. Divorce means the termination of marital relations. It means dissolution of

the marital bond. Technically speaking, divorce means a decree of dissolution of marriage. Divorce is a process through which marital bond ceases to be in existence as per law and the couple can no longer be called the husband or the wife. Hindu marriage is regarded as sacred because it is a bond of indissoluble nature. In any society when the married persons feel that they cannot live together, they have no other alternative but to dissolve the marriage.

Divorce is the final dissolution of marriage. As far as Hindus are concerned, the bond of matrimony was regarded as permanent bond and dissolution of marriage was generally not regarded as proper. When couples divorce, the greatest causality is not the relationship but the children. It also shows that marriage is no longer a sacred

word and divorce no longer a dirty one. A marriage is a union of two families, not just two individuals. There have been steady rises in divorce rates in India throughout recent decades. The causes of marital breakdown in the form of divorce or separation in India are different from that of the Western countries. However, many factors are associated with the rise in divorce rate in India.

The changing attitudes towards divorce have been institutionalized by various changes in laws which have made room for divorce. Divorce legislations were influenced by the notion of suffering and unhappiness of the adults trapped in the so called 'empty-shell' marriages, where the spouses live together but their marriages exist in name only. These legislations provided grounds for divorce

and made divorce considerably easier.

According to the World Press review finding (1987), divorces are on the increase to such an extent that all major cities of India have had to create 'reconciliation bureaus' to help estranged couples. For better or for worse, divorce has become the way out. The pati-parmeshwar has rudely and gradually been brought down to earth. Moreover, most children of divorced parents lead a volleyball existence that is thrown from one side to the other without a safety net for their emotions. In many cases, men seeking divorce are prepared to return whatever they have received as dowry. The question is how to bring an end to this practice? Will divorces continue for ever? If so, a day will come when our society as we see it today will cease to exist.

BRIEF

Irdai

Mumbai: The insurance industry will need a capital infusion of Rs 50,000 crore per year to double its penetration in the next five years, sector watchdog Irdai's chief Debashish Panda said on Friday. Panda appealed to business conglomerates to channelise funds into the sector, saying the return on equity is at a healthy 14 per cent for life insurers and 16 per cent for non-life, while in the case of top five companies it goes up to 20 per cent as well. It can be noted that the insurance sector is a very competitive industry, with nearly two dozen life insurance companies and over 30 non-life ones.

JSW Steel

New Delhi: JSW Steel on Friday posted a sharp 85.50 per cent fall in its December quarter consolidated net profit to Rs 474 crore mainly on account of higher expenses. The firm had clocked a net profit of Rs 4,516 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. Total income during the October-December quarter of the ongoing fiscal rose to Rs 39,322 crore from Rs 38,225 crore a year ago. Expenses were also higher at Rs 38,238 crore as against Rs 31,986 crore.

Chetu

Noida: Chetu, a leading provider of world-class software development and support services, has announced the details of the company's growth for the 2022 fiscal year, as well as future projects and partnerships. The company stated that it exceeded Rs. 606 crore (\$74.48 million USD) in revenue and saw more than 10 percent in growth company-wide. Entering its 23rd year of operation, Chetu experienced its best financial year on record, generating over Rs. 606 crore in revenue and exceeding double-digit growth for the second year in a row.

Bajaj Finance

Pune: Once again, Bajaj Finance has happy news for all the investors, and it has increased the FD rates by up to 40 bps points. The new rates will be effective from January 20, 2023. According to the announcement, the interest rate for FDs with a maturity of 44 months will be 8.10% p.a. for senior citizens, and 7.85% p.a. for customers below 60 years of age. The new rates will be applicable to all new deposits and renewals with Bajaj Finance for a tenure of 12 to 60 months.

Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's on Friday affirmed long-term deposit rating of State Bank of India (SBI) and upgraded it for Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda on improving credit profile. The outlooks on long-term ratings of all the four banks remain stable, Moody's Investors Service said in a statement. Moody's has affirmed the Baa3 long-term local and foreign currency bank deposit ratings of SBI.

India bright spot amid global crisis; PM Modi's leadership critical in fractured world: WEF Chairman

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in a fractured world, the World Economic Forum's Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said India is a bright spot amid the global crisis.

After attending an India reception on Thursday night during the WEF Annual Meeting 2023, Schwab said India is promoting a just and equitable growth for all in the world during its G20 presidency, while also making significant progress on the most pressing domestic challenges. "India's G20 presidency comes at a crucial time, Prime Minister Modi's leadership is critical in this fractured world," Schwab said. The



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (L) arrives on stage next to World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab at the Congress centre during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos.

WEF also issued a statement and said it values its nearly 40-year collaborative history with India and looks forward to continued cooperation with the country during its G20 presidency under Prime

Minister Modi's leadership. The WEF said its annual meeting is taking place at a time when multiple crises have deepened divisions and fragmented the geopolitical landscape. Governments and businesses must address people's immediate, critical needs while also laying the groundwork for a more sustainable, resilient world by the end of the decade, leaders have said here.

The WEF said the programme simultaneously addresses immediate crises and long-term future challenges and helps set the scene for India's G20 presidency. "I had the pleasure of meeting the Indian ministerial delegation and many of its top business leaders," Schwab said.

Swiggy lays off 380 employees

CEO Majety says overhiring 'poor judgement'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Online food delivery platform Swiggy on Friday laid off 380 employees as part of a "restructuring exercise" citing challenging macroeconomic conditions, with its CEO Sriharsha Majety saying that overhiring was a case of "poor judgement" where he should have done better. In an internal email, Majety, Co-Founder and CEO, also apologised to the affected employees and said the "extremely difficult decision" taken after "exploring all available options" and offered an employee assistance plan for the impacted people. He said the growth rate for food delivery has slowed down versus the company's projections. "This meant that we needed to revisit our overall indirect costs to hit our profitability goals.

While we'd already initiated actions on other indirect costs like infrastructure, office/facilities etc., we needed to right-size our overall personnel costs also in line with the projections for the future. "Our overhiring is a case of poor judgement, and I should've done better here," Majety said in the email. Earlier in the morning, he had addressed a townhall of Swiggy employees. As part of the employee assistance plan, Swiggy has offered cash payout ranging from three to six months based on the affected employees' tenure and grade. They will receive either an assured three months pay or notice period plus 15 days gratia for every completed year of service plus balance earned leave as per policy whichever is higher.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on global economic slowdown concerns

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the second day in a row on Friday due to a decline in index major Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, and Infosys amid concerns over global economic slowdown.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 236.66 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 60,621.77 with 20 of its constituents ending in red. During the day, it fell 273.18 points or 0.44 per cent to 60,585.25.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 80.20 points or 0.44 per cent to end at 18,027.65 as 36 of its stocks closed with losses.

"Shaking off the weak lead from Wall Street, domestic indices attempted

TANISHQ'S STORE INAUGURATION



US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman and Senator Robert Menendez with other dignitaries during the inauguration of Tanishq's store in New Jersey, USA.

to trade higher due to economic optimism that stemmed from China's reopening. However, concerns over the global economic slowdown eventually caught up and dragged markets lower," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Global Financial Services said that the equity market continued to trade lower in sync with developments abroad, mainly the US markets.

"While the probability of the Fed hiking rates further to slay the demon of inflation is quite high, the consequences of the rate action over a period of time translating itself into an economic slowdown is occupying the minds of

the investors." Thomas said. From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 3.84 per cent amid concerns over increase in royalty and central services arrangement fee to its parent Unilever group.

Reliance Industries declined by 1.15 per cent ahead of its financial results while Infosys closed lower by 1.03 per cent.

Among others, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti and Bharti Airtel also dropped.

Power Grid was the biggest gainer, rising by 1.2 per cent. HDFC Bank, HDFC, ITC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

Rupee gains 18 paise to close at 81.18 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

The rupee appreciated 18 paise to close at 81.18 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday on broad dollar weakness. However, weak domestic equities and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.24, and settled for the day at 81.18 (provisional), registering a rise of 18 paise over its previous close. During the trading session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 81.09 and a low of 81.28 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 81.36 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.21 per cent to 102.26. Global oil benchmark

Brent crude futures rose 0.48 per cent to USD 86.57 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee appreciated on Friday on soft US dollar and FII inflows on Thursday. "Dollar declined on increasing odds of a 25-bps rate hike by FOMC following disappointing economic data coming out from the US," Choudhary said. The US Federal Reserve Vice Chair Lael Brainard hinted that the US Fed may hike rates at a slower pace by 25 bps in the next Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting in February and is expected to hold higher rates for longer to tame inflation. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on a weak tone in the greenback. However, concerns over global economic growth and a surge in crude oil prices may cap a sharp upside.

Bentley drives in Bentleyga Extended Wheelbase in India priced at Rs 6 cr

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Ultra luxury car maker Bentley on Friday launched all-new Bentleyga extended wheelbase for the Indian market, priced at Rs 6 crore (ex-showroom Delhi).

The company's dealer in India, Exclusive Motors, said that with the addition of the new model it is aiming for at least 40 per cent sales growth in the current year over 2022.

"We sold 40 units last year and this year we are looking to sell around 60 units in the country," Exclusive Motors Managing Director Satya Bagla told PTI on the sidelines of the launch.

The company has commenced taking orders for the model, which comes



Exclusive Motors Managing Director Satya Bagla poses next to the newly launched Bentley's Bentleyga EWB Azure SUV, in New Delhi, Friday, Jan. 20.

with a 4-litre 550 PS V8 petrol engine. It takes around 7-8 months for the delivery of the car as the unit is imported into the country, Bagla said.

"The new Bentleyga Extended Wheelbase is the next chapter in the

Bentleyga story. This new SUV has a rear-cabin experience comparable to the legendary Mulsanne," Bagla said.

These advancements, along with the outstanding skills of Bentley's craftspeople, make the

Bentleyga extended wheelbase the ultimate luxury SUV to drive or be driven in, he added.

The Bentleyga extended wheelbase builds on the latest second-generation Bentleyga, extending the wheelbase and rear cabin space by an extra 180 mm.

The company has retail presence in three cities, Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad from where it caters to the customers.

When asked about growth potential of the ultra luxury car segment in the country, Bagla said: "The segment is growing and the only issue is high import duties which somehow impede the growth of the vertical. Gradually we hope the government will rationalise it going further."

Govt to introduce incentive scheme to boost R&D by pharma industry: DCGI Somani

Nagpur, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Centre is all set to introduce a research linked incentive programme shaped on the lines of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to boost research and development of biotech products in the country, said Drugs Controller General of India Dr V G Somani on Friday.

PLI scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

Somani was speaking on the first day of the 72nd Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Nagpur. The three-day event will cover various issues related to the pharmaceutical industry, aca-



demia and community pharmacy and will be attended by delegates from India and abroad.

The accomplishments of the Indian pharmaceutical sector during the COVID years were a huge boon for society, said Somani, who heads India's apex drug regulatory agency Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

"Firstly, the urgency to identify the virus (coronavirus) and secondly to develop vaccine, medicines and diagnostics for COVID-19 was not an ordinary challenge. But, with the encouragement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian pharmaceutical industry accepted this challenge and successfully developed the vaccine that not only saved millions of lives in India but also in several other parts of the globe," said Somani.

Underscoring the importance of policy reforms, innovation, and research and development, he said the government has taken several initiatives to aid innovative research and establish appropriate ecosystems.

KTM to sell electric version of Chetak in Europe from 1st qtr of 2024

Pune, Jan 20 (PTI):

Swiss sports bike maker KTM, which has a manufacturing joint venture with Bajaj Auto, on Friday said it will begin selling the electric model of the resurrected iconic Chetak in the first quarter of 2024 in Europe.

The 50.1:49.9 joint venture also rolled out the 1 millionth KTM bike from the Chakan plant near here. KTM claims to be the world's No 1 premium motorbike brand.

The E-Chetak especially the second generation, is a great commuter product for a market like Europe. If everything goes as planned we should be selling this e-scooter in Europe from early 2024. The European marketing

season begins in March and we should be ready by then, Stefan Pierer, the chief executive of Perier Mobility which owns the KTM brand told reporters here.

Since its launch in 1972, the Chetak became a household name over the decades but since the company made bigger from bikes, Bajaj Auto under the present management led by Rajiv Bajaj in 2006 discontinued the Chetak.

The iconic scooter made a comeback in October 2019 in the EV form and since then has sold over 24,000 units at price tag of Rs 1.4 lakh and is available in 40 cities now.

The Bajaj KTM tie-up began in October 2007 and the first bike was rolled out in 2011.

Fragmentation can cost 7 pc of global GDP: be pragmatic and collaborate: IMF chief

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

Asking the world to be pragmatic and collaborate, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on Friday said fragmentation can cost up to 7 per cent of the global GDP.

"If we don't unite now, we'll face significant risk to the economy and people's wellbeing," she said during a session on global economy on the last day of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023.

The International Monetary Fund Managing Director said if we look at medium-term growth prospects, how we handle the supply chain issues, that will decide our future



prospects. She said her message to the world is to "be pragmatic and collaborate".

Asked what will take the IMF to upgrade its global growth forecast, she said, "Last year, we downgraded the growth projections three times and not downgrading

further itself is good news at the moment." Also, the labour market needs to be looked at seriously, as for anyone, having a cost of living crisis and a job is much better than having no cost of living crisis and no job, she said.

"2022 was a weird year. There was no growth engine. But some things must be improving now or at least it has not been as bad as feared," ECB President and former IMF chief Christine Lagarde said.

China is now emerging again and that would be positive for the rest of the world also, though that may lead to some inflationary pressures, she added.

Product promotions: Govt makes it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose material interest

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose their "material" interest in endorsing products and services and violations can attract strict legal action, including ban on endorsements.

The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements as well protect the interests of consumers amid the expanding social influencer market which is projected to be worth around Rs 2,800 crore by 2025.

The new guidelines named 'Endorsement Know Hows' — for celebrities, influencers and virtual media influencers

(Avatar or computer generated character) on social media platforms' has been issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In case of violation, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 will be applicable.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) can impose penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers. For subsequent offences, penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh can be imposed. The authority can prohibit endorser of a misleading ad from making any endorsement for up to 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.



Priyanka Chopra responds to criticism of her use of surrogate

'Quantico' actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas is addressing criticism of her use of a surrogate. The actress, 40, shared with 'British Vogue' her journey to motherhood and life as a mom to daughter Malti Marie, who celebrated her first birthday earlier this week. Malti's birth was announced in a joint statement from Chopra Jonas and husband Nick Jonas, shared on their respective social media accounts, reports 'People' magazine. The news that their baby girl was born via surrogate was met with commentary and criticism that was hard for the new mom. "I've developed a tough hide when people talk about me," she told 'British Vogue'. "But it's so painful when they talk about my daughter. I'm like, 'Keep her out of it.'" "I know what it felt like to hold her little hands when they were trying to find her veins," she continued, referencing the fact that Malti was born three months premature. "So no, she's not going to be a gossip. I've been really protective of this chapter of my life with my daughter. Because it's not about my life only. It's hers too." As per 'People', Chopra Jonas went on to confirm that her use of a surrogate was medically necessary. "I had medical complications," she explained. "This was a necessary step, and I'm so grateful I was in a position where I could do this. Our surrogate was so generous, kind, lovely and funny, and she took care of this precious gift for us for six months." Noting that critics are unlikely to change their minds about her, Chopra Jonas levelled, "You don't know me. You don't know what I've been through. And just because I don't want to make my medical history, or my daughter's, public doesn't give you the right to make up whatever the reasons were".

Shahid cites 'Kantara' as example of why only spectacles seem to work

The audience's content preferences have changed in the last three years. This change has been catalysed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which even after three years, refuses to slow down.

Today, there is a clear demarcation in the mind of the audience about what they want to watch in theatres, because let's face it, going to the cinema is not a cakewalk because it involves some effort and then there are the hidden costs of fuel, parking, food and beverage, and not to forget the mind-numbing traffic and pollution.

According to Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor, who is gearing up for his web-series debut in the crime-thriller series 'Farzi', all said and done, good content will always work. He furnishes the recent example of the breakout success of last year's 'Kantara'.

The Kannada film, which has been written and directed by its lead actor Rishab Shetty, has broken new grounds and territories courtesy its rootedness and honest storytelling, something that will define the success of a film in the post-pandemic world.

"How would you judge a film like 'Kantara', man? It was not a spectacle when it was released. Of course, it is a spectacle to watch but it was the audience that made that film what it has become now," said Shahid.

Delving deeper, he said: "It's more about how cinematic experience a film could provide. I agree that there is a clear demarcation between different content pieces but I don't see this as a change in trend. I just feel that multiple things have happened in the



last three years and the differentiation is what I want to watch at home and what I am willing to watch in the theatres." Sharing his observation and insights, he expressed: "One thing that I have observed in the audience is that they are not willing to pay their hard-earned money for mediocre content. Unless your content is good, it has a certain scale, it has a certain entertainment quotient, it won't

work. The audience wants to watch good content. They are willing to walk into the theatres but you have to bring your A-game to the table."

One may sit down and analyse the impact of the pandemic on the film industries across the world, but at a human level, the pandemic's initial phase was very challenging for everyone more so for the film fraternity because to put their work together they

had to leave behind the social distancing and come together. Changing the course of conversation, the actor said: "Another thing is that the pandemic was very challenging for the entire fraternity because we work under certain conditions, this is a collaborative medium and there is a certain way of working."

"For instance, for 'Farzi', we hardly met before the shoot, we were constantly on Zoom calls trying to brainstorm from the confines of our homes staying as much safe as we could. "Filmmaking is a very tough and feel kind of a job, if you have to do a recce, you will have to visit the location and mark the boundaries for the shots, the props or the production design."

Shahid plays an artist turned counterfeiter in 'Farzi'. Shedding light on his character, he said: "I found this character to be a very interesting dichotomy since he is an artiste, he creates something but his creation causes destruction to the economy in the long run. "What I really love about Sunny (the character) is that I don't think he knows what he is or what he is capable of. I never judge the characters that I play, it's okay with me if people judge them or even hate them. My job as an actor is to put conviction and believability in my characters." He further mentioned: "My favourite line of this character from the series is that he says he is helping the system by actually putting in more money. Every criminal has a justification for their actions and so does he." 'Farzi' will be available to stream on Prime Video from February 10.

Chef Anahita, Special Guest Chef on 'Masterchef India'

The culinary reality format show 'MasterChef India' on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV has narrowed down to the "Top 15" home cooks. These fifteen fortunate contestants will continue to compete for the title of the season's victor. Chefs Ranveer Brar, Garima Arora, and Vikas Khanna judged the contestants based on the criteria of TIP- Taste, Innovation, and Precision. On Friday, 20th January, the contestants were given a 'Pressure test' and to judge the same, will be none other than, Anahita Dhondy Bhandari who hails from a Parsi family. She promoted Parsi cuisine and asking contestants to replicate her dish named 'Bhaji Dana Ma Goshl'.

Always one to promote her culinary roots, Chef Anahita will be seen representing Parsi cuisine on the national platform of 'MasterChef India' through her dish. She has always encouraged the thought that Parsi dishes be made a part of the global map of cuisines and coming to the show and teaching the contestants her dish would be a part of the same mandate. She has grown up having a palate deeply rooted in the Parsi culture. Growing up and having a special connection to her Parsi culinary heritage comes



from her mother and her grandmother. SodaBottle OpenerWala is where the Chef got her chance at wearing the chef's apron and toque blanche and there has been no looking back since then. Promoting her culture through food has been a dream of the Chef's and that dream also translated onto the dishes of the contestants on MasterChef India when they were asked to replicate Chef Anahita's Parsi inspired plat du jour. Six contestants who will be seen in the "Black Apron challenge" undergoing the "Pressure Test" will be seen making the special dish within the time of 30 minutes. Anahita would be seen interacting with

the contestants as they are cooking, giving them tips on how to better their dishes. In the end, according to a source close to the set, the challenge was appreciated by the chefs, "Chef Ranveer Brar would be expressing his pride in the contestants for cooking Parsi food, something which they have never explored before, thus thanking Anahita for her expertise and guidance."

The top 15 home cooks who were chosen are Priyanka Kundu Biswas from Kolkata, Aruna Vijay from Chennai, Priya Vijan from Bangalore, Dyuti Banerjee from Kolkata, Avinash Patnaik from Bhubaneswar, Santa Sarmah from Jagiroad Vill Amlighat, Nazia Sultana from Guwahati, Gurkirat Singh from Sirsa, Yashu Verma from Gazipur City, Kamaldeep Kaur from Ludhiana, Sachin Khatwani from Lucknow, Suvarna Vijay Bagul from Mumbai, Deepa Chauhan from Bangalore, Nayanijoti Saika from Tinsukia, and Vineet Yadav from Lucknow. Nazia Sultana would not be seen in this week's episodes since she had to go back home to care for her daughter. **Tune in to watch 'MasterChef India' every Monday to Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and streaming on SonyLIV.**

Rashmika thanks 'Vijay sir' as 'Varisu' collects Rs 201 cr in 1st week

Following a grand festive season response, the Thalpathi Vijay-Rashmika Mandanna-starrer "Varisu" has grossed Rs 210 crore in its first week and is expected to continue its victorious run at the box office.

Savouring the film's success, Rashmika said: "Looking at the massive love and appreciation being showered on 'Varisu' really warms my heart and makes me feel so grateful!" Directed by Vamshi Paidipally, Rashmika's performance in the songs 'Ranjithame' and 'Jimikki Ponnu' has been particularly appreciated by critics and audiences alike.

Rashmika added: "The story and its narrative is such that the moment I heard it, I was sure it would definitely connect with family audiences, so it was an instant 'yes' for me. And the cherry on



the cake was working with Vijay sir, which was a dream opportunity come true." Rashmika is looking at a blockbuster 2023 with four films scheduled to be released, one of them being "Varisu", across multiple languages. She will also be seen in "Mission Majnu", "Animal" and another film that is currently under wraps.

Nikki Tamboli: Last two years have been a real struggle

'Bigg Boss 14' fame Nikki Tamboli recalled going through mental stress and emotional breakdown after the demise of her brother Jatin Tamboli and how now she is trying to overcome that depressing phase. She also opened up about the kind of roles she is willing to take up in future. Nikki said: "I've been getting a lot of offers since getting out of 'Bigg Boss' but wasn't in the right frame of mind to make the right decisions. Dealing with the pain of losing a loved one, these last two years have been a real struggle."

"I was lost and it was difficult to stay positive while missing my brother. I was going through a phase of complete despair, even when I would smile in the company of thousands of people, I was dying inside." Nikki has participated in reality shows such as 'Bigg



Boss 14', 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11', 'The Khatra Khatra Show', and was also seen in the fictional drama 'Sirf tum'. She added: "Time flies but memories which he has left behind always keep playing on loop in front of my eyes. I even faced some rejections and also said no to some music videos. I guess whatever happened, it happened for a reason and maybe something much better is in store for me." Nikki shared about the kind of roles she is willing to do and added: "I feel I have the confidence to accept newer challenges and it's time to hit back hard. I would love to do the kind of roles that demand a lot of action and willingness to work in a biopic. I've been looking at scripts and keeping my options open but I needed something that I can connect to and can see myself doing."

Priyanka Dhavale to wear a 25 lakh bridal lehenga

If there's one thing that avid viewers of Shemaroo Umang's show 'Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho' have been eagerly waiting for, it is the wedding sequence. Yes! Fans of the show are yearning to see Kavya Sharma (Priyanka Dhavale) dress up as a dulhan in the upcoming episodes of the show. While the twists and turns of his highly-anticipated wedding sequence are still under wraps, the latest scoop from the sets will definitely raise viewers' curiosity. Well, we're talking about reel-life bride-to-be Priyanka Dhavale a.k.a Kavya's wedding lehenga. According to sources from Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho, the young actress is all set to wear a designer bridal lehenga worth Rs. 25 lakhs. Yes, you read that right! Priyanka Dhavale's lehenga

for the much-awaited wedding sequence for Shemaroo Umang's show will cost a whopping Rs. 25 lakhs. The actress will don a traditional heavily embroidered lehenga with a matching dupatta. Not only this, but sources also reveal that Priyanka will channel her inner 'desi woman' to complete her look with statement jewelry, maang tika, earrings, nath, chooda, and kalire latkans.

Priyanka will for the first time become a dulhan on screen, and by the description of her outfit, it seems she's going to look ravishing. While viewers are excited to witness the upcoming story, we get to know that Priyanka is also super excited to look her stylish best for the sequence. The wedding is just about to begin. But no wedding on Indian

Television is simple, it is filled with drama, twists, and turns. So, special Baraat of Shemaroo Umang, get ready to enjoy double the drama and double the fun on Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho. Will this Gwalior wedding have any hindrance or will the love triangle take a whole new turn? Viewers will find out soon on Shemaroo Umang, but one thing is certain, this wedding will be the most entertaining wedding of the year.

The romantic drama stars Amar Upadhyay as Karan and Harsh Nagar as Abhimanyu as the male leads and is a love triangle. Produced by Hawk Eye Vision (Suhail Zaidi and Amar Upadhyay), watch Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho every Monday to Saturday only on Shemaroo Umang at 9 PM.



