



BRIEF



Devotees dressed as Lord Hanuman take part in a procession, in Amritsar, Monday.

Avalanche

Gopeshwar: An avalanche occurred on a hill slope near the Vishnuprayag hydro electric project in Uttarakhand Sunday evening, officials said. There was no damage to life and property, Chamoli District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said on Monday, adding that such avalanches are normal in the Himalayas. A mass of snow slid down the mountainside close to the 420 MW hydel project's barrage site following the avalanche. The barrage is close to the Badrinath National Highway and a few hundred metres down the Khiron river, which is considered one of the most dangerous tributaries of the Alaknanda river.

Supriyo hospitalised

Kolkata: West Bengal tourism minister Babul Supriyo was hospitalised on Monday afternoon after he complained of chest pain, a senior official said. The singer-turned-politician was made to undergo medical tests as soon as he was admitted to a hospital here, the official said. The angiography test has revealed that the minister has "minor coronary artery disease", he said.

Leopard rescued

Mangaluru: A one-year-old leopard, which fell into a well at Niddodin near here, was rescued and later released into the wild, Forest Department officials said. The officials initially tried luring the animal inside a cage on Sunday by lowering it down the well and were unsuccessful, a release said. A rescue team led by wild life specialist Dr Yashvini Naravi with Dr Meghana, Dr Prithvi and Dr Nafisa then decided to immobilise the leopard and bring it up from the well which was too deep and had a small cave inside where the animal was hiding.

Cop dragged

Palghar: A traffic police constable was dragged on the bonnet of a car for nearly 1.50 km as its driver suddenly drove the vehicle after being stopped for jumping signal in Vasai town of Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Monday. The car driver, a 19-year-old man who did not possess a valid driving licence, was arrested after the incident on Sunday evening and charged with attempt to murder among other offences, said senior inspector Sampatrao Patil of the Manickpur police station.

Weather
High 31 Low 11

MARKET
NIFTY 17,770.90
SENSEX 60,431.84

BULLION
GOLD 56,648
SILVER 66,357

Adani-Hindenburg row

Centre agrees to SC proposal of setting up of a panel of experts on regulatory mechanism

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Centre has no objection to a proposal for setting up a panel of domain experts to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms for the stock market, the Supreme Court was told on Monday while it was hearing pleas relating to the Adani stocks rout after the Hindenburg report. The central government, however, told a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that it wanted to give the names of the domain experts for the committee and the scope of its mandate in a sealed cover in larger interest. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre

and SEBI, said that the market regulator and other statutory bodies are equipped to deal with the present situation arising out of the Hindenburg report. "The government has no objection to forming a committee. But, the remit of the committee, we can suggest. We can provide names in a sealed cover," the lawyer said.

Mehta apprehended that any "unintentional" message on setting up of the panel may have some adverse impact on the flow of money. The top court has now listed two PILs, alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the Adani

Group's stock value, for hearing on Friday.

On February 10, the top court said the interests of Indian investors need to be protected against market volatility in the backdrop of the Adani stocks rout and asked the Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms.

It had also sought the views of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Centre as to how to ensure a robust mechanism is in place since the capital movement now is "seamless" in the country.

Jahangirpuri communal clash

Man involved in pelting stones arrested

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

A 24-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly pelting stones during last year's communal clashes in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, police said on Monday.

The accused, Salman alias Suleman, was part of the group that allegedly conspired and executed the riots on April 16, 2022, they said. With the fresh arrest, the police claimed to have nabbed more than 36 people involved in the incident, including juveniles. A cash reward of Rs 25,000 had been declared on Salman's arrest, police said, adding that he is a drug addict. "During interrogation, we found out

that the accused was involved in planning and conspiring the riots. He was actively involved in collecting and pelting stones," a senior police officer said. After the incident, he fled to West Bengal and then Mumbai. Salman frequently changed his hideouts before returning to Delhi again, he said. He was found previously involved in two cases, an attempt to murder and a theft. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Jintendra Kumar Meena said, "We got information about Salman, who was involved in the Jahangirpuri riots, would be coming to meet one of his contacts on February 11.

