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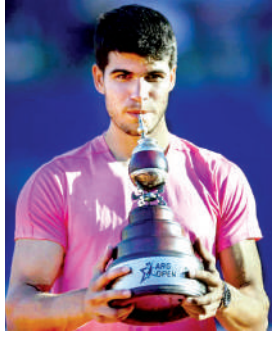

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BRIEF

Flowers in bloom at a lawn at Mandi House Circle, in New Delhi. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has started planting tulips as part of their 'Tulip Festival' for beautification of the national capital, ahead of the G20 Summit.

Niti Aayog CEO

New Delhi: Former IAS officer B V R Subrahmanyam was on Monday appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Niti Aayog replacing Parameswaran Iyer, who has been named as the Executive Director of World Bank. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Subrahmanyam appointment for a period of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, a Personnel Ministry order said. Iyer, who was working as Niti Aayog CEO, has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank headquarters, Washington DC, USA for a tenure of three years, it said.

Chancellor Scholz

New Delhi: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will pay a State visit to India on February 25 and 26, his first trip to the country more than a year after he took charge of the top post. Announcing the German chancellor's visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday that Scholz will be accompanied by senior officials and a high-powered business delegation. He is scheduled to arrive in Delhi on February 25 and will proceed to Bengaluru on February 26, the MEA said.

G20 events

New Delhi: Two key ecological sites in the Yamuna riverfront area in Delhi are likely to host a G20 event each in March to promote conservation of nature and biodiversity and emphasise on sustainability - a focus area for India during its yearlong presidency of the influential bloc, officials said on Monday. While Asita East will host a birdwatching event, a cultural programme will be organised at Baansera' - city's first bamboo theme park, they said.

Trains cancelled

Kolkata: The South Eastern Railway has cancelled a number of express and passenger trains connecting West Bengal, Odisha and north-eastern states with Hyderabad, Bengaluru and other destinations in the southern states for development work. The trains have been cancelled in the last week of February and the first week of March for non-interlocking work at Ranital station of Kharagpur division in connection with the construction of the Narayangarh-Bhadrak third line.

Weather

High 35 Low 15

MARKET

NIFTY	17,844.60 ▼
SENSEX	60,691.54 ▼

BULLION

GOLD	56,299
SILVER	65,780

ED raids Congress party leaders in coal levy money laundering case

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI):

Security personnel outside the residence of a Congress leader during a raid by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a mining case, in Raipur, Monday.

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday conducted searches at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh, including at premises linked to Congress party leaders, as part of an ongoing investigation into the coal levy money laundering case, officials said. According to officials, the searches are underway since early this morning at over a dozen locations that include those of MLA Devendra Yadav in Bhilai (Durg district), Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer Ramgopal Agrawal, chairman of Chhattisgarh State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board Sushil Sunny Agrawal and party's state spokesperson RP Singh in Raipur.

The raids also covered some other ruling party leaders. They said the ED is investigating those who have been the "beneficiaries" of the proceeds of crime of the alleged coal levy scam perpetrated during the tenure of the current government. The ED investigation relates to "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency has alleged. Nine persons, including state administrative service officer Chaurasia, Suryakant Tiwari, his uncle Laxmikant Tiwari, Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi and another coal businessman Sunil Agrawal have been arrested by it till now in the case.

'Third-rate' politics of 'vendetta, vengeance and harassment': Congress

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Congress slammed the government after the ED conducted raids against its party leaders in Chhattisgarh on Monday, saying it was an example of "third-rate politics" of "vendetta, vengeance and harassment" and asserted that it will not be intimidated by such "tactics".

This is not 'Amrit Kaal' but an "undeclared emergency", Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said at a joint press conference with party spokesperson Pawan Khera and termed the Enforcement Directorate as "Exterminating Democracy".

"If anything, these raids have increased our determination. If anything, these raids have given us a booster dose to be even more aggressive against the Prime Minister and his third-rate politics of vengeance, vendetta and harassment," Ramesh told reporters.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the ED action and said 95 per cent of the raids conducted by ED in the last 9 years are against opposition leaders, and most are against Congress leaders.

"The raid on our Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh by the Modi government by misusing the ED shows the cowardice of the BJP before the Congress plenary session in Raipur. We are not going to be cowed down by these cowardly threats," he claimed.

"Uneasiness of the BJP is visible due to the immense success of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. If Modi ji has even an iota of honesty, then he should order raids on the mega-scams of his 'best friend'.

ED's action part of probe in scam but Congress in pain as it's linked to corruption: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress for its criticism of the ED's raids on multiple locations in Chhattisgarh as part of its probe in a corruption case, claiming that this hints at the opposition party's link with the graft as it has always stood with the corrupt. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also alleged that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh is treating the state like a party ATM while ignoring people's welfare. "The probe agency is doing it works and digging up fresh revelations. And it is the Congress, the ring leader of the corrupt cabal, which is in pain.

All central varsities must adopt CUET for UG admissions: UGC

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The University Grants Commission has written to Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia, reiterating that all central universities have to mandatorily adopt the Common University Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate programmes.

"UGC (University Grants Commission) has asked all the central universities to use CUET (Common University Entrance Test) scores for admissions to all the courses. However, this has been observed that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has opted to participate in CUET-2023 for a limited number of programmes/courses, as was done last year.

"Please note that all the central universities, including AMU, are required to participate for all UG programmes in CUET 2023 to provide equal opportunities to aspiring candidates, which is in the student's best interests," the UGC said in the letter.

The letter also stated that CUET provides a common platform and equal opportunities to candidates across the country, especially those from the northeast, rural and other remote areas, and helps to establish better connections with the universities.

"A single examination enables the candidates to cover a broad outreach and be part of the admission process to various central and participating universities," the letter added.

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has no plans to implement CUET for admissions across all its undergraduate and postgraduate courses and will stick to its own entrance test to "ensure timely admissions" for the upcoming academic session, the vice-chancellor said earlier this week. The UGC introduced CUET last year for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. JMI, however, did not adopt the CUET for all its undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

While JMI opted for CUET for admission to 10 undergraduate programmes last year, the number is likely to rise this year.

2 policemen killed in Naxal attack

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI):

Two policemen were killed after Naxalites fired at them in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district bordering Maharashtra on Monday, police said.

Following the incident, the Maharashtra Police along with their counterparts in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh launched a joint operation to check the movement of Naxalites in the border areas of the three states, they said.

The incident took place between 7 am and 8 am under Bortalav police station limits in Rajnandgaon district adjoining Maharashtra, when the two personnel were going on a motorcycle, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Abhishek Meena told PTI.

As per preliminary information, district force head constable Rajesh Singh Rajput and Chhattisgarh Armed Force constable Lalit Kumar Samrath were going towards the Maharashtra border from Bortalav police camp, he said, adding the two were not carrying weapons.

A group of armed Naxalites fired at them. One of the personnel died on the spot and the other one succumbed to injuries while being taken to a hospital, the official said.

The Naxalites also set ablaze their motorcycle before escaping from the spot, located 180 km from the state capital Raipur. A search operation is underway in the area, he added.

After the incident, police deputed at the Chhattisgath border have been alerted to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) during surveillance at check posts in the Naxal-affected district, Deputy Inspector General, Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), Sandeep Patil said.

He said the incident took place one kilometre from the border of Maharashtra's Gondia district, when two 'dalams' of Naxalites attacked the police personnel.

The deceased policemen were not carrying weapons, due to which they were easily targeted by Naxalites, he said.

Following the attack, it is likely the Naxalite dalams may move to the tri-junction border of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the official said.

In view of such movement, the Maharashtra Police are conducting a joint operation along with the MP and Chhattisgarh Police, he added.

Cop hacked to death

Dantewada: A policeman was hacked to death by suspected Naxalites at a village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Monday. The incident took place late Sunday night when the victim, head constable Maniram Vetti, had gone to attend a wedding in Belchar village under Bhairamgarh police station limits adjoining Dantewada district, a senior official said. Vetti, who was posted at the police lines in Dantewada, was on leave for the last four days and went to attend the marriage function in the village located in the Naxal-stronghold without informing anyone, he said. As per preliminary information, when the victim was busy at the function with family members, the assailants stormed there and slit his throat with a sharp-edged weapon leaving him dead on the spot, the official said. Soon after being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot, he said. "Prima facie, the modus operandi of the attack suggests it was executed by a small action team of Naxalites. A police team has launched a search in the area to trace the assailants," the official added.

IIT Guwahati researchers produce cardiac proteins to fix damaged heart

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

A research team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has developed a "Recombinant Protein Toolbox" comprising six special proteins, which can be used to convert healthy skin cells or any somatic cells from an adult human body into heart cells.

According to officials, the heart cells created using this toolbox can have the same function as the original heart cells and can be used to regenerate damaged heart tissues. Importantly, this toolbox can facilitate the generation of autologous heart cells in a lab.

"It is now well understood that a heart attack happens when a part of the heart is damaged. In some animals, like the Zebrafish, the heart can grow back after being damaged, but in humans, the heart usually gets scar tissues instead of growing back new heart cells. The only way to treat heart disease is with a new heart, but there aren't enough hearts available for transplantation, and it can be hard to make sure the new heart is accepted by the body," said Rajkumar P Thummer, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Guwahati.

"Scientists around the world are studying ways to convert regular body cells into heart cells, which could help with regenerating damaged hearts. The challenge is that cells can change in ways that could be harmful. So, scientists need to find a better, safer way to do this," he added.

Thummer said proteins produced from another source when applied can convert cells from one form to another in a process known as cellular reprogramming. This process involves the use of specific proteins, known as transcription factors, which can alter the expression of genes within a cell and direct it to take on a new cellular identity.

He claimed that the IIT Guwahati team has successfully produced cell-permeant recombinant proteins that can convert skin cells to heart cells.

NIA files chargesheet in 2022 Modakpal Maoist attack case

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a chargesheet against a CPI (Maoist) member in connection with an attack on security forces in Chhattisgarh last year.

Kawasi Ganga alias "Pandu" alias "Kawasi Anil", a member of the CPI (Maoist) from Bijapur, was arrested in an injured condition on August 8 last year, a day after the incident in a forest area along the state's Bogla-Pangur villages. The chargesheet against Ganga was filed in the NIA Special Court, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official said the case was initially registered at the Modakpal police station in Bijapur and re-registered by the NIA on October 19 last year. "Investigation revealed that exchange of fire between security personnel and armed cadres of proscribed terrorist organisation CPI(Maoist) took place on August 7 last year. On the next day, Ganga who was involved in the incident was apprehended and arms, ammunitions, hand grenade and detonators were recovered from his possession," the spokesperson said. "He is a member of the CPI(Maoist) and was actively involved in the said exchange of fire," the official said and added that further investigation in the case is in progress.

RS asks panel to investigate 'disorderly conduct' of 12 MPs

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked a parliamentary committee to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 opposition MPs from the Congress and the AAP for repeatedly entering the well of the House, shouting slogans and obstructing its proceedings. According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin, nine of the MPs are from the Congress and three from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The Congress MPs are Shaktisinh Gohil, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Imran Prattapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham and Ranjeet Ranjan. The AAP members are Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sandeep Kumar Pathak. In the bulletin dated February 18, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...the Chairman...has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of gross disorderly conduct displayed by (the MPs)....in violation of rules and etiquette of Rajya Sabha by repeatedly entering the well of the council, shouting slogans and persistently and wilfully obstructing the proceedings of the council, compelling the Chair to repeatedly adjourn the sittings of the Council."

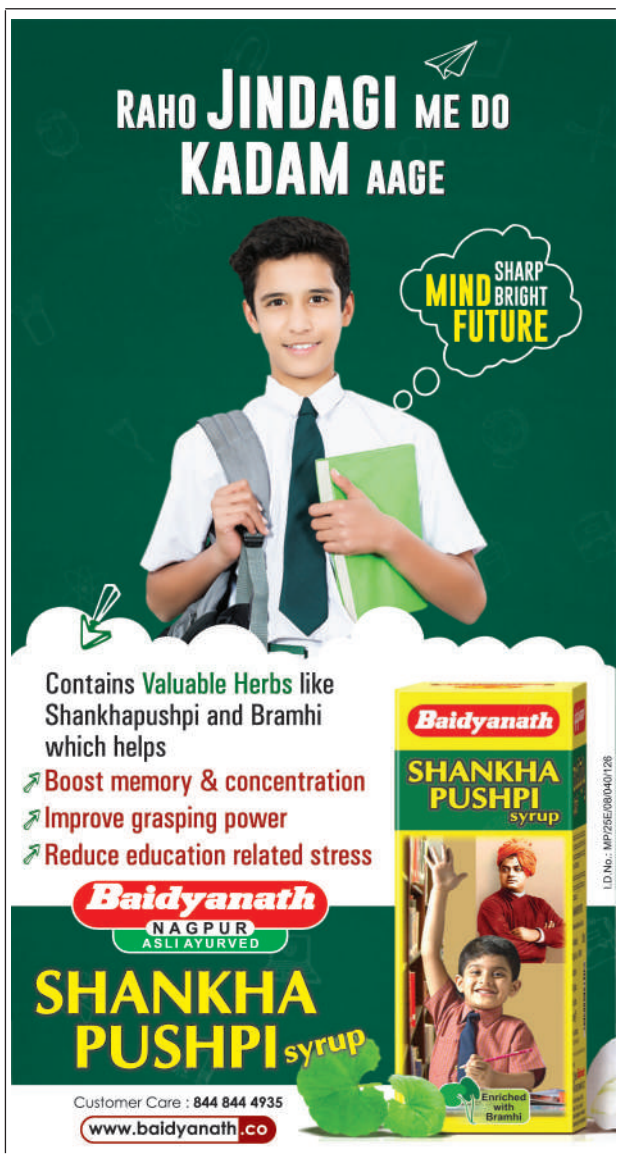
SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL alleging 'unnecessary' hysterectomies in Bihar, Rajasthan, Chh'garh

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court sought the Centre's response on Monday on a PIL alleging that doctors in Bihar, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have been performing "unnecessary hysterectomies", a surgical procedure to remove the uterus, on poor women just to reap high insurance fees from governments under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud also sought the assistance of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to deal with the public interest litigation (PIL) matter filed by Narendra Gupta, himself a medical practitioner.

The bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, granted four weeks' time to the Centre for filing its response to the PIL. A hysterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove the uterus after which a woman can neither conceive nor can have menstrual periods regardless of her age.

The PIL, based on media reports and researched facts, alleged a "widespread pattern of doctors performing medically unnecessary hysterectomies to reap high insurance fees from the government" in states such as Bihar, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. It sought compensation for the victim women and meaningful policy changes to deal with the problem. The women, aided by heavily-subsidised state-funded health insurance schemes, usually go to private hospitals for medical care for symptoms such as "abdominal pain and general weakness" and doctors resort to "unnecessary hysterectomy operations after cursory, or in some cases, no medical examinations", the petition alleged. "The present petition has been filed in the nature of public interest litigation...and arises from an influx of news stories and Right to Information (RTI) results in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan regarding unlawful hysterectomies and related insurance scams," it said.



Congmen resort to agitation after ED raids Bhilai MLA's residence

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On Monday, the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at multiple locations of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh as a part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged coal levy scam. A team of ED reached here at the residence of Bhilai Nagar MLA early morning on Monday to conduct searches.

A four-member team accompanied by the armed jawans of CRPF is conducting searches at the residence of Devendra Yadav in Sector 5 of Bhilai Township. It was not clear whether any search was conducted at his paternal residence in the Housing Board Colony.

The news of ED raid at the residence of Devendra Yadav spread like a wild fire in the twin city. Soon the Congress party workers started gathering near his residence. Within a couple of hours, Congress leaders and party workers from neighbouring districts also reached Sector 5 and launched a demonstration against the agency and Centre.

Sensing trouble, the ED officials sought police force from the District Police after which cops from various police stations reached the spot and ensured law and order situations.

After raising slogans against the agency and the Union Government, the demonstrators staged a sit-in in front of the main gate of MLA's residence. The demonstrators started singing bhajans and devotional songs and asserted that their agitation would end only after the departure of ED team from the residence of MLA Devendra Yadav.

District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar, Mayor Neraj Pal, BMC Speaker Girwar Bunty Sahu, MiC members, Congress Corporators, District Congress office bearers, Mahila Congress and a large number of party workers were present.

Youth stabbed to death; three arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: A 20-year-old youth was stabbed to death at Kandrapara in Durg on the intervening night of Monday. After receiving information, Police swung into action and arrested the three persons involved in the offence. The deceased was Gajendra Vishwakarma son of Mohan Vishwakarma a resident of Kandrapara, Durg.

Over some old rivalry, the accused Rakesh Sahu, Ajay Sahu and Ghanshyam Sahu attacked him with a knife and inflicted injuries on his neck, chest, abdomen and other parts of the body. The victim Gajendra Vishwakarma succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The accused were arrested within a few hours of the incident. Inspector SN Singh, SI Devdas Bharti, ASI AR Sahu, Head Constable Rajendra Wankhede, Constables Utkarsh Singh, Love Pandey, Alauddin, Vikas Thakur and Duman Lal Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Group of tribal youth departs for Mumbai

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme being organised jointly by Nehru Yuva Kendra and Home Ministry, the Border Security Force, on Monday, sent the eighth group of tribal youth from Kanker for an exposure visit to Mumbai in Maharashtra. The group of 20 tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and one male officer / personnel of Border Security Force. IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Special GBM approves city sanitation proposal

- Opposition points out anomalies

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On Monday, a special General Body Meeting of Bhilai Municipal Corporation was held in BMC Headquarters in Supela.

The only agenda of the meeting was the work-based tender for door-to-door garbage collection work and other works in residential and commercial areas like cleaning of drains, roads, markets and garbage collection through three-wheeler rickshaw / e-rickshaw under the scope of work in the wards under Bhilai Municipal Corporation.

In the special GBM, the proposal of city sanitation was passed by majority vote in the presence of Mayor Neeraj Pal, Speaker Girwar Bunty Sahu, MIC members and councillors. Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi and other officers were also present in the special GBM.

During the discussion, BJP Corporator Piyush Mishra raised questions on the agency, which is presently working for BMC. He said that the contractor PV Raman has been blacklisted by the Municipal Corporations of Dhamtari and Jagdalpur.

He said that during the last GBM, he had submitted the documents related to the blacklisting of this firm but still the tender was awarded to this agency.

On the other hand, the newly formed Risali Municipal Corporation has taken action against this agency on the basis of the same relevant documents. The agency is not making regular payments to the sanitation labourers due to which the labourers had gone on strike a few days ago.

He further said that a proposal has been made to rent the BMC's vehicles to the agency. Mishra said that the Municipal Corporation Bhilai has fixed the rent which is much lower than the market prices.

It is proposed to give the JCB a monthly rent of Rs 25000 while the BMC itself has hired a JCB for PWD works at monthly rent of Rs 1.5 lakhs. BJP Corporators alleged that the entire proposal was unfair and illegal. As the Congress is in majority in the house, the proposal was approved with a majority vote.

Bhilai exports large volumes of special quality plates to UAE

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Plate Mill has been producing & supplying special quality plates in various grades ranging from Ship-building grade including plates for Indian Navy's warships, Boiler & High-Tensile grades for different applications including structural constructions such as bridges & flyovers, manufacture of earth moving equipment etc, both for indigenous customers as well as for export to traders & customers abroad.

South West Asia is a prolific market for plates and TMT bars due to presence of traders as well as various large-scale construction activities in the region. Since there are no facilities for production of plates in the region, there is demand to import material from nearby Asian countries.

Steel producing countries China, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia are tough competitors for India when it comes to meeting the demand for plates in South West Asia. Competing against China and South Korea that are prominent suppliers in present global scenario, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has forayed into the export market once again in the current fiscal year by bagging orders from UAE for supplying large volumes of plates, with the help of TATA International as trader. The requirement is for high strength (High tensile) plates conforming to both European and American quality standards.

While around 18,000 tonnes of special quality high-tensile plates have already been exported by SAIL-BSP to various international customers in current fiscal year 2022-23 with dual-certification as per European & American specifications, fresh export orders from UAE are being executed. Besides ensuring desired surface quality and proper marking on the plates for identification, one important factor that has been taken into account while executing export orders is conforming to delivery schedules strictly, as this is linked to availability of vessel and its time at the port.

Exports of plates by SAIL-BSP to Middle-east countries including Dubai in UAE in current fiscal year include around 14,000 Tonnes supplied in August 2022 with different grades dual-certified to European & American specifications. The steel for these export grades has been made for the first time in SAIL-BSP with the addition of Boron in restricted quantity & Titanium, in compliance with National Export Tax norms.

Export order for additional volume of around 10,000 Tonnes of plates is currently being executed in Feb 2023. Plates of Mild & High-tensile grades complying to the European & American specifications are being supplied to M/s Tata International, Dubai. Supply of additional export order of 10000 Tonnes that is in the process of production shall be completed within March 2023 with plates complying to European & American specifications.

It is worth mentioning that dual certification in the Grades BS 10025 JR-AR and A 572 Gr.50 Type 3 has been done for the first time in Bhilai's Plate Mill. Step by step monitoring under guidance of Director I/c Anirban Dasgupta, ED (Works) Anjani Kumar and perseverance of Plate Mill team led by CGM (Plate Mill) RK Bisare along with support from Plant's Quality Dept has resulted in successful and timely execution of the export orders.

Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya Khapri celebrates Annual Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya, Khapri, Durg organised its 3rd Annual Day Program with great enthusiasm in school campus. The Chief Guest were Rajnish Sharma and Jyoti Sharma (Director DSV and DSCET). Parents were also invited to attend the program and they too enjoyed the event a lot. The faculty team of the school decorated the school with flowers and rangoli. The Chief Guest lit the lamp in front of Goddess Saraswati. The students from different classes participated and performed various activities. All the participants performed various programs and amused the audience.

Jyoti Sharma (Director DSV, DSCET) presented the annual report and encouraged the students to work hard. She too appreciated the efforts of all teaching and non teaching staffs for their efforts to make the program a grand success. At the end, Sarita Singh (Incharge DSV) concluded the program with her vote of thanks and thanked everyone for giving precious time. All the people who attended the annual day enjoyed it the most.

Raipur Capitals, Durg Super Power and Bilaspur Fighters win matches

- Chhattisgarh Premier League T20

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On the 10th day of Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL - T20 being organized under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh Cricket Council and Veer Sports Club, played a total of three matches at Bhilai Sector 1 Cricket Stadium and Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium Raipur. Raipur Capitals, Durg Super Power and Bilaspur won their respective matches.

Praveen Jain, President of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Sports Cell and Organizing Committee, informed the match between Wennington Raipur Capitals and Surguja Lions was played in Bhilai on late Sunday night. Batting first after winning the toss, Raipur Capital made 190 for the loss of 8 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Higesht run scorers were Ritesh with 59 and Surya Pratap 50 runs. Rajeev and Sandeep took two wickets each from Surguja Lions. In reply Surguja Lions were all out for 154 runs. Ritesh was adjudged man of the match. On Monday first match played in Bhilai Sector 01 ground was between CV Raman Naya Raipur and Heera Super Power Durg. Batting first after winning the toss, Naya Raipur got all out for 131 runs in 19.3 overs. Vikas Yadav took four wickets from Durg. In reply Durg scored the runs on the loss of one wicket and thus won the match by 9 wickets in 14.3 overs. Ashutosh Raja scored 60 and Vikas Yadav scored 55 runs. Vikas was adjudged man of the match. At International Cricket Stadium Naya Raipur match was played between Fit Bilaspur Fighters and Wennington Court Raipur Capitals. Winning the toss and batting first, Raipur scored 146 runs in 20 overs for the loss of 6 wickets, Abhishek scored 40 and Reet Raj 35 runs. Chasing the target Bilaspur scored the runs by losing 6 wickets in 19.4 overs. Rahul Pagare was adjudged man of the match for scoring 58 runs.

Colourful inauguration of National Divyang Cricket Tournament

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T-20 Cup tournament being organised under the auspices of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association was inaugurated on Monday jointly by Anirban Dasgupta, Director-in-charge of Bhilai Steel Plant Superintendent of Police Durg Dr Abhishek Pallava.

SEFI Chairman Narendra Banchore, Senior Journalists EV Murali and Bhavana Pandey, BSP Officers Association Secretary Parminder Singh, DCCI President Ravi Chauhan and Seema Srivastava, Founder of Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation, Principal Dr RN Singh, Chiranjeev Jain, Atul Nagle, INMWF National Secretary NN Rao, Rashmi Pillai from Joy Foundation, Social worker Dinesh Bajpai, Managing Director of Essel Engineering Works Jasveer Kaur and Saraswati Verma were present as special guests. Anirban Dasgupta in his address said that this event of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association is a matter of pride not only for Bhilai but for the whole of Chhattisgarh.

Motivating the players, he said that Bhilai Steel Plant is providing all possible facilities to Divyang cricket players and organizers. Dr Abhishek Pallava said that this national tournament being organised by Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association and Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation is a proof that we are fully capable of organizing such big events. Dr Pallava extended his best wishes to all the four national teams of Divyang cricket playing here.

Dr Pallava further said that it is the responsibility of dutiful citizens to encourage this event which showcases the spirit and talent of the players. SEFI Chairman Narendra Banchor too reiterated that organizing national tournament in steel city is a matter of pride for all and extended best wishes to the players.

At the outet, President of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association Arun Kumar Srivastava expressed gratitude to all the organisations for extending support to the event. The inaugural match of the tournament was played between Indian Legends and Indian Sultans which was won by the former by 2 wickets. After winning the toss, Indian Legends decided to field first. Batting first Indian Sultans scored 139 runs on the loss of 9 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Chasing the target, Indian legends scored 141 runs on 19.5 overs. In the second match Indian Fighters won the match by 6 wickets defeating Royal Indians. Batting first Royal Indians scored 102 runs and were all out. Chasing the target, Indian Fighters won the match scoring 108 runs on the loss of 4 wickets, thus winning by 6 wickets. The match umpires were Anil Singh and Jigar Bavaria while Nitin Katwar was the third umpire. Vinod Deoghare and Prem Prakash Yadav were scorers while Someshwar Rao was the commentator.

Cabinet approves UA for unemployed youth

Draft of Suppl and state budget for 2023-24 approved

Many important decisions taken during Cabinet Meeting

Raipur, Feb 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel chaired the Cabinet Meeting today at his official residence and as per the decisions taken in the meeting in the interest of the unemployed, Government of Chhattisgarh has decided to provide unemployment allowance (UA) to the unemployed youth of the state.

The Cabinet has also approved the draft of Chhattisgarh Appropriation Bill-2023 for presentation of the third supplementary estimate year 2022-2023 and the draft of budget estimate year 2023-2024 to be presented in Legislative Assembly and the draft of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Member Salary, Allowances, Pension (Amendment) Bill-2023 was approved. The Governor's address was approved for the sixteenth session of Chhattisgarh's fifth assembly in the month of March-2023.

Formation of CSIC approved

The proposal for the formation of Chhattisgarh State Innovation Commission (CSIC) was approved. The State Innovation Commission will give suggestions for promoting innovative approach in public welfare schemes, for enhancing efficiency in the administrative services, and would also provide suggestions for implementation of the manifesto and other important points given from time to time.

Sanctions reimburse of Re. 1 cost of addl. Cowdung used in production

As the per kilogram conversion percentage from cowdung to vermi compost is 40 to 33 per cent, it was decided to reimburse one rupee cost of additional cowdung used in production of vermicompost under Godhan Nyaya Yojana from cess amount. Similarly, the cost of additional cow dung in the Gauthans of the urban bodies will be reimbursed by the government from the amount provided to the urban bodies for procurement of cow dung and the remaining available amount will be used as revolving money for the procurement of cow dung and vermi compost. Cabinet has also decided to build a godown in Gauthan premises, with the approval of the District Collector, in convergence with other government schemes for safe storage.

PHFW exempted from CSPR

Cabinet has decided to exempt the Public Health and Family Welfare (PHFW) and Medical Education Department from the Chhattisgarh Store Purchase Rules (CSPR), in context of purchase/procurement from a single source. Cabinet has decided to create the post of Commissioner Medical Education under the Department of Medical Education.

Proposal for amendments in CMVTA approved

The proposal for necessary amendment in the Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act (CMVTA)-1991 (No. 25 of 1991) was approved for collection of one-time (lifetime/optional) tax from goods vehicles. The amendment proposal for Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation-1991 Rule 158 Chhattisgarh Gazette (Extraordinary) notification dated December 31, 2013 clause (5) was approved. In Part-I of the second schedule of the Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1991, the proposal to assess the motor vehicle tax of motor caravan was approved.

Decides to create temporary non-cadre posts

Cabinet has decided to create a temporary non-cadre post of Principal Secretary/Secretary for the Ministry. Cabinet has decided to temporarily create a new non-cadre post of Inspector General of Police/Additional Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh Police Headquarters under the Indian Police Service Cadre of Chhattisgarh State for a period of two years.

ITI upgradation scheme in partnership with TTL approved

Industrial Training Institute upgradation scheme in partnership with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) was approved by the Cabinet. Under this scheme, a total of Rs 1216.80 crore will be spent on the development of 36 ITIs of Chhattisgarh. With this, other short term courses including Mechanic, Electric Vehicle, Basic Designer and Virtual Verifier (Mechanical), Manufacturing Process Control and Automation, Advanced CNC Machining, Industrial Robotics and Digital Manufacturing and Artisan Using Advanced Tools will also be started in the ITI institutions of the state.

The twenty-first annual report of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (for the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) was approved to be presented in the Legislative Assembly and the General Administration Department was authorized for further action.

The draft of amendment in Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Ordinary Sand (Excavation and Business) Rules-2019 was approved. Cabinet has decided to procure grams under the subsidy scheme of Rs 8000 per ton from the buffer stock of Government of India, for distribution to the 'antyoday' and priority beneficiary families of Mada and scheduled areas under the public distribution system.

Cabinet has decided to implement One Time Settlement Scheme to waive the interest and surcharge imposed on the remaining premium payment from the allottees, on the land/builtup space allotted under miscellaneous land use in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

It has been decided to include widows, widowers, abandoned and unmarried men and women under the state-sponsored Chief Minister cum Prime Minister Housing Scheme and the date of registration for housing has been extended till March 31, 2024. The draft of the Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956 (Amendment) Bill was approved.

The draft of Chhattisgarh Municipality Act 1961 (Amendment) Bill 2023 was approved.

Govt to implement special incentive policy

For closed and sick industries in Ch'garh

Under the Industrial Policy 2019-24, it was decided to implement a special incentive policy for the closed and sick industries in Chhattisgarh. This will be applicable to closed and sick industries after November 1, 2019. This policy will be applicable only to manufacturing industries. Chhattisgarh will be developed as a 'logistics and warehousing hub'. Cabinet has decided to implement the State Logistics Policy 2022.

The draft of Bill 2023 was approved for settlement of Chhattisgarh outstanding tax interest and penalty.

ED raids on Ch'garh Cong leaders 'politically motivated': Baghel

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday called the Enforcement Directorate's raids at the premises of Congress leaders in the state a "politically motivated" move and claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party was afraid of the Congress and misusing central agencies to crush the voices of political opponents.

Their intention is to impact the Congress's upcoming plenary session in Raipur where a roadmap for the 2024 general elections will be discussed, Baghel said addressing a press conference at the party's state headquarters 'Rajiv Bhawan'.

AICC general secretary and state in-charge Kumari Selja, Chhattisgarh Congress chief Mohan Markam, state ministers and other party leaders were also present during the press conference.

"Whenever the Congress takes any major step, such acts (raids by central agencies) happen The BJP-led Centre is scared of the Congress. The BJP was nervous when the Congress took out the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and now they are afraid of the plenary session going to be held in Raipur," Baghel said.

They have resorted to low level acts to create hindrances ahead of the conclave out of their frustration, he claimed.

"But, we are not afraid of such acts and we will emerge stronger and make the event a grand success. When we were not afraid of the Britishers, then why should we be afraid of them (BJP)," Baghel said.

The CM termed the raids as "politically motivated" and said the action was carried out to garner political benefits.

Earlier, Baghel in a tweet said such acts will not weaken the morale of party leaders who are engaged in the preparation of the party's upcoming plenary session.

"Today the ED has raided the residence of many of my colleagues, including the treasurer of the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, the party's former vice-president and an MLA," he said.

"There is a plenary session of the Congress in Raipur after four days. Our spirits cannot be broken by stopping our colleagues engaged in preparations for the session through such acts. The BJP is disappointed with the success of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and the truth of Adani being exposed. This raid is an attempt to divert attention. The country knows the truth. We will fight and win," the CM tweeted.

Addressing the press conference, Kumari Selja also targeted the Centre and accused it of adopting oppressive policies against political opponents.

"It is evident by the oppressive policies of the Narendra Modi-led Centre that it is so afraid of the opposition, particularly the Congress. They are not allowing the opposition to raise their voice inside Parliament as well as outside," she claimed.

Angiography and angioplasty facility available

In ACI cardiology department

Raipur, Feb 20: Facility of angiography (investigation related to the detection of blockage in heart veins) and angioplasty (process of opening the blockage by balloon and stent) are now available for patients at the cardiology department of Advance Cardiac Institute (ACI) in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur.

Giving information in this regard Medical Superintendent of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Dr. SBS Netam said that technical problem in the process of payment made under Ayushman Bharat Yojana last week affected angiography test and angioplasty process some time. The problem has now been resolved, he said. At present, heart patients are getting the facility of angiography test and angioplasty treatment, he added.

'Will Bharat Ratna be offered on coal scam?'

Raman Singh's reaction to Congress allegations on ED raids

Raipur, Feb 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today said that ED raid had nothing to do with the Congress session and the BJP. The Congress was earlier saying that its government was being destabilized but this raid of ED has been done on the basis of evidence found in earlier action, BJP state president Arun Sao said while talking to the media at BJP office here. Can the government belie that charge sheet? he asked.

Alleging that the hard-earned money of the poor of Chhattisgarh was being looted, he said that the head of the state was seen standing with the robbers. This is injustice and atrocity with the poor people of the state, he said. Chhattisgarh has been looted from top to bottom on a large scale, he said. He also said that cash, gold, diamond, property were all being found in ED's action. Despite this, why is the Congress standing with the corrupt? he asked.

Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too fiercely targeted the Chhattisgarh government saying that Chhattisgarh is being discussed with ED and CD. 'If ED will not come on coal scam will there be a proposal for Bharat Ratna', asked Singh. Raising questions on the law and order situation of the state, Raman Singh asked will beating a woman and dragging her by hair would be the law in state?

Farewell ceremony of Governor organized at Raj Bhavan

Raipur, Feb 20: Farewell function of Governor Anusuiya Uikey was organised at Raj Bhavan on Monday. Addressing all the officers and employees of the Raj Bhavan family, Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey recalled various moments of her tenure and expressed her gratitude for the cooperation of the Raj Bhavan family. Governor Ms. Uikye said that working as the Governor of Chhattisgarh is an unforgettable moment for her. She said that a large number of people from Surguja to Bastar came to meet him with their problems and she made every possible effort to solve their problems. She said that during her tenure, continuous efforts were made by her to establish Raj Bhavan as Jan Bhavan. For this, she also underlined the cooperation of the Raj Bhavan family. Remembering the art, tradition and culture of Chhattisgarh, the Governor described it as a priceless specialty of Chhattisgarh. She said that the people of Chhattisgarh are very straightforward and simple, this gives a special identity to the people here. Governor also expressed gratitude for the love and respect received by all the tribal communities including the people of the state. Along with this, the Governor urged all the officers and employees to cooperate with the new Governor of Chhattisgarh, just as you all have cooperated with me to work in the interest of the public. On this occasion, Secretary to the Governor Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho, Legal Advisor Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, Deputy Secretary Mr. Deepak Agarwal, Mr. Vivek Shukla, Major Siddharth Singh, Controller Mr. Harbansh Miri and Personal Assistant to the Governor Mr. Jitendra Solanki also addressed the function. Recalled the tenure of the Governor and shared the Raj Bhavan and its related experiences. Everyone thanked the Governor and expressed their gratitude towards him. Along with this, all the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to Governor Uikey on becoming the Governor of Manipur State. A memento was presented to the Governor on behalf of the Raj Bhavan family on the occasion.

Counterfeit notes worth Rs 4.44 lakh seized

Mahasamund, Feb 20: Two accused along with a minor have been nabbed with counterfeit notes worth Rs 4.44 lakh in the denomination of Rs 500 and a case under section A489 (K) (G) and Section 34 of IPC and were produced in the court and sent to jail. Both the accused were using the minor to consume the counterfeit notes in the market.

Disclosing in this case, SP Mahasamund informed that two accused viz. Ramlakhan Kaiwart S/o Panchram (47) and Pawan Kumar S/o Seetaram Sahu (43), along with a minor boy were roaming around in the city and they got information that they are trying to consume counterfeit currency in the market. On this the Cybercell and City Kotwali Police gheraoed them and nabbed the two and minor boy.

The accused Ramlakhan is already having case of 420 filed against him in Ganj thana. SP informed that the two accused were planned to use the counterfeit notes in Mahasamund and in neighbouring districts of Rajnandgaon, Raipur and in Odisha as well. Ramlakhan informed police that as against counterfeit notes of Rs 50000, he used to give original Rs 20000 in return. The Cybercrime and Kotwali Police is now searching for the accused involved in use of counterfeit notes in Odisha and is checking the record of two accused nabbed.

YC, NSUI gheraoe ED office to protest raid

Raipur, Feb 20: Youth Congress and NSUI workers gheraoed Enforcement Directorate Headquarters in Raipur in protest against raid on some Congress leaders. Angry protestors also scuffled with CRPF personnel. The YC and NSUI workers gheraoed ED Office after they came to know about ED raid on some Congress leaders including Ram Gopal Agrawal, RP Singh, Sunny Agrawal and Vinod Tiwari. Describing ED raid as conspiracy to disturb upcoming Congress session they staged protest.

Police had already barricaded the area around ED office.

When agitating Youth Congress and NSUI workers reached near ED office by breaking barricading, CRPF personnel started using mild force on protesters. Seeing the situation of lathicharge, some workers dispersed. But the rest of the angry workers surrounded a jawan. Protestors tried to thrash the CRPF jawan but the local police present on the spot tried to handle situation. They were seen persuading the protestors to calm down. The noisy protest continued outside the ED office for about 1 to 1.5 hours.

First divisional-level checkup prog for elderly organized

Raipur, Feb 20: On the initiative of the state government, for the first time, a divisional level assessment and accessories distribution ceremony was organized for senior citizens in Temri village of Raipur to solve the physical problems faced by senior citizens in old age. In the programme, free eye, ear, dental and bone medical tests were done for the elderly. Along with this, auxiliary equipment was also distributed to them. About 8.5 thousand senior citizens of Raipur division were tested here. These include 4638 senior citizens of Raipur district, 1364 of Dhamtari, 832 of Mahasamund, 736 of Gariaband and 858 of Balodabazar. After the test, the elderly will be provided with assistive devices as per their requirement like walking stick, spectacles, artificial teeth, wheel chair etc. On the instructions of the state government, sequential testing camps will be organized for the elderly in Durg, Bilaspur, Bastar and Surguja divisions. On the instructions of Social Welfare Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia, arrangements for transport and food for the senior citizens in the program were made by the Social Welfare Department. He has given good wishes to all the elders for a healthy and long life.

It is notable that the state government is running several schemes including pension for the welfare and care of the elderly. Helpline number 155326 and toll-free number 1800-233-8989 are being operated for quick redressal of the problems of senior citizens.

CM virtually released an amount of Rs 8.63 cr

To the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana

Rs 412.19 cr has been paid to the beneficiaries of GNY

'Products made from cow dung have reached the general public'

Raipur, Feb 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday virtually released an amount of Rs 8.63 cr to cattle rearers, women's groups associated with Gauthans and Gauthan committees under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana (GNY), at the programme organized at his residence office here. Beneficiaries of this scheme have so far received payments of Rs 412.19 cr. Since the inception of this scheme, a total of 105.63 lakh quintals of cow dung have been purchased. In addition, after payment of Rs 4.76 cr to cow dung sellers today, a sum of Rs 211.25 cr has been paid to them in the lieu of cow dung purchase.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated and extended his best wishes to the cattle rearers, women's groups, and Gauthan committees. He said that there is a 59 per cent increase in the number of livestock farmers benefiting from the GNY and an 85% increase in cow dung purchases. He said that yesterday, we unveiled a statue of Shivaji, which was painted with natural paint made from cow dung, which is a good thing that this paint is also being used by the public.

He added that out of the total amount being transferred today, Rs 4.76 cr was paid for the purchase of cow dung. Of this, an amount of Rs 2.06 cr has been paid by the department and an amount of Rs 2.70 cr has been paid by the self-supporting Gauthans. He said that a total of 10,732 Gauthans have been sanctioned in the state, out of which 9, 720 have been constructed and are functional now. This means that the construction of 91 per cent of the approved Gauthans has been completed. Construction of the remaining 7 per cent of Gauthans is going on at a rapid pace.