CROSSWORD

540



ACROSS

- Slightly wet
- Coliseum
- Doll's cry
- China's continent
- Fables
- Face shape
- Affleck and Stiller
- Appraisal
- Fry lightly
- Piano part
- Grande

- Horn blast
- Naps
- Most strict
- MGM lion
- Drone
- Disdainful look
- Drying cloth
- Nevada neighbor
- Copenhagen natives
- Car for hire
- Radio receiver
- Forbidden items (hyph.)

- Sermon subject
- Bond creator _____ Fleming
- Casino game
- Actor's goal
- Conifer
- Circle segment
- Love (Ital.)
- Appointments
- Printed material
- Skirt length
- Glimpses
- Sandwich shops
- Send forth
- Finds a sum
- Snooze
- Rents out

DOWN

- Small quantities
- Out of port
- Revolutionary War militiaman
- Minister
- _____ snail's pace (2 wds.)
- Grating sound
- Otherwise
- Requirements
- Attack
- DaD's partner
- Turn aside
- Craze
- Female singers
- Ice pellets
- Long periods
- Take care of
- Chimney residue
- Closed
- Dancer's skirt

- Actor _____ Penn
- Choir member
- Divorce city
- Goof off (2 wds.)
- Outlet
- Draw the _____
- Inheritor
- Chicken noodle, e.g.
- Plane spotter
- Skidded
- Wanderers
- Glossy paint
- Mexican sauce
- Endeavored
- Prevented
- Motor inn
- Regulation
- Famous canal
- Rewrite
- Poses
- Curry letter
- Telepathy (abbr.)



Thakur or Malik? India weigh pace options ahead of Raipur's international debut



Indian captain Rohit Sharma with head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour during a practice session ahead of the second ODI cricket match between India and New Zealand, at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur, Friday, Jan. 20.

Raipur, Jan 20 (PTI):

India will be expecting more runs from the middle order and discipline in the death overs as they look for a series sealing win against New Zealand in the second ODI here on Saturday. With the city hosting its first-ever international game, a sell out crowd of 60,000 plus is expected to cheer the home team. After being down and out at 131 for six, New Zealand were allowed to score another 206 runs in the chase of 350 and that should

worry India. The visitors looked like getting a remarkable come-from-behind win but the individual brilliance of Mohammed Siraj stopped them. With the bat, Shubman Gill, who scored a scintillating double century, had singlehandedly taken India to a competitive total with the others falling by the wayside. Virat Kohli's individual effort had stood out in the previous game against Sri Lanka. Hardik Pandya, who has not been at his belligerent best of late, will be expected to give final flourish to

the innings. Accommodated in the middle-order following his double hundred performance in Bangladesh, Ishan Kishan would be itching to make the most of the opportunity after an off-day in Hyderabad. Skipper Rohit Sharma has looked good and got starts but has not been able to convert, and Saturday could his day. However, bigger concerns lie in the bowling department after the thrashing got from Michael Bracewell, who put the Indian attack to sword on Wednesday. India brought

Indian team fined 60 per cent of match fees for slow over rate

Raipur: The Indian team has been fined 60 per cent of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the first ODI in Hyderabad. Javagal Srinath of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be three overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration for Wednesday's series opener. "In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement. India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Nitin Menon, third umpire K N Ananthapadmanabhan and fourth umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal levelled the charge.

Shardul Thakur into the team at the expense of the super quick Uman Malik considering his batting abilities. But the management needs to decide quickly if it wants a bowler who can bat or a specialist who can rattle the opposition with extra pace and get wickets in the middle overs. Siraj has developed into an all phase bowler but others need to step up. Mohammad Shami was brilliant with the new ball but was taken to the cleaners by Bracewell. Hardik too was expensive. In the spin department, Washington Sundar had a game to forget while Kuldeep Yadav continued his impressive run. The team also has the option playing Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep together but it has stuck to one

wrist spinner and one finger spinner policy. New Zealand's never-say-die spirit came to the fore in the series opener and they would take a lot of heart from that. It won't be a regular occurrence that a number seven in Bracwell and number eight in Mitchell Santner will bring back the team from a hopeless situation. Finn Allen played some bold strokes but could not make it big. And in the absence of Kane Williamson, New Zealand need someone to anchor the innings. The pace trio of Henry Shiple, Lockie Ferguson and Blair Tuckner will be looking for more accuracy after being mercilessly attacked by Gill. It remains to be seen if Ish Sodhi regains full fitness for the must-win game for his team.

Australia maul South Africa 9-2, top Pool A and qualify directly for quarterfinals



Australia's Blake Govers scores a goal during the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 match between Australia and South Africa, at Birsamunda Stadium in Rourkela, Friday, Jan. 20.

Rourkela, Jan 20 (PTI):

Star forward Blake Govers scored four times, including from a penalty stroke, as title contenders Australia thrashed South Africa 9-2 to top Pool A and directly qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's World Cup here on Friday. Australia will face the winner of the crossover match between Malaysia and Spain in the quarterfinal match on January 24 in Bhubaneswar. Govers struck in the fourth, 15th, 19th and 20th minutes as the rampaging Australians led 7-1 at half time. His first and fourth strikes were field goals while the second one was from a penalty corner and the third from the penalty spot. Tom Craig (10th), Jake Harvie (22nd), Daniel Beale (28th), Jeremy Hayward (32nd) and Tim Brand (47th) were the other Australian goal getters at the Birsamunda Stadium. Ntuli

Nqobile (8th) and Kok Tevin (58th) were the scorers – both field goals – for South Africa. The Kookaburras slowed down a bit in the third and fourth quarters, just scoring a goal each. The fourth quarter saw both sides scoring a goal each. Five of the Australian goals were field efforts while three were from the penalty corners. Australia earned eight PCs as against five of the South Africans. In another Pool A match, Argentina and France scored a goal each in the final minute to play out a 5-5 draw in a dramatic contest. Argentina finished second in the pool with five points from three matches – one win and two draws – while France ended at third with four points – one win, one draw and one loss. Argentina will play the third place team in Pool B in their crossover match on January 22 in Bhubaneswar while France will take on the

second place team in Pool B the next day. France thought they had won the match 5-4 after Victor Charlet scored in the final minute from the penalty stroke but Argentina equalised after a few seconds through a penalty corner. Argentina earned four penalty corners in succession and scored from the last one to split points with France. Charlet (36th, 38th, 48th and 60th) struck four goals for France with two coming from penalty strokes. His first and last were from penalty strokes while the second and third were from PCs. Teyvez Etienne scored the other goal for France in the 11th minute. For Argentina, who had played out a 3-3 draw against pool topper Australia, Nicolas Della Torre (34th, 42nd and 60th) struck a hat-trick while Keenan Nicolas (3rd) and Martin Ferreira (51st) were the other goal scorers. The Netherlands and England also booked direct quarterfinal berths after topping Pool C and Pool D respectively on Thursday.

Amanjot shines on debut, spinners rule the roost



Amanjot Kaur became only the third India women's player to win a Player of the Match award on T20i debut.

East London, Jan 20 (PTI): Debutant Amanjot Kaur came up with a matured knock of unbeaten 41 off 30 balls as India fought back from a wobbly situation to post a 27-run win over South Africa in their Women's T20I Tri-Series opener here. Opting to bowl on a dry and slow Buffalo Park strip, the hosts sent back half of the Indian side inside 12 overs with just 69 runs on the board. From thereon, Deepti Sharma (33 from 23 balls) took control of the proceedings with the 23-year-old Amanjot playing the perfect second fiddle in their match-turning 76-run partnership off just 50 balls to prop India to a challenging 147 for 6 on Thursday night. In reply, the Indian spinners exploited the conditions well with senior off-spinner Deepti leading the show with figures of 3/30 to restrict South Africa to 120 for 9. India suffered an early setback as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur didn't play because of illness and in her absence Smriti Mandhana led the side. India did not have the best of starts as Mandhana got out cheaply for seven in the third over when she miscued one to Chloe Tryon at mid-off. Opening in absence of Shafali Verma, wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia (35 off 34 balls; 3x4s, 1x6) held on to one end but wickets kept on falling at the other side. After Mandhana's departure, Harleen Deol (8), Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and Devika Vaidya (9) also fell cheaply to have India in real trouble at 69 for 5 in 11.4 overs.

Vaibhav, Divij power Delhi to maiden win of season

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Vaibhav Rawal scored a fine century before pacer Divij Mehra's five-for dismantled Mumbai as Delhi notched a memorable eight-wicket win in a Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Friday.

It was Delhi's first outright win over heavyweights Mumbai since the 1979-80 Ranji Trophy final, when Bishan Singh Bedi's side got the better of Sunil Gavaskar's team by 240 runs. Bowling out Mumbai for 293 in the first innings, Delhi took a 76-run lead owing to Vaibhav Rawal's 114 and skipper Himmat Singh's 85. The 20-year-old Mehra, playing



Delhi's Hrithik Shokeen being greeted by Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan after the latter won the Ranji Trophy cricket match between Delhi and Mumbai, in New Delhi, Friday, Jan. 20.

only his second first-class game, then gave a masterclass in seam bowling at the Arun Jaitley Stadium as he ran through the much-vaunted Mumbai top-order. His scalps included Prithvi Shaw, Musheer Khan, Armaan Jaffer, first innings centurion Sarfaraz Khan, and Mohit Avasthi as he paved the way for Delhi's maiden win of the season.

Karnataka-Kerala match ends in draw; wins for Goa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan

Thiruvananthapuram: Karnataka gained three points after its Ranji Trophy Group C match against Kerala petered out to a draw on the fourth and final day here on Friday. The visiting team extended its lead to 143 runs adding 75 more runs to its overnight 410 for 6. Karnataka's total of 485 for 9 declared was built on a superb double ton by India Test discard Mayank Agarwal (208, 360 balls, 17 fours, five sixes) The Kerala batters made 96 for 4 in 51 overs to deny Karnataka any opening as the game

ended in a draw. Karnataka picked up three points. Meanwhile in Jodhpur, Rajasthan trounced Chhattisgarh by 167 runs and Goa registered an impressive innings win over Services in New Delhi. Services, who were 139 for 2 overnight, saw opener Ravi Chauhan score a valiant ton but that could not prevent the team from going down by an innings as they were dismissed for 304. In Puducherry, Jharkhand eased to a 10-wicket win over the host team, knocking off the target of 70 in the 27th over.

Bengal thrash Haryana, storm into quarters

Rohtak: Bengal pacer Akash Deep returned with a career-best 10-wicket match haul as Bengal stormed into quarterfinals with a thumping innings and 50-run victory over Haryana in their Group A Ranji Trophy match here on Friday. Resuming the final day on a precarious 177/7 following on, Haryana managed to last only 10 overs and folded for 206 with Akash wrapping up the issue, dismissing Ajit Chahal and Amit Rana en route to

a second successive five-wicket haul (5/51). Akash's 5/61 in the first innings had brought the home team's downfall for a paltry 153 as he returned with his maiden 10-wicket match haul (10/112). Mukesh Kumar (3/62) and Ishan Porel (2/42) also impressed as the Bengal pace trio unleashed their fury on a challenging Lahli track. Bengal posted a massive 419 in their first innings, thanks to Anustup Majumdar's gritty 145.

Americans Gauff, Pegula into 4th round at Australian Open



Melbourne, Jan 20 (AP):

American title favorites Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff had convincing third-round wins on Friday at the Australian Open.

The third-seeded Pegula, a quarterfinalist the past two years at Melbourne Park, needed 65 minutes for a 6-0 6-2 victory over Marta Kostyuk. Seventh-seeded Gauff beat Bernarda Pera 6-3 6-2 to reach the last 16.

Pegula raced through the first set and though Kostyuk established herself in the second set, she was always playing catch-up.

"I thought I just didn't give away a lot of free points," said Pegula, who will meet Barbora Krejickova, the 2021 French Open champion, in the next round.

"I was playing aggressive when I had to but also smart. Happy to be through to the next round."

Gauff had to withstand a barrage of big hitting from Pera.

"Today was a tough match," Gauff said.

"Bernarda hit the .I can't say that word she hit the ball really hard, I was just trying to hang in there. I'm happy to be through to the second week."

Top-seeded Iga Swiatek beat Cristina Bucsa, a qualifier from Spain, 6-0 6-1 in just 55 minutes. Last year's finalist Danielle Collins of the US was beaten 6-2 5-7 6-2 by Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Krejickova was the first player to advance to the fourth round after a 6-2, 6-3 win over Anhelina Kalinina to open play Friday at Rod Laver Arena.

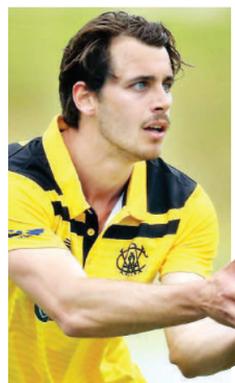
The 20th-seeded Czech player won the first five games of the match and dominated her Ukrainian opponent. Krejickova has not dropped a set in three matches.

Tearaway Aussie quick Morris eyeing Test debut vs India

Adelaide, Jan 20 (PTI):

Uncapped Australia pacer Lance Morris, fresh from being the season's leading wicket-taker in the Sheffield Shield, believes he has the "best chance" to make his debut in the opening Test against India in Nagpur on February 9.

The 24-year-old tearaway pacer, who has the ability to rack up deliveries at 150-plus kmph, has been included in Australia's 18-member squad for the first two Tests of the four-match Border-Gavaskar series. "I'm going to do everything I



can be as ready as possible," the West Australian was quoted saying by Fox Sports. With Australia's

quickest bowler Mitchell Starc unavailable for the opening Test of the series, Morris has a strong chance to wear the Baggy Green. Morris has been Starc's understudy and was in Australia's Test squad during their recent series win over South Africa. "If we're talking honestly, that's probably my best chance of playing over there. We'll see what happens," Morris said. "It's my first overseas tour in a cricketer's sense, so it will be a huge learning experience for me. I'm really excited to go away."

We missed Hardik in game against Wales: Akashdeep

Bhubaneswar, Jan 20 (PTI): India were far from being impressive in their 4-2 win over Wales in their final FIH Men's Hockey World Cup pool game and twin goal scorer Akashdeep Singh said the home team felt the absence of injured midfielder Hardik Singh.

Hardik, who sustained a hamstring injury and missed the Wales match, is uncertain for the remainder of the tournament.

India needed to beat Wales by a margin of eight goals against Wales on Thursday to top Pool D and qualify directly for the quarterfinals. But they failed to do so and will now face New Zealand in their



crossover match on Sunday to make it to the last eight stage. "We could not score too many goals in the first two quarters, we scored only one. But we were able

to score three more in the third and final quarters. I was able to contribute for the team, so I am very happy," said the 28-year-old Akashdeep, who has played for more than 200 senior international matches. "We could not make it to the quarterfinals directly but we hope to be there by winning our crossover match." Asked if the team felt the absence of injured Hardik, Akashdeep said, "Yes, when you have 18 players to play for a team, and because of some reason if you are one player less, the remaining players will play more time and become tired."

IAF air show captivates audience in Kalaikunda

Kalaikunda, Jan 20 (PTI):

Children as well as grown-ups erupted in rapturous applause as nine Surya Kiran aircraft in colours of day-glow orange and white flew past in low altitude in a marvelous display of aerobatics at the Kalaikunda airforce station here.

Flight Lt Ridhima Gurung, the spokesperson of the Surya Kiran team, said the aerobatic show was organised to encourage young men and women to join the defence forces.

"The Hawk Mark 132 aircraft entered in an arrow formation, carried out a loop, followed by a fly by in a diamond formation. Additionally, these took the shape of a rotor dedicated to the light combat helicopter Prachand, which has just been in-



Akash Ganga team of the Indian Air Force performs during the celebration of the Raising Day of Kalaikunda Air Force Station, in Kalaikunda, Friday.

ducted in the Indian Air Force," she told reporters.

Single aircraft displays, including a fly past in an inverted form, were performed by the team's commanding officer Group Captain GS Dhillon, Gurung said. Some scheduled aerobatic displays,

however, had to be cancelled owing to low visibility at Kalaikunda and its vicinity in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district, she said. Earlier in the day, a breathtaking para-jumping performance was given by nine bravehearts of the IAF.

Master warrant officer AA Baidya, who led the Akash Ganga team that performed the para-jumping in various formations, also said that the initiative was meant to inspire youth to join the Defence forces.

Air Officer Commanding, Kalaikunda Air Force Station, Air Commodore Ran Singh told reporters that the station had celebrated its Raising Day on December 14, but the air show to mark the occasion was organised on Friday.

The IAF's Surya Kiran team has made 600 air aerobatic performances, covering 72 locations in India, in its 26 years of existence, Gurung said. "The team has also performed abroad, in countries like Singapore, China, UAE and Sri Lanka," she added.

TRADE FAIR



A traditional way of extracting oil using a bull being displayed at an exhibition stall during the 'Millets and Organics - International Trade Fair 2023', in Bengaluru, Friday.

Tihar jail launches skill training for post-release rehab of inmates

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The country's largest central prison Tihar jail has started imparting skill training to over 1,000 inmates, being tried for petty crimes, with a purpose to reform and reintegrate them into society. Jail term in cases of petty crimes varies from six to nine months. They will be trained in food and beverage service related segments for three to four months in various batches, jail authorities said, adding that each batch will have 30 inmates. They said that 1,020 inmates will be trained by Primero Skills and Training Pvt Ltd. The programme aims to empower inmates financially and stop them from going back into crime, authorities said.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's stand on plea for employment of transgender persons

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre's stand on a petition seeking employment of transgender persons and quotas for them in public appointment.

Justice Prathiba M Singh made the central government a party to a plea by a transgender person, which also seeks effective implementation of the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

The court took note of the Social Welfare Department of the Delhi government writing to the Centre with regard to "anti transgender bullying

policies" as well as notification of rules under the Act, and asked the city authorities to state their stand on the petition.

"Considering the communications, it is deemed appropriate to implead Union of India... Issue notice," said Justice Singh observing that the petition raised an important issue.

The plea was filed last year after the petitioner was unable to apply following a vacancy advertised by the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board on account the online portal not having transgender as an option for identification of the applicant.

The petitioner said various positions that were advertised carried a specific

requirement about the gender of the candidate being a male or female.

The counsel for the Delhi government said since then steps have been taken to update the portal and it now recognises male, female as well as transgender as options for candidates.

The petitioner said the update was not sufficient as there are still posts requiring male or female candidates which will force a transgender to choose either of the two. The petitioner has termed it discriminatory and in violation of the transgender persons act.

The Delhi government counsel said the ruling dispensation has of its own

accord relaxed the minimum age requirement for transgender persons by 5 years and minimum marks requirement by 5 per cent.

Listing the matter for resumed hearing in March, the court clarified in the meantime, the petitioner will be free to apply against vacancies irrespective of the gender specified in the advertisement.

The petitioner has sought several directions to the authorities, including notifying separate vacancies for transgender persons in all advertisements issued for recruitment to teaching positions in schools administered by the Delhi government.

BJP chief Nadda coins HIRA' to highlight govt's focus on highways, internet, railways, airways

Ghaziपुर (UP), Jan 20 (PTI):

BJP president J P Nadda on Friday gave a new term HIRA' to the development lexicon, highlighting that the central government's focus has been on highways, internet, railways and airways. He also said when the entire world is reeling under a financial crisis, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, surpassing Britain.

"Today, I say that development means HIRA - H for Highway, I for Internet, R for Railways and A for Airways," Nadda said addressing a public meeting here.

"Today, when I was coming (from Kashi), I saw Ghaziपुर has changed a lot. Earlier, it took hours to reach Ghaziपुर from Kashi. Today, it took just one-and-a-half-hour," he added.

He also said India's growth in electronics has been six times higher and the export is Rs 70,000 crore. Referring to the Centre's direct benefit transfer (DBT) initiative, Nadda said, "There was a time when the country's prime minister used to say that he sends Rs 1 and only 15 paise reaches (the beneficiary).

Where does 85 (paise) go? But, today, through di-

rect benefit transfer, Rs 6,000 is transferred into the accounts of lakhs of farmers." He was apparently referring to former PM Rajiv Gandhi's remarks in 1985.

The BJP national president said under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving forward by leaps and bounds. "During the government of Akhilesh (Yadav), when we used to send money, it used to go somewhere else as there was a hole in the bowl (of the state government). No work was done on the ground using that money," he alleged.

PEACE RALLY



People from the Christian community take part in a peace rally, in Kolkata, Friday.

HC grants Dhoot interim bail

CBI's reason to arrest Venugopal 'quite casual' and 'sans substance'

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Friday granted interim bail to Videocon Group founder Venugopal Dhoot nearly a month after he was arrested in the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan fraud case, noting that the reason mentioned by the CBI for his arrest was "quite casual and without any substance".

Stating that an investigating officer cannot arrest any accused as per his "whims and fancies", the high court also rapped the special court saying it did not make any "serious efforts" to scrutinise the remand application as well as the case diary.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and P K Chavan further noted that there has been a calculated move by the CBI to "concoct non-attendance and non-cooperation" in the probe by Dhoot, but in face of the material placed before the court demonstrated Dhoot's diligence and bonafide.

Dhoot was arrested on December 26, 2022 and is presently in judicial custody. His lawyers Sandeep Ladha and Viral Babar said they would now initiate Dhoot's release formalities. This is the second time the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has received flak from the court

in this case. The same bench had of January 9 while granting bail to the co-accused in the case - Chanda Kochhar, former MD and CEO of ICICI bank and her husband Deepak Kochhar - had come down heavily on the CBI for making the arrest of the couple in a casual and mechanical manner and without application of mind.

The bench on Friday granted interim bail to Dhoot on a surety of Rs one lakh. The court permitted him to furnish cash bail and deposit the surety amount two weeks thereafter. The order was passed in a petition filed by Dhoot seeking interim bail and to

quash the CBI FIR. The court would hear the petition on February 6 on the main issue of quashing the FIR.

The bench, in its 48-page judgment, said arrest is not mandatory in each and every case, and added that in the present case the ground of arrest mentioned by the CBI was "quite casual and without any substance".

"The investigating officer cannot arrest the accused at his whims and fancies. Non-compliance of section 41 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) is apparent," the court said.

Section 41 of the CrPC

mandates a police officer to first issue a notice to an accused for questioning and to make arrest only when the custody of the accused is necessary. The order said that a police officer is not only expected to record reasons for arrest in writing but even in cases where he chooses not to arrest, he has to assign reasons.

Money laundering case

Court asks govt hospital to form medical board to examine Nawab Malik

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

A special court here on Friday directed the state-run JJ Hospital to constitute a medical board to examine and determine the health condition of NCP leader Nawab Malik, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital since May 2022. Malik was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on February 23, 2022 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

In May 2022, the special court, designated to hear cases registered under the

PMLA, refused to grant bail to Malik on medical grounds, but permitted him to get admitted to a private hospital for treatment. The ED, in September, filed an application seeking to constitute a medical board to verify Malik's health condition. Special Judge R N Rokade on Friday directed the dean of JJ hospital to constitute a medical board, comprising the head of the urology department, a nephrologist and the head of department from the general physician department. "The board shall conduct a detailed examination and determine the health condition of the accused Nawab Malik," the court said.

The Staff Selection Commission will conduct the multi-tasking (non-technical) staff examination, 2022, in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English for the first time, an official statement issued on Friday said.

The 13 regional languages are Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Konkani, Manipuri (also Meiti), Marathi, Odia and Punjabi, it said.

The SSC is one of the largest recruiting agencies of the government with its main mandate being recruitment to all Group B (non-gazetted) and Group C (non-techni-

cal) posts in various central ministries/departments. The medium of examinations conducted by the Commission is normally Hindi and English.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the move is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing a level playing field to all job aspirants and to ensure that no one is denied an opportunity or being at disadvantaged due to language barrier.

He said the move will fulfil the long pending demand of candidates from different states, and particularly from south India, for the exams being conducted earlier in English and Hindi.

"This is likely to benefit a very large number of candidates from all over the country," the minister added. Singh asserted that after this historic move, efforts are on to gradually include all the languages mentioned in Eighth schedule to the Constitution.

He said PM Modi during the inauguration of the "Kashi Tamil Sangamam" in Varanasi in November last year had pointed out that 'despite having one of the world's oldest living languages, i.e., Tamil, we lack in honouring it fully'.

Singh said it is the continuous endeavour of SSC to provide level playing field to different sections of the population so as to bridge the regional dispar-

ities and attain the ideals of the Constitution while at the same time celebrating the linguistic diversity of our country.

The minister said in order to review the scheme and syllabus of examinations conducted by the Commission, including the medium in which the examinations are conducted, the Department of Personnel and Training had constituted an expert committee.

It has, inter-alia, recommended that it would be in fitness of things to conduct the examinations for lower-level posts in multiple languages, which to begin with, can start with a few languages and then gradually increase to include all

the languages mentioned in Eighth schedule to the Constitution, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. The government has accepted the recommendations of the committee, it added.