'1.12 lakh daily wage earners committed suicide in 2019-21'

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

A total of 1.12 lakh daily wage earners committed suicide in three years — 2019 to 2021, Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav said in Lok Sabha on Monday, quoting reports of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Yadav said 66,912 housewives, 53,661 self-employed persons, 43,420 salaried persons and 43,385 unemployed persons also committed suicide during the period. As many as 35,950 students and 31,839 persons engaged in the farming sector such as cultivators and agricultural labourers also committed suicide in three years — 2019,

Three die of asphyxiation at brick kiln

Balrampur, Feb 13 (PTI):

Three persons died due to asphyxiation after inhaling smoke at a brick kiln in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place late Sunday night at the brick kiln in Khujari village, an official said.

As per findings of the preliminary investigation, police suspect the three persons, including the brick kiln owner, slept atop the structure in an inebriated condition and died due to suffocation, he said.

The incident came to light on Monday morning when a labourer tried to wake them up. When they did not wake up, the labourer alerted villagers and local police, the official said.

HERITAGE WALK



A foreign delegate makes Jalebi during heritage walk on the first day of G20 meeting, in Indore, Monday.

Case against Setalvad

2 ex-IPS officers sent to Ahmedabad sessions court for trial

Ahmedabad, Feb 13 (PTI):

A metropolitan magistrate's court here on Monday committed to the sessions court for trial a case against social activist Teesta Setalvad and two former IPS officers wherein they are accused of fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people and defame Gujarat" in connection with the 2002 post-Godhra riots in the state. Additional metropolitan magistrate MV Chauhan committed the case to the sessions court in Ahmedabad for trial against Setalvad, former state Director General of Police RB Sreekumar and ex-Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt. The Ahmedabad city po-

lice's crime branch had registered an FIR (first information report) against them in June 2022, and a special investigation team (SIT) formed to probe the case had filed a chargesheet in the metropolitan magistrate's court on September 21 last year. While Mumbai-based activist Setalvad and Sreekumar, arrested in June 2022, are currently out on interim bail, Bhatt is serving a life sentence in a jail in Palanpur in Gujarat's Banaskantha district in a custodial death matter. According to existing legal norms, all cases relating to offences punishable with a life sentence or jail term exceeding seven years are to be committed to a sessions court for trial.

Govt to Lok Sabha

2020 and 2021, he said during the Question Hour.

The minister said that according to the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008, the government is mandated to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector, including daily wage workers, by formulating suitable welfare schemes on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, and any other benefit as may be determined by the central government.

The life and disability cover is provided through the Pradhan Mantri

Lakhimpur Kheri violence

Only accused, victims' representative, their lawyers to be present in trial court, says SC

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday said nobody except the accused, victims' representatives and their lawyers shall be present in the court conducting the trial in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence cases in which Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish is among those facing prosecution.

The apex court order came after the victims' lawyer claimed that a large number of supporters of Ashish Mishra were usually present during trial court proceedings creating an "intimidatory atmosphere", but the charge was denied by

the defence lawyer who claimed that there were more people from the victims' side and suggested in-camera proceedings.

The apex court said it was passing the order to ensure that trial proceedings in the sessions court in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh are conducted smoothly.

"With a view to ensure that trial proceedings are conducted smoothly and no impediment is caused by anyone, it is directed that the accused persons in both the FIRs and one representative of the victim or complainant are permitted to attend the court proceedings along with their respective counsel," a bench of jus-

ices Surya Kant and J K Maheshwari said.

The bench also perused a February 7 letter sent by the first additional district and sessions judge, Lakhimpur Kheri, and said, "We appreciate that the presiding officer has taken prompt and necessary action to ensure summoned witnesses remain present in court".

It posted the matter on March 14, the date already fixed.

During the hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the victim families in the case against Ashish, said summonses to witnesses were reaching a day after the date of proceedings.

Part 1 of Budget session concludes

Lok Sabha to meet again on March 13

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Lok Sabha was adjourned on Monday for a month-long recess and will meet again on March 13.

The first part of the Budget session saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi responding to a debate on the 'Motion of Thanks to the President's Address' and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabling the Union Budget.

The session began on January 31 with the address of President Droupadi Murmu to a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

During the first part of the session, Sitharaman also replied to the general discussion on the Union Budget.