The Chief Minister said that the GNY is progressing successfully and is benefiting many people. A total of 45 units have been approved in 21 districts for manufacturing natural paint from cow dung, of which 13 units have already started. The construction of the remaining 32 units is underway at a fast pace. So far, 30,218 liters of paint have been produced, of which 14,358 liters have been sold, resulting in a revenue of Rs 29.16 lakh.

He added that the purchase of 'Gomutra' is being done in 99 Gauthans. So far, 1,33,484 liters of cow urine have been purchased worth Rs 5,37,936. An income of Rs. 28,96,845 has been generated from the production and sale of Brahmastra insecticide and Jeevamrut growth promoter made from 'Gomutra'.

On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Chief Minister's Chief Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh, Chief Minister's Secretary Dr. S. Bharatidasan, Secretary Dr. Ayaj Tamboli, and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

One accused arrested with 4 stolen motorcycles

Jagdalpur, Feb 20: Parpa police have arrested the accused of bike theft under the leadership of district police station incharge Dhananjay Siha. Accused Sevak Lal alias Satish Sinha father late Baldev Ram Sinha aged 38 years is a resident of village Polkarra police station Fingeshwar district Gariaband. At present, a total of 4 stolen motor cycles have been seized from the accused from village Ektaguda, Panchayat Kusmi, Thana Bakavad, District Bastar. In which 2 motor cycles were stolen from Medical College Dimrapal and 1 motor cycle was stolen from Kotwali police station area. And information is being obtained regarding 1 motor cycle. The estimated market value of 4 stolen motor cycles is Rs. 2 lakh. The accused has been arrested today on February 19 and produced before the court and taken on judicial remand.

1st Convocation of Amity University on Feb 23

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: The 1st Convocation of Amity University Chhattisgarh is scheduled on on 23rd February 2023.

The Convocation for the students who have successfully completed their Academic Programs in 2022 will be held on 23rd February 2023 at the university's campus located in Manth (Kharora), Chhattisgarh.

The Convocation ceremony is a momentous occasion for the graduating students, their families, and the university community. It marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment, and symbolizes the beginning of a new phase in the lives of the graduates.

The Chief Guest for the occasion will be Dr. Aseem K. Chauhan, Chairman of Amity University Chhattisgarh. The event will also be attended by the Chancellor of Amity University Chhattisgarh, Dr. W. Selvamurthy and other distinguished guests from the fields of academia, industry, and government.

During the ceremony, the graduates will be conferred with their respective degrees and diplomas, and outstanding students will be felicitated for their academic and extracurricular achievements. The event will conclude with a valedictory address by the Honorable Chairman.

Mayor unveils road in memory of freedom fighter

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: Sunday was a red letter day for the entire Gujrati community as road from Telghani Naka to Railway Station square was named after late freedom fighter Pranlal Bhai Pandya. The board with late freedom fighter's name written on it was jointly dedicated by Mayor Ezaz Dhebar, MLA Kuldeep Juneja, BJP District President Jayanti Bhai Patel, corporator Gyanesh Sharma and Suresh Channawar. Speaking on this occasion Shri Gujrati Brahma Samaj president Kirti Bhai Vyas said, in the entire Gujarati community Late Raicha, Late Babaria and Late Pandya were the three freedom fighters. He added, coming generation will keep taking inspirations from them and is a moment of pride for all Gujarati family. In this programme different branches of Gujarati Community registered their participation. Hitesh Vyas conducted the programme while Ashok Trivedi proposed vote of thanks.

Animal health checkup camp organised by Sarda Dairy and Food Products

Raipur, Feb 20: Sarda Dairy and Food Products Ltd, Kharora under the aegis of Sarda Energy and Minerals, Raipur organised the animal health checkup camp on February 17 in which Sarda Dairy, Director, HK Tamrakar, Doctor Dr Naiem Makrani, Assistant General Manager Prakash Chandrakar, Assistant Manager Bhubaneswar Sahu successfull conducted the health checkup camp for animals at village Khouli. About 200 animals were given the anti worm medicine giving the primary treatment. In addition to this the other health related problems of the animals - Diarrhea, Preganancy related problems were examined. In the camp the cattlemen participated with much enthusiasim and carried out the health checkup of animal. The camp was organised successfully with the cooperation of Dr Rishi Gupta, Dr Panjal, Dongendra Sahu, Amit Soni, Narendra Kaushik and Bhagwat Sahu. The cooperation of medical representatives of companies like Godrej Agrovet, Mahamaya Traders, Antas and Kargil were also appreciable. Sarpanch of village Khouli Mrs Chameli Dhanajik Chandarkar also extended her cooperation to make the event successfull.

DPI to operate RTE again

Raipur, Feb 20: Under Right to Education Act (RTE) the operation of admission, control and payment of fee reimbursement amount of BPL children has now been handed over to the Directorate of Public Instructions (DPI). School Education Department has withdrawn the responsibility of RTE from overall education by issuing an order from Mantralaya in this regard.

About two and a half months ago, the School Education Department had handed over the responsibility of conducting all the works of RTE to the State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, but in view of the technical difficulties, now the operation of RTE has again been given to the Directorate of Public Instructions.

In the letter issued by the government, it has been said that it will not be possible to take the sanctioned budget amount for fee reimbursement in the Single Nodal Account (SNA) of Samagra Shiksha. Other administrative control, including recognition and cancellation of private schools, rests with the District Education Officer. The District Education Officer works under the direct control of the Director of Public Instructions. The Managing Director of Samagra Shiksha has no direct control over the private schools.

Under the RTE, the state government is paying the fees of children from class nursery to class 8th to unaided private schools, but the Government of India approves the amount for fee reimbursement of children from class 1st to 8th only. The School Education Department has clarified that the Government of India does not sanction funds for nursery. Under the Right of Children to Free Education Act, the fees of the children admitted and studying in the limit of 25 percent is paid by the Director of Public Instructions to unaided private schools after obtaining budget approval from the state government. The Government of India approves the amount for fee reimbursement of children from class 1st to 8th only, which is returned by this office to the Directorate of Public Instructions.

Dr. Shinde made Millets Phalahar for consumption during fasts

Famous Chef of Nagpur on last day of Ch'garh Millet Carnival

Gave live demonstration of the high-protein recipe of Barnyard Paneer Cutlet with Peanut Chutney

Recommended protein-rich breakfast during fasts

Raipur, Feb 20: On the last day of Chhattisgarh Millet Carnival held in Netaji Subhash Stadium in Raipur, Nagpur's famous Chef Dr. Nitin Shinde gave a live demonstration of making Barnyard Paneer Cutlet with Peanut Chutney, which is ideal for consumption during fasts. He said that while observing fasts, one should prefer protein rich millet dishes over carbohydrate-dense Sabudana, so that they don't experience fatigue. After preparing the recipe, he served the dish to everyone present on the occasion. People loved the taste of the dish. Additionally, he also taught them the right way of cooking millets while sharing many tips. He also answered the queries of people regarding millets.

Chef Dr. Nitin Shinde said that millets should always be soaked for 4-5 hours before cooking, so that they cook properly. To elevate the taste and aroma of the millets, they can be sautéed in ghee. He recommended cooking millets on slow flame, so that the their nutritional value is not compromised.

It is noteworthy that the three-day long Millet Carnival is being organized under the auspices of Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association and IIMR Hyderabad. A Millet Food Court has also been set up in this unique Carnival where citizens can experience the delicious taste of millet dishes. The aim of the Millet Carnival is to include millets in the daily diets of people and to create awareness about its nutritional value.

Divisional-level workshop of Women's Commission on 23rd

Ambikapur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh State Women's Commission will hold a one-day divisional-level workshop training on February 23. The training will begin at 10 a.m. at the Rajmohani Devi Bhavan in Ambikapur. Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, Chairman of the Commission, will preside over the workshop. The training will be attended by officers from the Women and Child Development Department, Labor Department, Police Department, and other departments. Representatives from Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Panchayats will also be present.

DIG Balaji Rao visits two police stations

Kondagaon, Feb 20: North Bastar Kanker DIG Balaji Rao visited the sensitive police station areas Mardapal, Pungarpal and new camp Kudhur of Kondagaon district and met the jawans and got information about their working style and motivated them.

During the tour of the remote Naxal area, DIG reviewed the ongoing development works in the marked village of the remote area of Kondagaon district under Manwa Nawanar and informed the jawans posted in Camp Kudur about precautions and safety measures during Naxal patrolling.

After that he inspected the geographical area of Mardapal and Pungarpal police stations and gave necessary directions to the officers and jawans of the respective police stations. During the camp inspection of DIG Balaji Rao, DSP Naxal Operation Satish Bhargava, Police Station Incharge Mardapal Raman Usendi, Police Station Incharge Pungarpal Ramji Tarme, CAF 5th Battalion F Company Commander AN Yadav and Police and CAF. K other officers and jawans were present.

CM Baghel invited to Virat Satsang Sammelan

Raipur, Feb 20: The Chief Minister had a courtesy meeting with the saint delegation of Akhil Chhattisgarh Kabir Panth's Sadguru Ashram Sonpairi at his residential office today. Official Mr. Mukesh Kosle invited Chief Minister Mr. Baghel as the Chief Guest to the Virat Satsang Sammelan to be organized by the Akhil Chhattisgarh Kabir Panth on 1 March in Sonpairi Sejbajar Raipur. The Chief Minister thanked the delegation politely for the invitation and gave his best wishes for the successful organization of the event.

Teachers staged a day's strike

Demanding pre-service calculation for OPS

Photo-Dharna-Teachers

Jagdalpur, 20 February: On Monday, under the banner of Purv Sewa Ganana Morcha (PSGM), a one-day protest demonstration was held at Jagdalpur Mandi premises under the leadership of District Convenor Rajesh Gupta and Shailendra Tiwari of Shikshak Morcha, demanding the benefit of service from the first day of the appointment.

Due to this a situation of lockout was created in 70 percent schools and the mid-day meal programme in primary and pre-secondary schools was also affected. Teachers say that after the Chhattisgarh government's decision to implement the old pension scheme (OPS), the old pension is being calculated from the year 2018 to the teachers of LB cadre after the merger of their education department. Along with this, the service before the year 2018 is being considered as zero. While teacher LB cadre is getting NPS since before 2018. Teachers do not seem to be taking interest even on the option being filled for old pension scheme. During this, many teachers addressed the protest and it was coordinated by Tuladas Manikpuri.

A memorandum was given by the Sangh in the name of Chief Minister, Education Minister, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary School Education Department, Secretary Finance Department, Secretary General Administration Department, Director Public Education/Pension and Provident Fund calculation on five-point demands. Tehsildar Jagdalpur Pushparaj Patra accepted the memorandum after reaching the venue itself.

The total service for old pension should be calculated on the basis of previous service in the memorandum. The qualifying service for pension fixation should be made 20 years instead of 33 years like the Central Government. Salary discrepancy of assistant teachers should be removed. On the basis of the date of first appointment, the upgraded pay scale should be given according to the public announcement. The time limit for selection of irreversible option for OPS / NPS should be increased by 3 months. Praveen Srivastava, Shiv Singh Chandel, Shivraj Thakur, Tahir Sheikh, Amit Pal Sudhir Dubey, Mangalram Maurya, Harendra Singh Rajput, Fuldas Nagesh, Kamla Sharma, B. Poddar, Manish Thakur, Budhram Kashyap, Neelmai Sahu, Tuladas Manikpuri in protest demonstration Including Anil Pandey, Jagdish, Ravindra Thakur, Pitabar Sethia, Neelam Jha, Bhumika Nishad, Aparna Rajput, Chanchala Baghmare, Padma Kashyap, Shobhavati, Dayanidhi Bisai, Rahul Thakur, Yogesh Hardahe, Chaitya Panigrahi, Lakheram Bisai, Shiv Jangde, Krishna Thakur Thousands of female and male teachers were present.

Information camp set up in the weekly bazaar

Kondagaon, Feb 20: With the aim of promoting public welfare schemes and achievements of the state government, in compliance with the instructions given by the Public Relations Department, the District Public Relations Office, Kondagaon, is organizing a photo exhibition along with information camps in the Haat-Bazars of the district. In this connection, a photo exhibition was organized in the weekly market of Banskot of Baderajpur block, district headquarters Kondagaon and Bahigaon of Keshkal block previous day along with the information camp, which was viewed by the villagers. During this time, the villagers have supported the state government's Chhattisgarh Model of Justice, New Chapter of Justice, Prosperous Farming Khushhal Kisan, Chhattisgarh Millet Mission, Chief Minister Mitan Yojana, Forest Rights Recognition, Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Bijli Se Nyaya Ka Ujiara, Brahmastra for Cow Urine Farming, Empowered Women, Empowered Society, Service Protection Concerns, Olympics 2022, New Chapter of Justice, Janaman, Ways of Justice for Everyone, 4 Years of Justice. During the information camp and photo exhibition, Suryakant Chandrakar, Sahdev Maurya and Ghanshyam Netam of the Public Relations Department gave detailed information about the welfare schemes and programs of the state government.

BJPBCM District Working Committee concludes

Central Chronicle News

Gourella Pendra Marwahi, Feb 20: The District Working Committee meeting of BJP Backward Class Morcha (BJPBCM) in District Gaurela Pendra Marwahi was held at Kotmi Kala Village of Pendra Rural Mandal.

The welcome speech was done by Sandeep Jaiswal, District President of Backward Class Morcha and all the district and state office bearers were welcomed by garlanding.

District President Sandeep Jaiswal presented the details of the work done by the Backward Class Morcha so far and political resolution was read by Vice President Limeswar Kushwaha and supported by Mithlesh Sahu. A 16-point action plan was given by the State Backward Classes; and it was read by District General Secretary Shiv Gupta.

Sunita Manikpuri, who was present as the keynote speaker, in her address told the backward class the key to victory for the upcoming elections, if all the workers follow the 16 points given by the state leadership, then victory will be sure.

District President BJP Kanhaiya Rathore talked about taking the welfare schemes of the Center to the public. State Working Committee member Luv-Kush Kashyap in his address described the role of backward classes as the best and motivated the workers to work with one formula.

State Social Media Management Committee member, Rakesh Chandrakar, Kisan Morcha State Vice President Brijlal Singh Rathore, District General Secretary Rakesh Chaturvedi, Lalji Yadav, District Vice President Kuber Sarrati, Mahila Morcha President Sameera Paikra, District Treasurer Mukesh Dubey, Backward Classes State Working Member Ashish Gupta and Treasurer Rakesh Shriwas also addressed the meeting.

The birth anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj was also celebrated by the workers of the Morcha. Radheshyam Jaiswal, Kailash Verma, Sharad Tamarkar, Pramod Rai, Puran Rajak, Jagdish Prasad Rajak, Abhishek Jaiswal, Narayan Rajak were present.

Grand Shivling established in Kapileshwar temple

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Feb20: In the ancient Kapileshwar temple group of Balod city, the festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated with great pomp and people came to perform special prayers while the kanwariyas performed Jalabhishek by bringing water in the stepwell here. Devotees are coming and going and in groups of special Shivling, women, young and old people are coming and worshiping from far away.

This is an ancient temple and it has its own belief and installation of grand Shivling has doubled the faith of the devotees. Local councilor and member of the temple, Mohan Kalihari told that on the occasion of Mahashivratri, like every year, special worship is being done this year as well, and this year the huge idol of Lord Shiva and Shivling is also being established.

Ganesh idols are inscribed above the door of each temple and the figures of snakes are inscribed on the pinnacle of the temples, he said. It is estimated that local Nagvanshi kings would have ruled here too and it is believed here the temple of Lord Rama is divided into the sanctum sanctorum and the pavilion. The water of the water tank of the temple never dries up and the devotees who reached here told that there is a kund in front of the Shiva temple here, which too never dries up.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला- दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन

रा.प्र.क्र.26/ब-121/ वर्ष 2020-21

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, एक्सिस बैंक लिमिटेड .
शाखा- एसेटस सेल्स सेन्टर, 2डी फ्लोर, चावला चैम्बर्स,
जीवन बीमा मार्ग, रायपुर तह. व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) ... वादी

प्रेषिती

1. मेसर्स ग्रीनवेज ट्रेडिंग कोंपनी,पार्टनर श्री मो.औवेदुल्लाह, श्री परवेज असरफ
2.श्री मो. जमील असरफ
दोनों का पता-बिहार बुट हाउस, जवाहर मार्केट पाबर हाउस, भिलाई
3.मो.औवेदुल्लाह , आ. ए.आर. सिद्दीकी
4. श्री परवेज असरफ, आ. मोह.औवेदुल्लाह सिद्दीकी,
दोनों का पता-88 फरीदनगर, ईदगाह मोहल्ला कोहका जुनवानी, रोड,
कोहिनूर हास्टल के पास, वार्ड नं.-01, सुपेला भिलाई ...अनावेदक

उपरोक्त वादी द्वारा इस न्यायालय मे वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत अनावेदकों द्वारा आवेदक बैंक से कैस क्रेडिट की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पक्ष में रखी गई बन्धक संपत्ति -वाणिज्यिक भूमि क्षेत्रफल 506.25 वर्गफीट पर भवन निर्माण जो भूखण्ड नम्बर 26, जवाहर मार्केट पाबर हाउस, छावनी भिलाई, तहसील व जिला दुर्ग में स्थित् है को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नही करने के कारण रिक्त भौतिक आधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण संस्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धांत के अन्तर्गत अनावेदक को इस न्यायालय द्वारा समक्ष सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पत्र जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस तामिल बाद वापस प्राप्त।

चुंकि अनावेदक को प्रकरण में समक्ष सुनवाई का युक्तियुक्त अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अतएव इस समन के जरिये अनावेदकों को आदेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दिनांक 13/03/2023 को कलेक्टर, दुर्ग के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यत: उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहाजिरी में की जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

आज दिनांक 30/01/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किया गया।

(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा आदेशित)
पृ.क्रमांक/72/प्र.क.ले.2023

अपर कलेक्टर, दुर्ग,
दुर्ग, दिनांक 17/02/2023

प्रतिलिपि:- प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, एक्सिस बैंक लिमिटेड . शाखा- 2डी फ्लोर, चावला चेम्बर्स, जीवन बीमा मार्ग, रायपुर तह. व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु अग्रेषित। कृपया उपरोक्त समन का प्रकाशन दो बहु प्रचलित राज्य स्तरीय समाचार पत्र में करायें एवं प्रकाशन की सूचना से इस न्यायालय को अवगत करावें।

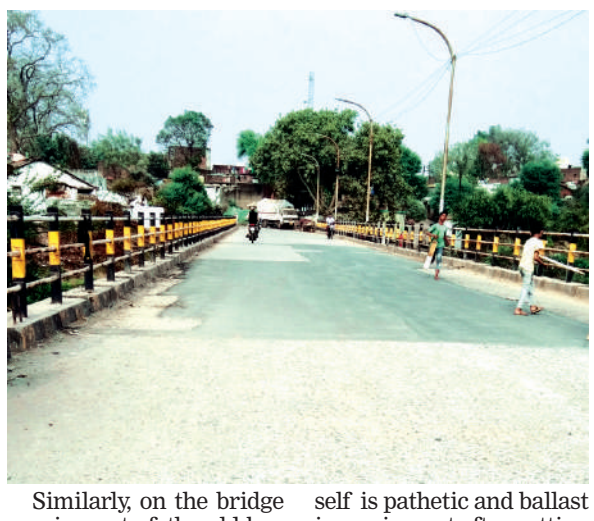
अपर कलेक्टर, दुर्ग,
दुर्ग, दिनांक 17/02/2023

Asphalt cover up in the name of road repair

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Feb 20: In the district, mere cover-up is being done in the name of repairing the roads, and in the name of repair, asphalting is done at one or two places and the rest of the bad roads are abandoned. Citizens are angry due to non-repair work on bad roads after repairing them at one or two places.

After the instructions of the Chief Minister to repair the dilapidated potholed roads of the state, the work of repairing the bad roads was also started in the district and in the district headquarters, on the main road going from Daupara to Karhi, some parts of the road were left asphalted in the name of repair.



Similarly, on the bridge coming out of the old bus stand near the church, the roads have been asphalted at one or two places as a formality.

The condition of the road above the bridge itself is pathetic and ballast is coming out after getting uprooted. The approach road connecting the bridge to the road also has potholes, which have not been repaired. In the name of formality, the road has been built from Ramgarh to Kharraghat Bridge only and there are big potholes in the road leading to Budhwari Bazar, on the other hand, repair work has not been done in the road going from Bilaspur main road to canal road and to police line and district hospital, due to which big potholes have been formed.

There is anger among the citizens for doing only formalities in the name of road repair and due to non-repair; people say that the officers here are openly disobeying the orders of the Chief Minister. On contacting the officials in this context, it is told that the repair work is going on, and presently the work is going on at another place.

Action to be taken against shopkeepers encroaching

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Feb 20: Regarding increasing encroachment in Nagar Panchayat Kharora, a necessary meeting was called in front of Nagar Panchayat Officer, Police Station Kharora, by Chamber of Commerce and city traders in NAPM. The Nagar Panchayat administration has taken a tough stand against the ever-increasing encroachment on drains and square intersections in the city and in order to remove it in the next 3 days, the administration will start the process of removing the encroachment, for which supervision is under process.

To keep the city clean and provide ease of movement of the people, the Nagar Panchayat administration has started implementing the action and the drains located on both sides of the city's Main Road, Raipur Road, Baloda Bazar Road, Tilda Road have been encroached upon by installing ladders, tin sheds, shops with banner posters etc. Regarding its removal, the Nagar Panchayat administration has given strict instructions for concrete action and Nagar Panchayat CMO Bansat Lonhare said that it is the responsibility of the Nagar Panchayat to remove encroachments and provide transportation facilities to the people. Regarding this, within the next 3 days, all the encroachers should remove their encroachments themselves; otherwise action will be taken to remove the encroachment from the fourth day. The amount of expenditure incurred on removal of encroachment will also be recovered from the encroachers only.

आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे पक्षकार "जय छत्तीसगढ़ पार्टी" पता – 10, दूसरा माला शहीद वीरनारायण सिंह परिसर घड़ी चौक रायपुर 492001 दिनांक 8 जनवरी 2023 को आयोजित शपथ ग्रहण समारोह एवं आमसभा में इस पंजीकृत राजनीतिक दल का नाम परिवर्तन करने का प्रस्ताव सर्व सम्मति से पारित करते हुए "जोहार छत्तीसगढ़ पार्टी" किया जा रहा है। उपरोक्त नाम परिवर्तन हेतु सूचना जाहिर करते हुए किसी भी व्यक्ति, संस्था अथवा सम्बन्धित पार्टी से जुड़े हुए सदस्यों द्वारा, उजर अथवा आपत्ति हो तो वह अपनी आपत्ति इस आम सूचना प्रकाशन के 15 दिनों के भीतर मेरे कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करें। अन्यथा बाद मियाद मेरे पक्षकार उरोक्त नाम परिवर्तन को अपने पक्ष में करवा लेगा और तत्पश्चात प्रस्तुत किसी भी प्रकार के दावा/आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगी।

अतः सूचना जानें।
रायपुर
दिनांक 16/02/2023

सुरेश कुमार वर्मा
अधिवक्ता
वास्ते जय छत्तीसगढ़ पार्टी

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

सीपत सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन, बिलासपुर, छत्तीसगढ़–495555

उच्च गुणवत्ता की बीआईएस प्रमाणित (IS16720:2018) फ़्लाइ ऐश ब्रिक्स (ईंटें) एनटीपीसी सीपत में **"पहले आओ पहले पाओ"** के आधार पर बिक्री हेतु उपलब्ध हैं। न्यूनतम 5000 संख्या के लिए ईंटें खरीदी जा सकती हैं। परिवहन व्यय अतिरिक्त। ईंटें खरीदने के लिए इच्छुक व्यक्ति / निर्माणकर्ता / कंपनी / ठेकेदार इन फोन नंबरों पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं: 7049060462, 9425222239, 9425283381, 9425278332

High quality BIS certified (IS 16720:2018) Fly Ash Bricks are available for sale on **"First Come First Serve"** basis at NTPC Sipat. Bricks can be purchased for a minimum number of 5000. Transportation expenses extra. Persons/Manufacturers/ Company/ Contractors interested in buying bricks, can contact on these phone numbers: 7049060462, 9425222239, 9425283381, 9425278332

विद्युत क्षेत्र में अग्रणी

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpant Rao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013
CIN No.U67190MH2008PLC187552

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s) /Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

S. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice & Date of NPA
1	TCHHF02600 00100073153	**Sheikh Shoaib Mohammad** (Borrower), **Naziya Kausar Shaikh, Sheik Mohammed Sheikkarim, Najamun Nisha** (Co-borrowers)	Rs. 13,72,158/-	14-02-2023 07-02-2023

Description of the Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties/Mortgaged Properties: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being A Plot of land along with house built thereon, being Khasra No. 1460/26, 1460/32, 1460/81, area measuring 1100 Sq. Ft./0.010 Hect., P.h. No. 53, Ward No. 11, Mouza Kumhari, NPP Kumhari, RIC Ahiwara, Block & Tahsil Dhamdha, District Durg, in the state of Chhattisgarh. **Property bounded as:** North: House of Sheikh Nazmunnisha; South: 10 Feet Wide Gully; East: House of Sangita Devi; and West: 6 Feet Wide Gully.

*with further interest, additional Interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 21-02-2023, Place : Raipur — Sd/- Authorised Officer

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited), under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	45119440000124	1) Om Prakash Sahu, S/o. Banshi Lal Sahu (Prop. M/s. Basant Flower), 2) Mrs. Domin Sahu, W/o. Om Prakash Sahu	24.03.2022 Rs.5,89,609.15 (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Nine and Fifteen Paise Only) as on 22.03.2022	Date: 15.02.2023 Time: 02.10 PM Symbolic Possession
		Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Khasra No.722/1 (Part), total admeasuring area of 2500 Sq.ft., (232.34 Sq.mtr.), P.H. No. 05, R.N.M. Bhilai-3, Mouza Amleshwar, situated at Shitla Vihar, Tehsil Patan, District Durg (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Property of Nisha Dewangan, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property of Dewangan and **South by:** Property of Anamika.		
2	45089430000069 & 45089430000082	1) Mr. Ritesh Kannouje, S/o. Rajendra Kannouje, 2) Mrs. Savita Kannouje, W/o. Ritesh Kannouje	01.11.2022 Rs.25,53,496.30 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Six and Thirty Paise Only) as on 13.10.2022	Date: 15.02.2023 Time: 03.40 PM Symbolic Possession
		Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing House No. 274/2, 61/666/2, total admeasuring area of 1500 Sq.ft., (139.40 Sq.mtrs.), together with construction thereon, Khasra No.1615 (Part), P.H. No.106-A/46, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Mahant Laxmi Narayan Das Ward, Ward No.61, Mouza Purani Basti, Kho Kho Para, Raipur (Khas), Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** 3 Ft. Gali, **West by:** House of Kuber Singh, **North by:** House of Vijay Singh and **South by:** House of Alok Shrivastav.		
3	45119420000071	1) Ms. Parwati Nishad, D/o. Ganga Ram Nishad, 2) Mr. Ganga Ram Nishad, S/o. Chamru Ram Nishad, 3) Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhatiya, S/o. Mahendar Singh Bhatiya	17.11.2022 Rs.13,00,368.50 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Three Hundred Sixty Eight and Fifty Paise Only) as on 07.11.2022	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 03.40 PM Physical Possession
		Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing part of Khasra No.475/122/K (New), 475/1 (Old), total admeasuring area 1000 Sq.ft., situated at Village Mova, P.H. No.109, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward-27, Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Road, **West by:** Others Land, **North by:** Others Land and **South by:** Remaining Land of Mr. Sukhdev.		

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Durg & Raipur (C.G.)
Date: 21.02.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. **Branch Office:** Krishna Complex, Opp. Aurobindo Netralaya, Main Road, Sadar Bazar, Raipur-492001.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Branch: Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G)

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Branch- Civil Lines, Raipur** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **15/03/2023,** for recovery of **Rs. 95,30,486.96/- (Rupees Ninty Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six & Ninty Six Paisa Only) (as on 17/02/2023)** & interest there on from 17.02.2023 due to the **Indian Bank, Civil Lines branch,** Secured Creditor, from **Borrower- M/s Vijay Trading Company, Proprietor- Mr. Nand Lal Menghani** S/o Mr. Ghanshyamdas Menghani, Plot no.06,Bhawani Nagar, Pirda Road, Jora Maharshi Walmiki Ward-28, Raipur, C.G. **Guarantor: Shri Nand Lal Menghani** S/o Mr. Ghanshyamdas Menghani, House No.43/1392, Ward No.43, Near Jaslok Bhawan, Ravigram, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.).

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the Property:-

All that part and parcel of the residential house situated at Kh No.-754/5, P.H. No.113, New 64/65, RI Circle-Raipur-9, Mouza-Labhandih, Ward-28, Maharshi Walmiki ward-28,Tehsil & Dist.- Raipur (C.G.), Area-3120 Sq.ft. in the name of Shri Nandlal Meghani. **Boundaries: North:** Farm of Dr. A.K. Tripathi, **South:** 30 ft. road, **East:** Farm of Kamal Sharma, **West:** Land of Rita Marwah.

Encumbrances on property	Not Known
Reserve Price	Rs. 32,00,000/-
EMD Amount	Rs. 3,20,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs 10,000.00/- by such multiples
Date and Time of E-auction	15/03/2023, Time- 11.00 AM to 04:00 PM
Property ID No.	IDIB50438772784

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(www.mstcecommerce.com)** of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact **ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com** and for EMD status please contact **ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com.**

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://ibapi.in** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number **18001025026 and 011-41106131.**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://ibapi.in** and **www.mstcecommerce.com.**

Date: 21.02.2023, Place : Raipur — Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

शाखा- विवेकानंद आश्रम, रायपुर (छ.ग.) Branch- VIVEKANAND ASHRAM, RAIPUR (C.G.)

APPENDIX-IV [RULE - 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas,The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002(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 date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section 4 of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/ Guarantors 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 **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA** for amount mentioned below with subsequent interest and expenses 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.

Sl No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Dt. of Demand Notice / Dt. of Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on the date of demand notice	Description of the Immovable Property
1.	**Borrowers- Shri Sheru Deep** S/o Shri Trinath Deep and **Smt. Jyoti Deep** W/o Shri Sheru Deep, both are resident of New Changorabhata, Beside Sahu Caterers, Karan Nagar, beside Bahubali battery Galli, Raipur, Dist. Raipur (C.G.)	27.01.2022 / 15.02.2023	Rs.21,20,950.30/- +Further Interest & Other Charges	All the part & parcel of Double Storied Residential building situated at Kh No. 126/73 (part), Khata No. 1592, PH. NO. 105/59, Situated at Mouja New Changorabhata, Dr. Khubchand Baghel Ward No. 67, RIC Raipur-1, admeasuring (25' x 44') = 1100 sq.'ft., Tehsil and District Raipur (C.G.) in the name of Shri Sheru Deep. **Bounded By: North-** 20 Ft' Road, **South-** Land of Subhash, **East-** Land of Satish Ku Rahangdale, **West'-** 20 Ft' Road.

Date : 20.02.2023, Place : Raipur — Authorised Officer, Central Bank Of India

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

विजया VIJAYA देना DENA

ROSARB, 2nd Floor, Yash Big Bazar, Rajkishor Nagar Bilaspur,Chhattishgarh-495006
Tel: 07752-455994
email:rosarb.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 6 (2) & 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE BORROWER (S) AND GUARANTOR (S) THAT THE BELOW DESCRIBED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY CHARGED TO THE SECURED CREDITOR, POSSESSION OF WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE AUTHORISED OFFICER OF BANK OF BARODA, SECURED CREDITOR, WILL BE SOLD ON **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS",** AND **"WHATEVER THERE IS"** BASIS FOR RECOVERY OF BELOW MENTIONED ACCOUNT(S). THE DETAILS OF BORROWER(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)/ MORTGAGOR(S)/ SECURED ASSET(S)/DUES/RESERVE PRICE/E-AUCTION DATE & TIME, EMD AND BID INCREASE AMOUNT ARE MENTIONED BELOW.

NAME OF BORROWER(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)/BRANCH	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITH ANY ENCUMBERANCE	TOTAL DUES	DATE AND TIME OF E AUCTION	RESERVE PRICE, EMD AND BID INCREASE AMOUNT	STATUS OF POSSESSION	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME
M/S Baba Gurdas Ram Dall Mil, Prop: Om Prakash Thourani Palak Thourani (Guarantor) M/S Baba Garibdas Poha Udyog (Guarantor) Bhatapara (C.G.)	Factory Land And Building At Land Bearing Kh **296/1** Ph No **07/14** Area Of **0.233** Hectare At Village Khokhali, Ric And Tahsil Bhatapara, Baloda Bazar Chhatisgarh In The Name Of **M/S. Baba Gurudas Ram Dall Mill.** **Encumbrance- Not known to the Bank.**	37902109.17 + Interest + Other Charges	31.03.2023 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM	182.28 Lakhs 18.23 Lakhs Ten Thousand	Symbolic	28.03.2023 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
	Open Plot At Kh **296/3** Ph No **07/14** Area Of **27878** Sq.Ft At Village Khokhali, Ric And Tahsil Bhatapara, Baloda Bazar Chhatisgarh In The Name Of **M/S Baba Garibdas Poha Udyog.** **Encumbrance- Not known to the Bank.**			27.78 Lakhs 2.78 Lakhs Ten Thousand	Symbolic	
	Residential House At Kh No **120/54** Area **1012** Sq.Ft Ph No **11** At Sant Kanwar Ram Ward, Bhatapara Standing In The Name Of **Mr Om Prakash Thourani S/O Shri Jai Pal Das Thourani.** **Encumbrance- Not known to the Bank.**			27.00 Lakhs 2.70 Lakhs Ten Thousand	Symbolic	

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Ph. No. 07752-445994

Date: 17.02.2023, Place: Bilaspur (CG) — Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

BRIEF

Bihar Minister and Janta Dal (United) leader Ashok Choudhary being welcomed by party workers upon his arrival at Birsa Munda Airport, in Ranchi, Monday.

Visit

■ **Jammu:** People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Monday visited the historic Raghunath bazar here. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister interacted with traders to ascertain the current situation in one of the economic and trade hubs of the summer capital, party leaders said. Mufti met the office bearers of Raghunath bazar traders association who apprised her about the work undertaken and progress during her tenure as the chief minister, they said.

Hospitalised

■ **Mangaluru:** BJP leader and the party's Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh was admitted to a private hospital here on Monday after he complained of chest pain, party sources said. Singh was immediately rushed to the hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

Scooter ride

■ **Srinagar:** A video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra enjoying a ride on a snow scooter in Gulmarg ski resort of Jammu and Kashmir is breaking the internet. In the footage, the Gandhi siblings can be seen taking turns in the driver's seat of the snow scooter with several other scooters, carrying security personnel of the Congress leaders, in tow.

Encounter

■ **Bulandshahr:** A wanted criminal carrying a reward of Rs 1.25 lakh was killed in an encounter with the special task force of the Uttar Pradesh police in Gulawathi area here, officials said on Monday. Three policemen were also injured in the incident, they said.

Bail

■ **Port Blair:** The former chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain was granted bail by the Port Blair circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court on Monday in the rape case filed by a 21-year-old woman. The bench of Justice Chittaranjan Dash and Justice Md Nizamuddin granted conditional bail to Narain.

Sworn-in

■ **Kohima:** La Ganesan was sworn-in as the Nagaland governor on Monday. Ganesan succeeded Prof Jagdish Mukhi, the Governor of Assam, who was holding additional charge of Nagaland from September 2021 to February 14 this year.

'Azam Khan was punished for his doing'

Meerut (UP), Feb 20 (PTI):

Jaya Prada

Taking a dig at Azam Khan, actor-turned-politician Jaya Prada has said the embattled Samajwadi Party leader was punished for his doing and that he will have to "pay for his sins".

The former Rampur MP, who was here for attending a programme, told reporters on Sunday, "In politics, there are differences between different parties, but there should not be so much arrogance of power that one forgets to respect women and starts doing injustice to the poor and downtrodden."

"Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam do not know how to respect women. Azam Khan has been punished for his doing," she added.

The BJP leader further said, "Azam Khan's game is over. They (Azam and his son) will have to pay for their sins."

Notably, Jaya Prada and Azam Khan had run into many controversies in the past. An FIR was lodged against the senior SP leader over his "khaki underwear" remarks against the BJP leader, who was then fighting the Lok Sabha polls from Rampur against him in 2019.

Azam Khan, who was elected MLA from Rampur Sadar seat in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections held last year, was disqualified after being sentenced to three years imprisonment for giving hate speech during the campaign for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

His son Abdullah Azam, who won from Swar seat, was also disqualified after being sentenced to two years in prison recently for holding illegal sit-in demonstrations in 2008.

Talking about the upcoming 2024 general elections, Jaya Prada said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will once again get a huge majority and form the government under the leadership of Narendra Modi. Rampur seat will also be won by the saffron party, she added.

LAST MINUTE REVISION

Students outside an examination centre before appearing for the CBSE Board exam, in Moradabad, Monday.

MP's new excise policy 'historic and revolutionary': Uma

Bhopal, Feb 20 (PTI):

Uma Bharti

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Uma Bharti on Monday welcomed Madhya Pradesh's new excise policy, saying it reflects her demand to discourage liquor consumption and described it as a "historic and revolutionary" decision.

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Sunday approved the new excise policy under which 'ahatas', or areas for drinking attached to liquor outlets, and shop bars will be closed. State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the new excise policy is designed to discourage liquor consumption.

Bharti had demanded a "controlled liquor policy" in MP. The former MP chief minister, who had started her campaign with the demand for total prohibition, gradually relaxed it and asked for regularisation of liquor sale in the state, where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

In a series of tweets on Monday, Bharti said the liquor policy announced by the state government is a "historic and revolutionary" decision and thanked Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on behalf of all the citizens, especially women.

The new liquor policy totally prohibits drinking sitting in front of the liquor shop. The decision to close ahatas across the state and introducing stringent penal provisions for driving under the influence of alcohol are special parts of this policy which make Madhya Pradesh a "model state" for the excise policy, she said.

Bharti said CM Chouhan has made it clear that the public interest is supreme for the BJP government in the state.

The new policy also ensures that liquor shops for which there has been huge public protest will not be auctioned, she noted.

The administration and elected representatives will have to be very cautious in the policy implementation, she added.

Bihar jail inmate swallows mobile phone

● **During checking**

Gopalganj (Bihar), Feb 20 (PTI):

An inmate of Bihar's Gopalganj district jail reportedly swallowed a mobile phone during checking out of fear being caught by prison officers, an official said on Monday.

Qaishar Ali, the prisoner, swallowed the phone on Saturday during inspection. The matter, however, came to light on Sunday after Ali developed extreme pain in his stomach.

"The prisoner informed the jail authorities and narrated the sequence of events. He was immediately rushed to Gopalganj district hospital where the x-ray of the inmate revealed the presence of a foreign particle in his abdomen," Manoj Kumar, Gopalganj jail superintendent told PTI on Monday.

Salam Siddiqui, the doctor at the hospital's emergency ward said, "The prisoner was admitted in the hospital due to stomach pain. The x-ray of his stomach was taken and the presence of foreign particles was visible during the examination. There is a need to investigate it thoroughly".

A medical board was constituted by the hospital and the man was referred the prisoner to Patna Medical College and Hospital for further treatment.

Ali was arrested by Gopalganj police on January 17, 2020 under provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act). He has been in jail for the last three years.

Use of mobile phone by inmates inside Bihar prisons has raised eyebrows over security officers' credentials. Around 35 cellphones, seven sim cards and 17 cellphone chargers were seized during raids conducted in jails across the state in March 2021.

WB govt employees stick to 48-hour bandh call

● **For DA regularisation**

Kolkata, Feb 20 (PTI):

West Bengal government employees of different departments stuck to their decision to hold a 48-hour strike from Monday for DA parity with the central government, ignoring government warning of action against them.

They are also demanding corruption free appointment.

State government employees organisations, like the 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha' (United Struggle Platform), joined the cease work in different departments in the Writers' Buildings, New Secretariat, in courts, schools and other educational institutions in the city as well as in Siuri, Birbhum, Medinipur, Nadia, Malda, Murshidabad, Howrah, Hooghly and other districts. "We are sticking to our decision on the ceasework for regularisation of dearness allowance and corruption free appointments. We are shocked with the state government's decision of a three per cent hike in the DA. We will continue with our agitation," said a protestor at the food and supplies department here.

