

Powerful quake rocks Turkey and Syria

Azmarnin (Syria), Feb 06 (AP):

A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked wide swaths of Turkey and Syria early Monday, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing more than 1,800 people.

Hundreds were still believed to be trapped under rubble, and the toll was expected to rise as rescue workers searched mounds of wreckage in cities and towns across the area.

On both sides of the border, residents jolted out of sleep by the pre-dawn quake rushed outside on a cold, rainy and snowy night. Buildings were reduced to piles of pancaked floors, and major aftershocks continued to rattle the region. Rescue workers and residents in multiple cities searched for survivors, working through



An injured child is carried away from the rubble of a building in rebel-held Azaz, Syria.

tangles of metal and concrete. A hospital in Turkey collapsed, and patients, including newborns, were evacuated from facilities in Syria. In the Turkish city of Adana, one resident said three buildings near his home were toppled. "I don't have the strength anymore," one survivor could

be heard calling out from beneath the rubble as rescue workers tried to reach him, said the resident, journalism student Muhammet Fatih Yavus. "Because the debris removal efforts are continuing in many buildings in the earthquake zone, we do not know how high the

Kills more than 1,800

number of dead and injured will rise," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "Hopefully, we will leave these disastrous days behind us in unity and solidarity as a country and a nation." The quake, which was centred north of the Turkish provincial capital of Gaziantep, was felt as far away as Cairo. It sent residents of Damascus rushing into the street, and jolted awake people in their beds in Beirut. It struck a region that has been shaped on both sides of the border by more than a decade of civil war in Syria. On the Syrian side, the swath affected is divided between government-held territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, which is surrounded by Russian-backed government forces.

Turkey, meanwhile, is home to millions of refugees from that conflict. The opposition-held regions in Syria are packed with some 4 million people displaced from other parts of the country by the fighting. Many of them live in buildings that are already wrecked from past bombardments. Hundreds of families remained trapped in rubble, the opposition emergency organisation, called the White Helmets, said in a statement. Strained health facilities and hospitals were quickly filled with wounded, rescue workers said. Others had to be emptied, including a maternity hospital, according to the SAMS medical organisation. The region sits on top of major fault lines and is fre-

Parliament stalled as Oppn carries on with protests over Adani issue

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

The government's hopes for the start of a debate on the President's address in Parliament in the new week were dashed on Monday as a determined Opposition stalled proceedings in both Houses again, raising the allegations of fraud against the Adani group and demanding a JPC probe.

Following the presentation of the Union Budget on February 1, little business has been transacted in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha due to the Opposition's protests over the issue.

Ruling BJP members have maintained that the affairs involving private entities cannot be discussed in Parliament and



Placards held by Opposition parties' MPs during a protest over Adani row, at the Parliament complex, in New Delhi, Monday.

opposition parties can raise the issue during the customary debate on the President's address at the start of the Budget Session on January 31.

The government was hopeful that the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will start on

Monday. The prime minister generally replies to the discussion in both Houses.

As soon as Lok Sabha met after the weekend break, opposition members, mostly Congress MPs, entered the Well shouting slogans such as "Adani sarkar shame-shame".

MHA files review petition in SC on observations on Sikkimese Nepali

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): The Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against some of its observations referring to Sikkimese Nepalis as "immigrants". In a series of tweets, the Union Home Minister's office said the central government has submitted before the Supreme Court its position about the sanctity of Article 371F of the Constitution that safeguards the Sikkimese identity.

"Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) files review petition in Supreme Court against some of the observations and directions in a recent judgement dated 13th January, 2023 in two petitions of 2013 and 2021 filed by Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim and Ors in Supreme Court.

"GoI (Government of India) reiterated its position about the sanctity of Article 371F of the Constitution that safeguards the Sikkimese identity, which should not be diluted. Further, the observation in the said order about persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like Nepalis should be reviewed as the said persons are Sikkimese of Nepali origin," the tweets said. The MHA's move came amid protests in Sikkim over the Supreme Court observation referring to Sikkimese Nepalis as "immigrants" while extending income tax exemption to all old settlers of the state.

CBI arrests railway engineers in Rs 2 crore bribery case

New Delhi, Feb 6 (PTI): The CBI has arrested three people, including two engineers of Northeast Frontier Railway zone, in an alleged bribery case of Rs 2 crore, officials said on Monday. The agency has arrested Senior Section Engineer Santosh Kumar and his superior Deputy Chief Engineer Rampal posted in Silchar besides contractor Sajjan Chaudhary, who is the owner of Tribeni Constructions. Kumar was arrested while allegedly receiving a part payment of Rs 8 lakh from the construction company, they said. The agency carried out searches at 19 locations resulting in a seizure of cash worth Rs 1.10 crore which includes recovery of Rs 67 lakh from the in-laws of arrested Deputy Chief Engineer Rampal, they said. In its FIR registered against nine people, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that Tribeni Constructions had submitted a bill of Rs 19 crore in one of the projects. The amount included the inflated sum of Rs 2 crore by manipulation in collusion with Rampal, Kumar and other accused public servants, out of which Rs 20 lakh was already given to the deputy chief engineer, Rs 35 lakh to Assistant Executive Engineer B U Laskar (another accused), and Rs 36 lakh of bribe money was to be handed over to Kumar, the FIR alleged.

Soon, train passengers can order food via WhatsApp

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): Train passengers would soon be able to order food through a WhatsApp number, with an interactive Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot handling their queries on e-catering and booking meals. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is already delivering meals on certain routes through WhatsApp number +91 8750001323. "WhatsApp communication for e-catering services implemented on selected trains and passengers. Based on customer feedback and suggestions, the company will enable the same on other trains," the Railways said in a statement on Monday. The IRCTC has started e-catering service through a specially developed website www.catering.irctc.co.in as well its e-catering app 'Food on Track', it said. The implementation of e-catering services through WhatsApp was envisaged in two phases. The first phase has already been implemented. Under this, a business WhatsApp number sends a message to the customers booking e-ticket for opting in e-catering services by clicking on www.ecatering.irctc.co.in. They are then enabled to book meals of their choice from the restaurants of their choice available at stations enroute directly through the e-catering website of IRCTC without even requiring to download the App. The next phase is when the interactive WhatsApp meal booking and delivery are planned. Under this, the WhatsApp number will be enabled to become an interactive two way communication platform for the customer wherein an AI-powered chatbot will handle all queries of e-catering services for the passengers and book meals for them.

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Master Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan developed a unique technology named "**MICROPA**" to detect and filter micro-plastics from drinking water. The detection is done through Nile Red Dye, followed by quantification using a computer algorithm. Project "**MICROPA**" is not just an efficient solution to micro-plastics, but is also cost-effective.

Master Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan is being awarded the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023** for his excellence in the field of Innovation.



आदित्य प्रताप सिंह चौहान
मास्टर आदित्य प्रताप सिंह चौहान ने पीने के पानी में सूक्ष्म प्लास्टिक का पता लगाने और फिल्टर करने के लिए "**माइक्रोपा**" नामक एक अनूठी तकनीक विससित की। पानी में सूक्ष्म प्लास्टिक की पहचान नाइल रेड डाई के माध्यम से की जाती है, इसके बाद कम्प्यूटर एल्गोरिदम का उपयोग करके परिमाणीकरण किया जाता है। प्रोजेक्ट "**माइक्रोपा**" माइक्रो-प्लास्टिक के लिए न केवल एक कुशल समाधान है, बल्कि लागत के दृष्टिकोण से भी प्रभावी है। मास्टर आदित्य प्रताप सिंह चौहान को नवाचार के क्षेत्र में उनकी उत्कृष्टता के लिए प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय बाल पुरस्कार, 2023 से सम्मालित किया जा रहा है।



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Shresth Agrawal
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for excellence in the field of Innovation (2017)



Anmol Rathi
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for excellence in the field of Innovation (2020)



Harsh Agrawal
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for excellence in the field of Innovation (2020)

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Congmen stage protest; demand JPC probe on Adani - Hindenburg row

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: On Monday, Congress party workers staged demonstration in front of LIC and SBI offices in Civic Centre, Bhilai. It was a part of the INC's nationwide protest over the Adani - Hindenburg row. They demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the matter.

Spearheading the demonstrators, Bhilai District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar said that the Prime Minister and the BJP Union Government are unable to give any reply over the Hindenburg report in which Gautam Adani has been accused of brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of



decades. Chandrakar alleged that the meltdown in Adani shares is a scam that involves common people's hard earned money as LIC and SBI have invested in them. He further said that the report regarding the Adani Group scam was published about 13 days ago, but the Prime Minister has not uttered even a sin-

gle word. The BJP Union Government is also trying to escape from the discussion in the parliament over this issue. The silence of the Modi Government over this issue indicates towards its connivance in the scam. Former MLA Badruddin Qureshi, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta

Lodhi, PCC office bearers Jitendra Sahu, Brijmohan Singh, Shiju Anthony, Arun Singh Sisodia, Subhadra Singh, office bearers of District Congress Committee, Block Congress Committees, Sewa Dal, Mahila Congress, INTUC, Youth Congress, NSUI, Corporators and other party workers were present.

Complaints of forgery, pollution, etc received at Jandarshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: A woman from Shakti Nagar, Padmanabhpur complained against an LIC agent at Jandarshan on Monday. She said that three years ago an agent took 70000 rupees to invest in LIC. Later she discovered that her money was not invested in LIC. When she questioned the agent, he returned Rs 20000. The woman requested the Collector to take appropriate action in this case.

A woman from village Chandkhuri said that she is a tribal and her caste is Nagarchi. Her father-in-law's caste was also Nagarchi. Since the Collector's permission is necessary for the sale and purchase of tribal land, therefore, in order to sell the land in a hurry, his relatives changed the caste to



Gada. The woman demanded a probe over the matter. The Collector instructed SDM Durg to investigate this case.

A person made a complaint against a cotton mattress making shop located in Jawahar Chowk Durg. The applicant cotton blending on the road creates a lot of pollution due to which the locals have developed respiratory diseases.

Apart from this, the road also gets jammed due to cotton blending works

on the road. The Collector instructed the corporation officials to take action in this regard.

A woman from Sindhi Colony, Durg submitted her application in Collector Jandarshan. The woman said that her daughter has difficulty in writing and she also has the medical certificate for the same. The woman said that her daughter is going to appear in the board exam. She requested for a writer in the board exam. The Collector instructed

the District Education Officer to take action as per the rules.

A woman from Laxminagar, Khursipar said that she had gone to her village in Maharashtra at the time of lease distribution. By the time she came, the lease distribution program had already taken place, due to which she could not get the lease. The Collector instructed the officials to take action as per the rules.

A family affected by road widening from Ruabandha to Vrinda Nagar Durg also submitted their application. The family member said that they will get great relief if the compensation is paid soon. An application was submitted by the villagers of Khopli with request to change the location of PHE tank construction.

BSF recovers country made pistols and live bullets

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: On the basis of specific inputs given by the Intelligence Branch of Border Security Force, the jawans of 135th BSF Battalion positioned in COB Amabeda carried out search operation in jungles located about 500 meters away in West direction of Muche Khadka Waterfall. The jawans recovered a country-made pistol, one country-made gun (desi katta) and 30 live bullets which were concealed by the Maoists. With the recovery of firearms, BSF succeeded in foiling the plans of the Maoists to carry out any major incident.



BSF sources informed that such small arms are used by small teams of Maoists for the purpose of causing harm to the common citizens. Acting cautiously in a professional manner on the accurate information of the BSF Intelligence Branch, the BSF jawans once again foiled the nefarious intentions of the Maoists.

Indraj Singh, Inspector General, Frontier Headquarters (Special Operations) Border Security Force, Chhattisgarh congratulated all the team personnel on this success. He added that the Border Security Force is committed to safeguard the common citizens in its area of deployment.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: An Inter institute annual cultural and sports festival "CARNIVAL 2023" was organised by Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, for the students of RSR Rungta College of Engineering & Technology (RSR RCET), Rungta College of Dental Sciences and Research (RCDSR), Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (RIPS), Rungta College of Science & Technology (RCST), Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science & Research (RIPSR) and Rungta Institute of Science &



Management (RISM) from February 02-04, 2023. A celebrity night was scheduled on February 03 where "MEET BROS." and team performed live. Various events under

Sports and Cultural categories including Cricket, Volley Ball, Throw Ball, Kabaddi, Tug of War, Pitthul, Arm Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Group & Solo Dance, Battle of

Dance, Antakshari, Master Chef, Makeover, Rap Song, Reels, Photography and many more were conducted. The most awaited event "Battle of Dance"

competition was won by Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (RIPS) and the overall winner of Rungta Carnival was Rungta College of

Dental Sciences and Research (RCDSR). Chief Guest Sanjay Rungta, Chairman, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, said that the competitions among all the institutes were so close and the winning institute is unpredictable. Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, Bhilai congratulated all the participating institutions for making the event a grand success.

Career Counselling organised at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector 10 organised career counselling session on February 04, 2023 in the school premises. The programme was well attended by students of Class X and their parents. The evening commenced with the light-

ing of the ceremonial lamp and garlanding the portraits of Goddess Saraswati and Guruji. Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV was the resource person for the day. The session was very informative. It motivated the students of class X and their parents. They were made aware about the cor-

rect choice of subjects after class X. He focused on the willingness towards one's choice of stream. He stressed on personal, social and psychological reasons for individual's development. He highlighted the list of courses, their different scopes and renowned colleges. Students actively partic-

ipated in Questionnaire session and their queries were addressed by the Principal Bipin Deshmukh. The session was supported and guided by Harish Chandra Chhatwani, Vice Principal and Naman Sharma, CAO, SSV. The function came to an end with national anthem.

BSP employees win seven awards in National Works Skill competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Seven National-level awards by CII were won by employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in National Works Skill competition 2023 at New Delhi.

HRD department of BSP organises Plant level Works Skill competition every year. The winners are sent to the Regional Works skill competition at Kolkata, after which they qualify for the National level competition.

Venkat Raman Madharia won the 1st prize in Carpentry trade from Foundry and Pattern shop while Rameshwar Singh Gajendra won the 2nd prize in Carpentry



trade from Rajhara Mines. In Industrial Hydraulics trade, Deepak Kumar Pandit from Auto Repair shop won the 1st prize while the 2nd prize was bagged by Gopi Kishan from SMS 2. In Turner trade, Manjha Hasanda

from BRM won the 1st prize. In fitter trade, Sevak Ram from SMS 3 won the 2nd prize and Gopal Ram from BF won the 2nd prize in Machinist trade. Sanjay Dhar, CGM(HRD & BE) congratulated the win-

ners. SB Patel, SM (HRD) coordinated the programme. A week long training programme to enhance the skills of the participants was organised by HRD department prior to the National level competition.

Dinesh Patil appointed state co-coordinator



Dinesh Patil

Bhilai, Feb 06: Dinesh Patil has been appointed as the State Co-coordinator of Organic Farming and Research Cell. His appointment was made during a virtual meeting of Kisan Morcha held the other day. On the recommendation of Pawan Sai (State organization General Secretary) and Dwarshesh Pandey (State Coordinator, Organic Farming and Research Cell), the Kisan Morcha State President Pawan Sahu has made this appointment. After his appointment, Patil will represent Chhattisgarh state in the training workshop organized at the National BJP office on February 13, 2023.

Lamp Lighting & Graduation Ceremony organised at PGCON



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: With the motto "Let my light shine", PG College of Nursing (Managed by Bhilai Education Trust, Bhilai) in Hospital Sector, organised Lamp lighting ceremony of B Sc (Nursing) 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students in College campus.

Programme was graced in the presence of Chief Guest Dr Ravindranath M, Chief Medical Officer Incharge, JLNH&RC, Guest of Honour Dr Pramod Binayake, Chief Medical Officer,

JLNH&RC, Shyla Abraham, Assistant Manager and I/C Nursing Administration, JLNH&RC, Arvind Jain, Trustee, Bhilai Education Trust and Surendra Gupta, Secretary, BET were present. After formal welcome the programme commenced with welcome song and dance by college choir group followed by welcome address by Prof Dr Sreelata Pillai, Vice-Principal, PG College of Nursing. Prof Dr Abhilekha Biswal, Principal, PG College of Nursing, presented college

report for the session 2019-22, highlighting the achievements and accolades of staff and students. On this occasion, she also focused on many achievements of the college among which the outstanding one was "The Best Nursing College of the Twin-city" awarded by the Governor of Chhattisgarh Anusuiya Uikey in an event organised by radio channel 94.3 MyFM. In their address Dr Ravindranath M and Dr Pramod Binayake emphasized on Nurses Behaviour and attitude of Nurses and

welcomed all the new students to the noble profession and also congratulated the Graduate students for starting their nursing career. Vijay Kumar Gupta, in his absence conveyed blessings for the occasion. Surendra Gupta blessed the students to achieve their dreams and conquer the challenges around the globe. The students who excelled in academic performance were awarded with prizes by the dignitaries during the programme.

Prof Dr Abhilekha Biswal, Principal, PGCON

briefed the essence of the day in her Lamp lighting message followed by the novice students received the light from respected teachers. Various cultural programmes were also presented by the students which was appreciated by the Guest, Parents and Students. The entire programme of Lamp Lighting and Graduation ceremony was compared by Dr Jaya Chakraborty, Seema Santosh, Dr G Hemavati and Chandrakala Lillhare. At last Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr (Daisy Abraham).

Promotion Orders distributed to newly elevated CGMs



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: 20 General Managers from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were elevated as Chief General Managers and were handed over Promotion orders on February 06, 2023 in a function organised at Director I/C Conference hall. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) handed over the Promotion orders to the promoted Executives at Ispat Bhavan. MM Gadre ED (P&A), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), Dr AK Panda, ED (Finance), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/C (M & HS), NK Banchoor, SEFI Chairman and President, Officers Association were present on the occasion. Executive Directors and President, OA addressed the gathering on the occasion. Anjani Kumar in his address con-

gratulated the promoted CGMs and conveyed his best wishes to them. India is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. The future of Steel industry is very good. We have lot of experience in our company and it is the right time to maintain momentum, he said. I urge you to contribute in making our unit a Profit Centre. Your role is very important in mobilising the team and aligning all people in the right direction, he added. The newly elevated Chief General Managers include KC Mishra, HK Pathak, Pradeep Kumar Mishra, GP Singh, Sushmita Dey, MK Goyal, AK Joshi, RB Gaharwar, RG Dalal, Sudhir Kumar, Pranay Kumar, Pankaj Puri, Jitendra Kumar, Dr K Thakur, Dr V Dwivedi and Dr Rajeev Kumar Pal. 6 CGMs have been transferred to other units.

Ch'garh only state in country to refund money to investors: CM



Who have been duped by fake Chit Fund Companies

An amount of Rs 2.56 cr was returned to 3,274 investors of Durg district

Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday returned an amount of Rs 2.56 cr to 3,274 duped chit-fund investors of Durg district, in a virtual programme organized at his residence office here. An amount of Rs

2.56 cr was returned to 3,274 investors of Durg district

Addressing the programme, Chief Minister said "an amount of about Rs 40 crore has been returned so far to the investors duped by chit-fund companies. The state government is taking strict action against the chit-fund companies in Chhattisgarh. The money is being returned to the investors by seizing the properties of fraudulent chit-fund companies. Chit fund companies in Chhattisgarh have been duping innocent people of

company by selling 2 acres of land. He did not expect that the money would be recovered. Expressing his gratitude towards the Chief Minister, he said that he is getting Rs 9 lakh back with the efforts of the state government and his family is happy with this. Teejan Bai of Khursipar told the Chief Minister that today I am getting Rs 3 lakh back. Now I will be able to get my children married easily. I was hopeful that my money would definitely be returned under your leadership.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, PHE Minister Guru Rudra Kumar, MLA Arun Vora, Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Durg Collector Pushpendra Meena, SP Abhishek Pallav along with the beneficiaries attended the virtual programme.

large sums of money. The state government making its best efforts to ensure that these investors get their money back. Chhattisgarh is the only state in the country which is giving back their money to these investors."

Durg SP Abhishek Pallav said that so far 126 directors and 8 office bearers of chit fund companies have been arrested in the district.

Talking to the Chief Minister, Ghanshyam Sahu, a resident of Uparwara of Durg, said that he had invested money in the chit fund

Two Ch'garh hospitals get NQAS certificate

Union Health Ministry awards NQAS certification to Chatod PHC and Kawardha Urban PHC

Raipur, Feb 06: Two government hospitals of Chhattisgarh have been awarded the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS - National Quality Assurance Standard) certificate by the Union Health Ministry for providing excellent healthcare and better treatment to patients. The Union Health Ministry has awarded the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate to Chatod

Primary Health Center in Dhamtari district and Kawardha Urban Primary Health Center in Kabirdham district.

Congratulating the officers-employees of these two hospitals for receiving the Certificate of Excellence for dedicated health services Health Minister TS Singdeo expressed confidence that these hospitals will continue to maintain their excellence and serve the patients and set new benchmarks for other hospitals in the state.

The Union Health Ministry team had inspected the Kawardha Urban Primary Health Center in November last and the Chatod Primary Health

Center in December to test the quality of services available to the patients. The team also took feedback from the patients in this regard. In the evaluation by the Health Ministry team, Primary Health Center Chatod got 89.73 percent and Urban Primary Health Center Kawardha got 88.4 percent marks.

Before providing the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate, the services and satisfaction level of the hospital are tested on eight parameters by the team of experts. Only hospitals that meet these stringent standards are issued quality certificates by the Union Health Ministry.

Pt.JNM College accountant nabbed for cheating one of Rs 15 lakh



In the name of providing job in Women & Child Devp Dept.

Raipur, Feb 06: The accounts officer of Pt. JNN Medical College Shashikant Sahu has been arrested on charges of cheating people of lakhs in the name of providing

job. As per information in this regard, the complainant Krishna Sahu under Tikrapara thana has filed a report that she lives in Motinagar Tikrapara Raipur. A distant relative of her Shashikant Sahu, R/o Abhanpur, is working as Accountant in Pt. JNN Medical College, Raipur. In the year 2020, the accused Shashikant Sahu had demanded Rs 15 lakh in the name of providing her job in Women & Child Development Department. She complied with the request of Rs 15 lakh made by the accountant Shashikant Sahu and as & when she used to ask

him about the job, he used to give vague answer and dilly-delay it. It was on complaint by Krishna Sahu that a complaint under section 420 of IPC was filed and matter was taken under investigation. Taking this complaint seriously, SSP Prashant Thakur directed all the seniors and other police staff from Tikrapara police thana to nab the accused. The team spread its messengers to know about the location details of the accused and finally located him in Delhi. The police on search found him and nabbed him and is now taking action against him.

Tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh found by GST deptt

Bilaspur, Feb 06: GST Department conducted raid in Bilaspur and unearthed tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh by a firm viz. Santosh Tiles and Santosh Gallery of Bilaspur. The department found massive irregularities in payment of GST by the firm and after which it was made to pay the tax evasion amount of Rs 78 lakh and the shop was sealed.

As per reports in this regard, the GST team reached the firm and on assessment of the tax paid by the above firm found a tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh and got it deposited by the firm on Monday. At the same time the scrutiny of other documents seized

is in process. GST officers informed that this action continue for three days.

In the inquiry and scrutiny done, there was difference in the documents produced and the stock maintained and it is by evaluating the difference as per the statement by the owner of the firm and the stocks, a tax evasion amount of Rs 78 lakh was determined and deposited by the firm.

The Joint Commissioner Enforcement Directorate Raipur Sonal K Mishra that such action by the department would continue for revenue and tax evasion by firms in the near future as well.

Fire in diesel tanker brought under control



Raipur, Feb 06: A major incident was averted near Vidhan Sabha Ring Road No.3, when a loaded diesel tanker caught fire. On getting information about the diesel tanker catching fire, the fire-brigade team rushed to the spot and gained control well on time. It is notable here that the place where the diesel tanker caught fire, there was a petrol pump just at a short distance and it could have led to disaster.

Near Ring Road VS road; major incident averted

But it was timely action by the police and fire-brigade team that this was averted.

As per information in this regard from Mandir Hasoud thana, due to some short-circuit in the Diesel tanker, it caught fire. The front portion first caught fire and it was immediately informed to the police. The police in turned inform the Fire-brigade department and they reached on time and gained control on it. There were chances of blast of entire diesel tanker, it was not brought under control on time.

ANNUAL FUNCTION



Students of Agrasen Public School and Dani Girl's School performed variety of programmes here on Monday.

Stickers to be pasted in vehicles of rule breakers under 'Sticker Campaign'

Raipur, Feb 06: "Sticker Campaign" has been started by the Traffic Police Raipur to prevent road accidents and to create awareness about traffic rules among the riders. A total of 6 types of stickers related to traffic rules have been prepared for helping riders.

Every year many people die and many people become disabled due to road accidents. In view of this, traffic police Raipur conducts



campaigns from time to time to make people aware of following traffic rules, but even after this there has been a significant increase in road accidents. Road accidents take place due to violation of traffic rules by the riders. The sticker campaign has been launched under direction of SSP Prashant Kumar.

Budget session of Chhattisgarh Assembly from March 1

Budget to be tabled likely after Holi

Total 14 sittings will be held in VS

Raipur, Feb 06: The notification for the budget session of Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha (VS) has been issued and the budget session 2023-24 will start from March 1 to 24. The 16th session of fifth state legislative assembly of Chhattisgarh is going to begin on March 1. The session comprising total 14 sittings will last till March 24. The session will begin with Governor's address. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will present budget as Finance Minister. This will be the last bud-



et of present Congress government in the state.

The budget session will start with Governor's speech and then the state's budget for FY 2023-24 will be tabled and it is expected to be tabled after the Holi festival i.e. March 8th. Discussions will be held on the budget on different dates for various departments and then it will be

passed.

Since this happens to be the election year, the state government would be making sufficient provisions for all sections of the society, specially farmers, labourers, youth and women and it would be more of an election-oriented budget and more sops will be declared this time.

Youth Festival 2022-2023 organized

Raipur, Feb 06: On the occasion of Youth Festival 2022-23 various competitions were organized based on the nature theme.

The events included Rangoli which was based on the theme Mandana, Alpna, Aalekhan, Kolam art form in which colour sand, flowers, grains and wood crush were used.

Painting was based on the nature theme. apart from and Mehandi competition was also organized which was participated in large number by the students of all the branches. In this Ms. Darshana and Arushi were the winners in Rangoli, Ms. Neelima and Pravin in Painting as well as as Devshree and Khushi were the winners. The Rangoli was judged by Disha



Kesharwani and Monika Bhairam, Painting by Nehs Dubey and Gunjan Kalyani, Mehandi by Dr. Shiv Shankar Shukla along with Dr. Beena Gidwani.

The event was organized by Prof. Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Principal Columbia Institute of Pharmacy as well as General Secretary of

Indian Pharmacy Graduate Association. The event was conducted by Neha Dubey Assistant Professor.

The event was attended by the faculty members as well as Harjeet Singh Hura, Secretary, Columbia Group of Institutions and Prof. Amit Roy, Director, Faculty of Pharmacy Columbia Group.

Saddu Sports Club holds volleyball competition

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 06: Saddu Sports Club organised a daylong volleyball competition at Housing Board Colony, Saddu on Sunday for sixth year. Players of sixteen teams took part in the competition. SAI Raipur team won first position whereas Khamharia team stood second, Pathri team third and Raipura team fourth. Players of national repute along with local players are given opportunity to showcase their talent through this competition. The first prize comprised cash of Rs 12000 and cup, second prize Rs



8000 and cup, third prize Rs 4000 and cup and fourth prize Rs 2000.

Teams and players performing well in the competition were also award-

ed. MLA Raipur Rural Satyanarayan Sharma was present as chief guest at the competition. Corporator Pramod Sahu, Zone president Md Akram Khan (general secretary Volleyball Federation of India) and Mahendra Chandrakar social worker were specially present.

Saddu Sports Club president PC Nirmalkar, vice president Rajesh Sahu, secretary Shivshankar Nayak and treasurer Ram Dewangan extended thanked players of all teams and sports lovers for their cooperation in successful conduct of the competition.

14 member state team for 'Kalarippayattu' games leave for Gwalior



Raipur, Feb 06: 14 member state team which include 10 players left for Gwalior on Monday to take part in the games schedule from February 8-11, 2023. It needs to be

mentioned here, only one player from the state capital Miss Kanishka Shreevas Class X student of KV WRS has made her place in the team. The

other members are Misha, Risha nain, Shruti Sahu, Ritik Kumar Singh and Vivek Singh (all from Korba). The other players are Divyani Yadav, Jaismine, Jiya Jaiswal and Sonam Sahu (all from Balod) and Kanishka Shreevas from

Raipur. The coaches of the team are Kamlesh Dewangan(Korba) and Harvansh Kaur (Balod). The team managers are Lakhman Kumar Sahu (Balod) and T N Reddy (Sports Department), informs Anis Memon president of District Kalarippayattu Sangh.

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Policies for rural industries should begin soon: Baghel

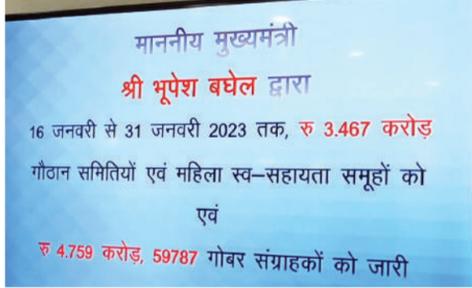
A total of 8.23 cr have been transferred online to villagers, cattle herders, and WSHGs under the GNY



Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that it is imperative that a rural industrial policy be developed soon in order to create more employment and self-employment opportunities in rural areas along the lines of the new rural industrial policy. Baghel was addressing the online distribution program of cow dung purchase and dividend amount to cattle rearing villages, women groups, and Gauthan committees at his residential office today. As part of the program, he released an amount of Rs 8 crore and 23 lakh online.

Addressing the function, Chief Minister Baghel said that the Rural Industrial Parks (RIPA) associated with Gauthans are becoming functional in most of the places. Now before this work is complete, we have to work towards formulating rural industry policy, for this, the concerned department should complete the process soon. So that when the Rural Industrial Parks start functioning completely, the beneficiaries associated with them can be helped by taking loans from the bank and starting other businesses.

Congratulating the women groups associated with Gauthan including cattle rearers, the Chief Minister said that it is a very good thing that they are continuously making



records. After payment of 8.23 cr, this figure will become Rs.403.58 cr. Similarly, after payment of Rs 4.76 cr to cow dung vendors, this figure will be Rs 206.49 cr. Expressing happiness over the power units started for power generation from cow dung, he directed to connect the power generated from these units to the power grid and fix the price of electricity.

The Chief Minister stated that it is a matter of pride that 4927 Gauthans have become self-reliant in the state and have begun purchasing cow dung from their own savings. As of

now, the Gauthan groups that used to make earthen lamps, vermicompost, etc. will now be contributing towards the production of electricity. As per the MOU signed for power generation in the past, Bemetara and Bastar have taken concrete shape at the ground level and now the task of connecting the electricity produced by it to the power grid and fixing the price of the electricity produced from it will be completed soon. While reviewing the unit for making paint from cow dung, the Chief Minister said that it is a matter of happiness that 23 paint units are under

process in 21 districts, and 13 units have been completed. More than 17 thousand liters of paint has been produced and an income of more than 22 lakh rupees has been earned. He said that schools and government offices will soon require a large amount of paint, so we have to produce natural paint by balancing the demand and supply so that paint can be supplied at the right time. Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey and Virtually present Public Health Minister Guru Rudra Kumar also addressed this occasion. while, Advisor to Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Secretary Dr. Ayaz Tamboli, Director of State Rural Livelihood Mission Avneesh Sharan, Director of Agriculture Department Ranu Sahu, Director of Horticulture Department Matheswaran V. and other officers were also present.

CM pays tributes to Pt Motilal Nehru

On his death anniversary

Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the great freedom fighter and founder of 'Swaraj Party', Pt. Motilal Nehru on his death anniversary, which falls on February 6.



Baghel said that Pt. Motilal Nehru was one of

the important leaders of the Indian freedom movement. He gave up his law practice on the call of Gandhiji. Abandoning the modern lifestyle, he started wearing Khadi. Baghel said that his invaluable contribution in India's struggle for Independence will always be remembered.

CM reviews the budget preparations of the departments

Under him and three other ministers

Including Cabinet Ministers Ravindra Choubey, Mohammad Akbar and Kawasi Lakhma



Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reviewed the budget preparations of his departments and also of the departments under Cabinet Ministers Ravindra Choubey, Mohammad Akbar and Kawasi Lakhma in a meet-

ing held at his official residence here on Monday.

Baghel discussed and reviewed the budgets of Energy Department, Aviation, General Administration, Finance, Mineral Resources, Public Relations, Electronics and Information Technology,

Commercial Tax (Excise), Commerce and Industry, Law and Legislative Affairs Department, Transport, Housing and Environment, Forest and Climate, Parliamentary Affairs, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Water Resources and Ayacut, Panchayat and Rural Development Department in the meeting.

Departmental Ministers, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo and concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Recreational facilities to help entire Raipur: Dhuppad

Tenders issued for developing recreational facilities in KVVY of RDA

proposal of developing recreational facilities in KVVY was approved in RDA's board of directors meeting last on Jan 30.

According to the Chairman RDA Subhash Dhuppad, on development of recreational facilities in Kamal Vihar Yojana (KVVY), entire Raipur city will be benefitted. As per the provisions given in the Master Plan, at the sanctioned land use in the project sports venue, swimming pool, venue for Fair and Exhibition; Open Air Theatre; Picnic Spot; Garden, Shooting Range, Birds sanctuary; Regional garden, District Garden, Sports Ground, stadium for Traffic ground; multi-

purpose ground/ garden and others will be developed. In addition to this in the sanctioned land use by eligible officer, fire-fighting centre; nursery; maintenance of Stud Farm; petrol pump; andn Gas Filling centre; 'Upahar Grih'; food and all other services related to recreation and entertainment will be provided including building, infrastructure, rest house, bus and railway passengers waiting room; Postal and Telegraph office, Multiplexes; Motel, Club, Picnic Hub, Holiday Resort, 'Sanskrit and Handicraft' outlet; weekly market and others will be provided.

Sarla Tiwari appointed WDCC (urban) District President

Jagdalpur, Feb 06: Sarla Tiwari, a senior Congress leader and currently the jail commission's supervisor, has been appointed the president of the Women's District Congress Committee (WDCC) Urban by the Bastar Congress Committee. Whereas, Champa Thakur has been appointed as WDCC Bastar District Rural President. Champa Thakur has been active in Congress for a long time.



On the instructions of Chhattisgarh PMC In-charge Sunita Sherawat, new appointments have been made to the posts of women district heads in all the districts of

Chhattisgarh. After the end of the tenure of 5 years of the previous office bearers, now new people have been given a chance in many districts.

Sarla Tiwari, president of the newly elected WDCC said that she has been devoted to the Congress party for the last 20 years. This time again the Congress Committee has given her the responsibility, for which she is grateful. She said that in the interest of the party and the workers, she will fulfill the responsibilities for the said post as per the intention of the Chief Minister and as per the orders of the District Congress Committee.

12 units for manufacturing natural paint started

From cow dung in Gauthans

About 17,936 lts of natural paint produced so far

Income of Rs 22.51 lakh generated from the sale of natural paint

ed in Gauthans. At present, 13 units have been set up in Gauthans for manufacturing natural paint, out of which 12 units have been started.