Mesmerising mid-air maneuverings leave audience spellbound at Aero India

Bengaluru, Feb 13 (PTI):

Mesmerising aerial display left the audience spellbound at the inaugural session of the Aero India-2023 here on Monday. The metal birds soared high and performed breathtaking aerobatics and mid-air maneuvering as the five-day aerospace and defence show took off at the Air Force Station Yelahanka. There were displays by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited made Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Combat Helicopters, Light Utility Helicopters and Sukhoi-30, and Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters, among others. The inaugural show featured various formations such as 'Tiranga', 'Dhwaj',



Suryakiran aerobatics team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) performs during the inauguration of Aero India 2023, at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru, Monday.

and 'Bhim'. A key highlight of the inaugural session of Asia's biggest aerospace show was the Chief of the

Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari leading the Gurukul formation in the Tejas air-

craft. The Surya Kiran batch of the IAF stole the show with their scintillating performance.

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION



Couple celebrate Valentine's Day in the backdrop of Taj Mahal on its eve, in Agra, Monday.

Guv asks CM to explain principals' selection for visit abroad

Punjab row

Chandigarh, Feb 13 (PTI): Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Monday questioned a government appointment and the selection of school principals for a foreign trip, drawing a sharp response from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who said his government is only answerable to Punjabis and not a Centre-appointed governor. The row erupted after Purohit wrote a letter to Mann asking for details on the selection of government school principals sent to Singapore for a training seminar, saying he has received complaints of "malpractices and illegalities" in this regard. The governor also questioned the appointment of Gurinderjit Singh

Jawanda as the Punjab Information and Communication Technology Corporation chairman and pointed out that his name figured in a kidnapping and property grabbing case.

The Mann-led AAP government had sent 36 government school principals to a professional teacher training seminar in Singapore from February 6 to 10. "I have received complaints in respect to the selection of principals for sending them to Singapore for training. The complainants point out certain malpractices and illegalities in the selection of these principals. The allegation is that there is no transparency," Purohit said in his letter. "I, therefore, request you

to send me the criteria and details of entire selection process. Please also give detail if it was widely published throughout Punjab. As per news reports since the first batch has come back, please let me have details of total expenditure incurred on travelling and boarding lodging and expenses towards training," he said. Purohit asked Mann to reply to his letter within a fortnight, failing which he would seek legal advice for further action. Taking to Twitter soon after, Mann said he and his government are only answerable to the 3 crore Punjabis and not to any governor appointed by the Centre.

"Treat this as my reply," the chief minister said in a tweet in Punjabi.

Police follows e-footprints to nab notorious thief

Stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 crore recovered**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Feb 13: With the arrest of a notorious thief and recovery of stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 lakhs, police claimed to have solved a multi million rupees theft incident which occurred at Adarsh Nagar on February 05. After identifying the accused with the help of CCTV footage, the cops travelled almost 5000 kilometers in three days while following the e-footprints of the accused.

After stealing huge cash and a large quantity of jewellery, the accused was enjoying a vacation in Goa. Team of Durg Police managed to arrest him from a beach in Goa. The accused hails from Nagpur, Maharashtra and was presently living in a rented house in Durg.

Under the guise of a street vendor of caps and

goggles, the accused used to conduct recce and spot the locked houses to commit theft during the night. He is an accused in over 41 criminal cases of theft, extortion, robbery, attempt to robbery, etc registered in different police stations of Nagpur Maharashtra.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control and Command Centre in Sector 6, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that Padmanabhpur Chowki had received a complaint from one Pankaj Rathi, resident of Adarsh Nagar Durg. On February 05, Rathi family had locked their house and gone to Raipur to attend a marriage function.

They returned home around midnight on February 06 and found that the main door was broken. On entering the house, they found that the almirah was also broken and about 2000 grams of gold ornaments; 15 kg silver ornaments / biscuits and about Rs 10 lakh cash

was stolen.

Taking the case into serious consideration, IG (Durg Range) Dr Anand Chhabra instructed Durg Police to trace the accused and recover the stolen booty. Under the guidance of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava and supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, CSP Vaibhav Bhanu Ramanlal and DSP (Crime) Prabhakar Kumar, a joint team of ACCU, Padmanabhpur Chowki and Durg Civil Team was formed. Under the leadership of ACCU in-charge Inspector Santosh Mishra and Padmanabhpur SHO Inspector Rajeev Tiwari, the team interrogated the habitual criminals and criminals released from jail. The team examined the CCTV footage and



spotted the suspect moving on a scooter. With the help of CCTV footage of different locations, Cops discovered that the accused resides near Green Chowk. With the help of informers, police identified the suspect as Akshay Irani, who was presently residing in Titurdeh. Police collected information about his residence, local relations, friends and family mem-

bers and found that the actual name of the accused is Akshay Bhaisare and he is a native of Minimata Nagar Kalamna, Nagpur, Maharashtra. About 41 criminal cases of theft, robbery, attempt to robbery and extortion were registered in various police stations of Nagpur against him. The accused had married an Irani girl who resided in his neigh-

borhood and later they had come to Durg. Initially he resided in Kelabari, Bhatapara and later he shifted to Titurdeh in Durg. During day time, the accused worked as a vendor of caps and glasses. But actually, he conducted recce under the guise of a street vendor. After identifying his target, he committed thefts during the night. After getting detailed information about the accused, police traced and followed his e-footprints and located the accused in Mumbai and Goa.