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BRIEF



An artist makes busts of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for his upcoming birthday, at Krishnanagar in Nadia, Friday.

Road rage

Bengaluru: A man was dragged on the bonnet of a car for a kilometre in a road rage incident in the city on Friday, police said. The CCTV footage of the incident has gone viral on social media showing one Darshan struggling to stay put on the car, allegedly driven by a woman identified as Priyanka. According to police, a road accident between Darshan's car and Priyanka's vehicle took place on the Jnanabharathi Main Road in the morning. As Priyanka's car allegedly crashed with Darshan's car, the latter came out of the vehicle. When Darshan tried to stop the car and speak to the occupants, Priyanka allegedly accelerated the car at high speed and drove away.

EC displeasure

New Delhi: Days after Congress leader Ajoy Kumar was allegedly attacked in Tripura, the Election Commission on Friday conveyed its "displeasure" to the state chief secretary and police chief and asked them to explain as to why the situation got escalated despite presence of sufficient number central forces, sources said. The poll panel also took "stringent" action against some officers "for not taking appropriate action in time". It ordered suspension and immediate removal of Jirania sub-division, West Tripura sub divisional police officer. The poll watchdog also ordered immediate removal of officer-in-charge of Ranibazaar police station and officer-in-charge of Jirania police station.

Girl suicide

Latur: A 14-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide citing mental harassment by her teacher in Maharashtra's Latur district, police said on Friday. Shrawani Sanjay Naiknavare, a Class 9 student at a private school, allegedly hanged herself at her house in AUSA Road on Wednesday evening, an official said. In a suicide note recovered from the scene, the victim claimed that a male teacher in the school had mentally harassed her by taunting her in class, he said. Based on a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the official said, adding that no arrest has been made in this regard.

Weather
High 30 Low 17

MARKET
NIFTY 18,027.65
SENSEX 60,621.77

BULLION
GOLD 56,625
SILVER 68,367

WFI chief compares wrestlers' protest with Shaheen Bagh stir

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh refuses to quit

Nandini Nagar (Gonda, UP), Jan 20 (PTI): Underfire Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Friday termed the protest by the country's top grapplers "dharna of Shaheen Bagh" and reiterated that he won't quit from the post. The agitating wrestlers on Friday reached out to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), demanding formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief. However, Singh has stuck to his stand to not relinquish the post. "The protest by wrestlers against me is the dharna of Shaheen Bagh," Singh, who is also a six-time Lok Sabha MP from UP's Kaisarganj constituency,



Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh arrives to speak with the media regarding recent allegations of sexual harassment against him, in Gonda district, Friday.

told reporters in his native place here. Singh also termed the protest in Delhi's Jantar Mantar an attack on BJP and orchestrated by the Congress party. Earlier speaking to a TV channel, he had said, "The protesting players have become a toy in the hands of Congress and Deepinder Hooda. This type of conspiracy was done against me by the Congress almost three decades ago. Once again the conspiracy has been repeated. "I had earlier said that there was a conspiracy, and big powers are behind it. Now those forces are coming out in the open." He added, "The picture becomes more clear with the tweets and statements by Congress general

secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Deepinder Hooda. This attack is not only on me, but on the Bharatiya Janata Party through me," Singh had said. Singh is scheduled to hold a press conference at Nandini Nagar Stadium in Gonda later in the evening.

Top Indian wrestlers had on Thursday refused to back down from their demand to disband the WFI as they met union sports minister Anurag Thakur. Celebrated Indian wrestlers, including Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, world championship medallist Vinesh Phogat and others have been staging a sit-in protest for the past two days at Jantar Mantar against the WFI president, accusing him of sexual harassment and intimidation.

PARADE REHEARSALS



National Service Scheme volunteers march past during rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade 2023, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, Friday.

New York-Delhi flight urination incident DGCA slaps Rs 30 lakh fine on Air India, suspends pilot license for 3 mths

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Air India as well as suspended the license of the pilot-in-command of the New York-Delhi flight in which a person allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger.

In the incident, which happened on November 26, 2022, the watchdog has also slapped a fine of Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of in-flight services for failing to discharge her duties.

The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident, which came to the notice of the Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA) only on January 4. This is also the first time that DGCA has penalised an airline for unruly passenger behaviour onboard a flight. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it is in receipt of the DGCA order and studying it. "We respectfully acknowledge the gaps in our reporting and are taking relevant steps to ensure that the same are addressed. We are also strengthening our crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents involving unruly passengers," the airline spokesperson said. On Thursday, Air India had imposed a four-month flying ban on Mishra, who is in jail now. Earlier, the airline had

barred him from flying for 30 days. In its statement on Friday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said enforcement actions have been taken in the incident, which came to the notice of the regulator on January 4.

The watchdog had issued show cause notices to Air India's Accountable Manager, Director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

DGCA examined the written replies of Air India and the personnel involved and decided on the enforcement actions.

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

A charge sheet filed by an investigating agency is not a public document, the Supreme Court said on Friday, holding that putting it in public domain will violate the rights of both the victim and the accused.

The top court made the observations while hearing a plea by journalist Saurav Das seeking free public access to charge sheets and final reports filed as per Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. "If the relief as prayed in the present petition is allowed and all the

SC to hear plea of disqualified Lakshadweep MP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear on January 27 the plea of Mohammed Faizal, who was disqualified as Lok Sabha MP following his conviction in an attempt to murder case, challenging the Election Commission's press note announcing conduct of by-election in his erstwhile Lakshadweep constituency. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Faizal, that he wanted the Kerala High Court to decide on his plea for suspension of conviction and sentence before the by-election is notified.

chargesheets and relevant documents produced along with the chargesheets are put on the public domain or on the websites of the State Governments it will be contrary to the Scheme of

the Criminal Procedure Code and it may as such violate the rights of the accused as well as the victim and/or even the investigating agency. "Putting the FIR on the website cannot be equat-

ed with putting the charge sheets along with the relevant documents on the public domain and on the websites of the State Governments," a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said.

The top court dismissed the PIL for lack of merit. The apex court orally observed that if FIRs are given to those unrelated to the case like busybodies and NGOs, they might be misused. Advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted it is the duty of every public authority to put out that information suo motu (of its own accord).

Govt may announce PLI scheme for more sectors in Budget

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The government is likely to extend fiscal incentives for the production of toys, bicycles and leather and footwear in the forthcoming budget as it looks to expand production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to cover more high-employment potential sectors, sources said.

The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel.

The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results, sources said.

A proposal to extend PLI scheme benefits to different sectors such as toys and leather is at advanced stages of finalisation and there is a likelihood that it may figure in the Budget, they added.

One of the sources said there are some savings from this Rs 2 lakh crore which could be considered for other sectors.

The Budget for 2023-24 is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

Goddess Kali poster row

SC says no coercive action to be taken against filmmaker Leena Manimekalai

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

In a relief to filmmaker Leena Manimekalai, the Supreme Court on Friday granted her interim protection from coercive action in connection with FIRs registered against her in various states over a controversial poster of her upcoming documentary film showing goddess Kali smoking a cigarette.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha issued notices to the Centre, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments on her plea.

The top court noted that a look out circular has been issued against her. "No coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner either on the basis of FIRs or pursuant to any FIR which may have been lodged or may be lodged in relation of the same matter..."

"At this stage, it may be noted that lodging of FIRs in multiple case may be of serious prejudice. We are inclined to issue notice so that all FIRs can be consolidated in one place in accordance with law," the bench said.

Advocate Kamini Jaiswal, appearing for Manimekalai, submitted

she had no intention of hurting religious feelings. She said the objective of the film was to depict the goddess in an inclusive sense.

In her petition filed through advocate Indira Unninnayar, Manimekalai has said her attempt as a creative filmmaker was not to offend the religious sentiment of anyone but to depict the image of a radically inclusive goddess. She has said her documentary film shows the broad-minded traits of the goddess.

She has made the four states respondents in her plea along with some individuals.

Congress to launch campaign to spread Rahul's message across India

Kathua (J&K), Jan 20 (PTI):

The Congress will launch a two-month door-to-door campaign across India from next week to spread Rahul Gandhi's message among the masses, senior leader Jairam Ramesh said on Friday. The Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is a fight between the BJP-RSS combine's ideology and the Congress, which has always believed in unity and brotherhood, Ramesh said and mentioned that his party had prepared a "charge sheet" against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government. "The Congress has prepared a charge sheet against the Modi government that will be released in Delhi on Saturday. We will go with copies of the charge sheet along with the message of Rahul Gandhi to every household in the country," the Ramesh, the Congress general secretary said at the end of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's first day here.

BRAVERY AWARD



(L-R) Krishna Menariya from Rajasthan, Azaan Kapoor from Punjab and Krishna Nimesh Sheth from Maharashtra who are selected for the National Bravery Award, during a press conference ahead of Republic Day 2023, in New Delhi, Friday.

ISRO spy case

HC grants former cops advance bail

Kochi, Jan 20 (PTI): The Kerala High Court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to four people, including a former Director General of Police (DGP), in connection with the 1994 ISRO espionage case.

The Supreme Court on December 2 last year quashed the Kerala High Court order granting the anticipatory bail to the accused and remanded the matter back to the High Court and directed it to decide the issue within four weeks.

Justice K Babu, while granting the anticipatory bail, directed them to appear before the investigating officer on January 27. The High Court directed the investigating agency to grant them bail in

case the accused were arrested on that day and asked the accused to appear before the sleuths every Monday and Friday for the next two weeks after that. The court banned the accused also from travelling abroad and granted bail on sureties worth Rs one lakh.

The apex court had directed the High Court to decide the petitions "afresh on its own merits." The Supreme Court directive came on the CBI's appeal against the High Court order granting bail to former Gujarat DGP R B Sree Kumar, two former police officers of Kerala S Vijayan and Thampi S Durga Dutt, and a retired intelligence official P S Jayaprakash.

Woman naval air operations officer to lead Indian Navy's contingent at R-Day parade

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Lt Commander Disha Amrith, a woman naval air operations official posted at a strategic base, will lead the Indian Navy's Republic Day contingent of 144 young sailors and its tableau will showcase the 'Nari Shakti' in force.

Navy officials said three women and five men Agniveers will also participate in the parade at Kartavya Path.

Besides Amrith, another woman officer — Sub Lt Valli Meena S — will be among the three platoon commanders of the naval contingent. A Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from BMS College

of Engineering in Karnataka, 29-year-old Amrith was part of the National Cadet Corps's Republic Day team in 2008 and harboured the dream of being part of the marching contingents of one of the three services at the celebrations in Delhi.

"Since 2008, I was nurturing this dream of being part of the Republic Day contingent of the armed forces. It is an amazing opportunity that the Indian Navy has given me (to lead the naval contingent)," she said.

The officer, who hails from Mangaluru, got into the Navy in 2016 and has been posted at a key naval facility in the Andaman

and Nicobar islands after completing her training in 2017. "I am an aviator for Dornier aircraft and have been carrying out sorties in the plane," she told PTI.

Last month, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said the Navy is looking at opening all its branches for women from 2023.

Sharing her experience, Amrith said she always wanted to be part of the armed forces and it was partly inspired by her parents as well. "My father also wanted to be part of the services but could not. I am proud to be part of the Navy and will continue to serve the Navy with full zeal and dedication," she said.

Trainee IAS officers visit flagship schemes of CG Govt

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: On Friday, a team of 22 trainee IAS officers witnessed the ambitious projects of Chhattisgarh government. On their arrival to Bhilai, they met Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas. He detailed the team about the major schemes of the government.

After meeting the BMC Commissioner, the team went out to get acquainted with the important schemes of Chhattisgarh government. The team came to know about the health benefits people are getting from the camp of the Mobile Medical Unit.

Along with medical consultation, the beneficiaries are getting free pathology tests, medicines, etc. The team interacted with the doctors and the beneficiaries who had come for treat-



ment and inquired about the benefits of the health camp. Beneficiaries stated that health camps are organized near their home and locality through mobile medical units.

They do not need to go to other places and wait in long queues. Further, the treatment is done free of cost. The team members praised the scheme of Chhattisgarh Government. Trainee IAS team visited

Dhanwantri Medical Store where the people are getting medicines with 55 percent discount. The team said that this scheme will prove to be a boon for the poor and middle class people.

They expressed happiness over the availability of medicines through the scheme in the hospital premises itself. The team of IAS trainees also visited the C Mart and appreciated the collection of handmade



products from different districts of Chhattisgarh under one roof.

IAS Trainees also visited Swami Atmanand English Medium Government School Sector 6. They over- saw the different models made by children and inspected the Physics, Chemistry and Biology Lab. They received information about the concept and purpose of Swami Atmanand English

Medium School.

They also visited the astronomy lab. The team members stated that it is a great initiative in the education sector. They spoke to the students and were impressed with the quick response of children in English. Sub-Divisional Officer Jageshwar Kaushal, Superintending Engineer BK Dewangan and others were present during the visit.

Chamber delegate inspects parking possibilities under overbridge on NH

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Bhilai Unit on Friday accompanied the officials of National Highway, PWD Department and Municipal Corporation and inspected the under construction flyover on GE Road. During this, the traders, under the leadership of State General Secretary of the Chamber, Ajay Bhasin, demanded that parking arrangements be made under the flyover, on which the officials agreed and assured to make arrangements. In this regard, a detailed discussion took place between the chamber members and the officials.

Giving information in a press communique, State General Secretary of the Chamber, Ajay Bhasin said that the Chamber had been demanding for a parking



arrangement under the under-construction flyover on GE Road since long. He added that there is a lot of parking problem in the markets adjacent to GE Road including Power House and Supela Akashganga of the city. In such a situation, parking arrangement under the flyover will provide a lot of relief not only to the traders but also to the common people. It was in this regard that chamber delegation visited the spot. During this, the chamber members

talked about developing this place on the lines of Rajnandgaon, so that along with parking, a well-organized and beautiful arrangement can be made here. SK Jha from PWD Department, Abhijeet Soni from National Highways Department, Corporation Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Sanjay Sharma and chamber members Vinay Singh, Prakash Makhija, Babi, Sunil Mishra were mainly present during the discussion.

Cleaning of 'nullah' near Kelabari-Surana College initiated on war-footing

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: The cleaning of small and big drains located in the city including all those in various wards under Durg Municipal limits is being continuously done under strict monitoring. Where there are complaints of filling of garbage in the drains located in the wards, cleaning is being done on a priority basis by deploying cleaning gangs.

For this, the staff of the Health Department of the Municipal Corporation is active. On the directions of MLA Arun Vora, Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, the corpora-



tion staff is engaged in cleaning work with promptness.

On Friday, the cleaning work of Kelabari Surana College Ward No 40 drain has been started, and the entire stretch is being cleaned, which was in-

spected by Health Department in-charge Hameed Khokhar. Apart from this, cleaning of drains is done regularly in the whole city.

In the same sequence, ward number 40 drain cleaning work is in

progress. Cleaning of Shankar Nagar drain is being done continuously, from Malviya Nagar to Santrabari, Sindhi Colony, Shankar Nagar via Girdhari Nagar and all the drains of the city including Urla Basti.

20 youth depart for Chandigarh under Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 20 tribal youth including 10 boys and 10 girls from Kanker for a tour to Chandigarh. It is the second group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme.

The group of tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and one male officer / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising fourteen such tours this year for about 290 youth.

Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic



and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educa-

tional and employment opportunities available there.

They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu interacted with the youth at BSF Headquarters in Risali before their departure for Chandigarh. They extended greetings and best wishes to the youth.

Webinar organised on 'Human Trafficking- Modern Day Slavery'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Department of Education and Department of Sociology of St Thomas College jointly organised a Webinar on 'Human Trafficking- Modern Day Slavery'. The programme began with the welcome speech of principal Dr MG Roymon. Administrator of the college father Dr Joshi Varghese graced the occasion by giving his presence.

Dr Sudha Bharadwaj, Trade Unionist and Human Rights Lawyer, Mumbai was the Guest Speaker of the event. Dr Sudha Bharadwaj, focused on the



various causes of human trafficking and how it can be controlled and various Provisions in the Penal Code to curb this menace from the society. The students of BA and BEd actively participated in the discussion hour of the webinar and made it a sounding success. Head of Education Department, Dr

Sheeja Thomas, introduced the guest speaker and Head in charge of Sociology Department, Deepthi Santosh, proposed the Vote of Thanks. Dr Rupa Shrivastav conducted the program. Dr J Maju, Chandan Dekate and Dr Hari Prakash Sonwanji extended technical support.

PIL Champion Ashwini Upadhyay to deliver lecture on Ramrajya and Constitution

At Kalamandir on January 22

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Renowned Supreme Court Lawyer and prolific PIL petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay is going to deliver a lecture on Ramrajya and Constitution of India at Kalamandir in Civic Centre on January 22. Prabuddha Parishad, Chhattisgarh is hosting this event. Retired Judge Maitreyi Mathur will preside over this program

while MP Vijay Baghel will be the special guest.

Media in-charge Akhil Mishra informed that Ashwini Upadhyay is an active lawyer at Supreme Court and has filed several Public Interest Litigations pertaining to social, legal, governance and a wide range of other issues including corruption, religious conversion, flexible laws, inaction of public representatives, etc. Aware citizens, social workers, lawyers, youth and women will attend the programme.

Ashwini Upadhyay, popularly known as PIL Man,



is known for fighting against the anomalies prevailing in the society. He studied law from Chaudhary Charan Singh University and after com-

pleting his law course, he started practicing in the Supreme Court.

After participating in Jan Lokpal Movement, he filed public interest litigations for the reforms in the Indian legal and political system. He is known for nationalist thoughts and sharing his views in the debates of top news channels. His pursuit for PILs has been so relentless that in July 2022, the Supreme Court said that it would need to set up a special court for Upadhyay's PILs.

He has filed more than 50 public interest litiga-

tions. In his PILs, Upadhyay has challenged certain sections of Places of Worship Act 1991; sought uniform divorce law for women; ban on the practice of polygamy and nikah halala in Muslim community.

He had sought fast tracing of criminal trials against MPs and MLAs besides seeking life ban on convicted politicians from contesting polls. In this PIL, the SC had ordered that public prosecutors cannot withdraw criminal cases against lawmakers without sanction from High Courts.

Ruffians held with stolen metal scrap worth Rs 3.60 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: Police arrested three ruffians on charges of theft of metal scrap. About six tonnes of metal scrap worth Rs 3.60 lakhs loaded on a pickup truck was recovered from their possession.

The vehicle was parked in front of a godown. During interrogation, it was discovered that godown owner Shiv Sharma is the kingpin of the gang of thieves involved in thefts of metal scrap. Police are trying to trace the absconding accused Shiv Sharma.

CSP Prabhat Kumar (IPS) informed that on January 19, they received a complaint from one Ramesh Soni regarding theft of components of LN Tower and TTH Tower from Hathkhaj. The com-



ponents were made of angles and checker plates and were weighing around six tonnes.

Under the guidance of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, Old Bhilai Police launched investigations and the network of informers was activated. Meanwhile, police received a tip off regarding some ruffians who were trying to sell metal scrap. Acting on the tip off, the police team swung into action and the suspects

were taken into custody. During interrogation, the suspects revealed that one Shiv Sharma of Khursipar had asked them to steal LN Tower and TTH Tower components. After committing theft, they concealed some metal in the bushes in Engineering Park Hathkhaj and loaded the remaining metal on a Pickup Truck. They had parked this truck near the godown of Shiv Sharma.

Police arrested Bansilal Barle (25) son of Balaram Barley a resident of Shivaji Nagar, Khursipar; Harsh Taneja (21) son of Anil Kumar Taneja of Gol Market, Vaishali Nagar and Jasbir Singh (29) son of Late Jaswant Singh a resident of Khursipar under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380 of IPC. Police are trying to trace the absconding accused Shiv Sharma.

Released murder convict makes gang; commits thefts with three accomplices

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 20: With the arrest of four ruffians, police claimed to have solved six cases of thefts which occurred in Patan Police Station limits. They targeted the mobile shops, locked houses and grocery stores at 06 different places. They moved around on bike or car to conduct recce before committing thefts. They lifted the shop shutters with crowbars (Sabla) to trespass into the locked shops and commit thefts. Kingpin of the gang has already spent 16 years in jail after being convicted for murder. He befriended other inmates of the jail and formed a gang after getting released from jail. Police recovered stolen booty worth Rs 10 lakh, one four wheeler (Tavera) used in theft and 3 two-wheelers from the accused. It was a joint action of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg; Police Station Patan and Police Station Jangaon (R).



While addressing media persons at Patan on Friday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that they have been receiving complaints regarding thefts at various villages of Durg district. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, joint teams of ACCU and police stations made efforts to trace the accused under the guidance of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu, SDO (Patan) Devansh Singh Rathore and DSP (Crime) Naasar Siddhiqui. The joint team led by ACCU I/c Inspector Santosh Mishra, SHO (Patan) Rajkumar Lahre, SHO (Jangaon) Sub-Inspector Radheshyam Juri rounded up a suspect in village Gadadeh.

The suspect Abhishek Joseph (24) son of John Herald a resident of Utai confessed involvement in thefts. He disclosed the names of his accomplices including Hitesh Kumar Sahu (35) son of Kishan Sahu a resident of Utai; Ghanshyam Rajput (24) son of Panchanand Singh Rajput a resident of Utai and Rajesh Ratre (40) son of Anand Ratre a resident of Patan. All four are friends and used to meet at Utai Bus Stand. About 03 months ago, they together planned and burgled 22 sacks of paddy, LCD TV etc from the house of Yogesh Kumar Narang in village Katro. Later on December 01, 2022, they

committed theft at the mobile shop of Hitesh Kumar Sahu in village Katro. On the intervening night of January 07 and 08, they targeted the Sahu Mobile Shop and Choice Center in village Gudhiyari. On the same night, they committed theft at Sewa Kendra and Mobile Shop of village Pauha. On January 10, they burgled groceries and other items from a Shop in village Sehgaon of Nandani Nagar. On January 17, they had stolen a Hydraulic Pump, Tullu Pump and tools from village Pandar. All the four accused have been arrested and sent to jail on judicial remand. The accused Rajesh Ratre has served 15 years of imprisonment on charges of murder. All the other accused also have criminal records. ACCU Assistant Sub-Inspector Chandrashekar Soni, Head Constable Ruman Sonwani, Constable Rajkumar Chandra, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Constables Vikrant and Dinesh played a vital role in arresting the accused.

BJP to contest VS, LS polls on Centre's achievements



And on development by BJP govt during its 15 yrs rule

BJP passes two political resolutions in the state working committee meeting

Expresses gratitude towards PM Modi for record victory in Gujarat and for paddy purchase above 1 cr MT in state

Ambikapur, Jan 20: Two-day working committee meeting of BJP started in Ambikapur here on Friday. In this meeting, strategy would be formulated for the state as per the decisions taken in the BJP's national working committee meeting held recently in Delhi.

In the first session, the meeting of BJP's office bearers was held and after which the BJP state working committee meeting started in the presence of

BJP State co-in-charge Nitin Nabin, BJP State President Arun Sao, BJP National V-P Dr Raman Singh, Union Minister of State Renuka Singh and general secretary BJP Pawan Sai were present.

BJP State President Arun Sao in his address said that the term of BJP National President JP Nadda has been extended for one year. BJP would be contesting the next Vidhan Sabha poll in Chhattisgarh and the LS polls on the achievements of the BJP's central government under leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the development works done by the BJP in 15 years of its rule in

Chhattisgarh and under leadership of BJP National President JP Nadda and with massive mandate of general public would definitely win the next polls.

Sao said that the younger generation should know that the new Chhattisgarh state was formed by the senior party leader and ex-PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and in 15 yrs of its rule, BJP wrote a new chapter in context of development in the state and took the backward Chhattisgarh to front-running and well-developed state in the country. But now with Congress government in the state, the

CM's residence itself has become centre of corruption, he alleged.

In the meeting LS MP Santosh Pandey put up the political resolution and it was supported by the state general secretary Kedar Kashyap. Two proposals were passed in the BJP's meeting and in the first the PM Narendra Modi was lauded for record win in the Gujarat polls. In addition to this the committee expressed gratitude and greetings to PM Narendra Modi for purchase of over 100 cr MT of paddy in the state. In the meeting, the committee also expressed gratitude towards the BJP national leadership for the honour

of hosting the G-20 meeting and selecting Chhattisgarh for one of its meetings.

Amit Sahu put forth his views on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Purandhar Mishra on 'Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'; and BJ Pstate general secretary OP Choudhary expressed views on 'Mor Aawas Mor Adhikar'.

This working committee meeting was attended by BJP senior party leader Ramvihar Netam, Nandkumar Sai, Vishnu Deo Sai, Nankiram Kanwar, Ramsewak Paikra, Dharamlal Kaushik, Amar Agrawal, Rajesh Munat, Prem Prakash Pandey, Sarguja div. in-charge Sanjay Shrivastava, Kiran Dev, Raipur div. in-charge Saurabh Singh, state gen. secy. OP Choudhary, Akhilesh Soni, state spokesman Anurag Singh Dev, Kedar Gupta, Sandeep Sharam, BJP district president Lalan Pratap Singh, Major Anil Singh, Bhaiyyalal Rajwade and Kamalbhan Singh.