A total of two such units have been established in Raipur district, one unit each in Kanker, Durg, Balod, Korba, Bemetara, Surajpur, Bastar, Korea, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bijapur districts. Except for the unit set up in Korea district, paint production has started in the rest of the units. A total of 7255 liters of natural paint has been produced so far by the two units established in Gauthans of Raipur district. Kanker district ranks second in the production of natural paint with 6059 liters

of natural paint produced here. Besides, 100 liters each of natural paint has been produced in Balod and Korba districts, 300 liters in Bemetara, 500 liters in Surajpur, 120 liters in Bastar district, 400 liters in Kondagaon, 1102 liters in Dantewada and 200 liters in Bijapur. A total of 17,936 liters of natural paint has been produced in the state so far. An income of Rs 22.51 lakh has been earned from the sale of 9,622 liters of natural paint. The establishment of units for making natural paint from cow dung is in the final stage in 29 identified Gauthans of 28 districts of the state. Production of natural paint will start here soon.

Workers enter the electoral fray with victory resolve: BJP



Jagdalpur, Feb 06: Bharatiya Janata Party District Working Committee meeting was held in Lohandiguda Mandal in Chitrakot on Saturday. In which the strategy and outline of the upcoming action plan was prepared by reviewing point-by-point the completed works of the organization. Keeping in view the assembly elections to be held after nine months, a call was given to the workers to enter the field with the resolve of victory by making a policy of throwing all the energy in the polling stations.

Former MP Dinesh Kashyap said that in view of the assembly elections, every energetic worker of

the BJP should fulfill the responsibility of taking the welfare schemes of the central government to every house. Make the schemes of the Center accessible to the beneficiaries, as well as expose the mal-governance and false promises of the Congress government to the public. Taking information from the workers about the works done at the booth level, District co-in-charge Sevakram Netam said that this is the time to go and work with the people only. To whom the organization has entrusted the responsibility, all of them should complete the tasks with full responsibility. Former State General

Secretary Kiran Dev said that the program of 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar' should be taken forward seriously. Due to the biased attitude of the Congress government, the task of filling applications from each and every beneficiary who has been deprived of housing should be on a war-footing.

Srinivas Maddi read out the political resolution passed by the State Working Committee in the meeting. District convener Maniram Kashyap kept the point-wise information about 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar' programme. Rakesh Tiwari gave details on discussion program on examination and Shridhar Ojha on Mann Ki Baat programme. Dr. Subhau Kashyap and Lachuram Kashyap also addressed the working committee meeting. The programme was coordinated by Ramashray Singh and the vote of thanks was done by Narasimha Rao.

All the members of BJP district working committee including Baiduram Kashyap, Samundrai Kutch, Yogendra Paday, Vedprakash Paday, Rajneesh Panigrahi, VR Rajput, Babul Nag, Lalita Baghel, Dipti Paday, Sita Bai, Nirdesh Diwan, Raituram, A Janaki Rao, Narsingh Thakur and other workers were present.

CWJU Tehsil-level conf held

Masturi, Feb 06: The conference of journalists of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Union (CWJU) Tehsil unit Masturi was organized at Malhar Status Rest House on Sunday. In which former MLA Dilip Lahariya was present as the chief guest. He said that journalists are the mirror of the society, doing journalism at the village level is very complicated and it is our responsibility to cooperate in their work.

He also threw light on the beneficial schemes run by the state government in the interest of the journalists of the state.

At the same time, he requested the journalists present to air the work being done in the public



interest by the state government from time to time. Santosh Thakur threw light on the activi-

ties of the organization and appealed all the journalists to join the divisional level press conference to

be held in Mungeli on Feb 8. Sangh's patron Om Prakash Pandey expressed his opinion about the activities of the organization being conducted at the block-level and suggested all the journalist colleagues to do fair journalism. On this occasion, senior journalists Basant Bansal, Krishnapal Dev Khatkar, Suresh Dubey, Hari Shankar Pandey, Jagannath Prasad Netam, Santosh Mishra, Uday Singh Thakur, Nanku Sahu, Sunhar Ram Chandel, Durga Prajapati, Sanjay Pandey, Krishna Kumar Chandel, Harsh Kedia, Ganesh Prasad Tiwari, Ajit Rathore, Surya Prakash Ghritlahre and other journalists were present.

Doctors of RCIR pay courtesy call on CM Baghel

Raipur, Feb 06: Doctors from the Regional Cancer Institute at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Raipur paid a visit to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office. During this occasion, the doctors, led by Dr. Manjula Beck, informed the Chief Minister that their team has conducted free cancer screening camps in different districts of Chhattisgarh so that people can be diagnosed with this terrible disease and receive effective treatment in a timely manner.

In this regard, another free cancer screening camp has been scheduled



for February 2 in Mekahara. A marathon is also being held on February 4 by the students and staff of Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur; to raise awareness about cancer. On this occasion Dr. Pradeep Chandrakar,

Dr. Rajeev Ratan Jain, Dr. Akhilesh Sahu, Dr. Umesh Dewangan, Dr. Sanya Taneja, and Mr. P. Soni were present.

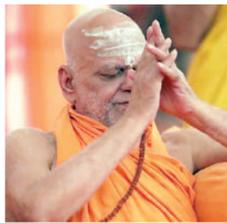
Seer Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati arriving on Feb 9

Surprise inspection of Bagless day

To hold 'Dharm-Sabha' in Gram Ranvirpur on Feb 10-11

Central Chronicle News
Kawardha, Feb 06: There is lot of enthusiasm among the spiritual followers and disciples of the Seer of Govardhanmath Jagannathpuri-Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati who has left on his journey for promotion and protection of Sanatan culture of the country. The residents of Gram Ranvirpur of Kabirdhaam district are eagerly waiting to accord

warm welcome to the Religious and Spiritual Guru on his arrival and are making preparations at their own level through different mediums. It is approximately after 7 years that Seer Shankaracharya will be arriving to Kabirdhaam district and due to which there is lot of enthusiasm and new energy among his followers and devotees and seeing which there are chances of arrival of followers and disciples from all over the state.



It is notable here that Shankaracharya Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati will be addressing here 'Dharm-sabha' and giving information in this regard Bhawana Bohara in-

formed that he will be arriving here on Feb 9 in the evening and on Feb 10-11 there will be massive 'Dharm-sabha' and convention in Gram Ranvirpur. The people of the village and district and the devotees are busy in making best of the preparations to accord warm welcome to him, along with members of 'Samayojak Adityavahini-Anandvahini' as well and make it a historical and grand welcome. A meeting in this

regard was held among the villagers and the organisers and responsibilities were delegated to all concerned. Bhawana Bohara said that the people of Kabirdhaam district are all enthusiastic to hear and get the blessings of the Seer who is torch-bearer and protector of Indian culture, 'Sanatan Dharm' and faith in Hinduism. It is an honour for all that Seer is arriving on this land after seven years, she added.

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 06: On Saturday, Bagless Day, a surprise inspection was done by District Education Officer (DEO) B.R. Baghel in the re-organized primary school of Panganpal. Appreciating the efforts being made in the re-run school, the campus was inspected and the teacher was asked to make a list of basic requirement and give it in writing and assured to solve it soon. While talking to the children, Mr. Baghel appreciated the teachers while assessing their language and numeracy level.



Distributors, social works felicitated

World Cancer Day celebrated in SAGEMS

By CWJU in CRC Club Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Feb 06: A journalist's felicitation programme was organised by Chhattisgarh Journalist Welfare Union (CJWU) at CRC Club, Manikpur last on Feb 3. On this occasion State President CJWU Amit Gautam, State Gen. Secy. KK Goyal, State V-P Mahesh Acharya, State Jt. Secy. Tilka Sahu were present. Chief Guest of the programme Tanakhar MLA Mohitram Kerketta had to leave because of urged call from CM in Raipur and in his place asked Mukesh Chouhan to represent him. Special guest on the occasion was Director Geeta Devi Hospital Dr Sandhya Kashyap, TI Kotawali thana Korba Rupak Sharma. On this occasion CWJU Patron JK Chanda, Convener BK Mishra, District President Vijay



Lal, District Gen. Secy. Pradeep Mishra and Treasurer Simon Francis were present on the dais. The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp before Goddess Saraswati and garlanding the photo of 'Chhattisgarhia mahatari'. TI Kotawali Thana Korba Rupak Sharma in his address hailed the important role of journalists in the society and added that with such programmes, there is always some curiosity among social workers and young children to perform. State V-P Mahesh Acharya hailed the performance

of office bearers of CWJU in Korba district. CWJU also organises programmes at state-level and the journalists being felicitated in Korba is indeed appreciable. Special Guest Geeta Devi Hospital Dr Sandhya Kashyap also hailed the works of CWJU Korba unit. Gautam in his address gave information about programmes organised in other parts of the state and other districts and hailed the felicitation of newspaper distributors. He informed that CWJU is functional in all parts of the state and it keeps organising social pro-

gramme frequently. State Gen. Secy. also hailed the felicitation programme and informed that CWJU has organised blood donation and other such programmes. District President Vijay Lal in his address said that objective behind holding such programmes is to create public awareness. There is no dearth of talent in Korba district and if they get a platform, then it will be bringing their hidden talent forward and pass on good message to the society.

Students gave the message on cancer awareness

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Feb 06: World Cancer Day is celebrated every year on Feb 4 to achieve the goal of educating and motivating people about its prevention, early detection and treatment. Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam, BEO Konta S.K. Deep Morning assembly at Swami Atmanand Excellent English Medium School, Konta in the presence of SK Deep, on Beg-less Day Saturday, students of Arpa Blue House presented a skit to bring awareness about cancer.



During this, the students gave attractive and mesmerizing presentations. During this, the head teacher of the institution Srinivas Vasu and all the staff were present. Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam, BEO SK Deep was welcomed by the students with bouquets made by themselves. Srinivas Vasu, the head teacher of the institution told that every Saturday various events are held in Swami Atmanand English Medium School, the students of the institution are divided into four houses and various com-

petitions are organized for their all-round development. On the occasion of World Cancer Day on Feb 4, the students of Arpa Blue House gave a message to be aware of the diseases caused by intoxication. Addressing the program, Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam said that such events develop creative abilities in the students. Present on this occasion, BEO S.K. Deep encouraged the students by giving examples of many inspiring incidents.

Maoists kill local BJP functionary

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 06: Maoists hacked to death a 40-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party functionary in Bijapur district while he was attending a wedding function, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday in Paikram village where the victim, Neelkanth Kakem, who was the president of Awapalli mandal of the BJP, had gone with his family to attend the marriage of a relative. When Kakem was busy with the function at the venue, some unidentified Maoists suddenly attacked him with sharp edged weapons. He died on the spot. Soon after being alerted, a police team went to the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem.

search in the area to trace the assailants, he said.

He died on the spot," the official said. Soon after being alerted, a police team went to the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem, he said. The exact reason behind the murder was yet to be ascertained, the official said. Security personnel have launched a

search in the area to trace the assailants, he said.

Nearly 1.27 liters of 'gaumutra' procured in Gauthans

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 06: Production and use of organic insecticide 'Brahmastra' and crop enhancer 'Jeevamrit' from 'Gaumutra' has been started in the state. A total of 1 lakh 26 thousand 858 liters of 'Gaumutra' (cow urine) has been purchased in Gauthans at the rate of Rs 4 per litre. Nearly 47, 447 liters of pest controller Brahmastra and 21,000 liters of growth enhancer Jeevamrit have been produced by women self-help groups in Gauthans. So far, 59, 557 liters of Brahmastra and Jeevamrit worth Rs 25 lakh 74 thousand 355 have been purchased by the farmers. Production of 27.56 lakh quintals of compost manure from cow dung Under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana, more than 27.56 lakh quintals of compost have been produced so far by the women groups associated with Gauthans. This includes 22 lakh 5 thousand 138 quintal vermicompost, more than 5 lakh 50 thousand 862 quintal super compost, and 18,924 quintals super compost plus manure, which are being sold through societies at the rate of Rs 10, Rs 6, and Rs 6.50 per kg respectively.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI RAIPUR ZONAL OFFICE- G.D. Shesh Nilayam, Tatyapara Chowk, Kankalipara Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Ph.: 0771-4212423/3212

NOTICE
E-auction notice was published by our office in Navbharat Central Chronicle on 29.01.2023 in which property no. 16 & 17 Bemelara Branch - Borrower-Shri Sandeep Kumar Yadav and Borrower-M/s Dodani Foods (Prop. Smt. Poonam Dodani) E.M.D. The amount has been erroneously published as of 0.16 (Lakh) which has been rectified as E.M.D. The amount should be read as 1.60 (Lakh).
Authorized Officer, Bank of India

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch, Plot No. 4, PSP Area, Near AIIMS, Saket Nagar Bhopal Tel.: 8989014648

E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE)
Appendix-IV A [See provision to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) & 6(2) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 24/02/2023, for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor)

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Property	Demand Notice Dt. / Possession Dt. / Outstanding Amt.	Reserve Price EMD Amt. / Bid Increment Amt.
Borrowers : M/s Ganpati Industries Prop. Mrs. Sandhya Ashish Gupta, Industrial Plot No 134/B & 134 (H), Light Industrial Area, Bhilai, Durg, CG. Mrs. Sandhya Gupta W/o Mr. Ashish Gupta Mr. Ashish Gupta	1) Industrial plot no 134/B & 134/H, Light Industrial Area Village, Chhawani Bhillai, Durg (CG). Plot No 134/B Bounded by: East - Part of Plot No 134, West - Road, North - Plot No 134/A South - Part of Plot No 134. Plot No 134/H- Bounded by: East - Plot No -134/E, West - Plot No 134/B, 134/C & 134/D, North - Plot No 134/G, South - Plot Nala 2) Plant & Machinery situated at Plot No 134/B & 134/H, Light Industries Area, Village Chhaoni, Bhillai Durg (CG)	30.04.2021 05.08.2021 as on 31/01/2023 ₹ 3,71,51,095.72 + Intt. & other charges	₹ 47.57 Lakh ₹ 5.00 Lakh ₹ 25000/- ₹ 9.06 Lakh ₹ 1.00 Lakh ₹ 25000/-
Borrowers : M/s Ganpati Steel Plot No. 134-G, Light Industrial Area Bhillai CG-490022 Partners: 1. Mr Sunil Gupta S/o Shri Ram Chand Gupta 2. Mr Ashish Gupta S/o Shri Ram Chand Gupta	1.Land & Building, Shed on DIC Plot no. 134/G Light Industrial Area, Chhaoni, Bhillai Dist- Durg (C.G.) measuring 18000 sqft. Boundaries: North: M/s Shrikant Industries, South: Open Land & Nallah, East: Nallah, West: Road 2. Hypothecation of Plant & Machinery on DIC Plot no. 134/G, Light Industrial Area, Chhaoni, Bhillai, Dist-Durg (C.G)	03.12.2019 11.12.2020 as on 31/01/2023 ₹ 11,07,49,256.03 + Interest & charges	₹ 40.15 Lakhs ₹ 4.05 Lakhs ₹ 25000/- ₹ 66.05 Lakhs ₹ 6.70 Lakhs ₹ 25000/-

Last date for submission of online bids is on or before 22-02-2023 upto 5.00 p.m.
Date and Time of e-auction : 24-02-2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
Account Detail for EMD Submission : Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, SPLSD ARM Branch (6616) Bhopal OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, A/c No 209227434 IFSC Code: CNRB0006816
For sale proceeds of Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (https://www.canara-bank.com) or may contact Mr. Ranjan Kumar Pani, Chief Manager, SPLSD ARM Branch, Canara Bank, Plot no. 4, PSP Area, Near AIIMS, Saket Nagar Bhopal. Contact no. 8989014648 during office hours on any working day.
Place: Bhopal, Date: 06-02-2023
AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI Kawardha Branch - Surjit Singh Khanuja Complex, Infront of Bus Stand, Kawardha (C.G.), PIN-491995, Ph.No: 07741-233601, E-mail: kawardha.raipur@bankofindia.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Kawardha Branch 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 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being dealt as mentioned here under, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules as mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India Kawardha Branch for an amount detail given as below.

Branch Name (Borrower/Guarantor)	Description of the Properties	Demand Notice	Amount Due
M/s. Amarika Agro Jaggery Prop. Mr. Prakash Chandravanshi	Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property of freehold Diverted Land and Building Situated at Khasara No. 36477 P.H.No. 36/35 Situated at Khairihati Post Marka Teh. Kawardha, District. Kabirdham, Pin-491995, State-C.G. Admeasuring Area 8720 Sq.ft. belongs to in the name of Mr. Prakash Chandravanshi S/o. Satruhan Chandravanshi. Boundaries :- North : Other's Land, South: Road, East: Other's Land, West: Other's Land.	Date 27.10.2022 Possession Notice Date 02.02.2023	₹ 19,47,660.77/- (Nineteen Lac Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Rupees and Seventy Seven Paise Only + interest + Other expenses)
M/s. Amarika Agro Industries Prop. Mrs. Pushpa Chandravanshi	Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property of Freehold Diverted Land and Building Situated at Khasara No. 4734 and 474/4 P.H.No. 13, Situated at Chhania Post Pipariya, Teh. Kawardha, District, Kabirdham, Pin-491995, State-C.G., Admeasuring Area 9472 Sq.ft. belongs to in the name of Mrs. Pushpa Chandravanshi W/o. Shekhar Chandravanshi. Boundaries :- Survey No. 4734 and 474/4, North : Other's Plot, South : Road, East : Other's Plot, West : Other's Plot.	Date 14.10.2022 Possession Notice Date 02.02.2023	₹ 12,45,078.23/- (Twelve Lac Forty Five Thousand Seventy Eight Rupees and Twenty Three Paise Only + interest + Other expenses)

Date: 07.02.2023, Place : Kawardha
Authorized Officer, Bank of India

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 382268 Branch Office: Sky Park, unit Nos.492 & 493, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
APPENDIX IV(See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Possession Notice(for Immovable Property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a demand notice dated 29-11-2022 calling upon the borrowers Chandrakant Satpute, M/S Chandrakant Cycle Stores, Satish Satpute seeking repayment of the amount mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 66,35,138.13/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight and Thirteen Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 06th Day of Feb of the year, 2023. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of Rs. 66,35,138.13/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight and Thirteen Paise Only) and interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the Act., in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description Of The Immoveable Property
Abadi Khatian No. 651 (Part), GF-832 Sqft, FF-1663 Sqft, Mouza Raipur Khas Tatyapara, Sadar Bazar Ward No.39, Municipal House No.-370, Ph.no. 62 R.N.M Raipur-1, Tah. & District. Raipur (C.G.) - 492001. The property is butted and bounded by: East: House of Rajendra Tamboli West: House of Rajendra Tamboli Sadari North: G. E. Road South: 10 ft Gully.
Date: 06/02/2023
Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer
Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

STATE BANK OF INDIA Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) **SARB, Block B-1, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Ph : 0711-4919726-27-28-29-30 Mob- 73544627006,9425591546,9826164402, 9926303750**

E-AUCTION NOTICE
Appendix - IVA [See Provision to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under 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 hypothecated/mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 23.02.2023 (11:00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.) for recovery of dues to the secured creditor from Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s). The reserve price will be as mentioned against the property, listed in the table below and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned against the property below.

E-Auction Date and Time 23.02.2023, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (10 Minutes Extension with unlimited time)

Sr. No.	Borrowers and Guarantor Details	Brief Description of Assets Other known Debt Encumbrances, If Any & Title Holder Name	Recovery of Arrears Property Being Sold For	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lac) EMD (Earnest Money) Bid Increment
1	Shri Harjeet Singh Hanspal & Late Surendra Pal Singh Hanspal	Residential Building Part of Kh.no 265/3, PH.no 108, Plot 10/5, Mauja Fafadhi, Gali no. 4, Rajeev Gandhi Ward no 22, R.N.M Raipur-1, Tah & Dist- Raipur. Area-1593 Sq.ft in the name of Shri Harjeet Singh Hanspal & Late Surendra Pal Singh Hanspal. Boundaries:-North- Hanspal's Complex wall, South- Road, East- Land Of Smt Rani, West- Nali. (Physical Possession)	₹ 2716136.00 + Interest & Other Charges. Demand Notice Dt. 12.03.18	₹ 42,34,000.00 ₹ 4,24,000.00 ₹ 25,000.00
2	Shri Aman Singh S/o Shri Rakesh Singh	Residential Flat - Flat No.502,5th Floor,Harshit Diamond Tower,Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward no 13, opposite hanuman mandir, Hirapur,Raipur (C.G) Area -1020 Sq.ft Boundaries:- North- Open Space, South- Lobby, East- Flat No 503 West- Flat No-501 (Symbolic Possession)	₹ 25,48,378.00 + Interest & Other Charges. Demand Notice Dt. 17.11.20	₹ 19,80,000 ₹ 1,98,000 ₹ 25,000
3	M/s Bhillai Diesels. Proprietor: Shri Vishwajeet K Anand S/o Shri Ajay Anand	Property No. 1) Flat No 3, Builtup area 528.17 sq ft Block No.A, Ground floor New Palash Towers, situated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Nagar, at Khasra No 44/5, Mouja- Risali, Tahsil & District -Durg in the name of Shri Vishwajeet K Anand & Smt Sangeeta Anand W/o Shri Vishwajeet.K.Anand. Boundries :- North- Flat 02, Block A. South- Flat No 04, Block A, East- Boundary wall, West- Flat No-06, Block A. (Physical Possession) Property No. 2) Flat No 4, Builtup area 528.17 sq ft, Block No.A.Ground floor New Palash Towers, situated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Nagar Mouja-Risali, at Khasra No 44/5, Tahsil & District -Durg, in the name of Shri Vishwajeet K Anand & Smt Sangeeta Anand W/o Shri Vishwajeet.K.Anand. Boundries :- North- Flat 03, Block A. South- Flat No 05, Block A, East- Boundary wall, West- Flat No-06, Block A. (Physical Possession)	₹ 26,40,946.00 + Interest & Other Charges. Demand Notice Dt. 08.09.16	₹ 25,15,000.00 ₹ 2,52,000.00 ₹ 25,000.00
4.	M/s Ganapati Wires. Prop- Shri Ashish Gupta. Guarantor - Smt Sandhya Gupta W/o Shri Ashish Gupta	Open plot bearing Kh.no 166/5 Situated at PC no 17, North of Krish Upaj Mandi, Mauja- Sikola, ward No. 15, New Ganj Area, Durg, Tah. & Dist.- Durg (C.G.) admeasuring 21750 sqft standing in the name of Smt Sandhya Gupta W/o Shri Ashish Gupta. Boundries- North- Road, South- Plot of Shri Puran Sahu, East- Land of owner of Magan Bhandar Hotel, West- Land of Magan Prasad, (Symbolic Possession) (This Auction is Subject to decision of DRT Jabalpur in SA No 275/2020)	₹ 36307031.63 + Interest & Other Charges. Demand Notice Dt. 30.11.19	₹ 1,11,00,000.00 ₹ 11,10,000.00 ₹ 50,000.00

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-Auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd. Auction web page/portal http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. Bidders/buyers have to transfer the EMD amount to their Global EMD Wallet using online mode by registering with respective e-auction web portal of http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposit in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned officer/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. Online Auction Sale Tender Documents, Online E-Auction Tender Form, Declaration Form, Terms and Conditions are available on the website. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. http://www.sbi.co.in and https://www.ibapi.in (website details) given.

This publication is also a 15 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Inspection of Properties under Physical Possession Date & Time : Between 08.02.2023 to 20.02.2023 (As per the time mentioned above)
Date: 07.02.2023, Place: Raipur
Authorized Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Raipur

BRIEF



WB CM Mamata Banerjee being conferred D. Lit by Governor CV Ananda Bose and Vice-Chancellor John Felix Raj during the 4th convocation ceremony of the St. Xavier's University, in Kolkata, Monday.

Bribery

Jabalpur: A Madhya Pradesh cooperative department employee was held on Monday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 in Jabalpur; a Lokayukta police official said. The accused, a reader in the department, had sought a bribe from a man to issue his appointment order as manager of an establishment under the department, Lokayukta Deputy Superintendent of Police Surekha Parmar told PTI.

Injured

Jammu: A 15-year-old boy was injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, sources said. Mohammad Shoaib was grazing his cattle as the landmine exploded in the forward area, they said.

Rob

New Delhi: Five men, two of them food delivery executives, were arrested for allegedly robbing Rs 32 lakh from a man at gunpoint near Hedgewar hospital in east Delhi, police said on Monday. The accused have been identified as Rihaan, 28, and Nazim, 27, both residents of Uttar Pradesh, and Ansaar alias Aahad Khan, 30, Rahul Verma, 20, and Aakash, 25, all residents of Delhi, they said. On January 29, police got information regarding a robbery of Rs 32 lakh near Hedgewar Hospital. The complainant said that three people came on a bike, hit him with the butt of the pistol and robbed him of his bag that had Rs 32 lakh in it, a senior police officer said.

Shop fire

Kolkata: A fire broke out in an automobile tyre shop at Chowringhee Road here on Monday morning, officials said. Four fire tenders were rushed to the spot to bring the blaze under control, they said. Four people, who were inside the shop, have been rescued, the officials said, adding, they did not suffer any injury.

Shot dead

Chandigarh: A former village head was shot dead by a group of assailants in Punjab's Batala, police said on Monday. The assailants opened fire at Swaran Singh at his residence in village Dahiya on Sunday night. Singh was rushed to the civil hospital where he was declared brought dead, said police. Police suspect old enmity led to the murder.

'JD(U) suffered after allying with BJP in 2017'

Banka (Bihar), Feb 06 (PTI)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that the JD(U)'s realignment with the BJP half a decade ago, which came to an abrupt end last year, had been to the detriment of his party.

The JD(U) leader was replying to queries from journalists in Banka district, which he visited as part of the Samadhan Yatra' mass outreach programme.

He was asked about the "open letter" to the party cadre from disgruntled parliamentary board chief Upendra Kushwaha, who has convened a two-day meeting next week to discuss the "gradual erosion of support base" of the JD(U) and anxieties over a rumoured "deal" with the



Nitish Kumar

RJD, its current ally.

A visibly peeved Kumar sought to remind Kushwaha that the latter has been always rewarded by the party despite having ditched it repeatedly and "if he keeps airing his grievances in public then it will be construed as he has other plans for himself".

When asked whether he thought Kushwaha was forcing his hand at the BJP's behest, Kumar replied cryptically, "You can draw your conclusions. How much publicity this affair is getting I have never seen such spotlight on my party".

However, the wily leader indicated that he was giving a long rope to the intransigent party functionary saying, "I have said it and so has our national president that nobody needs to react to whatever he (Kushwaha) says". He, however, ridiculed Kushwaha for the repeated claim that the party was growing weak, pointing out that "our recent membership drive swelled the party ranks like never before".

"The only instance when the party did suffer harm was during our alliance in 2017," said Kumar, in an obvious reference to the BJP which he did not mention by name. Recounting the 2019 Lok Sabha polls which JD(U) and BJP contested together, along with late Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP and the clean sweep made by the NDA, Kumar referred to the trajectory followed by the saffron party thereafter. "We had asked for three to four berths (in the Union cabinet) but they said they will not give more than one, so we did not join. In the assembly polls (in 2020) we supported them but the way a campaign was run against our (JD(U) candidates has there been any such precedent?" asked Kumar.

'Hope our translation programmes produce more Geetanjali Shrees'

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI)

The Booker Prize winning feat of Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell is quite an inspiration for British Council's translation programmes in India and these schemes aim at bringing more Geetanjali Shrees to the world, says the UK organisation's new India head Alison Barrett.

Talking at length about various literary and cultural initiatives as part of the India-UK Together, Season of Culture (June 2022 - March 2023), Barrett said these look forward to strengthening artistic collaboration, skills and networks for the creative



Alison Barrett

economies of both the countries.

"We are quite inspired by the work of Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell and the success they have had. It is a brilliant moment for India as well as the UK. We are hoping that

we can try and bring out more Geetanjali Shrees to the world," Barrett told PTI in an interview.

The British Council is supporting PEN Translates, a project by English PEN to encourage the translation of Indian literature and build a foundation for translators working with UK publishers.

In addition to showcasing writers from all over India, including Dalit writers, at a number of festivals in India and the UK, the project enables Indian and UK publishers to acquire more work in translation to English from various Indian languages.

Dog owner gets 3-month imprisonment

12 years after canine bit man

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI)

A court here has sentenced a businessman to three months' simple imprisonment, 12 years after his pet Rottweiler dog bit a man, observing if reasonable care is not taken while going out with such an aggressive canine, then it is "certainly harmful for the public". In such types of cases where there is a question of public safety, "leniency is unwarranted", Metropolitan magistrate, Girgaon court, N A Patel, said in the order passed on January 3. The court found the dog owner,

ELECTION MANIFESTO



Congress leader Sudip Roy Barman along with others releases party's manifesto for the upcoming Tripura Assembly elections, in Agartala, Monday.

Suspended Cong MLA appears before ED

Ranchi, Feb 06 (PTI)

Suspended Congress MLA Irfan Ansari on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in connection with the cash seizure case. Ansari

CASH HAUL CASE

reached zonal office of the federal agency here around 11 am in connection with its investigation into the cash seized from a car in which he was travelling along with

party MLAs Rajesh Kachhap and Naman Bixal, an official said. The three MLAs were arrested by the West Bengal Police after Rs 49 lakh in cash was seized from their vehicle in Howrah district in July last year.

UP DyCM Maurya on RSS chief's remark on caste system

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI)

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, a prominent OBC face of the BJP in the state, on Monday said RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comment on the caste system in Hindu society is a "guidance for us".

Addressing an event in Mumbai on Sunday, Bhagwat has said everyone is equal in the eyes of God and no caste or sect exists before him.

All these things were created by priests which is wrong, he had said.

"I am a Swayamsevak (volunteer) of the RSS and when our revered Sarsanghchalak (RSS chief) says something, we consider it a 'margdarshan' (guidance) for us," Maurya told PTI in the Parliament House

Complex when asked about Bhagwat's remarks.

He, however, refused to make any further comment. "It will be inappropriate for me to make any comment on the remarks of the revered Sarsanghchalak."

Opposition leaders, however, targeted the RSS and the ruling BJP, saying Bhagwat's statement should reflect in action and work culture of his outfit and that of BJP governments.

"Mohan Bhagwat's statement is just a statement. One can relish it when it reflects in your actions and work culture. It's not seen in your work culture. (Centre is) sitting on the caste census," RJD's Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha told PTI, when asked for a reaction to the RSS

chief's comment.

He asked Bhagwat to enforce a culture which could end "caste atrocities and inequality" in the country.

"In the sea of inequality, you have made five islands of prosperity. One of the islands is Hindenburg, which is exposing the government a bit. End that," the

RJD leader said, apparently demanding that the RSS chief ensure that action is taken against allegations of financial fraud against the Adani Group.

The business giant has rejected all allegations made by the US-based short seller.

Reacting to Bhagwat's remark, Congress MP Digvijay Singh sought to know from the RSS chief which of the Hindu scriptures are "lying" about the

existence of cast system.

"He has said the scriptures are lying. We want to ask Mohan Bhagwat which of the scriptures are lying," the Congress leader told PTI when asked for his reaction on the RSS chief's remark.

BJP MP from Rajasthan's Alwar Balak Nath termed Bhagwat's remark "truth" and alleged it is the Congress which divides people on the lines of caste for political gains.

"He (Bhagwat) has talked about Sanatan. There is no mention of any caste system in Sanatan. People brought in the caste system based on their work," he told PTI when asked for his comment. Bhagwat's reflections on Sanatan dharma and the caste system is "absolutely correct", he said.

Setback to T'gana govt after HC dismisses its plea

Over transfer of case to CBI

Hyderabad, Feb 06 (PTI)

In a setback to the Telangana government, the High Court on Monday dismissed its plea challenging the decision of a single judge to transfer to CBI, the investigation into the case of alleged conspiracy to poach four BRS MLAs, from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by it.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice N Tukaramji confirmed the orders passed by the single judge and dismissed the batch of writ appeals filed by the government and others, on the ground of maintainability. A single

BRS MLAs POACHING CASE

judge of the High Court on December 26, 2022 ordered transfer of the investigation into the case of alleged conspiracy to poach four BRS MLAs to the CBI, from the SIT of the state police.

The High Court had then also quashed the government order to constitute the SIT and the investigation so far carried out by it and also the probe done by an Assistant Commissioner of Police in the initial stage.

After this, the state government and others filed writ appeals against the single judge order. However, the High Court division bench today upheld the orders passed by the single judge and dismissed the appeals. It also re-

fused to stay its order when state government counsel requested for suspension of the order to enable it to approach the Supreme Court. The order now paves way for the CBI to proceed with the investigation. The central agency has already issued letters to the Telangana Chief Secretary requesting to furnish all relevant material in the case.

Three people — Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nandu Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy — were already named as accused (A1 to A3) in the case after a complaint was lodged by BRS MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy, among four legislators, against them on October 26, 2022.

PROTEST RALLY



Tribal people from Aarey colony and other adjoining areas of Mumbai take part in a protest over their land rights near Bandra Collector's office, in Mumbai, Monday.

Man moves HC alleging medical negligence

At BMC-run COVID-19 centre

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI)

A 54-year-old man from the city has approached the Bombay High Court alleging medical negligence at the civic-run COVID-19 jumbo centre and seeking Rs 36 lakh compensation for the ordeal he underwent.

Deepak Shah, a resident of suburban Andheri, recently filed a petition seeking compensation for medical negligence, incompetent and improper medical treatment by the doctors at the BKC jumbo covid hospital run by the B r i h a n m u b a i Municipal Corporation in suburban Bandra.

According to the plea, Shah had undergone her-

nia operation a few days before testing positive for coronavirus and was admitted to the BKC jumbo centre.

The petitioner alleged that doctors did not treat him well medically, due to which he developed infection and had to undergo two more surgeries.

The petition is likely to come up for hearing on February 9 before a division bench of the high court.

As per the plea, Shah had undergone hernia operation in March 2021. In the surgery, doctors had inserted a mesh in his abdomen area, which required post-surgery care for six months.

In April 2021, the petitioner tested positive for coronavirus, following which he was quarantined and admitted to the BKC jumbo centre.

Ricky Kej wins third Grammy Award, dedicates honour to India

Los Angeles, Feb 06 (PTI)

Music composer Ricky Kej, based out of Bengaluru, has won his third Grammy Award for the album 'Divine Tides' and dedicated the honour to his home country, India.

The US-born musician shared the award with Stewart Copeland, the drummer of the iconic British rock band The Police, who collaborated with Kej on the album.

At the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, the duo earned the gramophone trophy in the best immersive audio album winner category. They had won a Grammy in the best new age album category for the same album last year.



"Congrats Best Immersive Audio Album winner - 'Divine Tides' Eric Schilling, immersive mix engineer; @copelandmusic, @rickykej & Herbert Waltl, immersive producers (Stewart

Copeland & Ricky Kej) #GRAMMYS," announced the Recording Academy, the organisation behind Grammy Awards, on its official Twitter page on Sunday night.

Kej said he was "grateful" for the recognition.

"Just won my 3rd Grammy Award. Extremely grateful, am speechless! I dedicate this Award to India. @copelandmusic. Herbert Waltl Eric Schilling Vanil Veigas Lonnie Park," the composer captioned a series of pictures on his Twitter page.