Under the guidance of senior officers, an 11-member team led by CSP (Durg) Vaibhav Banker Ramanlal was sent to Mumbai and Goa. After

reaching Goa, the team made sustained efforts to locate the accused and finally he was caught at Anjuna Beach, Goa.

The team covered a distance of 5000 kms non-stop in 03 days and succeeded in arresting the accused. During interrogation, the accused confessed to have committed several thefts in the past one year including theft at Rathi House in Adarsh Nagar. On the basis of revelations made by the accused, police recovered the gold and silver from the place of the in-laws of the accused in Bhatapara. The accused had buried the gold and silver in the compound of the house. He had concealed the cash in a pillow and had escaped to Goa with some cash. Police have recovered stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 crore from his possession.

CSP (Durg) Vaibhav Banker Ramanlal; ACCU I/c Inspector Santosh Mishra; Inspector Rajeev Tiwari; ASI Purna Bahadur; ASI Shamit

Mishra; Head Constable Santosh Mishra; Constable Anup Sharma; Constable Jugnu Singh; Constable Upendra Yadav; Constable Pradeep Thakur; Constable Farooq Khan; Constable Dharendra Yadav; Head Constable Satyendra Madharia; Constable Jagjit Singh; Constable Tisheshwar Rathore; Constable Vikrant Kumar; Constable Narendra Sahare; Constable Rinku Soni; Constable Sanat Bharti; Constable Shobhit Sinha; Constable Komal Rajput; Constable Khurram Baksh; Constable Dikesh Sinha; Constable Santosh; Constable Chitrasen Sahu; Constable Keshav Sahu; Constable Javed Khan; Constable Prashant Patankar; Constable Nasir Baksh; Constable Kishor Soni; Constable Thomas Peter; Constable Kamlesh Yadav; Constable Bharthari Nishad and Constable Gaur Singh played a vital role in solving the case.

St Thomas College organises guest lecture on natural farming

BRM creates daily production records on consecutive days

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: The PG Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology of St Thomas College organised a guest lecture on "Farmlab - On Farm natural fertilizers development by Farmers" in association with MoU Partner Farmlabs, Pune. The objective of this webinar was to make students provide knowledge of organic farming and preparation of Biofertilizer.

Dr Santosh Chavan, Director, Farmlab Laboratory, Pune deliv-



ered a lecture on Bio-organic preparations. He told in the seminar that chemical fertilizers are toxic to environment and health. In his talk he gave a good knowledge about different methods for production of Natural fertilizers. He also discussed the journey of farmer field from last 5 years. He told his experiences regarding

preparation of biofertilizers from starting till date. In the seminar Dr Santosh thanked the government for providing financial assistance and support for Bio-organic preparations. The princi-

pal Dr MG Roymon congratulated all staff members and said that St Thomas College has been regularly organising this type of programme for beneficial to students. This event was supervised by Dr V Shanthi, Dr Ujjwala Supe, Dr Shubha Diwan, Ekta Saxena, Dr Anubhuti Jha and Sulagana Ghosh Barman, Faculties of Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology. The Programme was conducted by Dr Ujjwala Supe, Assistant professor, Department of Biotechnology, St Thomas College.

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bar and Rod Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has set a new daily record in rolling of any section by producing 3512 tonnes of 16 mm TMT bars on February 11, 2023. Earlier this record was made on January 26, 2023 by rolling 3481 tonnes in 16

mm TMT bars. Along with this, BRM has surpassed its previous record of rolling 3512 tonnes in 16 mm TMT bar established on February 11, 2023 on the consecutive day and again created a daily record in rolling of any section by producing 3692 tonnes in 16 mm TMT bar on February 12, 2023. Mukesh

Gupta, CGM (BRM) congratulated the entire BRM team for the record-breaking performance. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) of BSP have congratulated the entire BRM team and its supporting departments for the record-breaking performance.