Preparations 85th plenary session of Congress

In-charge Selja visits venue, says CG's scheme an example for whole country

Raipur, Jan 20: Preparations are in full swing for the 85th plenary session of Congress to be held from 24-26 February in Nava Raipur. Pradesh Congress in-charge Kumari Selja, along with CM Bhupesh, PCC Chief Mohan Markam reached the venue of the session. Chief Minister and the in-charge reviewed the preparations and gave necessary instructions to the leaders.

Discussion on political, economic affairs, international affairs, issues pertaining to farmers and agriculture, social justice, youth educa-

tion and employment would be held during three day plenary session. Congress will chalk out political strategy for upcoming elections on all such issues. Talking to the reporters Selja said that Chhattisgarh got an opportunity to host the AICC plenary session. Everyone will work together for the success of the session, she said. Congress government is in the state for four years and it is a matter of pride that the scheme of Chhattisgarh has become an example for the whole country, Selja said. According to her BJP's Gujarat model has become hollow. Shailja will also discuss with senior leaders and workers about the preparation of 'Hath se Hath Jodo Abhiyan' on January 21 at 11 am in Rajiv Bhavan.

Manoj Verma appointed Raipur public prosecutor

Raipur, Jan 20: Manoj Verma has been appointed Public Prosecutor of Raipur by Department of Law and Legislative Affairs, Chhattisgarh Government. Post of Raipur Public Prosecutor was lying vacant after the completion of 62 years of age of former Public Prosecutor of Raipur KK Shukla. After a prolonged appointment

process, Manoj Verma has been appointed as Public Prosecutor. Expressing delight over Manoj Verma's appointment as Public Prosecutor, the advocates including Hamid Jussain, Aditya Jha, Raghvendra Singh, Arvind Singh Chima, Raju Ali, Nilesh Thakur, Deva Dewangan, Yasmin Begum, Vijay Kumar Bhoi, Vijay Lanje, Mahendra Dewangan,

Moinuddin Qureshi, Vivek Sahu, Morisha Naidu, Ranvir Singh Bhamra, Mohan Sahu, Nayeem Rizvi, Vinod Bharat, Shamim Parvin, Rakesh Singh, Tarachand Kosle, Sadik Ali and Rajendra Jain have expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, law and legal affairs minister Md Akbar and advocate general Satish Chandra Verma.

Ch'garh becomes the second biggest state

In terms of depositing the highest quantity of paddy to Central Pool

CM Baghel tweeted a congratulatory message, calls it a big achievement

Raipur, Jan 20: Chhattisgarh has become the nation's second-biggest state in the country in terms of donating paddy to the central pool. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, calling it a big achievement, has said that Chhattisgarh has been cre-

ating new records in the field of agriculture for the past four years. He added that this is the result of the hard work of farmers and their revived trust in farming that the state is gaining new achievements. The Chief Minister, in his congratulatory message, said that this is a big achievement for the state that has broken old records.

Chief Minister Baghel said that this year, the state is creating a new record of paddy purchases. 103 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had been purchased till yesterday evening. Hopefully, by the last date of 31 January, we

will also surpass the estimated figure of 110 lakh metric tonnes.

According to the report released by the Government of India on 15 January, Chhattisgarh had donated 92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy to the Central Pool. It has become the second state to deposit the highest quantity of paddy. The farmer-friendly policies of the Chhattisgarh Government have brought pleasant changes in the field of agriculture and in the lives of farmers. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, to promote crop productivity and yield diversity, the Rajiv

Gandhi Kissan Nyaya Yojana launched by the Chhattisgarh Government has emerged as a new force, because of which there is a continuous increase in the number of farmers and farming acreage. The farmer-friendly schemes of the Government of Chhattisgarh have led to a steady increase in the number of farmer registrations in these four years. This year, 24.96 lakh farmers have registered, out of which 2.3 lakh farmers are new. This year 135 new procurement centers have started, because of which the total number of procurement centers has become 2617.

Cricket matches to be played among 70 wards

Raipur, Jan 20: The review meeting of the Education, Sports and Youth Welfare Committee of Municipal Corporation Raipur was held in the presence of the members of the committee under the chairmanship of Mayor Ejaz Dhebar in the conference hall on the third floor of Mahatma Gandhi Sadan. Many resolutions were passed in the meeting. The chairman of the

committee Jitendra Agrawal said that the mayor instructed to organize cricket matches among all the 70 wards and to give cash prize money to the teams coming in the first three places.

Ward teams will be led by the concerned corporators. Citizens of the wards will also be able to participate in cricket matches. The Mayor also suggested to organize

a show match among the women corporators. The said event will be conducted by the Municipal Corporation with the support of Rajiv Yuva Mitra at Netaji Subhash Stadium. Agrawal further said that on the demand of the members of the committee, instructions were given to the Superintending Engineer Rajesh Sharma to take action after obtaining proposals

for open gyms in all 70 wards. Instructions were given to prepare a proposal to select a place for indoor gym for women in Subhash Stadium. A proposal to award students who have brought laurels to the city by topping in eighth, tenth and twelfth board exams and to felicitate teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day on September 5 was also passed.

Maulvis to avoid teaching 'Nikah'

If DJ and fireworks are used in marriages

Big decision of Muslim society

Raipur, Jan 20: Imams, Maulanas and members of various committees of 40 mosques have unanimously decided at a meeting held recently in Raipur to avoid participating in wedding ceremony where DJ and fireworks are used. No Maulavi



will teach Nikah in such events. DJ and fireworks have also been prohibited completely in 'sandal' and 'chadar' taken out from time to time in the city. Pointing out some drawbacks in the society city Qazi and other imams in the meeting appealed to the youth to follow the right path, Qazi Imran Ashrafi, Haji Abdul Hamid,

Nauman Akram Hamid and Maulana Mohammad Ali informed the reporters here. Fireworks and DJ are prohibited in Islam and their use causes air pollution, noise pollution and disrupts traffic.

They also appealed to the youth of the Muslim community to avoid doing works which can cause disturbance. Youth should work for maintaining peace in the state and the country, they said. Nauman Akram said that it was decided in the meeting that the Muslim so-

ciety would take steps to stop the malpractices in marriage and other programs of the Muslim society. All the Imams present unanimously decided that they will not teach Nikah in any such marriage where Baja and fireworks are used. All the Imams present unanimously decided that they will not teach Nikah in any such marriage where Baja and fireworks are used. Along with this, the cleric who has come from outside will also not be allowed to teach Nikah.

Both Thakur and Malik add value to team, who plays will depend on surface: Paras Mhambrey

Raipur, Jan 20 (PTI): Shardul Thakur was picked over Umran Malik in the first ODI because he adds "depth" to the Indian batting but the Jammu and Kashmir speedster remains very much in the scheme of things for the ODI World Cup at home this year, said bowling coach Paras Mhambrey on Friday.



Mhambrey said both Thakur and Malik add value to the team in different ways.

"That (batting) is one of the reasons why we picked him (Thakur). He adds depth to the batting. We will have to see the surface and decide the combination accordingly. He has performed well for India," Mhambrey said in the media interaction ahead of the second ODI.

On Malik, Mhambrey said: "The way he has progressed, it is very heartening to see. Pace does matter

is very difficult to replicate his skills. On the order side, it gives an opportunity for others to be tested at this level. We will find out what they bring to the table and how they deal with pressure."

When asked about Mohammed Siraj, he was all praise for the Hyderabad pacer.

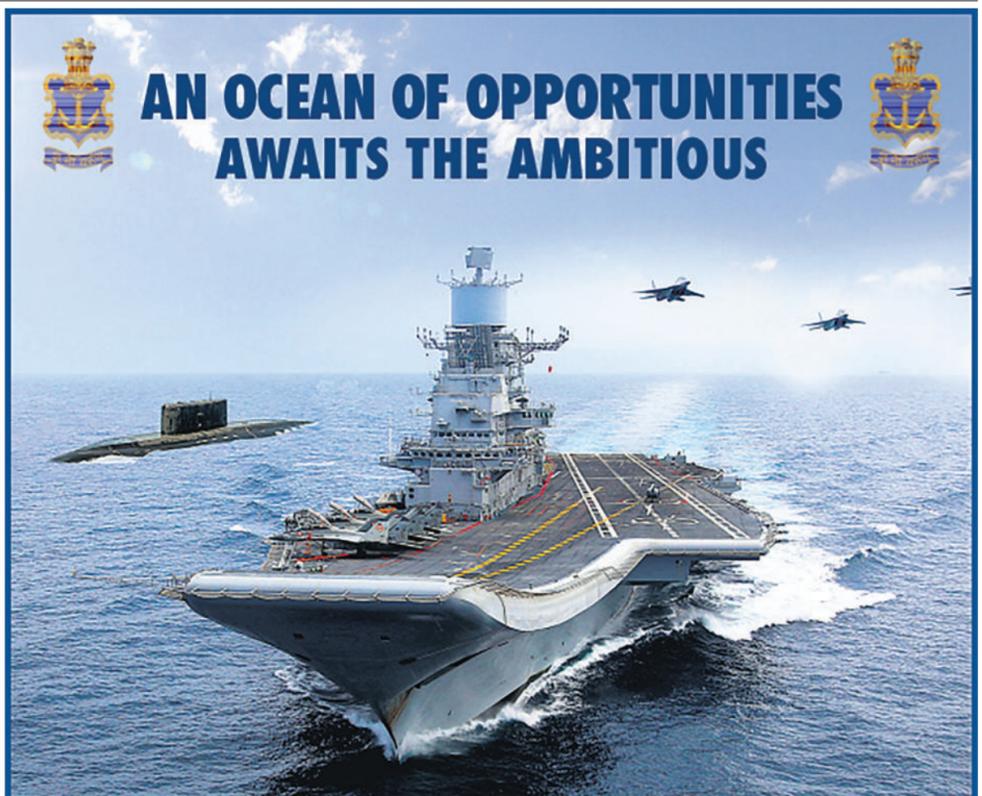
"I have seen him from the India A set up. He did exceedingly well with the red ball. He used to get the ball in but has worked on his seam position to get the ball away. He is a very important member of the team not only for World Cup but beyond that as well." New Zealand were able to score 206 runs despite losing six wickets for 131 runs on Wednesday. The bowling coach said the team discussed the issue at length. "When you score 350 on a surface like that you expect partnerships from the other side, they

lost six quick wickets but you expect in a game like that, there will be a partnership, and they bat till 8. Santner is a handy batter as well.

"What is important is you win games, you may be tested. We have charted out things we wanted to focus on and implement in this game. We are not looking at too much experimentation but we need to test players that we have shortlisted."

Mhambrey added that an early start for the ODI World Cup games at home is something that ICC can look into. "Ashwin raised a valid point. Dew does play a part in some venues. It depends when and where you are playing. When the ball does get old, it really tilts towards the batting side.

"The spin is not there and makes batting easy. It is something we can look into. The ICC and other members need to take this forward. It is not my call."



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Only generic medicines be prescribed: Health Secy

Meeting of civil surgeons and hospital consultants



Raipur, Jan 20: Health Secretary Prasanna R has instructed all the doctors to prescribe only generic medicines. Action should be taken in the matters of the display of posters of branded medicines in the hospital premises, he said at a meeting of civil surgeons and hospital consultants of all the districts, held at Indrawati Bhavan here today. He also instructed to take action against doctors prescribing branded medicines.

Prasanna R reviewed mental health facilities, maternity services, dental, lab facilities, fire safety, power audit, post mortem and infection control, X-ray, CT scan and ICU facility.

Director of Health Services Bhim Singh, Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan and Director of Epidemic Control Dr Subhash Mishra also attended the review meeting.

The Health Secretary also called for prohibiting the visit of medical representatives in the government hospital premises. He instructed to organize general body meeting, executive meeting, quality and infection control and other important meetings

regularly in district hospitals.

Prasanna also instructed for expanding OPD and IPD services in district hospitals. Treatment of the patients coming to the hospital is the most important task and that time limit should be fixed for each work so that the patients can get the benefit of new facilities soon, he said.

Director, Health Services Bhim Singh emphasized promotion of the free dialysis services available in the hospitals for the benefit of kidney pa-

tients. He also called for sickle cell test, monitoring of sickle cell positive patients and diabetes and blood pressure check up of all the patients visiting district hospitals. Under the Ayushman Bharat programme, he instructed to make Ayushman cards of the patients in the hospital premises and to treat all the patients with Ayushman cards. Singh asked districts to increase the number of beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Health Assistance Scheme.

Senior writer Sushila Takbhore delivers lecture

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 20: A special lecture of senior writer and litterateur Sushila Takbhore was organized on Wednesday on the topic 'Literary Journalism and Writing' in Smart Class of UTD, a wing by the Department of Journalism and Communication of Guru Ghasidas Central University.

At the beginning of the programme, Prof. Brijesh Tiwari, Dean of School of Arts, welcomed senior litterateur Sushila Takbhore with shawl and shreefal. Dr. Dheeraj Shukla, Head of the Department of Journalism and Communication presented the welcome speech.

Senior writer and litterateur Sushila Takbhore threw light on various concerns of the society, especially related to the very backward and deprived society, as seen in writings in



newspapers and magazines. She said that newspapers and magazines are the mirror of the society and stressed that a newspaper is the voice of the people. She explained the right way of writing with sensibility on issues of social concern. Referring to the journalism of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Lokmanya Tilak, she gave special emphasis on the importance of writings on equality, social justice, harmony and social reform. While speaking about women's writing senior writer Sushila Takbhore said that a journalist should write

from a humanitarian point of view.

She said that newspapers and magazines need to pay special attention to bring awareness to the women deprived of education, especially to the women of the backward society, who have been suffering for centuries.

Prof. Brijesh Tiwari, Dean of the School of Arts, said that literary journalism has a deep connection with the concerns of the society. Literary journalism should carry a vision of writing which can give a positive direction to the society.

Professor Pratibha J Mishra, In-charge of the

University Media Cell, said that there should not be a discriminatory approach in the writing of literary journalism. Writing should be done keeping social concerns in mind.

At the end of the program, senior litterateur Sushila Takbhore was honored by presenting a memento. On this occasion, Prof. Pratibha J Mishra, in-charge of University Media Cell, Hindi Officer, Akhilesh Tiwari, Assistant Professor of Hindi Department Dr Ramesh Gohe, all teachers of Journalism and Mass Communication and a large number of students were present.

The program was conducted by Dr. Amita, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Anupama Kumari.

Dy sarpanch alleges massive corruption in Kukanar Panchayat



Charges of withdrawing crores without meeting, due for last 1 yr

Konta/Sukma, Jan 20: The news of irregularities in the internal panchayats of Sukma district or in the construction works keep coming to the fore. But Kukanar which is situated on the side of NH 30 and district level officials and district level officials keep coming and going through this route, but till date no official has looked at the irregularities going on in



this panchayat. Accusing the present sarpanch of ignoring the panchayat rules as well as conducting the functions of the panchayat on his own, Mukund Das, Deputy Sarpanch of Kukanar, said that not a single monthly meeting is being held in the panchayat in the last one year.

Crores of rupees have been withdrawn by falsely misleading the panchayat, the bank and the administration by passing a fake proposal to withdraw crores of rupees without meeting.

CEO said that Sarpanch Sarvesarva Upsarpanch has no importance

Dy Sarpanch Mukundadas said that many times requested the Sarpanch to correct his working style, despite no improvement, he complained to the District CEO CL Dewangan about this matter, then he irresponsibly

replied that the Sarpanch in the Panchayat. The survey is all, there is no importance of panch and sub-sarpanch.

Sarpanch residence has turned into Panchayat building

He also said that the panchayat building of Kukanar never opens on time, the residence of the sarpanch itself has taken the form of a panchayat building, and the needy people are unnecessarily getting worried due to non-opening of the panchayat building.

Former Panch also demanded an inquiry

Former Panch Sonadhar of Kukanar also accused the panchayat of irregularities and said that due to the negligence of the panchayat, many works are incomplete, the beneficiaries are not getting the benefits of PM housing, pension and other schemes, there should be a fair investigation of the panchayat.

BALCO implements Smart Technologies to optimize oil consumption

Balconagar, (Korba), Jan 20: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, is actively exploring and expanding the adoption of smart technologies within its manufacturing systems. From smart analytics for decision making at strategic business unit (SBU) level to real-time equipment monitoring at shopfloors, the company has deployed a slew of high-end digital solutions for ensuring business excellence. Recently, the company retrofitted its oil monitoring process with state-of-the-art Business Intelligence tools to track oil consumption and recovery at equipment and SBU level. This will help BALCO optimize and reduce oil consumption in technical vehicles and heavy machinery across its operations.

The deployment of business intelligence tools like System Applications & Products and Material Return Voucher will help strategic business units optimize the fresh oil consumption,



recovery and refine used oil with better planning and greater efficiency, resulting in significant cost savings and waste reduction. It will bolster the company's vision of zero waste, while enhancing productivity and efficiency. This is in line with the company's commitment towards sustainable manufacturing practices, which includes judicious usage of raw materials, transition to low-carbon fuels and decarbonization of plant operations. Speaking about BALCO's approach to technological transformation of its operations, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO,

said, 'We, at BALCO, are committed to achieving excellence across all our areas of operations, using new-age technology, sustainable practices, and disruptive innovation.'

Our technological interventions serve to bolster safety, productivity, and efficiency. An inhouse innovation such as oil balancing with digital technologies, will help us improve operational efficiency, reduce costs and decrease carbon footprint.

Deployment of such smart solutions across all levels at this unprecedented scale will help us create a future-ready

organization that caters to India's aluminium needs and contribute to the expeditious development of the region and nation at large.'

In addition, BALCO has been leveraging emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to bolster power plant efficiency, Robotic Process Automation across various sales and marketing activities, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to monitor movement of liquid aluminium-carrying vehicles inside plant premises, and a highly sophisticated security system for people and assets.

Testimony to its technology-first approach, BALCO has received numerous coveted awards, including the prestigious 'Manufacturing Today - Reinventing the Future' Award. BALCO has also been declared 'Platinum Winner' at the 5th CII National Safety Practices Competition for its 'Suraksha Sankalp Kutumbh' project on safety digitalization.

Workshop organized for the protection of women's rights



Jagdalpur, Jan 20: A three-day divisional level training program was organized by the Women and Child Development Department for the Sakhi 'One Stop Center' officer staff and Nava Bihan's protection officers in the Astha meeting hall of the district office. The training program was inaugurated by welcoming the trainers present from Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai with a bouquet in the presence of District Program Officer Women and Child Development Jagdalpur.

On the first day of this training program, the role of the officers and employees of

Sakhi One Stop Center and Nava Bihan was discussed in relation to the tasks to be done promptly including sensitivity, while giving detailed information on the subject of their work responsibilities.

On the second day of the training, detailed informative information was given about the rights of women and various laws related to them, personal law, Hindu and Muslim law and amendments made in these laws from time to time. On the last day of the training, giving information about the process of medical examination of the victim by the officers, the

Domestic Violence Act, the Abortion Act 1971 and the orders issued by the court along with the process to be adopted during the counseling by the counselor of Sakhi Center discussed in detail. In this training programme, Dr. Sandali Thakur, Aarti Chandrasekhar, Balwant Singh, District Program Officer Manoj Kumar Sinha, Protection Officer Veenu Hirwani and women and child development department of all 7 districts of Bastar division were present in this training program. Officers of the police department were also involved along with the officers and employees.

'Jhumka Water Festival concludes with dazzling fireworks'

For two days, thousands of people attended the Jhumka Kinare Mahotsav

Korea danced to Bollywood singer Sukhbir Singh's tunes

Korea, Jan 20: The first Jhumka Water Festival of Korea was grandly conducted at Jhumka Boat Club on January 17 and 18. On the second and final day, the event concluded with a spectacular fireworks show. During these two days, renowned artists from across the country



and state, as well as local artists and schoolchildren, gave multiple performances. The fascinating performances kept the crowd engaged until late in the evening.

The last performance of the closing ceremony was

by Bollywood singer Sukhbir Singh who made everyone dance. Along with songs like Ishq Tera Tadpawe, Sauda Khara-Khara, Brown Munde, and Bijli Bijli, he performed on many Bollywood songs.

Vice President of Surguja Development Authority, Mr. Gulab Kamro was the special guest of the program along with the general public, could not stop himself and danced with Sukhbir. Earlier, Chhattisgarhi artist Mr. Sunil Soni sang Chal Jabo Jhumka Bandh Re with Hai Re Sarguja Nache, on which there was a lot of applause. Chhattisgarhi artist Sanjay Surila enthralled everyone with his Chhattisgarhi songs and popular songs like Meeth Meeth Laga Maya Ke Bani. On the other hand, Sufi artist Mr. Nasir Ninder made the atmosphere Sufi with songs like Piya Haji Ali. On the first day of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav, the performances of interna-

tionally renowned Odissi dancer Purnashree Raut, Bollywood singer Vinod Rathore, Chhattisgarhi artists Anuj Sharma, Aaru Sahu, Sunil Manikpuri became the main attraction of the event. The crowd was enthralled by the wonderful performances of local artists and schoolchildren. The excitement of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav could be gauged from the crowd of people. Till the end of the program, with the presence of Gulab Kamro, Vice President of Surguja Development Authority, local public representatives, all the officers and employees of the district administration, thousands of people stood at the venue.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana a boon for Banshilal

Kondagaon, Jan 20: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is proven to be a blessing for many who were unable to build their own homes due to poverty and poor economic situation. PMAY is now realizing the dream of lakhs of people who had hoped to possess their own pucca house. Banshilal of Gram Panchayat Khalari in District Panchayat Baderajpur had a lifelong desire of building a pucca house for his family. However, due to the house's poor financial situation, he was unable to have his permanent home built. In such a case, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana proved to be a gift and fulfilled his desire.

Meanwhile, Banshilal states that he and his three-member family were living in a run-down



and dilapidated house. He used to support his family by working hard as an agricultural laborer. His home's financial situation was weak. During the rainy season, water kept dropping from

the roof of his house, seeping through the walls, and entering the home. Water from the drain flowing from the side of the house also used to enter the house numerous times. Along with many challenges in living, there was a worry of dilapidated houses falling and animals such as snakes and scorpions entering the house. There was also a fear of health problems due to raw houses and moisture. In such a condition, his main wish was to buy his own pucca house. In this situation, he heard about the government's ambitious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) initiative, which he used to get a pucca house built in place of his kutcha house. His dream of constructing a pucca house was realized as a result of this. He stated

that, in addition to housing, we are now receiving benefits from various government welfare programs. The government looks after our necessities, from jobs to health care. We are overjoyed as a result, and we convey our heartfelt gratitude to the government.

Banshilal is not the only one who has benefited from this government program. Many residents in the district have received their dream homes as a result of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Following the receipt of funding in District Panchayat Baderajpur, the construction of houses that had been halted since the time of Corona has accelerated, and the recipients are now seeing their homes built. So far, a total of 1538 houses

have been sanctioned in District Panchayat Baderajpur, with construction work on 1226 houses completed and 312 houses under construction.

In addition to this, Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the amount has been provided as the first installment to 1538 beneficiaries, the second installment to 1495 beneficiaries, the third installment to 1308 beneficiaries, and the fourth installment to 790 beneficiaries in District Panchayat Baderajpur. This amount has been deposited directly into the bank accounts. Due to this, the work of housing construction has increased. At the same time, there is a wave of happiness among the beneficiaries that their dream homes will be built soon.

Lord Krishna's Janmotsav celebrated

Central Chronicle News

Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 20: Lord Shri Krishna's Janmotsav was celebrated on the fifth day of ongoing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Ahiwara at Mangal Bhawan Ward no. 03. The main host is Natwar Tamarkar,

President Municipal Council, Ahiwara and wife Mallika Tamarkar, Ashuman Tamarkar, wife Bhavna Tamarkar, Pravin Saini Tamarkar, Suryanarayan Divya Tamarkar.

Narrator Bramhachari Jyotimaryanand said that one should listen to

everyone's mind. Maharaj said that there is no difference between Hari in the world and Jagdish.

Says Parmarth Gati, Jagdishji is the creator of this world as well, the one who stays in the shelter of God, his every work gets done.

18th National Scout Jamboree concludes



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Jan 20: Scouts of the district returned after a successful performance in the 18th National Scout Jamboree organized from January 4

to January 10 in Pali district of Rajasthan and gave a courtesy visit to the District Collector.

District Education Officer Savita Rajput, District Organization Commissioner

Commissioner Amit Gupta said that in the 18th National Scout Jamboree, Chhattisgarh's march past parade under the leadership of District Rovers Jogesh and Yashwant has received 'A' grade all over India.

He said that nine Rover Rangers and two in-charges of the district had left on December 30 to attend the Jamboree and returned on January 12.