Other nominees in the category were: Christina Aguilera ('Aguilera'), The Chainsmokers

('Memories... Do Not Open'), Jane Ira Bloom ('Picturing The Invisible-Focus 1'), and Nidarosdomens Jentekor & Tronheimsolistene ('Tuvahyun - Beatitudes for a Wounded World').

'Divine Tides' is a nine-song album that aims to deliver the message that "each individual life plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance that serves all equally".

Kej took home his first Grammy in the best new age album category for 'Winds of Samsara' back in 2015.

As part of his work with The Police, Copeland has won five Grammys. With Kej as collaborator, this is his second award.

GRAMMY AWARDS



Beyonce accepts the award for best dance/electronic music album for "Renaissance" at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday.

'Musharraf to be laid to rest in Karachi'

Islamabad, Feb 06 (PTI)

The mortal remains of Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf will be brought back to the country in a special flight from Dubai on Monday and will be laid to rest in Karachi, media reports said.

Musharraf, the architect of the Kargil War in 1999, died on Sunday in Dubai after a prolonged illness.

The 79-year-old former military ruler, who had been in the UAE since 2016, was undergoing treatment for amyloidosis at American Hospital Dubai.

Musharraf's mortal remains will be flown to Pakistan on a special flight at 11:30am local time, according to Geo TV.

The Pakistani embassy in the UAE issued a no objection certificate (NOC) for the repatriation of Musharraf's mortal remains to Pakistan at the request of his family, the TV channel said.

The former military leader's wife Seha Musharraf, son Bilal and daughter Ayla will bring Musharraf's mortal remains to Pakistan, it said.

The former president will be buried in a Karachi graveyard, his family confirmed.

The former president's mother was buried in Dubai while his father was laid to rest in Karachi.

Meanwhile, the Khaleej Times reported that the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai has issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to repatriate his body to Pakistan.

Musharraf seized power by ousting Sharif in a 1999 bloodless coup.

He served as Pakistan's president from 2001 to 2008.

Musharraf, who was born in New Delhi in 1943 and fled to Pakistan in 1947, was the last military dictator to rule Pakistan.

China accuses US of indiscriminate use of force over balloon

Beijing, Feb 06 (AP)

China on Monday accused the United States of indiscriminate use of force when the American military shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon Saturday, saying that had "seriously impacted and damaged both sides' efforts and progress in stabilising Sino-U.S. relations."

The U.S. shot down a balloon off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America. China insisted the flyer was an accident involving a civilian aircraft.

Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng said he lodged a formal complaint with the U.S. Embassy on Sunday over the "U.S. attack on a Chinese civilian unmanned airship by military force."

"However, the United States turned a deaf ear and insisted on indiscriminate use of force against the civilian airship that was about to leave the United States airspace, obviously overreacted and seriously violated the spirit of international law and international practice," Xie said.

The presence of the balloon in the skies above the

U.S. dealt a severe blow to already strained U.S.-Chinese relations that have been in a downward spiral for years.

It prompted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to abruptly cancel a high-stakes Beijing trip aimed at easing tensions.

Xie repeated China's insistence that the balloon was a Chinese civil unmanned airship that blew into U.S. mistake, calling it "an accidental incident caused by force majeure."

China would "resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, resolutely safeguard China's

interests and dignity and reserve the right to make further necessary responses," he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden issued the shootdown order after he was advised that the best times for the operation would be when it was over water; U.S. officials said.

Military officials determined that bringing down the balloon over land from an altitude of 60,000 feet (18,000 metres) would pose an undue risk to people on the ground.

"What the U.S. has done has seriously impacted and damaged both sides' efforts and progress in sta-

bilising Sino-U.S. relations since the Bali meeting," Xie said, referring to the recent meeting between Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Indonesia that many hoped would create positive momentum for improving ties that have spiralled to their lowest level in years. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning provided no fresh details, repeating China's insistence the object was a civilian balloon intended for meteorological research, had little ability to steer and entered over the U.S. by accidentally diverging from its course.

Bomb kills soldier, wounds 11 people in SW Pak

Quetta, Feb 06 (AP)

A bombing near a vehicle carrying Pakistani paramilitary troops in southwestern Baluchistan province killed a soldier and wounded 11 people, mostly civilians, police and security officials said Monday.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place on Sunday.

Pakistan has been battling an insurgency in Baluchistan for more than a decade, with separatists in the province demanding complete autonomy or a larger share of the province's gas and mineral resources.

The outlawed Tehreek-e-

Taliban Pakistan or TTP as the Pakistani Taliban are known and other militants also have a presence in the province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

Sunday's bombing took place near the Musa Khan checkpoint in Quetta, the Baluchistan provincial capital, said local police official Mohammad Khan.

He provided no further details.

Shortly after the bombing, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber.

Police and security officials have not given confirmed the source of the blast.

The latest incident comes a week after a suicide bomber killed 101 people at a mosque in the northwestern city of Peshawar, drawing nationwide condemnation and prompting Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to convene a meeting of opposition politicians and his allies to discuss how to respond to the surge in militant violence.

The conference was initially planned for Tuesday, but has been pushed back to Thursday.

Pakistani officials have blamed the TTP, which maintains sanctuaries in neighbouring Afghanistan, for orchestrating the Peshawar

bombing. The TTP has denied involvement.

The militant group, however, has stepped up its attacks since November, when it ended a cease-fire with the government in Islamabad.

Sharif has invited his predecessor and opposition leader Imran Khan to Thursday's talks, but Khan has yet to confirm his participation.

Since the Peshawar attack, members of civil society groups have staged rallies across the country, holding prayer ceremonies for the victims and demanding government take action to curb the surge in militant attacks. (AP)

'Imran Khan to be arrested if fresh protests are launched'

Lahore, Feb 06 (PTI)

Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Monday warned Imran Khan that he would be arrested if he dared to launch fresh anti-government protests, and blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief for indulging in the "politics of agitation."

Sanaullah fired the salvo at the former prime minister while speaking to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers at a party convention in Multan in Punjab province, according to the Dawn newspaper.



Rana Sanaullah

The minister's warnings come days after Khan instructed his workers and supporters to prepare for the Jail Bharo Tehreek' (fill

the prison movement) against the federal government for inflicting custodial torture on his party leaders and delay in announcing fresh general elections. "I ask the people to get ready and wait for my call for 'jail bharo tehreek'. There will not be that much space in Pakistani jails to have them all," Khan, the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician said during his television address from his Zaman Park residence here on Saturday.

Khan made the announcement after sedition cases were filed against his

party's Senior Vice-President Fawad Chaudhry and former member of the National Assembly Shandana Gulzar. On Sunday, Sanaullah blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for "creating troubles". "In 2014, PTI staged protest demonstrations and tried to stop the journey of progress and prosperity. Imran Khan is following the politics of agitation in the shape of long marches, sealing Islamabad on the pretext of a date for elections," the Dawn reported, quoting Sanaullah.

Singapore's unique 'village' enabling persons with disabilities using innovation

Singapore, Feb 06 (PTI)

A supermarket with sliding doors and wider walkways, shopping trolleys that could be pushed by wheelchairs, braille lettering on the washroom doors and tactile indicators on the floor are some of the features of a unique "village" here in Singapore that is using innovation to support persons with disabilities.

Called "Enabling Village" or "EV", the first-of-its-kind community space is an all-accessible, inclusive, sensory-friendly space dedicated to integrating persons with disabilities into society. "The tenants include social businesses that train and hire persons with disabilities, and these businesses also showcase the abilities of persons with disabilities when visitors shop or dine at EV. The social businesses, along with inclusive events and community services such as the inclusive gym, provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to interact alongside those without disabilities while providing the dignity of work to persons with disabili-



A visually impaired man uses braille lettering facility at a community space dedicated to integrating persons with disabilities into society, in Singapore.

ties," Ku Geok Boon, Chief Executive Officer, SG Enable told PTI.

"We hope that through our collective effort, more persons with disabilities will lead better and meaningful lives, and together, we can bring more hope and opportunity to all and build a more inclusive society," she added.

Boon explained that the village also hosts several training and career fairs and CV Clinics for persons with disabilities, bringing together disability-inclusive employers, training providers and experienced business professionals across a myriad of

sectors to offer jobs, training workshops on interview tips and one-to-one consultations on CV writing.

The space attracts visitors from different countries, who are keen on exploring a similar set-up or implementing takeaways for inclusive spaces.

"Enabling Village hosts many visitors, both local and international guests, and we want to inspire and show everyone how a society can be more inclusive towards persons with disabilities with universal design, enabling technology, and an inclusive culture.

SOOTHING TO EYES



The full moon sets behind the mountains including the twin peaks of Les Jumelles in the Chablais Valaisan, near Aigle, Switzerland, Monday.

'Life expectancy for young 14 years shorter in violent countries'

London, Feb 06 (PTI)

Life expectancy for young people can be as much as 14 years shorter in violent countries compared to peaceful nations, according to a global study.

A team, led by researchers at the University of Oxford in the UK, shows a direct link between the uncertainty of

EXPERT STUDY

living in a violent setting and a "double burden" of shorter and less predictable lives, even for those not directly involved in the violence.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, estimates a gap of around 14 years in remaining life ex-

pectancy — the number of years a person can expect to live — at age 10 between the least and most violent countries. In El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia, the gap in life expectancy with high income countries is predominantly explained by excess mortality due to homicides, they said.

Israeli military: Several Palestinian gunmen killed in raid

Jerusalem, Feb 06 (AP)

The Israeli military says several Palestinian gunmen have been killed in a gun battle that broke out Monday in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank during an army raid meant to arrest suspects allegedly involved in a botched attack on Israelis.

The Palestinian Health Ministry did not immediately confirm the deaths, saying only that three were injured, one of them critically. The violence comes amid one of the deadliest periods in recent years in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in the first weeks of Israel's new government, its most right-wing ever, which

has promised to take a tough stance against the Palestinians.

The military said it was operating to apprehend the suspects behind a failed shooting attack at a West Bank restaurant, where attackers allegedly were thwarted by a weapon malfunction.

The attackers then fled the scene, the military said, adding that they were members of the Hamas militant group that rules the Gaza Strip and has elements in the West Bank as well. In Monday's operation, the military said it was searching for the militant cell that it said had sealed itself inside a home in the refugee camp.

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BJP putting high stakes in NE Assembly polls

The poll bugle has been sounded in the north-eastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland with the election commission announcing assembly polls in 180 seats across these states. As the stakes rise for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Northeast, it will be an interesting clash of the old guard versus the new. The BJP putting high stakes in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland reflects the party's meticulous and long-term plan for expanding its footprint in states other than those in the Hindi heartland and the west and the party's strategy to retain or enhance its numbers in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP's mega push in the Northeast started in 2016 with the formation of the North Eastern Democratic Alliance (NEDA), a platform of non-Congress parties in the region with the declared aim to keep Congress out of power. Its successful run started with the unseating of the CPI(M), which had been long entrenched in power in Tripura, followed by the comprehensive win in Assam, defeating the Congress. It continued with the BJP entering into various kinds of alliances, and sometimes even gobbling up partners in states, and the result is that the party at present runs governments in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura while it is part of the ruling alliance in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim. The party is going it alone in Tripura and Meghalaya for the Assembly elections while it will be a junior partner in Nagaland. The BJP has been in power at the Centre for about 15 years in its 42 years of existence and has swept the last two Lok Sabha elections but there are not too many states where it can win Assembly election hands down. The Hindi heartland states, save Uttar Pradesh, have made other choices several times; the results of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly are the latest example. The South continues to offer stiff resistance to the party's brand of politics, what with the regional outfits occupying commanding heights of the polity; the party's standing is not safe even in Karnataka where it runs a government. The eastern states remain impregnable despite the hard work the party has been putting in for years. The party has, however, built itself brick by brick in all these states and it could take time before it gets translated into parliamentary numbers. That the BJP has no major ally in states except perhaps for Maharashtra must be another factor worrying the party's poll managers. The eight northeastern states together send 25 members of the Lok Sabha with the largest contingent of 14 coming from Assam. The Congress held the major sway in most of these seats in its heydays but later gave way to state parties. The BJP has been attempting to replace Congress in all these seats. The efforts of the Home Ministry keeping Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma at the centre point to sew up agreements between states on border disputes also must be seen in this light. Recent reports suggested that the BJP will be channelizing its efforts into 160 Lok Sabha seats which it feels are shaky while it will be reaching out to the minority communities in 60 seats where they have a significant presence. The BJP has evolved an electioneering pattern where it has a plan for every seat, and the renewed thrust neatly squares with it.

Indian students rush to study overseas

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is a well-known fact that Indian students studying abroad have existed for a long time. For decades, Indian graduates and students have looked to industrialized and emerging nations as destinations for higher education. India is one of the top five countries from which students are recruited to study abroad. Since its independence, India has experienced a constant "brain drain." This brain drain was restricted to the talented and affluent class in the early decades following 1947 until the 1970s. Then, from the 1980s to the late 1990s, there was an upsurge in the number of Indians moving abroad, mostly because the Indian economy was in terrible shape at the time. There is a third phase that began in the 2000s and 2010s decade, during which the number of people going abroad increased due to the onsite opportunities being supplied by the IT businesses and the rise of obtaining an MS/MBA due to the accessible loans from banks. Thus, it is clear that this brain drain has been accelerating over time. Although enrollment dropped sharply during the pandemic and lockdowns last year, many students are once again preparing to travel abroad. Numerous causes have been found to be behind the sharp increase in Indian students choosing to study abroad. One of these elements is the availability of world's best graduate programmes at renowned institutions abroad. Furthermore, there aren't enough facilities for Indian students to pursue higher education in India. Indian families' financial standing is growing, enabling them to pay for their children's international education. Further, to attract students, a number of foreign institutions and their local partners hold education fairs at expensive five-star hotels and online in tiny towns. According to reports, there was a significant increase in the number of Indians using student visas to travel overseas last year. The Immigration Statistics Report states that 127,731 visas were issued to Indian students in September 2022, up 93,470 (+273%) from 34,261 in 2019. Up until November 30, 6,48,678 students traveled overseas on student visas, a five-year high. By 2024, it's estimated that there will be 1.8 million Indian students studying overseas. Most of them are drawn to elite universities and employment opportunities abroad. It is noteworthy that approximately 21% of the more than one million foreign students studying in the United States, according to the Open Doors report published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), are from India. Therefore, it's crucial to keep in mind that the large number of our young brains departing the country would surely hinder its economic success.

RELIGIOUS RITUALS



Elephants carry deities during 'Pallivetta' at Sree Valayanad Devi Temple festival, in Kozhikode, Sunday night.

BJP may lose power in two out of three North Eastern states after Assembly polls

NITYA CHAKRABORTY



The 2023 assembly election season has started with the polls in Tripura scheduled on February 16 and Meghalaya, Nagaland on February 27. The results of all the three states in the first phase, will be known on March 2. The outcome will be having significant impact on the tempo of the poll campaign in the remaining six states scheduled during the year. Karnataka will be facing elections in the second phase in April/ May this year. As indications suggest, the all powerful BJP, despite its massive resources and continuous campaigns by both the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah is set to lose power as junior partner in Meghalaya. In Tripura, the BJP is in a tight condition as its partner of the alliance IFTF has lost its earlier base to the new tribal party Tipra Motha(TM) which is fighting alone with the option open for limited understanding with the main alliance of the Left Front led by the CPI(M) and the Congress. Nagaland is the only state where the BJP is confident to come back as a junior partner in the region-

al party led alliance.. Out of 60 seats, BJP is contesting in 20 and its regional partner is contesting the remaining 40 seats.

As of now, BJP's stake is very high in Tripura. The party after years of nurturing by the RSS captured power in 2018 assembly polls defeating the CPI(M) which was in power for long years. The BJP got 35 seats out of the 60 seats while the CPI(M) got 16. But the CPI(M) kept its voting share at a comfortable level of 42.2 per cent as against BJP's 43.59 per cent.. In the last five years, the political situation in Tripura has changed substantially leading to increasing people's anger against the BJP rule. Left Front led by the CPI(M) has finally allied with the Congress to fight the BJP unitedly. The Congress has improved its base support in the recent months after a long period of disarray.

But the most important factor in the electoral battle is the new tribal party Tipra Motha(TM) which has in its fold about 80 per cent of tribal support. If there could have been a total understanding of the Left-Congress alliance with TM, it could have been said that BJP's defeat is certain in next assembly polls. But that is not certain now as TM is contesting in 45 seats out of 60. In the tribal 20 constituencies, TM has a big edge but the party headed by Pradyot Narayan Manikya Debbarma, the scion of the royal family is a respected politician and he holds support in general constituencies also.

For the Left-Congress alliance, it will be best to have

some understanding now even after the withdrawal of nominations, so that in some critical constituencies, ways are found out to avoid split of anti-BJP votes. That has to be ensured to defeat the BJP. Further, doors should be kept open for post poll alliance with TM if there is a hung assembly. Trinamool Congress has also fielded 28 candidates in the polls in the state and the party supremo Mamata Banerjee is visiting Tripura on February 6 and 7. Mamata has a big halo among the Bengalees and she is likely to draw big crowds. If TMC gets good votes from the Bengalees, that will be at the expense of BJP votes also, apart from Left. So that way, TMC votes also will be crucial in determining the outcome.

In Meghalaya, the ruling NPP led by Conrad Sangma is contesting in all seats, so is its NDA partner BJP. Similarly Trinamool Congress and Congress also are contesting in 60 seats each. The contest will be three cornered between NPP, TMC and the Congress with the BJP playing a marginal role. Congress got 21 seats in 2018 polls with the highest vote percentage of 28.5 per cent. BJP got only 2 seats with 9.6 per cent votes. But then, the BJP manipulated and increased its seats and putting pressure from the centre on the regional parties, became the junior partner. Trinamool Congress competed with the BJP in mobilising resources and finally succeeded in organising defections from the Congress. TMC has now 12 legislators led by Mukul Sangma and the party has

been campaigning as the main party of the opposition seeking to unseat Conrad Sangma.

Congress, despite defections, still retains big base in Meghalaya. If the party can get adequate central help, they can certainly get some seats. But the problem with the Congress in NE states is that the central leadership has abandoned the region with seven states. The BJP always sends its top leaders to the NE states to help the state party units. Amit Shah himself devotes lot of time. But the Congress has allowed the NE states, once its stronghold to slip away from its control to BJP. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma is in charge of NDA in NE region. There is no one in the Congress who can match his organisational skill.

After the success of Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress high command must give full attention on the election preparedness in these three states... If the BJP loses power in two states out of three that will give a big push to the campaign in Karnataka in the second phase. Congress is already advantageously placed in Karnataka against the BJA big new push is needed to defeat the BJP in the assembly polls in Karnataka.. For that the party leadership should proceed with a killer instinct against the BJP. There is no time to lose. BJP's defeat in the first phase is essential to impart a big momentum to the entire opposition in its campaign in the next six assembly polls during the year 2023.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Online fraudsters

It's a known fact that going digital has made us more vulnerable to online fraud. Online fraudsters trick millions of people into sending money or giving out personal information. These cybercriminals use secure software to remain anonymous which are proxy servers that hide their location and route their communications through multiple countries to evade direct detection. Since the method of how they commit these crimes is very complicated, law enforcement needs to coordinate with government agencies, international partners and private corporations. Also, Call Centres need to be set up so that the victims of such frauds can lodge complaints without delay. The police, on receiving a complaint of this kind, should immediately notify the bank authorities through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal so that the transfer of money can be stopped instantly. Besides, people should also utilize some tips to help lessen the chances of becoming prey for these fraudsters. One should not open, respond to, download attachments or click on links from unknown emails. While entering payment information one should be ensured one is using secure websites. It can be verified by ensuring the website's URL that begins with HTTPS. Last but not the least, severe punitive action must be taken against the convicted and should be shown no mercy.

Dipen Gogoi, Teok, Jorhat

Harassment of players

The assurance by Anurag Thakur that the mechanism in place to protect female athletes from being mentally and sexually harassed by persons in power can effectively address the problem doesn't inspire much confidence. Coaches and officials of sports federations are powerful enough to ruin the career of young women athletes if they dare spurn their advances, or if they don't extend sexual favours to them. Politicians generally head sports federations. Bringing delinquent politicians to justice is an uphill task, particularly when he is associated with the ruling party. A committee constituted to probe the allegations by women wrestlers appears to be eyewash. It is one thing to make stringent laws for the protection of women against sexual assault, and quite another to enforce them in letter and spirit. Sexual harassment cases are mounting up because of laxity in the sincere implementation of the laws enacted with great fanfare.

Roshan Lal Goel, by mail

Significance of Bharat Jodo Yarta

Kajal Chatterjee

While commenting upon the Bharat Jodo Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, a set of "pundits" are asserting that the 1990 Rath Yatra in support of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya has been one of the most "successful" campaigns with "very far-reaching consequences". "Successful" campaign indeed; after all that 1990 yatra had propelled a mere 2-MP party (1984-89) to throne of New Delhi within 6 years (might be for 13 days) to again forming the Government in 1998 and thereafter a full term from 1999-2004 which is certainly not a mean feat. But they must also remain enlightened of the fact that

mere "success" proves nothing at least in moral ethical and humanitarian terms. Else we have to applaud the British for it's "successful" imperialism in India and various parts of the world spanning centuries. That Rath Yatra also proved highly "successful" in exploiting the communal fissures within the electorate through rabid Hindutva, Islamophobia and finally ensuring the barbaric demolition of Babri Masjid as well through vulgar flexing of muscle! And now that green signal has been awarded to the construction of that "much cherished" Ram temple at that very site where the mosque had stood for centuries just because Hindus believe it to be the birthplace of an epic character; the mis-

sion of that Rath Yatra is set to attain full "success". However, no doubt about the "very far-reaching consequences" as the seeds of communalism which were embedded during the Yatra has indeed grown up into a "Bishabriksha" (poison tree) with religion turning to be the only political discourse nowadays with even the outfits, professing "secularism", are going all-out to indulge in "soft" Hindutva. Thus it has got proved that not basic necessities of food attire shelter education jobs or livelihood; rather one and only religion "sells" in the polity and full "credit" of this drastic change must be awarded to that 1990 Yatra which started this all.

However, as for the conclu-

sion that Bharat Jodo Yarta is unlikely to revive the Congress, perhaps the "pundits" are more than correct in this aspect. Firstly, those Indians (rather Hindus) who dance to the communal antics of any ideological group, would invariably continue to vote in favour of it. Secondly, no secular humanitarian who respect the idea of a multi-lingual multi-religious India had anyway never voted in favour of any divisive entity prior to Rahul Gandhi's Yatra and never will vote in favour of it irrespective of the result of the Yatra. Revival of Congress will happen only when majority of the Hindus will turn secular and unitedly vote in favour of the party so as to uproot the poison of communal hatred

from the society at large. However, since protest need to be done for the sake of protest only so as to remain in the side of conscience and sanity, Rahul Gandhi's attempt to unite the nation by undertaking the march is definitely much laudable. And also the fact remains that this march has transmitted a shiver down the spine of a dominant power group and this is exactly the reason why the Who's Who of that brigade had attacked Rahul through utmost vulgarity and utter falsehood throughout the period of the march. So one may support it or oppose it, but nobody can ignore Rahul Gandhi's march and this is the most significant aspect of the Bharat Jodo Yarta.

BRIEF

Sand mining



Ludhiana: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday dedicated 16 public mining sites to people of the state and said that sand will be available at a rate of Rs 5.50 per cubic feet. Interacting with the media here after dedicating 16 public sand mining sites spread over seven districts, Mann said now, sand will be sold at just Rs 5.50 per cubic feet in each of these public mining sites, giving a major reprieve to the people. Only manual excavation of sand will be permitted in these public mining sites and no mechanical excavation of sand will be allowed, he said. No mining contractor will be allowed to operate in these public mining sites, said Mann.

Vehicle projects

New Delhi: Renault Group and Nissan plan to collaborate on several new vehicle projects, including sports utility vehicles, in India as part of new initiatives announced by the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance on Monday. The alliance announced a three-dimensional programme including creation of operational projects in Latin America, India and Europe. As part of the new framework, the partners also seek enhanced strategic agility with new initiatives that all three entities can join. Besides, the board envisions a rebalanced Renault Group-Nissan cross-shareholding and reinforced alliance governance. "For India and export, Renault Group and Nissan would collaborate on several new vehicle projects including new SUVs shared by both Renault Group and Nissan, and a new Nissan car derived from the Renault Tribler," the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance said in a statement.

Shiva Project



Hamirpur: The Shiva horticulture project will prove to be a game changer for people in the lower areas of Himachal Pradesh, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi said. The minister said the Himachal Pradesh Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition project (HP SHIVA) has been started to strengthen the farmers and horticulturists. This project is not only opening new doors of horticulture for the low-lying areas of the state but can also prove to be an important source of self-employment for the educated unemployed youth, he added.

Renewables, hydrogen to make India world's 3rd largest eco, says PM

Bengaluru, Feb 06:



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday laid out his vision of making India the world's third-largest economy with a focus on renewable energy, biofuels and hydrogen as he pivots a roadmap to cut reliance on imported oil and gas. Modi met top oil and gas industry leaders for the annual brainstorming to discuss ideas and initiatives to put India on a sustainable growth path, sources aware of the matter said. The meeting on the sidelines of the India Energy Week here saw the Prime Minister outline his vision to make India the world's third-largest economy from the current fifth-largest. For this, the fuel needed should come from renewables, biofuels and hydrogen. Sources said at the meeting Modi spoke of using 100 per cent renewable energy and increasing blends of ethanol and biofuels in traditional fuels. Also, he talked about making India the world's largest hydrogen-producing nation. Hydrogen is

the cleanest known fuel which on burning emits only water and oxygen. Sources said heads of international oil companies such as BP plc of UK, ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies participated. Rosneft head Igor Sechin too attended the meeting.

Heads of Indian public sector companies, as well as international Energy Agency (IEA) executive director Fatih Birol, too attended the meeting. Mining billionaire Anil Agarwal as well as Tullow Oil CEO Rahul Dhir were also present. Sources said industry leaders spoke of imperatives for making India the world leader. Some wanted taxes in the oil and gas sector to be

brought down to global levels of 40 per cent from the current 70 per cent, while others talked about enabling ease of doing business through self-certification.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged global investors to explore investment opportunities in the country's energy sector, saying India is the most opportune place at present. Modi in his inaugural address at the India Energy Week 2023 said the Budget (for 2023-24) has provided Rs 10 lakh crore for capital expenditure, which will give a boost to green hydrogen, solar power and road sectors.

"I ask you to explore all opportunities connected with India's energy sector. India is the most opportune place for investment today," he said at the India Energy Week, which is being attended by several ministers, corporate leaders and experts from different nations.

The Prime Minister also recalled several initiatives taken by the government to promote green en-

Adani Group to pre-pay USD 1,114 million for release of pledged shares

New Delhi, Feb 06: Adani Group on Monday announced that promoters will pre-pay USD 1,114 million for the release of pledged shares of its firms ahead of the maturity in September 2024 while saying the step is being done "in light of the recent market volatility".

These shares belong to Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, Adani Green Energy and Adani Transmission, a statement said. "This is in continuation of promoters' assurance to pre-pay all share-backed financing," it said. The statement assumes significance in view of the allegations of fraud and stock manipulation by a short-seller against the Adani Group, which led to a steep fall in the share prices of group firms. Earlier in the day proceedings of both Houses of the Parliament were adjourned for the third day following uproar by opposition over Adani issue. The opposition members are demanding a probe by joint parliamentary committee or Supreme Court monitored inquiry into the matter. "In light of the recent market volatility and in continuation of promoters' commitment to reduce the overall promoter leverage backed by Adani listed companies shares, we are pleased to inform that promoters have posted the amounts to pre-pay USD 1,114 million ahead of its maturity of September 2024", the statement said. On pre-payment, 168.27 million shares of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones representing 12 per cent of the promoter's holding will be released.

PLI scheme attracted Rs 45,000 cr investment: NITI Aayog CEO

New Delhi, Jan 06:



India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, has attracted investment worth over Rs 45,000 crore and has also created three lakh jobs, NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer said on Monday. The government has rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell and speciality steel.

"The PLI programme has already started showing results. About Rs 800 crore have already been paid by way of incentives. "We are expecting (incentives) to go close to Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 4,000 crore before March," Iyer told PTI. The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufac-

turing, and it is yielding solid results. "The scheme is working. Already about Rs 45,000 crore-plus investment has come in, three lakh jobs have been created and production worth Rs 2 lakh crore is already there," he added.

The scheme, launched in 2020, offers a cash incentive for three to five years on the incremental sale of goods manufactured in India over determined base-year sales. Additionally, the identified beneficiaries are required to commit to a certain minimum investment in India. Replying to a question on the Centre's

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) programme, he said asset monetisation plan is doing 'very well now' and it will be taken down to the states, "(In budget documents) All signals are that the asset monetisation programme, which is actually bringing in private capital, is continuing and now it will be taken down to the states," Iyer said.

In 2021-22, the government surpassed the programme's first-year target of Rs 88,000 crore by completing transactions worth Rs 1 lakh crore, while current fiscal year's asset monetisation target is Rs 1,62,422 crore. "This year, the programme is doing very well.

Now one of NITI Aayog's roles is to start getting the state governments as part of their strategic planning to look at monetising their own assets and bringing private capital," he revealed. Till November 21, 2022, the government had monetised assets worth Rs 33,422 crore under the NMP.

Amazon launches exciting offer for Valentine Day

Mumbai, Feb 06:

Amazon.in brings in the exciting opportunity to express your love with its Valentine's Day Store. Customers can enjoy exciting offers and deals on an extravagant selection of specially curated products across categories ranging from chocolates, fresh flowers, gift sets, electronics, home décor, kitchen appliances, fashion and beauty essentials, large appliances, accessories, smartphones, Amazon Devices and much more on A.in till Feb 14.

Celebrate the love with your special ones and fulfill all their shopping needs at the Amazon Valentine's Day Store, a

one-stop destination for all their gifting requirements. Customers can shop from brands including Cadbury, Van Heusen, Giva, Zeya by Kundan, The Whole Truth, Bombay Shaving Company, Olay, Herbal Essence, Open Secrets, Janasya, Puma, Go Colors, Clovia, Global Desi, Hersheys, Ferrero Rocher, amongst others.

Customers can also use their voice to access the "Valentines' Day Store" using Alexa on the Amazon shopping app (Android only). Users can tap the mic icon on the app and say - "Alexa, go to Valentines' Day Store" and land directly on the store. Additionally, Amazon.in

will host live streaming event for Valentine's day this month where customers can watch content around how to dress your best, express your feelings to make your loved one feel special, get your home V-day ready and more. These live streams will feature some of the famous content creators including Simran Balar, Chinki Minki, Surabhi Rathore, Karron Dhingra, and Fiza Khan, sharing their tips and tricks to avoid any last-minute jitters. One can watch these creators, chat with them and shop live their recommendations on dressing and gifting here: www.amazon.in/live.

Sensex declines 334 pts as metal, power shares retreat amid FII outflows, global selloff

Mumbai, Feb 06:

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined by more than half a per cent at close on Monday due to selling in IT, power and metal shares triggered by a global equity meltdown on rate hike fears and FII outflows. Snapping its five-day gaining streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled lower by 334.98 points or 0.55 per cent at 60,506.90. During the session, the index fell over 500 points to touch its intraday low of 60,345.61. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 89.45 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 17,764.60 as 34 of its stocks dropped. "A strong job market in the



global market lower on rate hike fears, as it offers the Fed more leeway in enacting stricter policy measures. This was in contrast to the recent rally in the global indices on the

expectation that the economy is in its last phase of policy tightening. "The RBI's policy announcement on Wednesday will provide more colour on its future rate actions, which is expected to hike rate by

25bps," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. Tata Steel was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 2.08 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, M&M, Ultra Cement and Tata Motors. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major winners. State Bank of India closed marginally up 0.17 per cent after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that banks and insurance companies are "not overexposed" to any one company and assured that Indian markets are very well managed by its regulators.

JEWELLERY LAUNCH



Actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Spandana Palli, Srilekha, Anushree, and other models at the Grand Pre-Launch Event of Jewellery, in Hyderabad, Monday, Feb. 6.

No systemic risk to financial system from recent events: Uday Kotak

New Delhi, Feb 06:



Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak said he does not see any systemic risk to the financial system but it's time to strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building, amid meltdown in Adani Group shares over corporate governance allegations.

Kotak said large Indian corporates rely more on global sources for debt and equity finance, which creates challenges and vulnerabilities. Time to further strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building," Kotak tweeted. Amid concerns over banks' exposure to the crisis-ridden Adani Group, the Reserve Bank on February 3 issued a

This creates challenges and vulnerabilities. Time to further strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building," Kotak tweeted. Amid concerns over banks' exposure to the crisis-ridden Adani Group, the Reserve Bank on February 3 issued a

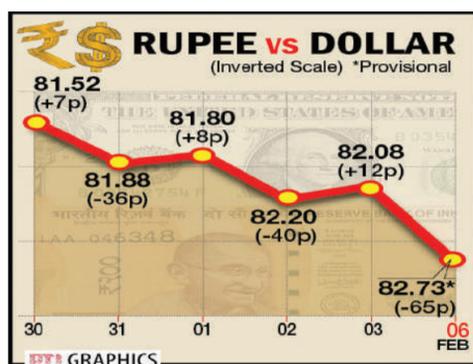
statement saying that India's banking sector is resilient and stable, and the central bank maintains constant vigil on the lenders. US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations in a January 24 report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group. Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements. The Hindenburg report was released on the day when Adani Enterprises' Rs 20,000-crore follow on public offer (FPO) opened for anchor investors.

Rupee falls 65 paise to close at 82.73 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 06:

The rupee fell by 65 paise to close at 82.73 (provisional) against the US currency on Monday, weighed down by gains in the greenback in the overseas markets and a muted trend in domestic equities. Sustained foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices further dented investor sentiments, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.35 against the greenback, and fell to an intra-day low of 82.76. It finally settled at 82.73 (provisional), down 65 paise over its previous close. In the previous session on Friday, the rupee settled at 82.08 against the US dollar. The dollar



index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.24 per cent higher at 103.16, on robust economic data from the US, which raised expectations of a hawkish Federal Reserve. Global oil

benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.45 per cent to USD 80.30 per barrel. The Indian rupee depreciated on a rally in the US Dollar and weak domestic markets, said Anuj Choudhary - Research

Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. "Dollar gained on robust economic data from the US raising expectations of hawkish Federal Reserve. "Non-farm payrolls added 517,000 jobs in January topping estimates of 193,000 jobs while ISM services PMI unexpectedly surged to 55.2 in January sharply above estimates of 50.5. Unemployment rate declined to 3.4 per cent in January compared to forecast of 3.6 per cent. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as the rebound in Dollar may further weaken the domestic currency. Weak domestic equities and FII outflows may also put downside pressure on Rupee," Choudhary said.