MiC meeting deliberates on many important issues

Bol Bum Sewa Samiti to celebrate Mahashivratri in a grand manner

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Feb 13: An important meeting of the MiC of Bhilai Municipal Corporation was conducted under the chair of Mayor Neeraj Pal in the presence of Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi. Mayor in Council members Malti Thakur, Siju

Anthony, Saket Chandrakar, Keshav Choubey, Ekansh Banchore, Lakshmpati Raju, Aditya Singh, Meera Banjare, Sandeep Nirankari, Lalchand Verma, Mannan Ghaffar Khan, Neha Sahu, Rita Singh Gera and Chandrashekhar Gawai were present. The meeting discussed in detail the cleanliness contract, providing skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled laborers in

the water works department of the corporation, construction of a shed at a cost of Rs 10 lakh next to the Sector 5 BSNL office and laying of paver block in Street 15 of Sector 5. At the MiC meeting the Deputy Commissioner Narendra Banjare, Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Pooja Pillay, Amitabh Sharma and Khirodra Bhoi etc were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bol Bum Sewa and Kalyan Samiti is organising Mahashivratri celebrations in a grand manner for the fifteenth consecutive year. The marriage procession of Bhole Baba will be taken out in a magnificent manner and the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati will be performed.

While addressing media persons here at Supela on Monday, Bol Bum Samiti President Daya Singh informed that this mega religious event will be held on the occasion of Mahashivratri on February 18. He added that the grandeur of this event attracts the devotees from different districts of the state.

The organisers are continuously working to make the event a grand success. Several dignitaries have been invited in



the programme. This year also, the organisers have made special arrangements. The grandeur of the event can be gauged from the fact that till now more than 31000 invitation cards have been distributed.

Daya Singh informed that to make this procession successful, the office bearers, youth wing, women's wing and members of the Bol Bum Sewa and Kalyan Samiti are working for the last three months. They

have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh; Union Ministers, Governors, former Cabinet Ministers, eminent citizens and politicians.

Speaking about the attractions of the programme, Daya Singh informed that tableaux of Kerala have been included in the marriage procession of Lord Shiva. The artists will be dressed as Lord Shiva, Maa

Parvati, Ganesha, Lord Hanuman and other deities. Tableaux from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh will also be the centre of attraction. Tableaux from different districts of Chhattisgarh will also participate. Devotees will have glimpses of Ram Darbar, Shri Krishna Leela, Shiv Tandav, Shiv - Parvati Vivah, Radha Krishna and much more.

Raut Nacha, Akhada, Panthi, DJ, Dhumaal, Band Party, etc

will create a devotional atmosphere. For the first time, a laser show of Mumbai will be staged here.

The procession is scheduled to begin at 14:00 hrs from Indira Nagar (Hathkhaj) and prayers will be offered at Ram Janki Mandir. The procession will move across Transport Nagar, Canal Road, Kartikeya Chowk, Bol Bum Chowk, Nandi Triangle, Zone 1 Shiv mandir and conclude at Durga Puja Ground in Khursipar where the marriage will be conducted.

Office bearers and members of the organising committee including Women's wing president Manju Mishra, Pushpa Singh, Sunita Devi, Rajwinder Kaur, Tarini Sharma, Bilotin Jaiswal, Hemlata Bisai, Mukesh Sharma, Pradeep Soni, Nandu Gupta and others were present in the press conference.

All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 concludes on grand note

Bhilai Maitri College organises talk on 'Spirituality Relevance in Present Era'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 was organised on a grand scale by Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. The session on its final day began with a guest lecture on "Challenges for a Physician in the 21st Century" by Dr C Narasimhan (Head of Electro Physiology & SE Consultant Cardiology, AIG Hospital, Hyderabad). After this, a very interesting and informative medical quiz was organised by Quiz Master and former Director (Personnel) of Shipping Corporation of India, SPS Jaggi and Jacob Kurian, GM (LA & PR).