The Collector congratulated all from the Scout family and said that it is a matter of pleasure that the march past parade of the state under the leadership of the district rover has got 'A' grade all over India.

Morajdhvaj Sapre and Preeti Khalsa, District Secretary Akash Parihar, District Organization Commissioner Guide Rohini Thakur were present on this occasion. District Training

Party workers felicitated by BJP Backward Classes Morcha



Central Chronicle News

Gaurela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 20: BJP Backward Classes Morcha felicitated the workers here and honored the BJP Shakti Kendra in-charge, coordinator, co-coordinator, booth president in village Thar Pathra of Gaurela

Mandal by giving shawl and shreefal.

Giving information about the said program, Backward Classes Morcha District President Sandeep Jaiswal said that the country BJP's booth level workers are to be honored as per the wish of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state

BJP President Arun Sav and State President of Backward Class Morcha Bharat Verma. Simultaneously, booth unit presidents, community heads and seniors were honoured.

The chief guest of the program was district president Kanhaiya Rathore and

special guest Dilip Yadav, in-charge of Backward Class Morcha. Rakesh Chaturvedi, Brijlal Rathore, Mukesh Dubey, Bhagirath Yadav, Sameera Paikra, Geeta Gupta, Kuldeep Singh Dheeraj, Dev Pratap Rajput, Murari Yadav and others were present.

Center of Excellence inaugurated at IB group

Central Chronicle News

Rajnandgaon, Jan 20: Indian leading Poultry Company IB Group always strives to keep its employees equipped with new techniques and for their progress, the group inaugurated the state-of-the-art training center 'Center of Excellence and Training Facility' and MD office on January 13 in its corporate premises.

Masood Mallick CEO Restainable Ltd. was the chief guest and IB Group Chairman Sultan Ali and MD Bahadur Ali were also present. The newly constructed training center of IB is built in an area of 50 thousand square feet, which will work for technical training, talent develop-

ment and innovation labs, in which accessible digital classroom culture will be created through efficient business plans.

The Center will not only enhance the skills of IB employees but also train the next generation, who aspire to be a part of IB's success journey in future. The center is equipped with modern library, hi-tech board room, interactive board in class form, qualified trainers, where 250 technicians can be trained at a time. Keeping in view the banking needs of the employees, the company has also started a branch of HDFC Bank at its Corporate Office, which was inaugurated by the MD of the company, Bahadur Ali.

INC shows unity in DCC meeting



Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Jan 20: In the past, some councilors of Nagar Panchayat Fingeshwar had given an application of no-confidence motion against Vice President Rukhmani Mandalay to the District Collector.

Taking cognizance of this, MLA Amitesh Shukla directed District Congress Committee President Bhavsingh Sahu to hold a meeting of all councilors and Aldermen of Fingeshwar Nagar Panchayat and brainstorm the whole matter. As per the instructions

of Shukla, on January 18, a meeting was held at the local rest house of District Congress Committee President Bhavsingh Sahu in presence of Congress councilors and aldermen. In the meeting, President Bhavsingh Sahu said that this is the election year; we have to work with the

unity of the party and the workers in full coordination.

The Congress government in the state is working for the development and economic prosperity of the people and rural farmers have great faith in the party.

The councilors were of the opinion that Mrs. Mandalay is a woman with a very simple and clean image and we will not allow the intentions of the opponents to be fulfilled under any circumstances.

Bhavsingh Sahu told the councilors that even if there are some differences, we have to keep in mind the unity of the party and drop the no-confidence motion against the Vice President with a huge majority.

Gram Sabha passes proposal to close down dabha'



Being illegally run without Gram Panchayat's permission

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 20: The villagers got agitated over illicit sale of liquor and were forced to take it to streets here on Monday. The villagers have taken a decision to fight against all the illegal business and practices being undertaken by selected few with protection of some or the other government authority or institution.

It is based upon the proposal passed in the Gram Sabha in Gram Kalyanapur, the villagers submitted a memorandum to concerned department in context of technical assistance from the local administration and the government. Villagers in Gram Kalyanapur passed a proposal here on Monday and submitted a memorandum to SDM demanding closure of 'dabhas' il-

legally being run in the village.

In the memorandum it was said that in the decision taken in the Gram Sabha of village on Jan 11, it has come to fore that one Rajat Phule, S/o Nagorao Phule, R/o Gram Kalyanapur is illegally running a 'dabha' in the village panchayat without its prior permission.

This is disturbing the peace and tranquility in the village and there are chances of some incident taking place. So in order to avoid any such incident and its ill effects in the near future, the Gram Sabha has decided to close down this 'dabha' being illegally run. SDM was urged to issue orders to close this 'Dabha' at the earliest.

Panchkoshi Yatra concludes with devotion

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 20: Panchkoshi Yatra concluded here in Lomas Rishi Ashram premises, in which devotees have been traveling on foot continuously since last January 12. After worship, Bhairav farewell was given led by Panchkoshi Peethadhiswar Siddheshwar and Maharaj and in the rituals the pilgrims thronged near the Yajna Kund to offer oblations and Bhog Prasadi was offered to all the deities including Gauri Ganesh, Navagraha, and 10 Dignals.

Before leaving, the devotees kept praising



Panchkoshi Dham and paid their obseince to Lord Rajeev Lochan Temple, Jagannath Temple, Charon Dham Varah Avatar, Narsingh Avatar, Vaman

Avatar, Badrinarayan Avatar, Lord Ganesha, Surya Dev Narayan, Mahamaya Temple, Ramchandra Deval, Baba Garib Nath, Someshwar

Nath Mahadev, Lakshmi Narayan since morning, Temple, Rajim Bhaktin Mata Mandir, Raj Rajeshwar Nath Mahadev, Dan Daneshwar Nath

Mahadev, Ganga Maiya, Yamuna Maiya, Durga Devi, Annapurna Mata, Shyam Kartikeya, Kali Mata, Sheetla Devi, Nandi Maharaj etc.

Many Panchkoshi pilgrims stayed under the open sky for night rest on the jagati floor of Kuleshwar Nath Mahadev Temple and in the night, a story was presented on Shiva through Ramayana in which the marriage ceremony of Mother Parvati and Bhole Shankar took place.

It is necessary to tell that in the Panchkoshi Parikrama, devotees started with Pateshwarnath Mahadev at Pateva first, then Champakeshwarnath

Mahadev at Champaran, Brahmaneswar Nath Mahadev at Bamhani, Phanikeshwar Nath Mahadev at Fingeshwar, Karpureshwar Nath Mahadev at Kopra, Aughadnath Mahadev at Lafandi, Panchmukhi Kuleshwarnath Mahadev at Prayag Nagri Rajim and Rajivlochan Bhagwan and used to walk for 15 to 20 kilometers every day.

It is believed that Panchkoshi Yatra is supernatural, and in the whole world only Rajim has got the recognition of Panchkoshi Parikrama, due to which devotees remain engrossed in reverence and devotion to visit this Dham.

BJP leaders submit memorandum to Additional Collector



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Jan 20: Bharatiya Janata Party submitted a memorandum to the Governor regarding cancellation of Rasuka and against fake caste, and illegal plotting, to the Collector regarding the problems of the city and area. Before submitting the memorandum, BJP workers organized a meeting in front of the Collectorate and staged a sit-in demonstration. The rally that started from the Atal campus district BJP office passed through the main roads

and reaching in front of the Collectorate resulted in a meeting. On this occasion, MLA Punnulal Mohle said that Mungeli Municipality President Hemendra Goswami, despite being a general caste, contested the councilor election on a Congress ticket from Ambedkar Ward, reserved for backward classes, by making a fake caste certificate of backward class.

After this, the election of the chairman of the municipality reserved for the backward class was also contested on the Congress ticket on the basis of fake

caste certificate. In this way, rights of backward class community have been taken away.

Mohle further said that the game of illegal plotting is continuing in Mungeli, under the protection of some officers. He also said that the roads of the city and the area are not being repaired despite the erosion of Agar river is increasing in Surda, on which pitching is necessary.

Former MP Lakhanlal Sahu, former MLA Chowdas Khandekar, Tokhan Sahu, Girish Shukla, District BJP President Shailesh Pathak, Maniklal Sonwani, Sheelu Sahu, Durga Umashankar Sahu, Anand Dewangan, Vinod Yadav, Amitesh Arya, Saurabh Bajpai also addressed the meeting. The memorandum was handed over to Additional Collector Teerthraj Agarwal in the name of the Governor.

Government Tribal Girls Ashram inspected by CM



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inspected Government Tribal Girls Ashram of village Khapri and spoke to the little girls studying in the ashram.

He inquired about the studies of the girls and inquired about the facilities, food, security sports and entertainment arrangements for staying in the ashram. During this, the Chief Minister

was greatly impressed by the prompt response of the girls and lauded their self-confidence. The Chief Minister also played carom, Ludo, and Snakes and Ladders with the little girls and also gave them tips to win. Instructions were also given to the officers for assistance and accurate implementation of government schemes.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the facilities available in the ashram and he also gave gifts to the girls and advised them to study with honesty and bring laurels to Chhattisgarh and the country. Along with Chief Minister Baghel,

Revenue Minister and Minister in-charge of the district Jaisingh Agrawal, Parliamentary Secretary and Takhatpur MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh were also present in the inspection of the hostel.

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I SHAGUFTA KHAN W/O MUKHTAR AHMAD KHAN RESIDENT OF H.NO. 923/9 NEAR INCOME TAX OFFICE BHARTIYA NAGAR BILASPUR (C.G.) - 495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME SHAGUFTA KHAN W/O MUKHTAR AHMAD KHANO, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME SHAGUFTA NAHID KHAN W/O MUKHTAR AHMAD KHAN IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. SHAGUFTA NAHID KHAN H.NO. 923/9, NEAR INCOME TAX OFFICE BHARTIYA NAGAR BILASPUR (C.G.) - 495001

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Tel.: 07752-418136, E-mail: am_bilaspur@lichousing.com

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the following persons have obtained loan from LIC Finance Limited against the following property. Hence the following properties are mortgaged with LIC Housing Finance Limited, Janjgir-Champa Indore, Buys/ gives loan to any person, institution, bank or finance company from the transaction of the following objection. The purpose of this open notice is to make you all aware. And about the following properties, you can get information about the properties from our office during office hours. In this way, no objection will be valid on the following properties of yours.

S. No.	Loan A/c. Number	Name of Borrower & Address	Description of Property
01	120200004241	Mr. Dhani Ram Banjare (Primary Applicant) & Ms. Parvati Banjare (Co-Applicant), Ward No. 18, House No. 59/30, Deepti Vihar Colony, Janjgir, Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) 495001	Ward No. 18, House No. 59/30, Deepti Vihar Colony, Janjgir, Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) 495001
02	120200004229	Mr. Dhani Ram Banjare (Primary Applicant) & Ms. Parvati Banjare (Co-Applicant), Ward No. 18, House No. 59/30, Deepti Vihar Colony, Janjgir, Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) 495001	Ward No. 18, House No. 59/30, Deepti Vihar Colony, Janjgir, Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) 495001

Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Date: 20.01.2023 Chief Manager, Authorised Officer / LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

BRIEF



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspect developmental works in Mirzapur village during his 'Samadhan Yatra' in Bihar Sharif, Friday.

Himachal HC

New Delhi: Justice Sabina, the senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, was on Friday, appointed its acting chief justice. In a notification, the Department of Justice in the Union law ministry said she would assume charge on January 21 following the retirement of Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Sayed demits office on Friday on attaining the age of 62 years. "In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint, Smt Justice Sabina, senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that high court, with effect from January 21 consequent upon the retirement of Shri Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed, Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court," the notification read.

Lion spotted

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat forest department's efforts to develop new habitats for the Asiatic lion got a boost as a big cat has been spotted in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in the state's Porbandar district for the first time since Independence, officials said on Friday. The three-and-half-year-old male lion entered the sanctuary some two days ago after spending considerable time near Porbandar town and preying on cattle, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Nityanand Srivastava said. "It is a good sign a lion has been spotted inside Barda Wildlife Sanctuary for the first time after Independence. The Forest Department has been trying to develop this sanctuary as a second home for lions. We also run a breeding centre for herbivores in the sanctuary to increase the prey base," Srivastava informed.

Politically redundant

Tikamgarh (MP): Madhya Pradesh Congress chief and ex-CM Kamal Nath on Friday said his former party colleague and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who dethroned him two years ago, has become "politically redundant" even in his pocket borough Gwalior, expressing confidence that his party will win the assembly elections due by the year-end. "When Scindia was there, why did they (Bharatiya Janata Party) lose the mayoral elections in Gwalior and its adjoining city Morena to the Congress last year," he asked. Nath was in Tikamgarh, about 270 km from the state capital Bhopal, for an event.

Students detained for protesting against 'ban' on non-veg food at Hansraj College

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Forty students staging a demonstration outside DU's Hansraj College against a "ban" on non-vegetarian food were allegedly detained by police on Friday, a students' organisation representative said.

Scores of protesters had gathered outside the college to protest against the decision but the students claimed that the college refused them entry and locked its gates.

According to the police, there were around 30 to 35 students protesting against the ban.

The Hansraj College unit of the Students' Federation of India (SFI)

on Wednesday called for a protest outside the college hostel against the "discontinuation" of non-vegetarian food at the institution.

"We began our protest peacefully. However, the college administration did not let us in. They have shut all gates and no officials are coming out to talk to us," SFI activist Sama said.

"We wish to submit a memorandum but they are not allowing us entry," she added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "The protesting students were asked to disperse from the spot, however, when they did not disperse, 14 to 15 students were detained

and later released."

The students had said Hansraj College stopped serving non-vegetarian food at its canteen and hostel after it reopened following the pandemic in February last year.

The SFI has claimed that there have also been instances where the Hansraj administration confiscated eggs from students who brought them to the hostel.

The majority of students of Hansraj are against this ban on non-vegetarian food and see this as an attempt to establish cultural hegemony, the student group said.

Hansraj College principal Rama Sharma has refused to withdraw the

order despite facing widespread criticism and asserted the DU constituent college follows Arya Samaj's philosophy.

Speaking to PTI, Sharma has also claimed that 90 per cent of the students are vegetarian and they had earlier protested over non-veg food being served in the hostel.

"We are not going to withdraw the notice regarding non-veg food. It is an Arya Samaj college. We have our philosophy and that is why we won't serve non-veg food. We conduct 'havan' regularly. We follow our rules. It is written in the hostel prospectus that non-veg food will not be served in the hostel," she had said.

SC refuses to entertain pleas against Bihar govt's decision to hold caste survey

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a batch of pleas challenging the Bihar government's decision to conduct a caste survey in the state.

A bench of justices BR Gavai and Vikram Nath said there is no merit in the petitions and dismissed them with liberty to the petitioners to approach the high court concerned.

"So this is publicity interest litigation. How can we issue directions on how much reservation should be granted to such and such caste? How will they (state) determine how much reservation is to be

granted to whom? Sorry, we can't issue such directions and can't entertain these petitions," the bench told the counsel for the petitioners.

The top court, which was hearing three petitions on the issue including one filed by an NGO, said the petitioners can approach the Patna High Court for an appropriate remedy.

"All the petitions are dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to seek appropriate remedies in law," the bench ordered.

On January 11, the top court had said that it would take up the matter on January 20, after one of the petitioners mentioned an urgent listing of the matter.

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Delhi government has "again sent" a proposal to the Lt Governor's Office to send teachers of state-run schools for a training programme to Finland, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday, days after VK Saxena allegedly rejected a similar proposal.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also expressed hope that permission would be granted for the teachers to travel abroad for the programme.

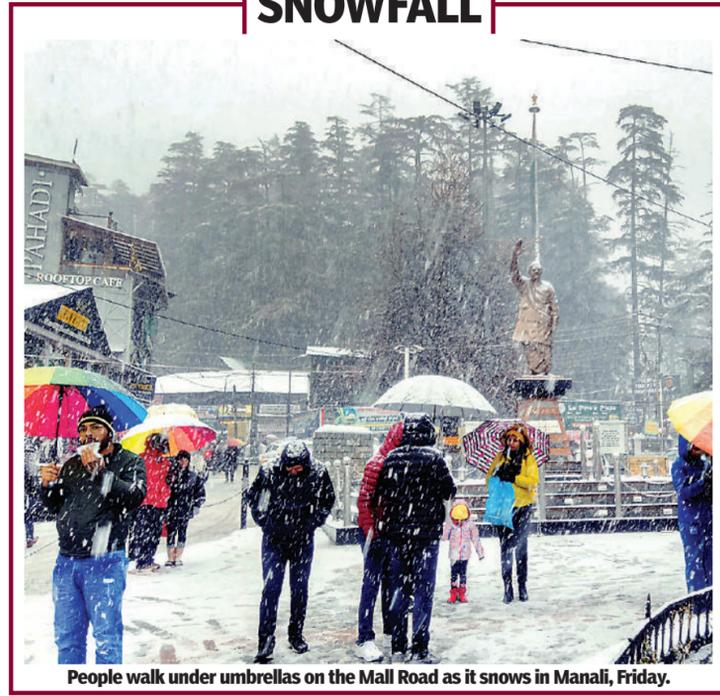
The Delhi government had alleged that while returning the earlier proposal, Saxena asked them to first conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the programme.

Members of the AAP,

led by Atishi, protested outside the Lt Governor's residence last week over the issue.

The Raj Niwas, however, said at the time that the "LG has not rejected the proposal for the training programme for primary-in-charges in Finland. Any statement on the contrary is misleading and mischievously motivated". Sisodia, who is also the Education minister, said in a tweet in Hindi, "The proposal to send Delhi government teachers to Finland for training has been sent again to the LG."

Quoting Sisodia's tweet, Kejriwal said, "I hope the Hon'ble LG will permit Delhi government school teachers to go abroad for training."



People walk under umbrellas on the Mall Road as it snows in Manali, Friday.

SNOWFALL

Delhi govt again sends Finland training programme file to LG

56 incidents of stone pelting reported under NFR in 2022

Guwahati, Jan 20 (PTI)

Over 50 incidents of stone pelting were reported under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in 2022, and an "intensified" awareness drive has been launched in the wake of multiple reports of stone throwing on the new Vande Bharat Express, an official said. An NFR statement said 56 incidents of stone pelting were reported under it in 2022, while three such instances have been reported till January 17. Three persons have so far been arrested this year in connection with such incidents, it said.

"Stone pelting on trains happens routinely. We conduct awareness programmes among people to not be involved in such ac-

tivities as these are criminal offences under the Railway Act," the NFR official, who requested anonymity, said.

"We have launched an intensified drive to create awareness about the issue, especially after multiple incidents of stone pelting on the Vande Bharat Express in recent times," he said. At least two such incidents were reported under the NFR on January 2 and January 3 when miscreants pelted stones on the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, which was flagged-off on December 30. The official said youngsters are mostly found to be involved in such incidents, and emphasis is laid on covering this section during the drive.

IAF chief stresses on utilising available resources to best potential

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 20 (PTI)

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, on Friday emphasised that the IAF should derive relevant lessons from the recent geopolitical scenarios and effectively utilise all available resources to their best potential.

While delivering an address at the Southern Air Command headquarters here, he reiterated on the challenges faced by the IAF to adapt to the ever-changing situations and technological advancements.

He underlined that efficient training and innovations are necessary to en-

sure that the IAF remains a future-ready force, a defence statement said.

The Air Force chief lauded the efforts of Southern Air Command on IAF's performance during military exercises with friendly foreign armed forces, particularly in offensive air operations.

He said that due to the high professional standards of the IAF, many foreign nations are keen on carrying out joint military exercises with Indian armed forces, it said.

Chaudhari was here to attend the Commanders' Conference of Southern Air Command.

He was accompanied by Neeta Chaudhari,

President, Air Force Family Welfare Association (AFFWA).

On arrival, the Chief of Air Staff was presented with a ceremonial guard of honour, a defence statement here said.

Subsequently, Air Marshal J Chalapati, AOC-in-C, Southern Air Command, briefed the IAF chief on the operational preparedness of the wing for the air defence of the Indian peninsula and the island territories, the enhanced capability in maritime air operations and the strong potential capability of IAF assets which provide the nation with an effective deterrence, the statement added.

Assam govt committed to protect cultural heritage of all ethnic groups: CM

Morigaon, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Assam government is committed to preserve the cultural heritage of all indigenous groups of the state, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

The BJP government is "very sensitive" to the preservation and promotion of the language, culture and traditions of all ethnic groups of Assam, he said at the open session of the three-day Jonbeel Mela, a unique fair of the Tiwa community where barter exchange of goods takes place. "We are committed to do all that is re-

quired to protect the culture of all tribes, including the Tiwas," Sarma said. The chief minister also assured the organisers of the fair that all possible financial assistance will be provided to maintain the unique elements of the event, besides allotment of 20 bighas of land for organising it. Sarma handed over cheques of royal subsistence grant of Rs 1.25 lakh each to 18 ceremonial kings of the Tiwa Kingdom. The Jonbeel Mela, usually held on the Thursday after Bhogali Bihu, is a community festival believed to have begun in the 14th century.

Maliwal dragging case 'Accused harassed another woman on Jan 17'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Friday alleged that the man accused of harassing her outside AIIMS had also "preyed on another woman" in a similar fashion earlier this month.

Maliwal alleged that she was molested by a drunk man while on an inspection at night and dragged for 10-15 metres by his car outside AIIMS with her hand stuck in the vehicle's window. The accused, a 47-year-old man, has been arrested. "The person who harassed me has also preyed

on other women. One woman reported on the 181 helpline that on January 17 this man had repeatedly circled around her with his car on Lodhi Road, asking her to get in. I am thankful that I got him caught. I appeal to everyone to not be afraid but raise your voice," Maliwal said in a tweet in Hindi. Maliwal also shared a video of the woman narrating her ordeal of being harassed by the man. "In today's newspaper I saw that the chairperson of Delhi Commission (for Women) had been harassed and there was a picture of the perpetrator.

Let administration decide on Bharat Jodo Yatra route in Kashmir: Congress

Srinagar, Jan 20 (PTI)

The Congress wants to take the Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, through the interiors of the Kashmir valley, but has left the decision on the route of the foot march to security agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, party leader Chetan Chauhan said here.

"We have carried out reconnaissance and submitted two routes — one through the national highway and another through the interiors of Kashmir. Now it is up to security officials and the administration whether they will allow us or not," Chauhan told PTI as the yatra entered Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

He said the Congress has not released the yatra's route plan in Kashmir due to security



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves after the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Kathua district, Friday.

reasons. "We have not released the route of this yatra in Kashmir (yet) because we have not received a clearance from the security officials so far," he added.

Chauhan, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) coordinator, is here to review the arrangements for the yatra, which is likely to

enter the valley on January 27.

"Some hoardings have been installed. As the yatra comes closer to Kashmir, more will be installed," he said.

The Congress leader said the yatra, which began from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu in September, will culminate in Srinagar on January

30, after covering a distance of almost 3,500 kilometres.

"On January 30, a huge rally will be held at the cricket stadium in Srinagar for which all preparations have been made. It will be a historical event. People are enthusiastic (about it)," he added. Chauhan said 12 to 15 political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), will join the yatra.

"We are getting a huge response and support from the locals in the valley," he said. Chauhan said the aim of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to counter the hate being spread in the country and raise the real issues being faced by people. "Since the beginning of the yatra, the BJP has been trying to fool the country.

AAP hits back at Cong over Rahul Gandhi's 'remote control' remarks

Chandigarh, Jan 20 (PTI)

The ruling AAP in Punjab has attacked Rahul Gandhi over his allegation that the government in the state was being remote controlled, saying the Congress used to summon former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi often to Delhi.

On Thursday, Gandhi at a rally in Pathankot had alleged that the Bhagwant Mann government in

Punjab was being run with a remote control as he sought to point towards Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha for calling the shots in the state.

Opposition parties in the state have been attacking Mann, claiming that his government is being remote controlled by AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Congress' 52-year-old

youth @RahulGandhi ji eats almonds, your memory has become weak!" the AAP's Punjab unit tweeted late Thursday night after Gandhi rally, which was a part of the Congress' Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Gandhi family used to often summon the then chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and he used to go to Delhi, the party said in its tweet in Hindi.

Delhi Assembly to organise Delhi Youth Parliament from January 23-25

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI)

Delhi Assembly will organise Delhi Youth Parliament 2023' from January 23-25 on its premises and 84 students from esteemed universities and colleges of the city will take part in the event, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said on Friday. Addressing a press conference, Niwas said the

youth parliament will provide these students with an opportunity to understand the parliamentary process of law-making and discuss urgent matters of public importance in a real-time frame. "The youth of Delhi would be educated about various legislative processes like resolutions on steps to discourage Chinese products and promote indige-

nous goods', increasing enrollments in higher education', steps to address over-filled landfills' and steps to improve women's security," Niwas said. "Questions on issues related to the public interest, two bills namely Advancement of Higher Education Bill, 2023 and Universal Healthcare Bill, 2023 will be raised," he added.