The state government has issued an order stating that employees who stays away from work on these two days will have to face action. "The protestors will lose salary and this pen down will be treated as break in service. We will issue show cause and initiate disciplinary action if they fail to furnish satisfactory explanation for their absence from office," said an official at the state secretariat 'Nabanna'. The state government on February 15 announced pay hike of three per cent additional DA to its employees in the 2023-24 budget at the assembly.

Drone delivers govt pension to disabled man

Sarpanch Saroj Agarwal shows a drone used for delivering pension to people with disabilities in remote areas of Odisha's Nuapada district.

● **In remote Odisha village**

Nuapada, Feb 19 (PTI):

Hetaram Satnami, a physically challenged man who lives in a remote village in Odisha's Nuapada district, had to travel 2 km every month through a dense forest to collect his government pension. This month, however, he did not have to face the ordeal as a drone came with the cash and dropped it at his house in Bhutkapada village in Bhaleswar panchayat area.

"The sarpanch sent the money with the help of a drone. It's a big relief for me as the panchayat office is over 2 km away from the village, which is surrounded by a dense forest," said a beaming Satnami, who is a beneficiary of the state's Madhu Babu Pension Yojana.

Sarpanch Saroj Agarwal said she bought a drone online after getting to know about Satnami's ordeal.

"In our panchayat area, there is a village located in the forest, Bhutkapada. A physically-challenged man, Hetaram Satanami, lives in that village. He can't move, since birth," Agarwal said.

"I enrolled him for the pension under the state scheme. I have seen how things are sent through drones in other countries. That's why I placed the order for a drone and got the money delivered to his doorstep," she said.

Subadar Pradhan, the block development officer (BDO) of Nuapada, said it was made possible with Agarwal's own initiative as the government does not have the provision to buy such devices to deliver services.

'Disruption of House proceedings not in interest of democracy'

Lucknow, Feb 20 (PTI):

Yogi Adityanath

Disruption of House proceeding is neither in the interest of democracy nor for the state and the opposition should raise issues in a dignified way, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday.

Adityanath made the remarks ahead of the start of the Budget session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

"There can be 'asahmati' (differences) between ruling and opposition parties. The ruling side cannot run away from answering issues of public interest. Disruption (of House) is neither in the interest of democracy nor the state," he told reporters in assembly premises.

He said the opposition should raise issues with "shalinta" (in a dignified way) and use "Prabhavi shabdavali" (effective words) in the House.

"The budget for 25 crore people of the state will be presented on February 22. If needed, after discussion with other party leaders, the House will also meet on Saturday also," he said.

The government, he said, was ready for a discussion and will reply on all issues raised in the interest of the public.

"We should set an example by running the House in an excellent way. This is an opportunity for us to make it (House) a platform for good debate," he said.

PRAYERS FOR WELLBEING

Devotees offer prayers near a 'Peepal' tree on the occasion of 'Somvati Amavasya', in Mirzapur, Monday.

Delhi Varsity gears up to prevent 'hooliganism'

● **During Holi**

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Holding meetings with Delhi Police personnel operationalising a joint control room and asking colleges to constitute committees are among the preventive steps taken by the Delhi University to avoid any "untoward incident" during the Holi festival and "strengthen a feeling of security" among students, especially girls.

Holi will be celebrated on March 8.

Like every year, the university is cautious and is taking preventive measures to ensure safety and security on the campus.

"The University is to gear itself to curb any menace of hooliganism in the name of Holi and to avoid any untoward incident during the festival on the university campus and in its colleges," Delhi University Proctor Rajni Abbi said in a circular to all colleges.

The Delhi University has asked its constituent colleges to form committees to avoid any "untoward incident" during the festival and "strengthen a feeling of security" among students, especially girls.

The notice has been issued by Abbi to combat "hooliganism" in the name of Holi.

The proctor said anyone found to be indulging in such acts of indiscipline and causing harassment would be subjected to strict disciplinary action.

"The university has taken necessary steps to make elaborate internal and external security arrangements on the campus, its affiliated colleges and hostels, to combat acts of hooliganism and rowdyism in the name of Holi festival causing harm to members of the university community, particularly the girl students," the circular read.

It said that those who is found to be indulging in such acts of indiscipline and causing harassment would be subjected to strict disciplinary action under the provision of University Ordinances, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act-2013.

The proctorial board has also called a meeting with the police officials of the NCT Delhi on March 1 to discuss various preventive measures to be taken to "combat hooliganism".

The university has issued a set of guidelines, asking all the students not to play the festival in a rowdy manner with wet colours, balloons or pistons in any of its educational institutions.

Also, it will be setting up control rooms on the north and south campus to receive complaints from students during the festival.

As reported, the control rooms jointly manned by Delhi Police and DTC authorities and the university officials at north and south campus would function to deal with any untoward incident.

Moreover, the varsity has directed principals, deans of faculties, head of departments and provost of halls and hostels to be available to take care of any incidence.

Pak's current account deficit shrinks 90% to USD 0.24 billion

● In January

Islamabad, Feb 20 (PTI):

Cash-strapped Pakistan's current account deficit shrank 90.2 per cent to USD 0.24 billion in January from USD 2.47 billion in the same month last year, the data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed on Monday.

"Current Account Deficit (CAD) recorded USD 0.2 billion in Jan 2023 against a deficit of USD 2.5 billion in Jan 2022," the central bank said in a brief statement on Twitter.

The decrease in the deficit is also 16.55 per cent lower than December when the SBP announced that the deficit was USD 0.29 billion.

The deficit was recorded as import restrictions continue to persist amid a balance of payments crisis that has brought the country on the verge of default, Dawn newspaper reported.

Pakistan has a chronic balance of payments problem which has exacerbated in the last year, with the country's forex reserves declining to critical levels. As of February 10, the central bank had only USD 3.2 billion in reserves, enough to cover barely three weeks of imports.

To stem dollar outflows, the government has imposed restrictions, allowing imports of only essential food items and medicines until a lifeline bailout is agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is seen as essential for the country to stave off default.

Ismail Iqbal Securities' Head of Research Fahad Rauf said the shrinking current account deficit was "not an achievement but a result of low reserves," the paper reported.

The government's strategy to restrict imports in order to safeguard reserves has turned out to be a double-edged sword, however, as several industries rely on imported inputs to continue operations. As a result, multiple companies across sectors have either suspended operations or scaled down production levels, leading to layoffs.

The latest data shows that the country's current account deficit during the first seven months of the current fiscal year stood at USD 3.8 billion, which equates to a decline of 67.13 per cent compared to July-Jan FY-21-22.

During January, USD 3.92 billion worth of goods were imported, down 7.3 per cent from the last month. On the other hand, exports also declined, clocking in at USD 2.21 billion, down 4.29 per cent from the preceding month's USD 2.31 billion.

Meanwhile, workers' remittances stood at USD 1.89 billion, declining 9.89 per cent compared to USD 2.1 billion in December, according to the paper.

Pakistan heavily relies on remittances apart from exports and foreign loans for its foreign exchange reserves. Pakistan faces a crippling economic crisis, with decades-high inflation and critically low foreign exchange reserves depleted by continued debt repayment obligations.

TRADITIONAL CARNIVAL PARADE

A carnival float depicting the fight for freedom in Iran is seen ahead of the start of the traditional carnival parade in Duesseldorf, Germany, on Monday.

Pak authorities hand over 'Indian' monkey to street performer

Lahore, Feb 20 (PTI):

A monkey, which apparently crossed into Pakistan from India last week, was handed over to a local street performer after authorities at a local zoo in Pakistan's Punjab province refused to take the primate into the facility citing space crunch and lack of veterinarians, officials said on Monday.

Rescue teams captured the monkey from a 200 feet-high cellular tower after hours-long operation.

"Rescue 1122 of Emergency Punjab Services on Friday caught a monkey, which crossed into Pakistan from India bordering Bahawalnagar city (some 260 kms from Lahore)," Rescue 1122 official Muhammad Farooq told PTI on Monday.

Farooq said his department approached the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department to house the monkey in the zoo, but authorities refused citing space crunch. "The department said it has no extra cage in the zoo to put the monkey. Therefore it should be handed over to a madaari (local street performer) for its upkeep," he said. District Wildlife Officer, Bahawalnagar, Munawar Hassain Najmi, told the Dawn newspaper that apart from space crunch at the local zoo, the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department does not even have a single vet to treat the monkeys. "The majority of the animals that crossed from India into Pakistan, especially langurs and monkeys, die from injuries, while the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department does not even have a single vet to treat them," Najmi added.

The Australians were working for a geothermal power company, officials said. Mayor Carlos Baldo of Albay's Camalig town and other officials told reporters Sunday that, during an aerial search, authorities spotted the suspected wreckage, including the tail, scattered about 1,150 feet (350 metres) near the crater on the southwestern slope of Mayon Volcano but there was no indication of people. Eric Apolonio, spokesperson of the government's civil aviation authority, said experts and investigators from the agency would have to examine the wreckage to determine if it was the missing Cessna plane with registry number RP-C2080 and to determine the fate of the four people on board. A ground search was hampered by rainy weather over the weekend and dozens of search and rescue personnel may scale the 8,077-foot (2,462-metre) Mayon if the weather clears Monday.

The search teams would have to be closely monitored by volcano experts and local officials given the restiveness of Mayon, one of the country's 24 active volcanoes.

"It's a very risky operation," Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director Teresito Bacolcol told The Associated Press. "It's a race against time and it's a matter of life and death but there's also the danger of rockfalls and volcanic lahar." Rescue contingents could enter a permanent danger zone 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) around the volcano because "it's an extraordinary situation," but the search and rescue should be carried out by well-trained experts, who should be backed up by standby emergency contingents and made aware of the high risks involved, Bacolcol said.

A popular tourist attraction because of its near-perfect cone, Mayon last erupted in 2018, displacing tens of thousands of villagers.

It's currently under the second of five volcano alert levels, meaning volcanic earthquakes, steam and gas emissions, ground deformation and intermittent ash and steam blasts have been sporadically detected. Alert five means a major and deadly volcanic eruption is underway.

Separately, a single-engine Cessna plane that went missing on January 24 with six people on board in the northern Philippine province of Isabela remained missing.

Officials said a search for the plane was continuing on and off, depending on the weather, in a remote mountainous hinterland in Isabela.

High-risk volcano search for Philippine plane with 4 onboard

Manila, Feb 20 (AP):

Philippine authorities said Monday they would verify whether the wreckage of a small plane spotted near the crater of a restive volcano was that of a Cessna aircraft that went missing with four people on board over the weekend. The Cessna 340, which was bound for Manila, took off from Albay province southeast of the capital Saturday morning with two Filipino pilots and two Australian passengers but has not been heard from since then, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

Tagore statue at Dhaka Varsity campus vanishes; then reappears

Dhaka, Feb 20 (PTI):

A newly-unveiled statue of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore installed by students at the prestigious Dhaka University campus, which was vandalised last week, has been partially re-installed by authorities.

On February 14, students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts installed a Tagore statue with duct tape plastered on his mouth, showing him holding a copy of Gitanjali, with a nail pierced through it, according to news agency UNB.

The symbolic statue was installed near the Raju Memorial Sculpture, a prominent landmark on the campus, to protest the censorship on the campus, the report said. On February 16, the statue mysteriously disappeared, with its severed head being found nearly 2km from the university campus, UNB reported.

On Sunday, the statue was partially re-installed at the same spot — only with the head but the duct tape was removed, the report added. Shimul Kumbhakar, president of a faction of Dhaka University's Student Union, who was involved in the making of the statue, told UNB: "Dhaka University's proctor removed the sculpture in the dark of night and cut it into two parts. We collected the broken parts from Suhrawardy Udayan and re-installed it."

Responding to the Chhatra Union leader's comment, the University proctor told UNB: "We did not tear down the sculpture, we just relocated it from there.

UNNANNOUNCED VISIT

President Joe Biden, right, meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Mariinsky Palace on an unnanounced visit, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

15 killed as bus veers off road in Pak's Punjab province

● 60 injured

Lahore, Feb 20 (PTI):

A speeding bus carrying a wedding party veered off the road before falling in a ravine in Pakistan's Punjab province, killing at least 15 people and wounding 60 others, authorities said on Monday.

The bus, travelling from Islamabad to Lahore, overturned late on Sunday in the Kallar Kahar Salt Range region, some 240 km from Lahore.

"The bus, before overturning, hit three vehicles coming from the opposite direction and veered off the road," Rescue 1122 official Muhammad Farooq told PTI on Monday.

The bus was carrying people returning from a wedding ceremony.

Rescue 1122 emergency service attributed brake failure as the apparent reason for the accident.

The dead and many injured had to be extracted by cutting the bus' body, Farooq said.

"The injured were shifted to hospitals in twin cities — Rawalpindi and Islamabad — where the condition of 11 of them is critical," he said, adding that among the dead, six were women. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed sorrow over the accident.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban trade fire at border crossing

Peshawar, Feb 20 (AP):

Pakistani border guards and Afghan Taliban forces traded cross-border fire on Monday morning, officials said, a day after Afghanistan's Taliban rulers closed the Torkham border crossing amid increasing tensions between the two neighbours.

There was no immediate word on casualties on either side.

On Sunday, the Afghan Taliban shut Torkham, a key trade route, over Pakistan's alleged refusal to allow Afghan patients and their caretakers to enter Pakistan for medical care without travel documents, Pakistani security officials said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss border issues.

Khalid Khan, a local Pakistani police official, confirmed the border closure and what he described as intermittent exchanges of fire at Torkham, located in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Pakistan's military and the Foreign Ministry made no immediate comments. Mullah Mohammad Siddiq, a Taliban-appointed commissioner at Torkham, said Pakistan has not been abiding by its "commitments, so the crossing point was shut down."

Farmer from Kerala goes missing in Israel

● During government-sponsored trip

Jerusalem, Feb 20 (PTI):

Authorities in Israel have registered a police case against a 48-year-old Kerala farmer, who reportedly went missing in Israel earlier this month while visiting the country on a state government-sponsored trip to study Israeli modern agricultural techniques. Biju Kurian, a native of Ulikkal panchayat in Kannur district, was part of a 28-member Kerala government's delegation of farmers, sent to Israel to study state-of-the-art techniques such as hydroponics and precision farming.

On February 17, Kurian reportedly went missing.

Despite Israel's law enforcement agencies' best efforts to trace him, Kurian's whereabouts were not known. "We have registered a police case against him. He will be deported once we nab him," an official said.

The delegation, led by Principal Secretary B. Ashok, left for Israel on February 11. The farmers' delegation left Israel on Sunday without Kurian, they added.

Kurian's family in Kannur are also clueless about his mysterious disappearance and were making desperate attempts to reach out to him.

North Korea fires short-range missiles after making threats

This image made from video broadcasted by North Korea's KRT shows what it says is a ballistic missile being launched from an undisclosed location in North Korea.

Seoul, Feb 20 (AP):

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward Japan on Monday in its second weapons test in three days that drew quick condemnation from its rivals and prompted Tokyo to request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

The weapons firings follow an intercontinental ballistic missile launch Saturday and North Korea's threats to take an unprecedentedly strong response to U.S.-South Korean military drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal. Some experts say North Korea could use a new testing spree to expand its arsenal and intends eventually to use its boosted capability as leverage in negotiations with the United States.

South Korea's military said it detected the two missile launches from a western coastal town, just north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, on Monday morning. Japan said both missiles landed in the waters outside of the Japanese exclusive economic zone between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and that no damage involving aircraft and vessels in the area was reported. According to Japanese and South Korean assessments, the North Korean missiles flew at a maximum altitude of 50-100 kilometers (30-60 miles) and a distance of 340-400 kilometers (210-250 miles).

South Korea's military said North Korea's repeated missile launches are "a grave provocation" that undermine international peace. Japan condemned the launches as violations to the U.N. Security Council resolutions and a threat to the peace and safety of Japan and the international society.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters Monday that Japan is requesting an emergency security council meeting in response to North Korea's launches. "We must deepen Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-South Korea cooperation," Kishida said.

An initial security council briefing led by Assistant Secretary-General for political affairs Khaled Khiari was set for later Monday.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the missile launches highlight "the destabilising impact" of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs. It said the U.S. commitments to the defense of South Korea and Japan "remain ironclad."

North Korea's state media said long-range artillery units on its western coast fired two rounds Monday morning cross-country toward the eastern waters, possibly referring to the same activity its neighbors said were missile launches.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (C&LM)
Block-4, Near CSPHCL Dispensary,Dagania, Raipur (C.G.)
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CE/C&LM/Works/EE-I/TR-600/3514 Raipur, Date:20.02.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited for following Revetment and jacketing work:

TR No	Name of work	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs) (Incl. GST)	Date of opening
TR-600 RFX No. 8100030019	Various location of 220 KV Bhilai-Gurur line and 132 KV Bhilai- Ruabandha -Gunderdehi line inside premises of M/s NSPCL, Bhilai	28,300/-	1770/-	15.03.2023

For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions, please visit our web site www.cspc.co.in/csptcl/tendernotices'

-sd-
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CSPTCL, RAIPUR

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कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग
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–:: ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::–

क्रमांक 361/वि.वि./2022–23 दिनांक 17/2/23

नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नानुसार कार्य कराया जाना है। अतएव एकल श्रेणी में "डी" या उच्चवर्ग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार अथवा आयकर व जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत व्यक्ति/फर्म निविदा दर पर ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है –

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत	निविदा जारी दिनांक
1	Supply of Misllanious Electrical Items and Accossoriss 2022-23. (2nd Call) System No. 125423, Dated- 17.02.2023	रू. 36.26 लाख	17.02.2023 से 06.03.2023 खोलने की तिथि 09.03.2023

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है अथवा ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.municipalcorporationdurg.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता

CENTRAL Chronicle
Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 139

'Rating of Buildings'

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today released its recommendations on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity".The exponential growth in digitalization during last decade has revolutionized the world impacting everything, from economy, innovation, science and education, to health, sustainability, governance, and lifestyles. Digital technologies are fundamentally changing business models, institutions and society. The demand for digital connectivity has increased many folds in recent years and COVID-19 has further given impetus to surge in the demand across all segments of users, irrespective of their locations. In the past, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Government have taken various policy initiatives to fulfil the demands of telecom connectivity. These policy interventions have helped in improving connectivity, resulting in wider coverage and higher data throughput. However, all these efforts have fallen short in achieving the desired level of digital connectivity experience of the users, who now prefer to work from anywhere, at any time. The rollout of 5G network has further stimulated the need of seamless experience of the 5G services, specifically inside the buildings. TRAI has conducted many studies to assess the quality of connectivity, identify challenges in providing connectivity and to suggest the way forward. Based on these studies TRAI published a Monograph on "Quest for a Good Quality Network inside Multi-Storey Residential Apartments: Reimagining ways to improve quality". Based on the above, TRAI undertook the process of consultation on Suo-moto basis to provide a framework for establishment of an eco-system wherein Digital Connectivity Infrastructure becomes part of all development activities. TRAI issued Consultation Paper (CP) on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity" on 25th March 2022, to seek inputs from stakeholders on issues raised, by 07th July 2022. Based on the comments received, discussions held with stakeholders during the Open House Discussion and analysis thereof, the recommendations of the TRAI on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity" have been finalized. The emphasis of these recommendations is on providing a framework for creation of an ecosystem for Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) to be an intrinsic part of building development plan similar to other building services such as water, electricity or Fire Safety System. DCI is to be co-designed and cocreated along with building development through collaborations among various stakeholders including Property Managers (owner or developer or builder etc.), service providers, infrastructure providers, DCI Professionals and Authorities at various urban/local bodies. This framework shall also open job opportunities for the young professionals to become DCI Professionals and be part of Design, Deployment and Evaluation of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure. TRAI has also proposed a new chapter on 'Digital Connectivity Infrastructures in Buildings' to be included in Model Building Bye Laws 2016 by modifying and updating existing provisions added in MBBL as Annexure through an Addendum to Model Building Bye Laws 2016 titled "Provisions for In- Building Solutions Digital Communication Infrastructure" issued by Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in March 2022.

How the west is finally hitting back against China's dominance of cleantech

Michael Jacobs

Climate change policy has entered a new era. The growing row between the United States and the European Union over the impacts of the new American green subsidy regime makes that all too clear. Yet in many ways, this story is ultimately about China. For the last 20 years, developed countries have used three main types of policy to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable energy mandates have required electricity generators to invest in solar, wind, hydro and geothermal power. Emissions trading schemes for energy and industrial businesses put a price on carbon. And energy efficiency standards have been progressively improved on a whole range of products from vehicles and white goods to homes. Applied across Europe and North America, this policy toolkit brought notable success. Developed countries' emissions fell sharply, even with economic growth. Green technologies from wind and solar to electric vehicles fell in cost and improved in performance as demand for them rose. A virtuous circle followed: climate policy increased demand for green technologies, which reduced costs, which allowed policy to be tightened, which stimulated demand and innovation further.

The rub

There were two problems, however. First, much of the economic benefit went to China. From 2010 onwards China rapidly became the world's primary supplier of wind and solar technology, along with underpinning minerals like lithium, cobalt and rare earths. China's dominance reduced everyone's costs. But it also meant that, as industrial jobs were lost in developed countries, they were not replaced by equivalents in the new energy sectors. Second, climate policy began to create political opposition. As emissions targets tightened, countries started to see the costs reflected in consumer prices. The most dramatic response emerged in France in 2018, when a relatively small increase in fuel duty led the so-called gilets jaunes (yellow jacket) protestors to block roads across the country for over a year, even after President Emmanuel Macron withdrew the tax. In the US, congressional opposition stymied President Barack Obama's plans for a climate bill including a modest carbon pricing scheme for the whole of his presidency. Joe Biden has learned the lesson. His Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed in 2022, offers climate carrots instead of sticks and lots of them. The act which despite its name is almost entirely about climate change offers a mammoth US $369 of tax credits and other subsidies to companies making low-carbon investments and to consumers buying green products. Critically, to take advantage of subsidies, a significant proportion of materials and equipment used must be produced in North America.

The EU position

Orthodox economists deplore the IRA. Subsidies are much less efficient than taxes (not to say more expensive), and protectionism raises costs to consumers. Yet to any politician, Biden's approach looks like a no-brainer. Don't penalise businesses with carbon levies: reward them with tax credits. Don't allow the employment benefits of climate policy to leak overseas to China: ensure they stay at home. Nearly three-quarters of Americans backed the act, including over half of Republicans. The EU is alarmed at the likely effects. There are already reports of European cleantech companies planning to transfer production to the US, while others may be kept out of US markets. The European Commission has threatened the US with legal action at the World Trade Organization for breaking free trade rules, and has already secured US concessions, including extending tax credits to foreign-made electric vehicles. Even more significantly, the commission president Ursula von der Leyen has announced a "green deal industrial plan" for the EU. The core will be a Net Zero Industry Act relaxing rules on state aid and providing subsidies for cleantech investment. Meanwhile, a Critical Raw Materials Act will build partnerships with like-minded suppliers to reduce dependence on Chinese imports, mirroring what the recent EU and US chips acts do with semiconductors.

The broader context

Both the EU and US are therefore turning climate policy into industrial and trade strategy. One might ask what took them so long. China's twelfth five-year plan in 2010 first identified seven environmental "strategic industries" on which to focus economic development. It is not a coincidence that China rapidly came to dominate the new low carbon sectors: it was literally the plan. The EU and US moves are a desperate attempt to catch up, with Japan and South Korea not far behind. And the strategy extends beyond their own continents. The new kids on this block are multi-billion dollar just energy transition partnerships which the EU, US and other western powers have recently negotiated with South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam. These "JET-Ps" aim to stimulate investment, not just in the renewables transition but also in domestic industrial capacity. Loans and guarantees provided by western governments aim to leverage much larger flows of private finance. The goal is for these countries to manufacture and export their own green technologies, charting a new path for economic development. More such partnerships will likely be announced over the coming year. This is not altruism on western countries' part, but an attempt to offer an alternative to China's huge investments in the developing world. What about the UK? These developments leave the British economy in a badly weakened position. The EU was the obvious partner in green industrial policy. On its own the UK is not nearly large enough to compete. It creates a compelling case for a future UK government to do a green trade deal with the EU. In return for a financial contribution to the EU's green innovation funds, the UK could re-join the single market for environment goods and services. Just a few years ago, climate change was a subset of environmental policy. Today it is a key dimension of both economic strategy and geopolitics. Given the extent of the economic transformation it demands, no-one should be surprised.

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e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

ALL FOR LIVELIHOOD

A woman paints earthen piggy banks, locally known as "Laxmir Bhandar", in Nadia, Monday.

Railway Protection Force: Securing the nation and its citizens

ARUN KUMAR

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a prime security and Law Enforcement Agency in the field of Railway Security in India. Having been constituted in 1957 for better protection and security of Railway property, the force has evolved itself from its main role of protection and safeguarding of Railway Property to additional roles of passenger security and passenger facilitation. With changing times, the role regarding passenger security and facilitation has been gaining in prominence. The Force today fulfils an active role in meeting the objectives of the Indian Railway. The force today identifies the changing security needs of the railway and its customers and adapts itself by equipping itself with skills and resources and implementing innovative solutions. The RPF is currently the central force in India with the largest share of women (9%) in its ranks and is committed to enhancing its reach and effectiveness for the security of the nation and its citizens. To meet the widening gamut of responsibility, RPF has launched various operations aimed at ensuring that passengers are protected from theft, human trafficking, suicide attempts, drug trafficking, and other crimes during their railway journey.

? One of the most noteworthy operations is "Rail Suraksha." In this operation, the RPF took legal action against crimes involving railway property, registered 6492 cases of theft of railway property and made recoveries of stolen railway property worth Rs. 7.37 Crores, with the arrest of 11268 offenders.

? The RPF has also been playing a crucial role in rescuing children in need of care and protection. In 2022, an intensive drive, "Nanhe Farishtey," was launched to rescue children in need of care and protection found in trains or railway stations. During the year, 17,756 children were rescued by RPF personnel.

? Another important operation is "Operation AAHT" against human trafficking. RPF Anti-Human Trafficking Units were made operational at more than 740 locations over the Indian Railways to tackle the issue of human trafficking. During the year, 559 persons were rescued from traffickers with the arrest of 194 traffickers.

? RPF personnel have been risking their own lives to save the lives of others in "Mission Jeevan Raksha." During the year, 852 precious lives were saved by RPF personnel.

? RPF has also been empowered to tackle the issue of drug trafficking through the railways with the launch of "Operation NARCOS." During the year, RPF arrested 1081 criminals involved in drug trafficking and succeeded in recovering NDPS worth about Rs. 80 Crores.

? The RPF has been retrieving lost luggage and restoring it to the rightful owners through "Operation Amanat." During the year, RPF retrieved approximately 25,500 luggage valued at more than Rs. 46.5 Crores.

? The RPF has also been taking stringent action against the illegal trade of wildlife through railways with "Operation WILEP." During the year, 129 cases of illegal trade were detected with the arrest of 75 persons.

? The RPF has launched "Operation Yatri Suraksha" to provide real-time security-related assistance to passengers during their journey. The Emergency Response initiative, which provides immediate assistance to passengers in need of security-related help, received over 2 lakh calls during the year.

? The RPF has launched the "Meri Saheli" initiative to provide safety and security to women travelling alone or with minors. Teams of lady RPF personnel have been formed across all zonal railways and equipped with an IT module to identify target groups of women who need security and reassurance.

? The RPF goes above and beyond to assist pregnant women who go into labor during their train journeys with the "Matrishakti" operation. Lady personnel of RPF assisted in 209 such child births during the year.

? Under the "SEWA" operation, the RPF helps elderly citizens, women, physically disabled, and sick or injured persons with their travel, providing amenities like wheelchairs, stretchers, medical help, and infant food. Over 37000 such persons were assisted by the RPF in 2022.

? The RPF also takes action against the carriage of contraband and illegal goods with the "Satark" operation. The RPF arrested 2331 persons involved in the transportation of contraband items and handed them over to the concerned authorities for further legal action.

? The RPF has played an important role in ensuring free and fair elections during the assembly elections in several states, including Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Additionally, the RPF has rescued 3400 adults in need of care and protection under the "Dignity" operation.

The International Union of Railways (UIC) and RPFof India have now joined hands to host the 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur from February 20th to 23rd, 2023. The UIC, established in Paris in 1922, is a professional association representing the railway sector worldwide, promoting interoperability, standardization, and cooperation in the industry. The UIC's security platform is responsible for organizing international events, analyzing and formulating policies, and promoting the exchange of information and best practices among security directors of UIC members.

The World Security Congress of the UIC is a prominent international event, attended by the heads of security of member railway organizations and representatives of UIC, Indian Railways, RPF, and senior police officers. The congress provides a platform for technical cooperation, collaboration, and the sharing of solutions and best practices in railway security. The RPF, a prime security and law enforcement agency in India, has been an active member of the UIC Security Platform and has successfully organized and hosted the UIC World Security Congress in 2006 and 2015 in New Delhi.

The Director General of RPF has taken measures to enhance the involvement of member organizations operating in Asia, Africa, and several other developing countries to address their concerns through the UIC Security platform.

The 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur, centred on the theme of "Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future", is a testament to the UIC's commitment to promoting the security of rail transport worldwide. With India taking over the presidency of the G-20 group of nations and the Director General of RPF serving as the Chairman of the UIC Security Platform, this event is poised to be a prominent global gathering for railway security. With the RPF taking the lead, the 18th UIC World Security Congress in Jaipur promises to be a landmark event in the history of railway security.

(Writer is retired DG, RPF)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not too much to be read in SC's decision on Adani

Supreme court's decision to appoint the committee in Adani case appear to be a encouraging step but need to wait for its concluding results. Country had already seen such kind of political activities in Bofors Case where in the last it was proved that there was not a bribery of single paise whereas opposition leaders were making statements openly the names of all persons will be declared once they come to the power but they miserably failed to name any person who had taken any bribe. In the same way in 2014 there was 2G spectrum scam and it was reported that there was huge loss to the country but ultimately it was found that there was no loss. From the above both cases it is apparent clear that media cell of congress party is very poor. Now in the present case of Adani also Rahul submitted the reply to Lok Sabha Speaker whereas he should have refrained from submitting the reply. And Rahul should have played the victim card and should have gone to the court of the public and had again gone in the public durbar. On the basis of political activities in the country it appears that this topic will remain in the public domain the March 2024 when parliament elections will be declared.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Amend RoPA 1951

The role of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections in India is immense. It has a constitutional status which means its powers are paramount and that it cannot be harnessed by the government. But there is a very big loophole left by the constitution makers which puts a damper on the powers of the ECI. The ECI is tasked to register political parties and give them recognition as national or state based on the criteria, they fulfill but ECI cannot deregister political parties. As ECI cannot deregister political parties the amount of Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) has grown to the tune of 2796 as of 2022. These 2796 RUPPs have the potential to be involved in money laundering and hawala activities as political parties do not need to disclose their income. Political parties also get a 100 percent tax exemption which clearly, they are misusing because according to ECI reports more than 2000 of these parties have not submitted their annual audited accounts. More than 1000 crore of donations these parties have garnered is also in question as they have not been able to mention the source. There is a need for an exclusive and comprehensive legal framework that empowers the ECI to deregister and de-recognize political parties. To attain this the Representation of the People Act 1951 needs serious amendments.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Crucial role of Matribhasha in children's education

Er. Prabhat Kishore

UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote the dissemination of mother language and awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions around the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. It believes that education based on first language or mother language must begin from the early years as Early Child Care & Education is the foundation of learning.

Mother Language is usually the language which the child speaks at home with the family. Education in mother language refers to when a school integrates the child's language into classroom and school lessons. Mother Language plays vital role in the overall development of personnel, social and cultural identity of the human beings. Language may be just a way to communicate with each other, but mother language is something that helps us to stay connected with our roots and unique culture. Young children learn and grasp more quickly when they are taught in the mother language, because when they develop their mother tongue, they simultaneously foster other basic skills like literacy and critical thinking. A strong mother language foundation equips the children with skills required to learn a second or additional language. Cognitive as well as intellectual development is relatively faster when a person is proficient in the mother language. The children learning in mother language feel comfortable in the school environment and learn faster. They have a better understanding of the curriculum and do not have to re-taught the skills learned when the child transfers to second language. Parent-child interaction increases as the parent assist in home-works easily. Knowing mother language boosts one's confidence and increases self-esteem. There is a long way to go before guaranteeing all children their right to education in their mother language. In most of the countries, the majority of learners are taught in a language other than their mother tongue, which compromises their ability to learn and understand effectively. Approximately 40% population of the world does not have access to an education in a language they speak, understand or communicate.

In our country, the "Mother Language" is often neglected and actively suppressed on the name of globalization. The present education system has completely ignored the mother language as the medium of instruction in schools, especially in English medium schools. The teachers at the local level are also not so fluent in foreign languages. Neither they are able to transfer the required knowledge nor are the learners in a position to grasp it, resulting in knowledge deficit. Children whose primary language is not the language of instruction in schools are more likely to drop out of school or fail in early grades. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasised on its mandatory use in the education system at the foundational stage. Clause 4.11 of NEP 2020 states, "Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the mother-tongue/ home language/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. High quality textbooks, including in science, will be made available in home language/mother tongue. The teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students studying whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction".

In India, Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated every year in schools on this day to promote the use of mother tongue with the following objectives :- (1) To highlight the unity among the linguistic diversity in our country, (2) To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well, (3) To understand diverse cultures, in India and the various forms of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression. Mother Tongue can be used as an effective tool for learning and developing holistic education and knowledge. The government should strictly implement the provision regarding use of Mother language in all government and private schools of the country to safeguard the learning skills of children.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

BRIEF

Favourable factors

Amaravati/Mumbai: Andhra Pradesh is ideal for business and establishing industries with all favourable features, said Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy at a Mumbai road-show in the run-up to the forthcoming Global Investors Summit (GIS), scheduled to be held on March 3 and 4 in Visakhapatnam. Aimed at wooing investors to the state and the investors' summit, the Finance Minister exhorted that no amount of reading or listening will beat personal experience. "AP has all the features needed for business and establishing industries. Excellent officials and highly experienced professionals will assist you. Enthusiastic, efficient and patient young officers and leaders are at your disposal," said Reddy. Further, he highlighted that AP is home for doing business in an inexpensive way and also offers the strength of ease of doing business.

Digital connectivity

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday recommended that the government make digital connectivity infrastructure mandatory under building development plans. The telecom sector regulator suggested creating provisions under the real estate law RERA for mandating digital connectivity infrastructure inside the buildings, its maintenance and timely upgradation. "DCI (Digital Connectivity Infrastructure) should be made an essential component of the building development plans, on the line of water supply, electrical services, gas supply, fire protection and fire safety requirements, etc," Trai said in its recommendations on 'Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity'.

Gradual recovery

New Delhi: Saffola, the master brand under which Marico offers healthier food options, is now worth Rs 2,000 crore-plus, said Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta. About inflation, Gupta told PTI the "worst" is behind and he sees a gradual recovery for the FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) segment with rural market making a comeback. The rural FMCG market, which has witnessed a decline in the last 4-5 quarters, is expected to have a turnaround in the next 2-3 quarters, he said.

Govt taking steps to control inflation, will continue to focus on it: Sitharaman

Jaipur, Feb 20:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the government is taking a lot of steps to control inflation and will continue to focus on it. For instance, in the case of pulses, the government is encouraging farmers to grow pulses to boost domestic production and has also reduced the import duty on some of the pulses to improve local availability. When asked whether Budget 2023-24 would bring down inflation, Sitharaman said: "The government is taking a lot of steps to control inflation and will continue to focus on it."

She was in the city for a post-budget 2023 discussion with various stakeholders. "We have taken a lot of steps, for example, encouraging farmers to sow pulses so that the production of pulses in India increases in the coming sowing season," Sitharaman told reporters here.

She further said that as a short-term step, "wherever we are importing, whether Masoor, Moong or whatever pulses, the government has reduced the import duty to single digit or has completely removed it. It has made imports convenient and pulses are available quickly and cheaply in India." The Union Minister said, "the import of edible oil has been made almost free (tax) for the last three consecutive years, due to which palm crude or palm refined oil has also been (route) opened so that the supply of edible oil is easy and sufficient." The wholesale price-based inflation declined to a 2-year low of 4.73 per cent in January on easing prices of manufactured items, fuel and power, even though food articles turned expensive. Retail inflation again breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit and touched a three-month high of 6.52 per cent in January, mainly due to higher prices in the food basket, including cereals and protein-rich items.

NMDC Steel Limited listed at Bombay Stock Exchange

Hyderabad, Feb 20:

NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) was listed at Bombay Stock Exchange on Monday. NSL, NMDC's 3 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh, was listed to become a public company today.

The listing ceremony was held at BSE, Mumbai in presence of Sumit Deb, CMD, NSL, Amitava Mukherjee, Director, NSL, D.K. Mohanty, Director, NSL, Independent Directors of NMDC and Senior Officials of NMDC and NSL. Manoj Kumar, Joint Secretary, DIPAM, Government of India; Nayan Mehta, CFO, BSE Limited; Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, SBI Capital Markets Limited; and Kamal Kant Upadhyay, MD & CEO, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited witnessed the listing ceremony. NMDC Steel Limited was incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of NMDC Limited on January 2, 2015 under the Companies Act, 2013 with a registered office at NMDC Iron & Steel Plant Nagarnar Bastar, Chhattisgarh. The now demerged company NMDC Steel Limited is a central public sector enterprise with a paid-up capital of Rs. 2,930 crores owned by the Honourable President of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India. The Government owns 60.79% stake in this company.

Expressing his gratitude towards everyone involved in the listing of the company, Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC said, "Nagarnar Steel Plant is in the final stages of commissioning and is likely to be commissioned shortly. This plant will cater to the domestic steel needs and fulfil the vision of the National Steel Policy 2017 of the Government of India."

EPFO unveils procedure to apply for higher pension under Employees Pension Scheme

New Delhi, Feb 20:

Retirement fund body EPFO on Monday came out with a procedure to enable subscribers and their employers to jointly apply for higher pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS). Earlier in November 2022, the Supreme Court had upheld Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2014. The EPS amendment of August 22, 2014 had raised the pensionable salary cap to Rs 15,000 a month from Rs 6,500 a month, and allowed members along with their employers to contribute 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries (if it exceeded the cap) towards the EPS. In an office order, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provided for dealing with the 'Joint Option Form' by field offices of the body. EPFO stated that "a facility will be provided for which URL (unique resource location) will be informed shortly. Once received, the regional PF commissioner shall put adequate notice on the notice board and banners for wider public information". It provided that each application will be registered, digitally logged and the receipt number will be provided to the applicant. It further stated that the office incharge of the concerned regional provident fund office shall examine each case of joint option on higher salary and intimate the decision to the applicant through e-mail/post and later through SMS also. It also provided that any grievance by the applicant can be registered on EPFiGMS (grievance portal) after submission of his joint option form and payment of due contributions, if any. The order stated that these directions are being issued in compliance with the order of Supreme Court on November 4, 2022. EPFO has asked its field offices to provide an option for higher pension to eligible subscribers in accordance with the Supreme Court order. According to the EPFO circular on December 29, 2022 the central government has directed to implement the directions in the order. The apex court had given all EPS members, as on September 1, 2014, six months to opt for the amended scheme. The apex court in its order gave four more months to eligible subscribers to opt for higher pension under EPS-95. The court had also struck down the requirement in the 2014 amendments mandating employee contribution of 1.16 per cent of the salary exceeding Rs 15,000 per month. This will facilitate the subscribers to contribute higher to the scheme and get enhanced benefits accordingly. The EPFO circular had also provided for the higher pension option for those eligible subscribers who either contributed on actual wages higher than Rs 5,000 or Rs 6,500 per month prevalent threshold pensionable salary or exercised their option for higher pension or their request for higher pension was declined by EPFO authorities before the amendment to EPS-95 in 2014.

Govt opposes Vedanta move to sell zinc assets

New Delhi, Feb 20:

In a setback to billionaire Anil Agarwal's mining group, the government has opposed Vedanta Ltd's proposal to sell its international zinc business to Hindustan Zinc Ltd for USD 2.98 billion over concerns of valuation. The government has threatened to take legal action to stop the sale of the Africa-based assets to HZL, in which it holds a 29.54 per cent stake.

In a letter to HZL, posted by the company to stock exchanges, the Ministry of Mines said the deal is a "related party transaction" and the government would "like to reiterate" its dissent. HZL in January agreed to buy THL Zinc Ltd Mauritius from its parent, Vedanta Ltd, for USD 2.98 billion in phases over 18 months. Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent equity share of Hindustan Zinc ltd (HZL), which is an integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver. HZL in a separate filing said it would place the ministry's letter before the board and that a meeting of the shareholders to approve the deal was yet to be called.