Shubhangi Atre reacts to Vidya Balan's viral video of 'Angoori Bhabi'

& TV's immensely popular Angoori Bhabi, aka Shubhangi Atre from the cult comedy show Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, has been the audience's favourite for her impeccable comic timing and innocent persona. She often misspells English words and, when corrected, instantly quips her famous catchphrase 'Sahi Pakade Hain', which has become a rage. And now it seems her hilarious misspelt English words and the catchphrase has caught the attention of one of Bollywood's most talented actresses, Vidya Balan. The actor recently took to her social media to post a reel of Angoori Bhabi's dialogues from the show 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai' and captioned it, 'Angrezi Ek Sensuous Bhasha Hai'. Reacting to this viral video, an excited Shubhangi Atre, Angoori Bhabi, said, "Vidya Balan is not only a



very talented and versatile actress but also a trendsetter. I have always idolized her. She is so graceful and artistic, and most of her roles have inspired me a lot and



have been one of my favourites. The moment I saw the Angoori reel, I was so thrilled! Honestly, I felt motivated and excited to see an actor of her stature enact a

funny dialogue of Angoori. It induced a sense of achievement and filled me with immense joy to see the popularity of Angoori's character. It truly made my day!

immediately shared the video with my friends and family. Quite a few people on sets came running to me to tell me about it. My dialogue, 'Bharbhuti Ji Aap Mujhe Sensuous Kar Rahe Hai', has been quite popular, but Vidya Balan's reel made it go viral, and I cannot thank her enough. It will be an honour and delight to shoot a special and exclusive reel on Angoori's quirky dialogues with her someday. I love the kind of reels and content Vidya Balan posts on social media. My fans will be thrilled to see us together (laughs). I am grateful for all the love and appreciation I am getting for the role of Angoori Bhabi from my fans, friends and family. I promise to keep my audience entertained with funnier tracks and dialogues in the days to come. So, keep watching your favourite Angoori Bhabi in Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, every Monday to Friday only on &TV!"

'My mom had tears in her eyes when she saw in me the bridal wear'

Rachna Mistry is a versatile actress and has played vivid roles in many serials. Currently she is portraying the character 'Vidhi,' which is massively loved by the audience. The show has set its bar high due to its amazing plot and wonderful portrayal of Dev and Vidhi's relationship, portrayed by Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry, respectively. The actors have finally demonstrated to the audience through their characters that love has no bounds as they prepare for their marriage and defy social norms in the show's upcoming sequence. Rachna Mistry, who is currently shooting for the wedding sequence in the serial, speaks about her mother's reaction to seeing her as a bride in the serial.



She overwhelmingly says, "My mother was thrilled and moved to tears when she saw me in the bridal dress while watching the trailer. We rarely get time to share the mother-daughter bond, as I mostly stay busy with shooting. When we spoke to each other about the same, she said she was emotional when she saw me in the bridal dress, and she also complimented me, saying that I really looked pretty and lovely. Despite the

fact that this is a staged wedding, she was moved to tears because she knew the day would come when I would have my own family. Usually when I am at home I organize my own closet, and once I am married I will be doing the same at another place, and this thought made both of us emotional while thinking about the real marriage, where my mom is already concerned about Bidaai in future".

Audiences will witness 'Anokhi Shaadi of the Year' and discover how Vidhi and Dev's lives unfold further after their marriage. The popular television show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' has set its bar high as it tells a genuine story of how age is no barrier to love, debunking a common societal misconception.

Stay tuned to watch 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' every Monday to Saturday at 8:00 p.m. on Star Bharat.



SRK reveals meeting 'Jawaan' Atlee's son

In a recent #AskSRK session on Twitter, Bollywood's Badshah Shah Rukh Khan revealed meeting his upcoming film Jawaan's director Atlee and wife Priya's son.

Just this week, one of India's most regarded and loved filmmakers, Atlee announced the birth of his son, along with his wife Priya, garnering love and warm wishes from across quarters. Adding to the list of well-wishers, Superstar Shah Rukh Khan also opened up about meeting the infant.

Creating a rage not just in theaters, Shah Rukh Khan has also been winning hearts with his famous #AskSRK sessions, with his sweet, witty and fun responses to the fan questions.

During his latest AskSRK session, a fan asked the Superstar, "@iamsrk Met with @Atlee_dir & @priyaatlee new baby?". To which SRK replied, "Yes he is too sweet and Masha Allah healthy".

After the humongous success of Pathan, all eyes are on Shah Rukh Khan's next Jawaan, directed by Atlee, also co-starring Malayalam superstar Nayanthara. With just a glimpse into the film, Jawaan has got everyone excited creating immense anticipation for the much-awaited release.

'I truly believe in this life mantra that applies to food is well – Less is More!'



Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV's 'MasterChef India' has narrowed the hunt for the best home cook to its Top 11 contestants. And this week, Chefs Vikas Khanna, Garima Arora, and Ranveer Brar will judge their culinary expertise based on the "Time-Bomb" challenge.

On the back of a quiz round about food, the top 11 home cooks will get to divide 11 ingredients amongst themselves – after which they must hero that one ingredient in their dish for the day. When it will come to Lucknow's Sachin Khatwani's dish, he will be presenting a dish with "Raspberry" as his core

ingredient. Chef Vikas Khanna would be adding the spice of "humour" and commenting on Sachin's dish saying, "Ek mandal mein 10 shaadi ho rahi hai and kisi ko nai pata kiski biwi kon hai (Ten weddings are taking place in the same room, but no one knows who is marrying whom)".

Chef Vikas Khanna also spoke about the dish afterwards saying, "I truly believe in this life mantra that applies to food is well – Less is More! Throwing too many flavours and ingredients together takes away from the core of the dish which can be made so enjoyable if you just focus on bringing out the best in the ingre-



redient you're meant to hero. Who would have thought Sachin could make such a basic mistake but the best of us sometimes have bad days. We hope that Sachin learns from his mistakes, and I'm sure he will because he is a sharp kid."

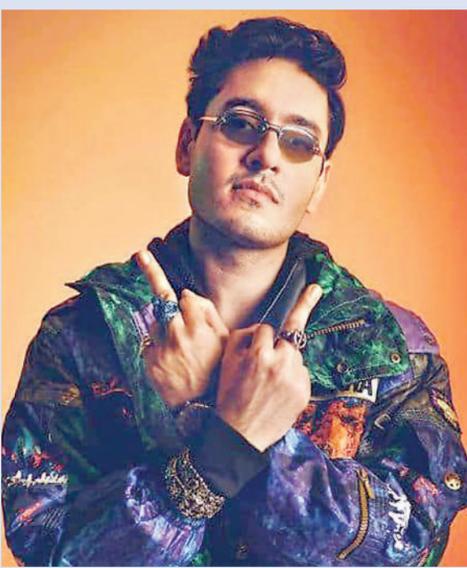
Talking about his experience Sachin Khatwani shares, "To become a Chef, one should have all their senses working in tandem with each other and that is what I will strive to do. This dish of mine was a misfire, there were possibilities that I missed and I created a mishap on the plate. I agree with Chef Vikas, there were a lot of things happening

on the plate without rhyme or reason and when we serve a plate to the customer, they should not look at the plate and be bewildered about the taste of the food. Food should never confuse, it's the one honest thing that we nourish our hearts and minds with. Nevertheless, every day I learn and apply these teachings to my skills as a home cook in order to realise my fullest potential as a Chef."

Tune in to 'MasterChef India', every Monday-Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.

Salman gives a shoutout to debutant actor Zeyn Shaw

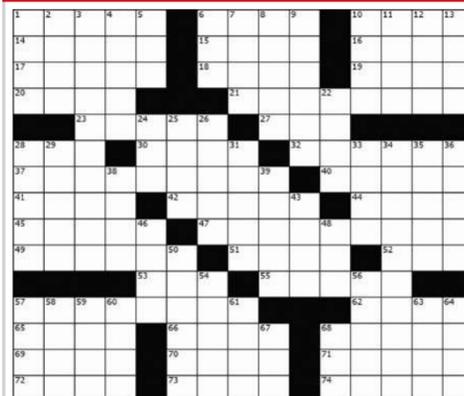
Debutant actor Zeyn Shaw, who is impressing the audience across quarters with his impactful and promising performance in his first ever project 'Class', receives a thumbs up from none other than Superstar Salman Khan. Creating a huge chatter across internet currently, Netflix's latest show 'Class' has been receiving a tremendous response from the audience all over. Notably, Veer Ahuja's character played by Zeyn Shaw has been talked about for the phenomenal character arc and the young actor's compelling performance. Portraying one of the most pivotal and impactful characters of the show, Zeyn Shaw is receiving praises for his effortless performance as the rich, spoiled brat from Delhi, who is exposed to emotions and circumstances revolving around power struggles, class, caste and dark secrets of the elite, rich dynasties of Delhi.



Making his debut with Netflix's show, Zeyn Shaw has also received a thumbs up from Salman Khan himself, as the Superstar gave a shoutout to the young actor for his first on screen appearance saying, "Best Wishes". Zeyn also penned a heartfelt note on his social media with BTS images capturing the journey of his character on the show saying, "It's been 2 and a half years but now you guys are officially a part of our CLASS! Thank you guys for the love ?? super proud of every single person associated with this project. Those of you who haven't got the chance to watch, go binge it now!! And for the ones who have, here's a little BTS. Don't worry, it's spoiler free ?? Making mark amidst the ensemble cast of the show, Zeyn Shaw has showcased sparks of his talent, creating interest for his upcoming projects.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

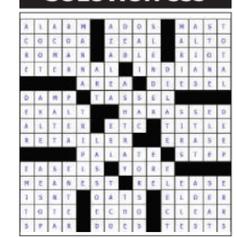
- Hot chocolate
- Mushroom part
- Church group
- Leading
- Bee's home
- Confederate
- Wash cycle
- Foot part
- Falling sound
- Love excessively
- Exhibition riding

DOWN

- Birthdays greeting
- Cleveland's state
- 100th anniversary
- Fertile spots
- Summer refresher
- Quiet!
- Knotted
- Each
- Brawls
- Undermines
- Jazz great _____ Fitzgerald
- Drain problem
- Category
- Deliberate slight
- Compass dir.
- Snaky swimmers
- Greasy streak
- Purple flower
- Boldness

- Narrate
- Eye drop
- "You there!"
- Taxi
- Theater platform
- Danish shore sight (2 wds.)
- Gumbo ingredient
- Rams' mates
- Is mistaken
- Roman gown
- Gather crops
- Soup vegetable
- Add to the family
- Gambling term
- Linger
- Calendar numbers
- Small landmass
- Salamander
- Get married (3 wds.)
- Consent
- In want
- Root beer, e.g.
- Wise people
- Mild expletive
- Engrave with acid
- Period of note
- Painters' stands
- Flat cap
- Cheese type
- Infamous emperor
- Had creditors
- _____ between the lines
- Chef's measures (abbr.)
- Zone
- Ready to pick
- Pretends
- Shade of blue
- Small amount

SOLUTION 553



Ashwin should not over-plan: Shastri



Nagpur, Feb 06 (PTI):

Ravichandran Ashwin's form will decide the fate of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, feels former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who wouldn't want the team's premier spinner to "over-plan" against Australia in the upcoming four-match Test series.

Shastri, under whose tutelage India won back-to-back Test series in Australia, also has no hesitation in naming Kuldeep Yadav as his choice as the third spinner while keeping Suryakumar Yadav as a potent middle-order game-changer. "Ashwin, you don't want him to over-plan. He is good enough to stick to his

plans as he is real crucial player here. His form might decide the series. Ashwin comes as a package, he will get you important runs as well," Shastri said, while answering a query from PTI during an interaction organised by Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

"If Ashwin is on fire, that might decide the outcome of the series. He is world class in most conditions but in Indian conditions, he is lethal. If the ball starts spinning and there is enough bite off the surface, he will trouble most batters. "So, you don't want Ashwin to over-think and try too many things. Just keep it there

and let the pitch do the rest because as it is, it does enough in India," Shastri, one of the shrewdest brains in Indian cricket, said. To another query from PTI on his choice as the third spinner, Shastri replied:

"As far as third spinner is concerned, I would like to see Kuldeep play straightaway. Jadeja and Axar are pretty similar bowlers. Kuldeep is different. If you lose the toss on Day 1, you need someone who will give it a rip.

"If anyone spins it one Day 1, it will be Kuldeep. If the track doesn't have too much on offer, then Kuldeep can come into play." He also gave another important reason to in-

Ashwin is a gun: Khawaja

Bengaluru: Having enjoyed fair degree of success in past couple of years, Australia opener Usman Khawaja termed facing the Ravichandran Ashwin-led Indian spin attack as the "hardest challenge" of the four match series beginning in Nagpur on February 9.

The Pakistan-born batter, who arrived in India after his teammates due to a visa delay, will open the batting alongside David Warner. Khawaja has played limited overs cricket in India but will finally get his opportunity in the longest format after being part of the Test squad in 2013 and 2017. Recently named Australia's 'Test

Cricketer of the Year', the southpaw is expected to play a big role in his team's quest to win its first series in India since 2004-05. "There's definitely a different feel. There are no guarantees in this game, but at least there's a bit more maturity particularly in the batting, and more maturity in the bowling.

"We've learnt a lot over the last 10 years, particularly the types of wickets we can get and how we think we can perform and go out and win Test matches out here. It feels like we are in a better spot than before, but it's always going to be tough," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

clude Kuldeep in the playing XI. "As the game progresses with the fast bowlers the Australians have, the rough created on both sides of the track will come into play. So wrist spinners can get the ball to turn back in and out both ways."

Shastri is unapologetic when asked about the kind of track he would want.

"I want the ball to turn from Day 1. Lose the toss, so be it. Something there on offer from Day 1, playing at home, cash in on it."

Shastri reckoned that India should keep their 12 ready with Shubman Gill in the scheme of things and then decide looking at the conditions of the track. He doesn't want

Suryakumar Yadav to be ruled out from the playing XI as a quick 40 on a rank turner from him could be a potential game-changer.

"Tough choice. You have to pick the best player for that position (No. 5). Surya is one player who will be proactive and looking to rotate the strike.

"If you want to do well in India, you have got to rotate the strike and not let bowlers bowl maidens at you. Blocking won't help. A quick 30 or 40 could decide the fate of game. He (Surya) can get (the runs) quickly and disrupt the opposition. India should back themselves to win by two-match margin," Shastri, a veteran of 80 Tests said.

India really going to miss Rishabh Pant: Ian Chappell



Indian cricketers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan during a practice session ahead of the first test cricket match against Australia, at VCA Stadium in Nagpur, Monday.

Nagpur, Feb 06 (PTI): Former captain Ian Chappell feels Rishabh Pant's presence would have given sleepless nights to Australia captain Pat Cummins but even then India would start firm favourites in the upcoming four-match Test series beginning here on Thursday.

Pant met with a horrific car accident in December last year and is yet to be discharged from the hospital after undergoing multiple surgeries on his knee and heel.

"India are really going to really miss Rishabh

Pant. The Australians will be happy. He is a counter attacker, the guy who keep you awake are guys who score quickly and changes game in one session. Pant was one such player," Chappell said during an interaction organised by Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the Test series for the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Chappell, one of the most respected voices in world cricket, feels that Ravichandran Ashwin will certainly be the biggest threat but the Australia batters need to be proactive against him.

"Why is Ashwin likely to be the threat? Because he is a smart cricketer. Ashwin will always be a problem. Now, if you let him bowl the way he wants to bowl, you are in trouble. He will be a threat to Australia throughout. They have got to be proactive," Chappell said. "You got to be thinking about being proactive. If you are not dictating terms, then you are in trouble. You have to get singles and rotate the strike. He (Ashwin) then has to change (his strategy against) whom he is bowling to then."

Manraj and Rakshitha to spearhead Indian contingent at Dutch and German Junior tournament



New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): Shuttlers Manraj Singh and Rakshitha Sree S will lead a 19-member Indian contingent at the upcoming Dutch Junior and German Junior International tournaments next month. The Dutch Junior International will kick off from March 1 in Haarlem while the German Junior event will begin from March 8 in Berlin. Badminton Association of India (BAI) had conducted a four-day selection trial at Greater Noida from January 24 to 27 to pick the shuttlers for the year's first two major Junior International Grand Prix events. India's No. 33 men's singles shuttler Manraj topped the men's sin-

gles category followed by Ayush Shetty, Lokesh Reddy K and Gagan. Rising shuttler Rakshitha will lead the women's singles group along with Shreya Lele, Jiya Rawat and Aalisha Naik. Bhavya Chhabra-Param Choudhary will shoulder the men's doubles responsibility with in-form Divyank Arora-Mayank Rana making it to the team as the second pair. The women's doubles duo of Vennala K and Shreyanshi Valishetty, who also represented India recently at Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022, will be kept to put up impactful performances along with Vaishnavi Khadkekar-Sania Sikkandar.

Football powerhouse Manipur to host first international matches in March

Imphal, Feb 06 (PTI):

The tiny but football powerhouse state of Manipur will host its first official international matches next month in a tri-nation friendly tournament involving Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, besides the Indian team, at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here.

The matches will be played on March 22, 24 and 26, which fall during the FIFA international window. Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh announced that the state capital will host the international tournament at a press conference here in the presence of All India Football Federation President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran.

"It is a great initiative by the AIFF leadership that we are getting to host



international friendly matches in Manipur for the first time in history," Biren said.

"From our end, I can assure everyone that the Government of Manipur will do everything to provide the best facilities and facilitate in the successful organisation of the tournament.

"Manipur has provided many international players for the national team.

India to play against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan

It is indeed an honour to host the tournament and further encourage our players and sports enthusiasts."

Biren mentioned the names of the likes of Renedy Singh, Gouramangi Singh, Udanta Singh, Amarjit Kiyam, Suresh Wangiam and Jaekson Singh who have donned the country's jersey in international matches.

"Manipur has been a great contributor to women's football as well. Players like Bala Devi, who is one of the best strikers of this generation, captain Ashalata Devi, Dangmei Grace, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu and many more have made the country proud time

and again well." He also requested the AIFF's assistance in establishing a top-class academy in the state.

The 35,000 capacity Khuman Lampak Stadium where the matches will be held has been hosting I-League games. It hosted group stage matches of the prestigious Durand Cup in August last year.

"We all are aware of football's popularity in Manipur. The state has produced a huge number of footballers, both men and women, but never before has a national team's match been organised in the state," Chaubey said.

"Having launched Vision 2047 recently, our aim is to take quality football to the furthest corners of the country. Manipur's vibrant football culture makes them deserving hosts, and so they have been given charge of hosting the Senior National Team's matches."

Croatia advances in Davis Cup as Coric beats Thiem



London, Feb 6 (AP) Borna Coric beat 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem 7-6 (3), 6-2 to send Croatia into the group stage of the Davis Cup. Coric helped the Croats win their second Davis Cup title in 2018, but he was sidelined when they lost in the 2021 final while missing a year of action with a right shoulder injury. He returned to the tour last March, winning a Masters 1000 title in August in Cincinnati, Ohio, and rejoined the Croats when they reached the Davis Cup semifinals last year. His victory over

Thiem, who has also dealt with injuries in recent years, gave Croatia a 3-1 victory in Rijeka. The Austrians had taken the tie against the No. 1 team in the Davis Cup rankings to a fourth match when Alexander Erler and Lucas Miedler beat Ivan Dodig and Nikola Mektic 6-3, 7-6 (11) in the doubles match earlier Sunday. Chile, Finland, the Netherlands, South Korea and the Czech Republic also completed victories Sunday to secure their places in the next round, which will be played in September.

Martinez scores again as Inter beats Milan in Serie A derby

Milan, Feb 06 (AP):

World Cup winner Lautaro Martinez continued his roaring start to the year as he set Inter Milan on its way to a 1-0 victory over AC Milan in the Derby della Madonnina.

Martinez has been in fantastic form since helping Argentina win the World Cup in December and he netted his seventh goal in his last eight matches as Inter consolidated second spot in Serie A with a second win over its fierce rival in less than three weeks.

"As soon as the World Cup was over I said that winning it had fired me up," Martinez said. "It's the best present that I have ever received, I learnt a lot and I'm trying to put all that on the field."

It was Martinez's 12th league goal of the season, putting him four behind leading Serie A goalscorer Victor Osimhen, who



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and AC Milan at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan.

scored another two on Sunday to help runaway leader Napoli win 3-0 at lowly Spezia.

Inter is 13 points behind Napoli and three points above third-place Roma. It is five points above Lazio, Atalanta and Milan, which has slipped to sixth after a woeful start to the year.

"I complimented my players because they were perfect, I don't remember a derby won and dominated in this way," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said.

"We had a really great derby, winning two derbies in the space of 20 days isn't something that happens every year. We're not

looking either ahead of us or behind us in the standings, but just at ourselves."

Milan's winless run extended to seven matches. That streak included elimination from the Italian Cup and a 3-0 loss to Inter in the Super Cup.

Before the derby, Milan had also conceded an unprecedented nine goals in its past two Serie A matches.

With that perhaps playing in their minds, the Rossoneri defended deep from the start and rarely got out of their own half. Milan had to wait almost an hour for its first shot, and that was off target.

Inter almost took the lead in the 10th minute but Mart nez headed just wide of the right upright.

Martinez did better in the 34th as he got away from Simon Kjær at the near post to get his head to a corner and it took a deflection off the Milan defender on the way in.

Marseille loses 3-1 to Nice, Monaco wins to keep pressure on

Paris: Second-place Marseille saw its unbeaten run end as it lost 3-1 at home to Nice to slip eight points behind French league leader Paris Saint-Germain. Marseille's first league defeat in 10 games means it is only ahead of third-place Lens on goal difference, with in-form Monaco now two points back in fourth spot. Third place secures a place in the qualifying rounds of the Champions League next season. Marseille fans got a first look at club-record signing Vitinha, a forward who joined from Portuguese side Braga for 32 million euros (34.5 million). Terem Moffi made his debut for eighth-place Nice after joining from Lorient, where he scored 12 goals this season.

Neither made much of an impression in a first half where Nice's superior pressing game troubled Marseille and prevented it from getting the ball regularly to playmaker Dimitri Payet. Vitinha's lack of familiarity with his teammates and the 35-year-old Payet's tiring legs played into Nice's high-octane game and the visitors scored twice at the end of the first half.

Ashu clinches bronze as other wrestlers disappoint

Zagreb, Feb 06 (PTI):

Asian Championships bronze medallist Ashu clinched the 67kg bronze medal for India in the Greco Roman category on the concluding day of the Zagreb Open Ranking Series here on Sunday. The 23-year-old grappler added a second bronze to India's tally, defeating Lithuania's Adomas Grigaliunas 5-0. Under-23 world champion, freestyle wrestler Aman Sehrawat, had won the men's 57kg bronze on the inaugural day.

Ashu, who had lost Iran's Reza Mahdi Abbasi 9-0 in the qualification round, came back strongly in the repechage bouts, defeating Hungary's Adam Phoilec 8-0 before overcoming Norway's Haavard Joergensen 9-0 to make the



bronze-medal round. The Indian had three points in the first period and two in the second as the judges declared a win by decision. Another Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Sagar lost his 63kg repechage round bout to Austria's Aker Schmid Al Obaidi after his quarter-final rival, Iran's Aref Hossein Khoun Mohammadi, entered the final. In other bouts on Sunday, Birmingham

Commonwealth Games silver medallist Samantha Stewart got the better of India's Asian Championships bronze medallist Sushma Shokeen with the Canadian effecting a fall in the women's 53kg quarter-final.

Sushma had beaten France's Tetiana Profatilova and China's Yuhong Zhong in the earlier rounds. More disappointment was in store for India as 72kg wrestler Reetika could not make it to the semi-finals through the round-robin format, while Kiran (76kg) also failed to advance.

Greco-Roman wrestlers Manjeet (55kg), Gyanender (60kg), Ankit Gulia (72kg) and Narinder Cheema (97kg) also returned empty-handed from the event as they failed to qualify for the medal rounds of their respective weight categories.

Hillary announces 50 million dollar Global Climate Resilience Fund for women to tackle climate change

Kuda (Surendranagar), Feb 06 (PTD):

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton on Monday announced a Global Climate Resilience Fund of 50 million dollars for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt. The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education, she said.

Clinton visited salt pan workers in the Little Rann of Kutch near Kuda village in Gujarat's Surendranagar district and learnt from them the process of salt production and hardships faced by them. "Today, Clinton Global Initiative

with American Indian foundation, SEWA and other organisations, I announce 50 million dollar Global Climate Resilience Fund for women," she said addressing the salt pan workers. "I have had the privilege of working with Elaben (Bhatt) and SEWA for nearly 30 years. But we are thinking about next 50 years," she said.

"Whether you're in construction, waste recycling, plastic, or a farmer, your challenge to make an income working through heat will be the next big problem," said Clinton, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat from Sunday. She had attended a pro-



Former USA secretary of state Hillary Clinton interacts with women Salt Pan Workers and SEWA members, at Little Rann of Kutch in Surendranagar, Monday.

gramme in Ahmedabad on Sunday to mark 50 years of SEWA as a trade union and paid homage to its founder and renowned social activist Ela Bhatt, who passed away in November

last year. During the event, she had said heat caused by climate change poses an additional challenge to women workers in informal sectors and the Global Climate Resilience Fund

will help tackle this challenge.

On Monday, Clinton said she started talking to Reema Ben Nanavati, SEWA's director, regarding the new struggle that heat is presenting, because every job that members of the women's trade union represent "will be affected by heat." Nanavati suggested that SEWA can be the nodal agency for such a first-of-its-kind experiment.

"We have brought together a group of concerned people to help with this challenge, and a number of these groups are represented here to help start the Global Climate

Resilience Fund in partnership with SEWA - the first fund like this in the world," Clinton said. She said working with SEWA will be the Clinton Global Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, Algorand Foundation, Council for Inclusive Capitalism, and the American India Foundation.

"These will be some of the partners with SEWA to begin to address this very significant challenge," she said. Clinton said anyone who has to go outside for work, like police officers, fire-fighters, people in every walk of life going in and out to work in heat "are going to need the kind of help and support that this project pioneered by SEWA will provide."

HC directs ASI to file report on status of functionality of instruments at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The Delhi High Court has directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to file a report regarding the status of the functionality of instruments at the Jantar Mantar here.

Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora was hearing a contempt petition against the authorities for alleged non-compliance of the court's September 2010 order in which the ASI had given an undertaking that the national monument shall be restored to its original glory to the best of their ability and astronomical instruments available there would be made functional.

The petitioner submitted that the central issue in the present proceedings is that the instruments at the

Jantar Mantar monument are not in a functional position and added that despite the passage of 12 years things remain unchanged.

Hearing the petition, the high court passed an order on January 20 in which it directed the ASI to file the status report within four weeks and specifically set out its stand regarding the existing status on the functionality of the instruments at the monument.

It also asked the petitioner to file a response to ASI's affidavit after it is submitted. It listed the matter for further hearing on April 24.

A division bench of the high court had in 2010 passed an order recording an undertaking given on behalf of the ASI that Jantar Mantar shall be made functional and will be restored to its original glory.

HAL was used to target his govt and instigate people: PM

Tumakuru (KTK), Feb 06 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday attacked the Congress for "using" the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited as a pretext to level allegations against our government. Conspiracies were hatched to instigate people. Today the HAL is advancing our motto of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'," he said.

The then Congress president Rahul Gandhi had during 2017-18 said there was a need to "defend the dignity of India's defenders" as he accused the Narendra Modi government of "snatching" the Rafale offset contract from HAL and "gifting" it to Anil Ambani's company. "HAL is India's strategic asset. The future of India's aerospace industry has

been destroyed by snatching #Rafale from HAL & gifting it to Anil Ambani," the Congress leader had said. Rahul Gandhi and his Congress party at the time were attacking the Modi government over the Rs 58,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal alleging corruption and favouritism.

Modi recalled that he had in 2016 laid the foundation stone of the factory which was inaugurated today, with a resolve that India has to minimise its defence imports and become self-reliant. "Now, hundreds of defence equipment are manufactured in India," he pointed out.

taluk of this district. "The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited was used as a pretext to level allegations against our government. Conspiracies were hatched to instigate people. Today the HAL is advancing our motto of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'," he said.

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"HAL is India's strategic asset. The future of India's aerospace industry has

Namami Gange's main objective to make river's water fit for outdoor bathing, not drinking: Centre

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The prime objective of the Namami Gange programme is to make the water of the Ganga suitable for outdoor bathing, not drinking, the Centre told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Surface water, including that of the rivers, is required to undergo "necessary treatment/purification" for making it potable or fit for human consumption, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu said in a written reply.

The Centre launched the Namami Gange programme in June 2014 for a period up to March 31,

2021, to rejuvenate the Ganga and its tributaries. The Centre subsequently extended the programme up to March 31, 2026.

"The main objective of the river rejuvenation programme is to meet the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and not drinking water quality," the minister said.

In a question, Janata Dal (United) member Ram Nath Thakur and the Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali Khan had sought to know from the Jal Shakti Ministry if the Ganga water was "still

not potable or bathable" after spending thousands of crores since the launch of the programme to clean the river.

In his written reply, the minister said the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been carrying out water quality assessment of the river at 97 locations in five main "stem states" through the respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) under the Namami Gange programme.

As per CPCB data for January to October, 2022, the minister said, the "observed water quality" of the river indicates that dissolved oxygen (DO), which is an indicator of

the river's health has been found to be "within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and is satisfactory to support the ecosystem of the river for almost the entire stretch of the river Ganga".

As a result of multi-sectoral interventions, as per comparison of median data of water quality parameters viz, DO, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and faecal coliforms (FC) of the year 2014 and 2022 (January to October); DO (median) has improved at 33 locations; BOD at 41 locations and FC at 28 locations, respectively," he said.

The minister said a total

Rs 13,709.72 crore was released to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) from the 2014-15 fiscal till 31 December, 2022.

Of this, Rs 13,245.68 crore have been disbursed by the NMCG to the state governments, state missions for clean Ganga and other agencies for implementation of the projects related to the river's rejuvenation, he said.

"Cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous process and National Mission for Clean Ganga is implementing various projects for conservation and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries," the minister added.

Congress takes out march in Lucknow against government on Adani issue

Lucknow, Feb 06 (PTD):

Congress workers here on Monday staged a protest march amid heavy police deployment demanding a detailed inquiry into the Hindenburg allegations against the Adani group, conducted, either by a Joint Parliamentary Committee or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The party also handed over a memorandum of its demands, addressed to the President of India, to the Commissioner of Police.

The Congress has been continuously raising its voice in the House demanding a detailed inquiry into the matter, but the central government led by the BJP is not ready for a discussion, the party said in a statement. Congress workers began its march from Begum Hazrat Mahal



Congress workers stage a protest demanding inquiry into Adani row after Hindenburg report, in Lucknow, Monday.

(Parivartan Chowk) under the leadership of provincial president and former minister Nakul Dubey to go to the State Bank Headquarters, UP Congress spokesperson Krishan Kant Pandey said in the statement.

As they proceeded with the march, police force deployed in large numbers

stopped them on their way, after which the protesters sat on a dharna near the Babu KD Singh Stadium.

Pandey called the matter "the biggest scam of the century." "It is obvious that somewhere the government is conniving with Adani, that is why it is scared of the investigation of this scam," he said.

Congress demands seizure of Gautam Adani's passport

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI): The Congress on Monday demanded the Centre seize the passport of Gautam Adani, who is battling allegations of stock manipulation, to prevent him from escaping the country as the opposition party held protests against Adani outside offices of LIC and SBI. A Mumbai Congress leader said businessmen Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi could escape the country because the BJP government didn't confiscate their passports in time. The Congress staged demonstrations outside the offices of the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Life Insurance Corporation as part of the party's nationwide protests over the Adani issue. "The Centre should confiscate the passport of Gautam Adani so that he would not be able to escape the country.

When scams by Harshad Mehta or Ketan Parekh were unearthed, the then Union government led by Congress had confiscated their passports preventing Mehta and Parekh from flying out of India," Mumbai Congress chief Jagtap told reporters. He said industrialists Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, who are facing allegations of loan default and banking fraud, managed to run away from the country because their passports were not seized by the BJP government in time. Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after the US short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations last fortnight in its report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group, which has denied the charges

Over 30 lakh Indians went abroad during 2017-22 for higher education: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

More than 30 lakh Indians went abroad for higher education during 2017-2022, the Ministry of Education told Lok Sabha on Monday. The information was shared by Subhas Sarkar, the Union Education Minister of State, in a written response to a question by JD(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh and others.

"Ministry of Home Affairs' Bureau of Immigration, maintains departure and arrival data of Indians. But there is no index for capturing the category of Indians going abroad for higher education purpose.

Purpose of Indians going abroad for higher education is captured manually based either on their verbal disclosure or

the type of visa of the destination country produced by them at the time of immigration clearance," he said.

Sarkar said 7.50 lakh Indians disclosed their purpose of visit as study or education while going abroad in 2022. The number in preceding years was - 4.4 lakh (2021), 2.59 lakh (2020), 5.86 lakh (2019), 5.17 lakh (2018) and 4.54 lakh (2017). The minister was also asked if it is a fact that the money being spent by Indian

students abroad is more than the education budget of the country, and if the government has any proposal to establish "International University of high standard" to save the said funds.

Responding to this part of the question, Sarkar said, "as of now there is no proposal to set up

International University in the country."

"However, University Grants Commission (UGC) has drafted enabling Regulations to facilitate establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India.

"The draft University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions In India) Regulations, 2023 was placed in the

public domain seeking feedback, suggestions, comments etc from all stakeholders by January 18, 2023. However, in view of the requests received from stakeholders, the last date for receiving comments on the draft Regulations has been extended till February 20," he said.

HC permits woman to relocate with minor daughter to US with second husband

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The Delhi High Court has granted permission to a woman to take her five-and-a-half-year-old daughter to the United States where she is relocating with her second husband, saying the child is stated to be extremely attached to her mother and it will be in her welfare to continue to stay with her mother.

While the woman filed an application seeking modification of the existing arrangement of visitation rights given to the man, the ex-husband moved a plea seeking custody of the child on the ground that her relocation

to the US with her mother would not be in her welfare and she should be allowed to live in her own country.

"Even though, I have no hesitation in agreeing with... (man's counsel) that the child must not be denied the right to regularly interact with the father, the question before this court now is as to whether this right of the child as also of the father can be protected only by compelling the child to stay back in India, when her mother relocates to USA. The answer, in my considered view, is a clear No," Justice Rekha Palli said.

"Today, the technology has advanced so much that regular interactions be-

tween two individuals living in different countries or even continents can be easily be maintained through video calls and video conferencing," the judge said.

The high court said in the last three years, when the world was grappling with the Covid pandemic, interactions through video calls have become the new norm which was also evinced from the fact that even when courts today are functioning fully physically, lawyers are being permitted to join through video conferencing. This is only because of the advancements in technology.

The court agreed with

the man's counsel that the father, even if he is a non-custodial parent, plays a very important role in the life of the child and no minor should be insulated from the parental touch and influence of any of his parents as both of them play an important role in the development of the child's personality.

However, it said that the man, who voluntarily permitted the woman to take care of the child ever since the age of two and was satisfied with two visitations every month with one of them being an overnight visitation, cannot now be permitted to urge that because the

mother wants to relocate to the US, she must leave the child behind in his custody.

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BRIEF



Motorcyclists pass by a graffiti depicting the image of Lata Mangeshkar, on her death anniversary, at Bandra in Mumbai.

Visa racket

Kolkata: A fake visa racket was busted and a woman was arrested from Kolkata's Metiabruz area, police said on Monday. The woman, in her early 30s, was arrested from her residence on Sunday night after a complaint was lodged by two persons from Lucknow, they said. Police had earlier arrested two persons in connection with the case, they added. The racket was collecting money from youths, promising them jobs at restaurants in the US, police said. "They used to take passports from people, and then prepared fake visas. This woman was recruited by the racket recently and she was working from home, manufacturing the visas," a police officer said.