Existing international order created for West interest; world needs new one: Zardari

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

The existing international order was created keeping in mind interests of the West and the world needs a new one where voice of the Global South can be heard, Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Friday.

Speaking at a session during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023 here, he also favoured peace negotiations to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

"Unfortunately, geopolitics is reflecting a lot of domestic politics these days. There is a hyper polarisation that is happening. Similarly the international order and institutional frameworks that held the world together, those are also being undermined by the hyper polarised times



Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with other panellists at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023, in Davos, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 20.

and hyper partisan," he said.

Zardari said the old international order for dispute resolution has certainly failed and there is a need for a new and an improved rules-based international order to address the issues.

"And for building that new order, voice of Global South must be heard for it to be successful...The entire international order is

structured in the interest of the western world, which may be so because it was created in a colonial world. We need to take into account the Global South, Africa and Asia," the minister said. The Pakistani leader said the Ukraine war is the first time when international order and the UN security council resolutions have been violated. "I believe that diplomacy is the key thing that

is missing. I want to tell my Ukrainian friends that NATO was there in my neighbourhood too, but the Afghan tragedy finally ended when all sides sat together on a table," he added. "I fail to see why we can't have some serious international players try peace negotiations side by side. What is the worst that can happen? It will fail but still that must be tried," he added.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST



Lima: Anti-government protesters who traveled to the capital from across the country to march against Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, pelted the police with rocks during clashes in Lima, Peru. Protesters are seeking immediate elections, Boluarte's resignation, the release of ousted President Pedro Castillo and justice for up to 48 protesters killed in clashes with police.

Defence leaders meet amid dissent over tanks for Ukraine

Ramstein Air Base, Jan 20 (AP):

Defence leaders gathered at Ramstein Air Base in Germany heard an impassioned plea for more aid Friday from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as they struggled to resolve ongoing dissent over who will provide battle tanks and other military aid to his embattled country.

"This is a crucial moment. Russia is regrouping, recruiting and trying to re-equip," U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin warned as the meeting opened.

Zelenskyy, speaking live via video link, told the gathering that "terror does not allow for discussion." He said "the war started by Russia does not allow delays." Calling it a decisive moment for Ukraine and a "decisive decade for the world," Austin said the group's presence in Germany signalled their unity and commitment to continue supporting Ukraine.

"We need to keep up our momentum and our resolve. We need to dig even deeper," Austin told the gathering of as many as 50 defense leaders who were

attending in person and by video. Austin and U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were expected to discuss the latest massive package of aid the U.S. is sending, which totals 2.5 billion and includes Stryker armored vehicles for the first time.

But broader hesitation over sending tanks to Ukraine has roiled the coalition. Germany faces mounting pressure to supply Leopard 2 tanks to Kyiv, or at least clear the way for other countries, such as Poland, to deliver the German-made Leopards from their own stocks. The U.S. has also declined, at least so far, to provide M1 Abrams tanks, citing the extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehicle. The U.S. believes it would be more productive to send Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops would only have to get trained on that one,

versus needing far more training on the more difficult Abrams.

The United Kingdom announced last week that it would send Challenger 2 tanks, describing it as a natural progression of military aid to Ukraine.

At a Pentagon briefing Thursday, spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said the Leopard and Challenger aren't comparable to the Abrams tanks because the Abrams is much harder to maintain and wouldn't be a good fit. "It's more of a sustainment issue. I mean, this is a tank that requires jet fuel, whereas the Challenger and the Leopard are a different engine." The Leopard and Challenger are "a little bit easier to maintain," Singh said. "They can maneuver across large portions of territory before they need to refuel. The maintenance and the high cost that it would take to maintain an Abrams it just doesn't make sense to provide that to the Ukrainians at this moment."

Mahinda Rajapaksa thanks India for supporting Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe (R) shakes hands with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar during their meeting in Colombo.

Colombo, Jan 20 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday held discussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on a range of issues of mutual interest and thanked the Indian government for its steadfast commitment to assisting his country during its troubled times.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign as the prime minister in May last year following street protests in

the country against the government led by his brother and former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling of the unprecedented economic crisis. "Had successful discussions with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar & discussed a range of issues of mutual interest," Mahinda Rajapaksa tweeted.

"Also thanked the Indian govt. for its steadfast commitment in assisting #SriLanka during its

troubled times & the strong ties shared between Sri Lanka & India," the 77-year-old leader tweeted.

Jaishankar is in Sri Lanka to meet the country's top leaders to enhance bilateral ties and finalise a debt restructuring plan to help Colombo carve out a path from its economic crisis.

The IMF facility would enable the island nation to obtain bridging finance from markets and other lending institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022 due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family, which has dominated Sri Lankan politics for over two decades.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the patriarch of the Rajapaksa family, served as president from 2005 to 2015. He also served as the prime minister from 2004 to 2005, 2018, and 2019 to 2022.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजेन्द्र पार्क चौक, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
 दूरभाष क्र. 0778-2323633, E-mail: eedurg-phe-cg@nic.in

// निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना //

इस कार्यालय के निविदाओं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित निविदाओं को जीरो/पी.क्यू. में अपात्र होने के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

नि.सू.क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम
185, 210, 216, 211, दिनांक 02.12.2022, 06.12.2022, 22.12.2022, 06.12.2022	116104, 116332, 118026, 116333	राजपुर, चोंडा, कनहारपुरी, रीता, परसदाखुर्द, खिलौराकखुर्द, फुण्डा, गाड़गायत

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-978272

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग सेतु निर्माण संभाग दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

निविदा विज्ञापन क्र. 259/NIT-03/2022-23/ब.ले.लि. दिनांक 17.01.2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीयन ठेकेदार से निम्नलिखित मैनुअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

एन.आइ.टी. क्र. निविदा क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
6 T0022	राजनेंद्रगंज-अर्जुन-गुण्डरदेही मार्ग (एस.एच.-23) के कि.मी. 17/2 पर कुमहालारी नाला पर निर्मित पुल के गेन्डी बोर्ड के विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	9.59
6 T0023	राजनेंद्रगंज-अर्जुन-गुण्डरदेही मार्ग (एस.एच.-23) के कि.मी. 8/6 पर डोहिया नाला पर निर्मित पुल के गेन्डी बोर्ड के विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	9.95

नोट:-
 1. निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.01.2023
 2. उपरोक्त निविदा की जानकारी विभागीय वेब पोर्टल www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur से भी अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 लो.नि.वि. सेतु निर्माण संभाग
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-978221

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

Applications are invited for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission

The details of eligibility etc and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website www.persmin.nic.in. The last date for receipt of applications in the Department is **22nd February 2023.**

CBC-32201/11/0008/2223

Nawaz Sharif blames Gen Bajwa & Gen Faiz for Pakistan's current turmoil



London/Isamabad, Jan 20 (PTI):

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif has blamed the ex-Army chief and ex-ISI head for the current turmoil in the country by rigging the 2018 general elections and installing Imran Khan-led government.

The former prime minister held ex-Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence Lt

Gen Faiz Hamid responsible for spinning Pakistan around for their personal wishes and whims, the Geo News reported.

Talking to the media on Thursday in London after meeting with a delegation of senior PML-N leaders from Pakistan, Sharif recalled his 2016 Gujranwala speech at the PML-N public gathering where he directly accused the ex-military men of rigging elections to make way for installing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in 2018.

At the time, Sharif blamed the military top brass for installing PTI's Khan as the prime minister in violation of the Constitution, removing his government, muzzling the media, pressurising the ju-

diciary, and victimising opposition politicians, the report said. When asked if he held Gen Bajwa and Gen Hamid responsible for the

state of the country, he said: "The reality is before everyone. Now no name or face is hidden. Pakistan was used for personal gain.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by SECL for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of SECL <http://www.secl-cil.in>, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>

S-35384/13

NMDC Limited
 (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
 'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
 CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT - ENGINEERING & PROJECT DIVISION

E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)

Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/ DSICT/PLC/CP14 & DH14/KDL/2022/895 dated 21.12.2023 [MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/93/22-23/ET/821]

NMDC Limited, a "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India invites online bids for 'DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF COMPLETE AUTOMATION SYSTEM OF CP-14 & DH 14 (01 SET) THROUGH REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT RELAY LOGIC SYSTEM (RLC) BY PLC AUTOMATION AT BIOM, KIRANDUL COMPLEX, CHATTISGARH WITH CAMC FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS AFTER WARRANTY PERIOD ON LUMPSUM TURNKEY (LSTK) BASIS; from prospective domestic bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.

Detailed NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/downloaded from 21.01.2023 to 20.02.2023 through the following websites:

- NMDC website: <https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender>
- Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>
- MSTC portal: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp

For accessing the bid document from NMDC website, the bidder has to register as 'New User' at NMDC's website link <https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender> For accessing the bid document from MSTC, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp and search the Tender Number NMDC/HO/93/22-23/ET/821. For further help, refer to 'Vendor Guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT.

The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC website/ CPP portal/ MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, CGM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax: 040-23534746, Tel: 040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

1958 Government Manager (Contracts)

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

(1) Tender Notice No. E-R-T-68-22-23 Date: 18.01.2023

Name of Work : Improvement/Standardization of cess in Raipur-Lakholi section under the jurisdiction of ADE/NI/Bhilai. Tender Value: ₹ 1,26,67,740/-, EMD: ₹ 2,13,300/-, Submission of Tender: upto 11.00 Hrs. on 14.02.2023, Opening of Tender: upto 11.00 Hrs. on 14.02.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEN(Co.)/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divl. Engineer-I
 PRR/Engg./IAN/208 S.E.C.R., Raipur

South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा, संभाग दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
 Email id : ee-res.durg@gov.in

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक-38

ज्ञा.क्र. 3762/ब.ले.वि./ग्रा.यां.से./2022-23 दुर्ग, दिनांक 13/01/2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीयन ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	स्वामी आत्मानंद उत्कृष्ट अंग्रेजी विद्यालय जामगांव (एम) में अतिरिक्त कक्ष निर्माण कार्य S.T.No. 120803	26.65

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में अथवा कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय में उपस्थित होकर दिनांक 13/01/2023 से देखी जा सकती है एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 27.01.2023 तक है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
 ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा संभाग
 दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

G-977521

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता,
जल संसाधन एवं भू-जल सर्वेक्षण मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निम्नलिखित कार्यो के लिए दिनांक 06.02.2023 समय 17:30 तक ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी जानकारी निम्नानुसार है :-

स.क्र.	कार्य का नाम	सिस्टम निविदा क्र./ निविदा सूचना क्र. एवं दिनांक	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)
1.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड घरसीवा की बुड्डेरा जलाशय योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्क्रू का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 900 मी. एवं आर.डी. 0 से 180 मी. तक रिमोडलिंग एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी. एवं 10 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120099/28/ वलेलि /2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	101.23 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के एस्.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)
2.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तित्वा की परस्ता जलाशय योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्क्रू का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 1170 मी. एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी. एवं 07 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120100/29/ वलेलि /2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	119.36 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के एस्.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)
3.	रायपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड घरसीवा की मलौद ब्यपर्वन योजना के शीर्ष कार्य, वेस्ट वियर एवं हेड स्क्रू का जीर्णोद्धार, आर.डी. 0 से 1200 मी. रिमोडलिंग एवं सी.सी. लार्डनिंग कार्य तथा 02 नग की.आर.बी., 02 नग फाल एवं 09 नग आऊट लेट का निर्माण कार्य।	120101/30/ वलेलि /2022-23 दि. 17.01.2023	125.85 (दिनांक 01.08.2010 के एस्.ओ.आर. तथा संशोधित 01.08.2014 के अनुसार)

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 24.01.2023 समय 17:31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

नोट:- निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता,
 जल संसाधन संभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
 कृते, अधीक्षण अभियंता, जल संसाधन एवं भू-जल सर्वेक्षण मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-97765/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 292

WEF's Global Risk's report 2023: What it means for Indian Economy?

As a part of the tradition of the global CEO's body World Economic Forum (WEF), the annual five day jamboree at Davos has started and the Global Risk Report 2023 has been released mentioning both the existing risks as also the new dangers threatening the global economy. As a journalist who attended Davos meet two decades ago as a journalist, I can vouch with confidence that nothing much has changed in the approach of the MNC CEOs and the top thought leaders of the western world in the last 25 years, the only difference is the participants talk more of inequality these days since Oxfam simultaneously releases its global inequality report. Indian participation is sponsored by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This year, Indian Prime Minister is not attending. The industry participants always talk of the success of the economic reforms in transforming the Indian economy and how they are contributing to the economic growth of the country. The Indian CEOs take the view that the present problems are due to halting reforms and in so many words, their thrust is that the very democratic character of the country's political system creates the problem as the present government's moves are getting stalled at different levels. In the last eight years of rule by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, most of the industry bodies have fully identified with the Modi regime. This gets its full reflection at all the Davos conclaves in the last eight years. The basic issue of the Indian economy is growth is taking place at the cost of employment and widening of inequality. The industry people have made full use of the pandemic period to streamline their operations through job cuts and lowering of wages. They have taken the facilities and the concessions offered by the Narendra Modi government but have not transferred the benefits to their workers. In 2022 and now in 2023, Indian labour is being mistreated even after the easing of the pandemic and the uptick in the economy. As 2023 begins, according to the WEF report, the world is facing a set of risks that feel both wholly new and eerily familiar. We have seen a return of "older" risks - inflation, cost-of-living crises, trade wars, capital outflows from emerging markets, widespread social unrest, geopolitical confrontation and the spectre of nuclear warfare - which few of this generation's business leaders and public policy-makers have experienced. These are being amplified by comparatively new developments in the global risks landscape, including unsustainable levels of debt, a new era of low growth, low global investment and de-globalization, a decline in human development after decades of progress, rapid and unconstrained development of dual-use (civilian and military) technologies, and the growing pressure of climate change impacts and ambitions in an uncertain world. As the WEF's Global Risks Report sees it, next decade will be characterized by environmental and societal crises, driven by underlying geopolitical and economic trends. "Cost-of-living crisis" is ranked as the most severe global risk over the next two years, peaking in the short term. "Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse" is viewed as one of the fastest deteriorating global risks over the next decade, and all six environmental risks feature in the top 10 risks over the next 10 years. Nine risks are featured in the top 10 rankings over both the short and the long term, including "Geoeconomic confrontation" and "Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarisation", alongside two new entrants to the top rankings: "Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity" and "Large-scale involuntary migration".

The Report observes that the economic aftereffects of covid-19 and the war in Ukraine have ushered in skyrocketing inflation, and started a low growth, low investment era. In the New Year, inflation is under control in India but the low growth and low investment era is continuing. Earlier, many think tanks have predicted that the investment from China will be shifted to India, but the latest opening up of the Chinese economy and the moves of Beijing to take extra measures for keeping the wages in China at lower level to attract the investors, may have to be reckoned by India. Already, many foreign institutional investors have shifted from Indian stock market to China. There is need for ensuring the flow of foreign direct investment in the areas of the Indian economy needing latest technology. The WEF Report has talked of accentuation of livelihood crisis in the coming period and this is very relevant to India. The Report categorically mentions that even if some economies experience a softer-than-expected economic landing, the end of the low interest rate era will have significant ramifications for governments, businesses and individuals. The knock-on effects will be felt most acutely by the most vulnerable parts of society and already-fragile states, contributing to rising poverty, hunger, violent protests, political instability and even state collapse. Further, economic pressures will also erode gains made by middle-income households, spurring discontent, political polarization and calls for enhanced social protections in countries across the world. Governments will continue to face a dangerous balancing act between protecting a broad swathe of their citizens from an elongated cost-of-living crisis without embedding inflation - and meeting debt servicing costs as revenues come under pressure from an economic downturn, an increasingly urgent transition to new energy systems, and a less stable geopolitical environment. The resulting new economic era may be one of growing divergence between rich and poor countries and the first rollback in human development in decades. There is clear message from the Report to India which the Modi Government can transform into actual action in favour of the vulnerable sections of the population. India is among the most affected countries with minimum social security for the unorganized as also a section of organized. The acute distress of those who lost jobs during pandemic has only led to the further downhill journey of poverty level as also the fall in the living standard of the poor and middle class. This issue can be tackled effectively by implementing a minimum basic income scheme for the people below the poverty line and the jobless till they get jobs. This is being implemented in some Latin American countries. Leading economists like Amartya Sen, Abhijit Banerjee and Dr. Pranab Bardhan have supported this scheme. The issue is in a country like India, where the social protection schemes are so limited, the basic income scheme can not only protect the millions, this scheme will lead to the pepping up of consumption and consequent demand. The 2023-24 budget makers can take signals from the WEF report and do something really substantial for the vulnerable sections of the country's population by adopting the basic income scheme and simultaneously taking up measures for the crash generation of jobs. That is the prerequisite for a growth oriented budget for fiscal 2023-24.

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

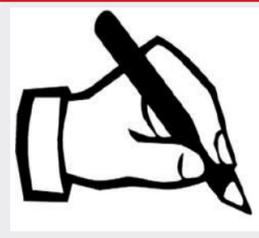
JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL



Tanzanian-British novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah speaks during the Jaipur Literature Festival, in Jaipur, Friday, Jan. 20.

Union Budget 2023-24 must ensure inclusive education

DR. GYAN PATHAK



Poor households of the country have increasingly been put into precarious conditions as far as education of their children are concerned. Public educational institutions, which are the only destination for poor students, are deteriorating in imparting quality education due to a range of issues including insufficient budget among others. Even fundamental right to education has not been honoured, which is reflected in decline in budgetary allocation for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan compared to 2020-21, while population is increasing. Education, beyond this primary level, have been made costlier through a range of policies, a general trend under PM Modi rule since 2014. Tuition fees have been increased and taxes have been imposed on educational services and input materials that have made reading and writing materials unaffordably costly for poor students.

Such an environment has been creating two distinct worlds of privileged and unprivileged students. The entire education system is heading toward disempowering the unprivileged students through blocking their paths to quality and universal education - right from simple reading and writing materials to quality and affordable educational institutions. Union Budget 2023-24 should therefore must in-

creased budgetary support to public education system, and ensure that private educational institutions also must earmark certain number of seats for unprivileged students since most of them derive benefits from public resources and certain other facilities from the government. The last three years under the shadow of COVID-19 is marked with huge learning losses at all level of education. Union government is yet to come out with effective programmes to make up this learning loss. The crisis has led to a new system of education which is known as online education. Online and offline education are now to stay. However, poor students are still not able to access online education or virtual classroom due to lack of proper electricity and internet connectivity and instruments like mobile, laptops, or desktops.

Huge digital gaps are there not only between students of poor and rich households but also between the urban and rural areas. This gap is also visible between the girls and boy students, and the students from educated and uneducated households. This is a measure of concern which need to be properly addressed now since the future economies and employments would be heavily dependent on traditional and digital knowledge, skills and trainings. It would be very unfair if we do not provide equal educational access but would insist on 'competition' between the privileged and unprivileged, only to insure that students from privileged households only succeed an all spheres of life. Budget 2022-23 had increased Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan budget by Rs6000 crore, but was still below the budgetary allocation for 2020-21. Budgetary allocation for teachers training and adult education was reduced to almost half from Rs250 crore in 2021-22

to Rs127 crore in 2022-23. Union government must take note of the new requirement of teachers training in the light of hybrid (physical classroom and digital) education, and also for the effective implement of the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 right from pre-primary to higher education level. Teachers and students both need to be technology enabled.

Imposing GST on educational services is indeed a bad idea which includes Ed-Tech, training, coaching and other related educational activities. Taxing education is a greed and no civil society should tax it. Union Budget 2023-24 must remove all taxes on services and goods that make education costly and unaffordable for majority of Indians at a time when more than 81 crore people out of 140 crore population survive on 5 kg free foodgrains per month. The NEP2020 emphasizes a new framework for pre-primary education. How can it be implemented if there would not be any clear policy for funding and appropriately trained teachers and other personnels? The Union Budget 2023-24 therefore clearly needs to have appropriate allocation in this regard. NEP lays much emphasis on compulsory and vocational training from secondary education level. It would need huge funding and trained human resources if we really want our students to have an exposure to vocational education from their early school days.

Education sector expenditure have been almost stagnant over the last few years at 3.1 per cent of the GDP. According to the Economic Survey for 2021-22, it was only 2.8 per cent in 2019-20, and 3.1 per cent in 2020-21 revised estimate and 3.1 per cent in 2021-22 budgeted estimate. The NEP-2020 has said that the government would make efforts

to increase it to 6 per cent of the GDP, but did not mention the year by which Modi government intends to do it. Universal school education remains a dream. NEP 2020 aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 per cent gross enrolment ratio in school education by 2030, will bring 2 crore out-of-school children back into the mainstream, gross enrolment ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 per cent by 2035 with 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education, among others. All these are easier said than done. Union Budget 2023-24 will need to considerably enhance the educational expenditure if there are to be achieved.

Among these sugar-coated words a contradiction exists that says every college would develop into either an autonomous degree-granting college or a constituent college of a university. It only means making education even more costly, since the burden of funding education would be ultimately shifted to students, and only those student could be able to access higher education who can afford it. Budget allocation for education in 2022-23 was only Rs 1,04,278 crore (2.6 per cent of the total Union budget) as against Rs 93,224 crore (2.7 per cent of the Union budget) in 2021-22. However, the revised estimate for 2021-22 shows that the Centre spent only Rs 88,002 crore which was only 2.3 per cent of the total budget, even less than 2.4 per cent in 2020-21 (actual). We hope that Centre must utilize the allocated fund and refrain from making higher allocation only to boast that allocation has been increased. Common people need access to education and the Union Budget 2023-24 must ensure it, and must not left them behind by making education further unaffordable for them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jacinda Kate
Laurell Arden

New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Kate Laurell Arden, has said she is resigning, in an unexpected announcement that came as she confirmed a national election for October. Jacinda Arden became the world's youngest female head of government when she was elected the 40th Prime Minister (PM) in 2017 at 37. Her term as prime minister will conclude no later than 7 February but she will continue as an MP until the election this year. Interestingly, she also made headlines again in 2018, when she became only the second prime minister in the world to give birth to her daughter while in office - after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990. During her tenure as the PM, she has led New Zealand through the Covid-19 pandemic, and a series of disasters including the terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch, and the White Island volcanic eruption. After doing great work for her country when in service and now stepping down the moment Arden feels she can't carry on with her duties in an expected manner instead this is time required for daughter Neve Te Aroha and get married with Clarke Gayford. She values life's priorities. As a sensational female leader and PM leaving the job gracefully. Whereas from the next day of accession in the PM chair, our PM only focus is how to get re-elected for next term again through a 400 days program even after two terms. That's why though New Zealand is a small but developed country and we are not.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad

Drug syndicate

The higher incidence of cross-border drug smuggling and the recent busting of a drug syndicate have again raised serious concerns. Despite major drug seizures from time to time and the arrest of petty peddlers and erring policemen, successive governments have failed to check the menace, courtesy the nexus between politicians and the police. The government should show political will and devise a strategy to bust this well-organised racket. With a proactive NCB and the state police, the political leadership should take strict action against the drug lords.

DS Kang, Hoshiarpur

With a pinch of salt

Pakistan's temporary overtures of peace with India can't be taken at its face value. The conciliatory tone by the Pakistan PM, followed by an immediate U-turn, is nothing new. Pakistan's policy of belligerence, cross-border terrorism, hate and falsehood against India, irrespective of any government - military or civil - is predictable and consistent. Its collusion with China to thwart India's growing international clout is all too obvious, besides bleeding India through daily cuts in J&K. All political parties in Pakistan are in a fierce competition to show this animosity, as was evident by the recent immature utterances of its foreign minister. Nothing positive and tangible can be read into it. It is a ploy to tide over its present financial nightmare and diplomatic challenges. India must not lower its guards and should remain ever alert against unreliable neighbours whose inimical intentions are too obvious.

Capt. JS Boparai (Retd), by mail

Divorce isn't always the best answer



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Divorce, today, has gone to an average home which is generally the last line of defence for any society like ours. It is rightly pointed out that "The impact of divorce on children can be deep and life long". Marriage is now no longer a sacred word and divorces no longer a dirty one. Marriages are changing because women are changing - both in the metropolis and in the smaller towns. A signifi-

cantly growing number of Indians are flooding the divorce courts to escape from unhappy marriages and assert their newfound independence. The number of broken families has increased after became easy. Society has treated divorce as taboo for long. There are a thousand reasons for a marriage to break. But there is one more reason for a compromise. Marriages survive on account of moral fear. Change in attitudes towards divorce is a part of the process of secularization in Indian society. Secularization refers to the declining influence of religion. Divorce is not a happy option for couples.

Marriage is considered to be an unbreakable union of life according to Hindu scriptures, regardless of its success or failure. Divorce means the termination of marital relations. It means dissolution of

the marital bond. Technically speaking, divorce means a decree of dissolution of marriage. Divorce is a process through which marital bond ceases to be in existence as per law and the couple can no longer be called the husband or the wife. Hindu marriage is regarded as sacred because it is a bond of indissoluble nature. In any society when the married persons feel that they cannot live together, they have no other alternative but to dissolve the marriage.