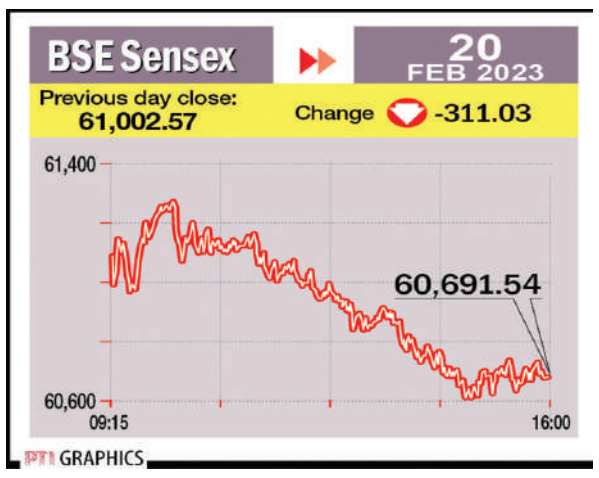
The Rajasthan-based company has long been a cash cow for Agarwal's Vedanta group, squeezing out rich dividends. The latest proposed transaction is being seen as another way of extracting more funds out of HZL. The ministry in the letter said it is writing on behalf of the government on the resolution approved by the HZL board in its meeting on January 19 "for the creation of a wholly-owned overseas subsidiary of the company, funding such subsidiary to the extent of USD 2.981 billion and such subsidiary acquiring the shares of THL Zinc Ltd from THL Zinc Ventures Ltd (an entity of the Vedanta Group)." It said its nominee directors on the board had recorded their dissent to the proposal.

"The proposed resolutions which envisage the acquisition of THL Zinc (a Vedanta company) by HZL (also a Vedanta company) thus being a related party transaction, we, the government of India would like to reiterate our dissent on the matter and the resolutions forming part of the agenda matter," it said.

It wanted the company to explore other cashless methods of acquisition of assets. The government, it said, would continue to oppose the transaction and "will explore all legal avenues available.

Sensex, Nifty extend losses for 2nd day on lingering worries over interest rates

Mumbai, Feb 20:



Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined for a second straight session on Monday, losing more than half a per cent due to selling in energy, banking and financials stocks amid lingering concerns over interest rates and inflation. Reversing its early gains, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 311.03 points or 0.51 per cent at 60,691.54 as 18 of its scrips declined.

The index opened higher at 61,112.84 and gained further 290 points to hit the day's high of 61,290.19. However, selling in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC twins, ICICI Bank Maruti and Kotak Bank dragged down the barometer to a low of 60,607.02. The NSE Nifty fell 99.60 points or 0.56 per cent to end at 17,844.60 as 30 of its constituents declined while 20 advanced. Nifty touched a high of 18,004.35in early trade but later fell to a low of 17,818.40. Sensex lost nearly 317 points while Nifty declined by 91 points on Friday. From the Sensex pack, Maruti, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Nestle and ICICI Bank were among the major laggards.

India's domestic air passenger traffic nearly doubled to 1.25 crore in January: DGCA data

Mumbai, Feb 20:

India's domestic air passenger traffic nearly doubled to 1.25 crore in January compared to 64.08 lakh recorded in the year-ago period, according to official data released on Monday.

In January, IndiGo saw its domestic market share decline for the fifth consecutive month at 54.6 per cent. It carried 68.47 lakh passengers last month. In August last year, the carrier had a market share of 59.72 per cent.

As per the data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the regulator received more complaints from the passengers of various airlines on account of flight problems, baggage issues and staff behaviour compared to December. Air India and Vistara carried 11.55 lakh and 11.05 lakh passengers, respectively, in January, with a market share of 9.2 per cent and 8.8 per cent, respectively.

During the month under review, budget carriers — Go First and AirAsia India —transported a total of 10.53 lakh and 9.30 lakh passengers, respectively. The number of domestic passengers flown by low-cost airline SpiceJet stood at 9.14 lakh, according to DGCA.

The total number of domestic passengers flown by the Tata Group airlines — Air India, Vistara and AirAsia India — together stood at 32.30 lakh, accounting for around 26 per cent of the total domestic market in January 2023.

FASHION SHOW

Badminton players Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap walk the ramp during Teach For Change's fundraiser fashion show, in Hyderabad.

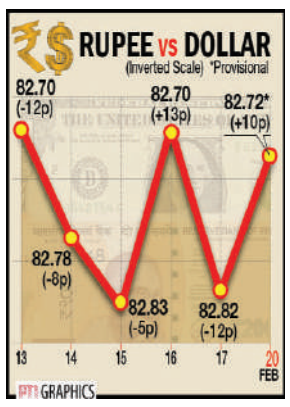
India's GDP likely grew 5-5.1 pc in third quarter of FY23: Analysts

Mumbai, Feb 20:

The economy is likely to have grown at 5-5.1 per cent in the October-December 2022 quarter due to normalising base, much lower than the 6.3 per cent growth recorded in the previous quarter, according to analysts. Normal base refers to the comparable figure of the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal. But the base is lowered for calculating growth rate when the previous numbers are not comparable due to certain extreme conditions. Compared to the pre-Covid number, the GDP is likely to have grown 11.6 per cent in Q3 from 7.6 per cent in the previous quarter, boosted by continued recovery in the services sector, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist and head of research at Icra Ratings. On the other hand, Rahul Bajoria, head of British brokerage Barclays India, said the economy would have grown at a tad lower at 5 per cent in the October-December quarter of FY23. The government is expected to release the third quarter macroeconomic data on February 28. The government expects the economy to close the current fiscal with 7 per cent or higher growth. "Economic activity in Q3 remained distinctly uneven, amid the upsides offered by robust demand for contact-intensive services and upbeat festive season sentiment. Trends in government spending were disparate, with a healthy revenue spending by the Centre amid a base effect-led contraction in capital spending.

Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.72 against US dollar

New Delhi, Feb 20:



The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels. Forex traders said a muted trend in domestic equities and foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the appreciation bias. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.69 against the American currency and finally settled at 82.72 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 10 paise over its previous close of 82.82.

During the trading session, the rupee touched a high of 82.62 and a low of 82.74 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.04 per cent to 103.90. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 1.05 per cent to USD 83.87 per barrel. "Rupee traded strong near 82.75 as dollar index traded below USD 104 guiding rupee strength. Asian currencies were trading strong on the back of weakness in the dollar," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities. Trivedi further noted that the US Fed's minutes update will be keenly watched this week for further trend. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 311.03 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 60,691.54, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 99.60 points or 0.56 per cent to 17,844.60. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 624.61 crore, according to exchange data.

IDFC MF to host workshop for MF Distributors

Mumbai, Feb 20: IDFC Mutual Fund announced a workshop for mutual fund distributors (MFDs) on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at Hotel Central Park, Bhilai at 7:00 p.m. Irrespective of whether the distributor is registered with IDFC Mutual Fund or not, they can attend the workshop. Interested Mutual Fund Distributors can reach out to the IDFC Mutual Fund branch office in Bhilai to register themselves for the workshop. The session will focus on Customer Kundli, an interactive game-based approach to help mutual fund distributors appreciate the various aspects of Factor Investing. This program will highlight key concepts under each factor. The framework aids in understanding the interplay and impact of investment choices on returns. Mutual Fund Distributors can expect discussion on four different investment styles of alpha creation – Valuation, Allocation, Sector Rotation, and Momentum. IDFC Mutual Fund has conducted similar workshops for MFDs in Allahabad, Lucknow, Durgapur, Asansol, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Pune, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, and Bhopal attended by over 500 MFDs and benefited from the knowledge gained on various heuristics and biases in the Behavioral Finance module.

Sushmita Mukherjee shares her beliefs on existence of ghosts

Star Bharat brand-new show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' has surely captivated its viewers for its quirky characters and story line. The versatile Sushmita Mukherjee plays the lead. She is recognized for portraying a wide range of roles in several TV shows and movies. She will soon be seen portraying a role of a very different 'Saas' which has never been seen on television before as 'Rekha' who is a ghost. Sushmita Mukherjee on playing the character of Ghost in the show shares her beliefs on existence of ghosts. She says, "I personally believe in ghosts because after a person dies, their soul departs from the body but remains as energy in the environment in order to carry out the unfulfilled wishes they had when they were alive. However, the soul then wanders around feeling stuck because it no longer has a body to do so, and this energy is what we refer to as a ghost. Likewise I'll portray the ghostly persona 'Rekha,' who will be a soulful piece of entertainment unlike other ghosts because my character will be much more quirky and playful and henceforth I am confident that this dramedy show will delight viewers and keep the audience entertained throughout". The center of the plot is alternately portrayed by Kajal Chauhan and Sushmita Mukherjee as 'Gaura' and 'Rekha' . The narrative of the plot will be a light drama that features amusing elements to illustrate the bond between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Talking about the current track the viewers will witness Som and Gaura's wedding but Rekha will try all her luck to stop this wedding as she is against Gaura.

Stay tuned to watch more about the show, 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' every Monday-Saturday at 7:30pm only on Star Bharat.

'Ranbir came on stage and killed it!'

Popular playback singer Nikhita Gandhi shares her experience of performing on stage along with the superstar in Delhi recently!

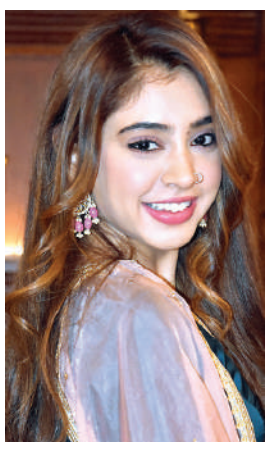
Nikhita Gandhi has become a constant voice behind some of the biggest chartbusters coming out of the Hindi film industry in recent years. Her latest song 'Tere Pyaar Mein' from the Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor-starrer 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' has become all the rage and has entered the Spotify charts.

With this, Nikhita has become one of the few artists to have given 3 chart toppers in less than 3 months. In December, she gave the groovy song 'Kya Baat Hai' with Harrdy Sandhu from 'Govinda Naam Mera'. She followed it with the Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon song 'Munda Sona' from 'Shehzada'. And now, 'Tere Pyaar Mein' has completed her hattrick! On Valentine's Day, the versatile singer-composer put up a spectacular show in New Delhi, sharing the stage and performing alongside Ranbir Kapoor during the 'Makkar Night' concert. Sharing the memorable experience with the charming superstar, Nikhita says, "The Makkar Night concert was too much fun. I had never met Ranbir (Kapoor) before that, though we had worked on a lot of projects together, like 'Jagga Jasoos'. Ranbir was really sweet and such a nice person to meet. He was such a sport, also because we had not rehearsed his entry on stage or anything, but he just came on stage and killed it!"

"According to the show flow, he (Ranbir) had to leave after two songs and we had to continue with our concert but he stayed back and kept entering the stage whenever songs that he knew were being performed. When I sang 'Balam Pichkari', he came back on stage and danced with me. We performed on 'Tere Pyaar Mein' again during the end of the show when he returned on the stage. It was such a memorable Valentine's Day that I got to sing 'Tere Pyaar Mein', 'Badtameez Dil' and 'Balam Pichkari' with Ranbir on stage. That was really cool and the audience was quite amazing and there was so much love resonating from them. It was really a memorable night," Nikhita adds.

Nikhita has been delivering some of the biggest hits with each song of hers. With the success of Munda Sona and Tere Pyaar Mein behind her in 2023 already, we can't wait to see what next she has to offer in the coming time.

'I used to dance thinking I'm dancing with the King of Romance'



Sony Entertainment Television's most-loved show, 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' is bringing viewers the complexities of one-sided love, in new age relationships. With the 20-year leap, the show has introduced new characters like Prachi Kapoor (Niti Taylor), Raghav (Ranndeep R Rai), Pihu Kapoor (Pooja Banerjee) and Angad (Leenesh Mattoo), with their chemistry and camaraderie on screen being appreciated by audiences. In the current track, Ram and Priya's youngest daughter, Prachi Kapoor danced to the classic song 'Ae Kaash Ke Hum' from the 1994 film 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa'. The song choice worked wonderfully with the show's plot narrative, which has Raghav longing for Prachi while she danced with Josh at his birthday party.

Talking about the sequence Niti Tylor shares, "I'm a big Bollywood buff, so I know a lot of trivia about actors, songs and movies. Coincidently the film, 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa' released in February in 1994 and we too danced to its iconic song 'Ae Kaash Ke Hum' in February, the month of love. I remember watching Sharukh Khan on screen when this song used to play on television, and I used to dance along thinking I am dancing with the King of Romance. Dancing to this song for the episode, took me back to my childhood days and the innocence with which I used to listen to this tune and watch Sharukh Khan's character Sunil pine away for Anna."

Tune in to Bade Acche Lagte Hain 2', every Monday to Friday at 8:00 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Ali sets on a new journey to find Marjina

With Ali (Abhishek Nigam) moving to Naziya's (Sapna Thakur) house in Sony SAB's Alibaba - Ek Andaaz Andekha: Chapter 2, the viewers are about to witness a different side of Ali. In the upcoming episodes, how Ali and Simsim's life takes unexpected turns will be interesting to watch.

Simsim's (Sayantani Ghosh) evil plans come into action as she finally becomes successful in moving Kotwal to Naziya's house so that she can keep a track of his activities day in and day out. Little does Simsim know that Ali will always be a step ahead of her in every plan, and his ultimate goal will leave her in splits. On the other hand, taking this opportunity, Ali has started to find more information in Naziya's house on Simsim and chalking out a plan on how he can make Simsim his best bet to find Marjina.

Will Ali be successful in finding out about Marjina? What is Ali's ultimate plan?

Abhishek Nigam, essaying the role of Alibaba, said, "I think the character of Ali has finally

reached a stage where he will leave no stone unturned to reach his ultimate goal. I am sure it's exciting for the viewers to watch how the show is shaping up and how Ali is doing every possible thing under the sky to protect his people and find clues about Marjina. I can assure you that Ali's plan to fight Simsim will keep the viewers hooked to the show and it will be interesting to watch is he planning to tackle Simsim."

Keep watching Alibaba Ek Andaaz Andekha: Chapter 2 Monday to Saturday 8 PM only on Sony SAB.

Actors' favourite words in their mother tongue

On International Mother Language Day, &TV artists share their favourite words in their mother tongue that they enjoy using in everyday conversation and share how others react to them. These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Saanand Verma (Anokhe lal Saxena, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "I am a proud Marathi Mulgi and love expressing my feelings in my mother tongue. Right from childhood, anytime I got hurt or was caught in a situation, my first reaction would be 'Aai Ga'! Asking 'Kasa Kay' to check on someone holds a unique closeness value. The beauty of saying these words is their tone; the same flavour does not come with any other language. Something I love about Marathi is that whenever you go out, you never say 'jaate me' or 'I am going out'; instead, you say 'yete me', meaning 'I will come back'. It is a lovely way of reassuring that even though I am going out now, I will be back soon."

Kamna Pathak, essaying Rajesh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "There are too many things I love about Indore, including food and fashion, of course, the people. But one thing I love the most is my mother language. 'O Bhaiyo' (Arey Bhai) is a word I often use with my friends whenever they prank or tease me. Besides Indore's

language, the Bhopali language influences me, and I love using it daily. Also, on the sets of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, most of them have often found me using these words like 'Kya Bapar rahe ho?' (Kya vapar rahe ho?) and it is very funny when people get confused about my Indori dialect. Some Indori words like Chaka-Chak (Cool), Dijain (Making a fool of someone), and Ni Yaar (Oh Really?) I use it so much that everyone on the set has also started using it. I take immense pride in my language, and so should you! Wish you all a happy International Mother Language Day."

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

Amrita to get arrested in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

A family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs, Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan is a story of three generations where the first two generations refuse to forgive and forget but are forced to face their past and heal when the third-generation steps in. In the upcoming episodes, the show is heading towards an unexpected turn of events .

Amidst Riya (Hema Sood) and Veer's (Paras Arora) engagement ceremony, bad news knocks on the door of the Brar family as the machinery in which Dilpreet had invested his life-long savings were burnt to ashes by a suspicious person. Riya and Amrita join hands and finally come to know that the person behind this is Khushwant. They chalk out a plan and decide to catch Khushwant red-handed. However, little did they know that their strategy would backfire, and they would fall under his trap. The police arrived at the location and ended up arresting Amrita.

How will Amrita come out of this new trouble in

her life?

Kaveri Priyam, who plays the character of Amrita, said, "Every character in the show has so many distinct layers and equally shines in their own space. Amrita's journey has just started; although she appears to be a charming young woman, she is much stronger than that. The upcoming episodes will give a glimpse of how Amrita deals with the situation and acts upon getting arrested. I would urge my fans to stay with Amrita as this is the beginning of another crucial turning point, and I am excited to see the audience's reaction as the story unfolds."

Keep watching Dil Diyaan Gallaan every Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB.

Phantom Studios all set for Hindi remake of the Tamil-blockbuster 'Love Today'

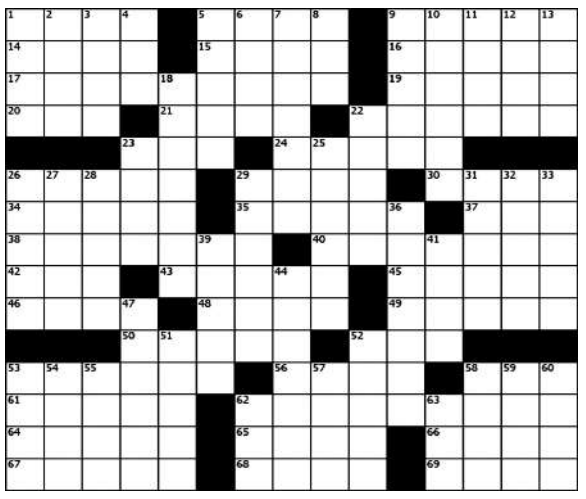
Love Today,' the quirky Tamil romantic drama which was one of the biggest hits in Tamil cinema in 2022 is now all set for a Hindi remake with Phantom Studios in association with its original producers AGS Entertainment. Announcing the details of the remake, SrishtiBehl, CEO, Phantom Studiossaid, "We're delighted to be partnering with AGS Entertainment to bring 'Love Today' to life in Hindi. This entertaining look at love in today's technology forward world is exactly the kind of authentic and provocative storytelling that Phantom Studios has always stood for. As we usher in a new era at Phantom Studios, we will continue to innovate with our stories and storytellers, creating engaging and relevant content for a diverse audience, delivered across platforms." Adds Archana Kalpathi, Creative Producer AGS Entertainment, "We at AGS

Entertainment are excited to announce our first venture in Hindi, 'Love Today,' in collaboration with the renowned Phantom Studios. With its reputation of always striving to produce good cinema, joining hands with Phantom Studios was a no brainer and we look forward to working with them. As a production house, we constantly strive to explore new horizons and offer our audiences the best of entertainment. 'Love Today' is a project that is very close to our hearts and we are thrilled to be able to share this story with a larger audience."

'Love Today,' the Tamil drama recently clocked 100 days of its theatrical release and has quickly become an audience favourite. Directed by Pradeep Ranganathan, the Tamil version of the film features Pradeep (in his acting debut), Sathyaraj, RaadhikaSarathkumar, Yogi Babu, Raveena Ravi and Ivanain lead roles with music direction by Yuvan Shankar Raja.

The official Hindi remake is expected to release in early 2024.

CROSSWORD 568



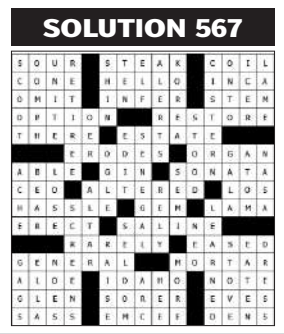
ACROSS

1. Nautical cry
5. Gambling cubes
9. Bride's walkway
14. Neck part
15. Time periods
16. Move stealthily
17. Carry
19. ____ of the crime
20. Elongated fish
21. Ice cream holder
22. Sounds
23. Saucepan
24. Construct
26. Ranch animal
29. Ship's company
30. Old West lawman
34. Crawl
35. Colorado ski resort
37. MGM lion
38. Delta or United
40. Citrus fruits
42. Baseball stat
43. Desert springs
45. Peruses
46. Fodder
48. Horse's hair
49. Actress Della ____
50. Open to view
52. Lass's friend
53. Repented
56. Rewrite
58. Wind dir.
61. Speed checker
62. Interest benchmark (2 wds.)
64. Horses' gaits
65. Not there
66. Not nearby
67. Buying frenzy
68. 15th of March
69. Insignificant

DOWN

1. Poker stake
2. Hound's prey
3. Semiprecious stone
4. Hankering
5. Bus station
6. Press
7. Professions
8. Detroit time zone (abbr.)
9. Business gp.
10. Provoke
11. Watches
12. Highway section
13. Supplements
18. Zodiac sign
22. More recent
23. Pare
25. Rest
26. Muffler
27. Apache, e.g.
28. Scary
29. Julius ____
31. Water plants
32. Marsh grasses
33. Sheriff's helpers
36. Tell
39. Appointed
41. Require
44. Went inside
47. Give to charity
51. Poem
52. Green fruits
53. Fine ____
54. Canvas cover
55. Scent
57. Desperate
58. Strongbox
59. Heavenly light
60. "Wish You ____ Here"
62. Greek letter
63. Battering ____

SOLUTION 567



Hazlewood out with Achilles injury

Indore, Feb 20 (PTI):

Already down 0-2 in the Test series, Australia were on Monday dealt further blow when fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the remaining two matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after failing to recover from his left achilles injury.

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald confirmed that Hazlewood, who missed the Nagpur and Delhi Tests, will continue his rehabilitation in Sydney. The 32-year-old Hazlewood sustained the injury during his comeback Test against South Africa in Sydney.

"Josh Hazlewood out, he'll be going home," McDonald said.

McDonald, however, is uncertain about David Warner's status after the opener was hit on his elbow in the second Test and was subbed out of the match due a concussion.

"Warner's still sore at the moment. We had a meeting just before discussing this. We're in no rush to make any decisions at this point in time around Davey. Just seeing how that settles, how functional that is," said

McDonald. "It will be basically how sore and how functional it is as to what decision we make with him and then the length of the injury. There's some talk the length of injury could be anywhere between a week plus depending how that settles down. There's a bit of unknown there. I'll leave that to the medical team and they'll inform me once they know." Travid Head came out to bat in Australia's second innings in place of Warner in Delhi and McDonald said he will replace Warner if the veteran left-handed opener fails to recover on time.

"If Dave's unavailable it would make perfect sense. We did discuss before coming over here that if we were to lose an opening batter that Trav would be one we'd look to put up there. We feel in the subcontinental conditions that he can get off to the fast starts which he showed," he said.

"We don't see (Head) as an opener in all conditions, more subcontinental and in other conditions back to the middle order."

The coach, however, said that all-rounder Cameron Green will be fit for Indore. "He was close. It's about building confidence. He had the setback in Bangalore, a little setback batting in Bangalore where he had some jarring and there was a fair bit of discomfort in that finger," McDonald said.

"If he didn't have that, I think the second Test was real. But it probably just delayed it those few days. "And we contemplated him as a concussion sub as well.

Australia coach McDonald

'We failed the examination of India'

Indian players celebrate the win over Australia.

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Australia chief coach Andrew McDonald made no bones about his team's capitulation in the second innings of the second Test here, saying they "failed the examination" of India.

"Our methods are going to be critiqued, and rightfully so," McDonald was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press on Monday.

"At the end of day two, if you said our preparation was good (with Australia on 61/1), you'd probably have a different slant on it, but within an hour (on day 3) then people start to critique what happened in the past...

"And day three, as well as we could have been and we failed under the examination of India," added McDonald, who replaced Justin Langer as head coach after Australia's 4-0 win in the Ashes. The coach said that as far as he understood, the preparatory camp in Bengaluru on turning tracks had provided adequate preparation for the spin test.

"I still wouldn't have changed what we did leading in, there's no doubt about that," McDonald said on Monday.

"I think they (squad) had really good preparation in Bangalore, so there's not any excuses," added the coach.

He also said that some players diverted from their time-tested game plan, which resulted in the second humiliating defeat.

"There were some people who went clearly away from the game plan that made them successful over a period of time and that's for us to own as a collective. We've got to be better than that, that's the bottom line, we've got to own it and we are not here to shy away from the fact that wasn't good enough."

Cummins flies back home due to family illness

New Delhi: Australian captain Pat Cummins has flown back home from the tour of India due to a "serious family illness" following the second Test in Delhi. Cummins is on his way to Sydney and is expected to return to India for the remaining two games of the Border-Gavaskar trophy in Indore and Ahmedabad. With India winning the second Test inside three days on Sunday, both teams have got an additional couple of days' break as the next game begins in Indore on March 1.

Alcaraz beats Norrie on clay for 1st title since US Open

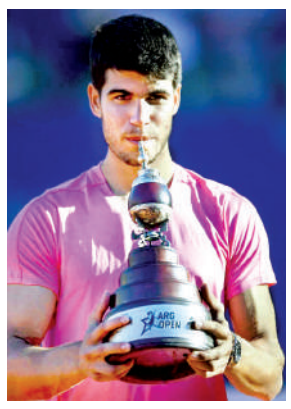
Buenos Aires, Feb 20 (AP):

Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz won his first title since his milestone U.S. Open triumph by beating Cameron Norrie in straight sets at the Argentina Open.

The world No. 2 overcame No. 12 Norrie 6-3, 7-5 in the clay-court final on Sunday.

"I felt very comfortable," Alcaraz said. "This is the level that I have to play in a final. It is really special, I struggled in these four months."

A right leg injury sidelined Alcaraz from the Australian Open, with Novak Djokovic reclaiming the No. 1 ranking from Alcaraz after winning the title there.



Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after beating Cameron Norrie of Great Britain in the final to win the ATP 250 Argentina Open 2023 title at Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club in Buenos Aires.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz dropped only one set to Serbia's Laslo Djere in his first tournament of the year.

After winning the first set in 36 minutes, Alcaraz quickly broke second-seeded Norrie in the second set but the Briton hit back when the Spaniard was serving for the championship at 5-4. Alcaraz broke Norrie with a drop shot to win the title.

Norrie lost his second final of the year after Auckland in January. Alcaraz next defends his title at the Rio Open.

The curious case of KL Rahul

Team think tank using twin tons in defence of his continuous selections

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): KL Rahul's continuation in the Test team, despite his repeated failures, is proving to be one of the most curious cases in Indian cricket.

Not many have survived the kind of failures that the man from Bengaluru has endured. Fewer have received such unwavering support from the who's who of Indian cricket, making for a fascinating watch.

So why is he being persisted with?

Talent or favouritism? a match winner or a liability? There are varied opinions, but for the men who matter, he is precious. There aren't too many videos of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in same frame. But there was one shot right after the Indian team finished its Asia Cup campaign in Dubai, where Kohli was interviewed by his skipper for the BCCI TV after his much-awaited 71st international hundred, against Afghanistan.

That interaction stood out for a different reason.

"We shouldn't ignore KL's knock as we know how important it is for KL to be in a good head space, heading into the World Cup. We know what he can do in this format, plays very clean shots, and once he bats in T20 cricket, our team looks even more strong," Kohli said when Rohit asked how the former skipper was helping the other players.

The only thing that appeared a bit out of place in that particular interview was that the question on Rahul didn't seem organic. It seemed as if they were were trying to make a statement in support of Rahul on behalf of the team.The two biggest names in that dressing room wanted to get a protective shield around a teammate, whom they consider a minefield of talent but whose deliverables have been few and far in between.

What has surprised many is the carte blanche that the Rahul Dravid-led team management has given to the Bangalore man.

In Nagpur, the PTI had asked batting coach Vikram Rathour about Rahul's form. Initially, he didn't wish to comment but then spoke about his last two Test hundreds.

"To be fair to KL, he (Rahul) has scored two hundreds in his last 10 Tests one in England and other in South Africa and also has a couple of fifties.

Top Indian wrestlers again opt out of international meet

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Top Indian wrestlers continued to opt out of big events as the likes of Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia have decided to give the upcoming 2nd Ranking Series Ibrahim-Moustafa tournament a miss.

It is the second time in the month that Vinesh, Bajrang, Ravi Dahiya, Deepak Punia, Anshu Malik, Sangeeta Phogat and Sangita Mor have decided to sit out of an important tournament, to be held in Alexandria, Egypt from February 23 to 26. The top grapplers had earlier pulled out of the Zagreb Open, saying they are not ready for the competition.

The Mary Kom-headed oversight committee managing the WFI affairs cleared a contingent of 27 Indian wrestlers for the upcoming tournament.

The event will be crucial for gaining ranking points for better seeding at the Senior Asian Championships 2023 and the Senior World Championships 2023. The Indian team consists of nine freestyle, eight women and 10 greco-roman wrestlers, besides 16 coaches and support staff. The 27 wrestlers will also include three Target Olympics Podium Scheme (TOPS) grapplers — Ashu (67kg GR), Bhateri (65kg women) and Sujeet (65kg FS).

New Delhi's Slum Soccer nominated for Laureus Sport for Good Award

London, Feb 20 (PTI):

New Delhi-based Slum Soccer, a football project aimed at educating and elevating the homeless population in the Indian capital, was on Monday

nominated for this year's Laureus Sport for Good Award. The Laureus Sport for Good Award recognises an individual or organisation who has made a significant contribution to transforming the lives of children and young people through sport.

Slum Soccer will compete with four other nominees for the award. Argentina's football World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi and Frace's Kylian Mbappe, who scored a hat-trick in the final to earn the Golden Boot, were among the nominees for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. Formula One driver Max Verstappen joined Messi and tennis star Rafael Nadal as past winners of this award on the 2023 shortlist.

Mondo Duplantis, who broke the pole vault world record on three occasions and won world titles indoors and outdoors, and NBA star Steph Curry are the other nominees for the top men's award. The race for the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award is led by two athletes who lit up the World Championships in Eugene, USA — Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. Katie Ledecky, who won four golds, taking her total to 22, a record for a female swimmer, footballer Alexia Putellas, Mikaela Shiffrin, who regained her overall title at the Alpine Ski World Cup, and tennis player Iga Swiatek are the other nominees for the women's top award. The nominees for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award include the Argentina men's football team, which won a third World Cup, Real Madrid, who claimed their 14th title, NBA champions The Golden State Warriors, the Oracle Red Bull Racing team, France men's rugby side and England women's football team.

The award winners will be announced at the Laureus World Sports Awards.

ISL final to be played at Margao on March 18

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): The final of the Indian Super League (ISL) will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa, on March 18, the organisers announced on Monday. Goa has been chosen for the marquee match due to availability of training grounds and other infrastructure for the teams. The play-off matches will start on March 3. League Shield winners Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC, ATK Mohun Bagan, Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC have already qualified for the play-offs. Odisha FC and FC Goa are still in fray heading into the last match of the league stage.

Bates, Kerr smash half centuries as New Zealand thrash Lanka

Paarl, Feb 20 (PTI):

Riding on fine half-centuries from opener Suzie Bates (56) and Amelia Kerr (66), New Zealand thrashed Sri Lanka by 102 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup to spice up the semifinal qualification scenario in Group A.

The pair combined for a second-wicket partnership of 110, the White Ferns' third-highest ever at the tournament, to take the side to 162 for three before dismissing Sri Lanka for 60 in 15.5 overs on Sunday.

This was Sri Lanka's second big loss in the tournament and their hopes of progressing to the semi-finals from the five-team group are over. New Zealand, led by Sophie Devine, meanwhile, received a massive net run rate (NRR) boost as they climbed to second spot in the group behind Australia. New Zealand opener Bernadine Bezuidenhout's blitzkrieg — she smashed a 20-ball 32 studded with five boundaries — helped the White Ferns to one of their best starts in the tournament. The top-order batter hit four boundaries through the leg side, realising there was nothing much in the Sri Lankan bowling.

Her entertaining innings, however, ended soon after she spooned a catch to Chamari Athapaththu at mid-off with Achini Kulasuriya earning the breakthrough. Bates and Kerr came together at the crease and the former picked up where she had left off in the win over Bangladesh.

I am neither a rebel nor a trend-setter: Sania Mirza

Dubai, Feb 20 (PTI):

Sania Mirza is not apologetic for being one of a kind.

A few people chose to call her a trailblazer while some labelled her a rebel. She says she is none and just lived life "on her own terms".

Splashed with mind-blowing success and achievements that no Indian female tennis player could enjoy and which are unlikely to be emulated in the imminent future, Sania has lived an inspiring life.

During a free-wheeling chat at her villa in Dubai, Sania implored the society to accept differences in opinion and not brand as "villain or heroes" the people who dare to do things in their own way.

"I don't think that I broke the rules. Who are these people who are making these rules and who are these people who are saying this is the norm and this is the stereotype.

"I think each individual is different and each individual should have the freedom to be different," Sania told PTI in an exclusive interview, before bidding adieu to her tennis career.

The 36-year-old Indian added, "I think that's where as a society we can probably do better, a little bit where we are trying to hail people or make people the bad guys just because they are doing something differently.

"And I don't necessarily think that I was some kind of a great rule-breaker or some trendsetter. That's not what I was trying to do. I was living my life.

"We all say things differently, we all have different opinions. I think once we all accept that we are all different, and we can coexist with those differences is when it will not be about breaking the rules anymore."

Holder of six Grand Slam doubles titles and a year-end WTA Championships trophy to go with a career-best singles rank of 27, if Sania is not a trend-setter then what is she?

"I do look at myself as trying to be as authentic as possible. That's what I've tried to do. I've tried to stay true to myself. And I have tried to live life on my own terms.

"I think everybody should be able to do that and have the freedom to do that without being told that you are breaking the rules because you are doing something that you want to do," she said.

"That is something I take a lot of pride in because I think that it's not that I was necessarily different. I might have been different to you, but that doesn't mean that I am someone who is a rebel, or someone who is breaking some kind of rules.

"It's just my individuality and another person's individuality."

A lot has changed in Indian sport in the last few years, but in the not too distant past, women athletes struggled for acceptance and recognition, and were not even considered worthy of pursuing a career in sport.

League leader Barcelona beats Cadiz 2-0 after turbulent week

Madrid, Feb 20 (AP): With yet another win, Barcelona left its problems off the field after a turbulent week. Barcelona defeated Cadiz 2-0 on Sunday as it extended its winning streak and lead over Real Madrid in the Spanish league. Sergi Roberto and Robert Lewandowski scored late in the first half to give Barcelona its seventh straight league win and get its lead over second-place Madrid back to eight points. Madrid had cut the gap to five points with a 2-0 win at Osasuna on Saturday. "We played well in the first half," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "There was a bit of a letdown in the second, but it was expected. We have been playing a lot, the team is tired."

Barcelona's home game at Camp Nou came after it became publicly known that a state prosecutor is probing Barcelona's payment of millions of dollars over several years to a company that belonged to the vice president of the Spanish federation's refereeing committee. Barcelona has been heavily criticized but denied any wrongdoing, saying it paid for reports on referees but never tried to influence their decisions in games. On the field, Roberto opened the scoring in the 43rd with a shot from the middle of the area after Lewandowski's header off a cross by Ferran Torres was cleared by a defender on the goal line. Lewandowski added to the lead before halftime with a low shot from just inside the area for his league-leading 15th goal and first overall after three scoreless matches in all competitions.

It was the 17th clean sheet for Barcelona in the league this season.

Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Cadiz CF at the Camp Nou stadium.

Kushwaha quits JD(U) again, floats yet another party

Patna, Feb 20 (PTI):

Disgruntled JD(U) leader Upendra Kushwaha on Monday resigned from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), less than two years after returning to the party, and announced formation of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Janata Dal'. JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias "Lalan", however, berated the former parliamentary board chairman as an over-ambitious party-hopper, whose return was "opposed by all, but materialised only at the insistence of the CM" whom Kushwaha had assured "I will now live and die here".

Rebel Janata Dal (United) leader Upendra Kushwaha addresses a press conference and announced his new political outfit 'Rashtriya Lok Janta Dal', in Patna, Monday.

Kushwaha, who has been venting spleen against Kumar for some time, also announced that he will be seeking an appointment with chairman of the legislative council to resign from his membership of the House, adding with rhetorical flourish "'zameer bechkar amir nahin banenge' (I cannot barter my conscience for perks)". He alleged that Kumar, his political benefactor, had "pawned his political capital (rajneetik sampatti ko girwi rakh diya') by having hinted that Tejashwi Yadav (the deputy CM) shall be the future leader of the coalition", which JD(U) had joined nearly six months ago.

Lalan, however, pointed out that Kushwaha, who then headed the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), had aligned with the RJD after quitting the NDA in 2018, "and he appeared to be fine with Tejashwi Yadav back then". The JD(U) chief also rubbished Kushwaha's allegation that Kumar, the party's de facto leader, no more exercised his own judgement, but acted on the advice of a coterie with vested interests.

BHARAT DARSHAN

Kamal Kant, commentating officer, 13th Bn of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along with senior SSB officials shake hand with the students of 'Bharat Darshan' tour before flagging off the tour bus, at SSB Headquarters in Srinagar, Monday.

IITs step up measures to check suicides

Counselling students with low grade, reducing curriculum load

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): Rattled by the suicide of an IIT-Bombay student, several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are taking preventive measures such as counselling and mentorship for students with low grades and backlogs, reducing the curriculum load and setting up mental-wellness centres.

Suicide by an IIT Bombay student recently amid allegations of caste discrimination has brought the limelight back on the rigorous curriculum and competition at the prestigious institutes.

IIT Bombay Director Subhasis Chaudhuri has announced that the institute is working towards changes in their undergraduate curriculum to make it "more relevant and motivating to students, and to reduce some of the stress".

SC refuses to initiate contempt proceedings over demolition of mutt associated with Guru Nanak

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to initiate contempt proceedings over demolition of a mutt associated with Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev in Puri, Odisha. The petitioners, represented by a senior counsel, argued the demolition was in violation of a judicial order.

The bench headed by Justice M R Shah, said it was dismissing the plea as there was no "disobediece". "We don't want to initiate contempt proceedings. We are dismissing it. We see no reason to initiate contempt proceedings," said the bench, also comprising Justice C T Ravikumar.

The petitioners submitted that in 2019, the top court had passed an order recording that while clearing the area in the vicinity of the Jagannath Temple, the authorities would ensure that the deities, samadhi of the mutt, its relics etc would not be disturbed and remain at their current place with better beautification in line with Kalinga style of architecture.

The petitioners claimed the demolition of the premises, which Guru Nanak visited over 500 years ago, took place in spite of the undertaking given by the authorities. The authorities had in 2019 told the apex court that the area near Jagannath Temple needed to be cleared to avoid any stampede, incidents of fire and to take care of emergencies as well as security and safety of the devotees. In December 2019, protests were held over the demolition of the Sikh mutt complex in Puri.

Scores of Sikh community members had taken out a march in Bhubaneswar to protest against state government's decision to carry out the demolition of three mutt complexes, prominent among them being the Mangu Mutt which was said to have been visited by Guru Nanak Dev. The two-storey complex, constructed over 100 years ago, was declared unsafe by the Puri administration a decade ago. It also housed a hotel, nine shops and a restaurant.

'Decision to cap number of visits by prisoners' kin, counsel not arbitrary'

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Delhi High Court has said the authorities' decision to cap the number of visits by prisoners' families, friends and legal advisers to twice a week has been taken considering the number of inmates and it cannot be said to be "completely arbitrary".

The high court said the decision has been taken after careful consideration of the facilities available in the prisons, availability of staff and the number of undertrials.

"In matters of policy, the courts do not substitute its own conclusion with the one arrived at by the government merely because another view is possible. Therefore, this court is not inclined to pass any order issuing writ of mandamus," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

The judgment came while disposing of a petition challenging certain provisions of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018.

The petition by advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai prayed for amendment of the Rules to allow interviews with legal advisers be open from Monday to Friday for an appropriate allotted time with no cap on interviews per week.

The petitioner, in the interim, prayed for visits of the legal counsel to their clients in Delhi prisons more than twice a week.

The high court, in its verdict, said keeping in view the fact that the present PIL is not an adversarial litigation and the petition has been filed in the interest of prisoners, it permits the petitioner to give a representation to the state providing suggestions.

It said the state shall consider the suggestions in the right spirit.

"Depending upon the number of undertrials and prisoners, the State has taken a decision of capping total number of visits by family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers to two times a week and it cannot be said that the said decision is completely arbitrary. The said decision has been taken after careful consideration of the facilities available in the prisons, availability of the staff and the number of undertrials," the bench said.

The petitioner contended that limiting the number of visits by family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers to twice a week is violative of Article 21 of the Constitution as it limits the rights of an undertrial to have adequate resources to legal representation.

Fixing a cap on the number of visits to an undertrial is manifestly arbitrary as it imposes an unreasonable restriction on the right to legal representation and is violative of the right to access justice which is guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution, the petitioner said.