Haj forms

New Delhi: There will be 25 embarkation points for Haj-2023 and forms for going on the pilgrimage will be out very soon with the application being available free of cost, according to the Ministry for Minority Affairs. The ministry said the Haj policy released on Monday will bring financial relief to pilgrims. Haj package costs have been reduced by approximately Rs 50,000 as the money that was deposited with the Haj Committee for foreign exchange and items such as umbrella, bags and bed sheets would not be charged and these things can be arranged by the pilgrims themselves, sources said.

Paralysed father

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his paralysed father in Delhi's Anand Parbat area, police said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Sumit Sharma. The police received information regarding the death of a man, identified as Jitendra Sharma, around 9 pm on Friday. When they reached the spot, they found Sharma lying unconscious in his bed, a senior officer said. He was shifted to RML Hospital where an autopsy was conducted on Saturday, the officer said.

Weather
High 30 Low 14

MARKET
NIFTY 17,764.60
SENSEX 60,506.90

BULLION
GOLD 56,950
SILVER 67,547

Powerful quake rocks Turkey and Syria

Azmarin (Syria), Feb 06 (AP):

A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked wide swaths of Turkey and Syria early Monday, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing more than 1,800 people.

Hundreds were still believed to be trapped under rubble, and the toll was expected to rise as rescue workers searched mounds of wreckage in cities and towns across the area.

On both sides of the border, residents jolted out of sleep by the pre-dawn quake rushed outside on a cold, rainy and snowy night. Buildings were reduced to piles of pancaked floors, and major aftershocks continued to rattle the region. Rescue workers and residents in multiple cities searched for survivors, working through tangles of metal and concrete. A hospital in Turkey collapsed, and patients, including newborns, were evacuated from facilities in Syria. In the Turkish city



An injured child is carried away from the rubble of a building in rebel-held Azaz, Syria.

of Adana, one resident said three buildings near his home were toppled. "I don't have the strength anymore," one survivor could be heard calling out from beneath the rubble as rescue workers tried to reach him, said the resident, journalism student Muhammet Fatih Yavus. "Because the debris removal efforts are continuing in many buildings in the earthquake zone, we do not know how high the number of dead and in-

jured will rise," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "Hopefully, we will leave these disastrous days behind us in unity and solidarity as a country and a nation." The quake, which was centred north of the Turkish provincial capital of Gaziantep, was felt as far away as Cairo. It sent residents of Damascus rushing into the street, and jolted awake people in their beds in Beirut. It struck a region that has been

Kills more than 1,800

shaped on both sides of the border by more than a decade of civil war in Syria. On the Syrian side, the swath affected is divided between government-held territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, which is surrounded by Russian-backed government forces. Turkey, meanwhile, is home to millions of refugees from that conflict. The opposition-held regions in Syria are packed with some 4 million people displaced from other parts of the country by the fighting. Many of them live in buildings that are already wrecked from past bombardments. Hundreds of families remained trapped in rubble, the opposition emergency organisation, called the White Helmets, said in a statement. Strained health facilities and hospitals were quickly filled with wounded, rescue workers said.

MHA files review petition in SC on observations on Sikkimese Nepali

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): The Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against some of its observations referring to Sikkimese Nepalis as "immigrants". In a series of tweets, the Union Home Minister's office said the central government has submitted before the Supreme Court its position about the sanctity of Article 371F of the Constitution that safeguards the Sikkimese identity, which should not be diluted. Further, the observation in the said order about persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like Nepalis should be reviewed as the said persons are Sikkimese of Nepali origin," the tweets said. The MHA's move came amid protests in Sikkim over the Supreme Court observation referring to Sikkimese Nepalis as "immigrants" while extending income tax exemption to all old settlers of the state.

by Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim and Ors in Supreme Court. "Gol (Government of India) reiterated its position about the sanctity of Article 371F of the Constitution that safeguards the Sikkimese identity, which should not be diluted. Further, the observation in the said order about persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like Nepalis should be reviewed as the said persons are Sikkimese of Nepali origin," the tweets said. The MHA's move came amid protests in Sikkim over the Supreme Court observation referring to Sikkimese Nepalis as "immigrants" while extending income tax exemption to all old settlers of the state.

Naval variant of LCA lands first time on aircraft carrier INS Vikrant

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): A prototype of the Naval variant of the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) on Monday undertook its maiden landing on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, in a feat described by the Indian Navy as a 'historical milestone' for India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing.



In a major milestone, the Naval variant of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) undertook maiden landing onboard the country's first indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) INS Vikrant.

Separately, the Russian-origin MiG-29K aircraft also undertook a maiden landing on board INS Vikrant, the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier, officials said. The successful landing and take-off of the LCA prototype from INS Vikrant is set to pave the way for the development and manufacturing of the ambitious twin-engine deck-based fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy by the Hindustan

Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). "A historical milestone achieved towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat by Indian Navy as naval pilots carry out landing of LCA (Navy) on board INS Vikrant," the Navy said in a brief statement. It said the landing demonstrat-

ed India's capability to design, develop, construct and operate indigenous aircraft carriers with indigenous fighter aircraft. In September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned INS Vikrant (IAC 1) that made the country part of

IIT researchers develop new tech to make military equipment invisible to radar

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi have developed a material that can make stealth vehicles and covert establishments less visible to the radar.

According to the team, the material can absorb a wide range of radar frequencies (signals), irrespective of the direction from which the radar signal hits the target. It can also be used to cover windows or glass panels of stealth vehicles and covert establishments that must

be invisible to radar. The research has been published in the journal "IEEE Letters on Electromagnetic Compatibility Practice and Applications".

Shrikanth Reddy, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi, explained that radars are used in defence and civil sectors for surveillance, and navigation, to detect and track aircraft, ships, ground vehicles, and movements within covert establishments. "Being invisible to radar is a crucial defence strate-

gy and the ability to evade radar detection can reduce the chances of being targeted by enemy weapons," Reddy said in a statement.

"Any technique that makes things invisible to radar can also be used in the commercial sector to reduce radiation leakages from buildings and make them more secure. For example, invisibility to radar can also be used in private or covert establishments for the protection of information and privacy," he said. Radar Cross Section (RCS) reduction is a way to make something less visible to radar. RCS reduction

is achieved by using materials that can absorb radar signals, or by shaping the object in a way that makes it difficult for radar to detect. "We have developed a technology based on Frequency Selective Surface (FSS) that absorbs a wide range of frequencies used in radar, which makes the surface invisible to radar," Reddy explained. The proposed design uses an optically transparent Indium Tin Oxide (ITO)-coated Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheet. The FSS patterns are created on this PET sheet.

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Train passengers would soon be able to order food through a WhatsApp number, with an interactive Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot handling their queries on e-catering and booking meals. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is already delivering meals on certain routes through WhatsApp number +91 8750001323.

"WhatsApp communication for e-catering services implemented on selected trains and passengers. Based on customer feedback and suggestions, the company will enable the same on other trains," the Railways said in a statement on Monday. The IRCTC has started e-catering services through a specially developed website www.catering.irctc.co.in as well its e-catering app 'Food on Track', it said. The implementation of e-catering services through WhatsApp was envisaged in two phases. The first phase has already been implemented. Under this, a business

Parliament stalled as Oppn carries on with protests over Adani issue

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):



Placards held by Opposition parties' MPs during a protest over Adani row, at the Parliament complex, in New Delhi, Monday.

The government's hopes for the start of a debate on the President's address in Parliament in the new week were dashed on Monday as a determined Opposition stalled proceedings in both Houses again, raising the allegations of fraud against the Adani group and demanding a JPC probe.

Following the presentation of the Union Budget on February 1, little business has been transacted in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha due to the Opposition's protests over the issue.

Ruling BJP members have maintained that the affairs involving private entities cannot be discussed in Parliament and opposition parties can raise the issue during the customary debate on the President's address at the start of the Budget Session on January 31.

The government was hopeful that the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will start on Monday. The

prime minister generally replies to the discussion in both Houses. As soon as Lok Sabha met after the weekend break, opposition members, mostly Congress MPs, entered the Well shouting slogans such as "Adani sarkar shame-shame".

They reiterated their demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe into the allegations of fraud and stock manipulation by a US-based short-selling firm against the port-to-power conglomerate. The Adani Group has denied the allegations against it. Speaker Om Birla urged them to go back to their seats and

participate in the debate. "This is not good. Sloganeering is against the dignity of the House. People have elected you to raise their issues in Parliament but you are not interested in participating in debate," he said.

Birla said the opposition members should come to his chamber and discuss with him their demands. He assured them that he would give the Opposition enough time to raise their issues in the House. "This is Parliament. Maintain some dignity. This is a respected House. The House is for debate and discussions.

CBI arrests railway engineers in Rs 2 crore bribery case

New Delhi, Feb 6 (PTI): The CBI has arrested three people, including two engineers of Northeast Frontier Railway zone, in an alleged bribery case of Rs 2 crore, officials said on Monday.

The agency has arrested Senior Section Engineer Santosh Kumar and his superior Deputy Chief Engineer Rampal posted in Silchar besides contractor Sajjan Chaudhary, who is the owner of Tribeni Constructions.

Kumar was arrested while allegedly receiving a part payment of Rs 8 lakh from the construction company, they said.

Soon, train passengers can order food via WhatsApp

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI):

Train passengers would soon be able to order food through a WhatsApp number, with an interactive Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot handling their queries on e-catering and booking meals. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is already delivering meals on certain routes through WhatsApp number +91 8750001323.

"WhatsApp communication for e-catering services implemented on selected trains and passengers. Based on customer feedback and suggestions, the company will enable the same on other trains," the Railways said in a statement on Monday. The IRCTC has started e-catering services through a specially developed website www.catering.irctc.co.in as well its e-catering app 'Food on Track', it said. The implementation of e-catering services through WhatsApp was envisaged in two phases. The first phase has already been implemented. Under this, a business

Whatsapp number sends a message to the customers booking e-ticket for opting in e-catering services by clicking on www.ecatering.irctc.co.in

They are then enabled to book meals of their choice from the restaurants of their choice available at stations enroute directly through the e-catering website of IRCTC without even requiring to download the App.

The next phase is when the interactive WhatsApp meal booking and delivery are planned.

'Russia would like to see normalisation of India-China relations'

New Delhi, Feb 6 (PTI):

Russia on Monday accused the US of "actively" exploiting the "contradictions" between India and China to its advantage and asserted Moscow and New Delhi accumulated mutual trust and confidence based on decades-old ties that would help the two sides to deal with the current geopolitical turbulence.

In his address at a conference, Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov, at the same time, said that the India-Russia ties are "under stress" because of the tectonic geo-political shifts in view of the "arrogant"

and "belligerent" approach by the US-led West on the Ukraine conflict. The envoy said Moscow wants to expand its economic engagement with Islamabad as a "weak" Pakistan is not good for the entire region including India.

In a tweet later, he clarified that he meant a "destabilised" Pakistan is not in the interest of anyone in the region.

The conference on 'Next Steps in India-Russia Strategic Partnership; Old Friends New Horizons' was organised by the India Writes Network and the Centre for Global India Insights.

13 additional judges appointed to 3 HCs

No word yet on few other names recommended by Collegium

New Delhi, Feb 6 (PTI):

Eleven advocates and two judicial officers were on Monday appointed as additional judges in the Allahabad, Karnataka and Madras high courts. One of those appointed to the Madras High Court is advocate Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri whose reported affiliation to the BJP had triggered a controversy. Some lawyers had recently asked the Collegium to recall its recommendation for Gowri alleging her affiliation. Some other lawyers had supported her elevation, citing hardwork and her commitment to the profession. In a significant



In this combo photo Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Manoj Misra being sworn in as Supreme Court judges by Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, in New Delhi, Monday.

development, the Supreme Court on Monday advanced to February 7 the hearing on a plea challenging the appointment of lawyer Victoria Gowri as a judge of the Madras High Court, soon after the Centre notified her judgeship. The apex court had earlier in the day agreed to hear on February 10 the

petition against her elevation but the matter was mentioned again and the hearing was fixed for Tuesday by a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud which said the Collegium has taken note of "certain developments" after her name was recommended to the Centre.

Congressmen stage protest; demand JPC probe on Adani - Hindenburg row

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: On Monday, Congress party workers staged demonstration in front of LIC and SBI offices in Civic Centre, Bhilai. It was a part of the INC's nationwide protest over the Adani - Hindenburg row. They demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the matter.

Spearheading the demonstrators, Bhilai District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar said that the Prime Minister and the BJP Union Government are unable to give any reply over the Hindenburg report in which Gautam Adani has been accused of brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of



decades. Chandrakar alleged that the meltdown in Adani shares is a scam that involves common people's hard earned money as LIC and SBI have invested in them. He further said that the report regarding the Adani Group scam was published about 13 days ago, but the Prime Minister has not uttered even a sin-

gle word. The BJP Union Government is also trying to escape from the discussion in the parliament over this issue. The silence of the Modi Government over this issue indicates towards its connivance in the scam. Former MLA Badruddin Qureshi, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta

Lodhi, PCC office bearers Jitendra Sahu, Brijmohan Singh, Shiju Anthony, Arun Singh Sisodia, Subhadra Singh, office bearers of District Congress Committee, Block Congress Committees, Sewa Dal, Mahila Congress, INTUC, Youth Congress, NSUI, Corporators and other party workers were present.

Complaints of forgery, pollution, etc received at Jandarshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: A woman from Shakti Nagar, Padmanabhpur complained against an LIC agent at Jandarshan on Monday. She said that three years ago an agent took 70000 rupees to invest in LIC. Later she discovered that her money was not invested in LIC. When she questioned the agent, he returned Rs 20000. The woman requested the Collector to take appropriate action in this case.

A woman from village Chandkhuri said that she is a tribal and her caste is Nagarchi. Her father-in-law's caste was also Nagarchi. Since the Collector's permission is necessary for the sale and purchase of tribal land, therefore, in order to sell the land in a hurry, his relatives changed the caste to



Gada. The woman demanded a probe over the matter. The Collector instructed SDM Durg to investigate this case.

A person made a complaint against a cotton mattress making shop located in Jawahar Chowk Durg. The applicant cotton blending on the road creates a lot of pollution due to which the locals have developed respiratory diseases.

Apart from this, the road also gets jammed due to cotton blending works

on the road. The Collector instructed the corporation officials to take action in this regard.

A woman from Sindhi Colony, Durg submitted her application in Collector Jandarshan. The woman said that her daughter has difficulty in writing and she also has the medical certificate for the same. The woman said that her daughter is going to appear in the board exam. She requested for a writer in the board exam. The Collector instructed

the District Education Officer to take action as per the rules.

A woman from Laxminagar, Khursipar said that she had gone to her village in Maharashtra at the time of lease distribution. By the time she came, the lease distribution program had already taken place, due to which she could not get the lease. The Collector instructed the officials to take action as per the rules.

A family affected by road widening from Ruabandha to Vrinda Nagar Durg also submitted their application. The family member said that they will get great relief if the compensation is paid soon. An application was submitted by the villagers of Khopli with request to change the location of PHE tank construction.

BSF recovers country made pistols and live bullets

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: On the basis of specific inputs given by the Intelligence Branch of Border Security Force, the jawans of 135th BSF Battalion positioned in COB Amabeda carried out search operation in jungles located about 500 meters away in West direction of Muche Khadka Waterfall. The jawans recovered a country-made pistol, one country-made gun (desi katta) and 30 live bullets which were concealed by the Maoists. With the recovery of firearms, BSF succeeded in foiling the plans of the Maoists to carry out any major incident.

BSF sources informed



that such small arms are used by small action teams of Maoists for the purpose of causing harm to the common citizens. Acting cautiously in a professional manner on the accurate information of the BSF Intelligence Branch, the BSF jawans once again foiled the nefarious intentions of the Maoists.

Indraj Singh, Inspector General, Frontier Headquarters (Special Operations) Border Security Force, Chhattisgarh congratulated all the team personnel on this success. He added that the Border Security Force is committed to safeguard the common citizens in its area of deployment.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: An Inter institute annual cultural and sports festival "CARNIVAL 2023" was organised by Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, for the students of RSR Rungta College of Engineering & Technology (RSR RCET), Rungta College of Dental Sciences and Research (RCDSR), Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (RIPS), Rungta College of Science & Technology (RCST), Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science & Research (RIPSR) and Rungta Institute of Science &



Management (RISM) from February 02-04, 2023.

A celebrity night was scheduled on February 03 where "MEET BROS." and team performed live. Various events under

Sports and Cultural categories including Cricket, Volley Ball, Throw Ball, Kabaddi, Tug of War, Pitthul, Arm Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Group & Solo Dance, Battle of

Dance, Antakshari, Master Chef, Makeover, Rap Song, Reels, Photography and many more were conducted. The most awaited event "Battle of Dance"

competition was won by Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (RIPS) and the overall winner of Rungta Carnival was Rungta College of

Dental Sciences and Research (RCDSR). Chief Guest Sanjay Rungta, Chairman, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, said that the competitions among all the institutes were so close and the winning institute is unpredictable. Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, Bhilai congratulated all the participating institutions for making the event a grand success.

Career Counselling organised at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector 10 organised career counselling session on February 04, 2023 in the school premises. The programme was well attended by students of Class X and their parents. The evening commenced with the light-

ing of the ceremonial lamp and garlanding the portraits of Goddess Saraswati and Guruji. Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV was the resource person for the day. The session was very informative. It motivated the students of class X and their parents. They were made aware about the cor-

rect choice of subjects after class X. He focused on the willingness towards one's choice of stream. He stressed on personal, social and psychological reasons for individual's development. He highlighted the list of courses, their different scopes and renowned colleges. Students actively partic-

ipated in Questionnaire session and their queries were addressed by the Principal Bipin Deshmukh. The session was supported and guided by Harish Chandra Chhatwani, Vice Principal and Naman Sharma, CAO, SSV. The function came to an end with national anthem.

BSP employees win seven awards in National Works Skill competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: Seven National-level awards by CII were won by employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in National Works Skill competition 2023 at New Delhi.

HRD department of BSP organises Plant level Works Skill competition every year. The winners are sent to the Regional Works skill competition at Kolkata, after which they qualify for the National level competition.

Venkat Raman Madharia won the 1st prize in Carpentry trade from Foundry and Pattern shop while Rameshwar Singh Gajendra won the 2nd prize in Carpentry



trade from Rajhara Mines. In Industrial Hydraulics trade, Deepak Kumar Pandit from Auto Repair shop won the 1st prize while the 2nd prize was bagged by Gopi Kishan from SMS 2. In Turner trade, Manjha Hasanda

from BRM won the 1st prize. In fitter trade, Sevak Ram from SMS 3 won the 2nd prize and Gopal Ram from BF won the 2nd prize in Machinist trade. Sanjay Dhar, CGM(HRD & BE) congratulated the win-

ners. SB Patel, SM (HRD) coordinated the programme. A week long training programme to enhance the skills of the participants was organised by HRD department prior to the National level competition.

Dinesh Patil appointed state co-coordinator



Dinesh Patil

Bhilai, Feb 06: Dinesh Patil has been appointed as the State Co-coordinator of Organic Farming and Research Cell. His appointment was made during a virtual meeting of Kisan Morcha held the other day. On the recommendation of Pawan Sai (State organization General Secretary) and Dwarshesh Pandey (State Coordinator, Organic Farming and Research Cell), the Kisan Morcha State President Pawan Sahu has made this appointment. After his appointment, Patil will represent Chhattisgarh state in the training workshop organized at the National BJP office on February 13, 2023.

Lamp Lighting & Graduation Ceremony organised at PGCON



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: With the motto "Let my light shine", PG College of Nursing (Managed by Bhilai Education Trust, Bhilai) in Hospital Sector, organised Lamp lighting ceremony of B Sc (Nursing) 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students in College campus.

Programme was graced in the presence of Chief Guest Dr Ravindranath M, Chief Medical Officer Incharge, JLNH&RC, Guest of Honour Dr Pramod Binayake, Chief Medical Officer,

JLNH&RC, Shyla Abraham, Assistant Manager and I/C Nursing Administration, JLNH&RC, Arvind Jain, Trustee, Bhilai Education Trust and Surendra Gupta, Secretary, BET were present. After formal welcome the programme commenced with welcome song and dance by college choir group followed by welcome address by Prof Dr Sreelata Pillai, Vice-Principal, PG College of Nursing. Prof Dr Abhilekha Biswal, Principal, PG College of Nursing, presented college

report for the session 2019-22, highlighting the achievements and accolades of staff and students. On this occasion, she also focused on many achievements of the college among which the outstanding one was "The Best Nursing College of the Twin-city" awarded by the Governor of Chhattisgarh Anusuiya Uikey in an event organised by radio channel 94.3 MyFM. In their address Dr Ravindranath M and Dr Pramod Binayake emphasized on Nurses Behaviour and attitude of Nurses and

welcomed all the new students to the noble profession and also congratulated the Graduate students for starting their nursing career. Vijay Kumar Gupta, in his absence conveyed blessings for the occasion. Surendra Gupta blessed the students to achieve their dreams and conquer the challenges around the globe. The students who excelled in academic performance were awarded with prizes by the dignitaries during the programme.

Prof Dr Abhilekha Biswal, Principal, PGCON

briefed the essence of the day in her Lamp lighting message followed by the novice students received the light from respected teachers. Various cultural programmes were also presented by the students which was appreciated by the Guest, Parents and Students. The entire programme of Lamp Lighting and Graduation ceremony was compared by Dr Jaya Chakraborty, Seema Santosh, Dr G Hemavati and Chandrakala Lillhare. At last Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr (Daisy Abraham).

Promotion Orders distributed to newly elevated CGMs



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 06: 20 General Managers from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were elevated as Chief General Managers and were handed over Promotion orders on February 06, 2023 in a function organised at Director I/C Conference hall. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) handed over the Promotion orders to the promoted Executives at Ispat Bhavan. MM Gadre ED (P&A), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), Dr AK Panda, ED (Finance), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/C (M & HS), NK Banchoor, SEFI Chairman and President, Officers Association were present on the occasion. Executive Directors and President, OA addressed the gathering on the occasion. Anjani Kumar in his address con-

gratulated the promoted CGMs and conveyed his best wishes to them. India is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. The future of Steel industry is very good. We have lot of experience in our company and it is the right time to maintain momentum, he said. I urge you to contribute in making our unit a Profit Centre. Your role is very important in mobilising the team and aligning all people in the right direction, he added. The newly elevated Chief General Managers include KC Mishra, HK Pathak, Pradeep Kumar Mishra, GP Singh, Sushmita Dey, MK Goyal, AK Joshi, RB Gaharwar, RG Dalal, Sudhir Kumar, Pranay Kumar, Pankaj Puri, Jitendra Kumar, Dr K Thakur, Dr V Divveddi and Dr Rajeev Kumar Pal. 6 CGMs have been transferred to other units.

Ch'garh only state in country to refund money to investors: CM



Who have been duped by fake Chit Fund Companies

An amount of Rs 2.56 cr was returned to 3,274 investors of Durg district

Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday returned an amount of Rs 2.56 cr to 3,274 duped chit-fund investors of Durg district, in a virtual programme organized at his residence office here. An amount of Rs

2.56 cr was returned to 3,274 investors of Durg district

Addressing the programme, Chief Minister said "an amount of about Rs 40 crore has been returned so far to the investors duped by chit-fund companies. The state government is taking strict action against the chit-fund companies in Chhattisgarh. The money is being returned to the investors by seizing the properties of fraudulent chit-fund companies. Chit fund companies in Chhattisgarh have been duping innocent people of

large sums of money. The state government making its best efforts to ensure that these investors get their money back. Chhattisgarh is the only state in the country which is giving back their money to these investors."

Durg SP Abhishek Pallav said that so far 126 directors and 8 office bearers of chit fund companies have been arrested in the district.

Talking to the Chief Minister, Ghanshyam Sahu, a resident of Durg, said that he had invested money in the chit fund

company by selling 2 acres of land. He did not expect that the money would be recovered. Expressing his gratitude towards the Chief Minister, he said that he is getting Rs 9 lakh back with the efforts of the state government and his family is happy with this. Teejan Bai of Khursipar told the Chief Minister that today I am getting Rs 3 lakh back. Now I will be able to get my children married easily. I was hopeful that my money would definitely be returned under your leadership.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, PHE Minister Guru Rudra Kumar, MLA Arun Vora, Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Durg Collector Pushpendra Meena, SP Abhishek Pallav along with the beneficiaries attended the virtual programme.

ANNUAL FUNCTION



Students of Agrasen Public School and Dani Girl's School performed variety of programmes here on Monday.

Stickers to be pasted in vehicles of rule breakers under 'Sticker Campaign'

Raipur, Feb 06: "Sticker Campaign" has been started by the Traffic Police Raipur to prevent road accidents and to create awareness about traffic rules among the riders. A total of 6 types of stickers related to traffic rules have been prepared for helping riders.

Every year many people die and many people become disabled due to road accidents. In view of this, traffic police Raipur conducts



campaigns from time to time to make people aware of following traffic rules, but even after this there has been a significant increase in road accidents. Road accidents take place due to violation of traffic rules by the riders. The sticker campaign has been launched under direction of SSP Prashant Kumar.

Two Ch'garh hospitals get NQAS certificate

Union Health Ministry awards NQAS certification to Chatod PHC and Kawardha Urban PHC

Raipur, Feb 06: Two government hospitals of Chhattisgarh have been awarded the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS - National Quality Assurance Standard) certificate by the Union Health Ministry for providing excellent healthcare and better treatment to patients. The Union Health Ministry has awarded the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate to Chatod

Primary Health Center in Dhamtari district and Kawardha Urban Primary Health Center in Kabirdham district.

Congratulating the officers-employees of these two hospitals for receiving the Certificate of Excellence for dedicated health services Health Minister TS Singdeo expressed confidence that these hospitals will continue to maintain their excellence and serve the patients and set new benchmarks for other hospitals in the state.

The Union Health Ministry team had inspected the Kawardha Urban Primary Health Center in November last and the Chatod Primary Health

Center in December to test the quality of services available to the patients. The team also took feedback from the patients in this regard. In the evaluation by the Health Ministry team, Primary Health Center Chatod got 89.73 percent and Urban Primary Health Center Kawardha got 88.4 percent marks.

Before providing the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate, the services and satisfaction level of the hospital are tested on eight parameters by the team of experts. Only hospitals that meet these stringent standards are issued quality certificates by the Union Health Ministry.

Tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh found by GST deptt

Bilaspur, Feb 06: GST Department conducted raid in Bilaspur and unearthed tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh by a firm viz. Santosh Tiles and Santosh Gallery of Bilaspur. The department found massive irregularities in payment of GST by the firm and after which it was made to pay the tax evasion amount of Rs 78 lakh and the shop was sealed.

As per reports in this regard, the GST team reached the firm and on assessment of the tax paid by the above firm found a tax evasion of Rs 78 lakh and got it deposited by the firm on Monday. At the same time the scrutiny of other documents seized

is in process. GST officers informed that this action continue for three days.

In the inquiry and scrutiny done, there was difference in the documents produced and the stock maintained and it is by evaluating the difference as per the statement by the owner of the firm and the stocks, a tax evasion amount of Rs 78 lakh was determined and deposited by the firm.

The Joint Commissioner Enforcement Directorate Raipur Sonal K Mishra that such action by the department would continue for revenue and tax evasion by firms in the near future as well.

Budget session of Chhattisgarh Assembly from March 1

Budget to be tabled likely after Holi

Total 14 sittings will be held in VS

Raipur, Feb 06: The notification for the budget session of Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha (VS) has been issued and the budget session 2023-24 will start from March 1 to 24. The 16th session of fifth state legislative assembly of Chhattisgarh is going to begin on March 1. The session comprising total 14 sittings will last till March 24. The session will begin with Governor's address. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will present budget as Finance Minister. This will be the last bud-



et of present Congress government in the state.

The budget session will start with Governor's speech and then the state's budget for FY 2023-24 will be tabled and it is expected to be tabled after the Holi festival i.e. March 8th. Discussions will be held on the budget on different dates for various departments and then it will be

passed. Since this happens to be the election year, the state government would be making sufficient provisions for all sections of the society, specially farmers, labourers, youth and women and it would be more of an election-oriented budget and more sops will be declared this time.

Pt.JNM College accountant nabbed for cheating one of Rs 15 lakh



In the name of providing job in Women & Child Devp Dept.

Raipur, Feb 06: The accounts officer of Pt. JNN Medical College Shashikant Sahu has been arrested on charges of cheating people of lakhs in the name of providing

job. As per information in this regard, the complainant Krishna Sahu under Tikrapara thana has filed a report that she lives in Motinagar Tikrapara Raipur. A distant relative of her Shashikant Sahu, R/o Abhanpur, is working as Accountant in Pt. JNN Medical College, Raipur. In the year 2020, the accused Shashikant Sahu had demanded Rs 15 lakh in the name of providing her job in Women & Child Development Department. She complied with the request of Rs 15 lakh made by the accountant Shashikant Sahu and as & when she used to ask

Fire in diesel tanker brought under control



Raipur, Feb 06: A major incident was averted near Vidhan Sabha Ring Road No.3, when a loaded diesel tanker caught fire. On getting information about the diesel tanker catching fire, the fire-brigade team rushed to the spot and gained control well on time. It is notable here that the place where the diesel tanker caught fire, there was a petrol pump just at a short distance and it could have led to disaster.

Near Ring Road VS road; major incident averted

But it was timely action by the police and fire-brigade team that this was averted.

As per information in this regard from Mandir Hasoud thana, due to some short-circuit in the Diesel tanker, it caught fire. The front portion first caught fire and it was immediately informed to the police. The police in turned inform the Fire-brigade department and they reached on time and gained control on it. There were chances of blast of entire diesel tanker, it was not brought under control on time.

Youth Festival 2022-2023 organized

Raipur, Feb 06: On the occasion of Youth Festival 2022-23 various competitions were organized based on the nature theme.

The events included Rangoli which was based on the theme Mandana, Alpna, Aalekhan, Kolam art form in which colour sand, flowers, grains and wood crush were used.

Painting was based on the nature theme. apart from and Mehandi competition was also organized which was participated in large number by the students of all the branches. In this Ms. Darshana and Arushi were the winners in Rangoli, Ms. Neelima and Pravin in Painting as well as as Devshree and Khushi were the winners. The Rangoli was judged by Disha



Kesharwani and Monika Bhairam, Painting by Nehs Dubey and Gunjan Kalyani, Mehandi by Dr. Shiv Shankar Shukla along with Dr. Beena Gidwani.

The event was organized by Prof. Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Principal Columbia Institute of Pharmacy as well as General Secretary of

Indian Pharmacy Graduate Association. The event was conducted by Neha Dubey Assistant Professor.

The event was attended by the faculty members as well as Harjeet Singh Hura, Secretary, Columbia Group of Institutions and Prof. Amit Roy, Director, Faculty of Pharmacy Columbia Group.

Saddu Sports Club holds volleyball competition

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 06: Saddu Sports Club organised a daylong volleyball competition at Housing Board Colony, Saddu on Sunday for sixth year. Players of sixteen teams took part in the competition. SAI Raipur team won first position whereas Khamharia team stood second, Pathri team third and Raipura team fourth. Players of national repute along with local players are given opportunity to showcase their talent through this competition.



8000 and cup, third prize Rs 4000 and cup and fourth prize Rs 2000.

Teams and players performing well in the competition were also award-

ed. MLA Raipur Rural Satyanarayan Sharma was present as chief guest at the competition. Corporator Pramod Sahu, Zone president Md Akram Khan (general secretary Volleyball Federation of India) and Mahendra Chandrakar social worker were specially present.

Saddu Sports Club president PC Nirmalkar, vice president Rajesh Sahu, secretary Shivshankar Nayak and treasurer Ram Dewangan extended thanked players of all teams and sports lovers for their cooperation in successful conduct of the competition.

14 member state team for 'Kalarippayattu' games leave for Gwalior



Raipur, Feb 06: 14 member state team which include 10 players left for Gwalior on Monday to take part in the games schedule from February 8-11, 2023. It needs to be

mentioned here, only one player from the state capital Miss Kanishka Shreevas Class X student of KV WRS has made her place in the team. The

other members are Misha, Risha nain, Shruti Sahu, Ritik Kumar Singh and Vivek Singh (all from Korba). The other players are Divyani Yadav, Jaismine, Jiya Jaiswal and Sonam Sahu (all from Balod) and Kanishka Shreevas from

Raipur. The coaches of the team are Kamlesh Dewangan(Korba) and Harvansh Kaur (Balod). The team managers are Lakhman Kumar Sahu (Balod) and T N Reddy (Sports Department), informs Anis Memon president of District Kalarippayattu Sangh.

VAYMOL LINIMENT
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AYURVEDIC PROPRIETARY MEDICINE
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SWELLING LUMBAGO
RELIEVES FROM COMMON COMPLAINTS
Vaymol - MRP 30ml. ₹ 60=00. 60ml. ₹ 100=00. 100ml. ₹ 150=00.
MFG. VALLABH VIJAY & SONS MUMBAI 400 060
CUSTOMER CARE NO: 9725608007.

Policies for rural industries should begin soon: Baghel

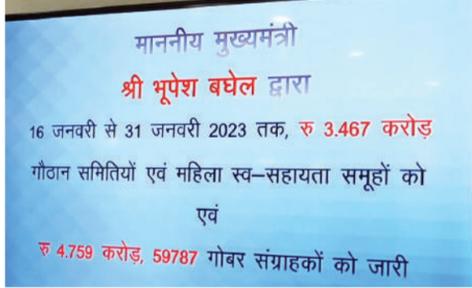
A total of 8.23 cr have been transferred online to villagers, cattle herders, and WSHGs under the GNY



Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that it is imperative that a rural industrial policy be developed soon in order to create more employment and self-employment opportunities in rural areas along the lines of the new rural industrial policy. Baghel was addressing the online distribution program of cow dung purchase and dividend amount to cattle rearing villages, women groups, and Gauthan committees at his residential office today. As part of the program, he released an amount of Rs 8 crore and 23 lakh online.

Addressing the function, Chief Minister Baghel said that the Rural Industrial Parks (RIPA) associated with Gauthans are becoming functional in most of the places. Now before this work is complete, we have to work towards formulating rural industry policy, for this, the concerned department should complete the process soon. So that when the Rural Industrial Parks start functioning completely, the beneficiaries associated with them can be helped by taking loans from the bank and starting other businesses.

Congratulating the women groups associated with Gauthan including cattle rearers, the Chief Minister said that it is a very good thing that they are continuously making



records. After payment of 8.23 cr; this figure will become Rs.403.58 cr. Similarly, after payment of Rs 4.76 cr to cow dung vendors, this figure will be Rs 206.49 cr. Expressing happiness over the power units started for power generation from cow dung, he directed to connect the power generated from these units to the power grid and fix the price of electricity.