Divorce is the final dissolution of marriage. As far as Hindus are concerned, the bond of matrimony was regarded as permanent bond and dissolution of marriage was generally not regarded as proper. When couples divorce, the greatest causality is not the relationship but the children. It also shows that marriage is no longer a sacred

word and divorce no longer a dirty one. A marriage is a union of two families, not just two individuals. There have been steady rises in divorce rates in India throughout recent decades. The causes of marital breakdown in the form of divorce or separation in India are different from that of the Western countries. However, many factors are associated with the rise in divorce rate in India.

The changing attitudes towards divorce have been institutionalized by various changes in laws which have made room for divorce. Divorce legislations were influenced by the notion of suffering and unhappiness of the adults trapped in the so called 'empty-shell' marriages, where the spouses live together but their marriages exist in name only. These legislations provided grounds for divorce

and made divorce considerably easier.

According to the World Press review finding (1987), divorces are on the increase to such an extent that all major cities of India have had to create 'reconciliation bureaus' to help estranged couples. For better or for worse, divorce has become the way out. The pati-parmeshwar has rudely and gradually been brought down to earth. Moreover, most children of divorced parents lead a volleyball existence that is thrown from one side to the other without a safety net for their emotions. In many cases, men seeking divorce are prepared to return whatever they have received as dowry. The question is how to bring an end to this practice? Will divorces continue for ever? If so, a day will come when our society as we see it today will cease to exist.

BRIEF

Irdai

Mumbai: The insurance industry will need a capital infusion of Rs 50,000 crore per year to double its penetration in the next five years, sector watchdog Irdai's chief Debasish Panda said on Friday. Panda appealed to business conglomerates to channelise funds into the sector, saying the return on equity is at a healthy 14 per cent for life insurers and 16 per cent for non-life, while in the case of top five companies it goes up to 20 per cent as well. It can be noted that the insurance sector is a very competitive industry, with nearly two dozen life insurance companies and over 30 non-life ones.

JSW Steel

New Delhi: JSW Steel on Friday posted a sharp 85.50 per cent fall in its December quarter consolidated net profit to Rs 474 crore mainly on account of higher expenses. The firm had clocked a net profit of Rs 4,516 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. Total income during the October-December quarter of the ongoing fiscal rose to Rs 39,322 crore from Rs 38,225 crore a year ago. Expenses were also higher at Rs 38,288 crore as against Rs 31,986 crore.

Chetu

Noida: Chetu, a leading provider of world-class software development and support services, has announced the details of the company's growth for the 2022 fiscal year, as well as future projects and partnerships. The company stated that it exceeded Rs. 606 crore (\$74.48 million USD) in revenue and saw more than 10 percent in growth company-wide. Entering its 23rd year of operation, Chetu experienced its best financial year on record, generating over Rs. 606 crore in revenue and exceeding double-digit growth for the second year in a row.

Bajaj Finance

Pune: Once again, Bajaj Finance has happy news for all the investors, and it has increased the FD rates by up to 40 bps points. The new rates will be effective from January 20, 2023. According to the announcement, the interest rate for FDs with a maturity of 44 months will be 8.10% p.a. for senior citizens, and 7.85% p.a. for customers below 60 years of age. The new rates will be applicable to all new deposits and renewals with Bajaj Finance for a tenure of 12 to 60 months.

Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's on Friday affirmed long-term deposit rating of State Bank of India (SBI) and upgraded it for Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda on improving credit profile. The outlooks on long-term ratings of all the four banks remain stable, Moody's Investors Service said in a statement. Moody's has affirmed the Baa3 long-term local and foreign currency bank deposit ratings of SBI.

India bright spot amid global crisis; PM Modi's leadership critical in fractured world: WEF Chairman

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in a fractured world, the World Economic Forum's Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said India is a bright spot amid the global crisis.

After attending an India reception on Thursday night during the WEF Annual Meeting 2023, Schwab said India is promoting a just and equitable growth for all in the world during its G20 presidency, while also making significant progress on the most pressing domestic challenges. "India's G20 presidency comes at a crucial time, Prime Minister Modi's leadership is critical in this fractured world," Schwab said. The



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (L) arrives on stage next to World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab at the Congress centre during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos.

WEF also issued a statement and said it values its nearly 40-year collaborative history with India and looks forward to continued cooperation with the country during its G20 presidency under Prime

Minister Modi's leadership. The WEF said its annual meeting is taking place at a time when multiple crises have deepened divisions and fragmented the geopolitical landscape. Governments and businesses must address people's immediate, critical needs while also laying the groundwork for a more sustainable, resilient world by the end of the decade, leaders have said here.

The WEF said the programme simultaneously addresses immediate crises and long-term future challenges and helps set the scene for India's G20 presidency. "I had the pleasure of meeting the Indian ministerial delegation and many of its top business leaders," Schwab said.

Swiggy lays off 380 employees

CEO Majety says overhiring 'poor judgement'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Online food delivery platform Swiggy on Friday laid off 380 employees as part of a "restructuring exercise" citing challenging macroeconomic conditions, with its CEO Sriharsha Majety saying that overhiring was a case of "poor judgement" where he should have done better. In an internal email, Majety, Co-Founder and CEO, also apologised to the affected employees and said the "extremely difficult decision" taken after "exploring all available options" and offered an employee assistance plan for the impacted people. He said the growth rate for food delivery has slowed down versus the company's projections. "This meant that we needed to revisit our overall indirect costs to hit our profitability goals.

While we'd already initiated actions on other indirect costs like infrastructure, office/facilities etc., we needed to right-size our overall personnel costs also in line with the projections for the future. "Our overhiring is a case of poor judgement, and I should've done better here," Majety said in the email. Earlier in the morning, he had addressed a townhall of Swiggy employees. As part of the employee assistance plan, Swiggy has offered cash payout ranging from three to six months based on the affected employees' tenure and grade. They will receive either an assured three months pay or notice period plus 15 days gratia for every completed year of service plus balance earned leave as per policy whichever is higher.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on global economic slowdown concerns

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the second day in a row on Friday due to a decline in index major Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, and Infosys amid concerns over global economic slowdown.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 236.66 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 60,621.77 with 20 of its constituents ending in red. During the day, it fell 273.18 points or 0.44 per cent to 60,585.25.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 80.20 points or 0.44 per cent to end at 18,027.65 as 36 of its stocks closed with losses.

"Shaking off the weak lead from Wall Street, domestic indices attempted

TANISHQ'S STORE INAUGURATION



US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman and Senator Robert Menendez with other dignitaries during the inauguration of Tanishq's store in New Jersey, USA.

to trade higher due to economic optimism that stemmed from China's reopening. However, concerns over the global economic slowdown eventually caught up and dragged markets lower," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Global Financial Services said that the equity market continued to trade lower in sync with developments abroad, mainly the US markets.

"While the probability of the Fed hiking rates further to slay the demon of inflation is quite high, the consequences of the rate action over a period of time translating itself into an economic slowdown is occupying the minds of

the investors." Thomas said. From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 3.84 per cent amid concerns over increase in royalty and central services arrangement fee to its parent Unilever group.

Reliance Industries declined by 1.15 per cent ahead of its financial results while Infosys closed lower by 1.03 per cent.

Among others, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti and Bharti Airtel also dropped.

Power Grid was the biggest gainer, rising by 1.2 per cent. HDFC Bank, HDFC, ITC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

Rupee gains 18 paise to close at 81.18 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

The rupee appreciated 18 paise to close at 81.18 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday on broad dollar weakness. However, weak domestic equities and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.24, and settled for the day at 81.18 (provisional), registering a rise of 18 paise over its previous close. During the trading session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 81.09 and a low of 81.28 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 81.36 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.21 per cent to 102.26. Global oil benchmark

Brent crude futures rose 0.48 per cent to USD 86.57 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee appreciated on Friday on soft US dollar and FII inflows on Thursday. "Dollar declined on increasing odds of a 25-bps rate hike by FOMC following disappointing economic data coming out from the US," Choudhary said. The US Federal Reserve Vice Chair Lael Brainard hinted that the US Fed may hike rates at a slower pace by 25 bps in the next Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting in February and is expected to hold higher rates for longer to tame inflation. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on a weak tone in the greenback. However, concerns over global economic growth and a surge in crude oil prices may cap a sharp upside.

Bentley drives in Bentleyga Extended Wheelbase in India priced at Rs 6 cr

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Ultra luxury car maker Bentley on Friday launched all-new Bentleyga extended wheelbase for the Indian market, priced at Rs 6 crore (ex-showroom Delhi).

The company's dealer in India, Exclusive Motors, said that with the addition of the new model it is aiming for at least 40 per cent sales growth in the current year over 2022.

"We sold 40 units last year and this year we are looking to sell around 60 units in the country," Exclusive Motors Managing Director Satya Bagla told PTI on the sidelines of the launch.

The company has commenced taking orders for the model, which comes



Exclusive Motors Managing Director Satya Bagla poses next to the newly launched Bentley's Bentleyga EWB Azure SUV, in New Delhi, Friday, Jan. 20.

with a 4-litre 550 PS V8 petrol engine. It takes around 7-8 months for the delivery of the car as the unit is imported into the country, Bagla said.

"The new Bentleyga Extended Wheelbase is the next chapter in the

Bentleyga story. This new SUV has a rear-cabin experience comparable to the legendary Mulsanne," Bagla said.

These advancements, along with the outstanding skills of Bentley's craftspeople, make the

Bentleyga extended wheelbase the ultimate luxury SUV to drive or be driven in, he added.

The Bentleyga extended wheelbase builds on the latest second-generation Bentleyga, extending the wheelbase and rear cabin space by an extra 180 mm.

The company has retail presence in three cities, Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad from where it caters to the customers.

When asked about growth potential of the ultra luxury car segment in the country, Bagla said: "The segment is growing and the only issue is high import duties which somehow impede the growth of the vertical. Gradually we hope the government will rationalise it going further."

Govt to introduce incentive scheme to boost R&D by pharma industry: DCGI Somani

Nagpur, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Centre is all set to introduce a research linked incentive programme shaped on the lines of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to boost research and development of biotech products in the country, said Drugs Controller General of India Dr V G Somani on Friday.

PLI scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

Somani was speaking on the first day of the 72nd Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Nagpur. The three-day event will cover various issues related to the pharmaceutical industry, aca-



demia and community pharmacy and will be attended by delegates from India and abroad.

The accomplishments of the Indian pharmaceutical sector during the COVID years were a huge boon for society, said Somani, who heads India's apex drug regulatory agency Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

"Firstly, the urgency to identify the virus (coronavirus) and secondly to develop vaccine, medicines and diagnostics for COVID-19 was not an ordinary challenge. But, with the encouragement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian pharmaceutical industry accepted this challenge and successfully developed the vaccine that not only saved millions of lives in India but also in several other parts of the globe," said Somani.

Underscoring the importance of policy reforms, innovation, and research and development, he said the government has taken several initiatives to aid innovative research and establish appropriate ecosystems.

KTM to sell electric version of Chetak in Europe from 1st qtr of 2024

Pune, Jan 20 (PTI):

Swiss sports bike maker KTM, which has a manufacturing joint venture with Bajaj Auto, on Friday said it will begin selling the electric model of the resurrected iconic Chetak in the first quarter of 2024 in Europe.

The 50.1:49.9 joint venture also rolled out the 1 millionth KTM bike from the Chakan plant near here. KTM claims to be the world's No 1 premium motorbike brand.

The E-Chetak especially the second generation, is a great commuter product for a market like Europe. If everything goes as planned we should be selling this e-scooter in Europe from early 2024. The European marketing

season begins in March and we should be ready by then, Stefan Pierer, the chief executive of Perier Mobility which owns the KTM brand told reporters here.

Since its launch in 1972, the Chetak became a household name over the decades but since the company made bigger from bikes, Bajaj Auto under the present management led by Rajiv Bajaj in 2006 discontinued the Chetak.

The iconic scooter made a comeback in October 2019 in the EV form and since then has sold over 24,000 units at price tag of Rs 1.4 lakh and is available in 40 cities now.

The Bajaj KTM tie-up began in October 2007 and the first bike was rolled out in 2011.

Fragmentation can cost 7 pc of global GDP: be pragmatic and collaborate: IMF chief

Davos, Jan 20 (PTI):

Asking the world to be pragmatic and collaborate, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on Friday said fragmentation can cost up to 7 per cent of the global GDP.

"If we don't unite now, we'll face significant risk to the economy and people's wellbeing," she said during a session on global economy on the last day of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023.

The International Monetary Fund Managing Director said if we look at medium-term growth prospects, how we handle the supply chain issues, that will decide our future



prospects. She said her message to the world is to "be pragmatic and collaborate".

Asked what will take the IMF to upgrade its global growth forecast, she said, "Last year, we downgraded the growth projections three times and not downgrading

further itself is good news at the moment." Also, the labour market needs to be looked at seriously, as for anyone, having a cost of living crisis and a job is much better than having no cost of living crisis and no job, she said.

"2022 was a weird year. There was no growth engine. But some things must be improving now or at least it has not been as bad as feared," ECB President and former IMF chief Christine Lagarde said.

China is now emerging again and that would be positive for the rest of the world also, though that may lead to some inflationary pressures, she added.

Product promotions: Govt makes it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose material interest

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose their "material" interest in endorsing products and services and violations can attract strict legal action, including ban on endorsements.

The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements as well protect the interests of consumers amid the expanding social influencer market which is projected to be worth around Rs 2,800 crore by 2025.

The new guidelines named 'Endorsement Know Hows' — for celebrities, influencers and virtual media influencers

(Avatar or computer generated character) on social media platforms' has been issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In case of violation, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 will be applicable.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) can impose penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers. For subsequent offences, penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh can be imposed. The authority can prohibit endorser of a misleading ad from making any endorsement for up to 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.



Priyanka Chopra responds to criticism of her use of surrogate

'Quantico' actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas is addressing criticism of her use of a surrogate. The actress, 40, shared with 'British Vogue' her journey to motherhood and life as a mom to daughter Malti Marie, who celebrated her first birthday earlier this week. Malti's birth was announced in a joint statement from Chopra Jonas and husband Nick Jonas, shared on their respective social media accounts, reports 'People' magazine. The news that their baby girl was born via surrogate was met with commentary and criticism that was hard for the new mom. "I've developed a tough hide when people talk about me," she told 'British Vogue'. "But it's so painful when they talk about my daughter. I'm like, 'Keep her out of it.'" "I know what it felt like to hold her little hands when they were trying to find her veins," she continued, referencing the fact that Malti was born three months premature. "So no, she's not going to be a gossip. I've been really protective of this chapter of my life with my daughter. Because it's not about my life only. It's hers too." As per 'People', Chopra Jonas went on to confirm that her use of a surrogate was medically necessary. "I had medical complications," she explained. "This was a necessary step, and I'm so grateful I was in a position where I could do this. Our surrogate was so generous, kind, lovely and funny, and she took care of this precious gift for us for six months." Noting that critics are unlikely to change their minds about her, Chopra Jonas levelled, "You don't know me. You don't know what I've been through. And just because I don't want to make my medical history, or my daughter's, public doesn't give you the right to make up whatever the reasons were".

Shahid cites 'Kantara' as example of why only spectacles seem to work

The audience's content preferences have changed in the last three years. This change has been catalysed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which even after three years, refuses to slow down.

Today, there is a clear demarcation in the mind of the audience about what they want to watch in theatres, because let's face it, going to the cinema is not a cakewalk because it involves some effort and then there are the hidden costs of fuel, parking, food and beverage, and not to forget the mind-numbing traffic and pollution.

According to Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor, who is gearing up for his web-series debut in the crime-thriller series 'Farzi', all said and done, good content will always work. He furnishes the recent example of the breakout success of last year's 'Kantara'.

The Kannada film, which has been written and directed by its lead actor Rishab Shetty, has broken new grounds and territories courtesy its rootedness and honest storytelling, something that will define the success of a film in the post-pandemic world.

"How would you judge a film like 'Kantara', man? It was not a spectacle when it was released. Of course, it is a spectacle to watch but it was the audience that made that film what it has become now," said Shahid.

Delving deeper, he said: "It's more about how cinematic experience a film could provide. I agree that there is a clear demarcation between different content pieces but I don't see this as a change in trend. I just feel that multiple things have happened in the



last three years and the differentiation is what I want to watch at home and what I am willing to watch in the theatres." Sharing his observation and insights, he expressed: "One thing that I have observed in the audience is that they are not willing to pay their hard-earned money for mediocre content. Unless your content is good, it has a certain scale, it has a certain entertainment quotient, it won't

work. The audience wants to watch good content. They are willing to walk into the theatres but you have to bring your A-game to the table."

One may sit down and analyse the impact of the pandemic on the film industries across the world, but at a human level, the pandemic's initial phase was very challenging for everyone more so for the film fraternity because to put their work together they

had to leave behind the social distancing and come together. Changing the course of conversation, the actor said: "Another thing is that the pandemic was very challenging for the entire fraternity because we work under certain conditions, this is a collaborative medium and there is a certain way of working."

"For instance, for 'Farzi', we hardly met before the shoot, we were constantly on Zoom calls trying to brainstorm from the confines of our homes staying as much safe as we could. "Filmmaking is a very tough and feel kind of a job, if you have to do a recce, you will have to visit the location and mark the boundaries for the shots, the props or the production design."

Shahid plays an artist turned counterfeiter in 'Farzi'. Shedding light on his character, he said: "I found this character to be a very interesting dichotomy since he is an artiste, he creates something but his creation causes destruction to the economy in the long run."

"What I really love about Sunny (the character) is that I don't think he knows what he is or what he is capable of. I never judge the characters that I play, it's okay with me if people judge them or even hate them. My job as an actor is to put conviction and believability in my characters."

He further mentioned: "My favourite line of this character from the series is that he says he is helping the system by actually putting in more money. Every criminal has a justification for their actions and so does he." 'Farzi' will be available to stream on Prime Video from February 10.

Chef Anahita, Special Guest Chef on 'Masterchef India'

The culinary reality format show 'MasterChef India' on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV has narrowed down to the "Top 15" home cooks. These fifteen fortunate contestants will continue to compete for the title of the season's victor. Chefs Ranveer Brar, Garima Arora, and Vikas Khanna judged the contestants based on the criteria of TIP- Taste, Innovation, and Precision. On Friday, 20th January, the contestants were given a 'Pressure test' and to judge the same, will be none other than, Anahita Dhondy Bhandari who hails from a Parsi family. She promoted Parsi cuisine and asking contestants to replicate her dish named 'Bhaji Dana Ma Goshl'.



from her mother and her grandmother. SodaBottle OpenerWala is where the Chef got her chance at wearing the chef's apron and toque blanche and there has been no looking back since then. Promoting her culture through food has been a dream of the Chef's and that dream also translated onto the dishes of the contestants on MasterChef India when they were asked to replicate Chef Anahita's Parsi inspired plat du jour. Six contestants who will be seen in the "Black Apron challenge" undergoing the "Pressure Test" will be seen making the special dish within the time of 30 minutes. Anahita would be seen interacting with

the contestants as they are cooking, giving them tips on how to better their dishes. In the end, according to a source close to the set, the challenge was appreciated by the chefs, "Chef Ranveer Brar would be expressing his pride in the contestants for cooking Parsi food, something which they have never explored before, thus thanking Anahita for her expertise and guidance."

The top 15 home cooks who were chosen are Priyanka Kundu Biswas from Kolkata, Aruna Vijay from Chennai, Priya Vijan from Bangalore, Dyuti Banerjee from Kolkata, Avinash Patnaik from Bhubaneswar, Santa Sarmah from Jagiroad Vill Amlighat, Nazia Sultana from Guwahati, Gurkirat Singh from Sirsa, Yashu Verma from Gazipur City, Kamaldeep Kaur from Ludhiana, Sachin Khatwani from Lucknow, Suvarna Vijay Bagul from Mumbai, Deepa Chauhan from Bangalore, Nayanijoti Saika from Tinsukia, and Vineet Yadav from Lucknow. Nazia Sultana would not be seen in this week's episodes since she had to go back home to care for her daughter. **Tune in to watch 'MasterChef India' every Monday to Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and streaming on SonyLIV.**

Rashmika thanks 'Vijay sir' as 'Varisu' collects Rs 201 cr in 1st week

Following a grand festive season response, the Thalpathi Vijay-Rashmika Mandanna-starrer "Varisu" has grossed Rs 210 crore in its first week and is expected to continue its victorious run at the box office.

Savouring the film's success, Rashmika said: "Looking at the massive love and appreciation being showered on 'Varisu' really warms my heart and makes me feel so grateful!" Directed by Vamshi Paidipally, Rashmika's performance in the songs 'Ranjithame' and 'Jimikki Ponnu' has been particularly appreciated by critics and audiences alike.

Rashmika added: "The story and its narrative is such that the moment I heard it, I was sure it would definitely connect with family audiences, so it was an instant 'yes' for me. And the cherry on



the cake was working with Vijay sir, which was a dream opportunity come true." Rashmika is looking at a blockbuster 2023 with four films scheduled to be released, one of them being "Varisu", across multiple languages. She will also be seen in "Mission Majnu", "Animal" and another film that is currently under wraps.

Nikki Tamboli: Last two years have been a real struggle

'Bigg Boss 14' fame Nikki Tamboli recalled going through mental stress and emotional breakdown after the demise of her brother Jatin Tamboli and how now she is trying to overcome that depressing phase. She also opened up about the kind of roles she is willing to take up in future. Nikki said: "I've been getting a lot of offers since getting out of 'Bigg Boss' but wasn't in the right frame of mind to make the right decisions. Dealing with the pain of losing a loved one, these last two years have been a real struggle."

"I was lost and it was difficult to stay positive while missing my brother. I was going through a phase of complete despair, even when I would smile in the company of thousands of people, I was dying inside." Nikki has participated in reality shows such as 'Bigg



Boss 14', 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11', 'The Khatra Khatra Show', and was also seen in the fictional drama 'Sirf tum'. She added: "Time flies but memories which he has left behind always keep playing on loop in front of my eyes. I even faced some rejections and also said no to some music videos. I guess whatever happened, it happened for a reason and maybe something much better is in store for me." Nikki shared about the kind of roles she is willing to do and added: "I feel I have the confidence to accept newer challenges and it's time to hit back hard. I would love to do the kind of roles that demand a lot of action and willingness to work in a biopic. I've been looking at scripts and keeping my options open but I needed something that I can connect to and can see myself doing."

Priyanka Dhavale to wear a 25 lakh bridal lehenga

If there's one thing that avid viewers of Shemaroo Umang's show 'Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho' have been eagerly waiting for, it is the wedding sequence. Yes! Fans of the show are yearning to see Kavya Sharma (Priyanka Dhavale) dress up as a dulhan in the upcoming episodes of the show. While the twists and turns of his highly-anticipated wedding sequence are still under wraps, the latest scoop from the sets will definitely raise viewers' curiosity. Well, we're talking about reel-life bride-to-be Priyanka Dhavale a.k.a Kavya's wedding lehenga. According to sources from Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho, the young actress is all set to wear a designer bridal lehenga worth Rs. 25 lakhs. Yes, you read that right! Priyanka Dhavale's lehenga

for the much-awaited wedding sequence for Shemaroo Umang's show will cost a whopping Rs. 25 lakhs. The actress will don a traditional heavily embroidered lehenga with a matching dupatta. Not only this, but sources also reveal that Priyanka will channel her inner 'desi woman' to complete her look with statement jewelry, maang tika, earrings, nath, chooda, and kalire latkans.

Priyanka will for the first time become a dulhan on screen, and by the description of her outfit, it seems she's going to look ravishing. While viewers are excited to witness the upcoming story, we get to know that Priyanka is also super excited to look her stylish best for the sequence. The wedding is just about to begin. But no wedding on Indian

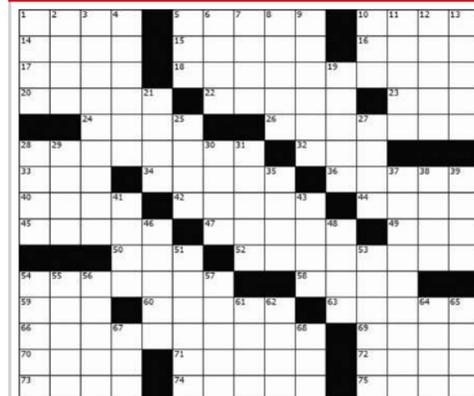
Television is simple, it is filled with drama, twists, and turns. So, special Baraat of Shemaroo Umang, get ready to enjoy double the drama and double the fun on Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho. Will this Gwalior wedding have any hindrance or will the love triangle take a whole new turn? Viewers will find out soon on Shemaroo Umang, but one thing is certain, this wedding will be the most entertaining wedding of the year.

The romantic drama stars Amar Upadhyay as Karan and Harsh Nagar as Abhimanyu as the male leads and is a love triangle. Produced by Hawk Eye Vision (Suhail Zaidi and Amar Upadhyay), watch Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho every Monday to Saturday only on Shemaroo Umang at 9 PM.