RPF to host International Union of Railways' World Security Congress in Jaipur from Feb 21-23

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Railway Protection Force (RPF) will host the prestigious International Union of Railways' 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur from February 21-23, the Railways said on Monday. Union internationale des chemins de fer (UIC) or International Union of Railways represents the railway sector and promotes rail transport worldwide.

"Having assumed the chair of UIC Security platform, DG RPF has taken up measures to enhance the involvement of member organizations operating in Asia, Africa and several other developing countries with similar demographic pattern so that their voice could be heard and concerns addressed by the multilateral platform provided by the UIC.

"It is in this backdrop and with India taking over the mantle of the presidency of G-20, India will be proudly hosting the 18th World Security Congress for the International Union of Railways in the Pink City Jaipur," the Railways said in a statement. The RPF will be the host for engaging with the delegates (security representatives) of the member organizations of UIC.

The 18th edition of the Congress, centred around the theme of 'Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future', will be attended by the heads of security of railway organizations from across the world, apart from the concerned officials of UIC, partner international organizations, Indian Railways, RPF and senior police officials from India.

"It will be an event befitting with the occasion of India taking on the leadership of hosting railway security delegates from around the world. RPF is geared up to host impactful deliberations on issues of concern and challenges for railway security across the world and has devised the sessions in a way to focus on second order problem solving matrix so as to come up with practical and immediately implementable solutions that will result into a transformative metamorphosis of railway security across the globe," the statement said.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATION

All Odisha GPLF (Gram Panchayat Level Federation) Mission Shakti workers shout slogans during a demonstration demanding job regularisation along with other demands, in Bhubaneswar, Monday.

Narendra Dabholkar murder

Bombay HC grants CBI four weeks to decide on probe conclusion report

Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI): The Bombay High Court on Monday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation four more weeks to decide on the probe conclusion report into the 2013 killing of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar. On January 30, the CBI had informed HC its probe in the case was complete and that the investigating officer has sent a closure report to the probe agency's head office for approval. On Monday, advocate Sandesh Patil, appearing for the CBI, informed a division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and P D Naik that some more time was required to get a clearer picture on the approval for the conclusion report. The bench accepted the statement and granted the agency four weeks time to decide on the probe conclusion report. Dabholkar (67), founder of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, was shot dead by two persons, allegedly linked to the radical outfit Sanatan Sanstha, while he was on a morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013. The HC was hearing a petition filed by Narendra Dabholkar's daughter Mukta Dabholkar, seeking that the court continue monitoring the progress of the probe.

SOMVATI AMAVASYA

Devotees in large numbers gather to offer prayers on the occasion of 'Somvati Amavasya', at Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday.

Delhi riots

Accused seeks bail claiming huge delay in trial

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

An accused, who allegedly pointed a pistol at a police head constable during the communal violence in the northeast Delhi in February 2020, Monday sought bail from the Delhi High Court claiming there was a huge delay in the trial.

Shahrukh Pathan said in the last over one year and three months only two witnesses in the case out of 40 have been examined.

The submissions were made before Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma who listed the matter for further hearing on May 2 and directed the counsel for police and Pathan to file their brief written submissions.

During the hearing, Pathan's counsel argued that though the charges were framed in the case in December 2021, only two prosecution witnesses have been examined so far.

"There is a huge delay in conclusion of trial," the counsel contended, while claiming that Pathan was also attacked in the jail. The counsel said he had filed the bail plea in January 2022 and it has been pending for over a year.

The Delhi Police, in its status report filed in March 2022, have opposed the bail plea of Pathan, saying he has a criminal family history and can adversely influence the witnesses.

Police have said the accused can threaten and endanger the safety of prosecution witnesses and abscond, if granted bail, and can also hamper the process of investigation and destroy evidence. They have also claimed the accused has no remorse for his illegal actions.

The case relates to rioting, causing injuries to police personnel and inflicting gunshot wound on a man named Rohit Shukla by an armed mob in the Jafrabad.

The status report has stated, "The accused has been keeping illegal arm and ammunition and has no remorse for his illegal act. His daring act of firing at a policeman and the public shows that if released on bail, he can repeat such a criminal act."

It said there are police and public witnesses who have identified him. The report said from the criminal family background of Pathan and his desperate nature, it can be inferred that he can adversely influence the witnesses.

The report said the statement of the eyewitnesses and seized CCTV footage establish that Pathan was leading the mob and indulged in the act of rioting on February 24, 2020 during which he fired at the complainant and public from his pistol.

Pathan approached the high court after his bail plea was rejected by a trial court in December 2021. The trial court was of the view that the CCTV footage of a nearby camera installed at the relevant location showed his presence in the riotous mob.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी
झुर्रियां, झांई, दाग, तिल, अनचाहे बाल आदि (आधुनिक लेजर द्वारा), मुहांसे, दाग, नाक, होंठ, ठोड़ी, वक्ष, पेट आदि (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी द्वारा) तथा अंग कटने-जलने की
अति विशेष चिकित्सा.
आर.के.सी.के सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं पचपेढ़ी नाका, धमतरी रोड, कलर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay Advt.

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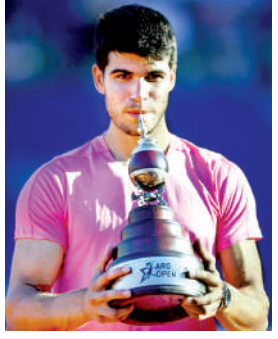


Bilaspur, Tuesday, February 21, 2023 I Pages 12 I Price ₹ 3.00 I City Edition I Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

www. centralchronicle.in

BRIEF

Flowers in bloom at a lawn at Mandi House Circle, in New Delhi. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has started planting tulips as part of their 'Tulip Festival' for beautification of the national capital, ahead of the G20 Summit.

Niti Aayog CEO

New Delhi: Former IAS officer B V R Subrahmanyam was on Monday appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Niti Aayog replacing Parameswaran Iyer, who has been named as the Executive Director of World Bank. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Subrahmanyam appointment for a period of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, a Personnel Ministry order said. Iyer, who was working as Niti Aayog CEO, has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank headquarters, Washington DC, USA for a tenure of three years, it said.

Chancellor Scholz

New Delhi: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will pay a State visit to India on February 25 and 26, his first trip to the country more than a year after he took charge of the top post. Announcing the German chancellor's visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday that Scholz will be accompanied by senior officials and a high-powered business delegation. He is scheduled to arrive in Delhi on February 25 and will proceed to Bengaluru on February 26, the MEA said.

G20 events

New Delhi: Two key ecological sites in the Yamuna riverfront area in Delhi are likely to host a G20 event each in March to promote conservation of nature and biodiversity and emphasise on sustainability - a focus area for India during its yearlong presidency of the influential bloc, officials said on Monday. While Asita East will host a birdwatching event, a cultural programme will be organised at Baansera' - city's first bamboo theme park, they said.

Trains cancelled

Kolkata: The South Eastern Railway has cancelled a number of express and passenger trains connecting West Bengal, Odisha and north-eastern states with Hyderabad, Bengaluru and other destinations in the southern states for development work. The trains have been cancelled in the last week of February and the first week of March for non-interlocking work at Ranital station of Kharagpur division in connection with the construction of the Narayangarh-Bhadrak third line.

Weather

High 35 Low 15

MARKET

NIFTY	17,844.60 ▼
SENSEX	60,691.54 ▼

BULLION

GOLD	56,299
SILVER	65,780

ED raids Congress party leaders in coal levy money laundering case

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI):

Security personnel outside the residence of a Congress leader during a raid by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a mining case, in Raipur, Monday.

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday conducted searches at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh, including at premises linked to Congress party leaders, as part of an ongoing investigation into the coal levy money laundering case, officials said. According to officials, the searches are underway since early this morning at over a dozen locations that include those of MLA Devendra Yadav in Bhilai (Durg district), Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer Ramgopal Agrawal, chairman of Chhattisgarh State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board Sushil Sunny Agrawal and party's state spokesperson RP Singh in Raipur.

The raids also covered some other ruling party leaders. They said the ED is investigating those who have been the "beneficiaries" of the proceeds of crime of the alleged coal levy scam perpetrated during the tenure of the current government. The ED investigation relates to "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency has alleged. Nine persons, including state administrative service officer Chaurasia, Suryakant Tiwari, his uncle Laxmikant Tiwari, Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi and another coal businessman Sunil Agrawal have been arrested by it till now in the case.

'Third-rate' politics of 'vendetta, vengeance and harassment': Congress

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Congress slammed the government after the ED conducted raids against its party leaders in Chhattisgarh on Monday, saying it was an example of "third-rate politics" of "vendetta, vengeance and harassment" and asserted that it will not be intimidated by such "tactics".

This is not 'Amrit Kaal' but an "undeclared emergency", Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said at a joint press conference with party spokesperson Pawan Khera and termed the Enforcement Directorate as "Exterminating Democracy".

"If anything, these raids have increased our determination. If anything, these raids have given us a booster dose to be even more aggressive against the Prime Minister and his third-rate politics of vengeance, vendetta and harassment," Ramesh told reporters.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the ED action and said 95 per cent of the raids conducted by ED in the last 9 years are against opposition leaders, and most are against Congress leaders.

"The raid on our Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh by the Modi government by misusing the ED shows the cowardice of the BJP before the Congress plenary session in Raipur. We are not going to be cowed down by these cowardly threats," he claimed.

"Uneasiness of the BJP is visible due to the immense success of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. If Modi ji has even an iota of honesty, then he should order raids on the mega-scams of his 'best friend'.

ED's action part of probe in scam but Congress in pain as it's linked to corruption: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress for its criticism of the ED's raids on multiple locations in Chhattisgarh as part of its probe in a corruption case, claiming that this hints at the opposition party's link with the graft as it has always stood with the corrupt. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also alleged that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh is treating the state like a party ATM while ignoring people's welfare. "The probe agency is doing it works and digging up fresh revelations. And it is the Congress, the ring leader of the corrupt cabal, which is in pain.

All central varsities must adopt CUET for UG admissions: UGC

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The University Grants Commission has written to Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia, reiterating that all central universities have to mandatorily adopt the Common University Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate programmes.

"UGC (University Grants Commission) has asked all the central universities to use CUET (Common University Entrance Test) scores for admissions to all the courses. However, this has been observed that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has opted to participate in CUET-2023 for a limited number of programmes/courses, as was done last year.

"Please note that all the central universities, including AMU, are required to participate for all UG programmes in CUET 2023 to provide equal opportunities to aspiring candidates, which is in the student's best interests," the UGC said in the letter.

The letter also stated that CUET provides a common platform and equal opportunities to candidates across the country, especially those from the northeast, rural and other remote areas, and helps to establish better connections with the universities.

"A single examination enables the candidates to cover a broad outreach and be part of the admission process to various central and participating universities," the letter added.

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has no plans to implement CUET for admissions across all its undergraduate and postgraduate courses and will stick to its own entrance test to "ensure timely admissions" for the upcoming academic session, the vice-chancellor said earlier this week. The UGC introduced CUET last year for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. JMI, however, did not adopt the CUET for all its undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

While JMI opted for CUET for admission to 10 undergraduate programmes last year, the number is likely to rise this year.

2 policemen killed in Naxal attack

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI):

Two policemen were killed after Naxalites fired at them in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district bordering Maharashtra on Monday, police said.

Following the incident, the Maharashtra Police along with their counterparts in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh launched a joint operation to check the movement of Naxalites in the border areas of the three states, they said.

The incident took place between 7 am and 8 am under Bortalav police station limits in Rajnandgaon district adjoining Maharashtra, when the two personnel were going on a motorcycle, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Abhishek Meena told PTI.

As per preliminary information, district force head constable Rajesh Singh Rajput and Chhattisgarh Armed Force constable Lalit Kumar Samrath were going towards the Maharashtra border from Bortalav police camp, he said, adding the two were not carrying weapons.

A group of armed Naxalites fired at them. One of the personnel died on the spot and the other one succumbed to injuries while being taken to a hospital, the official said.

The Naxalites also set ablaze their motorcycle before escaping from the spot, located 180 km from the state capital Raipur. A search operation is underway in the area, he added.

After the incident, police deputed at the Chhattisgath border have been alerted to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) during surveillance at check posts in the Naxal-affected district, Deputy Inspector General, Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), Sandeep Patil said.

He said the incident took place one kilometre from the border of Maharashtra's Gondia district, when two 'dalams' of Naxalites attacked the police personnel.

The deceased policemen were not carrying weapons, due to which they were easily targeted by Naxalites, he said.

Following the attack, it is likely the Naxalite dalams may move to the tri-junction border of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the official said.

In view of such movement, the Maharashtra Police are conducting a joint operation along with the MP and Chhattisgarh Police, he added.

Cop hacked to death

Dantewada: A policeman was hacked to death by suspected Naxalites at a village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Monday. The incident took place late Sunday night when the victim, head constable Maniram Vetti, had gone to attend a wedding in Belchar village under Bhairamgarh police station limits adjoining Dantewada district, a senior official said. Vetti, who was posted at the police lines in Dantewada, was on leave for the last four days and went to attend the marriage function in the village located in the Naxal-stronghold without informing anyone, he said. As per preliminary information, when the victim was busy at the function with family members, the assailants stormed there and slit his throat with a sharp-edged weapon leaving him dead on the spot, the official said. Soon after being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot, he said. "Prima facie, the modus operandi of the attack suggests it was executed by a small action team of Naxalites. A police team has launched a search in the area to trace the assailants," the official added.

IIT Guwahati researchers produce cardiac proteins to fix damaged heart

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

A research team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has developed a "Recombinant Protein Toolbox" comprising six special proteins, which can be used to convert healthy skin cells or any somatic cells from an adult human body into heart cells.

According to officials, the heart cells created using this toolbox can have the same function as the original heart cells and can be used to regenerate damaged heart tissues. Importantly, this toolbox can facilitate the generation of autologous heart cells in a lab.

"It is now well understood that a heart attack happens when a part of the heart is damaged. In some animals, like the Zebrafish, the heart can grow back after being damaged, but in humans, the heart usually gets scar tissues instead of growing back new heart cells. The only way to treat heart disease is with a new heart, but there aren't enough hearts available for transplantation, and it can be hard to make sure the new heart is accepted by the body," said Rajkumar P Thummer, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Guwahati.

"Scientists around the world are studying ways to convert regular body cells into heart cells, which could help with regenerating damaged hearts. The challenge is that cells can change in ways that could be harmful. So, scientists need to find a better, safer way to do this," he added.

Thummer said proteins produced from another source when applied can convert cells from one form to another in a process known as cellular reprogramming. This process involves the use of specific proteins, known as transcription factors, which can alter the expression of genes within a cell and direct it to take on a new cellular identity.

He claimed that the IIT Guwahati team has successfully produced cell-permeant recombinant proteins that can convert skin cells to heart cells.

NIA files chargesheet in 2022 Modakpal Maoist attack case

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a chargesheet against a CPI (Maoist) member in connection with an attack on security forces in Chhattisgarh last year.

Kawasi Ganga alias "Pandu" alias "Kawasi Anil", a member of the CPI (Maoist) from Bijapur, was arrested in an injured condition on August 8 last year, a day after the incident in a forest area along the state's Bogla-Pangur villages. The chargesheet against Ganga was filed in the NIA Special Court, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official said the case was initially registered at the Modakpal police station in Bijapur and re-registered by the NIA on October 19 last year. "Investigation revealed that exchange of fire between security personnel and armed cadres of proscribed terrorist organisation CPI(Maoist) took place on August 7 last year. On the next day, Ganga who was involved in the incident was apprehended and arms, ammunitions, hand grenade and detonators were recovered from his possession," the spokesperson said. "He is a member of the CPI(Maoist) and was actively involved in the said exchange of fire," the official said and added that further investigation in the case is in progress.

RS asks panel to investigate 'disorderly conduct' of 12 MPs

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked a parliamentary committee to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 opposition MPs from the Congress and the AAP for repeatedly entering the well of the House, shouting slogans and obstructing its proceedings. According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin, nine of the MPs are from the Congress and three from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The Congress MPs are Shaktisinh Gohil, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Imran Prattapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham and Ranjeet Ranjan. The AAP members are Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sandeep Kumar Pathak. In the bulletin dated February 18, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...the Chairman...has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of gross disorderly conduct displayed by (the MPs)....in violation of rules and etiquette of Rajya Sabha by repeatedly entering the well of the council, shouting slogans and persistently and wilfully obstructing the proceedings of the council, compelling the Chair to repeatedly adjourn the sittings of the Council."

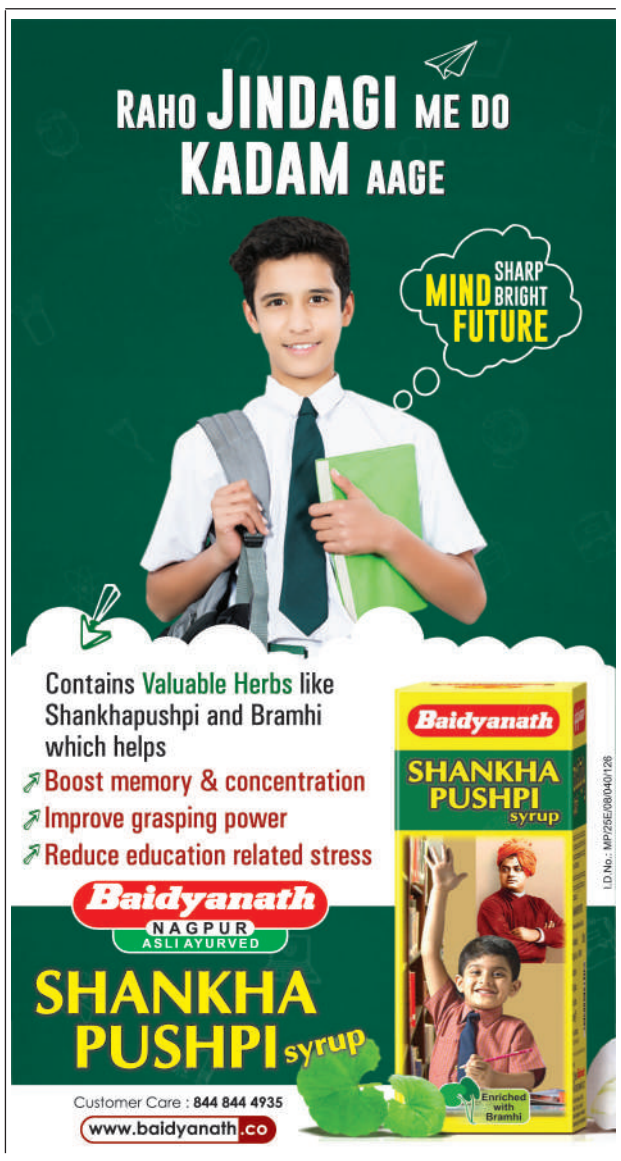
SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL alleging 'unnecessary' hysterectomies in Bihar, Rajasthan, Chh'garh

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court sought the Centre's response on Monday on a PIL alleging that doctors in Bihar, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have been performing "unnecessary hysterectomies", a surgical procedure to remove the uterus, on poor women just to reap high insurance fees from governments under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud also sought the assistance of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to deal with the public interest litigation (PIL) matter filed by Narendra Gupta, himself a medical practitioner.

The bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, granted four weeks' time to the Centre for filing its response to the PIL. A hysterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove the uterus after which a woman can neither conceive nor can have menstrual periods regardless of her age.

The PIL, based on media reports and researched facts, alleged a "widespread pattern of doctors performing medically unnecessary hysterectomies to reap high insurance fees from the government" in states such as Bihar, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. It sought compensation for the victim women and meaningful policy changes to deal with the problem. The women, aided by heavily-subsidised state-funded health insurance schemes, usually go to private hospitals for medical care for symptoms such as "abdominal pain and general weakness" and doctors resort to "unnecessary hysterectomy operations after cursory, or in some cases, no medical examinations", the petition alleged. "The present petition has been filed in the nature of public interest litigation...and arises from an influx of news stories and Right to Information (RTI) results in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan regarding unlawful hysterectomies and related insurance scams," it said.



Congmen resort to agitation after ED raids Bhilai MLA's residence

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On Monday, the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at multiple locations of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh as a part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged coal levy scam. A team of ED reached here at the residence of Bhilai Nagar MLA early morning on Monday to conduct searches.

A four-member team accompanied by the armed jawans of CRPF is conducting searches at the residence of Devendra Yadav in Sector 5 of Bhilai Township. It was not clear whether any search was conducted at his paternal residence in the Housing Board Colony.

The news of ED raid at the residence of Devendra Yadav spread like a wild fire in the twin city. Soon the Congress party workers started gathering near his residence. Within a couple of hours, Congress leaders and party workers from neighbouring districts also reached Sector 5 and launched a demonstration against the agency and Centre.

Sensing trouble, the ED officials sought police force from the District Police after which cops from various police stations reached the spot and ensured law and order situations.

After raising slogans against the agency and the Union Government, the demonstrators staged a sit-in in front of the main gate of MLA's residence. The demonstrators started singing bhajans and devotional songs and asserted that their agitation would end only after the departure of ED team from the residence of MLA Devendra Yadav.

District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar, Mayor Neraj Pal, BMC Speaker Girwar Bunty Sahu, MiC members, Congress Corporators, District Congress office bearers, Mahila Congress and a large number of party workers were present.

Youth stabbed to death; three arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: A 20-year-old youth was stabbed to death at Kandrapara in Durg on the intervening night of Monday. After receiving information, Police swung into action and arrested the three persons involved in the offence. The deceased was Gajendra Vishwakarma son of Mohan Vishwakarma a resident of Kandrapara, Durg.

Over some old rivalry, the accused Rakesh Sahu, Ajay Sahu and Ghanshyam Sahu attacked him with a knife and inflicted injuries on his neck, chest, abdomen and other parts of the body. The victim Gajendra Vishwakarma succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The accused were arrested within a few hours of the incident. Inspector SN Singh, SI Devdas Bharti, ASI AR Sahu, Head Constable Rajendra Wankhede, Constables Utkarsh Singh, Love Pandey, Alauddin, Vikas Thakur and Duman Lal Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Group of tribal youth departs for Mumbai

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme being organised jointly by Nehru Yuva Kendra and Home Ministry, the Border Security Force, on Monday, sent the eighth group of tribal youth from Kanker for an exposure visit to Mumbai in Maharashtra. The group of 20 tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and one male officer / personnel of Border Security Force. IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Special GBM approves city sanitation proposal

- Opposition points out anomalies

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On Monday, a special General Body Meeting of Bhilai Municipal Corporation was held in BMC Headquarters in Supela.

The only agenda of the meeting was the work-based tender for door-to-door garbage collection work and other works in residential and commercial areas like cleaning of drains, roads, markets and garbage collection through three-wheeler rickshaw / e-rickshaw under the scope of work in the wards under Bhilai Municipal Corporation.

In the special GBM, the proposal of city sanitation was passed by majority vote in the presence of Mayor Neeraj Pal, Speaker Girwar Bunty Sahu, MIC members and councillors. Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi and other officers were also present in the special GBM.

During the discussion, BJP Corporator Piyush Mishra raised questions on the agency, which is presently working for BMC. He said that the contractor PV Raman has been blacklisted by the Municipal Corporations of Dhamtari and Jagdalpur.

He said that during the last GBM, he had submitted the documents related to the blacklisting of this firm but still the tender was awarded to this agency.

On the other hand, the newly formed Risali Municipal Corporation has taken action against this agency on the basis of the same relevant documents. The agency is not making regular payments to the sanitation labourers due to which the labourers had gone on strike a few days ago.

He further said that a proposal has been made to rent the BMC's vehicles to the agency. Mishra said that the Municipal Corporation Bhilai has fixed the rent which is much lower than the market prices.

It is proposed to give the JCB a monthly rent of Rs 25000 while the BMC itself has hired a JCB for PWD works at monthly rent of Rs 1.5 lakhs. BJP Corporators alleged that the entire proposal was unfair and illegal. As the Congress is in majority in the house, the proposal was approved with a majority vote.

Bhilai exports large volumes of special quality plates to UAE

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Plate Mill has been producing & supplying special quality plates in various grades ranging from Ship-building grade including plates for Indian Navy's warships, Boiler & High-Tensile grades for different applications including structural constructions such as bridges & flyovers, manufacture of earth moving equipment etc, both for indigenous customers as well as for export to traders & customers abroad.

South West Asia is a prolific market for plates and TMT bars due to presence of traders as well as various large-scale construction activities in the region. Since there are no facilities for production of plates in the region, there is demand to import material from nearby Asian countries.

Steel producing countries China, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia are tough competitors for India when it comes to meeting the demand for plates in South West Asia. Competing against China and South Korea that are prominent suppliers in present global scenario, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has forayed into the export market once again in the current fiscal year by bagging orders from UAE for supplying large volumes of plates, with the help of TATA International as trader. The requirement is for high strength (High tensile) plates conforming to both European and American quality standards.

While around 18,000 tonnes of special quality high-tensile plates have already been exported by SAIL-BSP to various international customers in current fiscal year 2022-23 with dual-certification as per European & American specifications, fresh export orders from UAE are being executed. Besides ensuring desired surface quality and proper marking on the plates for identification, one important factor that has been taken into account while executing export orders is conforming to delivery schedules strictly, as this is linked to availability of vessel and its time at the port.

Exports of plates by SAIL-BSP to Middle-east countries including Dubai in UAE in current fiscal year include around 14,000 Tonnes supplied in August 2022 with different grades dual-certified to European & American specifications. The steel for these export grades has been made for the first time in SAIL-BSP with the addition of Boron in restricted quantity & Titanium, in compliance with National Export Tax norms.

Export order for additional volume of around 10,000 Tonnes of plates is currently being executed in Feb 2023. Plates of Mild & High-tensile grades complying to the European & American specifications are being supplied to M/s Tata International, Dubai. Supply of additional export order of 10000 Tonnes that is in the process of production shall be completed within March 2023 with plates complying to European & American specifications.

It is worth mentioning that dual certification in the Grades BS 10025 JR-AR and A 572 Gr.50 Type 3 has been done for the first time in Bhilai's Plate Mill. Step by step monitoring under guidance of Director I/c Anirban Dasgupta, ED (Works) Anjani Kumar and perseverance of Plate Mill team led by CGM (Plate Mill) RK Bisare along with support from Plant's Quality Dept has resulted in successful and timely execution of the export orders.

Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya Khapri celebrates Annual Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya, Khapri, Durg organised its 3rd Annual Day Program with great enthusiasm in school campus. The Chief Guest were Rajnish Sharma and Jyoti Sharma (Director DSV and DSCET). Parents were also invited to attend the program and they too enjoyed the event a lot. The faculty team of the school decorated the school with flowers and rangoli. The Chief Guest lit the lamp in front of Goddess Saraswati. The students from different classes participated and performed various activities. All the participants performed various programs and amused the audience.

Jyoti Sharma (Director DSV, DSCET) presented the annual report and encouraged the students to work hard. She too appreciated the efforts of all teaching and non teaching staffs for their efforts to make the program a grand success. At the end, Sarita Singh (Incharge DSV) concluded the program with her vote of thanks and thanked everyone for giving precious time. All the people who attended the annual day enjoyed it the most.

Raipur Capitals, Durg Super Power and Bilaspur Fighters win matches

- Chhattisgarh Premier League T20

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: On the 10th day of Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL - T20 being organized under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh Cricket Council and Veer Sports Club, played a total of three matches at Bhilai Sector 1 Cricket Stadium and Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium Raipur. Raipur Capitals, Durg Super Power and Bilaspur won their respective matches.

Praveen Jain, President of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Sports Cell and Organizing Committee, informed the match between Wennington Raipur Capitals and Surguja Lions was played in Bhilai on late Sunday night. Batting first after winning the toss, Raipur Capital made 190 for the loss of 8 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Higesht run scorers were Ritesh with 59 and Surya Pratap 50 runs. Rajeev and Sandeep took two wickets each from Surguja Lions. In reply Surguja Lions were all out for 154 runs. Ritesh was adjudged man of the match. On Monday first match played in Bhilai Sector 01 ground was between CV Raman Naya Raipur and Heera Super Power Durg. Batting first after winning the toss, Naya Raipur got all out for 131 runs in 19.3 overs. Vikas Yadav took four wickets from Durg. In reply Durg scored the runs on the loss of one wicket and thus won the match by 9 wickets in 14.3 overs. Ashutosh Raja scored 60 and Vikas Yadav scored 55 runs. Vikas was adjudged man of the match. At International Cricket Stadium Naya Raipur match was played between Fit Bilaspur Fighters and Wennington Court Raipur Capitals. Winning the toss and batting first, Raipur scored 146 runs in 20 overs for the loss of 6 wickets, Abhishek scored 40 and Reet Raj 35 runs. Chasing the target Bilaspur scored the runs by losing 6 wickets in 19.4 overs. Rahul Pagare was adjudged man of the match for scoring 58 runs.

Colourful inauguration of National Divyang Cricket Tournament

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 20: Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T-20 Cup tournament being organised under the auspices of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association was inaugurated on Monday jointly by Anirban Dasgupta, Director-in-charge of Bhilai Steel Plant Superintendent of Police Durg Dr Abhishek Pallava.

SEFI Chairman Narendra Banchore, Senior Journalists EV Murali and Bhavana Pandey, BSP Officers Association Secretary Parminder Singh, DCCI President Ravi Chauhan and Seema Srivastava, Founder of Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation, Principal Dr RN Singh, Chiranjeev Jain, Atul Nagle, INMWF National Secretary NN Rao, Rashmi Pillai from Joy Foundation, Social worker Dinesh Bajpai, Managing Director of Essel Engineering Works Jasveer Kaur and Saraswati Verma were present as special guests. Anirban Dasgupta in his address said that this event of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association is a matter of pride not only for Bhilai but for the whole of Chhattisgarh.

Motivating the players, he said that Bhilai Steel Plant is providing all possible facilities to Divyang cricket players and organizers. Dr Abhishek Pallava said that this national tournament being organised by Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association and Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation is a proof that we are fully capable of organizing such big events. Dr Pallava extended his best wishes to all the four national teams of Divyang cricket playing here.

Dr Pallava further said that it is the responsibility of dutiful citizens to encourage this event which showcases the spirit and talent of the players. SEFI Chairman Narendra Banchor too reiterated that organizing national tournament in steel city is a matter of pride for all and extended best wishes to the players.

At the outet, President of Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association Arun Kumar Srivastava expressed gratitude to all the organisations for extending support to the event. The inaugural match of the tournament was played between Indian Legends and Indian Sultans which was won by the former by 2 wickets. After winning the toss, Indian Legends decided to field first. Batting first Indian Sultans scored 139 runs on the loss of 9 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Chasing the target, Indian legends scored 141 runs on 19.5 overs. In the second match Indian Fighters won the match by 6 wickets defeating Royal Indians. Batting first Royal Indians scored 102 runs and were all out. Chasing the target, Indian Fighters won the match scoring 108 runs on the loss of 4 wickets, thus winning by 6 wickets. The match umpires were Anil Singh and Jigar Bavaria while Nitin Katwar was the third umpire. Vinod Deoghare and Prem Prakash Yadav were scorers while Someshwar Rao was the commentator.

Cabinet approves UA for unemployed youth

Draft of Suppl and state budget for 2023-24 approved

Many important decisions taken during Cabinet Meeting

Raipur, Feb 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel chaired the Cabinet Meeting today at his official residence and as per the decisions taken in the meeting in the interest of the unemployed, Government of Chhattisgarh has decided to provide unemployment allowance (UA) to the unemployed youth of the state.

The Cabinet has also approved the draft of Chhattisgarh Appropriation Bill-2023 for presentation of the third supplementary estimate year 2022-2023 and the draft of budget estimate year 2023-2024 to be presented in Legislative Assembly and the draft of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Member Salary, Allowances, Pension (Amendment) Bill-2023 was approved. The Governor's address was approved for the sixteenth session of Chhattisgarh's fifth assembly in the month of March-2023.

Formation of CSIC approved

The proposal for the formation of Chhattisgarh State Innovation Commission (CSIC) was approved. The State Innovation Commission will give suggestions for promoting innovative approach in public welfare schemes, for enhancing efficiency in the administrative services, and would also provide suggestions for implementation of the manifesto and other important points given from time to time.

Sanctions reimburse of Re. 1 cost of addl. Cowdung used in production

As the per kilogram conversion percentage from cowdung to vermi compost is 40 to 33 per cent, it was decided to reimburse one rupee cost of additional cowdung used in production of vermicompost under Godhan Nyaya Yojana from cess amount. Similarly, the cost of additional cow dung in the Gauthans of the urban bodies will be reimbursed by the government from the amount provided to the urban bodies for procurement of cow dung and the remaining available amount will be used as revolving money for the procurement of cow dung and vermi compost. Cabinet has also decided to build a godown in Gauthan premises, with the approval of the District Collector, in convergence with other government schemes for safe storage.

PHFW exempted from CSPR

Cabinet has decided to exempt the Public Health and Family Welfare (PHFW) and Medical Education Department from the Chhattisgarh Store Purchase Rules (CSPR), in context of purchase/procurement from a single source. Cabinet has decided to create the post of Commissioner Medical Education under the Department of Medical Education.

Proposal for amendments in CMVTA approved

The proposal for necessary amendment in the Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act (CMVTA)-1991 (No. 25 of 1991) was approved for collection of one-time (lifetime/optional) tax from goods vehicles. The amendment proposal for Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation-1991 Rule 158 Chhattisgarh Gazette (Extraordinary) notification dated December 31, 2013 clause (5) was approved. In Part-I of the second schedule of the Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1991, the proposal to assess the motor vehicle tax of motor caravan was approved.

Decides to create temporary non-cadre posts

Cabinet has decided to create a temporary non-cadre post of Principal Secretary/Secretary for the Ministry. Cabinet has decided to temporarily create a new non-cadre post of Inspector General of Police/Additional Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh Police Headquarters under the Indian Police Service Cadre of Chhattisgarh State for a period of two years.

ITI upgradation scheme in partnership with TTL approved

Industrial Training Institute upgradation scheme in partnership with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) was approved by the Cabinet. Under this scheme, a total of Rs 1216.80 crore will be spent on the development of 36 ITIs of Chhattisgarh. With this, other short term courses including Mechanic, Electric Vehicle, Basic Designer and Virtual Verifier (Mechanical), Manufacturing Process Control and Automation, Advanced CNC Machining, Industrial Robotics and Digital Manufacturing and Artisan Using Advanced Tools will also be started in the ITI institutions of the state.

The twenty-first annual report of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (for the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) was approved to be presented in the Legislative Assembly and the General Administration Department was authorized for further action.

The draft of amendment in Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Ordinary Sand (Excavation and Business) Rules-2019 was approved. Cabinet has decided to procure grams under the subsidy scheme of Rs 8000 per ton from the buffer stock of Government of India, for distribution to the 'antyoday' and priority beneficiary families of Mada and scheduled areas under the public distribution system.

Cabinet has decided to implement One Time Settlement Scheme to waive the interest and surcharge imposed on the remaining premium payment from the allottees, on the land/builtup space allotted under miscellaneous land use in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

It has been decided to include widows, widowers, abandoned and unmarried men and women under the state-sponsored Chief Minister cum Prime Minister Housing Scheme and the date of registration for housing has been extended till March 31, 2024. The draft of the Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956 (Amendment) Bill was approved.

The draft of Chhattisgarh Municipality Act 1961 (Amendment) Bill 2023 was approved.

Govt to implement special incentive policy

- **For closed and sick industries in Ch'garh**

Under the Industrial Policy 2019-24, it was decided to implement a special incentive policy for the closed and sick industries in Chhattisgarh. This will be applicable to closed and sick industries after November 1, 2019. This policy will be applicable only to manufacturing industries. Chhattisgarh will be developed as a 'logistics and warehousing hub'. Cabinet has decided to implement the State Logistics Policy 2022.

The draft of Bill 2023 was approved for settlement of Chhattisgarh outstanding tax interest and penalty.

ED raids on Ch'garh Cong leaders 'politically motivated': Baghel

Raipur, Feb 20 (PTI) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday called the Enforcement Directorate's raids at the premises of Congress leaders in the state a "politically motivated" move and claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party was afraid of the Congress and misusing central agencies to crush the voices of political opponents.

Their intention is to impact the Congress's upcoming plenary session in Raipur where a roadmap for the 2024 general elections will be discussed, Baghel said addressing a press conference at the party's state headquarters 'Rajiv Bhawan'.

AICC general secretary and state in-charge Kumari Selja, Chhattisgarh Congress chief Mohan Markam, state ministers and other party leaders were also present during the press conference.

"Whenever the Congress takes any major step, such acts (raids by central agencies) happen The BJP-led Centre is scared of the Congress. The BJP was nervous when the Congress took out the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and now they are afraid of the plenary session going to be held in Raipur," Baghel said.

They have resorted to low level acts to create hindrances ahead of the conclave out of their frustration, he claimed.

"But, we are not afraid of such acts and we will emerge stronger and make the event a grand success. When we were not afraid of the Britishers, then why should we be afraid of them (BJP)," Baghel said.

The CM termed the raids as "politically motivated" and said the action was carried out to garner political benefits.

Earlier, Baghel in a tweet said such acts will not weaken the morale of party leaders who are engaged in the preparation of the party's upcoming plenary session.

"Today the ED has raided the residence of many of my colleagues, including the treasurer of the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, the party's former vice-president and an MLA," he said.

"There is a plenary session of the Congress in Raipur after four days. Our spirits cannot be broken by stopping our colleagues engaged in preparations for the session through such acts. The BJP is disappointed with the success of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and the truth of Adani being exposed. This raid is an attempt to divert attention. The country knows the truth. We will fight and win," the CM tweeted.

Addressing the press conference, Kumari Selja also targeted the Centre and accused it of adopting oppressive policies against political opponents.

"It is evident by the oppressive policies of the Narendra Modi-led Centre that it is so afraid of the opposition, particularly the Congress. They are not allowing the opposition to raise their voice inside Parliament as well as outside," she claimed.

Angiography and angioplasty facility available

In ACI cardiology department

Raipur, Feb 20: Facility of angiography (investigation related to the detection of blockage in heart veins) and angioplasty (process of opening the blockage by balloon and stent) are now available for patients at the cardiology department of Advance Cardiac Institute (ACI) in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur.

Giving information in this regard Medical Superintendent of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Dr. SBS Netam said that technical problem in the process of payment made under Ayushman Bharat Yojana last week affected angiography test and angioplasty process some time. The problem has now been resolved, he said. At present, heart patients are getting the facility of angiography test and angioplasty treatment, he added.

'Will Bharat Ratna be offered on coal scam?'

- **Raman Singh's reaction to Congress allegations on ED raids**

Raipur, Feb 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today said that ED raid had nothing to do with the Congress session and the BJP. The Congress was earlier saying that its government was being destabilized but this raid of ED has been done on the basis of evidence found in earlier action, BJP state president Arun Sao said while talking to the media at BJP office here. Can the government belie that charge sheet? he asked.

Alleging that the hard-earned money of the poor of Chhattisgarh was being looted, he said that the head of the state was seen standing with the robbers. This is injustice and atrocity with the poor people of the state, he said. Chhattisgarh has been looted from top to bottom on a large scale, he said. He also said that cash, gold, diamond, property were all being found in ED's action. Despite this, why is the Congress standing with the corrupt? he asked.

Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too fiercely targeted the Chhattisgarh government saying that Chhattisgarh is being discussed with ED and CD. 'If ED will not come on coal scam will there be a proposal for Bharat Ratna', asked Singh. Raising questions on the law and order situation of the state, Raman Singh asked will beating a woman and dragging her by hair would be the law in state?

Farewell ceremony of Governor organized at Raj Bhavan

Raipur, Feb 20: Farewell function of Governor Anusuiya Uikey was organised at Raj Bhavan on Monday. Addressing all the officers and employees of the Raj Bhavan family, Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey recalled various moments of her tenure and expressed her gratitude for the cooperation of the Raj Bhavan family. Governor Ms. Uikye said that working as the Governor of Chhattisgarh is an unforgettable moment for her. She said that a large number of people from Surguja to Bastar came to meet him with their problems and she made every possible effort to solve their problems. She said that during her tenure, continuous efforts were made by her to establish Raj Bhavan as Jan Bhavan. For this, she also underlined the cooperation of the Raj Bhavan family. Remembering the art, tradition and culture of Chhattisgarh, the Governor described it as a priceless specialty of Chhattisgarh. She said that the people of Chhattisgarh are very straightforward and simple, this gives a special identity to the people here. Governor also expressed gratitude for the love and respect received by all the tribal communities including the people of the state. Along with this, the Governor urged all the officers and employees to cooperate with the new Governor of Chhattisgarh, just as you all have cooperated with me to work in the interest of the public. On this occasion, Secretary to the Governor Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho, Legal Advisor Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, Deputy Secretary Mr. Deepak Agarwal, Mr. Vivek Shukla, Major Siddharth Singh, Controller Mr. Harbansh Miri and Personal Assistant to the Governor Mr. Jitendra Solanki also addressed the function. Recalled the tenure of the Governor and shared the Raj Bhavan and its related experiences. Everyone thanked the Governor and expressed their gratitude towards him. Along with this, all the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to Governor Uikey on becoming the Governor of Manipur State. A memento was presented to the Governor on behalf of the Raj Bhavan family on the occasion.