The Chief Minister stated that it is a matter of pride that 4927 Gauthans have become self-reliant in the state and have begun purchasing cow dung from their own savings. As of

now, the Gauthan groups that used to make earthen lamps, vermicompost, etc. will now be contributing towards the production of electricity. As per the MOU signed for power generation in the past, Bemetera and Bastar have taken concrete shape at the ground level and Now the task of connecting the electricity produced by it to the power grid and fixing the price of the electricity produced from it will be completed soon. While reviewing the unit for making paint from cow dung, the Chief Minister said that it is a matter of happiness that 23 paint units are under

process in 21 districts, and 13 units have been completed. More than 17 thousand liters of paint has been produced and an income of more than 22 lakh rupees has been earned. He said that schools and government offices will soon require a large amount of paint, so we have to produce natural paint by balancing the demand and supply so that paint can be supplied at the right time. Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey and Virtually present Public Health Minister Guru Rudra Kumar also addressed this occasion. while, Advisor to Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma, Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Secretary Dr. Ayaz Tamboli, Director of State Rural Livelihood Mission Avneesh Sharan, Director of Agriculture Department Ranu Sahu, Director of Horticulture Department Matheswaran V. and other officers were also present.

CM pays tributes to Pt Motilal Nehru

On his death anniversary



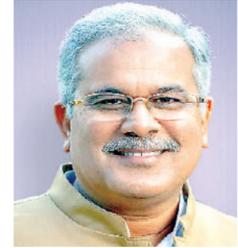
Baghel said that Pt. Motilal Nehru was one of

the important leaders of the Indian freedom movement. He gave up his law practice on the call of Gandhiji. Abandoning the modern lifestyle, he started wearing Khadi. Baghel said that his invaluable contribution in India's struggle for Independence will always be remembered.

CM reviews the budget preparations of the departments

Under him and three other ministers

Including Cabinet Ministers Ravindra Choubey, Mohammad Akbar and Kawasi Lakhma



Raipur, Feb 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reviewed the budget preparations of his departments and also of the departments under Cabinet Ministers Ravindra Choubey, Mohammad Akbar and Kawasi Lakhma in a meet-

ing held at his official residence here on Monday.

Baghel discussed and reviewed the budgets of Energy Department, Aviation, General Administration, Finance, Mineral Resources, Public Relations, Electronics and Information Technology,

Commercial Tax (Excise), Commerce and Industry, Law and Legislative Affairs Department, Transport, Housing and Environment, Forest and Climate, Parliamentary Affairs, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Water Resources and Ayacut, Panchayat and Rural Development Department in the meeting.

Departmental Ministers, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo and concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Recreational facilities to help entire Raipur: Dhuppad

Tenders issued for developing recreational facilities in KVVY of RDA

proposal of developing recreational facilities in KVVY was approved in RDA's board of directors meeting last on Jan 30.

According to the Chairman RDA Subhash Dhuppad, on development of recreational facilities in Kamal Vihar Yojana (KVVY), entire Raipur city will be benefitted. As per the provisions given in the Master Plan, at the sanctioned land use in the project sports venue, swimming pool, venue for Fair and Exhibition; Open Air Theatre; Picnic Spot; Garden, Shooting Range, Birds sanctuary; Regional garden, District Garden, Sports Ground, stadium for Traffic ground; multi-

purpose ground/ garden and others will be developed. In addition to this in the sanctioned land use by eligible officer; fire-fighting centre; nursery; maintenance of Stud Farm; petrol pump; andn Gas Filling centre; 'Upahar Grih'; food and all other services related to recreation and entertainment will be provided including building, infrastructure, rest house, bus and railway passengers waiting room; Postal and Telegraph office, Multiplexes; Motel, Club, Picnic Hub, Holiday Resort, 'Sanskrit and Handicraft' outlet; weekly market and others will be provided.

Sarla Tiwari appointed WDCC (urban) District President

Jagdalpur, Feb 06: Sarla Tiwari, a senior Congress leader and currently the jail commission's supervisor, has been appointed the president of the Women's District Congress Committee (WDCC) Urban by the Bastar Congress Committee. Whereas, Champa Thakur has been appointed as WDCC Bastar District Rural President. Champa Thakur has been active in Congress for a long time. On the instructions of Chhattisgarh PMC In-charge Sunita Sherawat, new appointments have been made to the posts of women district heads in all the districts of

Chhattisgarh. After the end of the tenure of 5 years of the previous office bearers, now new people have been given a chance in many districts.



Sarla Tiwari, president of the newly elected WDCC said that she has been devoted to the Congress party for the last 20 years. This time again the Congress Committee has given her the responsibility, for which she is grateful. She said that in the interest of the party and the workers, she will fulfill the responsibilities for the said post as per the intention of the Chief Minister and as per the orders of the District Congress Committee.

12 units for manufacturing natural paint started

From cow dung in Gauthans

About 17,936 lts of natural paint produced so far

Income of Rs 22.51 lakh generated from the sale of natural paint

ed in Gauthans. At present, 13 units have been set up in Gauthans for manufacturing natural paint, out of which 12 units have been started.

A total of two such units have been established in Raipur district, one unit each in Kanker, Durg, Balod, Korba, Bemetera, Surajpur, Bastar, Korea, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bijapur districts. Except for the unit set up in Korea district, paint production has started in the rest of the units. A total of 7255 liters of natural paint has been produced so far by the two units established in Gauthans of Raipur district. Kanker district ranks second in the production of natural paint with 6059 liters

of natural paint produced here. Besides, 100 liters each of natural paint has been produced in Balod and Korba districts, 300 liters in Bemetera, 500 liters in Surajpur, 120 liters in Bastar district, 400 liters in Kondagaon, 1102 liters in Dantewada and 200 liters in Bijapur. A total of 17, 936 liters of natural paint has been produced in the state so far. An income of Rs 22.51 lakh has been earned from the sale of 9, 622 liters of natural paint. The establishment of units for making natural paint from cow dung is in the final stage in 29 identified Gauthans of the state. Production of natural paint will start here soon.

Workers enter the electoral fray with victory resolve: BJP



Jagdalpur, Feb 06: Bharatiya Janata Party District Working Committee meeting was held in Lohandiguda Mandal in Chitrakot on Saturday. In which the strategy and outline of the upcoming action plan was prepared by reviewing point-by-point the completed works of the organization. Keeping in view the assembly elections to be held after nine months, a call was given to the workers to enter the field with the resolve of victory by making a policy of throwing all the energy in the polling stations.

The meeting was inaugurated by the invited guests by garlanding the

oil painting of Bharat Mata, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and lighting the lamp. The introduction and presidential address was given by BJP District President Rup Singh Madavi. Madavi said that every program received from the organization at the state level should be completed seriously on time. Strengthening polling stations is the first priority. More and more programs should be conducted at the booth level, such successful efforts should be made.

Former MP Dinesh Kashyap said that in view of the assembly elections, every energetic worker of

the BJP should fulfill the responsibility of taking the welfare schemes of the central government to every house. Make the schemes of the Center accessible to the beneficiaries, as well as expose the mal-governance and false promises of the Congress government to the public. Taking information from the workers about the works done at the booth level, District co-in-charge Sevakram Netam said that this is the time to go and work with the people only. To whom the organization has entrusted the responsibility, all of them should complete the tasks with full responsibility. Former State General

Secretary Kiran Dev said that the program of 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar' should be taken forward seriously. Due to the biased attitude of the Congress government, the task of filling applications from each and every beneficiary who has been deprived of housing should be on a war-footing.

Srinivas Maddi read out the political resolution passed by the State Working Committee in the meeting. District convener Maniram Kashyap kept the point-wise information about 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar' programme. Rakesh Tiwari gave details on discussion program on examination and Shridhar Ojha on Mann Ki Baat programme. Dr. Subhau Kashyap and Lachuram Kashyap also addressed the working committee meeting. The programme was coordinated by Ramashray Singh and the vote of thanks was done by Narasimha Rao.

All the members of BJP district working committee including Baiduram Kashyap, Samundsai Kutch, Yogendra Paday, Vedprakash Paday, Rajneesh Panigrahi, VR Rajput, Babul Nag, Lalita Baghel, Dipti Paday, Sita Bai, Nirdesh Diwan, Raituram, A Janaki Rao, Narsingh Thakur and other workers were present.

CWJU Tehsil-level conf held

Masturi, Feb 06: The conference of journalists of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Union (CWJU) Tehsil unit Masturi was organized at Malhar Status Rest House on Sunday. In which former MLA Dilip Lahariya was present as the chief guest. He said that journalists are the mirror of the society, doing journalism at the village level is very complicated and it is our responsibility to cooperate in their work.

He also threw light on the beneficial schemes run by the state government in the interest of the journalists of the state.

At the same time, he requested the journalists present to air the work being done in the public



interest by the state government from time to time. Santosh Thakur threw light on the activi-

ties of the organization and appealed all the journalists to join the divisional level press conference to

be held in Mungeli on Feb 8. Sangh's patron Om Prakash Pandey expressed his opinion about the activities of the organization being conducted at the block-level and suggested all the journalist colleagues to do fair journalism. On this occasion, senior journalists Basant Bansal, Krishnapal Dev Khatkar, Suresh Dubey, Hari Shankar Pandey, Jagannath Prasad Netam, Santosh Mishra, Uday Singh Thakur, Nanku Sahu, Sunhar Ram Chandel, Durga Prajapati, Sanjay Pandey, Krishna Kumar Chandel, Harsh Kedia, Ganesh Prasad Tiwari, Ajit Rathore, Surya Prakash Ghritlahre and other journalists were present.

Doctors of RCIR pay courtesy call on CM Baghel

Raipur, Feb 06: Doctors from the Regional Cancer Institute at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Raipur paid a visit to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office. During this occasion, the doctors, led by Dr. Manjula Beck, informed the Chief Minister that their team has conducted free cancer screening camps in different districts of Chhattisgarh so that people can be diagnosed with this terrible disease and receive effective treatment in a timely manner.

In this regard, another free cancer screening camp has been scheduled



for February 2 in Mekahara. A marathon is also being held on February 4 by the students and staff of Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur; to raise awareness about cancer. On this occasion Dr. Pradeep Chandrakar,

Dr. Rajeev Ratan Jain, Dr. Akhilesh Sahu, Dr. Umesh Dewangan, Dr. Sanya Taneja, and Mr. P. Soni were present.

Seer Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati arriving on Feb 9

To hold 'Dharm-Sabha' in Gram Ranvirpur on Feb 10-11

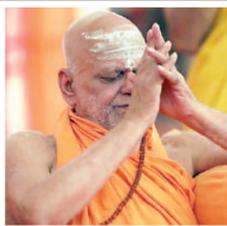
Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Feb 06: There is lot of enthusiasm among the spiritual followers and disciples of the Seer of Govardhanmath Jagannathpuri-Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati who has left on his journey for promotion and protection of Sanatan culture of the country.

The residents of Gram Ranvirpur of Kabirdhaam district are eagerly waiting to accord

warm welcome to the Religious and Spiritual Guru on his arrival and are making preparations at their own level through different mediums.

It is approximately after 7 years that Seer Shankaracharya will be arriving to Kabirdhaam district and due to which there is lot of enthusiasm and new energy among his followers and devotees and seeing which there are chances of arrival of followers and disciples from all over the state.



It is notable here that Shankaracharya Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati will be addressing here 'Dharm-sabha' and giving information in this regard Bhawana Bohara in-

formed that he will be arriving here on Feb 9 in the evening and on Feb 10-11 there will be massive 'Dharm-sabha' and convention in Gram Ranvirpur.

The people of the village and district and the devotees are busy in making best of the preparations to accord warm welcome to him, along with members of 'Samayojak Adityavahini-Anandvahini' as well and make it a historical and grand welcome. A meeting in this

regard was held among the villagers and the organisers and responsibilities were delegated to all concerned.

Bhawana Bohara said that the people of Kabirdhaam district are all enthusiastic to hear and get the blessings of the Seer who is torch-bearer and protector of Indian culture, 'Sanatan Dharm' and faith in Hinduism. It is an honour for all that Seer is arriving on this land after seven years, she added.

Surprise inspection of Bagless day

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 06: On Saturday, Bagless Day, a surprise inspection was done by District Education Officer (DEO) B.R. Baghel in the re-opened primary school of Panganpal.

Appreciating the efforts being made in the re-run school, the campus was inspected and the teacher was asked to make a list of basic requirement and give it in writing and assured to solve it soon.

While talking to the children, Mr. Baghel appreciated the teachers while assessing their language and numeracy level.



Distributors, social works felicitated World Cancer Day celebrated in SAGEMS

By CWJU in CRC Club Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Feb 06: A journalist's felicitation programme was organised by Chhattisgarh Journalist Welfare Union (CJWU) at CRC Club, Manikpur last on Feb 3. On this occasion State President CJWU Amit Gautam, State Gen. Secy. KK Goyal, State V-P Mahesh Acharya, State Jt. Secy. Tilka Sahu were present. Chief Guest of the programme Tanakhar MLA Mohitram Kerketta had to leave because of urged call from CM in Raipur and in his place asked Mukesh Chouhan to represent him. Special guest on the occasion was Director Geeta Devi Hospital Dr Sandhya Kashyap, TI Kotawali thana Korba Rupak Sharma. On this occasion CWJU Patron JK Chanda,



President Vijay Lal, District Gen. Secy. Pradeep Mishra and Treasurer Simon Francis were present on the dais. The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp before Goddess Saraswati and garlanding the photo of 'Chhattisgarhia mahatari'. TI Kotwali Thana Korba Rupak Sharma in his address hailed the important role of journalists in the society and added that with such programmes, there is always some curiosity among social workers and young children to perform. State V-P Mahesh Acharya

hailed the performance of office bearers of CWJU in Korba district. CWJU also organises programmes at state-level and the journalists being felicitated in Korba is indeed appreciable. Special Guest Geeta Devi Hospital Dr Sandhya Kashyap also hailed the works of CWJU Korba unit. Gautam in his address gave information about programmes organised in other parts of the state and other districts and hailed the felicitation of newspaper distributors. He informed that CWJU is functional in all parts of the state and it

keeps organising social programme frequently. State Gen. Secy. also hailed the felicitation programme and informed that CWJU has organised blood donation and other such programmes.

District President Vijay Lal in his address said that objective behind holding such programmes is to create public awareness. There is no dearth of talent in Korba district and if they get a platform, then it will be bringing their hidden talent forward and pass on good message to the society.

Students gave the message on cancer awareness

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Feb 06: World Cancer Day is celebrated every year on Feb 4 to achieve the goal of educating and motivating people about its prevention, early detection and treatment.

Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam, BEO Konta S.K. Deep Morning assembly at Swami Atmanand Excellent English Medium School, Konta in the presence of SK Deep, on Bagless Day Saturday, students of Arpa Blue House presented a skit to bring awareness about cancer.

During this, the students gave attractive and mesmerizing presentations. During this, the



head teacher of the institution Srinivas Vasu and all the staff were present.

Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam, BEO SK Deep was welcomed by the students with bouquets made by themselves. Srinivas Vasu, the head teacher of the institution told that every Saturday various events are held in Swami

Atmanand English Medium School, the students of the institution are divided into four houses and various competitions are organized for their all-round development.

On the occasion of World Cancer Day on Feb 4, the students of Arpa Blue House gave a message to be aware of the dis-

eases caused by intoxication.

Addressing the program, Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam said that such events develop creative abilities in the students. Present on this occasion, BEO S.K. Deep encouraged the students by giving examples of many inspiring incidents.

Maoists kill local BJP functionary

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 06: Maoists hacked to death a 40-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party functionary in Bijapur district while he was attending a wedding function, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday in Paikram village where the victim, Neelkanth Kakem, who was the president of Awapalli mandal of the BJP, had gone with his family to attend the marriage of a relative. Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraaj P said.

About the incident

The incident took place on Sunday in Paikram village where the victim, Neelkanth Kakem, who was the president of Awapalli mandal of the BJP, had gone with his family to attend the marriage of a relative. When Kakem was busy with the function at the venue, some unidentified Maoists suddenly attacked him with sharp edged weapons. He died on the spot. Soon after being alerted, a police team went to the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem.

"When Kakem was busy with the function at the venue, some unidentified Maoists suddenly attacked him with sharp edged weapons. He died on the spot," the official said. Soon after being alerted, a police team went to the spot and the

body was sent for post-mortem, he said.

The exact reason behind the murder was yet to be ascertained, the official said. Security personnel have launched a search in the area to trace the assailants, he said.

'Start saving our wetlands - before it's too late'

- Public awareness prog organised on World Wetlands Day-2023
- Conservation of wetlands essential for the betterment of ecosystem

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund Feb 06: Conservation of wetlands is very essential when it comes to maintaining the ecological balance and addressing the problems of climate change. Spreading awareness among the people is the key tool for this. In view of this, Mahasamund Forest Division under Forest and Climate Change Department organized public awareness program at Van Chetna Kendra situated in Patwa of Mahasamund in col-



laboration with Green Club and Kalinga University, Naya Raipur. On this occasion, the university and school students gave the message of environmental protection to the people by running a cleanliness drive. They collected around 285 kg of garbage and deposited it in the municipality for proper disposal.

It is noteworthy that World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 to create awareness about the need for wetlands conservation. Wetlands include both natural

and man-made sites such as lakes, swamps, mangroves, salt pans, tidal flats and reservoirs. This year's World Wetlands Day theme is 'Wetland restoration' to ensure that wetlands function properly and maintain environmental stability.

Wetland is considered very suitable for an ecological and healthy environment. Keeping this in mind, an action plan is being prepared in a phased manner for the development of wetlands in Chhattisgarh on the instructions of Chief Minister

Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. There are a total of 35 thousand 534 wetlands in Chhattisgarh. The survey is being conducted in 27 wetlands of Chhattisgarh keeping in view the habitat development of migratory and local birds visiting these wetlands under the able guidance of Forest Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar.

Collector Nileshkumar Mahadev Kshirsagar was the Chief Guest of the program. Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University, Dr. R.K. Sridhar at-

tended the program as the special guest and told the students about the importance of water bodies for a healthy future and inspired them to conserve wetlands. Mr. Nilesh Kumar appreciated the efforts of Mr. Pankaj Rajput, Divisional Forest Officer of Mahasamund for taking such an initiative for the betterment of the society.

In the program, Mr. Dilsher Khan, a culture expert from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, kept his word through a game among the students. This was followed by an interaction session with the local people and certificates were distributed to the students. A large number of students from the Kalinga University of Naya Raipur, Shyam Vidya Mandir of Mahasamund, Shyam Balaji College, Maa Gayatri Higher Secondary School, Gyananjali Public School and Eklavya Residency School, Bhoring were present on occasion.

75 students from Ch'garh & Odisha participate in workshop

- In the name of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission-2023 in Jawanga
- 150 Pico Satellite launch mark in World Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records, Assist Book of Records.
- Dantewada is the first district in the country from Ch'garh where max. 75 students are in Dr. Kalam Satellite Mission at free of cost.

satellites are being launched through rockets together participation of the students of schools and colleges across the country.

On this occasion, a one-day workshop on satellite and rocketry was organized by Astha Vidya Mandir English Medium School (AVMEMS) Jawanga at auditorium in Jawanga, Geedam of Dantewada district. The chief guest Pramod Thakur District Education Officer Dantewada, special guests Shyamlal Sori District Mission Coordinator, APC Rajendra Pandey, Sheikh Rafiq Block Education Officer Geedam, Bhavani Punem Assistant Block Education Officer Geedam and Gopal Pandey Principal were present in the program.

They said that now Dantewada will have a new identity in the field of space and rocketry, which will set a world record. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation General Secretary Milind



Chowdhary said that on the occasion of the country's 75th Independence Day, a pico satellite rocket made by a total of 75 students from the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha will be launched, whose standard will be registered in World Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records, Assist Book of Records.

Its full details will be handed over to the President of India Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. Workshop organizer Chhattisgarh and Odisha State Co-ordinator Amujuri Biswanath said that Dantewada is the first district in the country

from Chhattisgarh where maximum 75 students are participating in Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission 2023 at free of cost.

A total of 75 students i.e. from Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, 22 students of Astha Vidya Mandir, 4 students of SAGES Karli, 4 students of SAGES Hindi Dantewada, 5 students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Geedam, 5 students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Geedam, 4 students of Saksham Residential Campus Jawanga, 11 students of NMDC DAV Polytechnic College Jawanga, 4 students of Government Model College

Jawanga, 2 students of SVGES Jagdalpur, 3 students of SAGES Janjgiri Durg, 1 student of Government Kuldeep Nigam Higher Secondary School Narra Mahasamund and 5 students of Government High School Kotpad and 5 students of Government Girls High School Kotpad from Odisha are involved in this mission.

While demonstrating satellite integration and rocketry, technical master trainers Manisha Tai Choudhari and Aditya Choudhari informed that pico satellites are installed at a height of 10 km from the earth. This will happen for the first time in the

world when 150 pico satellites will be launched simultaneously, then a world record will be established.

The data collected by these satellites will be used to gather information about oxygen, ozone and other gases present in the atmosphere. Dr. Kalam follows and PGT of Astha Vidya Mandir Jawanga, Amujuri Biswanath, students Amit Nag and Rahul Markam were honored with Excellence Award by APJM Sheikh Dawood and APJM Sheikh Salim from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation for special work.

In this workshop, Mahesh Rajput, Nikhil Jambulkar, anchor Jitendra Chauhan, cluster coordinators Nitin Vishwakarma, Pradeep Garg, Yogesh Soni, Superintendent Raviprakash Thakur, HM Farhana Rizvi, Mahendra Mandvi, teachers of selected schools, parents and 75 students were present in this program.

Indian Overseas Bank
Branch - Korba (Main Road Kosabadi, Near Blue Bird School, Korba, Chhattisgarh-495677) (iob2215@iob.in)

(APPENDIX IV)
POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation 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 a demand notice dated 20.06.2022 calling upon the Borrowers and Mortgagees - Mr. Om P Sharma S/o Talkeshwar Sharma and Mrs. Neetu Sharma W/o Om Prakash Sharma Address: Deen Dayal Awasth Yojna, Ground Floor, Flat no. LIG 12/A, Khasra No. 203/02, Ward No. 33, Rampur, Korba and Guarantors - Mr. Manoj Sharma S/o Satrugan Sharma H. No. LIG 9/K, Housing Board Colony, Near Gokul Nagar, Korba to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 10,16,654.60 (Rupees Ten Lakhs, Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four and Paise Sixty only) as on 31.05.2022 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

(1) The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 3rd day of February of the year 2023.

(2) The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs. 10,16,654.60 (Rupees Ten Lakhs, Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four and Paise Sixty only) as on 31.05.2022 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 10,15,000.00 (Rupees Ten Lakhs, Fifteen Thousand Only) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

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

Description of the Immovable Property:
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Deen Dayal Awasth Yojna, Ground Floor, Flat no. LIG 12/A, Khasra No. 203/02, Ward No. 33, Rampur, Korba. Area 44.33 Sq. Mt. **Bounded As under - North by:** Flat No. LIG 12/B, **South by:** Flat No. LIG 11/B, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Flat No. LIG 12/C.

Date: 03.02.2023, Place: Korba
Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

BRIEF



WB CM Mamata Banerjee being conferred D. Lit by Governor CV Ananda Bose and Vice-Chancellor John Felix Raj during the 4th convocation ceremony of the St. Xavier's University, in Kolkata, Monday.

Bribery

Jabalpur: A Madhya Pradesh cooperative department employee was held on Monday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 in Jabalpur; a Lokayukta police official said. The accused, a reader in the department, had sought a bribe from a man to issue his appointment order as manager of an establishment under the department, Lokayukta Deputy Superintendent of Police Surekha Parmar told PTI.

Injured

Jammu: A 15-year-old boy was injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, sources said. Mohammad Shoaib was grazing his cattle as the landmine exploded in the forward area, they said.

Rob

New Delhi: Five men, two of them food delivery executives, were arrested for allegedly robbing Rs 32 lakh from a man at gunpoint near Hedgewar hospital in east Delhi, police said on Monday. The accused have been identified as Rihaan, 28, and Nazim, 27, both residents of Uttar Pradesh, and Ansaar alias Aahad Khan, 30, Rahul Verma, 20, and Aakash, 25, all residents of Delhi, they said. On January 29, police got information regarding a robbery of Rs 32 lakh near Hedgewar Hospital. The complainant said that three people came on a bike, hit him with the butt of the pistol and robbed him of his bag that had Rs 32 lakh in it, a senior police officer said.

Shop fire

Kolkata: A fire broke out in an automobile tyre shop at Chowringhee Road here on Monday morning, officials said. Four fire tenders were rushed to the spot to bring the blaze under control, they said. Four people, who were inside the shop, have been rescued, the officials said, adding, they did not suffer any injury.

Shot dead

Chandigarh: A former village head was shot dead by a group of assailants in Punjab's Batala, police said on Monday. The assailants opened fire at Swaran Singh at his residence in village Dahiya on Sunday night. Singh was rushed to the civil hospital where he was declared brought dead, said police. Police suspect old enmity led to the murder.

'JD(U) suffered after allying with BJP in 2017'

Banka (Bihar), Feb 06 (PTI)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that the JD(U)'s realignment with the BJP half a decade ago, which came to an abrupt end last year, had been to the detriment of his party.

The JD(U) leader was replying to queries from journalists in Banka district, which he visited as part of the Samadhan Yatra' mass outreach programme.

He was asked about the "open letter" to the party cadre from disgruntled parliamentary board chief Upendra Kushwaha, who has convened a two-day meeting next week to discuss the "gradual erosion of support base" of the JD(U) and anxieties over a rumoured "deal" with the



Nitish Kumar

RJD, its current ally.

A visibly peeved Kumar sought to remind Kushwaha that the latter has been always rewarded by the party despite having ditched it repeatedly and "if he keeps airing his grievances in public then it will be construed as he has other plans for himself".

When asked whether he thought Kushwaha was forcing his hand at the BJP's behest, Kumar replied cryptically, "You can draw your conclusions. How much publicity this affair is getting I have never seen such spotlight on my party".

However, the wily leader indicated that he was giving a long rope to the intransigent party functionary saying, "I have said it and so has our national president that nobody needs to react to whatever he (Kushwaha) says". He, however, ridiculed Kushwaha for the repeated claim that the party was growing weak, pointing out that "our recent membership drive swelled the party ranks like never before".

"The only instance when the party did suffer harm was during our alliance in 2017," said Kumar, in an obvious reference to the BJP which he did not mention by name. Recounting the 2019 Lok Sabha polls which JD(U) and BJP contested together, along with late Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP and the clean sweep made by the NDA, Kumar referred to the trajectory followed by the saffron party thereafter. "We had asked for three to four berths (in the Union cabinet) but they said they will not give more than one, so we did not join. In the assembly polls (in 2020) we supported them but the way a campaign was run against our (JD(U) candidates has there been any such precedent?" asked Kumar.

'Hope our translation programmes produce more Geetanjali Shrees'

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI)

The Booker Prize winning feat of Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell is quite an inspiration for British Council's translation programmes in India and these schemes aim at bringing more Geetanjali Shrees to the world, says the UK organisation's new India head Alison Barrett.

Talking at length about various literary and cultural initiatives as part of the India-UK Together, Season of Culture (June 2022 - March 2023), Barrett said these look forward to strengthening artistic collaboration, skills and networks for the creative



Alison Barrett

economies of both the countries.

"We are quite inspired by the work of Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell and the success they have had. It is a brilliant moment for India as well as the UK. We are hoping that

we can try and bring out more Geetanjali Shrees to the world," Barrett told PTI in an interview.

The British Council is supporting PEN Translates, a project by English PEN to encourage the translation of Indian literature and build a foundation for translators working with UK publishers.

In addition to showcasing writers from all over India, including Dalit writers, at a number of festivals in India and the UK, the project enables Indian and UK publishers to acquire more work in translation to English from various Indian languages.

Dog owner gets 3-month imprisonment

12 years after canine bit man

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI)

A court here has sentenced a businessman to three months' simple imprisonment, 12 years after his pet Rottweiler dog bit a man, observing if reasonable care is not taken while going out with such an aggressive canine, then it is "certainly harmful for the public". In such types of cases where there is a question of public safety, "leniency is unwarranted", Metropolitan magistrate, Girgaon court, N A Patel, said in the order passed on January 3. The court found the dog owner,

ELECTION MANIFESTO



Congress leader Sudip Roy Barman along with others releases party's manifesto for the upcoming Tripura Assembly elections, in Agartala, Monday.

Suspended Cong MLA appears before ED

Ranchi, Feb 06 (PTI)

Suspended Congress MLA Irfan Ansari on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in connection with the cash seizure case. Ansari

CASH HAUL CASE

reached zonal office of the federal agency here around 11 am in connection with its investigation into the cash seized from a car in which he was travelling along with

party MLAs Rajesh Kachhap and Naman Bixal, an official said. The three MLAs were arrested by the West Bengal Police after Rs 49 lakh in cash was seized from their vehicle in Howrah district in July last year.

UP DyCM Maurya on RSS chief's remark on caste system

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI)

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, a prominent OBC face of the BJP in the state, on Monday said RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comment on the caste system in Hindu society is a "guidance for us".

Addressing an event in Mumbai on Sunday, Bhagwat has said everyone is equal in the eyes of God and no caste or sect exists before him.

All these things were created by priests which is wrong, he had said.

"I am a Swayamsevak (volunteer) of the RSS and when our revered Sarsanghchalak (RSS chief) says something, we consider it a 'margdarshan' (guidance) for us," Maurya told PTI in the Parliament House

Complex when asked about Bhagwat's remarks.

He, however, refused to make any further comment. "It will be inappropriate for me to make any comment on the remarks of the revered Sarsanghchalak."

Opposition leaders, however, targeted the RSS and the ruling BJP, saying Bhagwat's statement should reflect in action and work culture of his outfit and that of BJP governments.

"Mohan Bhagwat's statement is just a statement. One can relish it when it reflects in your actions and work culture. It's not seen in your work culture. (Centre is) sitting on the caste census," RJD's

Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha told PTI, when asked for a reaction to the RSS

chief's comment.

He asked Bhagwat to enforce a culture which could end "caste atrocities and inequality" in the country.

"In the sea of inequality, you have made five islands of prosperity. One of the islands is Hindenburg, which is exposing the government a bit. End that," the

RJD leader said, apparently demanding that the RSS chief ensure that action is taken against allegations of financial fraud against the Adani Group.

The business giant has rejected all allegations made by the US-based short seller.

Reacting to Bhagwat's remark, Congress MP Digvijay Singh sought to know from the RSS chief which of the Hindu scriptures are "lying" about the

existence of cast system.

"He has said the scriptures are lying. We want to ask Mohan Bhagwat which of the scriptures are lying," the Congress leader told PTI when asked for his reaction on the RSS chief's remark.

BJP MP from Rajasthan's Alwar Balak Nath termed Bhagwat's remark "truth" and alleged it is the Congress which divides people on the lines of caste for political gains.

"He (Bhagwat) has talked about Sanatan. There is no mention of any caste system in Sanatan. People brought in the caste system based on their work," he told PTI when asked for his comment. Bhagwat's reflections on Sanatan dharma and the caste system is "absolutely correct", he said.

Setback to T'gana govt after HC dismisses its plea

Over transfer of case to CBI

Hyderabad, Feb 06 (PTI)

In a setback to the Telangana government, the High Court on Monday dismissed its plea challenging the decision of a single judge to transfer to CBI, the investigation into the case of alleged conspiracy to poach four BRS MLAs, from the SIT of the state police.

The High Court had then also quashed the government order to constitute the SIT and the investigation so far carried out by it and also the probe done by an Assistant Commissioner of Police in the initial stage.

BRS MLAs POACHING CASE

After this, the state government and others filed writ appeals against the single judge order. However, the High Court division bench today upheld the orders passed by the single judge and dismissed the appeals. It also re-

judge of the High Court on December 26, 2022 ordered transfer of the investigation into the case of alleged conspiracy to poach four BRS MLAs to the CBI, from the SIT of the state police.

The central agency has already issued letters to the Telangana Chief Secretary requesting to furnish all relevant material in the case. Three people — Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nandu Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy — were already named as accused (A1 to A3) in the case after a complaint was lodged by BRS MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy, among four legislators, against them on October 26, 2022.

22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav to open with Bengali classic 'Jagannath'

On Feb 14

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI)

The 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav will stage over 80 plays in the national capital and nine other cities, starting February 14, the National School of Drama (NSD) announced on Monday.

Opening here in Delhi with the famous Bengali play "Jagannath" by Kolkata-based theatre group Chetana, the annual international theatre festival will showcase a diverse bouquet of plays as part of the ongoing 'Amrit Mahotsav of Independence'. "We have scrutinised a list of top-notch plays, selecting from 960 submissions, including international entries. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to halt the invitation process for the foreign par-

ticipants given their safety concerns," said professor Ramesh Chandra Gaur, director of NSD, in a statement. "Jagannath", an adaptation of Lu Xun's Chinese novella "The True Story of Ah-Q", directed by Arun Mukhopadhyay, is widely considered as one of the legendary productions of Bengali theatre. Hosting as many as 10 traditional plays in Delhi, the festival will run parallelly in Jaipur, Rajahmundry, Ranchi, Guwahati, Jammu, Srinagar, Bhopal, Nashik and Kevadia.

"The Institution seeks to nurture the growth of new folk talents through the platform of 22 nd BRM. So we have made an effort to accommodate as many young theatre aficionados as we can," added Gaur.

The 13-day festival will include plays in English, Hindi, and other languages.

PROTEST RALLY



Tribal people from Aarey colony and other adjoining areas of Mumbai take part in a protest over their land rights near Bandra Collector's office, in Mumbai, Monday.

Man moves HC alleging medical negligence

At BMC-run COVID-19 centre

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI)

A 54-year-old man from the city has approached the Bombay High Court alleging medical negligence at the civic-run COVID-19 jumbo centre and seeking Rs 36 lakh compensation for the ordeal he underwent.

Deepak Shah, a resident of suburban Andheri, recently filed a petition seeking compensation for medical negligence, incompetent and improper medical treatment by the doctors at the BKC jumbo covid hospital run by the B r i h a n m u m b a i Municipal Corporation in suburban Bandra.

According to the plea, Shah had undergone her-

nia operation a few days before testing positive for coronavirus and was admitted to the BKC jumbo centre.

The petitioner alleged that doctors did not treat him well medically, due to which he developed infection and had to undergo two more surgeries.

The petition is likely to come up for hearing on February 9 before a division bench of the high court.

As per the plea, Shah had undergone hernia operation in March 2021. In the surgery, doctors had inserted a mesh in his abdomen area, which required post-surgery care for six months.

In April 2021, the petitioner tested positive for coronavirus, following which he was quarantined and admitted to the BKC jumbo centre.

Ricky Kej wins third Grammy Award, dedicates honour to India

Los Angeles, Feb 06 (PTI)

Music composer Ricky Kej, based out of Bengaluru, has won his third Grammy Award for the album 'Divine Tides' and dedicated the honour to his home country, India.

The US-born musician shared the award with Stewart Copeland, the drummer of the iconic British rock band The Police, who collaborated with Kej on the album.

At the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, the duo earned the gramophone trophy in the best immersive audio album winner category. They had won a Grammy in the best new age album category for the same album last year.



"Congrats Best Immersive Audio Album winner - 'Divine Tides' Eric Schilling, immersive mix engineer; @copelandmusic, @rickykej & Herbert Waltl, immersive producers (Stewart

Copeland & Ricky Kej) #GRAMMYS," announced the Recording Academy, the organisation behind Grammy Awards, on its official Twitter page on Sunday night.

Kej said he was "grateful" for the recognition.