CROSSWORD

540



ACROSS

- Slightly wet
- Coliseum
- Doll's cry
- China's continent
- Fables
- Face shape
- Affleck and Stiller
- Appraisal
- Fry lightly
- Piano part
- Grande

DOWN

- Horn blast
- Naps
- Most strict
- MGM lion
- Drone
- Disdainful look
- Drying cloth
- Nevada neighbor
- Copenhagen natives
- Car for hire
- Radio receiver
- Forbidden items (hyph.)

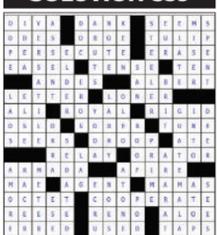
- Sermon subject
- Bond creator _____ Fleming
- Casino game
- Actor's goal
- Conifer
- Circle segment
- Love (Ital.)
- Appointments
- Printed material
- Skirt length
- Glimpses
- Sandwich shops
- Send forth
- Finds a sum
- Snooze
- Rents out

DOWN

- Small quantities
- Out of port
- Revolutionary War militiaman
- Minister
- _____ snail's pace (2 wds.)
- Grating sound
- Otherwise
- Requirements
- Attack
- DaD's partner
- Turn aside
- Craze
- Female singers
- Ice pellets
- Long periods
- Take care of
- Chimney residue
- Closed
- Dancer's skirt

- Actor _____ Penn
- Choir member
- Divorce city
- Goof off (2 wds.)
- Outlet
- Draw the _____
- Inheritor
- Chicken noodle, e.g.
- Plane spotter
- Skidded
- Wanderers
- Glossy paint
- Mexican sauce
- Endeavored
- Prevented
- Motor inn
- Regulation
- Famous canal
- Rewrite
- Poses
- Curry letter
- Telepathy (abbr.)

SOLUTION 539



Thakur or Malik? India weigh pace options ahead of Raipur's international debut



Indian captain Rohit Sharma with head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour during a practice session ahead of the second ODI cricket match between India and New Zealand, at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur, Friday, Jan. 20.

Raipur, Jan 20 (PTI):

India will be expecting more runs from the middle order and discipline in the death overs as they look for a series sealing win against New Zealand in the second ODI here on Saturday. With the city hosting its first-ever international game, a sell out crowd of 60,000 plus is expected to cheer the home team. After being down and out at 131 for six, New Zealand were allowed to score another 206 runs in the chase of 350 and that should

worry India. The visitors looked like getting a remarkable come-from-behind win but the individual brilliance of Mohammed Siraj stopped them. With the bat, Shubman Gill, who scored a scintillating double century, had singlehandedly taken India to a competitive total with the others falling by the wayside. Virat Kohli's individual effort had stood out in the previous game against Sri Lanka. Hardik Pandya, who has not been at his belligerent best of late, will be expected to give final flourish to

the innings. Accommodated in the middle-order following his double hundred performance in Bangladesh, Ishan Kishan would be itching to make the most of the opportunity after an off-day in Hyderabad. Skipper Rohit Sharma has looked good and got starts but has not been able to convert, and Saturday could his day. However, bigger concerns lie in the bowling department after the thrashing got from Michael Bracewell, who put the Indian attack to sword on Wednesday. India brought

Indian team fined 60 per cent of match fees for slow over rate

Raipur: The Indian team has been fined 60 per cent of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the first ODI in Hyderabad. Javagal Srinath of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be three overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration for Wednesday's series opener. "In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement. India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Nitin Menon, third umpire K N Ananthapadmanabhan and fourth umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal levelled the charge.

Shardul Thakur into the team at the expense of the super quick Uman Malik considering his batting abilities. But the management needs to decide quickly if it wants a bowler who can bat or a specialist who can rattle the opposition with extra pace and get wickets in the middle overs. Siraj has developed into an all phase bowler but others need to step up. Mohammad Shami was brilliant with the new ball but was taken to the cleaners by Bracewell. Hardik too was expensive. In the spin department, Washington Sundar had a game to forget while Kuldeep Yadav continued his impressive run. The team also has the option playing Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep together but it has stuck to one

wrist spinner and one finger spinner policy. New Zealand's never-say-die spirit came to the fore in the series opener and they would take a lot of heart from that. It won't be a regular occurrence that a number seven in Bracwell and number eight in Mitchell Santner will bring back the team from a hopeless situation. Finn Allen played some bold strokes but could not make it big. And in the absence of Kane Williamson, New Zealand need someone to anchor the innings. The pace trio of Henry Shiple, Lockie Ferguson and Blair Tuckner will be looking for more accuracy after being mercilessly attacked by Gill. It remains to be seen if Ish Sodhi regains full fitness for the must-win game for his team.

Australia maul South Africa 9-2, top Pool A and qualify directly for quarterfinals



Australia's Blake Govers scores a goal during the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 match between Australia and South Africa, at Birsamunda Stadium in Rourkela, Friday, Jan. 20.

Rourkela, Jan 20 (PTI):

Star forward Blake Govers scored four times, including from a penalty stroke, as title contenders Australia thrashed South Africa 9-2 to top Pool A and directly qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's World Cup here on Friday. Australia will face the winner of the crossover match between Malaysia and Spain in the quarterfinal match on January 24 in Bhubaneswar. Govers struck in the fourth, 15th, 19th and 20th minutes as the rampaging Australians led 7-1 at half time. His first and fourth strikes were field goals while the second one was from a penalty corner and the third from the penalty spot. Tom Craig (10th), Jake Harvie (22nd), Daniel Beale (28th), Jeremy Hayward (32nd) and Tim Brand (47th) were the other Australian goal getters at the Birsamunda Stadium. Ntuli

Nqobile (8th) and Kok Tevin (58th) were the scorers – both field goals – for South Africa. The Kookaburras slowed down a bit in the third and fourth quarters, just scoring a goal each. The fourth quarter saw both sides scoring a goal each. Five of the Australian goals were field efforts while three were from the penalty corners. Australia earned eight PCs as against five of the South Africans. In another Pool A match, Argentina and France scored a goal each in the final minute to play out a 5-5 draw in a dramatic contest. Argentina finished second in the pool with five points from three matches – one win and two draws – while France ended at third with four points – one win, one draw and one loss. Argentina will play the third place team in Pool B in their crossover match on January 22 in Bhubaneswar while France will take on the

second place team in Pool B the next day. France thought they had won the match 5-4 after Victor Charlet scored in the final minute from the penalty stroke but Argentina equalised after a few seconds through a penalty corner. Argentina earned four penalty corners in succession and scored from the last one to split points with France. Charlet (36th, 38th, 48th and 60th) struck four goals for France with two coming from penalty strokes. His first and last were from penalty strokes while the second and third were from PCs. Teyvez Etienne scored the other goal for France in the 11th minute. For Argentina, who had played out a 3-3 draw against pool topper Australia, Nicolas Della Torre (34th, 42nd and 60th) struck a hat-trick while Keenan Nicolas (3rd) and Martin Ferreira (51st) were the other goal scorers. The Netherlands and England also booked direct quarterfinal berths after topping Pool C and Pool D respectively on Thursday.

Amanjot shines on debut, spinners rule the roost



Amanjot Kaur became only the third India women's player to win a Player of the Match award on T20I debut.

East London, Jan 20 (PTI): Debutant Amanjot Kaur came up with a matured knock of unbeaten 41 off 30 balls as India fought back from a wobbly situation to post a 27-run win over South Africa in their Women's T20I Tri-Series opener here. Opting to bowl on a dry and slow Buffalo Park strip, the hosts sent back half of the Indian side inside 12 overs with just 69 runs on the board. From thereon, Deepti Sharma (33 from 23 balls) took control of the proceedings with the 23-year-old Amanjot playing the perfect second fiddle in their match-turning 76-run partnership off just 50 balls to prop India to a challenging 147 for 6 on Thursday night. In reply, the Indian spinners exploited the conditions well with senior off-spinner Deepti leading the show with figures of 3/30 to restrict South Africa to 120 for 9. India suffered an early setback as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur didn't play because of illness and in her absence Smriti Mandhana led the side. India did not have the best of starts as Mandhana got out cheaply for seven in the third over when she miscued one to Chloe Tryon at mid-off. Opening in absence of Shafali Verma, wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia (35 off 34 balls; 3x4s, 1x6) held on to one end but wickets kept on falling at the other side. After Mandhana's departure, Harleen Deol (8), Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and Devika Vaidya (9) also fell cheaply to have India in real trouble at 69 for 5 in 11.4 overs.

Vaibhav, Divij power Delhi to maiden win of season

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Vaibhav Rawal scored a fine century before pacer Divij Mehra's five-for dismantled Mumbai as Delhi notched a memorable eight-wicket win in a Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Friday.

It was Delhi's first outright win over heavyweights Mumbai since the 1979-80 Ranji Trophy final, when Bishan Singh Bedi's side got the better of Sunil Gavaskar's team by 240 runs. Bowling out Mumbai for 293 in the first innings, Delhi took a 76-run lead owing to Vaibhav Rawal's 114 and skipper Himmat Singh's 85. The 20-year-old Mehra, playing



Delhi's Hrithik Shokeen being greeted by Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan after the latter won the Ranji Trophy cricket match between Delhi and Mumbai, in New Delhi, Friday, Jan. 20.

only his second first-class game, then gave a masterclass in seam bowling at the Arun Jaitley Stadium as he ran through the much-vaunted Mumbai top-order. His scalps included Prithvi Shaw, Musheer Khan, Armaan Jaffer, first innings centurion Sarfaraz Khan, and Mohit Avasthi as he paved the way for Delhi's maiden win of the season.

Karnataka-Kerala match ends in draw; wins for Goa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan

Thiruvananthapuram: Karnataka gained three points after its Ranji Trophy Group C match against Kerala petered out to a draw on the fourth and final day here on Friday. The visiting team extended its lead to 143 runs adding 75 more runs to its overnight 410 for 6. Karnataka's total of 485 for 9 declared was built on a superb double ton by India Test discard Mayank Agarwal (208, 360 balls, 17 fours, five sixes) The Kerala batters made 96 for 4 in 51 overs to deny Karnataka any opening as the game

ended in a draw. Karnataka picked up three points. Meanwhile in Jodhpur, Rajasthan trounced Chhattisgarh by 167 runs and Goa registered an impressive innings win over Services in New Delhi. Services, who were 139 for 2 overnight, saw opener Ravi Chauhan score a valiant ton but that could not prevent the team from going down by an innings as they were dismissed for 304. In Puducherry, Jharkhand eased to a 10-wicket win over the host team, knocking off the target of 70 in the 27th over.

Bengal thrash Haryana, storm into quarters

Rohtak: Bengal pacer Akash Deep returned with a career-best 10-wicket match haul as Bengal stormed into quarterfinals with a thumping innings and 50-run victory over Haryana in their Group A Ranji Trophy match here on Friday. Resuming the final day on a precarious 177/7 following on, Haryana managed to last only 10 overs and folded for 206 with Akash wrapping up the issue, dismissing Ajit Chahal and Amit Rana en route to

a second successive five-wicket haul (5/51). Akash's 5/61 in the first innings had brought the home team's downfall for a paltry 153 as he returned with his maiden 10-wicket match haul (10/112). Mukesh Kumar (3/62) and Ishan Porel (2/42) also impressed as the Bengal pace trio unleashed their fury on a challenging Lahli track. Bengal posted a massive 419 in their first innings, thanks to Anustup Majumdar's gritty 145.

Americans Gauff, Pegula into 4th round at Australian Open



Melbourne, Jan 20 (AP):

American title favorites Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff had convincing third-round wins on Friday at the Australian Open.

The third-seeded Pegula, a quarterfinalist the past two years at Melbourne Park, needed 65 minutes for a 6-0 6-2 victory over Marta Kostyuk. Seventh-seeded Gauff beat Bernarda Pera 6-3 6-2 to reach the last 16.

Pegula raced through the first set and though Kostyuk established herself in the second set, she was always playing catch-up.

"I thought I just didn't give away a lot of free points," said Pegula, who will meet Barbora Krejckikova, the 2021 French Open champion, in the next round.

"I was playing aggressive when I had to but also smart. Happy to be through to the next round."

Gauff had to withstand a barrage of big hitting from Pera.

"Today was a tough match," Gauff said.

"Bernarda hit the .I can't say that word she hit the ball really hard, I was just trying to hang in there. I'm happy to be through to the second week."

Top-seeded Iga Swiatek beat Cristina Bucsa, a qualifier from Spain, 6-0 6-1 in just 55 minutes. Last year's finalist Danielle Collins of the US was beaten 6-2 5-7 6-2 by Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Krejckikova was the first player to advance to the fourth round after a 6-2, 6-3 win over Anhelina Kalinina to open play Friday at Rod Laver Arena.

The 20th-seeded Czech player won the first five games of the match and dominated her Ukrainian opponent. Krejckikova has not dropped a set in three matches.

Tearaway Aussie quick Morris eyeing Test debut vs India

Adelaide, Jan 20 (PTI):

Uncapped Australia pacer Lance Morris, fresh from being the season's leading wicket-taker in the Sheffield Shield, believes he has the "best chance" to make his debut in the opening Test against India in Nagpur on February 9.

The 24-year-old tearaway pacer, who has the ability to rack up deliveries at 150-plus kmph, has been included in Australia's 18-member squad for the first two Tests of the four-match Border-Gavaskar series. "I'm going to do everything I



can be as ready as possible," the West Australian was quoted saying by Fox Sports. With Australia's

quickest bowler Mitchell Starc unavailable for the opening Test of the series, Morris has a strong chance to wear the Baggy Green. Morris has been Starc's understudy and was in Australia's Test squad during their recent series win over South Africa. "If we're talking honestly, that's probably my best chance of playing over there. We'll see what happens," Morris said. "It's my first overseas tour in a cricketer's sense, so it will be a huge learning experience for me. I'm really excited to go away."

We missed Hardik in game against Wales: Akashdeep

Bhubaneswar, Jan 20 (PTI):

India were far from being impressive in their 4-2 win over Wales in their final FIH Men's Hockey World Cup pool game and twin goal scorer Akashdeep Singh said the home team felt the absence of injured midfielder Hardik Singh.

Hardik, who sustained a hamstring injury and missed the Wales match, is uncertain for the remainder of the tournament.

India needed to beat Wales by a margin of eight goals against Wales on Thursday to top Pool D and qualify directly for the quarterfinals. But they failed to do so and will now face New Zealand in their



crossover match on Sunday to make it to the last eight stage. "We could not score too many goals in the first two quarters, we scored only one. But we were able

to score three more in the third and final quarters. I was able to contribute for the team, so I am very happy," said the 28-year-old Akashdeep, who has played for more than 200 senior international matches. "We could not make it to the quarterfinals directly but we hope to be there by winning our crossover match." Asked if the team felt the absence of injured Hardik, Akashdeep said, "Yes, when you have 18 players to play for a team, and because of some reason if you are one player less, the remaining players will play more time and become tired."

IAF air show captivates audience in Kalaikunda

Kalaikunda, Jan 20 (PTI):

Children as well as grown-ups erupted in rapturous applause as nine Surya Kiran aircraft in colours of day-glow orange and white flew past in low altitude in a marvellous display of aerobatics at the Kalaikunda airforce station here.

Flight Lt Ridhima Gurung, the spokesperson of the Surya Kiran team, said the aerobatic show was organised to encourage young men and women to join the defence forces.

"The Hawk Mark 132 aircraft entered in an arrow formation, carried out a loop, followed by a fly by in a diamond formation. Additionally, these took the shape of a rotor dedicated to the light combat helicopter Prachand, which has just been in-



Akash Ganga team of the Indian Air Force performs during the celebration of the Raising Day of Kalaikunda Air Force Station, in Kalaikunda, Friday.

ducted in the Indian Air Force," she told reporters.

Single aircraft displays, including a fly past in an inverted form, were performed by the team's commanding officer Group Captain GS Dhillon, Gurung said. Some scheduled aerobatic displays,

however, had to be cancelled owing to low visibility at Kalaikunda and its vicinity in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district, she said. Earlier in the day, a breathtaking para-jumping performance was given by nine bravehearts of the IAF.

Master warrant officer AA Baidya, who led the Akash Ganga team that performed the para-jumping in various formations, also said that the initiative was meant to inspire youth to join the Defence forces.

Air Officer Commanding, Kalaikunda AirForce Station, Air Commodore Ran Singh told reporters that the station had celebrated its Raising Day on December 14, but the air show to mark the occasion was organised on Friday.

The IAF's Surya Kiran team has made 600 air aerobatic performances, covering 72 locations in India, in its 26 years of existence, Gurung said. "The team has also performed abroad, in countries like Singapore, China, UAE and Sri Lanka," she added.

TRADE FAIR



A traditional way of extracting oil using a bull being displayed at an exhibition stall during the 'Millets and Organics - International Trade Fair 2023', in Bengaluru, Friday.

Tihar jail launches skill training for post-release rehab of inmates

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The country's largest central prison Tihar jail has started imparting skill training to over 1,000 inmates, being tried for petty crimes, with a purpose to reform and reintegrate them into society. Jail term in cases of petty crimes varies from six to nine months. They will be trained in food and beverage service related segments for three to four months in various batches, jail authorities said, adding that each batch will have 30 inmates. They said that 1,020 inmates will be trained by Primero Skills and Training Pvt Ltd. The programme aims to empower inmates financially and stop them from going back into crime, authorities said.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's stand on plea for employment of transgender persons

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre's stand on a petition seeking employment of transgender persons and quotas for them in public appointment.

Justice Prathiba M Singh made the central government a party to a plea by a transgender person, which also seeks effective implementation of the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

The court took note of the Social Welfare Department of the Delhi government writing to the Centre with regard to "anti transgender bullying

policies" as well as notification of rules under the Act, and asked the city authorities to state their stand on the petition.

"Considering the communications, it is deemed appropriate to implead Union of India... Issue notice," said Justice Singh observing that the petition raised an important issue.

The plea was filed last year after the petitioner was unable to apply following a vacancy advertised by the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board on account the online portal not having transgender as an option for identification of the applicant.

The petitioner said various positions that were advertised carried a specific

requirement about the gender of the candidate being a male or female.

The counsel for the Delhi government said since then steps have been taken to update the portal and it now recognises male, female as well as transgender as options for candidates.

The petitioner said the update was not sufficient as there are still posts requiring male or female candidates which will force a transgender to choose either of the two. The petitioner has termed it discriminatory and in violation of the transgender persons act.

The Delhi government counsel said the ruling dispensation has of its own

accord relaxed the minimum age requirement for transgender persons by 5 years and minimum marks requirement by 5 per cent.

Listing the matter for resumed hearing in March, the court clarified in the meantime, the petitioner will be free to apply against vacancies irrespective of the gender specified in the advertisement.

The petitioner has sought several directions to the authorities, including notifying separate vacancies for transgender persons in all advertisements issued for recruitment to teaching positions in schools administered by the Delhi government.

BJP chief Nadda coins HIRA' to highlight govt's focus on highways, internet, railways, airways

Ghaziपुर (UP), Jan 20 (PTI):

BJP president J P Nadda on Friday gave a new term HIRA' to the development lexicon, highlighting that the central government's focus has been on highways, internet, railways and airways. He also said when the entire world is reeling under a financial crisis, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, surpassing Britain.

"Today, I say that development means HIRA - H for Highway, I for Internet, R for Railways and A for Airways," Nadda said addressing a public meeting here.

"Today, when I was coming (from Kashi), I saw Ghaziपुर has changed a lot. Earlier, it took hours to reach Ghaziपुर from Kashi. Today, it took just one-and-a-half-hour," he added.

He also said India's growth in electronics has been six times higher and the export is Rs 70,000 crore. Referring to the Centre's direct benefit transfer (DBT) initiative, Nadda said, "There was a time when the country's prime minister used to say that he sends Rs 1 and only 15 paise reaches (the beneficiary).

Where does 85 (paise) go? But, today, through di-

rect benefit transfer, Rs 6,000 is transferred into the accounts of lakhs of farmers." He was apparently referring to former PM Rajiv Gandhi's remarks in 1985.

The BJP national president said under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving forward by leaps and bounds. "During the government of Akhilesh (Yadav), when we used to send money, it used to go somewhere else as there was a hole in the bowl (of the state government). No work was done on the ground using that money," he alleged.

PEACE RALLY



People from the Christian community take part in a peace rally, in Kolkata, Friday.

HC grants Dhoot interim bail

CBI's reason to arrest Venugopal 'quite casual' and 'sans substance'

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Friday granted interim bail to Videocon Group founder Venugopal Dhoot nearly a month after he was arrested in the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan fraud case, noting that the reason mentioned by the CBI for his arrest was "quite casual and without any substance".

Stating that an investigating officer cannot arrest any accused as per his "whims and fancies", the high court also rapped the special court saying it did not make any "serious efforts" to scrutinise the remand application as well as the case diary.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and P K Chavan further noted that there has been a calculated move by the CBI to "concoct non-attendance and non-cooperation" in the probe by Dhoot, but in face of the material placed before the court demonstrated Dhoot's diligence and bonafide.

Dhoot was arrested on December 26, 2022 and is presently in judicial custody. His lawyers Sandeep Ladha and Viral Babar said they would now initiate Dhoot's release formalities. This is the second time the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has received flak from the court

in this case. The same bench had of January 9 while granting bail to the co-accused in the case - Chanda Kochhar, former MD and CEO of ICICI bank and her husband Deepak Kochhar - had come down heavily on the CBI for making the arrest of the couple in a casual and mechanical manner and without application of mind.

The bench on Friday granted interim bail to Dhoot on a surety of Rs one lakh. The court permitted him to furnish cash bail and deposit the surety amount two weeks thereafter. The order was passed in a petition filed by Dhoot seeking interim bail and to

quash the CBI FIR. The court would hear the petition on February 6 on the main issue of quashing the FIR.

The bench, in its 48-page judgment, said arrest is not mandatory in each and every case, and added that in the present case the ground of arrest mentioned by the CBI was "quite casual and without any substance".

"The investigating officer cannot arrest the accused at his whims and fancies. Non-compliance of section 41 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) is apparent," the court said.

Section 41 of the CrPC

mandates a police officer to first issue a notice to an accused for questioning and to make arrest only when the custody of the accused is necessary. The order said that a police officer is not only expected to record reasons for arrest in writing but even in cases where he chooses not to arrest, he has to assign reasons.

Money laundering case

Court asks govt hospital to form medical board to examine Nawab Malik

Mumbai, Jan 20 (PTI):

A special court here on Friday directed the state-run JJ Hospital to constitute a medical board to examine and determine the health condition of NCP leader Nawab Malik, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital since May 2022. Malik was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on February 23, 2022 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

In May 2022, the special court, designated to hear cases registered under the

PMLA, refused to grant bail to Malik on medical grounds, but permitted him to get admitted to a private hospital for treatment. The ED, in September, filed an application seeking to constitute a medical board to verify Malik's health condition. Special Judge R N Rokade on Friday directed the dean of JJ hospital to constitute a medical board, comprising the head of the urology department, a nephrologist and the head of department from the general physician department. "The board shall conduct a detailed examination and determine the health condition of the accused Nawab Malik," the court said.

The Staff Selection Commission will conduct the multi-tasking (non-technical) staff examination, 2022, in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English for the first time, an official statement issued on Friday said.

The 13 regional languages are Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Konkani, Manipuri (also Meiti), Marathi, Odia and Punjabi, it said.

The SSC is one of the largest recruiting agencies of the government with its main mandate being recruitment to all Group B (non-gazetted) and Group C (non-techni-

cal) posts in various central ministries/departments. The medium of examinations conducted by the Commission is normally Hindi and English.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the move is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing a level playing field to all job aspirants and to ensure that no one is denied an opportunity or being at disadvantaged due to language barrier.

He said the move will fulfil the long pending demand of candidates from different states, and particularly from south India, for the exams being conducted earlier in English and Hindi.

"This is likely to benefit a very large number of candidates from all over the country," the minister added. Singh asserted that after this historic move, efforts are on to gradually include all the languages mentioned in Eighth schedule to the Constitution.

He said PM Modi during the inauguration of the "Kashi Tamil Sangamam" in Varanasi in November last year had pointed out that 'despite having one of the world's oldest living languages, i.e., Tamil, we lack in honouring it fully'.

Singh said it is the continuous endeavour of SSC to provide level playing field to different sections of the population so as to bridge the regional dispar-

ities and attain the ideals of the Constitution while at the same time celebrating the linguistic diversity of our country.

The minister said in order to review the scheme and syllabus of examinations conducted by the Commission, including the medium in which the examinations are conducted, the Department of Personnel and Training had constituted an expert committee.

It has, inter-alia, recommended that it would be in fitness of things to conduct the examinations for lower-level posts in multiple languages, which to begin with, can start with a few languages and then gradually increase to include all

the languages mentioned in Eighth schedule to the Constitution, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. The government has accepted the recommendations of the committee, it added.

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