Counterfeit notes worth Rs 4.44 lakh seized

Mahasamund, Feb 20: Two accused along with a minor have been nabbed with counterfeit notes worth Rs 4.44 lakh in the denomination of Rs 500 and a case under section A489 (K) (G) and Section 34 of IPC and were produced in the court and sent to jail. Both the accused were using the minor to consume the counterfeit notes in the market.

Disclosing in this case, SP Mahasamund informed that two accused viz. Ramlakhan Kaiwart S/o Panchram (47) and Pawan Kumar S/o Seetaram Sahu (43), along with a minor boy were roaming around in the city and they got information that they are trying to consume counterfeit currency in the market. On this the Cybercell and City Kotwali Police gheraoed them and nabbed the two and minor boy.

The accused Ramlakhan is already having case of 420 filed against him in Ganj thana. SP informed that the two accused were planned to use the counterfeit notes in Mahasamund and in neighbouring districts of Rajnandgaon, Raipur and in Odisha as well. Ramlakhan informed police that as against counterfeit notes of Rs 50000, he used to give original Rs 20000 in return. The Cybercrime and Kotwali Police is now searching for the accused involved in use of counterfeit notes in Odisha and is checking the record of two accused nabbed.

YC, NSUI gheraoe ED office to protest raid

Raipur, Feb 20: Youth Congress and NSUI workers gheraoed Enforcement Directorate Headquarters in Raipur in protest against raid on some Congress leaders. Angry protestors also scuffled with CRPF personnel. The YC and NSUI workers gheraoed ED Office after they came to know about ED raid on some Congress leaders including Ram Gopal Agrawal, RP Singh, Sunny Agrawal and Vinod Tiwari. Describing ED raid as conspiracy to disturb upcoming Congress session they staged protest.

Police had already barricaded the area around ED office.

When agitating Youth Congress and NSUI workers reached near ED office by breaking barricading, CRPF personnel started using mild force on protesters. Seeing the situation of lathicharge, some workers dispersed. But the rest of the angry workers surrounded a jawan. Protestors tried to thrash the CRPF jawan but the local police present on the spot tried to handle situation. They were seen persuading the protestors to calm down. The noisy protest continued outside the ED office for about 1 to 1.5 hours.

First divisional-level checkup prog for elderly organized

Raipur, Feb 20: On the initiative of the state government, for the first time, a divisional level assessment and accessories distribution ceremony was organized for senior citizens in Temri village of Raipur to solve the physical problems faced by senior citizens in old age. In the programme, free eye, ear, dental and bone medical tests were done for the elderly. Along with this, auxiliary equipment was also distributed to them. About 8.5 thousand senior citizens of Raipur division were tested here. These include 4638 senior citizens of Raipur district, 1364 of Dhamtari, 832 of Mahasamund, 736 of Gariaband and 858 of Balodabazar. After the test, the elderly will be provided with assistive devices as per their requirement like walking stick, spectacles, artificial teeth, wheel chair etc. On the instructions of the state government, sequential testing camps will be organized for the elderly in Durg, Bilaspur, Bastar and Surguja divisions. On the instructions of Social Welfare Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia, arrangements for transport and food for the senior citizens in the program were made by the Social Welfare Department. He has given good wishes to all the elders for a healthy and long life.

It is notable that the state government is running several schemes including pension for the welfare and care of the elderly. Helpline number 155326 and toll-free number 1800-233-8989 are being operated for quick redressal of the problems of senior citizens.

CM virtually released an amount of Rs 8.63 cr

To the beneficiaries of Godhan Nyaya Yojana

Rs 412.19 cr has been paid to the beneficiaries of GNY

'Products made from cow dung have reached the general public'

Raipur, Feb 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday virtually released an amount of Rs 8.63 cr to cattle rearers, women's groups associated with Gauthans and Gauthan committees under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana (GNY), at the programme organized at his residence office here. Beneficiaries of this scheme have so far received payments of Rs 412.19 cr. Since the inception of this scheme, a total of 105.63 lakh quintals of cow dung have been purchased. In addition, after payment of Rs 4.76 cr to cow dung sellers today, a sum of Rs 211.25 cr has been paid to them in the lieu of cow dung purchase.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated and extended his best wishes to the cattle rearers, women's groups, and Gauthan committees. He said that there is a 59 per cent increase in the number of livestock farmers benefiting from the GNY and an 85% increase in cow dung purchases. He said that yesterday, we unveiled a statue of Shivaji, which was painted with natural paint made from cow dung, which is a good thing that this paint is also being used by the public.

He added that out of the total amount being transferred today, Rs 4.76 cr was paid for the purchase of cow dung. Of this, an amount of Rs 2.06 cr has been paid by the department and an amount of Rs 2.70 cr has been paid by the self-supporting Gauthans. He said that a total of 10,732 Gauthans have been sanctioned in the state, out of which 9, 720 have been constructed and are functional now. This means that the construction of 91 per cent of the approved Gauthans has been completed. Construction of the remaining 7 per cent of Gauthans is going on at a rapid pace.

The Chief Minister said that the GNY is progressing successfully and is benefiting many people. A total of 45 units have been approved in 21 districts for manufacturing natural paint from cow dung, of which 13 units have already started. The construction of the remaining 32 units is underway at a fast pace. So far, 30,218 liters of paint have been produced, of which 14,358 liters have been sold, resulting in a revenue of Rs 29.16 lakh.

He added that the purchase of 'Gomutra' is being done in 99 Gauthans. So far, 1,33,484 liters of cow urine have been purchased worth Rs 5,37,936. An income of Rs. 28,96,845 has been generated from the production and sale of Brahmastra insecticide and Jeevamrut growth promoter made from 'Gomutra'.

On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Chief Minister's Chief Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh, Chief Minister's Secretary Dr. S. Bharatidasan, Secretary Dr. Ayaj Tamboli, and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

One accused arrested with 4 stolen motorcycles

Jagdalpur, Feb 20: Parpa police have arrested the accused of bike theft under the leadership of district police station incharge Dhananjay Siha. Accused Sevak Lal alias Satish Sinha father late Baldev Ram Sinha aged 38 years is a resident of village Polkarra police station Fingeshwar district Gariaband. At present, a total of 4 stolen motor cycles have been seized from the accused from village Ektaguda, Panchayat Kusmi, Thana Bakavad, District Bastar. In which 2 motor cycles were stolen from Medical College Dimrapal and 1 motor cycle was stolen from Kotwali police station area. And information is being obtained regarding 1 motor cycle. The estimated market value of 4 stolen motor cycles is Rs. 2 lakh. The accused has been arrested today on February 19 and produced before the court and taken on judicial remand.

1st Convocation of Amity University on Feb 23

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: The 1st Convocation of Amity University Chhattisgarh is scheduled on on 23rd February 2023.

The Convocation for the students who have successfully completed their Academic Programs in 2022 will be held on 23rd February 2023 at the university's campus located in Manth (Kharora), Chhattisgarh.

The Convocation ceremony is a momentous occasion for the graduating students, their families, and the university community. It marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment, and symbolizes the beginning of a new phase in the lives of the graduates.

The Chief Guest for the occasion will be Dr. Aseem K. Chauhan, Chairman of Amity University Chhattisgarh. The event will also be attended by the Chancellor of Amity University Chhattisgarh, Dr. W. Selvamurthy and other distinguished guests from the fields of academia, industry, and government.

During the ceremony, the graduates will be conferred with their respective degrees and diplomas, and outstanding students will be felicitated for their academic and extracurricular achievements. The event will conclude with a valedictory address by the Honorable Chairman.

Mayor unveils road in memory of freedom fighter

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 20: Sunday was a red letter day for the entire Gujrati community as road from Telghani Naka to Railway Station square was named after late freedom fighter Pranlal Bhai Pandya. The board with late freedom fighter's name written on it was jointly dedicated by Mayor Ezaz Dhebar, MLA Kuldeep Juneja, BJP District President Jayanti Bhai Patel, corporator Gyanesh Sharma and Suresh Channawar. Speaking on this occasion Shri Gujrati Brahma Samaj president Kirti Bhai Vyas said, in the entire Gujarati community Late Raicha, Late Babaria and Late Pandya were the three freedom fighters. He added, coming generation will keep taking inspirations from them and is a moment of pride for all Gujarati family. In this programme different branches of Gujarati Community registered their participation. Hitesh Vyas conducted the programme while Ashok Trivedi proposed vote of thanks.

Animal health checkup camp organised by Sarda Dairy and Food Products

Raipur, Feb 20: Sarda Dairy and Food Products Ltd, Kharora under the aegis of Sarda Energy and Minerals, Raipur organised the animal health checkup camp on February 17 in which Sarda Dairy, Director, HK Tamrakar, Doctor Dr Naiem Makrani, Assistant General Manager Prakash Chandrakar, Assistant Manager Bhubaneswar Sahu successfull conducted the health checkup camp for animals at village Khouli. About 200 animals were given the anti worm medicine giving the primary treatment. In addition to this the other health related problems of the animals - Diarrhea, Preganancy related problems were examined. In the camp the cattlemen participated with much enthusiasim and carried out the health checkup of animal. The camp was organised successfully with the cooperation of Dr Rishi Gupta, Dr Panjal, Dongendra Sahu, Amit Soni, Narendra Kaushik and Bhagwat Sahu. The cooperation of medical representatives of companies like Godrej Agrovet, Mahamaya Traders, Antas and Kargil were also appreciable. Sarpanch of village Khouli Mrs Chameli Dhanajik Chandarkar also extended her cooperation to make the event successfull.

DPI to operate RTE again

Raipur, Feb 20: Under Right to Education Act (RTE) the operation of admission, control and payment of fee reimbursement amount of BPL children has now been handed over to the Directorate of Public Instructions (DPI). School Education Department has withdrawn the responsibility of RTE from overall education by issuing an order from Mantralaya in this regard.

About two and a half months ago, the School Education Department had handed over the responsibility of conducting all the works of RTE to the State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, but in view of the technical difficulties, now the operation of RTE has again been given to the Directorate of Public Instructions.

In the letter issued by the government, it has been said that it will not be possible to take the sanctioned budget amount for fee reimbursement in the Single Nodal Account (SNA) of Samagra Shiksha. Other administrative control, including recognition and cancellation of private schools, rests with the District Education Officer. The District Education Officer works under the direct control of the Director of Public Instructions. The Managing Director of Samagra Shiksha has no direct control over the private schools.

Under the RTE, the state government is paying the fees of children from class nursery to class 8th to unaided private schools, but the Government of India approves the amount for fee reimbursement of children from class 1st to 8th only. The School Education Department has clarified that the Government of India does not sanction funds for nursery. Under the Right of Children to Free Education Act, the fees of the children admitted and studying in the limit of 25 percent is paid by the Director of Public Instructions to unaided private schools after obtaining budget approval from the state government. The Government of India approves the amount for fee reimbursement of children from class 1st to 8th only, which is returned by this office to the Directorate of Public Instructions.

Dr. Shinde made Millets Phalahar for consumption during fasts

Famous Chef of Nagpur on last day of Ch'garh Millet Carnival

Gave live demonstration of the high-protein recipe of Barnyard Paneer Cutlet with Peanut Chutney

Recommended protein-rich breakfast during fasts

Raipur, Feb 20: On the last day of Chhattisgarh Millet Carnival held in Netaji Subhash Stadium in Raipur, Nagpur's famous Chef Dr. Nitin Shinde gave a live demonstration of making Barnyard Paneer Cutlet with Peanut Chutney, which is ideal for consumption during fasts. He said that while observing fasts, one should prefer protein rich millet dishes over carbohydrate-dense Sabudana, so that they don't experience fatigue. After preparing the recipe, he served the dish to everyone present on the occasion. People loved the taste of the dish. Additionally, he also taught them the right way of cooking millets while sharing many tips. He also answered the queries of people regarding millets.

Chef Dr. Nitin Shinde said that millets should always be soaked for 4-5 hours before cooking, so that they cook properly. To elevate the taste and aroma of the millets, they can be sautéed in ghee. He recommended cooking millets on slow flame, so that the their nutritional value is not compromised.

It is noteworthy that the three-day long Millet Carnival is being organized under the auspices of Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association and IIMR Hyderabad. A Millet Food Court has also been set up in this unique Carnival where citizens can experience the delicious taste of millet dishes. The aim of the Millet Carnival is to include millets in the daily diets of people and to create awareness about its nutritional value.

Divisional-level workshop of Women's Commission on 23rd

Ambikapur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh State Women's Commission will hold a one-day divisional-level workshop training on February 23. The training will begin at 10 a.m. at the Rajmohani Devi Bhavan in Ambikapur. Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, Chairman of the Commission, will preside over the workshop. The training will be attended by officers from the Women and Child Development Department, Labor Department, Police Department, and other departments. Representatives from Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Panchayats will also be present.

DIG Balaji Rao visits two police stations

Kondagaon, Feb 20: North Bastar Kanker DIG Balaji Rao visited the sensitive police station areas Mardapal, Pungarpal and new camp Kudhur of Kondagaon district and met the jawans and got information about their working style and motivated them.

During the tour of the remote Naxal area, DIG reviewed the ongoing development works in the marked village of the remote area of Kondagaon district under Manwa Nawanar and informed the jawans posted in Camp Kudur about precautions and safety measures during Naxal patrolling.

After that he inspected the geographical area of Mardapal and Pungarpal police stations and gave necessary directions to the officers and jawans of the respective police stations. During the camp inspection of DIG Balaji Rao, DSP Naxal Operation Satish Bhargava, Police Station Incharge Mardapal Raman Usendi, Police Station Incharge Pungarpal Ramji Tarme, CAF 5th Battalion F Company Commander AN Yadav and Police and CAF. K other officers and jawans were present.

CM Baghel invited to Virat Satsang Sammelan

Raipur, Feb 20: The Chief Minister had a courtesy meeting with the saint delegation of Akhil Chhattisgarh Kabir Panth's Sadguru Ashram Sonpairi at his residential office today. Official Mr. Mukesh Kosle invited Chief Minister Mr. Baghel as the Chief Guest to the Virat Satsang Sammelan to be organized by the Akhil Chhattisgarh Kabir Panth on 1 March in Sonpairi Sejbajar Raipur. The Chief Minister thanked the delegation politely for the invitation and gave his best wishes for the successful organization of the event.

Teachers staged a day's strike

Demanding pre-service calculation for OPS

Photo-Dharna-Teachers

Jagdalpur, 20 February: On Monday, under the banner of Purv Sewa Ganana Morcha (PSGM), a one-day protest demonstration was held at Jagdalpur Mandi premises under the leadership of District Convenor Rajesh Gupta and Shailendra Tiwari of Shikshak Morcha, demanding the benefit of service from the first day of the appointment.

Due to this a situation of lockout was created in 70 percent schools and the mid-day meal programme in primary and pre-secondary schools was also affected. Teachers say that after the Chhattisgarh government's decision to implement the old pension scheme (OPS), the old pension is being calculated from the year 2018 to the teachers of LB cadre after the merger of their education department. Along with this, the service before the year 2018 is being considered as zero. While teacher LB cadre is getting NPS since before 2018. Teachers do not seem to be taking interest even on the option being filled for old pension scheme. During this, many teachers addressed the protest and it was coordinated by Tuladas Manikpuri.

A memorandum was given by the Sangh in the name of Chief Minister, Education Minister, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary School Education Department, Secretary Finance Department, Secretary General Administration Department, Director Public Education/Pension and Provident Fund calculation on five-point demands. Tehsildar Jagdalpur Pushparaj Patra accepted the memorandum after reaching the venue itself.

The total service for old pension should be calculated on the basis of previous service in the memorandum. The qualifying service for pension fixation should be made 20 years instead of 33 years like the Central Government. Salary discrepancy of assistant teachers should be removed. On the basis of the date of first appointment, the upgraded pay scale should be given according to the public announcement. The time limit for selection of irreversible option for OPS / NPS should be increased by 3 months. Praveen Srivastava, Shiv Singh Chandel, Shivraj Thakur, Tahir Sheikh, Amit Pal Sudhir Dubey, Mangalram Maurya, Harendra Singh Rajput, Fuldas Nagesh, Kamla Sharma, B. Poddar, Manish Thakur, Budhram Kashyap, Neelmai Sahu, Tuladas Manikpuri in protest demonstration Including Anil Pandey, Jagdish, Ravindra Thakur, Pitabar Sethia, Neelam Jha, Bhumika Nishad, Aparna Rajput, Chanchala Baghmare, Padma Kashyap, Shobhavati, Dayanidhi Bisai, Rahul Thakur, Yogesh Hardahe, Chaitya Panigrahi, Lakheram Bisai, Shiv Jangde, Krishna Thakur Thousands of female and male teachers were present.

Information camp set up in the weekly bazaar

Kondagaon, Feb 20: With the aim of promoting public welfare schemes and achievements of the state government, in compliance with the instructions given by the Public Relations Department, the District Public Relations Office, Kondagaon, is organizing a photo exhibition along with information camps in the Haat-Bazars of the district. In this connection, a photo exhibition was organized in the weekly market of Banskot of Baderajpur block, district headquarters Kondagaon and Bahigaon of Keshkal block previous day along with the information camp, which was viewed by the villagers. During this time, the villagers have supported the state government's Chhattisgarh Model of Justice, New Chapter of Justice, Prosperous Farming Khushhal Kisan, Chhattisgarh Millet Mission, Chief Minister Mitan Yojana, Forest Rights Recognition, Chief Minister Plantation Promotion Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Bijli Se Nyaya Ka Ujiara, Brahmastra for Cow Urine Farming, Empowered Women, Empowered Society, Service Protection Concerns, Olympics 2022, New Chapter of Justice, Janaman, Ways of Justice for Everyone, 4 Years of Justice. During the information camp and photo exhibition, Suryakant Chandrakar, Sahdev Maurya and Ghanshyam Netam of the Public Relations Department gave detailed information about the welfare schemes and programs of the state government.

BJPBCM District Working Committee concludes

Central Chronicle News

Gourella Pendra Marwahi, Feb 20: The District Working Committee meeting of BJP Backward Class Morcha (BJPBCM) in District Gaurela Pendra Marwahi was held at Kotmi Kala Village of Pendra Rural Mandal.

The welcome speech was done by Sandeep Jaiswal, District President of Backward Class Morcha and all the district and state office bearers were welcomed by garlanding.

District President Sandeep Jaiswal presented the details of the work done by the Backward Class Morcha so far and political resolution was read by Vice President Limeswar Kushwaha and supported by Mithlesh Sahu. A 16-point action plan was given by the State Backward Classes; and it was read by District General Secretary Shiv Gupta.

Sunita Manikpuri, who was present as the keynote speaker, in her address told the backward class the key to victory for the upcoming elections, if all the workers follow the 16 points given by the state leadership, then victory will be sure.

District President BJP Kanhaiya Rathore talked about taking the welfare schemes of the Center to the public. State Working Committee member Luv-Kush Kashyap in his address described the role of backward classes as the best and motivated the workers to work with one formula.

State Social Media Management Committee member, Rakesh Chandrakar, Kisan Morcha State Vice President Brijlal Singh Rathore, District General Secretary Rakesh Chaturvedi, Lalji Yadav, District Vice President Kuber Sarrati, Mahila Morcha President Sameera Paikra, District Treasurer Mukesh Dubey, Backward Classes State Working Member Ashish Gupta and Treasurer Rakesh Shriwas also addressed the meeting.

The birth anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj was also celebrated by the workers of the Morcha. Radheshyam Jaiswal, Kailash Verma, Sharad Tamarkar, Pramod Rai, Puran Rajak, Jagdish Prasad Rajak, Abhishek Jaiswal, Narayan Rajak were present.

Grand Shivling established in Kapileshwar temple

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Feb20: In the ancient Kapileshwar temple group of Balod city, the festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated with great pomp and people came to perform special prayers while the kanwariyas performed Jalabhishek by bringing water in the stepwell here. Devotees are coming and going and in groups of special Shivling, women, young and old people are coming and worshiping from far away.

This is an ancient temple and it has its own belief and installation of grand Shivling has doubled the faith of the devotees. Local councilor and member of the temple, Mohan Kalihari told that on the occasion of Mahashivratri, like every year, special worship is being done this year as well, and this year the huge idol of Lord Shiva and Shivling is also being established. Ganesh idols are inscribed above the door of each temple and the figures of snakes are inscribed on the pinnacle of the temples, he said. It is estimated that local Nagvanshi kings would have ruled here too and it is believed here the temple of Lord Rama is divided into the sanctum sanctorum and the pavilion. The water of the water tank of the temple never dries up and the devotees who reached here told that there is a kund in front of the Shiva temple here, which too never dries up.

Asphalt cover up in the name of road repair

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Feb 20: In the district, mere cover-up is being done in the name of repairing the roads, and in the name of repair, asphalting is done at one or two places and the rest of the bad roads are abandoned. Citizens are angry due to non-repair work on bad roads after repairing them at one or two places.

After the instructions of the Chief Minister to repair the dilapidated potholed roads of the state, the work of repairing the bad roads was also started in the district and in the district headquarters, on the main road going from Daupara to Karhi, some parts of the road were left asphalted in the name of repair.

Similarly, on the bridge coming out of the old bus stand near the church, the roads have been asphalted at one or two places as a formality.

The condition of the road above the bridge itself is pathetic and ballast is coming out after getting uprooted. The approach road connecting the bridge to the road also has potholes, which have not been repaired. In the name of formality, the road has been built from Ramgarh to Kharraghat Bridge only and there are big potholes in the road leading to Budhwari Bazar, on the other hand, repair work has not been done in the road going from Bilaspur main road to canal road and to police line and district hospital, due to which big potholes have been formed.

There is anger among the citizens for doing only formalities in the name of road repair and due to non-repair; people say that the officers here are openly disobeying the orders of the Chief Minister. On contacting the officials in this context, it is told that the repair work is going on, and presently the work is going on at another place.

Action to be taken against shopkeepers encroaching

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Feb 20: Regarding increasing encroachment in Nagar Panchayat Kharora, a necessary meeting was called in front of Nagar Panchayat Officer, Police Station Kharora, by Chamber of Commerce and city traders in NAPM.

The Nagar Panchayat administration has taken a tough stand against the ever-increasing encroachment on drains and square intersections in the city and in order to remove it in the next 3 days, the administration will start the process of removing the encroachment, for which supervision is under process.

To keep the city clean and provide ease of movement of the people, the Nagar Panchayat administration has started implementing the action and the drains located on both sides of the city's Main Road, Raipur Road, Baloda Bazar Road, Tilda Road have been encroached upon by installing ladders, tin sheds, shops with banner posters etc.

Regarding its removal, the Nagar Panchayat administration has given strict instructions for concrete action and Nagar Panchayat CMO Bansat Lonhare said that it is the responsibility of the Nagar Panchayat to remove encroachments and provide transportation facilities to the people.

Regarding this, within the next 3 days, all the encroachers should remove their encroachments themselves; otherwise action will be taken to remove the encroachment from the fourth day. The amount of expenditure incurred on removal of encroachment will also be recovered from the encroachers only.

17th annual meeting of CMSS felicitates talents

- Appreciates good work of the members

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 20: Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj Samiti's (CMSS) 17th annual meeting , introduction and talent award ceremony was held on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at Dongargarh, the heart of Matri Shakti Bambaleshwari, in the presence of Rajesh Kumar, General Manager , Food Corporation of India.

The programme was chaired by Dr. Niranjan Sarang, B.L. Meena, Manager Bhilai Steel Plant, first chairman and founder member Chimman Lal Meena, Chief Office Superintendent, Chiranji Lal, General Secretary and members of tribal Meena

community from Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Raipur and all over Chhattisgarh in large numbers.

The chief guest of the ceremony Rajesh Kumar said in his speech that Meena society has a unique identity in the country in terms of its unique culture, costumes, folk singing, customs, festival traditions and this unique identity has curved a niche in the world and it gives the community matter of pride and special feeling.

The chief guest Rajesh Kumar appealed to the new generation and said that they should now adopt their own business in addition to government jobs. Chairman of Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj Samiti Dr Niranjan Sarang presiding over the program in his welcome address said that Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj Samiti is an organization registered by Chhattisgarh Government and dedicatedly works for education, health, environment etc.

In the tribal areas of the state He added that every year Meena Samaj Samiti, Chhattisgarh organizes an annual meeting , introduction and talent recognition ceremony, in which students and members of the community who work for the welfare of the society receive certificates of appreciation as a mark of respect and encouragement.

In the program, Kishanlal Patel, Nareda from Rajasthan, appreciated the good works of the society and praised all the members of Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj. BL Meena, Manager Bhilai Steel Plant said that the present working is doing a commendable work, we are very proud of them.

The program was conducted by Chimman Lal Meena, the first president and founder member of Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj Samiti who also holds the post of Chief Office Superintendent, SECR.

In the 17th conference, tribal Meena community members from all areas of Chhattisgarh, Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Raipur, Durg, Bhilai participated in large numbers. In the program, women sang songs of Meena culture and performed dance. Chiranji Lal, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh Meena Samaj Samiti proposed vote of thanks at the end.

Quiz and poster-making competition organized

- In Swami Atmanand School

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 20: Quiz and poster making and fancy dress competition was organized by Science-Mathematics Club at Rambishal Pandey Excellent English Medium School.

It is worth mentioning that with the aim of encouraging practical education of science and mathematics among the students, Science-Mathematics Club has been formed in each school by Samagra Shiksha Chhattisgarh and in this context, various activities have been organized by the Prayagraj Science Mathematics Club formed in the school with the aim of increasing the trend towards science and mathematics among the children.

In this perspective, quiz, poster making and fancy dress competition was organized under the guidance of club in-

charge lecturer Samiksha Gaikwad. The quiz competition was conducted in four rounds which included Science, Questions related to Mathematics and Current Affairs were asked. While observing the posters of the participating students, Principal Sanjay Ekka motivated them to increase their interest in science and adopt a scientific approach.

As a judge, NCC officer Sagar Sharma told the participating students to adopt the subject knowledge in practical life. Teachers Jitendra Sahu, Punendra Baghmar, Upasana Bhagat, Pinky Tarak had a special participation in the quiz competition. In the program Principal Hindi B. L Verma, Vice Principal B.L. Dhruv, Senior Lecturer R. K. Yadav, M. K. Chandan, Deepak Kumar, Jamil Ahmed were present.

School children made aware about TB

Bemetara, Feb 20: As per the order of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Ganesh Lal Tandon and under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme, District Tuberculosis Officer Bemetara and as per the instructions of D.Sahu and Block Medical Officer Nawagarh camps were organised under the guidance of Raza on Feb 16 at Government Higher Secondary School, Sambalpur and on Feb 17 at Lalit Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Nawagarh Development Block, Nawagarh District, Bemetara, by Senior Treatment Supervisor Pramod Sahu Community Health Center, Nawagarh.

NAME CHANGE

The general public is hereby informed that my old name was Meen Kumar S/o Bodhram and has now changed it to Meen Kumar Kathley, S/o Bodhram Kathley, R/o Gram Pataidih, Post-Pachpedi, Tehsil-Masturi, District Bilaspur (C.G.).
In the near future in all the government, semi-government and other documents, I should be known and identified as Meen Kumar Kathley, S/o Bodhram Kathley.

Deponent
Meen Kumar Kathley
S/o Bodhram Kathley
R/o Village Pataidih,
Post-Pachpedi
Tehsil-Masturi,
District Bilaspur- C.G.

New technology LHB coaches in 19 trains running through SECR

For safe and comfortable travel of railway passengers

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur/Raipur, Feb 20: The convenience, safety and safe rail operation of railway passengers is the top most priority of South East Central Railway.

In order to provide better travel experience to rail passengers, convenient, comfortable and safe, all trains running on South East Central Railway will be gradually replaced with new technology LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches by replacing old ICF (Integral Coach Factory) coaches.

At present in South East Central Railway19 trains are being run with new technology LHB coaches. South East Central Railway has a total of 624 LHB coaches in 21 rakes of 19 trains.

A normal ICF sleeper coach has 72 berths, while an LHB sleeper coach has 80 berths. Similarly, ICF AC-3 coach has 64 berths, while LHB sleeper coach has 72 berths and ICF AC-2 coach has 46 berths. Providing more berths in sleeper and AC coaches also helps in providing maximum number of confirmed berths to railway passengers.

Hydraulic suspension is used in LHB coaches. Suspension has also been used for the same right-left movement, which makes the journey comfortable.

South East Central Railway's (1) Bilaspur-Bhagat Ki Kothi (2) Bilaspur-Bikaner (3) Bilaspur-Patna (4) Bilaspur-Ernakulam (5) Bilaspur-Chennai (6) Bilaspur-Pune (7) Raipur-Korba (8) Bilaspur-Amritsar, Chhattisgarh X (9) Durg-Nizamuddin, Samparkranti (10) Durg-Jammu Tawi (11) Durg-Nautanwa (12) Durg-Kanpur (13) Durg-Ajmer (14) Durg-Udhampur (15) Durg LHB coach facility has been provided in Nizamuddin, Humsafar (16) Durg-Bhopal, Amarkantak Express (17) Durg-Firozpur, Antyodaya Express (18) Durg-Nautanwa and (19) Durg-Ajmer Express are running with LHB coaches.

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BRIEF

Bihar Minister and Janta Dal (United) leader Ashok Choudhary being welcomed by party workers upon his arrival at Birsa Munda Airport, in Ranchi, Monday.

Visit

■ **Jammu:** People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Monday visited the historic Raghunath bazar here. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister interacted with traders to ascertain the current situation in one of the economic and trade hubs of the summer capital, party leaders said. Mufti met the office bearers of Raghunath bazar traders association who apprised her about the work undertaken and progress during her tenure as the chief minister, they said.

Hospitalised

■ **Mangaluru:** BJP leader and the party's Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh was admitted to a private hospital here on Monday after he complained of chest pain, party sources said. Singh was immediately rushed to the hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

Scooter ride

■ **Srinagar:** A video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra enjoying a ride on a snow scooter in Gulmarg ski resort of Jammu and Kashmir is breaking the internet. In the footage, the Gandhi siblings can be seen taking turns in the driver's seat of the snow scooter with several other scooters, carrying security personnel of the Congress leaders, in tow.

Encounter

■ **Bulandshahr:** A wanted criminal carrying a reward of Rs 1.25 lakh was killed in an encounter with the special task force of the Uttar Pradesh police in Gulawathi area here, officials said on Monday. Three policemen were also injured in the incident, they said.

Bail

■ **Port Blair:** The former chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain was granted bail by the Port Blair circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court on Monday in the rape case filed by a 21-year-old woman. The bench of Justice Chittaranjan Dash and Justice Md Nizamuddin granted conditional bail to Narain.

Sworn-in

■ **Kohima:** La Ganesan was sworn-in as the Nagaland governor on Monday. Ganesan succeeded Prof Jagdish Mukhi, the Governor of Assam, who was holding additional charge of Nagaland from September 2021 to February 14 this year.

'Azam Khan was punished for his doing'

Meerut (UP), Feb 20 (PTI):

Jaya Prada

Taking a dig at Azam Khan, actor-turned-politician Jaya Prada has said the embattled Samajwadi Party leader was punished for his doing and that he will have to "pay for his sins".

The former Rampur MP, who was here for attending a programme, told reporters on Sunday, "In politics, there are differences between different parties, but there should not be so much arrogance of power that one forgets to respect women and starts doing injustice to the poor and downtrodden."

"Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam do not know how to respect women. Azam Khan has been punished for his doing," she added.

The BJP leader further said, "Azam Khan's game is over. They (Azam and his son) will have to pay for their sins."

Notably, Jaya Prada and Azam Khan had run into many controversies in the past. An FIR was lodged against the senior SP leader over his "khaki underwear" remarks against the BJP leader, who was then fighting the Lok Sabha polls from Rampur against him in 2019.

Azam Khan, who was elected MLA from Rampur Sadar seat in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections held last year, was disqualified after being sentenced to three years imprisonment for giving hate speech during the campaign for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

His son Abdullah Azam, who won from Swar seat, was also disqualified after being sentenced to two years in prison recently for holding illegal sit-in demonstrations in 2008.

Talking about the upcoming 2024 general elections, Jaya Prada said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will once again get a huge majority and form the government under the leadership of Narendra Modi. Rampur seat will also be won by the saffron party, she added.

LAST MINUTE REVISION

Students outside an examination centre before appearing for the CBSE Board exam, in Moradabad, Monday.

MP's new excise policy 'historic and revolutionary': Uma

Bhopal, Feb 20 (PTI):

Uma Bharti

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Uma Bharti on Monday welcomed Madhya Pradesh's new excise policy, saying it reflects her demand to discourage liquor consumption and described it as a "historic and revolutionary" decision.

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Sunday approved the new excise policy under which 'ahatas', or areas for drinking attached to liquor outlets, and shop bars will be closed. State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the new excise policy is designed to discourage liquor consumption.

Bharti had demanded a "controlled liquor policy" in MP. The former MP chief minister, who had started her campaign with the demand for total prohibition, gradually relaxed it and asked for regularisation of liquor sale in the state, where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

In a series of tweets on Monday, Bharti said the liquor policy announced by the state government is a "historic and revolutionary" decision and thanked Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on behalf of all the citizens, especially women.

The new liquor policy totally prohibits drinking sitting in front of the liquor shop. The decision to close ahatas across the state and introducing stringent penal provisions for driving under the influence of alcohol are special parts of this policy which make Madhya Pradesh a "model state" for the excise policy, she said.

Bharti said CM Chouhan has made it clear that the public interest is supreme for the BJP government in the state.

The new policy also ensures that liquor shops for which there has been huge public protest will not be auctioned, she noted.

The administration and elected representatives will have to be very cautious in the policy implementation, she added.

Bihar jail inmate swallows mobile phone

● **During checking**

Gopalganj (Bihar), Feb 20 (PTI):

An inmate of Bihar's Gopalganj district jail reportedly swallowed a mobile phone during checking out of fear being caught by prison officers, an official said on Monday.

Qaishar Ali, the prisoner, swallowed the phone on Saturday during inspection. The matter, however, came to light on Sunday after Ali developed extreme pain in his stomach.

"The prisoner informed the jail authorities and narrated the sequence of events. He was immediately rushed to Gopalganj district hospital where the x-ray of the inmate revealed the presence of a foreign particle in his abdomen," Manoj Kumar, Gopalganj jail superintendent told PTI on Monday.

Salam Siddiqui, the doctor at the hospital's emergency ward said, "The prisoner was admitted in the hospital due to stomach pain. The x-ray of his stomach was taken and the presence of foreign particles was visible during the examination. There is a need to investigate it thoroughly".

A medical board was constituted by the hospital and the man was referred the prisoner to Patna Medical College and Hospital for further treatment.

Ali was arrested by Gopalganj police on January 17, 2020 under provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act). He has been in jail for the last three years.

Use of mobile phone by inmates inside Bihar prisons has raised eyebrows over security officers' credentials. Around 35 cellphones, seven sim cards and 17 cellphone chargers were seized during raids conducted in jails across the state in March 2021.

WB govt employees stick to 48-hour bandh call

● **For DA regularisation**

Kolkata, Feb 20 (PTI):

West Bengal government employees of different departments stuck to their decision to hold a 48-hour strike from Monday for DA parity with the central government, ignoring government warning of action against them.

They are also demanding corruption free appointment.

State government employees organisations, like the 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha' (United Struggle Platform), joined the cease work in different departments in the Writers' Buildings, New Secretariat, in courts, schools and other educational institutions in the city as well as in Siuri, Birbhum, Medinipur, Nadia, Malda, Murshidabad, Howrah, Hooghly and other districts. "We are sticking to our decision on the ceasework for regularisation of dearness allowance and corruption free appointments. We are shocked with the state government's decision of a three per cent hike in the DA. We will continue with our agitation," said a protestor at the food and supplies department here.

The state government has issued an order stating that employees who stays away from work on these two days will have to face action. "The protestors will lose salary and this pen down will be treated as break in service. We will issue show cause and initiate disciplinary action if they fail to furnish satisfactory explanation for their absence from office," said an official at the state secretariat 'Nabanna'. The state government on February 15 announced pay hike of three per cent additional DA to its employees in the 2023-24 budget at the assembly.

Drone delivers govt pension to disabled man

Sarpanch Saroj Agarwal shows a drone used for delivering pension to people with disabilities in remote areas of Odisha's Nuapada district.

● **In remote Odisha village**

Nuapada, Feb 19 (PTI):

Hetaram Satnami, a physically challenged man who lives in a remote village in Odisha's Nuapada district, had to travel 2 km every month through a dense forest to collect his government pension. This month, however, he did not have to face the ordeal as a drone came with the cash and dropped it at his house in Bhutkapada village in Bhaleswar panchayat area.

"The sarpanch sent the money with the help of a drone. It's a big relief for me as the panchayat office is over 2 km away from the village, which is surrounded by a dense forest," said a beaming Satnami, who is a beneficiary of the state's Madhu Babu Pension Yojana.

Sarpanch Saroj Agarwal said she bought a drone online after getting to know about Satnami's ordeal.

"In our panchayat area, there is a village located in the forest, Bhutkapada. A physically-challenged man, Hetaram Satanami, lives in that village. He can't move, since birth," Agarwal said.

"I enrolled him for the pension under the state scheme. I have seen how things are sent through drones in other countries. That's why I placed the order for a drone and got the money delivered to his doorstep," she said.

Subadar Pradhan, the block development officer (BDO) of Nuapada, said it was made possible with Agarwal's own initiative as the government does not have the provision to buy such devices to deliver services.

'Disruption of House proceedings not in interest of democracy'

Lucknow, Feb 20 (PTI):

Yogi Adityanath

Disruption of House proceeding is neither in the interest of democracy nor for the state and the opposition should raise issues in a dignified way, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday.

Adityanath made the remarks ahead of the start of the Budget session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

"There can be 'asahmati' (differences) between ruling and opposition parties. The ruling side cannot run away from answering issues of public interest. Disruption (of House) is neither in the interest of democracy nor the state," he told reporters in assembly premises.

He said the opposition should raise issues with "shalinta" (in a dignified way) and use "Prabhavi shabdavali" (effective words) in the House.

"The budget for 25 crore people of the state will be presented on February 22. If needed, after discussion with other party leaders, the House will also meet on Saturday also," he said.

The government, he said, was ready for a discussion and will reply on all issues raised in the interest of the public.

"We should set an example by running the House in an excellent way. This is an opportunity for us to make it (House) a platform for good debate," he said.

PRAYERS FOR WELLBEING

Devotees offer prayers near a 'Peepal' tree on the occasion of 'Somvati Amavasya', in Mirzapur, Monday.

Delhi Varsity gears up to prevent 'hooliganism'

● **During Holi**

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Holding meetings with Delhi Police personnel operationalising a joint control room and asking colleges to constitute committees are among the preventive steps taken by the Delhi University to avoid any "untoward incident" during the Holi festival and "strengthen a feeling of security" among students, especially girls.

Holi will be celebrated on March 8.

Like every year, the university is cautious and is taking preventive measures to ensure safety and security on the campus.

"The University is to gear itself to curb any menace of hooliganism in the name of Holi and to avoid any untoward incident during the festival on the university campus and in its colleges," Delhi University Proctor Rajni Abbi said in a circular to all colleges.

The Delhi University has asked its constituent colleges to form committees to avoid any "untoward incident" during the festival and "strengthen a feeling of security" among students, especially girls.

The notice has been issued by Abbi to combat "hooliganism" in the name of Holi.

The proctor said anyone found to be indulging in such acts of indiscipline and causing harassment would be subjected to strict disciplinary action.

"The university has taken necessary steps to make elaborate internal and external security arrangements on the campus, its affiliated colleges and hostels, to combat acts of hooliganism and rowdyism in the name of Holi festival causing harm to members of the university community, particularly the girl students," the circular read.

It said that those who is found to be indulging in such acts of indiscipline and causing harassment would be subjected to strict disciplinary action under the provision of University Ordinances, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act-2013.

The proctorial board has also called a meeting with the police officials of the NCT Delhi on March 1 to discuss various preventive measures to be taken to "combat hooliganism".

The university has issued a set of guidelines, asking all the students not to play the festival in a rowdy manner with wet colours, balloons or pistons in any of its educational institutions.

Also, it will be setting up control rooms on the north and south campus to receive complaints from students during the festival.

As reported, the control rooms jointly manned by Delhi Police and DTC authorities and the university officials at north and south campus would function to deal with any untoward incident.

Moreover, the varsity has directed principals, deans of faculties, head of departments and provost of halls and hostels to be available to take care of any incidence.