"Just won my 3rd Grammy Award. Extremely grateful, am speechless! I dedicate this Award to India. @copelandmusic. Herbert Waltl Eric Schilling Vanil Veigas Lonnie Park," the composer captioned a series of pictures on his Twitter page.

Other nominees in the category were: Christina Aguilera ('Aguilera'), The Chainsmokers

('Memories... Do Not Open'), Jane Ira Bloom ('Picturing The Invisible-Focus 1'), and Nidarosdomens Jentekor & Tronheimsolistene ('Tuvahyun - Beattitudes for a Wounded World').

'Divine Tides' is a nine-song album that aims to deliver the message that "each individual life plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance that serves all equally".

Kej took home his first Grammy in the best new age album category for 'Winds of Samsara' back in 2015.

As part of his work with The Police, Copeland has won five Grammys. With Kej as collaborator, this is his second award.

GRAMMY AWARDS



Beyonce accepts the award for best dance/electronic music album for "Renaissance" at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday.

'Musharraf to be laid to rest in Karachi'

Islamabad, Feb 06 (PTI)

The mortal remains of Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf will be brought back to the country in a special flight from Dubai on Monday and will be laid to rest in Karachi, media reports said.

Musharraf, the architect of the Kargil War in 1999, died on Sunday in Dubai after a prolonged illness.

The 79-year-old former military ruler, who had been in the UAE since 2016, was undergoing treatment for amyloidosis at American Hospital Dubai.

Musharraf's mortal remains will be flown to Pakistan on a special flight at 11:30am local time, according to Geo TV.

The Pakistani embassy in the UAE issued a no objection certificate (NOC) for the repatriation of Musharraf's mortal remains to Pakistan at the request of his family, the TV channel said.

The former military leader's wife Seha Musharraf, son Bilal and daughter Ayla will bring Musharraf's mortal remains to Pakistan, it said.

The former president will be buried in a Karachi graveyard, his family confirmed.

The former president's mother was buried in Dubai while his father was laid to rest in Karachi.

Meanwhile, the Khaleej Times reported that the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai has issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to repatriate his body to Pakistan.

Musharraf seized power by ousting Sharif in a 1999 bloodless coup.

He served as Pakistan's president from 2001 to 2008.

Musharraf, who was born in New Delhi in 1943 and fled to Pakistan in 1947, was the last military dictator to rule Pakistan.

China accuses US of indiscriminate use of force over balloon

Beijing, Feb 06 (AP)

China on Monday accused the United States of indiscriminate use of force when the American military shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon Saturday, saying that had "seriously impacted and damaged both sides' efforts and progress in stabilising Sino-U.S. relations."

The U.S. shot down a balloon off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America. China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a civilian aircraft.

Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng said he lodged a formal complaint with the U.S. Embassy on Sunday over the "U.S. attack on a Chinese civilian unmanned airship by military force."

"However, the United States turned a deaf ear and insisted on indiscriminate use of force against the civilian airship that was about to leave the United States airspace, obviously overreacted and seriously violated the spirit of international law and international practice," Xie said.

The presence of the balloon in the skies above the

U.S. dealt a severe blow to already strained U.S.-Chinese relations that have been in a downward spiral for years.

It prompted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to abruptly cancel a high-stakes Beijing trip aimed at easing tensions.

Xie repeated China's insistence that the balloon was a Chinese civil unmanned airship that blew into U.S. mistake, calling it "an accidental incident caused by force majeure."

China would "resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, resolutely safeguard China's

interests and dignity and reserve the right to make further necessary responses," he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden issued the shootdown order after he was advised that the best times for the operation would be when it was over water, U.S. officials said.

Military officials determined that bringing down the balloon over land from an altitude of 60,000 feet (18,000 metres) would pose an undue risk to people on the ground.

"What the U.S. has done has seriously impacted and damaged both sides' efforts and progress in sta-

bilising Sino-U.S. relations since the Bali meeting," Xie said, referring to the recent meeting between Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Indonesia that many hoped would create positive momentum for improving ties that have spiralled to their lowest level in years. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning provided no fresh details, repeating China's insistence the object was a civilian balloon intended for meteorological research, had little ability to steer and entered over the U.S. by accidentally diverging from its course.

Bomb kills soldier, wounds 11 people in SW Pak

Quetta, Feb 06 (AP)

A bombing near a vehicle carrying Pakistani paramilitary troops in southwestern Baluchistan province killed a soldier and wounded 11 people, mostly civilians, police and security officials said Monday.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place on Sunday.

Pakistan has been battling an insurgency in Baluchistan for more than a decade, with separatists in the province demanding complete autonomy or a larger share of the province's gas and mineral resources.

The outlawed Tehreek-e-

Taliban Pakistan or TTP as the Pakistani Taliban are known and other militants also have a presence in the province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

Sunday's bombing took place near the Musa Khan checkpoint in Quetta, the Baluchistan provincial capital, said local police official Mohammad Khan.

He provided no further details.

Shortly after the bombing, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber.

Police and security officials have not given confirmed the source of the blast.

The latest incident comes a week after a suicide bomber killed 101 people at a mosque in the northwestern city of Peshawar, drawing nationwide condemnation and prompting Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to convene a meeting of opposition politicians and his allies to discuss how to respond to the surge in militant violence.

The conference was initially planned for Tuesday, but has been pushed back to Thursday.

Pakistani officials have blamed the TTP, which maintains sanctuaries in neighbouring Afghanistan, for orchestrating the Peshawar

bombing. The TTP has denied involvement.

The militant group, however, has stepped up its attacks since November, when it ended a cease-fire with the government in Islamabad.

Sharif has invited his predecessor and opposition leader Imran Khan to Thursday's talks, but Khan has yet to confirm his participation.

Since the Peshawar attack, members of civil society groups have staged rallies across the country, holding prayer ceremonies for the victims and demanding government take action to curb the surge in militant attacks. (AP)

'Imran Khan to be arrested if fresh protests are launched'

Lahore, Feb 06 (PTI)

Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Monday warned Imran Khan that he would be arrested if he dared to launch fresh anti-government protests, and blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief for indulging in the "politics of agitation."

Sanaullah fired the salvo at the former prime minister while speaking to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers at a party convention in Multan in Punjab province, according to the Dawn newspaper.



Rana Sanaullah

The minister's warnings came days after Khan instructed his workers and supporters to prepare for the Jail Bharo Tehreek' (fill

the prison movement) against the federal government for inflicting custodial torture on his party leaders and delay in announcing fresh general elections. "I ask the people to get ready and wait for my call for 'jail bharo tehreek'. There will not be that much space in Pakistani jails to have them all," Khan, the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician said during his television address from his Zaman Park residence here on Saturday.

Khan made the announcement after sedition cases were filed against his

party's Senior Vice-President Fawad Chaudhry and former member of the National Assembly Shandana Gulzar. On Sunday, Sanaullah blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for "creating troubles". "In 2014, PTI staged protest demonstrations and tried to stop the journey of progress and prosperity. Imran Khan is following the politics of agitation in the shape of long marches, sealing Islamabad on the pretext of a date for elections," the Dawn reported, quoting Sanaullah.

Singapore's unique 'village' enabling persons with disabilities using innovation

Singapore, Feb 06 (PTI)

A supermarket with sliding doors and wider walkways, shopping trolleys that could be pushed by wheelchairs, braille lettering on the washroom doors and tactile indicators on the floor are some of the features of a unique "village" here in Singapore that is using innovation to support persons with disabilities.

Called "Enabling Village" or "EV", the first-of-its-kind community space is an all-accessible, inclusive, sensory-friendly space dedicated to integrating persons with disabilities into society.

"The tenants include social businesses that train and hire persons with disabilities, and these businesses also showcase the abilities of persons with disabilities when visitors shop or dine at EV. The social businesses, along with inclusive events and community services such as the inclusive gym, provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to interact alongside those without disabilities while providing the dignity of work to persons with disabili-



A visually impaired man uses braille lettering facility at a community space dedicated to integrating persons with disabilities into society, in Singapore.

ties," Ku Geok Boon, Chief Executive Officer, SG Enable told PTI.

"We hope that through our collective effort, more persons with disabilities will lead better and meaningful lives, and together, we can bring more hope and opportunity to all and build a more inclusive society," she added.

Boon explained that the village also hosts several training and career fairs and CV Clinics for persons with disabilities, bringing together disability-inclusive employers, training providers and experienced business professionals across a myriad of

sectors to offer jobs, training workshops on interview tips and one-to-one consultations on CV writing.

The space attracts visitors from different countries, who are keen on exploring a similar set-up or implementing takeaways for inclusive spaces.

"Enabling Village hosts many visitors, both local and international guests, and we want to inspire and show everyone how a society can be more inclusive towards persons with disabilities with universal design, enabling technology, and an inclusive culture.

SOOTHING TO EYES



The full moon sets behind the mountains including the twin peaks of Les Jumelles in the Chablais Valaisan, near Aigle, Switzerland, Monday.

'Life expectancy for young 14 years shorter in violent countries'

London, Feb 06 (PTI)

Life expectancy for young people can be as much as 14 years shorter in violent countries compared to peaceful nations, according to a global study.

A team, led by researchers at the University of Oxford in the UK, shows a direct link between the uncertainty of

EXPERT STUDY

living in a violent setting and a "double burden" of shorter and less predictable lives, even for those not directly involved in the violence.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, estimates a gap of around 14 years in remaining life ex-

pectancy — the number of years a person can expect to live — at age 10 between the least and most violent countries. In El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia, the gap in life expectancy with high income countries is predominantly explained by excess mortality due to homicides, they said.

Israeli military: Several Palestinian gunmen killed in raid

Jerusalem, Feb 06 (AP)

The Israeli military says several Palestinian gunmen have been killed in a gun battle that broke out Monday in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank during an army raid meant to arrest suspects allegedly involved in a botched attack on Israelis.

The Palestinian Health Ministry did not immediately confirm the deaths, saying only that three were injured, one of them critically. The violence comes amid one of the deadliest periods in recent years in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in the first weeks of Israel's new government, its most right-wing ever, which

has promised to take a tough stance against the Palestinians.

The military said it was operating to apprehend the suspects behind a failed shooting attack at a West Bank restaurant, where attackers allegedly were thwarted by a weapon malfunction.

The attackers then fled the scene, the military said, adding that they were members of the Hamas militant group that rules the Gaza Strip and has elements in the West Bank as well. In Monday's operation, the military said it was searching for the militant cell that it said had sealed itself inside a home in the refugee camp.

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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BJP putting high stakes in NE Assembly polls

The poll bugle has been sounded in the north-eastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland with the election commission announcing assembly polls in 180 seats across these states. As the stakes rise for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Northeast, it will be an interesting clash of the old guard versus the new. The BJP putting high stakes in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland reflects the party's meticulous and long-term plan for expanding its footprint in states other than those in the Hindi heartland and the west and the party's strategy to retain or enhance its numbers in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP's mega push in the Northeast started in 2016 with the formation of the North Eastern Democratic Alliance (NEDA), a platform of non-Congress parties in the region with the declared aim to keep Congress out of power. Its successful run started with the unseating of the CPI(M), which had been long entrenched in power in Tripura, followed by the comprehensive win in Assam, defeating the Congress. It continued with the BJP entering into various kinds of alliances, and sometimes even gobbling up partners in states, and the result is that the party at present runs governments in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura while it is part of the ruling alliance in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim. The party is going it alone in Tripura and Meghalaya for the Assembly elections while it will be a junior partner in Nagaland. The BJP has been in power at the Centre for about 15 years in its 42 years of existence and has swept the last two Lok Sabha elections but there are not too many states where it can win Assembly election hands down. The Hindi heartland states, save Uttar Pradesh, have made other choices several times; the results of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly are the latest example. The South continues to offer stiff resistance to the party's brand of politics, what with the regional outfits occupying commanding heights of the polity; the party's standing is not safe even in Karnataka where it runs a government. The eastern states remain impregnable despite the hard work the party has been putting in for years. The party has, however, built itself brick by brick in all these states and it could take time before it gets translated into parliamentary numbers. That the BJP has no major ally in states except perhaps for Maharashtra must be another factor worrying the party's poll managers. The eight northeastern states together send 25 members of the Lok Sabha with the largest contingent of 14 coming from Assam. The Congress held the major sway in most of these seats in its heydays but later gave way to state parties. The BJP has been attempting to replace Congress in all these seats. The efforts of the Home Ministry keeping Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma at the centre point to sew up agreements between states on border disputes also must be seen in this light. Recent reports suggested that the BJP will be channelizing its efforts into 160 Lok Sabha seats which it feels are shaky while it will be reaching out to the minority communities in 60 seats where they have a significant presence. The BJP has evolved an electioneering pattern where it has a plan for every seat, and the renewed thrust neatly squares with it.

Indian students rush to study overseas

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is a well-known fact that Indian students studying abroad have existed for a long time. For decades, Indian graduates and students have looked to industrialized and emerging nations as destinations for higher education. India is one of the top five countries from which students are recruited to study abroad. Since its independence, India has experienced a constant "brain drain." This brain drain was restricted to the talented and affluent class in the early decades following 1947 until the 1970s. Then, from the 1980s to the late 1990s, there was an upsurge in the number of Indians moving abroad, mostly because the Indian economy was in terrible shape at the time. There is a third phase that began in the 2000s and 2010s decade, during which the number of people going abroad increased due to the onsite opportunities being supplied by the IT businesses and the rise of obtaining an MS/MBA due to the accessible loans from banks. Thus, it is clear that this brain drain has been accelerating over time. Although enrollment dropped sharply during the pandemic and lockdowns last year, many students are once again preparing to travel abroad. Numerous causes have been found to be behind the sharp increase in Indian students choosing to study abroad. One of these elements is the availability of world's best graduate programmes at renowned institutions abroad. Furthermore, there aren't enough facilities for Indian students to pursue higher education in India. Indian families' financial standing is growing, enabling them to pay for their children's international education. Further, to attract students, a number of foreign institutions and their local partners hold education fairs at expensive five-star hotels and online in tiny towns. According to reports, there was a significant increase in the number of Indians using student visas to travel overseas last year. The Immigration Statistics Report states that 127,731 visas were issued to Indian students in September 2022, up 93,470 (+273%) from 34,261 in 2019. Up until November 30, 6,48,678 students traveled overseas on student visas, a five-year high. By 2024, it's estimated that there will be 1.8 million Indian students studying overseas. Most of them are drawn to elite universities and employment opportunities abroad. It is noteworthy that approximately 21% of the more than one million foreign students studying in the United States, according to the Open Doors report published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), are from India. Therefore, it's crucial to keep in mind that the large number of our young brains departing the country would surely hinder its economic success.

RELIGIOUS RITUALS



Elephants carry deities during 'Pallivetta' at Sree Valayanad Devi Temple festival, in Kozhikode, Sunday night.

BJP may lose power in two out of three North Eastern states after Assembly polls

NITYA CHAKRABORTY



The 2023 assembly election season has started with the polls in Tripura scheduled on February 16 and Meghalaya, Nagaland on February 27. The results of all the three states in the first phase, will be known on March 2. The outcome will be having significant impact on the tempo of the poll campaign in the remaining six states scheduled during the year. Karnataka will be facing elections in the second phase in April/ May this year. As indications suggest, the all powerful BJP, despite its massive resources and continuous campaigns by both the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah is set to lose power as junior partner in Meghalaya. In Tripura, the BJP is in a tight condition as its partner of the alliance IFTF has lost its earlier base to the new tribal party Tipra Motha(TM) which is fighting alone with the option open for limited understanding with the main alliance of the Left Front led by the CPI(M) and the Congress. Nagaland is the only state where the BJP is confident to come back as a junior partner in the region-

al party led alliance.. Out of 60 seats, BJP is contesting in 20 and its regional partner is contesting the remaining 40 seats.

As of now, BJP's stake is very high in Tripura. The party after years of nurturing by the RSS captured power in 2018 assembly polls defeating the CPI(M) which was in power for long years. The BJP got 35 seats out of the 60 seats while the CPI(M) got 16. But the CPI(M) kept its voting share at a comfortable level of 42.2 per cent as against BJP's 43.59 per cent.. In the last five years, the political situation in Tripura has changed substantially leading to increasing people's anger against the BJP rule. Left Front led by the CPI(M) has finally allied with the Congress to fight the BJP unitedly. The Congress has improved its base support in the recent months after a long period of disarray.

But the most important factor in the electoral battle is the new tribal party Tipra Motha(TM) which has in its fold about 80 per cent of tribal support. If there could have been a total understanding of the Left-Congress alliance with TM, it could have been said that BJP's defeat is certain in next assembly polls. But that is not certain now as TM is contesting in 45 seats out of 60. In the tribal 20 constituencies, TM has a big edge but the party headed by Pradyot Narayan Manikya Debbarma, the scion of the royal family is a respected politician and he holds support in general constituencies also.

For the Left-Congress alliance, it will be best to have

some understanding now even after the withdrawal of nominations, so that in some critical constituencies, ways are found out to avoid split of anti-BJP votes. That has to be ensured to defeat the BJP. Further, doors should be kept open for post poll alliance with TM if there is a hung assembly. Trinamool Congress has also fielded 28 candidates in the polls in the state and the party supremo Mamata Banerjee is visiting Tripura on February 6 and 7. Mamata has a big halo among the Bengalees and she is likely to draw big crowds. If TMC gets good votes from the Bengalees, that will be at the expense of BJP votes also, apart from Left. So that way, TMC votes also will be crucial in determining the outcome.

In Meghalaya, the ruling NPP led by Conrad Sangma is contesting in all seats, so is its NDA partner BJP. Similarly Trinamool Congress and Congress also are contesting in 60 seats each. The contest will be three cornered between NPP, TMC and the Congress with the BJP playing a marginal role. Congress got 21 seats in 2018 polls with the highest vote percentage of 28.5 per cent. BJP got only 2 seats with 9.6 per cent votes. But then, the BJP manipulated and increased its seats and putting pressure from the centre on the regional parties, became the junior partner. Trinamool Congress competed with the BJP in mobilising resources and finally succeeded in organising defections from the Congress. TMC has now 12 legislators led by Mukul Sangma and the party has

been campaigning as the main party of the opposition seeking to unseat Conrad Sangma.

Congress, despite defections, still retains big base in Meghalaya. If the party can get adequate central help, they can certainly get some seats. But the problem with the Congress in NE states is that the central leadership has abandoned the region with seven states. The BJP always sends its top leaders to the NE states to help the state party units. Amit Shah himself devotes lot of time. But the Congress has allowed the NE states, once its stronghold to slip away from its control to BJP. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma is in charge of NDA in NE region. There is no one in the Congress who can match his organisational skill.

After the success of Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress high command must give full attention on the election preparedness in these three states... If the BJP loses power in two states out of three that will give a big push to the campaign in Karnataka in the second phase. Congress is already advantageously placed in Karnataka against the BJA big new push is needed to defeat the BJP in the assembly polls in Karnataka.. For that the party leadership should proceed with a killer instinct against the BJP. There is no time to lose. BJP's defeat in the first phase is essential to impart a big momentum to the entire opposition in its campaign in the next six assembly polls during the year 2023.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Online fraudsters

It's a known fact that going digital has made us more vulnerable to online fraud. Online fraudsters trick millions of people into sending money or giving out personal information. These cybercriminals use secure software to remain anonymous which are proxy servers that hide their location and route their communications through multiple countries to evade direct detection. Since the method of how they commit these crimes is very complicated, law enforcement needs to coordinate with government agencies, international partners and private corporations. Also, Call Centres need to be set up so that the victims of such frauds can lodge complaints without delay. The police, on receiving a complaint of this kind, should immediately notify the bank authorities through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal so that the transfer of money can be stopped instantly. Besides, people should also utilize some tips to help lessen the chances of becoming prey for these fraudsters. One should not open, respond to, download attachments or click on links from unknown emails. While entering payment information one should be ensured one is using secure websites. It can be verified by ensuring the website's URL that begins with HTTPS. Last but not the least, severe punitive action must be taken against the convicted and should be shown no mercy.

Dipen Gogoi, Teok, Jorhat

Harassment of players

The assurance by Anurag Thakur that the mechanism in place to protect female athletes from being mentally and sexually harassed by persons in power can effectively address the problem doesn't inspire much confidence. Coaches and officials of sports federations are powerful enough to ruin the career of young women athletes if they dare spurn their advances, or if they don't extend sexual favours to them. Politicians generally head sports federations. Bringing delinquent politicians to justice is an uphill task, particularly when he is associated with the ruling party. A committee constituted to probe the allegations by women wrestlers appears to be eyewash. It is one thing to make stringent laws for the protection of women against sexual assault, and quite another to enforce them in letter and spirit. Sexual harassment cases are mounting up because of laxity in the sincere implementation of the laws enacted with great fanfare.

Roshan Lal Goel, by mail

Significance of Bharat Jodo Yarta

Kajal Chatterjee

While commenting upon the Bharat Jodo Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, a set of "pundits" are asserting that the 1990 Rath Yatra in support of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya has been one of the most "successful" campaigns with "very far-reaching consequences". "Successful" campaign indeed; after all that 1990 yatra had propelled a mere 2-MP party (1984-89) to throne of New Delhi within 6 years (might be for 13 days) to again forming the Government in 1998 and thereafter a full term from 1999-2004 which is certainly not a mean feat. But they must also remain enlightened of the fact that

mere "success" proves nothing at least in moral ethical and humanitarian terms. Else we have to applaud the British for it's "successful" imperialism in India and various parts of the world spanning centuries. That Rath Yatra also proved highly "successful" in exploiting the communal fissures within the electorate through rabid Hindutva, Islamophobia and finally ensuring the barbaric demolition of Babri Masjid as well through vulgar flexing of muscle! And now that green signal has been awarded to the construction of that "much cherished" Ram temple at that very site where the mosque had stood for centuries just because Hindus believe it to be the birthplace of an epic character; the mis-

sion of that Rath Yatra is set to attain full "success". However, no doubt about the "very far-reaching consequences" as the seeds of communalism which were embedded during the Yatra has indeed grown up into a "Bishabriksha" (poison tree) with religion turning to be the only political discourse nowadays with even the outfits, professing "secularism", are going all-out to indulge in "soft" Hindutva. Thus it has got proved that not basic necessities of food attire shelter education jobs or livelihood; rather one and only religion "sells" in the polity and full "credit" of this drastic change must be awarded to that 1990 Yatra which started this all.

However, as for the conclu-

sion that Bharat Jodo Yarta is unlikely to revive the Congress, perhaps the "pundits" are more than correct in this aspect. Firstly, those Indians (rather Hindus) who dance to the communal antics of any ideological group, would invariably continue to vote in favour of it. Secondly, no secular humanitarian who respect the idea of a multi-lingual multi-religious India had anyway never voted in favour of any divisive entity prior to Rahul Gandhi's Yatra and never will vote in favour of it irrespective of the result of the Yatra. Revival of Congress will happen only when majority of the Hindus will turn secular and unitedly vote in favour of the party so as to uproot the poison of communal hatred

from the society at large. However, since protest need to be done for the sake of protest only so as to remain in the side of conscience and sanity, Rahul Gandhi's attempt to unite the nation by undertaking the march is definitely much laudable. And also the fact remains that this march has transmitted a shiver down the spine of a dominant power group and this is exactly the reason why the Who's Who of that brigade had attacked Rahul through utmost vulgarity and utter falsehood throughout the period of the march. So one may support it or oppose it, but nobody can ignore Rahul Gandhi's march and this is the most significant aspect of the Bharat Jodo Yarta.

BRIEF

Sand mining



Ludhiana: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday dedicated 16 public mining sites to people of the state and said that sand will be available at a rate of Rs 5.50 per cubic feet. Interacting with the media here after dedicating 16 public sand mining sites spread over seven districts, Mann said now, sand will be sold at just Rs 5.50 per cubic feet in each of these public mining sites, giving a major reprieve to the people. Only manual excavation of sand will be permitted in these public mining sites and no mechanical excavation of sand will be allowed, he said. No mining contractor will be allowed to operate in these public mining sites, said Mann.

Vehicle projects

New Delhi: Renault Group and Nissan plan to collaborate on several new vehicle projects, including sports utility vehicles, in India as part of new initiatives announced by the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance on Monday. The alliance announced a three-dimensional programme including creation of operational projects in Latin America, India and Europe. As part of the new framework, the partners also seek enhanced strategic agility with new initiatives that all three entities can join. Besides, the board envisions a rebalanced Renault Group-Nissan cross-shareholding and reinforced alliance governance. "For India and export, Renault Group and Nissan would collaborate on several new vehicle projects including new SUVs shared by both Renault Group and Nissan, and a new Nissan car derived from the Renault Tribler," the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance said in a statement.

Shiva Project



Hamirpur: The Shiva horticulture project will prove to be a game changer for people in the lower areas of Himachal Pradesh, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi said. The minister said the Himachal Pradesh Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition project (HP SHIVA) has been started to strengthen the farmers and horticulturists. This project is not only opening new doors of horticulture for the low-lying areas of the state but can also prove to be an important source of self-employment for the educated unemployed youth, he added.

Renewables, hydrogen to make India world's 3rd largest eco, says PM

Bengaluru, Feb 06:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday laid out his vision of making India the world's third-largest economy with a focus on renewable energy, biofuels and hydrogen as he pivots a roadmap to cut reliance on imported oil and gas. Modi met top oil and gas industry leaders for the annual brainstorming to discuss ideas and initiatives to put India on a sustainable growth path, sources aware of the matter said. The meeting on the sidelines of the India Energy Week here saw the Prime Minister outline his vision to make India the world's third-largest economy from the current fifth-largest. For this, the fuel needed should come from renewables, biofuels and hydrogen. Sources said at the meeting Modi spoke of using 100 per cent renewable energy and increasing blends of ethanol and biofuels in traditional fuels. Also, he talked about making India the world's largest hydrogen-producing nation. Hydrogen is



the cleanest known fuel which on burning emits only water and oxygen. Sources said heads of international oil companies such as BP plc of UK, ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies participated. Rosneft head Igor Sechin too attended the meeting.

Heads of Indian public sector companies, as well as international Energy Agency (IEA) executive director Fatih Birol, too attended the meeting. Mining billionaire Anil Agarwal as well as Tullow Oil CEO Rahul Dhir were also present. Sources said industry leaders spoke of imperatives for making India the world leader. Some wanted taxes in the oil and gas sector to be

brought down to global levels of 40 per cent from the current 70 per cent, while others talked about enabling ease of doing business through self-certification.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged global investors to explore investment opportunities in the country's energy sector, saying India is the most opportune place at present. Modi in his inaugural address at the India Energy Week 2023 said the Budget (for 2023-24) has provided Rs 10 lakh crore for capital expenditure, which will give a boost to green hydrogen, solar power and road sectors.

"I ask you to explore all opportunities connected with India's energy sector. India is the most opportune place for investment today," he said at the India Energy Week, which is being attended by several ministers, corporate leaders and experts from different nations.

The Prime Minister also recalled several initiatives taken by the government to promote green en-

Adani Group to pre-pay USD 1,114 million for release of pledged shares

New Delhi, Feb 06: Adani Group on Monday announced that promoters will pre-pay USD 1,114 million for the release of pledged shares of its firms ahead of the maturity in September 2024 while saying the step is being done "in light of the recent market volatility". These shares belong to Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, Adani Green Energy and Adani Transmission, a statement said. "This is in continuation of promoters' assurance to pre-pay all share-backed financing," it said. The statement assumes significance in view of the allegations of fraud and stock manipulation by a short-seller against the Adani Group, which led to a steep fall in the share prices of group firms. Earlier in the day proceedings of both Houses of the Parliament were adjourned for the third day following uproar by opposition over Adani issue. The opposition members are demanding a probe by joint parliamentary committee or Supreme Court monitored inquiry into the matter. "In light of the recent market volatility and in continuation of promoters' commitment to reduce the overall promoter leverage backed by Adani listed companies shares, we are pleased to inform that promoters have posted the amounts to pre-pay USD 1,114 million ahead of its maturity of September 2024," the statement said. On pre-payment, 168.27 million shares of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones representing 12 per cent of the promoter's holding will be released.

PLI scheme attracted Rs 45,000 cr investment: NITI Aayog CEO

New Delhi, Jan 06:

India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, has attracted investment worth over Rs 45,000 crore and has also created three lakh jobs, NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer said on Monday. The government has rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell and speciality steel.

"The PLI programme has already started showing results. About Rs 800 crore have already been paid by way of incentives. "We are expecting (incentives) to go close to Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 4,000 crore before March," Iyer told PTI. The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufac-



turing, and it is yielding solid results. "The scheme is working. Already about Rs 45,000 crore-plus investment has come in, three lakh jobs have been created and production worth Rs 2 lakh crore is already there," he added.

The scheme, launched in 2020, offers a cash incentive for three to five years on the incremental sale of goods manufactured in India over determined base-year sales. Additionally, the identified beneficiaries are required to commit to a certain minimum investment in India. Replying to a question on the Centre's

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) programme, he said asset monetisation plan is doing 'very well now' and it will be taken down to the states. "(In budget documents) All signals are that the asset monetisation programme, which is actually bringing in private capital, is continuing and now it will be taken down to the states," Iyer said.

In 2021-22, the government surpassed the programme's first-year target of Rs 88,000 crore by completing transactions worth Rs 1 lakh crore, while current fiscal year's asset monetisation target is Rs 1,62,422 crore. "This year, the programme is doing very well.

Now one of NITI Aayog's roles is to start getting the state governments as part of their strategic planning to look at monetising their own assets and bringing private capital," he revealed. Till November 21, 2022, the government had monetised assets worth Rs 33,422 crore under the NMP.

Amazon launches exciting offer for Valentine Day

Mumbai, Feb 06: Amazon.in brings in the exciting opportunity to express your love with its Valentine's Day Store. Customers can enjoy exciting offers and deals on an extravagant selection of specially curated products across categories ranging from chocolates, fresh flowers, gift sets, electronics, home décor, kitchen appliances, fashion and beauty essentials, large appliances, accessories, smartphones, Amazon Devices and much more on A.in till Feb 14.

Celebrate the love with your special ones and fulfill all their shopping needs at the Amazon Valentine's Day Store, a

one-stop destination for all their gifting requirements. Customers can shop from brands including Cadbury, Van Heusen, Giva, Zeya by Kundan, The Whole Truth, Bombay Shaving Company, Olay, Herbal Essence, Open Secrets, Janasya, Puma, Go Colors, Clovia, Global Desi, Hersheys, Ferrero Rocher, amongst others.

Customers can also use their voice to access the "Valentines' Day Store" using Alexa on the Amazon shopping app (Android only). Users can tap the mic icon on the app and say - "Alexa, go to Valentines' Day Store" and land directly on the store. Additionally, Amazon.in

will host live streaming event for Valentine's day this month where customers can watch content around how to dress your best, express your feelings to make your loved one feel special, get your home V-day ready and more. These live streams will feature some of the famous content creators including Simran Balar, Chinki Minki, Surabhi Rathore, Karron Dhingra, and Fiza Khan, sharing their tips and tricks to avoid any last-minute jitters. One can watch these creators, chat with them and shop live their recommendations on dressing and gifting here: www.amazon.in/live.

Sensex declines 334 pts as metal, power shares retreat amid FII outflows, global selloff

Mumbai, Feb 06:

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined by more than half a per cent at close on Monday due to selling in IT, power and metal shares triggered by a global equity meltdown on rate hike fears and FII outflows. Snapping its five-day gaining streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled lower by 334.98 points or 0.55 per cent at 60,506.90. During the session, the index fell over 500 points to touch its intraday low of 60,345.61. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 89.45 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 17,764.60 as 34 of its stocks dropped. "A strong job market in the



global market lower on rate hike fears, as it offers the Fed more leeway in enacting stricter policy measures. This was in contrast to the recent rally in the global indices on the

expectation that the economy is in its last phase of policy tightening. "The RBI's policy announcement on Wednesday will provide more colour on its future rate actions, which is expected to hike rate by

25bps," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. Tata Steel was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 2.08 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, M&M, Ultra Cement and Tata Motors. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major winners. State Bank of India closed marginally up 0.17 per cent after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that banks and insurance companies are "not overexposed" to any one company and assured that Indian markets are very well managed by its regulators.

JEWELLERY LAUNCH



Actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Spandana Palli, Srilekha, Anushree, and other models at the Grand Pre-Launch Event of Jewellery, in Hyderabad, Monday, Feb. 6.

Sebi lists dos and don'ts relating to green debt securities to avoid occurrences of 'greenwashing'

New Delhi, Feb 06:

Capital markets regulator Sebi has listed the basic dos and don'ts relating to green debt securities to address 'greenwashing' related risks. The generally accepted definition of 'greenwashing' is, 'making false, misleading, unsubstantiated, or otherwise incomplete claims about sustainability of a product, service, or business operation'. To address the concerns of market participants regarding greenwashing, Sebi said that an issuer of green debt securities will have to ensure that it will not use misleading labels, hide trade-offs or cherry pick data from research to highlight green practices and will maintain highest

standards associated with issue of green debt security while adhering to the rating assigned to it. While raising funds for transition towards a greener pathway, the issuer of green bonds will continuously monitor to check whether the path undertaken towards more sustainable form of operations is resulting in reduction of the adverse environmental impact and contributing towards sustainable economy, as envisaged in the offer document to avoid greenwashing risks, the regulator said in a circular. The issuer will not utilize funds raised through green bonds for purposes that would not fall under the definition of 'green debt security' under

the rules. In case any such instances come to light regarding the already issued green debt securities, the issuer will disclose the same to the investors and, if required, by majority of debenture holders, undertake early redemption of such debt securities.

The green bond issuer will quantify the negative externalities associated with utilization of the funds raised through green debt security and will not make untrue claims giving false impression of certification by a third-party entity.

The new framework will come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular on Friday.

No systemic risk to financial system from recent events: Uday Kotak

New Delhi, Feb 06:

Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak said he does not see any systemic risk to the financial system but it's time to strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building, amid meltdown in Adani Group shares over corporate governance allegations.

Kotak said large Indian corporates rely more on global sources for debt and equity finance, which creates challenges and vulnerabilities. Time to further strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building," Kotak tweeted. Amid concerns over banks' exposure to the crisis-ridden Adani Group, the Reserve Bank on February 3 issued a



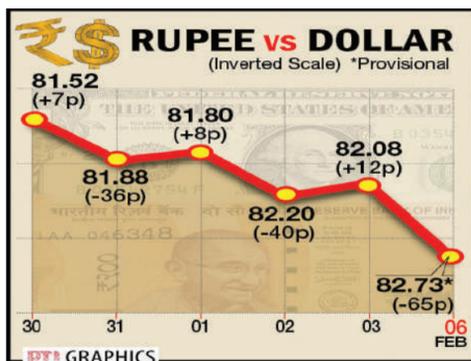
This creates challenges and vulnerabilities. Time to further strengthen Indian underwriting and capacity building," Kotak tweeted. Amid concerns over banks' exposure to the crisis-ridden Adani Group, the Reserve Bank on February 3 issued a

statement saying that India's banking sector is resilient and stable, and the central bank maintains constant vigil on the lenders. US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations in a January 24 report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group. Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements. The Hindenburg report was released on the day when Adani Enterprises' Rs 20,000-crore follow on public offer (FPO) opened for anchor investors.