Pak's current account deficit shrinks 90% to USD 0.24 billion

● In January

Islamabad, Feb 20 (PTI):

Cash-strapped Pakistan's current account deficit shrank 90.2 per cent to USD 0.24 billion in January from USD 2.47 billion in the same month last year, the data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed on Monday.

"Current Account Deficit (CAD) recorded USD 0.2 billion in Jan 2023 against a deficit of USD 2.5 billion in Jan 2022," the central bank said in a brief statement on Twitter.

The decrease in the deficit is also 16.55 per cent lower than December when the SBP announced that the deficit was USD 0.29 billion.

The deficit was recorded as import restrictions continue to persist amid a balance of payments crisis that has brought the country on the verge of default, Dawn newspaper reported.

Pakistan has a chronic balance of payments problem which has exacerbated in the last year, with the country's forex reserves declining to critical levels. As of February 10, the central bank had only USD 3.2 billion in reserves, enough to cover barely three weeks of imports.

To stem dollar outflows, the government has imposed restrictions, allowing imports of only essential food items and medicines until a lifeline bailout is agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is seen as essential for the country to stave off default.

Ismail Iqbal Securities' Head of Research Fahad Rauf said the shrinking current account deficit was "not an achievement but a result of low reserves," the paper reported.

The government's strategy to restrict imports in order to safeguard reserves has turned out to be a double-edged sword, however, as several industries rely on imported inputs to continue operations. As a result, multiple companies across sectors have either suspended operations or scaled down production levels, leading to layoffs.

The latest data shows that the country's current account deficit during the first seven months of the current fiscal year stood at USD 3.8 billion, which equates to a decline of 67.13 per cent compared to July-Jan FY-21-22.

During January, USD 3.92 billion worth of goods were imported, down 7.3 per cent from the last month. On the other hand, exports also declined, clocking in at USD 2.21 billion, down 4.29 per cent from the preceding month's USD 2.31 billion.

Meanwhile, workers' remittances stood at USD 1.89 billion, declining 9.89 per cent compared to USD 2.1 billion in December, according to the paper.

Pakistan heavily relies on remittances apart from exports and foreign loans for its foreign exchange reserves. Pakistan faces a crippling economic crisis, with decades-high inflation and critically low foreign exchange reserves depleted by continued debt repayment obligations.

TRADITIONAL CARNIVAL PARADE

A carnival float depicting the fight for freedom in Iran is seen ahead of the start of the traditional carnival parade in Duesseldorf, Germany, on Monday.

Pak authorities hand over 'Indian' monkey to street performer

Lahore, Feb 20 (PTI):

A monkey, which apparently crossed into Pakistan from India last week, was handed over to a local street performer after authorities at a local zoo in Pakistan's Punjab province refused to take the primate into the facility citing space crunch and lack of veterinarians, officials said on Monday.

Rescue teams captured the monkey from a 200 feet-high cellular tower after hours-long operation.

"Rescue 1122 of Emergency Punjab Services on Friday caught a monkey, which crossed into Pakistan from India bordering Bahawalnagar city (some 260 kms from Lahore)," Rescue 1122 official Muhammad Farooq told PTI on Monday.

Farooq said his department approached the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department to house the monkey in the zoo, but authorities refused citing space crunch. "The department said it has no extra cage in the zoo to put the monkey. Therefore it should be handed over to a madaari (local street performer) for its upkeep," he said. District Wildlife Officer, Bahawalnagar, Munawar Hassain Najmi, told the Dawn newspaper that apart from space crunch at the local zoo, the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department does not even have a single vet to treat the monkeys. "The majority of the animals that crossed from India into Pakistan, especially langurs and monkeys, die from injuries, while the Bahawalnagar Wildlife Department does not even have a single vet to treat them," Najmi added.

The Australians were working for a geothermal power company, officials said. Mayor Carlos Baldo of Albay's Camalig town and other officials told reporters Sunday that, during an aerial search, authorities spotted the suspected wreckage, including the tail, scattered about 1,150 feet (350 metres) near the crater on the southwestern slope of Mayon Volcano but there was no indication of people. Eric Apolonio, spokesperson of the government's civil aviation authority, said experts and investigators from the agency would have to examine the wreckage to determine if it was the missing Cessna plane with registry number RP-C2080 and to determine the fate of the four people on board. A ground search was hampered by rainy weather over the weekend and dozens of search and rescue personnel may scale the 8,077-foot (2,462-metre) Mayon if the weather clears Monday.

The search teams would have to be closely monitored by volcano experts and local officials given the restiveness of Mayon, one of the country's 24 active volcanoes.

"It's a very risky operation," Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director Teresito Bacolcol told The Associated Press. "It's a race against time and it's a matter of life and death but there's also the danger of rockfalls and volcanic lahar." Rescue contingents could enter a permanent danger zone 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) around the volcano because "it's an extraordinary situation," but the search and rescue should be carried out by well-trained experts, who should be backed up by standby emergency contingents and made aware of the high risks involved, Bacolcol said.

A popular tourist attraction because of its near-perfect cone, Mayon last erupted in 2018, displacing tens of thousands of villagers.

It's currently under the second of five volcano alert levels, meaning volcanic earthquakes, steam and gas emissions, ground deformation and intermittent ash and steam blasts have been sporadically detected. Alert five means a major and deadly volcanic eruption is underway.

Separately, a single-engine Cessna plane that went missing on January 24 with six people on board in the northern Philippine province of Isabela remained missing.

Officials said a search for the plane was continuing on and off, depending on the weather, in a remote mountainous hinterland in Isabela.

High-risk volcano search for Philippine plane with 4 onboard

Manila, Feb 20 (AP):

Philippine authorities said Monday they would verify whether the wreckage of a small plane spotted near the crater of a restive volcano was that of a Cessna aircraft that went missing with four people on board over the weekend. The Cessna 340, which was bound for Manila, took off from Albay province southeast of the capital Saturday morning with two Filipino pilots and two Australian passengers but has not been heard from since then, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

Tagore statue at Dhaka Varsity campus vanishes; then reappears

Dhaka, Feb 20 (PTI):

A newly-unveiled statue of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore installed by students at the prestigious Dhaka University campus, which was vandalised last week, has been partially re-installed by authorities.

On February 14, students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts installed a Tagore statue with duct tape plastered on his mouth, showing him holding a copy of Gitanjali, with a nail pierced through it, according to news agency UNB.

The symbolic statue was installed near the Raju Memorial Sculpture, a prominent landmark on the campus, to protest the censorship on the campus, the report said. On February 16, the statue mysteriously disappeared, with its severed head being found nearly 2km from the university campus, UNB reported.

On Sunday, the statue was partially re-installed at the same spot — only with the head but the duct tape was removed, the report added. Shimul Kumbhakar, president of a faction of Dhaka University's Student Union, who was involved in the making of the statue, told UNB: "Dhaka University's proctor removed the sculpture in the dark of night and cut it into two parts. We collected the broken parts from Suhrawardy Udayan and re-installed it."

Responding to the Chhatra Union leader's comment, the University proctor told UNB: "We did not tear down the sculpture, we just relocated it from there.

UNNANNOUNCED VISIT

President Joe Biden, right, meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Mariinsky Palace on an unnanounced visit, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

15 killed as bus veers off road in Pak's Punjab province

● 60 injured

Lahore, Feb 20 (PTI):

A speeding bus carrying a wedding party veered off the road before falling in a ravine in Pakistan's Punjab province, killing at least 15 people and wounding 60 others, authorities said on Monday.

The bus, travelling from Islamabad to Lahore, overturned late on Sunday in the Kallar Kahar Salt Range region, some 240 km from Lahore.

"The bus, before overturning, hit three vehicles coming from the opposite direction and veered off the road," Rescue 1122 official Muhammad Farooq told PTI on Monday.

The bus was carrying people returning from a wedding ceremony.

Rescue 1122 emergency service attributed brake failure as the apparent reason for the accident.

The dead and many injured had to be extracted by cutting the bus' body, Farooq said.

"The injured were shifted to hospitals in twin cities — Rawalpindi and Islamabad — where the condition of 11 of them is critical," he said, adding that among the dead, six were women. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed sorrow over the accident.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban trade fire at border crossing

Peshawar, Feb 20 (AP):

Pakistani border guards and Afghan Taliban forces traded cross-border fire on Monday morning, officials said, a day after Afghanistan's Taliban rulers closed the Torkham border crossing amid increasing tensions between the two neighbours.

There was no immediate word on casualties on either side.

On Sunday, the Afghan Taliban shut Torkham, a key trade route, over Pakistan's alleged refusal to allow Afghan patients and their caretakers to enter Pakistan for medical care without travel documents, Pakistani security officials said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss border issues.

Khalid Khan, a local Pakistani police official, confirmed the border closure and what he described as intermittent exchanges of fire at Torkham, located in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Pakistan's military and the Foreign Ministry made no immediate comments. Mullah Mohammad Siddiq, a Taliban-appointed commissioner at Torkham, said Pakistan has not been abiding by its "commitments, so the crossing point was shut down."

Farmer from Kerala goes missing in Israel

● During government-sponsored trip

Jerusalem, Feb 20 (PTI):

Authorities in Israel have registered a police case against a 48-year-old Kerala farmer, who reportedly went missing in Israel earlier this month while visiting the country on a state government-sponsored trip to study Israeli modern agricultural techniques. Biju Kurian, a native of Ulikkal panchayat in Kannur district, was part of a 28-member Kerala government's delegation of farmers, sent to Israel to study state-of-the-art techniques such as hydroponics and precision farming.

On February 17, Kurian reportedly went missing.

Despite Israel's law enforcement agencies' best efforts to trace him, Kurian's whereabouts were not known. "We have registered a police case against him. He will be deported once we nab him," an official said.

The delegation, led by Principal Secretary B. Ashok, left for Israel on February 11. The farmers' delegation left Israel on Sunday without Kurian, they added.

Kurian's family in Kannur are also clueless about his mysterious disappearance and were making desperate attempts to reach out to him.

North Korea fires short-range missiles after making threats

This image made from video broadcasted by North Korea's KRT shows what it says is a ballistic missile being launched from an undisclosed location in North Korea.

Seoul, Feb 20 (AP):

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward Japan on Monday in its second weapons test in three days that drew quick condemnation from its rivals and prompted Tokyo to request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

The weapons firings follow an intercontinental ballistic missile launch Saturday and North Korea's threats to take an unprecedentedly strong response to U.S.-South Korean military drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal. Some experts say North Korea could use a new testing spree to expand its arsenal and intends eventually to use its boosted capability as leverage in negotiations with the United States.

South Korea's military said it detected the two missile launches from a western coastal town, just north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, on Monday morning. Japan said both missiles landed in the waters outside of the Japanese exclusive economic zone between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and that no damage involving aircraft and vessels in the area was reported. According to Japanese and South Korean assessments, the North Korean missiles flew at a maximum altitude of 50-100 kilometers (30-60 miles) and a distance of 340-400 kilometers (210-250 miles).

South Korea's military said North Korea's repeated missile launches are "a grave provocation" that undermine international peace. Japan condemned the launches as violations to the U.N. Security Council resolutions and a threat to the peace and safety of Japan and the international society.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters Monday that Japan is requesting an emergency security council meeting in response to North Korea's launches. "We must deepen Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-South Korea cooperation," Kishida said.

An initial security council briefing led by Assistant Secretary-General for political affairs Khaled Khiari was set for later Monday.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the missile launches highlight "the destabilising impact" of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs. It said the U.S. commitments to the defense of South Korea and Japan "remain ironclad."

North Korea's state media said long-range artillery units on its western coast fired two rounds Monday morning cross-country toward the eastern waters, possibly referring to the same activity its neighbors said were missile launches.

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Sealed tenders are invited for following Revetment and jacketing work:

TR No	Name of work	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs) (Incl. GST)	Date of opening
TR-600 RFX No. 8100030019	Various location of 220 KV Bhilai-Gurur line and 132 KV Bhilai- Ruabandha -Gunderdehi line inside premises of M/s NSPCL, Bhilai	28,300/-	1770/-	15.03.2023

For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions, please visit our web site www.cspc.co.in/csptcl/tendernotices'

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–:: ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::–

क्रमांक 361/वि.वि./2022–23 दिनांक 17/2/23

नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नानुसार कार्य कराया जाना है। अतएव एकल श्रेणी में "डी" या उच्चवर्ग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार अथवा आयकर व जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत व्यक्ति/फर्म निविदा दर पर ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है –

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत	निविदा जारी दिनांक
1	Supply of Misllanious Electrical Items and Accossoriss 2022-23. (2nd Call) System No. 125423, Dated- 17.02.2023	रू. 36.26 लाख	17.02.2023 से 06.03.2023 खोलने की तिथि 09.03.2023

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है अथवा ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.municipalcorporationdurg.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता

CENTRAL Chronicle
Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 322

'Rating of Buildings'

She Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today released its recommendations on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity".The exponential growth in digitalization during last decade has revolutionized the world impacting everything, from economy, innovation, science and education, to health, sustainability, governance, and lifestyles. Digital technologies are fundamentally changing business models, institutions and society. The demand for digital connectivity has increased many folds in recent years and COVID-19 has further given impetus to surge in the demand across all segments of users, irrespective of their locations. In the past, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Government have taken various policy initiatives to fulfil the demands of telecom connectivity. These policy interventions have helped in improving connectivity, resulting in wider coverage and higher data throughput. However, all these efforts have fallen short in achieving the desired level of digital connectivity experience of the users, who now prefer to work from anywhere, at any time. The rollout of 5G network has further stimulated the need of seamless experience of the 5G services, specifically inside the buildings. TRAI has conducted many studies to assess the quality of connectivity, identify challenges in providing connectivity and to suggest the way forward. Based on these studies TRAI published a Monograph on "Quest for a Good Quality Network inside Multi-Storey Residential Apartments: Reimagining ways to improve quality". Based on the above, TRAI undertook the process of consultation on Suo-moto basis to provide a framework for establishment of an eco-system wherein Digital Connectivity Infrastructure becomes part of all development activities. TRAI issued Consultation Paper (CP) on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity" on 25th March 2022, to seek inputs from stakeholders on issues raised, by 07th July 2022. Based on the comments received, discussions held with stakeholders during the Open House Discussion and analysis thereof, the recommendations of the TRAI on "Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity" have been finalized. The emphasis of these recommendations is on providing a framework for creation of an ecosystem for Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) to be an intrinsic part of building development plan similar to other building services such as water, electricity or Fire Safety System. DCI is to be co-designed and cocreated along with building development through collaborations among various stakeholders including Property Managers (owner or developer or builder etc.), service providers, infrastructure providers, DCI Professionals and Authorities at various urban/local bodies. This framework shall also open job opportunities for the young professionals to become DCI Professionals and be part of Design, Deployment and Evaluation of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure. TRAI has also proposed a new chapter on 'Digital Connectivity Infrastructures in Buildings' to be included in Model Building Bye Laws 2016 by modifying and updating existing provisions added in MBBL as Annexure through an Addendum to Model Building Bye Laws 2016 titled "Provisions for In- Building Solutions Digital Communication Infrastructure" issued by Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in March 2022.

How the west is finally hitting back against China's dominance of cleantech

Michael Jacobs

Climate change policy has entered a new era. The growing row between the United States and the European Union over the impacts of the new American green subsidy regime makes that all too clear. Yet in many ways, this story is ultimately about China. For the last 20 years, developed countries have used three main types of policy to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable energy mandates have required electricity generators to invest in solar, wind, hydro and geothermal power. Emissions trading schemes for energy and industrial businesses put a price on carbon. And energy efficiency standards have been progressively improved on a whole range of products from vehicles and white goods to homes. Applied across Europe and North America, this policy toolkit brought notable success. Developed countries' emissions fell sharply, even with economic growth. Green technologies from wind and solar to electric vehicles fell in cost and improved in performance as demand for them rose. A virtuous circle followed: climate policy increased demand for green technologies, which reduced costs, which allowed policy to be tightened, which stimulated demand and innovation further.

The rub

There were two problems, however. First, much of the economic benefit went to China. From 2010 onwards China rapidly became the world's primary supplier of wind and solar technology, along with underpinning minerals like lithium, cobalt and rare earths. China's dominance reduced everyone's costs. But it also meant that, as industrial jobs were lost in developed countries, they were not replaced by equivalents in the new energy sectors. Second, climate policy began to create political opposition. As emissions targets tightened, countries started to see the costs reflected in consumer prices. The most dramatic response emerged in France in 2018, when a relatively small increase in fuel duty led the so-called gilets jaunes (yellow jacket) protestors to block roads across the country for over a year, even after President Emmanuel Macron withdrew the tax. In the US, congressional opposition stymied President Barack Obama's plans for a climate bill including a modest carbon pricing scheme for the whole of his presidency. Joe Biden has learned the lesson. His Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed in 2022, offers climate carrots instead of sticks and lots of them. The act which despite its name is almost entirely about climate change offers a mammoth US $369 of tax credits and other subsidies to companies making low-carbon investments and to consumers buying green products. Critically, to take advantage of subsidies, a significant proportion of materials and equipment used must be produced in North America.

The EU position

Orthodox economists deplore the IRA. Subsidies are much less efficient than taxes (not to say more expensive), and protectionism raises costs to consumers. Yet to any politician, Biden's approach looks like a no-brainer. Don't penalise businesses with carbon levies: reward them with tax credits. Don't allow the employment benefits of climate policy to leak overseas to China: ensure they stay at home. Nearly three-quarters of Americans backed the act, including over half of Republicans. The EU is alarmed at the likely effects. There are already reports of European cleantech companies planning to transfer production to the US, while others may be kept out of US markets. The European Commission has threatened the US with legal action at the World Trade Organization for breaking free trade rules, and has already secured US concessions, including extending tax credits to foreign-made electric vehicles. Even more significantly, the commission president Ursula von der Leyen has announced a "green deal industrial plan" for the EU. The core will be a Net Zero Industry Act relaxing rules on state aid and providing subsidies for cleantech investment. Meanwhile, a Critical Raw Materials Act will build partnerships with like-minded suppliers to reduce dependence on Chinese imports, mirroring what the recent EU and US chips acts do with semiconductors.

The broader context

Both the EU and US are therefore turning climate policy into industrial and trade strategy. One might ask what took them so long. China's twelfth five-year plan in 2010 first identified seven environmental "strategic industries" on which to focus economic development. It is not a coincidence that China rapidly came to dominate the new low carbon sectors: it was literally the plan. The EU and US moves are a desperate attempt to catch up, with Japan and South Korea not far behind. And the strategy extends beyond their own continents. The new kids on this block are multi-billion dollar just energy transition partnerships which the EU, US and other western powers have recently negotiated with South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam. These "JET-Ps" aim to stimulate investment, not just in the renewables transition but also in domestic industrial capacity. Loans and guarantees provided by western governments aim to leverage much larger flows of private finance. The goal is for these countries to manufacture and export their own green technologies, charting a new path for economic development. More such partnerships will likely be announced over the coming year. This is not altruism on western countries' part, but an attempt to offer an alternative to China's huge investments in the developing world. What about the UK? These developments leave the British economy in a badly weakened position. The EU was the obvious partner in green industrial policy. On its own the UK is not nearly large enough to compete. It creates a compelling case for a future UK government to do a green trade deal with the EU. In return for a financial contribution to the EU's green innovation funds, the UK could re-join the single market for environment goods and services. Just a few years ago, climate change was a subset of environmental policy. Today it is a key dimension of both economic strategy and geopolitics. Given the extent of the economic transformation it demands, no-one should be surprised.

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e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

ALL FOR LIVELIHOOD

A woman paints earthen piggy banks, locally known as "Laxmir Bhandar", in Nadia, Monday.

Railway Protection Force: Securing the nation and its citizens

ARUN KUMAR

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a prime security and Law Enforcement Agency in the field of Railway Security in India. Having been constituted in 1957 for better protection and security of Railway property, the force has evolved itself from its main role of protection and safeguarding of Railway Property to additional roles of passenger security and passenger facilitation. With changing times, the role regarding passenger security and facilitation has been gaining in prominence. The Force today fulfils an active role in meeting the objectives of the Indian Railway. The force today identifies the changing security needs of the railway and its customers and adapts itself by equipping itself with skills and resources and implementing innovative solutions. The RPF is currently the central force in India with the largest share of women (9%) in its ranks and is committed to enhancing its reach and effectiveness for the security of the nation and its citizens. To meet the widening gamut of responsibility, RPF has launched various operations aimed at ensuring that passengers are protected from theft, human trafficking, suicide attempts, drug trafficking, and other crimes during their railway journey.

? One of the most noteworthy operations is "Rail Suraksha." In this operation, the RPF took legal action against crimes involving railway property, registered 6492 cases of theft of railway property and made recoveries of stolen railway property worth Rs. 7.37 Crores, with the arrest of 11268 offenders.

? The RPF has also been playing a crucial role in rescuing children in need of care and protection. In 2022, an intensive drive, "Nanhe Farishtey," was launched to rescue children in need of care and protection found in trains or railway stations. During the year, 17,756 children were rescued by RPF personnel.

? Another important operation is "Operation AAHT" against human trafficking. RPF Anti-Human Trafficking Units were made operational at more than 740 locations over the Indian Railways to tackle the issue of human trafficking. During the year, 559 persons were rescued from traffickers with the arrest of 194 traffickers.

? RPF personnel have been risking their own lives to save the lives of others in "Mission Jeevan Raksha." During the year, 852 precious lives were saved by RPF personnel.

? RPF has also been empowered to tackle the issue of drug trafficking through the railways with the launch of "Operation NARCOS." During the year, RPF arrested 1081 criminals involved in drug trafficking and succeeded in recovering NDPS worth about Rs. 80 Crores.

? The RPF has been retrieving lost luggage and restoring it to the rightful owners through "Operation Amanat." During the year, RPF retrieved approximately 25,500 luggage valued at more than Rs. 46.5 Crores.

? The RPF has also been taking stringent action against the illegal trade of wildlife through railways with "Operation WILEP." During the year, 129 cases of illegal trade were detected with the arrest of 75 persons.

? The RPF has launched "Operation Yatri Suraksha" to provide real-time security-related assistance to passengers during their journey. The Emergency Response initiative, which provides immediate assistance to passengers in need of security-related help, received over 2 lakh calls during the year.

? The RPF has launched the "Meri Saheli" initiative to provide safety and security to women travelling alone or with minors. Teams of lady RPF personnel have been formed across all zonal railways and equipped with an IT module to identify target groups of women who need security and reassurance.

? The RPF goes above and beyond to assist pregnant women who go into labor during their train journeys with the "Matrishakti" operation. Lady personnel of RPF assisted in 209 such child births during the year.

? Under the "SEWA" operation, the RPF helps elderly citizens, women, physically disabled, and sick or injured persons with their travel, providing amenities like wheelchairs, stretchers, medical help, and infant food. Over 37000 such persons were assisted by the RPF in 2022.

? The RPF also takes action against the carriage of contraband and illegal goods with the "Satark" operation. The RPF arrested 2331 persons involved in the transportation of contraband items and handed them over to the concerned authorities for further legal action.

? The RPF has played an important role in ensuring free and fair elections during the assembly elections in several states, including Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Additionally, the RPF has rescued 3400 adults in need of care and protection under the "Dignity" operation.

The International Union of Railways (UIC) and RPFof India have now joined hands to host the 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur from February 20th to 23rd, 2023. The UIC, established in Paris in 1922, is a professional association representing the railway sector worldwide, promoting interoperability, standardization, and cooperation in the industry. The UIC's security platform is responsible for organizing international events, analyzing and formulating policies, and promoting the exchange of information and best practices among security directors of UIC members.

The World Security Congress of the UIC is a prominent international event, attended by the heads of security of member railway organizations and representatives of UIC, Indian Railways, RPF, and senior police officers. The congress provides a platform for technical cooperation, collaboration, and the sharing of solutions and best practices in railway security. The RPF, a prime security and law enforcement agency in India, has been an active member of the UIC Security Platform and has successfully organized and hosted the UIC World Security Congress in 2006 and 2015 in New Delhi.

The Director General of RPF has taken measures to enhance the involvement of member organizations operating in Asia, Africa, and several other developing countries to address their concerns through the UIC Security platform.

The 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur, centred on the theme of "Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future", is a testament to the UIC's commitment to promoting the security of rail transport worldwide. With India taking over the presidency of the G-20 group of nations and the Director General of RPF serving as the Chairman of the UIC Security Platform, this event is poised to be a prominent global gathering for railway security. With the RPF taking the lead, the 18th UIC World Security Congress in Jaipur promises to be a landmark event in the history of railway security.

(Writer is retired DG, RPF)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not too much to be read in SC's decision on Adani

Supreme court's decision to appoint the committee in Adani case appear to be a encouraging step but need to wait for its concluding results. Country had already seen such kind of political activities in Bofors Case where in the last it was proved that there was not a bribery of single paise whereas opposition leaders were making statements openly the names of all persons will be declared once they come to the power but they miserably failed to name any person who had taken any bribe. In the same way in 2014 there was 2G spectrum scam and it was reported that there was huge loss to the country but ultimately it was found that there was no loss. From the above both cases it is apparent clear that media cell of congress party is very poor. Now in the present case of Adani also Rahul submitted the reply to Lok Sabha Speaker whereas he should have refrained from submitting the reply. And Rahul should have played the victim card and should have gone to the court of the public and had again gone in the public durbar. On the basis of political activities in the country it appears that this topic will remain in the public domain the March 2024 when parliament elections will be declared.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Amend RoPA 1951

The role of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections in India is immense. It has a constitutional status which means its powers are paramount and that it cannot be harnessed by the government. But there is a very big loophole left by the constitution makers which puts a damper on the powers of the ECI. The ECI is tasked to register political parties and give them recognition as national or state based on the criteria, they fulfill but ECI cannot deregister political parties. As ECI cannot deregister political parties the amount of Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) has grown to the tune of 2796 as of 2022. These 2796 RUPPs have the potential to be involved in money laundering and hawala activities as political parties do not need to disclose their income. Political parties also get a 100 percent tax exemption which clearly, they are misusing because according to ECI reports more than 2000 of these parties have not submitted their annual audited accounts. More than 1000 crore of donations these parties have garnered is also in question as they have not been able to mention the source. There is a need for an exclusive and comprehensive legal framework that empowers the ECI to deregister and de-recognize political parties. To attain this the Representation of the People Act 1951 needs serious amendments.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Crucial role of Matribhasha in children's education

Er. Prabhat Kishore

UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote the dissemination of mother language and awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions around the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. It believes that education based on first language or mother language must begin from the early years as Early Child Care & Education is the foundation of learning.

Mother Language is usually the language which the child speaks at home with the family. Education in mother language refers to when a school integrates the child's language into classroom and school lessons. Mother Language plays vital role in the overall development of personnel, social and cultural identity of the human beings. Language may be just a way to communicate with each other, but mother language is something that helps us to stay connected with our roots and unique culture. Young children learn and grasp more quickly when they are taught in the mother language, because when they develop their mother tongue, they simultaneously foster other basic skills like literacy and critical thinking. A strong mother language foundation equips the children with skills required to learn a second or additional language. Cognitive as well as intellectual development is relatively faster when a person is proficient in the mother language. The children learning in mother language feel comfortable in the school environment and learn faster. They have a better understanding of the curriculum and do not have to re-taught the skills learned when the child transfers to second language. Parent-child interaction increases as the parent assist in home-works easily. Knowing mother language boosts one's confidence and increases self-esteem. There is a long way to go before guaranteeing all children their right to education in their mother language. In most of the countries, the majority of learners are taught in a language other than their mother tongue, which compromises their ability to learn and understand effectively. Approximately 40% population of the world does not have access to an education in a language they speak, understand or communicate.

In our country, the "Mother Language" is often neglected and actively suppressed on the name of globalization. The present education system has completely ignored the mother language as the medium of instruction in schools, especially in English medium schools. The teachers at the local level are also not so fluent in foreign languages. Neither they are able to transfer the required knowledge nor are the learners in a position to grasp it, resulting in knowledge deficit. Children whose primary language is not the language of instruction in schools are more likely to drop out of school or fail in early grades. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasised on its mandatory use in the education system at the foundational stage. Clause 4.11 of NEP 2020 states, "Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the mother-tongue/ home language/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. High quality textbooks, including in science, will be made available in home language/mother tongue. The teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students studying whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction".

In India, Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated every year in schools on this day to promote the use of mother tongue with the following objectives :- (1) To highlight the unity among the linguistic diversity in our country, (2) To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well, (3) To understand diverse cultures, in India and the various forms of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression. Mother Tongue can be used as an effective tool for learning and developing holistic education and knowledge. The government should strictly implement the provision regarding use of Mother language in all government and private schools of the country to safeguard the learning skills of children.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

BRIEF

Favourable factors

Amaravati/Mumbai: Andhra Pradesh is ideal for business and establishing industries with all favourable features, said Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy at a Mumbai road-show in the run-up to the forthcoming Global Investors Summit (GIS), scheduled to be held on March 3 and 4 in Visakhapatnam. Aimed at wooing investors to the state and the investors' summit, the Finance Minister exhorted that no amount of reading or listening will beat personal experience. "AP has all the features needed for business and establishing industries. Excellent officials and highly experienced professionals will assist you. Enthusiastic, efficient and patient young officers and leaders are at your disposal," said Reddy. Further, he highlighted that AP is home for doing business in an inexpensive way and also offers the strength of ease of doing business.

Digital connectivity

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday recommended that the government make digital connectivity infrastructure mandatory under building development plans. The telecom sector regulator suggested creating provisions under the real estate law RERA for mandating digital connectivity infrastructure inside the buildings, its maintenance and timely upgradation. "DCI (Digital Connectivity Infrastructure) should be made an essential component of the building development plans, on the line of water supply, electrical services, gas supply, fire protection and fire safety requirements, etc," Trai said in its recommendations on 'Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity'.

Gradual recovery

New Delhi: Saffola, the master brand under which Marico offers healthier food options, is now worth Rs 2,000 crore-plus, said Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta. About inflation, Gupta told PTI the "worst" is behind and he sees a gradual recovery for the FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) segment with rural market making a comeback. The rural FMCG market, which has witnessed a decline in the last 4-5 quarters, is expected to have a turnaround in the next 2-3 quarters, he said.

Govt taking steps to control inflation, will continue to focus on it: Sitharaman

Jaipur, Feb 20:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the government is taking a lot of steps to control inflation and will continue to focus on it. For instance, in the case of pulses, the government is encouraging farmers to grow pulses to boost domestic production and has also reduced the import duty on some of the pulses to improve local availability. When asked whether Budget 2023-24 would bring down inflation, Sitharaman said: "The government is taking a lot of steps to control inflation and will continue to focus on it."

She was in the city for a post-budget 2023 discussion with various stakeholders. "We have taken a lot of steps, for example, encouraging farmers to sow pulses so that the production of pulses in India increases in the coming sowing season," Sitharaman told reporters here.

She further said that as a short-term step, "wherever we are importing, whether Masoor, Moong or whatever pulses, the government has reduced the import duty to single digit or has completely removed it. It has made imports convenient and pulses are available quickly and cheaply in India." The Union Minister said, "the import of edible oil has been made almost free (tax) for the last three consecutive years, due to which palm crude or palm refined oil has also been (route) opened so that the supply of edible oil is easy and sufficient." The wholesale price-based inflation declined to a 2-year low of 4.73 per cent in January on easing prices of manufactured items, fuel and power, even though food articles turned expensive. Retail inflation again breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit and touched a three-month high of 6.52 per cent in January, mainly due to higher prices in the food basket, including cereals and protein-rich items.

NMDC Steel Limited listed at Bombay Stock Exchange

Hyderabad, Feb 20:

NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) was listed at Bombay Stock Exchange on Monday. NSL, NMDC's 3 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh, was listed to become a public company today.

The listing ceremony was held at BSE, Mumbai in presence of Sumit Deb, CMD, NSL, Amitava Mukherjee, Director, NSL, D.K. Mohanty, Director, NSL, Independent Directors of NMDC and Senior Officials of NMDC and NSL. Manoj Kumar, Joint Secretary, DIPAM, Government of India; Nayan Mehta, CFO, BSE Limited; Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, SBI Capital Markets Limited; and Kamal Kant Upadhyay, MD & CEO, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited witnessed the listing ceremony. NMDC Steel Limited was incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of NMDC Limited on January 2, 2015 under the Companies Act, 2013 with a registered office at NMDC Iron & Steel Plant Nagarnar Bastar, Chhattisgarh. The now demerged company NMDC Steel Limited is a central public sector enterprise with a paid-up capital of Rs. 2,930 crores owned by the Honourable President of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India. The Government owns 60.79% stake in this company.

Expressing his gratitude towards everyone involved in the listing of the company, Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC said, "Nagarnar Steel Plant is in the final stages of commissioning and is likely to be commissioned shortly. This plant will cater to the domestic steel needs and fulfil the vision of the National Steel Policy 2017 of the Government of India."

EPFO unveils procedure to apply for higher pension under Employees Pension Scheme

New Delhi, Feb 20:

Retirement fund body EPFO on Monday came out with a procedure to enable subscribers and their employers to jointly apply for higher pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS). Earlier in November 2022, the Supreme Court had upheld Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2014. The EPS amendment of August 22, 2014 had raised the pensionable salary cap to Rs 15,000 a month from Rs 6,500 a month, and allowed members along with their employers to contribute 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries (if it exceeded the cap) towards the EPS. In an office order, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provided for dealing with the 'Joint Option Form' by field offices of the body. EPFO stated that "a facility will be provided for which URL (unique resource location) will be informed shortly. Once received, the regional PF commissioner shall put adequate notice on the notice board and banners for wider public information". It provided that each application will be registered, digitally logged and the receipt number will be provided to the applicant. It further stated that the office incharge of the concerned regional provident fund office shall examine each case of joint option on higher salary and intimate the decision to the applicant through e-mail/post and later through SMS also. It also provided that any grievance by the applicant can be registered on EPFiGMS (grievance portal) after submission of his joint option form and payment of due contributions, if any. The order stated that these directions are being issued in compliance with the order of Supreme Court on November 4, 2022. EPFO has asked its field offices to provide an option for higher pension to eligible subscribers in accordance with the Supreme Court order. According to the EPFO circular on December 29, 2022 the central government has directed to implement the directions in the order. The apex court had given all EPS members, as on September 1, 2014, six months to opt for the amended scheme. The apex court in its order gave four more months to eligible subscribers to opt for higher pension under EPS-95. The court had also struck down the requirement in the 2014 amendments mandating employee contribution of 1.16 per cent of the salary exceeding Rs 15,000 per month. This will facilitate the subscribers to contribute higher to the scheme and get enhanced benefits accordingly. The EPFO circular had also provided for the higher pension option for those eligible subscribers who either contributed on actual wages higher than Rs 5,000 or Rs 6,500 per month prevalent threshold pensionable salary or exercised their option for higher pension or their request for higher pension was declined by EPFO authorities before the amendment to EPS-95 in 2014.

Govt opposes Vedanta move to sell zinc assets

New Delhi, Feb 20:

In a setback to billionaire Anil Agarwal's mining group, the government has opposed Vedanta Ltd's proposal to sell its international zinc business to Hindustan Zinc Ltd for USD 2.98 billion over concerns of valuation. The government has threatened to take legal action to stop the sale of the Africa-based assets to HZL, in which it holds a 29.54 per cent stake.

In a letter to HZL, posted by the company to stock exchanges, the Ministry of Mines said the deal is a "related party transaction" and the government would "like to reiterate" its dissent. HZL in January agreed to buy THL Zinc Ltd Mauritius from its parent, Vedanta Ltd, for USD 2.98 billion in phases over 18 months. Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent equity share of Hindustan Zinc ltd (HZL), which is an integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver. HZL in a separate filing said it would place the ministry's letter before the board and that a meeting of the shareholders to approve the deal was yet to be called.

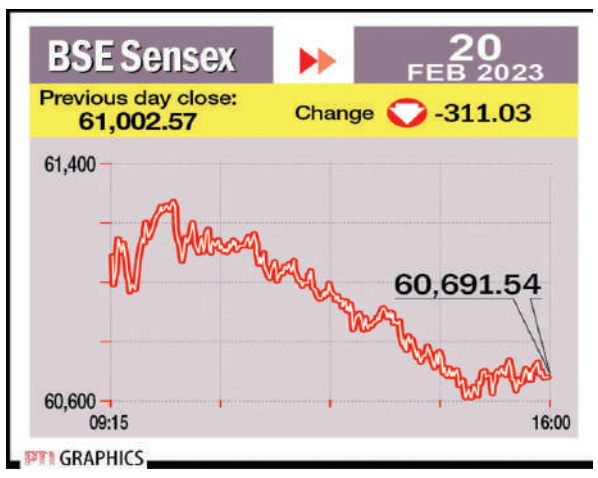
The Rajasthan-based company has long been a cash cow for Agarwal's Vedanta group, squeezing out rich dividends. The latest proposed transaction is being seen as another way of extracting more funds out of HZL. The ministry in the letter said it is writing on behalf of the government on the resolution approved by the HZL board in its meeting on January 19 "for the creation of a wholly-owned overseas subsidiary of the company, funding such subsidiary to the extent of USD 2.981 billion and such subsidiary acquiring the shares of THL Zinc Ltd from THL Zinc Ventures Ltd (an entity of the Vedanta Group)." It said its nominee directors on the board had recorded their dissent to the proposal.

"The proposed resolutions which envisage the acquisition of THL Zinc (a Vedanta company) by HZL (also a Vedanta company) thus being a related party transaction, we, the government of India would like to reiterate our dissent on the matter and the resolutions forming part of the agenda matter," it said.

It wanted the company to explore other cashless methods of acquisition of assets. The government, it said, would continue to oppose the transaction and "will explore all legal avenues available.

Sensex, Nifty extend losses for 2nd day on lingering worries over interest rates

Mumbai, Feb 20:



Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined for a second straight session on Monday, losing more than half a per cent due to selling in energy, banking and financials stocks amid lingering concerns over interest rates and inflation. Reversing its early gains, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 311.03 points or 0.51 per cent at 60,691.54 as 18 of its scrips declined.

The index opened higher at 61,112.84 and gained further 290 points to hit the day's high of 61,290.19. However, selling in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC twins, ICICI Bank Maruti and Kotak Bank dragged down the barometer to a low of 60,607.02. The NSE Nifty fell 99.60 points or 0.56 per cent to end at 17,844.60 as 30 of its constituents declined while 20 advanced. Nifty touched a high of 18,004.35in early trade but later fell to a low of 17,818.40. Sensex lost nearly 317 points while Nifty declined by 91 points on Friday. From the Sensex pack, Maruti, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Nestle and ICICI Bank were among the major laggards.

India's domestic air passenger traffic nearly doubled to 1.25 crore in January: DGCA data

Mumbai, Feb 20:

India's domestic air passenger traffic nearly doubled to 1.25 crore in January compared to 64.08 lakh recorded in the year-ago period, according to official data released on Monday.

In January, IndiGo saw its domestic market share decline for the fifth consecutive month at 54.6 per cent. It carried 68.47 lakh passengers last month. In August last year, the carrier had a market share of 59.72 per cent.

As per the data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the regulator received more complaints from the passengers of various airlines on account of flight problems, baggage issues and staff behaviour compared to December. Air India and Vistara carried 11.55 lakh and 11.05 lakh passengers, respectively, in January, with a market share of 9.2 per cent and 8.8 per cent, respectively.

During the month under review, budget carriers — Go First and AirAsia India —transported a total of 10.53 lakh and 9.30 lakh passengers, respectively. The number of domestic passengers flown by low-cost airline SpiceJet stood at 9.14 lakh, according to DGCA.

The total number of domestic passengers flown by the Tata Group airlines — Air India, Vistara and AirAsia India — together stood at 32.30 lakh, accounting for around 26 per cent of the total domestic market in January 2023.

FASHION SHOW

Badminton players Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap walk the ramp during Teach For Change's fundraiser fashion show, in Hyderabad.

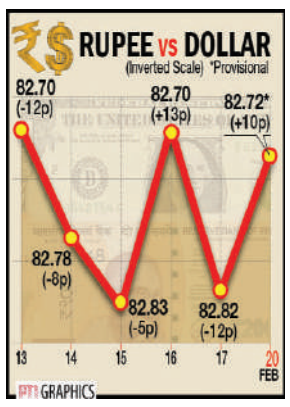
India's GDP likely grew 5-5.1 pc in third quarter of FY23: Analysts

Mumbai, Feb 20:

The economy is likely to have grown at 5-5.1 per cent in the October-December 2022 quarter due to normalising base, much lower than the 6.3 per cent growth recorded in the previous quarter, according to analysts. Normal base refers to the comparable figure of the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal. But the base is lowered for calculating growth rate when the previous numbers are not comparable due to certain extreme conditions. Compared to the pre-Covid number, the GDP is likely to have grown 11.6 per cent in Q3 from 7.6 per cent in the previous quarter, boosted by continued recovery in the services sector, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist and head of research at Icra Ratings. On the other hand, Rahul Bajoria, head of British brokerage Barclays India, said the economy would have grown at a tad lower at 5 per cent in the October-December quarter of FY23. The government is expected to release the third quarter macroeconomic data on February 28. The government expects the economy to close the current fiscal with 7 per cent or higher growth. "Economic activity in Q3 remained distinctly uneven, amid the upsides offered by robust demand for contact-intensive services and upbeat festive season sentiment. Trends in government spending were disparate, with a healthy revenue spending by the Centre amid a base effect-led contraction in capital spending.

Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.72 against US dollar

New Delhi, Feb 20:



The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels. Forex traders said a muted trend in domestic equities and foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the appreciation bias. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.69 against the American currency and finally settled at 82.72 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 10 paise over its previous close of 82.82.

During the trading session, the rupee touched a high of 82.62 and a low of 82.74 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.04 per cent to 103.90. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 1.05 per cent to USD 83.87 per barrel. "Rupee traded strong near 82.75 as dollar index traded below USD 104 guiding rupee strength. Asian currencies were trading strong on the back of weakness in the dollar," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities. Trivedi further noted that the US Fed's minutes update will be keenly watched this week for further trend. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 311.03 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 60,691.54, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 99.60 points or 0.56 per cent to 17,844.60. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 624.61 crore, according to exchange data.

IDFC MF to host workshop for MF Distributors

Mumbai, Feb 20: IDFC Mutual Fund announced a workshop for mutual fund distributors (MFDs) on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at Hotel Central Park, Bhilai at 7:00 p.m. Irrespective of whether the distributor is registered with IDFC Mutual Fund or not, they can attend the workshop. Interested Mutual Fund Distributors can reach out to the IDFC Mutual Fund branch office in Bhilai to register themselves for the workshop. The session will focus on Customer Kundli, an interactive game-based approach to help mutual fund distributors appreciate the various aspects of Factor Investing. This program will highlight key concepts under each factor. The framework aids in understanding the interplay and impact of investment choices on returns. Mutual Fund Distributors can expect discussion on four different investment styles of alpha creation – Valuation, Allocation, Sector Rotation, and Momentum. IDFC Mutual Fund has conducted similar workshops for MFDs in Allahabad, Lucknow, Durgapur, Asansol, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Pune, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, and Bhopal attended by over 500 MFDs and benefited from the knowledge gained on various heuristics and biases in the Behavioral Finance module.

Sushmita Mukherjee shares her beliefs on existence of ghosts

Star Bharat brand-new show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' has surely captivated its viewers for its quirky characters and story line. The versatile Sushmita Mukherjee plays the lead. She is recognized for portraying a wide range of roles in several TV shows and movies. She will soon be seen portraying a role of a very different 'Saas' which has never been seen on television before as 'Rekha' who is a ghost. Sushmita Mukherjee on playing the character of Ghost in the show shares her beliefs on existence of ghosts. She says, "I personally believe in ghosts because after a person dies, their soul departs from the body but remains as energy in the environment in order to carry out the unfulfilled wishes they had when they were alive. However, the soul then wanders around feeling stuck because it no longer has a body to do so, and this energy is what we refer to as a ghost. Likewise I'll portray the ghostly persona 'Rekha,' who will be a soulful piece of entertainment unlike other ghosts because my character will be much more quirky and playful and henceforth I am confident that this dramedy show will delight viewers and keep the audience entertained throughout". The center of the plot is alternately portrayed by Kajal Chauhan and Sushmita Mukherjee as 'Gaura' and 'Rekha' . The narrative of the plot will be a light drama that features amusing elements to illustrate the bond between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Talking about the current track the viewers will witness Som and Gaura's wedding but Rekha will try all her luck to stop this wedding as she is against Gaura.

Stay tuned to watch more about the show, 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' every Monday-Saturday at 7:30pm only on Star Bharat.

'Ranbir came on stage and killed it!'

Popular playback singer Nikhita Gandhi shares her experience of performing on stage along with the superstar in Delhi recently!

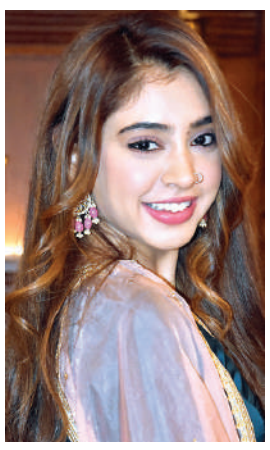
Nikhita Gandhi has become a constant voice behind some of the biggest chartbusters coming out of the Hindi film industry in recent years. Her latest song 'Tere Pyaar Mein' from the Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor-starrer 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' has become all the rage and has entered the Spotify charts.

With this, Nikhita has become one of the few artists to have given 3 chart toppers in less than 3 months. In December, she gave the groovy song 'Kya Baat Hai' with Harrdy Sandhu from 'Govinda Naam Mera'. She followed it with the Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon song 'Munda Sona' from 'Shehzada'. And now, 'Tere Pyaar Mein' has completed her hattrick! On Valentine's Day, the versatile singer-composer put up a spectacular show in New Delhi, sharing the stage and performing alongside Ranbir Kapoor during the 'Makkar Night' concert. Sharing the memorable experience with the charming superstar, Nikhita says, "The Makkar Night concert was too much fun. I had never met Ranbir (Kapoor) before that, though we had worked on a lot of projects together, like 'Jagga Jasoos'. Ranbir was really sweet and such a nice person to meet. He was such a sport, also because we had not rehearsed his entry on stage or anything, but he just came on stage and killed it!"

"According to the show flow, he (Ranbir) had to leave after two songs and we had to continue with our concert but he stayed back and kept entering the stage whenever songs that he knew were being performed. When I sang 'Balam Pichkari', he came back on stage and danced with me. We performed on 'Tere Pyaar Mein' again during the end of the show when he returned on the stage. It was such a memorable Valentine's Day that I got to sing 'Tere Pyaar Mein', 'Badtameez Dil' and 'Balam Pichkari' with Ranbir on stage. That was really cool and the audience was quite amazing and there was so much love resonating from them. It was really a memorable night," Nikhita adds.

Nikhita has been delivering some of the biggest hits with each song of hers. With the success of Munda Sona and Tere Pyaar Mein behind her in 2023 already, we can't wait to see what next she has to offer in the coming time.

'I used to dance thinking I'm dancing with the King of Romance'



Sony Entertainment Television's most-loved show, 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' is bringing viewers the complexities of one-sided love, in new age relationships. With the 20-year leap, the show has introduced new characters like Prachi Kapoor (Niti Taylor), Raghav (Ranndeep R Rai), Pihu Kapoor (Pooja Banerjee) and Angad (Leenesh Mattoo), with their chemistry and camaraderie on screen being appreciated by audiences. In the current track, Ram and Priya's youngest daughter, Prachi Kapoor danced to the classic song 'Ae Kaash Ke Hum' from the 1994 film 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa'. The song choice worked wonderfully with the show's plot narrative, which has Raghav longing for Prachi while she danced with Josh at his birthday party.

Talking about the sequence Niti Tylor shares, "I'm a big Bollywood buff, so I know a lot of trivia about actors, songs and movies. Coincidently the film, 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa' released in February in 1994 and we too danced to its iconic song 'Ae Kaash Ke Hum' in February, the month of love. I remember watching Sharukh Khan on screen when this song used to play on television, and I used to dance along thinking I am dancing with the King of Romance. Dancing to this song for the episode, took me back to my childhood days and the innocence with which I used to listen to this tune and watch Sharukh Khan's character Sunil pine away for Anna."

Tune in to Bade Acche Lagte Hain 2', every Monday to Friday at 8:00 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Ali sets on a new journey to find Marjina

With Ali (Abhishek Nigam) moving to Naziya's (Sapna Thakur) house in Sony SAB's Alibaba - Ek Andaaz Andekha: Chapter 2, the viewers are about to witness a different side of Ali. In the upcoming episodes, how Ali and Simsim's life takes unexpected turns will be interesting to watch.

Simsim's (Sayantani Ghosh) evil plans come into action as she finally becomes successful in moving Kotwal to Naziya's house so that she can keep a track of his activities day in and day out. Little does Simsim know that Ali will always be a step ahead of her in every plan, and his ultimate goal will leave her in splits. On the other hand, taking this opportunity, Ali has started to find more information in Naziya's house on Simsim and chalking out a plan on how he can make Simsim his best bet to find Marjina.

Will Ali be successful in finding out about Marjina? What is Ali's ultimate plan?

Abhishek Nigam, essaying the role of Alibaba, said, "I think the character of Ali has finally

reached a stage where he will leave no stone unturned to reach his ultimate goal. I am sure it's exciting for the viewers to watch how the show is shaping up and how Ali is doing every possible thing under the sky to protect his people and find clues about Marjina. I can assure you that Ali's plan to fight Simsim will keep the viewers hooked to the show and it will be interesting to watch is he planning to tackle Simsim."

Keep watching Alibaba Ek Andaaz Andekha: Chapter 2 Monday to Saturday 8 PM only on Sony SAB.

Actors' favourite words in their mother tongue

On International Mother Language Day, &TV artists share their favourite words in their mother tongue that they enjoy using in everyday conversation and share how others react to them. These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Saanand Verma (Anokhe lal Saxena, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "I am a proud Marathi Mulgi and love expressing my feelings in my mother tongue. Right from childhood, anytime I got hurt or was caught in a situation, my first reaction would be 'Aai Ga'! Asking 'Kasa Kay' to check on someone holds a unique closeness value. The beauty of saying these words is their tone; the same flavour does not come with any other language. Something I love about Marathi is that whenever you go out, you never say 'jaate me' or 'I am going out'; instead, you say 'yete me', meaning 'I will come back'. It is a lovely way of reassuring that even though I am going out now, I will be back soon."

Kamna Pathak, essaying Rajesh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "There are too many things I love about Indore, including food and fashion, of course, the people. But one thing I love the most is my mother language. 'O Bhaiyo' (Arey Bhai) is a word I often use with my friends whenever they prank or tease me. Besides Indore's

language, the Bhopali language influences me, and I love using it daily. Also, on the sets of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, most of them have often found me using these words like 'Kya Bapar rahe ho?' (Kya vapar rahe ho?) and it is very funny when people get confused about my Indori dialect. Some Indori words like Chaka-Chak (Cool), Dijain (Making a fool of someone), and Ni Yaar (Oh Really?) I use it so much that everyone on the set has also started using it. I take immense pride in my language, and so should you! Wish you all a happy International Mother Language Day."

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

Amrita to get arrested in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

A family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs, Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan is a story of three generations where the first two generations refuse to forgive and forget but are forced to face their past and heal when the third-generation steps in. In the upcoming episodes, the show is heading towards an unexpected turn of events .

Amidst Riya (Hema Sood) and Veer's (Paras Arora) engagement ceremony, bad news knocks on the door of the Brar family as the machinery in which Dilpreet had invested his life-long savings were burnt to ashes by a suspicious person. Riya and Amrita join hands and finally come to know that the person behind this is Khushwant. They chalk out a plan and decide to catch Khushwant red-handed. However, little did they know that their strategy would backfire, and they would fall under his trap. The police arrived at the location and ended up arresting Amrita.

How will Amrita come out of this new trouble in

her life?

Kaveri Priyam, who plays the character of Amrita, said, "Every character in the show has so many distinct layers and equally shines in their own space. Amrita's journey has just started; although she appears to be a charming young woman, she is much stronger than that. The upcoming episodes will give a glimpse of how Amrita deals with the situation and acts upon getting arrested. I would urge my fans to stay with Amrita as this is the beginning of another crucial turning point, and I am excited to see the audience's reaction as the story unfolds."

Keep watching Dil Diyaan Gallaan every Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB.

Phantom Studios all set for Hindi remake of the Tamil-blockbuster 'Love Today'

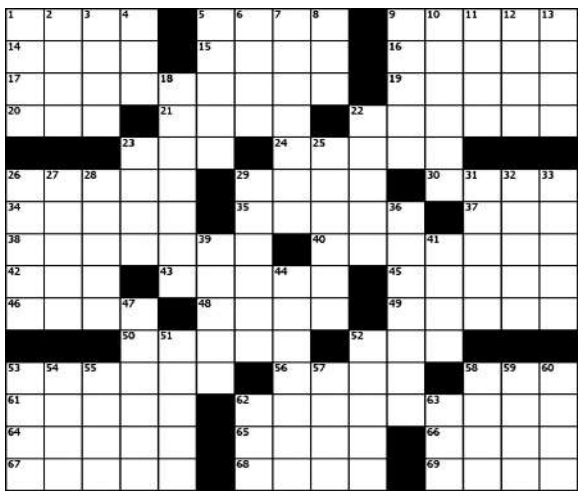
Love Today,' the quirky Tamil romantic drama which was one of the biggest hits in Tamil cinema in 2022 is now all set for a Hindi remake with Phantom Studios in association with its original producers AGS Entertainment. Announcing the details of the remake, SrishtiBehl, CEO, Phantom Studiossaid, "We're delighted to be partnering with AGS Entertainment to bring 'Love Today' to life in Hindi. This entertaining look at love in today's technology forward world is exactly the kind of authentic and provocative storytelling that Phantom Studios has always stood for. As we usher in a new era at Phantom Studios, we will continue to innovate with our stories and storytellers, creating engaging and relevant content for a diverse audience, delivered across platforms." Adds Archana Kalpathi, Creative Producer AGS Entertainment, "We at AGS

Entertainment are excited to announce our first venture in Hindi, 'Love Today,' in collaboration with the renowned Phantom Studios. With its reputation of always striving to produce good cinema, joining hands with Phantom Studios was a no brainer and we look forward to working with them. As a production house, we constantly strive to explore new horizons and offer our audiences the best of entertainment. 'Love Today' is a project that is very close to our hearts and we are thrilled to be able to share this story with a larger audience."

'Love Today,' the Tamil drama recently clocked 100 days of its theatrical release and has quickly become an audience favourite. Directed by Pradeep Ranganathan, the Tamil version of the film features Pradeep (in his acting debut), Sathyaraj, RaadhikaSarathkumar, Yogi Babu, Raveena Ravi and Ivanain lead roles with music direction by Yuvan Shankar Raja.

The official Hindi remake is expected to release in early 2024.

CROSSWORD 568



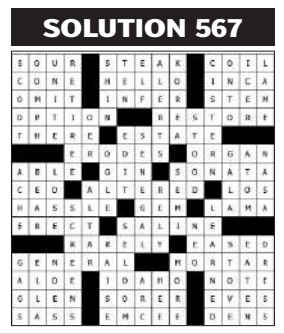
ACROSS

1. Nautical cry
5. Gambling cubes
9. Bride's walkway
14. Neck part
15. Time periods
16. Move stealthily
17. Carry
19. ____ of the crime
20. Elongated fish
21. Ice cream holder
22. Sounds
23. Saucepan
24. Construct
26. Ranch animal
29. Ship's company
30. Old West lawman
34. Crawl
35. Colorado ski resort
37. MGM lion
38. Delta or United
40. Citrus fruits
42. Baseball stat
43. Desert springs
45. Peruses
46. Fodder
48. Horse's hair
49. Actress Della ____
50. Open to view
52. Lass's friend
53. Repented
56. Rewrite
58. Wind dir.
61. Speed checker
62. Interest benchmark (2 wds.)
64. Horses' gaits
65. Not there
66. Not nearby
67. Buying frenzy
68. 15th of March
69. Insignificant

DOWN

1. Poker stake
2. Hound's prey
3. Semiprecious stone
4. Hankering
5. Bus station
6. Press
7. Professions
8. Detroit time zone (abbr.)
9. Business gp.
10. Provoke
11. Watches
12. Highway section
13. Supplements
18. Zodiac sign
22. More recent
23. Pare
25. Rest
26. Muffler
27. Apache, e.g.
28. Scary
29. Julius ____
31. Water plants
32. Marsh grasses
33. Sheriff's helpers
36. Tell
39. Appointed
41. Require
44. Went inside
47. Give to charity
51. Poem
52. Green fruits
53. Fine ____
54. Canvas cover
55. Scent
57. Desperate
58. Strongbox
59. Heavenly light
60. "Wish You ____ Here"
62. Greek letter
63. Battering ____

SOLUTION 567



Hazlewood out with Achilles injury

Indore, Feb 20 (PTI):

Already down 0-2 in the Test series, Australia were on Monday dealt further blow when fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the remaining two matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after failing to recover from his left achilles injury.

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald confirmed that Hazlewood, who missed the Nagpur and Delhi Tests, will continue his rehabilitation in Sydney. The 32-year-old Hazlewood sustained the injury during his comeback Test against South Africa in Sydney.

"Josh Hazlewood out, he'll be going home," McDonald said.

McDonald, however, is uncertain about David Warner's status after the opener was hit on his elbow in the second Test and was subbed out of the match due a concussion.

"Warner's still sore at the moment. We had a meeting just before discussing this. We're in no rush to make any decisions at this point in time around Davey. Just seeing how that settles, how functional that is," said

McDonald. "It will be basically how sore and how functional it is as to what decision we make with him and then the length of the injury. There's some talk the length of injury could be anywhere between a week plus depending how that settles down. There's a bit of unknown there. I'll leave that to the medical team and they'll inform me once they know." Travid Head came out to bat in Australia's second innings in place of Warner in Delhi and McDonald said he will replace Warner if the veteran left-handed opener fails to recover on time.

"If Dave's unavailable it would make perfect sense. We did discuss before coming over here that if we were to lose an opening batter that Trav would be one we'd look to put up there. We feel in the subcontinental conditions that he can get off to the fast starts which he showed," he said.

"We don't see (Head) as an opener in all conditions, more subcontinental and in other conditions back to the middle order."

The coach, however, said that all-rounder Cameron Green will be fit for Indore. "He was close. It's about building confidence. He had the setback in Bangalore, a little setback batting in Bangalore where he had some jarring and there was a fair bit of discomfort in that finger," McDonald said.

"If he didn't have that, I think the second Test was real. But it probably just delayed it those few days. "And we contemplated him as a concussion sub as well.

Australia coach McDonald

'We failed the examination of India'

Indian players celebrate the win over Australia.

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Australia chief coach Andrew McDonald made no bones about his team's capitulation in the second innings of the second Test here, saying they "failed the examination" of India.

"Our methods are going to be critiqued, and rightfully so," McDonald was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press on Monday.

"At the end of day two, if you said our preparation was good (with Australia on 61/1), you'd probably have a different slant on it, but within an hour (on day 3) then people start to critique what happened in the past...

"And day three, as well as we could have been and we failed under the examination of India," added McDonald, who replaced Justin Langer as head coach after Australia's 4-0 win in the Ashes. The coach said that as far as he understood, the preparatory camp in Bengaluru on turning tracks had provided adequate preparation for the spin test.

"I still wouldn't have changed what we did leading in, there's no doubt about that," McDonald said on Monday.

"I think they (squad) had really good preparation in Bangalore, so there's not any excuses," added the coach.

He also said that some players diverted from their time-tested game plan, which resulted in the second humiliating defeat.

"There were some people who went clearly away from the game plan that made them successful over a period of time and that's for us to own as a collective. We've got to be better than that, that's the bottom line, we've got to own it and we are not here to shy away from the fact that wasn't good enough."

Cummins flies back home due to family illness

New Delhi: Australian captain Pat Cummins has flown back home from the tour of India due to a "serious family illness" following the second Test in Delhi. Cummins is on his way to Sydney and is expected to return to India for the remaining two games of the Border-Gavaskar trophy in Indore and Ahmedabad. With India winning the second Test inside three days on Sunday, both teams have got an additional couple of days' break as the next game begins in Indore on March 1.

Alcaraz beats Norrie on clay for 1st title since US Open

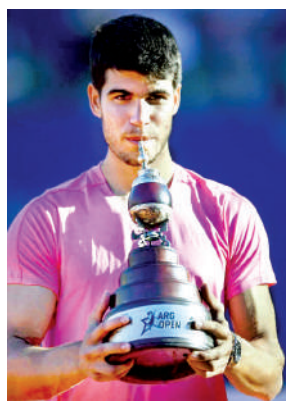
Buenos Aires, Feb 20 (AP):

Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz won his first title since his milestone U.S. Open triumph by beating Cameron Norrie in straight sets at the Argentina Open.

The world No. 2 overcame No. 12 Norrie 6-3, 7-5 in the clay-court final on Sunday.

"I felt very comfortable," Alcaraz said. "This is the level that I have to play in a final. It is really special, I struggled in these four months."

A right leg injury sidelined Alcaraz from the Australian Open, with Novak Djokovic reclaiming the No. 1 ranking from Alcaraz after winning the title there.



Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after beating Cameron Norrie of Great Britain in the final to win the ATP 250 Argentina Open 2023 title at Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club in Buenos Aires.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz dropped only one set to Serbia's Laslo Djere in his first tournament of the year.

After winning the first set in 36 minutes, Alcaraz quickly broke second-seeded Norrie in the second set but the Briton hit back when the Spaniard was serving for the championship at 5-4. Alcaraz broke Norrie with a drop shot to win the title.

Norrie lost his second final of the year after Auckland in January. Alcaraz next defends his title at the Rio Open.

The curious case of KL Rahul

Team think tank using twin tons in defence of his continuous selections

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): KL Rahul's continuation in the Test team, despite his repeated failures, is proving to be one of the most curious cases in Indian cricket.

Not many have survived the kind of failures that the man from Bengaluru has endured. Fewer have received such unwavering support from the who's who of Indian cricket, making for a fascinating watch.

So why is he being persisted with?

Talent or favouritism? a match winner or a liability? There are varied opinions, but for the men who matter, he is precious. There aren't too many videos of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in same frame. But there was one shot right after the Indian team finished its Asia Cup campaign in Dubai, where Kohli was interviewed by his skipper for the BCCI TV after his much-awaited 71st international hundred, against Afghanistan.

That interaction stood out for a different reason.

"We shouldn't ignore KL's knock as we know how important it is for KL to be in a good head space, heading into the World Cup. We know what he can do in this format, plays very clean shots, and once he bats in T20 cricket, our team looks even more strong," Kohli said when Rohit asked how the former skipper was helping the other players.

The only thing that appeared a bit out of place in that particular interview was that the question on Rahul didn't seem organic. It seemed as if they were were trying to make a statement in support of Rahul on behalf of the team.The two biggest names in that dressing room wanted to get a protective shield around a teammate, whom they consider a minefield of talent but whose deliverables have been few and far in between.

What has surprised many is the carte blanche that the Rahul Dravid-led team management has given to the Bangalore man.

In Nagpur, the PTI had asked batting coach Vikram Rathour about Rahul's form. Initially, he didn't wish to comment but then spoke about his last two Test hundreds.

"To be fair to KL, he (Rahul) has scored two hundreds in his last 10 Tests one in England and other in South Africa and also has a couple of fifties.

Top Indian wrestlers again opt out of international meet

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Top Indian wrestlers continued to opt out of big events as the likes of Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia have decided to give the upcoming 2nd Ranking Series Ibrahim-Moustafa tournament a miss.

It is the second time in the month that Vinesh, Bajrang, Ravi Dahiya, Deepak Punia, Anshu Malik, Sangeeta Phogat and Sangita Mor have decided to sit out of an important tournament, to be held in Alexandria, Egypt from February 23 to 26. The top grapplers had earlier pulled out of the Zagreb Open, saying they are not ready for the competition.

The Mary Kom-headed oversight committee managing the WFI affairs cleared a contingent of 27 Indian wrestlers for the upcoming tournament.

The event will be crucial for gaining ranking points for better seeding at the Senior Asian Championships 2023 and the Senior World Championships 2023. The Indian team consists of nine freestyle, eight women and 10 greco-roman wrestlers, besides 16 coaches and support staff. The 27 wrestlers will also include three Target Olympics Podium Scheme (TOPS) grapplers — Ashu (67kg GR), Bhateri (65kg women) and Sujeet (65kg FS).

New Delhi's Slum Soccer nominated for Laureus Sport for Good Award

London, Feb 20 (PTI):

New Delhi-based Slum Soccer, a football project aimed at educating and elevating the homeless population in the Indian capital, was on Monday

nominated for this year's Laureus Sport for Good Award. The Laureus Sport for Good Award recognises an individual or organisation who has made a significant contribution to transforming the lives of children and young people through sport.

Slum Soccer will compete with four other nominees for the award. Argentina's football World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi and Frace's Kylian Mbappe, who scored a hat-trick in the final to earn the Golden Boot, were among the nominees for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. Formula One driver Max Verstappen joined Messi and tennis star Rafael Nadal as past winners of this award on the 2023 shortlist.

Mondo Duplantis, who broke the pole vault world record on three occasions and won world titles indoors and outdoors, and NBA star Steph Curry are the other nominees for the top men's award. The race for the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award is led by two athletes who lit up the World Championships in Eugene, USA — Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. Katie Ledecky, who won four golds, taking her total to 22, a record for a female swimmer, footballer Alexia Putellas, Mikaela Shiffrin, who regained her overall title at the Alpine Ski World Cup, and tennis player Iga Swiatek are the other nominees for the women's top award. The nominees for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award include the Argentina men's football team, which won a third World Cup, Real Madrid, who claimed their 14th title, NBA champions The Golden State Warriors, the Oracle Red Bull Racing team, France men's rugby side and England women's football team.

The award winners will be announced at the Laureus World Sports Awards.

ISL final to be played at Margao on March 18

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): The final of the Indian Super League (ISL) will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa, on March 18, the organisers announced on Monday. Goa has been chosen for the marquee match due to availability of training grounds and other infrastructure for the teams. The play-off matches will start on March 3. League Shield winners Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC, ATK Mohun Bagan, Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC have already qualified for the play-offs. Odisha FC and FC Goa are still in fray heading into the last match of the league stage.

Bates, Kerr smash half centuries as New Zealand thrash Lanka

Paarl, Feb 20 (PTI):

Riding on fine half-centuries from opener Suzie Bates (56) and Amelia Kerr (66), New Zealand thrashed Sri Lanka by 102 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup to spice up the semifinal qualification scenario in Group A.

The pair combined for a second-wicket partnership of 110, the White Ferns' third-highest ever at the tournament, to take the side to 162 for three before dismissing Sri Lanka for 60 in 15.5 overs on Sunday.

This was Sri Lanka's second big loss in the tournament and their hopes of progressing to the semi-finals from the five-team group are over. New Zealand, led by Sophie Devine, meanwhile, received a massive net run rate (NRR) boost as they climbed to second spot in the group behind Australia. New Zealand opener Bernadine Bezuidenhout's blitzkrieg — she smashed a 20-ball 32 studded with five boundaries — helped the White Ferns to one of their best starts in the tournament. The top-order batter hit four boundaries through the leg side, realising there was nothing much in the Sri Lankan bowling.

Her entertaining innings, however, ended soon after she spooned a catch to Chamari Athapaththu at mid-off with Achini Kulasuriya earning the breakthrough. Bates and Kerr came together at the crease and the former picked up where she had left off in the win over Bangladesh.

I am neither a rebel nor a trend-setter: Sania Mirza

Dubai, Feb 20 (PTI):

Sania Mirza is not apologetic for being one of a kind.

A few people chose to call her a trailblazer while some labelled her a rebel. She says she is none and just lived life "on her own terms".

Splashed with mind-blowing success and achievements that no Indian female tennis player could enjoy and which are unlikely to be emulated in the imminent future, Sania has lived an inspiring life.

During a free-wheeling chat at her villa in Dubai, Sania implored the society to accept differences in opinion and not brand as "villain or heroes" the people who dare to do things in their own way.

"I don't think that I broke the rules. Who are these people who are making these rules and who are these people who are saying this is the norm and this is the stereotype.

"I think each individual is different and each individual should have the freedom to be different," Sania told PTI in an exclusive interview, before bidding adieu to her tennis career.

The 36-year-old Indian added, "I think that's where as a society we can probably do better, a little bit where we are trying to hail people or make people the bad guys just because they are doing something differently.

"And I don't necessarily think that I was some kind of a great rule-breaker or some trendsetter. That's not what I was trying to do. I was living my life.

"We all say things differently, we all have different opinions. I think once we all accept that we are all different, and we can coexist with those differences is when it will not be about breaking the rules anymore."

Holder of six Grand Slam doubles titles and a year-end WTA Championships trophy to go with a career-best singles rank of 27, if Sania is not a trend-setter then what is she?

"I do look at myself as trying to be as authentic as possible. That's what I've tried to do. I've tried to stay true to myself. And I have tried to live life on my own terms.

"I think everybody should be able to do that and have the freedom to do that without being told that you are breaking the rules because you are doing something that you want to do," she said.

"That is something I take a lot of pride in because I think that it's not that I was necessarily different. I might have been different to you, but that doesn't mean that I am someone who is a rebel, or someone who is breaking some kind of rules.

"It's just my individuality and another person's individuality."

A lot has changed in Indian sport in the last few years, but in the not too distant past, women athletes struggled for acceptance and recognition, and were not even considered worthy of pursuing a career in sport.

League leader Barcelona beats Cadiz 2-0 after turbulent week

Madrid, Feb 20 (AP): With yet another win, Barcelona left its problems off the field after a turbulent week. Barcelona defeated Cadiz 2-0 on Sunday as it extended its winning streak and lead over Real Madrid in the Spanish league. Sergi Roberto and Robert Lewandowski scored late in the first half to give Barcelona its seventh straight league win and get its lead over second-place Madrid back to eight points. Madrid had cut the gap to five points with a 2-0 win at Osasuna on Saturday. "We played well in the first half," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "There was a bit of a letdown in the second, but it was expected. We have been playing a lot, the team is tired."

Barcelona's home game at Camp Nou came after it became publicly known that a state prosecutor is probing Barcelona's payment of millions of dollars over several years to a company that belonged to the vice president of the Spanish federation's refereeing committee. Barcelona has been heavily criticized but denied any wrongdoing, saying it paid for reports on referees but never tried to influence their decisions in games. On the field, Roberto opened the scoring in the 43rd with a shot from the middle of the area after Lewandowski's header off a cross by Ferran Torres was cleared by a defender on the goal line. Lewandowski added to the lead before halftime with a low shot from just inside the area for his league-leading 15th goal and first overall after three scoreless matches in all competitions.

It was the 17th clean sheet for Barcelona in the league this season.

Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Cadiz CF at the Camp Nou stadium.

Kushwaha quits JD(U) again, floats yet another party

Patna, Feb 20 (PTI):

Disgruntled JD(U) leader Upendra Kushwaha on Monday resigned from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), less than two years after returning to the party, and announced formation of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Janata Dal'. JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias "Lalan", however, berated the former parliamentary board chairman as an over-ambitious party-hopper, whose return was "opposed by all, but materialised only at the insistence of the CM" whom Kushwaha had assured "I will now live and die here".

Rebel Janata Dal (United) leader Upendra Kushwaha addresses a press conference and announced his new political outfit 'Rashtriya Lok Janta Dal', in Patna, Monday.

Kushwaha, who has been venting spleen against Kumar for some time, also announced that he will be seeking an appointment with chairman of the legislative council to resign from his membership of the House, adding with rhetorical flourish "'zameer bechkar amir nahin banenge' (I cannot barter my conscience for perks)". He alleged that Kumar, his political benefactor, had "pawned his political capital (rajneetik sampatti ko girwi rakh diya') by having hinted that Tejashwi Yadav (the deputy CM) shall be the future leader of the coalition", which JD(U) had joined nearly six months ago.

Lalan, however, pointed out that Kushwaha, who then headed the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), had aligned with the RJD after quitting the NDA in 2018, "and he appeared to be fine with Tejashwi Yadav back then". The JD(U) chief also rubbished Kushwaha's allegation that Kumar, the party's de facto leader, no more exercised his own judgement, but acted on the advice of a coterie with vested interests.

BHARAT DARSHAN

Kamal Kant, commentating officer, 13th Bn of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along with senior SSB officials shake hand with the students of 'Bharat Darshan' tour before flagging off the tour bus, at SSB Headquarters in Srinagar, Monday.

IITs step up measures to check suicides

Counselling students with low grade, reducing curriculum load

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI): Rattled by the suicide of an IIT-Bombay student, several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are taking preventive measures such as counselling and mentorship for students with low grades and backlogs, reducing the curriculum load and setting up mental-wellness centres.

Suicide by an IIT Bombay student recently amid allegations of caste discrimination has brought the limelight back on the rigorous curriculum and competition at the prestigious institutes.

IIT Bombay Director Subhasis Chaudhuri has announced that the institute is working towards changes in their undergraduate curriculum to make it "more relevant and motivating to students, and to reduce some of the stress".

SC refuses to initiate contempt proceedings over demolition of mutt associated with Guru Nanak

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to initiate contempt proceedings over demolition of a mutt associated with Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev in Puri, Odisha. The petitioners, represented by a senior counsel, argued the demolition was in violation of a judicial order.

The bench headed by Justice M R Shah, said it was dismissing the plea as there was no "disobediece". "We don't want to initiate contempt proceedings. We are dismissing it. We see no reason to initiate contempt proceedings," said the bench, also comprising Justice C T Ravikumar.

The petitioners submitted that in 2019, the top court had passed an order recording that while clearing the area in the vicinity of the Jagannath Temple, the authorities would ensure that the deities, samadhi of the mutt, its relics etc would not be disturbed and remain at their current place with better beautification in line with Kalinga style of architecture.

The petitioners claimed the demolition of the premises, which Guru Nanak visited over 500 years ago, took place in spite of the undertaking given by the authorities. The authorities had in 2019 told the apex court that the area near Jagannath Temple needed to be cleared to avoid any stampede, incidents of fire and to take care of emergencies as well as security and safety of the devotees. In December 2019, protests were held over the demolition of the Sikh mutt complex in Puri.

Scores of Sikh community members had taken out a march in Bhubaneswar to protest against state government's decision to carry out the demolition of three mutt complexes, prominent among them being the Mangu Mutt which was said to have been visited by Guru Nanak Dev. The two-storey complex, constructed over 100 years ago, was declared unsafe by the Puri administration a decade ago. It also housed a hotel, nine shops and a restaurant.

'Decision to cap number of visits by prisoners' kin, counsel not arbitrary'

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Delhi High Court has said the authorities' decision to cap the number of visits by prisoners' families, friends and legal advisers to twice a week has been taken considering the number of inmates and it cannot be said to be "completely arbitrary".

The high court said the decision has been taken after careful consideration of the facilities available in the prisons, availability of staff and the number of undertrials.

"In matters of policy, the courts do not substitute its own conclusion with the one arrived at by the government merely because another view is possible. Therefore, this court is not inclined to pass any order issuing writ of mandamus," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

The judgment came while disposing of a petition challenging certain provisions of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018.

The petition by advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai prayed for amendment of the Rules to allow interviews with legal advisers be open from Monday to Friday for an appropriate allotted time with no cap on interviews per week.

The petitioner, in the interim, prayed for visits of the legal counsel to their clients in Delhi prisons more than twice a week.

The high court, in its verdict, said keeping in view the fact that the present PIL is not an adversarial litigation and the petition has been filed in the interest of prisoners, it permits the petitioner to give a representation to the state providing suggestions.

It said the state shall consider the suggestions in the right spirit.

"Depending upon the number of undertrials and prisoners, the State has taken a decision of capping total number of visits by family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers to two times a week and it cannot be said that the said decision is completely arbitrary. The said decision has been taken after careful consideration of the facilities available in the prisons, availability of the staff and the number of undertrials," the bench said.

The petitioner contended that limiting the number of visits by family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers to twice a week is violative of Article 21 of the Constitution as it limits the rights of an undertrial to have adequate resources to legal representation.

Fixing a cap on the number of visits to an undertrial is manifestly arbitrary as it imposes an unreasonable restriction on the right to legal representation and is violative of the right to access justice which is guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution, the petitioner said.

RPF to host International Union of Railways' World Security Congress in Jaipur from Feb 21-23

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

Railway Protection Force (RPF) will host the prestigious International Union of Railways' 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur from February 21-23, the Railways said on Monday. Union internationale des chemins de fer (UIC) or International Union of Railways represents the railway sector and promotes rail transport worldwide.

"Having assumed the chair of UIC Security platform, DG RPF has taken up measures to enhance the involvement of member organizations operating in Asia, Africa and several other developing countries with similar demographic pattern so that their voice could be heard and concerns addressed by the multilateral platform provided by the UIC.

"It is in this backdrop and with India taking over the mantle of the presidency of G-20, India will be proudly hosting the 18th World Security Congress for the International Union of Railways in the Pink City Jaipur," the Railways said in a statement. The RPF will be the host for engaging with the delegates (security representatives) of the member organizations of UIC.

The 18th edition of the Congress, centred around the theme of 'Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future', will be attended by the heads of security of railway organizations from across the world, apart from the concerned officials of UIC, partner international organizations, Indian Railways, RPF and senior police officials from India.

"It will be an event befitting with the occasion of India taking on the leadership of hosting railway security delegates from around the world. RPF is geared up to host impactful deliberations on issues of concern and challenges for railway security across the world and has devised the sessions in a way to focus on second order problem solving matrix so as to come up with practical and immediately implementable solutions that will result into a transformative metamorphosis of railway security across the globe," the statement said.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATION

All Odisha GPLF (Gram Panchayat Level Federation) Mission Shakti workers shout slogans during a demonstration demanding job regularisation along with other demands, in Bhubaneswar, Monday.

Narendra Dabholkar murder

Bombay HC grants CBI four weeks to decide on probe conclusion report

Mumbai, Feb 20 (PTI): The Bombay High Court on Monday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation four more weeks to decide on the probe conclusion report into the 2013 killing of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar. On January 30, the CBI had informed HC its probe in the case was complete and that the investigating officer has sent a closure report to the probe agency's head office for approval. On Monday, advocate Sandesh Patil, appearing for the CBI, informed a division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and P D Naik that some more time was required to get a clearer picture on the approval for the conclusion report. The bench accepted the statement and granted the agency four weeks time to decide on the probe conclusion report. Dabholkar (67), founder of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, was shot dead by two persons, allegedly linked to the radical outfit Sanatan Sanstha, while he was on a morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013. The HC was hearing a petition filed by Narendra Dabholkar's daughter Mukta Dabholkar, seeking that the court continue monitoring the progress of the probe.

SOMVATI AMAVASYA

Devotees in large numbers gather to offer prayers on the occasion of 'Somvati Amavasya', at Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday.

Delhi riots

Accused seeks bail claiming huge delay in trial

New Delhi, Feb 20 (PTI):

An accused, who allegedly pointed a pistol at a police head constable during the communal violence in the northeast Delhi in February 2020, Monday sought bail from the Delhi High Court claiming there was a huge delay in the trial.

Shahrukh Pathan said in the last over one year and three months only two witnesses in the case out of 40 have been examined.

The submissions were made before Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma who listed the matter for further hearing on May 2 and directed the counsel for police and Pathan to file their brief written submissions.

During the hearing, Pathan's counsel argued that though the charges were framed in the case in December 2021, only two prosecution witnesses have been examined so far.

"There is a huge delay in conclusion of trial," the counsel contended, while claiming that Pathan was also attacked in the jail. The counsel said he had filed the bail plea in January 2022 and it has been pending for over a year.

The Delhi Police, in its status report filed in March 2022, have opposed the bail plea of Pathan, saying he has a criminal family history and can adversely influence the witnesses.

Police have said the accused can threaten and endanger the safety of prosecution witnesses and abscond, if granted bail, and can also hamper the process of investigation and destroy evidence. They have also claimed the accused has no remorse for his illegal actions.

The case relates to rioting, causing injuries to police personnel and inflicting gunshot wound on a man named Rohit Shukla by an armed mob in the Jafrabad.

The status report has stated, "The accused has been keeping illegal arm and ammunition and has no remorse for his illegal act. His daring act of firing at a policeman and the public shows that if released on bail, he can repeat such a criminal act."

It said there are police and public witnesses who have identified him. The report said from the criminal family background of Pathan and his desperate nature, it can be inferred that he can adversely influence the witnesses.

The report said the statement of the eyewitnesses and seized CCTV footage establish that Pathan was leading the mob and indulged in the act of rioting on February 24, 2020 during which he fired at the complainant and public from his pistol.

Pathan approached the high court after his bail plea was rejected by a trial court in December 2021. The trial court was of the view that the CCTV footage of a nearby camera installed at the relevant location showed his presence in the riotous mob.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी

झुर्रियां, झांई, दाग, तिल, अनचाहे बाल आदि (आधुनिक लेजर द्वारा), मुहांसे, दाग, नाक, होंठ, ठोड़ी, वक्ष, पेट आदि (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी द्वारा) तथा अंग कटने-जलने की

अति विशेष चिकित्सा.

आर.के.सी.के सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं पचपेढ़ी नाका, धमतरी रोड, कलर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर

कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060

Ajay Advt.

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