Rupee falls 65 paise to close at 82.73 against US dollar

photo Rupee

Mumbai, Feb 06: The rupee fell by 65 paise to close at 82.73 (provisional) against the US currency on Monday, weighed down by gains in the greenback in the overseas markets and a muted trend in domestic equities. Sustained foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices further dented investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.35 against the greenback, and fell to an intra-day low of 82.76. It finally settled at 82.73 (provisional), down 65 paise over its previous close. In the previous session on Friday, the rupee settled at 82.08 against the US dollar. The dollar



index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.24 per cent higher at 103.16, on robust economic data from the US, which raised expectations of a hawkish Federal Reserve. Global oil

benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.45 per cent to USD 80.30 per barrel. The Indian rupee depreciated on a rally in the US Dollar and weak domestic markets, said Anuj Choudhary - Research

Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"Dollar gained on robust economic data from the US raising expectations of hawkish Federal Reserve. "Non-farm payrolls added 517,000 jobs in January topping estimates of 193,000 jobs while ISM services PMI unexpectedly surged to 55.2 in January sharply above estimates of 50.5. Unemployment rate declined to 3.4 per cent in January compared to forecast of 3.6 per cent.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as the rebound in Dollar may further weaken the domestic currency. Weak domestic equities and FII outflows may also put downside pressure on Rupee," Choudhary said.

Shubhangi Atre reacts to Vidya Balan's viral video of 'Angoori Bhabi'

& TV's immensely popular Angoori Bhabi, aka Shubhangi Atre from the cult comedy show Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, has been the audience's favourite for her impeccable comic timing and innocent persona. She often misspells English words and, when corrected, instantly quips her famous catchphrase 'Sahi Pakade Hain', which has become a rage. And now it seems her hilarious misspelt English words and the catchphrase has caught the attention of one of Bollywood's most talented actresses, Vidya Balan. The actor recently took to her social media to post a reel of Angoori Bhabi's dialogues from the show 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai' and captioned it, 'Angrezi Ek Sensuous Bhasha Hai'. Reacting to this viral video, an excited Shubhangi Atre, Angoori Bhabi, said, "Vidya Balan is not only a



very talented and versatile actress but also a trendsetter. I have always idolized her. She is so graceful and artistic, and most of her roles have inspired me a lot and



have been one of my favourites. The moment I saw the Angoori reel, I was so thrilled! Honestly, I felt motivated and excited to see an actor of her stature enact a

funny dialogue of Angoori. It induced a sense of achievement and filled me with immense joy to see the popularity of Angoori's character. It truly made my day!

immediately shared the video with my friends and family. Quite a few people on sets came running to me to tell me about it. My dialogue, 'Bharbhuti Ji Aap Mujhe Sensuous Kar Rahe Hai', has been quite popular, but Vidya Balan's reel made it go viral, and I cannot thank her enough. It will be an honour and delight to shoot a special and exclusive reel on Angoori's quirky dialogues with her someday. I love the kind of reels and content Vidya Balan posts on social media. My fans will be thrilled to see us together (laughs). I am grateful for all the love and appreciation I am getting for the role of Angoori Bhabi from my fans, friends and family. I promise to keep my audience entertained with funnier tracks and dialogues in the days to come. So, keep watching your favourite Angoori Bhabi in Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, every Monday to Friday only on &TV!"

'My mom had tears in her eyes when she saw in me the bridal wear'

Rachna Mistry is a versatile actress and has played vivid roles in many serials. Currently she is portraying the character 'Vidhi,' which is massively loved by the audience. The show has set its bar high due to its amazing plot and wonderful portrayal of Dev and Vidhi's relationship, portrayed by Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry, respectively. The actors have finally demonstrated to the audience through their characters that love has no bounds as they prepare for their marriage and defy social norms in the show's upcoming sequence. Rachna Mistry, who is currently shooting for the wedding sequence in the serial, speaks about her mother's reaction to seeing her as a bride in the serial.



She overwhelmingly says, "My mother was thrilled and moved to tears when she saw me in the bridal dress while watching the trailer. We rarely get time to share the mother-daughter bond, as I mostly stay busy with shooting. When we spoke to each other about the same, she said she was emotional when she saw me in the bridal dress, and she also complimented me, saying that I really looked pretty and lovely. Despite the

fact that this is a staged wedding, she was moved to tears because she knew the day would come when I would have my own family. Usually when I am at home I organize my own closet, and once I am married I will be doing the same at another place, and this thought made both of us emotional while thinking about the real marriage, where my mom is already concerned about Bidaai in future".

Audiences will witness 'Anokhi Shaadi of the Year' and discover how Vidhi and Dev's lives unfold further after their marriage. The popular television show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' has set its bar high as it tells a genuine story of how age is no barrier to love, debunking a common societal misconception.

Stay tuned to watch 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' every Monday to Saturday at 8:00 p.m. on Star Bharat.



SRK reveals meeting 'Jawaan' Atlee's son

In a recent #AskSRK session on Twitter, Bollywood's Badshah Shah Rukh Khan revealed meeting his upcoming film Jawaan's director Atlee and wife Priya's son.

Just this week, one of India's most regarded and loved filmmakers, Atlee announced the birth of his son, along with his wife Priya, garnering love and warm wishes from across quarters. Adding to the list of well-wishers, Superstar Shah Rukh Khan also opened up about meeting the infant.

Creating a rage not just in theaters, Shah Rukh Khan has also been winning hearts with his famous #AskSRK sessions, with his sweet, witty and fun responses to the fan questions.

During his latest AskSRK session, a fan asked the Superstar, "@iamsrk Met with @Atlee_dir & @priyaatlee new baby?". To which SRK replied, "Yes he is too sweet and Masha Allah healthy".

After the humongous success of Pathan, all eyes are on Shah Rukh Khan's next Jawaan, directed by Atlee, also co-starring Malayalam superstar Nayanthara. With just a glimpse into the film, Jawaan has got everyone excited creating immense anticipation for the much-awaited release.

'I truly believe in this life mantra that applies to food is well – Less is More!'



Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV's "MasterChef India" has narrowed the hunt for the best home cook to its Top 11 contestants. And this week, Chefs Vikas Khanna, Garima Arora, and Ranveer Brar will judge their culinary expertise based on the "Time-Bomb" challenge.

On the back of a quiz round about food, the top 11 home cooks will get to divide 11 ingredients amongst themselves – after which they must hero that one ingredient in their dish for the day. When it will come to Lucknow's Sachin Khatwani's dish, he will be presenting a dish with "Raspberry" as his core

ingredient. Chef Vikas Khanna would be adding the spice of "humour" and commenting on Sachin's dish saying, "Ek mandal mein 10 shaadi ho rahi hai and kisi ko nai pata kiski biwi kon hai (Ten weddings are taking place in the same room, but no one knows who is marrying whom)".

Chef Vikas Khanna also spoke about the dish afterwards saying, "I truly believe in this life mantra that applies to food is well – Less is More! Throwing too many flavours and ingredients together takes away from the core of the dish which can be made so enjoyable if you just focus on bringing out the best in the ingre-



redient you're meant to hero. Who would have thought Sachin could make such a basic mistake but the best of us sometimes have bad days. We hope that Sachin learns from his mistakes, and I'm sure he will because he is a sharp kid."

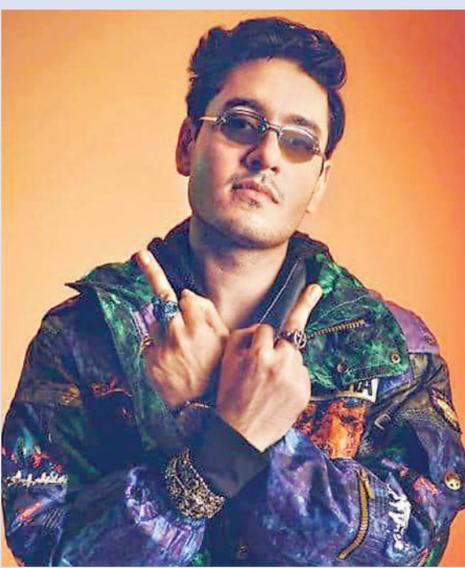
Talking about his experience Sachin Khatwani shares, "To become a Chef, one should have all their senses working in tandem with each other and that is what I will strive to do. This dish of mine was a misfire, there were possibilities that I missed and I created a mishap on the plate. I agree with Chef Vikas, there were a lot of things happening

on the plate without rhyme or reason and when we serve a plate to the customer, they should not look at the plate and be bewildered about the taste of the food. Food should never confuse, it's the one honest thing that we nourish our hearts and minds with. Nevertheless, every day I learn and apply these teachings to my skills as a home cook in order to realise my fullest potential as a Chef."

Tune in to 'MasterChef India', every Monday-Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.

Salman gives a shoutout to debutant actor Zeyn Shaw

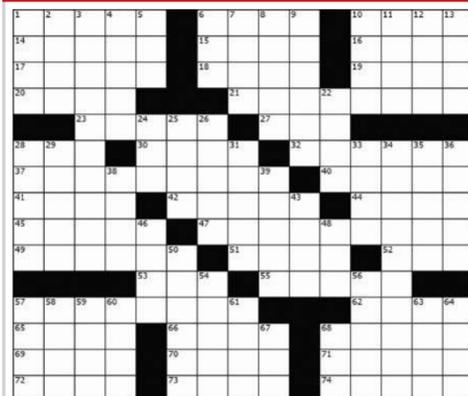
Debutant actor Zeyn Shaw, who is impressing the audience across quarters with his impactful and promising performance in his first ever project 'Class', receives a thumbs up from none other than Superstar Salman Khan. Creating a huge chatter across internet currently, Netflix's latest show 'Class' has been receiving a tremendous response from the audience all over. Notably, Veer Ahuja's character played by Zeyn Shaw has been talked about for the phenomenal character arc and the young actor's compelling performance. Portraying one of the most pivotal and impactful characters of the show, Zeyn Shaw is receiving praises for his effortless performance as the rich, spoiled brat from Delhi, who is exposed to emotions and circumstances revolving around power struggles, class, caste and dark secrets of the elite, rich dynasties of Delhi.



Making his debut with Netflix's show, Zeyn Shaw has also received a thumbs up from Salman Khan himself, as the Superstar gave a shoutout to the young actor for his first on screen appearance saying, "Best Wishes". Zeyn also penned a heartfelt note on his social media with BTS images capturing the journey of his character on the show saying, "It's been 2 and a half years but now you guys are officially a part of our CLASS! Thank you guys for the love ?? super proud of every single person associated with this project. Those of you who haven't got the chance to watch, go binge it now!! And for the ones who have, here's a little BTS. Don't worry, it's spoiler free ??" Making mark amidst the ensemble cast of the show, Zeyn Shaw has showcased sparks of his talent, creating interest for his upcoming projects.

CROSSWORD

554



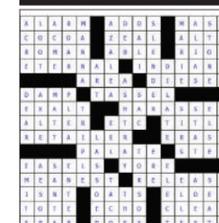
ACROSS

- Hot chocolate
- Mushroom part
- Church group
- Leading
- Bee's home
- Confederate
- Wash cycle
- Foot part
- Falling sound
- Love excessively
- Exhibition riding

DOWN

- Birth day greeting
- Cleveland's state
- 100th anniversary
- Fertile spots
- Summer refresher
- Quiet!
- Knotted
- Each
- Brawls
- Undermines
- Jazz great _____ Fitzgerald
- Drain problem
- Category
- Deliberate slight
- Compass dir.
- Snaky swimmers
- Greasy streak
- Purple flower
- Boldness

SOLUTION 553



Ashwin should not over-plan: Shastri



Nagpur, Feb 06 (PTI):

Ravichandran Ashwin's form will decide the fate of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, feels former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who wouldn't want the team's premier spinner to "over-plan" against Australia in the upcoming four-match Test series.

Shastri, under whose tutelage India won back-to-back Test series in Australia, also has no hesitation in naming Kuldeep Yadav as his choice as the third spinner while keeping Suryakumar Yadav as a potent middle-order game-changer. "Ashwin, you don't want him to over-plan. He is good enough to stick to his

plans as he is real crucial player here. His form might decide the series. Ashwin comes as a package, he will get you important runs as well," Shastri said, while answering a query from PTI during an interaction organised by Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

"If Ashwin is on fire, that might decide the outcome of the series. He is world class in most conditions but in Indian conditions, he is lethal. If the ball starts spinning and there is enough bite off the surface, he will trouble most batters. "So, you don't want Ashwin to over-think and try too many things. Just keep it there

and let the pitch do the rest because as it is, it does enough in India," Shastri, one of the shrewdest brains in Indian cricket, said. To another query from PTI on his choice as the third spinner, Shastri replied:

"As far as third spinner is concerned, I would like to see Kuldeep play straightaway. Jadeja and Axar are pretty similar bowlers. Kuldeep is different. If you lose the toss on Day 1, you need someone who will give it a rip.

"If anyone spins it one Day 1, it will be Kuldeep. If the track doesn't have too much on offer, then Kuldeep can come into play." He also gave another important reason to in-

Ashwin is a gun: Khawaja

Bengaluru: Having enjoyed fair degree of success in past couple of years, Australia opener Usman Khawaja termed facing the Ravichandran Ashwin-led Indian spin attack as the "hardest challenge" of the four match series beginning in Nagpur on February 9.

The Pakistan-born batter, who arrived in India after his teammates due to a visa delay, will open the batting alongside David Warner. Khawaja has played limited overs cricket in India but will finally get his opportunity in the longest format after being part of the Test squad in 2013 and 2017. Recently named Australia's 'Test

Cricketer of the Year', the southpaw is expected to play a big role in his team's quest to win its first series in India since 2004-05. "There's definitely a different feel. There are no guarantees in this game, but at least there's a bit more maturity particularly in the batting, and more maturity in the bowling.

"We've learnt a lot over the last 10 years, particularly the types of wickets we can get and how we think we can perform and go out and win Test matches out here. It feels like we are in a better spot than before, but it's always going to be tough," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

clude Kuldeep in the playing XI. "As the game progresses with the fast bowlers the Australians have, the rough created on both sides of the track will come into play. So wrist spinners can get the ball to turn back in and out both ways."

Shastri is unapologetic when asked about the kind of track he would want.

"I want the ball to turn from Day 1. Lose the toss, so be it. Something there on offer from Day 1, playing at home, cash in on it."

Shastri reckoned that India should keep their 12 ready with Shubman Gill in the scheme of things and then decide looking at the conditions of the track. He doesn't want

Suryakumar Yadav to be ruled out from the playing XI as a quick 40 on a rank turner from him could be a potential game-changer.

"Tough choice. You have to pick the best player for that position (No. 5). Surya is one player who will be proactive and looking to rotate the strike.

"If you want to do well in India, you have got to rotate the strike and not let bowlers bowl maidens at you. Blocking won't help. A quick 30 or 40 could decide the fate of game. He (Surya) can get (the runs) quickly and disrupt the opposition. India should back themselves to win by two-match margin," Shastri, a veteran of 80 Tests said.

India really going to miss Rishabh Pant: Ian Chappell



Indian cricketers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan during a practice session ahead of the first test cricket match against Australia, at VCA Stadium in Nagpur, Monday.

Nagpur, Feb 06 (PTI): Former captain Ian Chappell feels Rishabh Pant's presence would have given sleepless nights to Australia captain Pat Cummins but even then India would start firm favourites in the upcoming four-match Test series beginning here on Thursday.

Pant met with a horrific car accident in December last year and is yet to be discharged from the hospital after undergoing multiple surgeries on his knee and heel.

"India are really going to really miss Rishabh

Pant. The Australians will be happy. He is a counter attacker, the guy who keep you awake are guys who score quickly and changes game in one session. Pant was one such player," Chappell said during an interaction organised by Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the Test series for the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Chappell, one of the most respected voices in world cricket, feels that Ravichandran Ashwin will certainly be the biggest threat but the Australia batters need to be proactive against him.

"Why is Ashwin likely to be the threat? Because he is a smart cricketer. Ashwin will always be a problem. Now, if you let him bowl the way he wants to bowl, you are in trouble. He will be a threat to Australia throughout. They have got to be proactive," Chappell said. "You got to be thinking about being proactive. If you are not dictating terms, then you are in trouble. You have to get singles and rotate the strike. He (Ashwin) then has to change (his strategy against) whom he is bowling to then."

Manraj and Rakshitha to spearhead Indian contingent at Dutch and German Junior tournament



New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTI): Shuttlers Manraj Singh and Rakshitha Sree S will lead a 19-member Indian contingent at the upcoming Dutch Junior and German Junior International tournaments next month. The Dutch Junior International will kick off from March 1 in Haarlem while the German Junior event will begin from March 8 in Berlin. Badminton Association of India (BAI) had conducted a four-day selection trial at Greater Noida from January 24 to 27 to pick the shuttlers for the year's first two major Junior International Grand Prix events. India's No. 33 men's singles shuttler Manraj topped the men's sin-

gles category followed by Ayush Shetty, Lokesh Reddy K and Gagan. Rising shuttler Rakshitha will lead the women's singles group along with Shreya Lele, Jiya Rawat and Aalisha Naik. Bhavya Chhabra-Param Choudhary will shoulder the men's doubles responsibility with in-form Divyank Arora-Mayank Rana making it to the team as the second pair. The women's doubles duo of Vennala K and Shreyanshi Valishetty, who also represented India recently at Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022, will be kept to put up impactful performances along with Vaishnavi Khadkekar-Sania Sikkandar.

Football powerhouse Manipur to host first international matches in March

Imphal, Feb 06 (PTI):

The tiny but football powerhouse state of Manipur will host its first official international matches next month in a tri-nation friendly tournament involving Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, besides the Indian team, at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here.

The matches will be played on March 22, 24 and 26, which fall during the FIFA international window. Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh announced that the state capital will host the international tournament at a press conference here in the presence of All India Football Federation President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran.

"It is a great initiative by the AIFF leadership that we are getting to host



international friendly matches in Manipur for the first time in history," Biren said.

"From our end, I can assure everyone that the Government of Manipur will do everything to provide the best facilities and facilitate in the successful organisation of the tournament.

"Manipur has provided many international players for the national team.

India to play against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan

It is indeed an honour to host the tournament and further encourage our players and sports enthusiasts."

Biren mentioned the names of the likes of Renedy Singh, Gouramangi Singh, Udanta Singh, Amarjit Kiyam, Suresh Wangiam and Jaekson Singh who have donned the country's jersey in international matches.

"Manipur has been a great contributor to women's football as well. Players like Bala Devi, who is one of the best strikers of this generation, captain Ashalata Devi, Dangmei Grace, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu and many more have made the country proud time

and again well." He also requested the AIFF's assistance in establishing a top-class academy in the state.

The 35,000 capacity Khuman Lampak Stadium where the matches will be held has been hosting I-League games. It hosted group stage matches of the prestigious Durand Cup in August last year.

"We all are aware of football's popularity in Manipur. The state has produced a huge number of footballers, both men and women, but never before has a national team's match been organised in the state," Chaubey said.

"Having launched Vision 2047 recently, our aim is to take quality football to the furthest corners of the country. Manipur's vibrant football culture makes them deserving hosts, and so they have been given charge of hosting the Senior National Team's matches."

Croatia advances in Davis Cup as Coric beats Thiem



London, Feb 6 (AP) Borna Coric beat 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem 7-6 (3), 6-2 to send Croatia into the group stage of the Davis Cup. Coric helped the Croatians win their second Davis Cup title in 2018, but he was sidelined when they lost in the 2021 final while missing a year of action with a right shoulder injury. He returned to the tour last March, winning a Masters 1000 title in August in Cincinnati, Ohio, and rejoined the Croatians when they reached the Davis Cup semifinals last year. His victory over

Thiem, who has also dealt with injuries in recent years, gave Croatia a 3-1 victory in Rijeka. The Austrians had taken the tie against the No. 1 team in the Davis Cup rankings to a fourth match when Alexander Erler and Lucas Miedler beat Ivan Dodig and Nikola Mektic 6-3, 7-6 (11) in the doubles match earlier Sunday. Chile, Finland, the Netherlands, South Korea and the Czech Republic also completed victories Sunday to secure their places in the next round, which will be played in September.

Martinez scores again as Inter beats Milan in Serie A derby

Milan, Feb 06 (AP):

World Cup winner Lautaro Martinez continued his roaring start to the year as he set Inter Milan on its way to a 1-0 victory over AC Milan in the Derby della Madonnina.

Martinez has been in fantastic form since helping Argentina win the World Cup in December and he netted his seventh goal in his last eight matches as Inter consolidated second spot in Serie A with a second win over its fierce rival in less than three weeks.

"As soon as the World Cup was over I said that winning it had fired me up," Martinez said. "It's the best present that I have ever received, I learnt a lot and I'm trying to put all that on the field."

It was Martinez's 12th league goal of the season, putting him four behind leading Serie A goalscorer Victor Osimhen, who



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and AC Milan at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan.

scored another two on Sunday to help runaway leader Napoli win 3-0 at lowly Spezia.

Inter is 13 points behind Napoli and three points above third-place Roma. It is five points above Lazio, Atalanta and Milan, which has slipped to sixth after a woeful start to the year.

"I complimented my players because they were perfect, I don't remember a derby won and dominated in this way," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said.

"We had a really great derby, winning two derbies in the space of 20 days isn't something that happens every year. We're not

looking either ahead of us or behind us in the standings, but just at ourselves."

Milan's winless run extended to seven matches. That streak included elimination from the Italian Cup and a 3-0 loss to Inter in the Super Cup.

Before the derby, Milan had also conceded an unprecedented nine goals in its past two Serie A matches.

With that perhaps playing in their minds, the Rossoneri defended deep from the start and rarely got out of their own half. Milan had to wait almost an hour for its first shot, and that was off target.

Inter almost took the lead in the 10th minute but Mart nez headed just wide of the right upright.

Martinez did better in the 34th as he got away from Simon Kjor at the near post to get his head to a corner and it took a deflection off the Milan defender on the way in.

Marseille loses 3-1 to Nice, Monaco wins to keep pressure on

Paris: Second-place Marseille saw its unbeaten run end as it lost 3-1 at home to Nice to slip eight points behind French league leader Paris Saint-Germain. Marseille's first league defeat in 10 games means it is only ahead of third-place Lens on goal difference, with in-form Monaco now two points back in fourth spot. Third place secures a place in the qualifying rounds of the Champions League next season. Marseille fans got a first look at club-record signing Vitinha, a forward who joined from Portuguese side Braga for 32 million euros (34.5 million). Terem Moffi made his debut for eighth-place Nice after joining from Lorient, where he scored 12 goals this season.

Neither made much of an impression in a first half where Nice's superior pressing game troubled Marseille and prevented it from getting the ball regularly to playmaker Dimitri Payet. Vitinha's lack of familiarity with his teammates and the 35-year-old Payet's tiring legs played into Nice's high-octane game and the visitors scored twice at the end of the first half.

Ashu clinches bronze as other wrestlers disappoint

Zagreb, Feb 06 (PTI):

Asian Championships bronze medallist Ashu clinched the 67kg bronze medal for India in the Greco Roman category on the concluding day of the Zagreb Open Ranking Series here on Sunday. The 23-year-old grappler added a second bronze to India's tally, defeating Lithuania's Adomas Grigaliunas 5-0. Under-23 world champion, freestyle wrestler Aman Sehrawat, had won the men's 57kg bronze on the inaugural day.

Ashu, who had lost Iran's Reza Mahdi Abbasi 9-0 in the qualification round, came back strongly in the repechage bouts, defeating Hungary's Adam Phoilec 8-0 before overcoming Norway's Haavard Joergensen 9-0 to make the



bronze-medal round. The Indian had three points in the first period and two in the second as the judges declared a win by decision.

Another Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Sagar lost his 63kg repechage round bout to Austria's Aker Schmid Al Obaidi after his quarter-final rival, Iran's Aref Hossein Khoun Mohammadi, entered the final. In other bouts on Sunday, Birmingham

Commonwealth Games silver medallist Samantha Stewart got the better of India's Asian Championships bronze medallist Sushma Shokeen with the Canadian effecting a fall in the women's 53kg quarter-final.

Sushma had beaten France's Tetiana Profatilova and China's Yuhong Zhong in the earlier rounds.

More disappointment was in store for India as 72kg wrestler Reetika could not make it to the semi-finals through the round-robin format, while Kiran (76kg) also failed to advance.

Hillary announces 50 million dollar Global Climate Resilience Fund for women to tackle climate change

Kuda (Surendranagar), Feb 06 (PTD):

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton on Monday announced a Global Climate Resilience Fund of 50 million dollars for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt. The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education, she said.

Clinton visited salt pan workers in the Little Rann of Kutch near Kuda village in Gujarat's Surendranagar district and learnt from them the process of salt production and hardships faced by them. "Today, Clinton Global Initiative

with American Indian foundation, SEWA and other organisations, I announce 50 million dollar Global Climate Resilience Fund for women," she said addressing the salt pan workers. "I have had the privilege of working with Elaben (Bhatt) and SEWA for nearly 30 years. But we are thinking about next 50 years," she said.

"Whether you're in construction, waste recycling, plastic, or a farmer, your challenge to make an income working through heat will be the next big problem," said Clinton, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat from Sunday. She had attended a pro-



Former USA secretary of state Hillary Clinton interacts with women Salt Pan Workers and SEWA members, at Little Rann of Kutch in Surendranagar, Monday.

gramme in Ahmedabad on Sunday to mark 50 years of SEWA as a trade union and paid homage to its founder and renowned social activist Ela Bhatt, who passed away in November

last year. During the event, she had said heat caused by climate change poses an additional challenge to women workers in informal sectors and the Global Climate Resilience Fund

will help tackle this challenge.

On Monday, Clinton said she started talking to Reema Ben Nanavati, SEWA's director, regarding the new struggle that heat is presenting, because every job that members of the women's trade union represent "will be affected by heat." Nanavati suggested that SEWA can be the nodal agency for such a first-of-its-kind experiment.

"We have brought together a group of concerned people to help with this challenge, and a number of these groups are represented here to help start the Global Climate

Resilience Fund in partnership with SEWA - the first fund like this in the world," Clinton said. She said working with SEWA will be the Clinton Global Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, Algorand Foundation, Council for Inclusive Capitalism, and the American India Foundation.

"These will be some of the partners with SEWA to begin to address this very significant challenge," she said. Clinton said anyone who has to go outside for work, like police officers, fire-fighters, people in every walk of life going in and out to work in heat "are going to need the kind of help and support that this project pioneered by SEWA will provide."

HC directs ASI to file report on status of functionality of instruments at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The Delhi High Court has directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to file a report regarding the status of the functionality of instruments at the Jantar Mantar here.

Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora was hearing a contempt petition against the authorities for alleged non-compliance of the court's September 2010 order in which the ASI had given an undertaking that the national monument shall be restored to its original glory to the best of their ability and astronomical instruments available there would be made functional.

The petitioner submitted that the central issue in the present proceedings is that the instruments at the

Jantar Mantar monument are not in a functional position and added that despite the passage of 12 years things remain unchanged.

Hearing the petition, the high court passed an order on January 20 in which it directed the ASI to file the status report within four weeks and specifically set out its stand regarding the existing status on the functionality of the instruments at the monument.

It also asked the petitioner to file a response to ASI's affidavit after it is submitted. It listed the matter for further hearing on April 24.

A division bench of the high court had in 2010 passed an order recording an undertaking given on behalf of the ASI that Jantar Mantar shall be made functional and will be restored to its original glory.

HAL was used to target his govt and instigate people: PM

Tumakuru (KTK), Feb 06 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday attacked the Congress for "using" the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited as a pretext to level allegations against our government. Conspiracies were hatched to instigate people. Today the HAL is advancing our motto of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'," he said.

The then Congress president Rahul Gandhi had during 2017-18 said there was a need to "defend the dignity of India's defenders" as he accused the Narendra Modi government of "snatching" the Rafale offset contract from HAL and "gifting" it to Anil Ambani's company. "HAL is India's strategic asset. The future of India's aerospace industry has

been destroyed by snatching #Rafale from HAL & gifting it to Anil Ambani," the Congress leader had said. Rahul Gandhi and his Congress party at the time were attacking the Modi government over the Rs 58,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal alleging corruption and favouritism.

Modi recalled that he had in 2016 laid the foundation stone of the factory which was inaugurated today, with a resolve that India has to minimise its defence imports and become self-reliant. "Now, hundreds of defence equipment are manufactured in India," he pointed out.

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New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The prime objective of the Namami Gange programme is to make the water of the Ganga suitable for outdoor bathing, not drinking, the Centre told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Surface water, including that of the rivers, is required to undergo "necessary treatment/purification" for making it potable or fit for human consumption, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu said in a written reply.

The Centre launched the Namami Gange programme in June 2014 for a period up to March 31,

2021, to rejuvenate the Ganga and its tributaries. The Centre subsequently extended the programme up to March 31, 2026.

"The main objective of the river rejuvenation programme is to meet the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and not drinking water quality," the minister said.

In a question, Janata Dal (United) member Ram Nath Thakur and the Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali Khan had sought to know from the Jal Shakti Ministry if the Ganga water was "still

not potable or bathable" after spending thousands of crores since the launch of the programme to clean the river.

In his written reply, the minister said the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been carrying out water quality assessment of the river at 97 locations in five main "stem states" through the respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) under the Namami Gange programme.

As per CPCB data for January to October, 2022, the minister said, the "observed water quality" of the river indicates that dissolved oxygen (DO), which is an indicator of

the river's health has been found to be "within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and is satisfactory to support the ecosystem of the river for almost the entire stretch of the river Ganga".

As a result of multi-sectoral interventions, as per comparison of median data of water quality parameters viz, DO, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and faecal coliforms (FC) of the year 2014 and 2022 (January to October); DO (median) has improved at 33 locations; BOD at 41 locations and FC at 28 locations, respectively," he said.

The minister said a total

Rs 13,709.72 crore was released to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) from the 2014-15 fiscal till 31 December, 2022.

Of this, Rs 13,245.68 crore have been disbursed by the NMCG to the state governments, state missions for clean Ganga and other agencies for implementation of the projects related to the river's rejuvenation, he said.

"Cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous process and National Mission for Clean Ganga is implementing various projects for conservation and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries," the minister added.

Congress takes out march in Lucknow against government on Adani issue

Lucknow, Feb 06 (PTD):

Congress workers here on Monday staged a protest march amid heavy police deployment demanding a detailed inquiry into the Hindenburg allegations against the Adani group, conducted, either by a Joint Parliamentary Committee or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The party also handed over a memorandum of its demands, addressed to the President of India, to the Commissioner of Police.

The Congress has been continuously raising its voice in the House demanding a detailed inquiry into the matter, but the central government led by the BJP is not ready for a discussion, the party said in a statement. Congress workers began its march from Begum Hazrat Mahal



Congress workers stage a protest demanding inquiry into Adani row after Hindenburg report, in Lucknow, Monday.

(Parivartan Chowk) under the leadership of provincial president and former minister Nakul Dubey to go to the State Bank Headquarters, UP Congress spokesperson Krishan Kant Pandey said in the statement.

As they proceeded with the march, police force deployed in large numbers

stopped them on their way, after which the protesters sat on a dharna near the Babu KD Singh Stadium.

Pandey called the matter "the biggest scam of the century." "It is obvious that somewhere the government is conniving with Adani, that is why it is scared of the investigation of this scam," he said.

Congress demands seizure of Gautam Adani's passport

Mumbai, Feb 06 (PTI): The Congress on Monday demanded the Centre seize the passport of Gautam Adani, who is battling allegations of stock manipulation, to prevent him from escaping the country as the opposition party held protests against Adani outside offices of LIC and SBI. A Mumbai Congress leader said businessmen Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi could escape the country because the BJP government didn't confiscate their passports in time. The Congress staged demonstrations outside the offices of the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Life Insurance Corporation as part of the party's nationwide protests over the Adani issue. "The Centre should confiscate the passport of Gautam Adani so that he would not be able to escape the country.

When scams by Harshad Mehta or Ketan Pareesh were unearthed, the then Union government led by Congress had confiscated their passports preventing Mehta and Parekh from flying out of India," Mumbai Congress chief Jagtap told reporters. He said industrialists Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, who are facing allegations of loan default and banking fraud, managed to run away from the country because their passports were not seized by the BJP government in time. Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after the US short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations last fortnight in its report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group, which has denied the charges

Over 30 lakh Indians went abroad during 2017-22 for higher education: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

More than 30 lakh Indians went abroad for higher education during 2017-2022, the Ministry of Education told Lok Sabha on Monday. The information was shared by Subhas Sarkar, the Union Education Minister of State, in a written response to a question by JD(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh and others.

"Ministry of Home Affairs' Bureau of Immigration, maintains departure and arrival data of Indians. But there is no index for capturing the category of Indians going abroad for higher education purpose.

Purpose of Indians going abroad for higher education is captured manually based either on their verbal disclosure or

the type of visa of the destination country produced by them at the time of immigration clearance," he said.

Sarkar said 7.50 lakh Indians disclosed their purpose of visit as study or education while going abroad in 2022. The number in preceding years was - 4.4 lakh (2021), 2.59 lakh (2020), 5.86 lakh (2019), 5.17 lakh (2018) and 4.54 lakh (2017). The minister was also asked if it is a fact that the money being spent by Indian

students abroad is more than the education budget of the country, and if the government has any proposal to establish "International University of high standard" to save the said funds.

Responding to this part of the question, Sarkar said, "as of now there is no proposal to set up

International University in the country."

"However, University Grants Commission (UGC) has drafted enabling Regulations to facilitate establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India.

"The draft University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions In India) Regulations, 2023 was placed in the

public domain seeking feedback, suggestions, comments etc from all stakeholders by January 18, 2023. However, in view of the requests received from stakeholders, the last date for receiving comments on the draft Regulations has been extended till February 20," he said.

HC permits woman to relocate with minor daughter to US with second husband

New Delhi, Feb 06 (PTD):

The Delhi High Court has granted permission to a woman to take her five-and-a-half-year-old daughter to the United States where she is relocating with her second husband, saying the child is stated to be extremely attached to her mother and it will be in her welfare to continue to stay with her mother.

While the woman filed an application seeking modification of the existing arrangement of visitation rights given to the man, the ex-husband moved a plea seeking custody of the child on the ground that her relocation

to the US with her mother would not be in her welfare and she should be allowed to live in her own country.

"Even though, I have no hesitation in agreeing with... (man's counsel) that the child must not be denied the right to regularly interact with the father, the question before this court now is as to whether this right of the child as also of the father can be protected only by compelling the child to stay back in India, when her mother relocates to USA. The answer, in my considered view, is a clear No," Justice Rekha Palli said.

"Today, the technology has advanced so much that regular interactions be-

tween two individuals living in different countries or even continents can be easily be maintained through video calls and video conferencing," the judge said.

The high court said in the last three years, when the world was grappling with the Covid pandemic, interactions through video calls have become the new norm which was also evinced from the fact that even when courts today are functioning fully physically, lawyers are being permitted to join through video conferencing. This is only because of the advancements in technology.

The court agreed with

the man's counsel that the father, even if he is a non-custodial parent, plays a very important role in the life of the child and no minor should be insulated from the parental touch and influence of any of his parents as both of them play an important role in the development of the child's personality.

However, it said that the man, who voluntarily permitted the woman to take care of the child ever since the age of two and was satisfied with two visitations every month with one of them being an overnight visitation, cannot now be permitted to urge that because the

mother wants to relocate to the US, she must leave the child behind in his custody.

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