the winners of various competitions were announced. Dr M Ravindranath (CMO I/c (M & HS), Dr Pramod Binayake (CMO, (M & HS)), Dr Sudhir Rai (GM, Tata Steel), Dr Navin Kumar (GM VSP) Dr BK Hota (ED, RSP), Dr BB Karunamoy (CMO, Bokaro), Dr MY Suresh (CMO, Bhadravati) and Dr Minati Pal (ACMO, Durgapur) were present on the stage during the Prize distribution ceremony. The Winners of various categories in-

clude Dr PJ Roy, Dr Dipti Soy, Dr Sudeshna Dasgupta in MBBS paper and Dr Prachi Mene, Dr SK Tiwari, Dr Biswaroop Mukherjee in long paper. Similarly, Dr Akanksha Sharma, Dr Bhupendra Kumar Gupta, Dr Jitendra Pandey in TOM paper and Dr Rajesh Thakur, Dr Amit Kumar, Dr Subhasmita Patnaik were winners in short paper presentation. Dr Tapas Mandal, Dr B Shashidhar, Dr Pankaj Kumar in OHS paper and Dr

Siriki Dheeraj, Dr Abha Singh, Dr Saujanya N in MBBS poster were awarded. In PG Poster, Dr Col SS Chauhan, Dr Puspita Kumari, Dr A Shanti Priya captured the prize. Dr Pragya Jyoti Roy and Dr Neelkanth Sahu of RSP got the first prize in the quiz, Dr Shiva Martha and Dr Sumit Upadhyay of BSP got the second prize and Dr Abha Singh and Dr Siddhant Verma of Tata got the third prize. Best Male Speaker Award was

given to Dr Deb Sanjay Nag and Best Female Speaker Award to Dr Akanksha Sharma and Best Team Award was given to Tata Steel Plant.

At the end of the program, Dr Subodh Saha, Secretary, Organising Committee stated that the smooth execution of the Conference was possible due to the guidance of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) along with the Head of the organising committee and CMO in-charge, Dr M Ravindranath, Committee Chairman and CMO, Dr Pramod Binayake and all the Committee officials. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants and Incharges of all the steel plants. He also wished Tata Steel Plant the very best for organising the next "AISMOC".

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bhilai Maitri College, Risali, organised a talk on "Relevance of spirituality in the present age" which was delivered by Gaur Shyam Das, A Devotee, Akshay Patra foundation, Hare Krishna Movement. Present era is full of competition and aspirations and the students lack time for spirituality which is the essence of finding happiness in one's life.

The session was helpful to train the students to channelise their mind to

focus on the positive aspects and control the negative urges. The B Ed and D El Ed trainees found the session helpful and relevant in satisfying their curious minds. Principal Dr Surekha Vinod Patil and all the staff members of college attended and took full knowledge and advantage of the programme.



Work continuously for improvement in settlement error: CM



Complaints of illicit sale of liquor be treated seriously
CM reviews govt's schemes

Raipur, Feb 13: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reviewed the progress of government schemes by holding a meeting of officials at Abhanpur circuit house yesterday after

bent-mulaqat with the general public in Tamasivni and Khorpa villages under Abhanpur assembly constituency of Raipur district. He inquired about various schemes including Godhan Nyay Yojana, RIPA, Narva Yojana. Chief Minister said that instructions were given to the officers to connect rural women with livelihood-oriented activities and to bring progress in the works

of Narva. He took information about ground water level from the Public Health Engineering Department and gave instructions to continue the Narva programme. Prior to this, Chief Minister directed Revenue Department officials to correct the settlement error as well as to carry out caste certificate and other revenue work on a regular basis. While for the Suposhan Abhiyan he instructed for going to the

homes of malnourished children to provide nutritional information, getting pregnant women checked for Anemia, arranging treatment for Anemia, and providing free treatment and other facilities to an increasing number of people in the Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana.

He also reviewed the condition of roads and progress of Jal Jeevan Mission from the PHE department. He expressed serious displeasure on the complaint of sale of illicit liquor and being sold at higher rate. Similarly, he asked to take strict action on the complaint of illegal mining. On this occasion, Abhanpur MLA Dhanendra Sahu, Chief Minister's Secretary Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi, Raipur District Collector, Superintendent of Police and other senior officers were present.

'Koriya Kumar' devoted his entire life for devp of Ch'garh'

CM unveils statue of State's first Finance Minister 'Koriya Kumar' Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev



Koriya, Feb 13: Raipur, 13 February 2023/ Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled the statue of state's first Finance Minister, Late Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev, popularly known as 'Koriya Kumar', at Ghadi Chowk, Baikunthpur, the district headquarters of Koriya, on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Chief Minister paid tribute to late Dr Ramchandra Singhdev by garlanding his statue.

Remembering late Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that his entire life was dedicated to Chhattisgarh. Development and betterment of Chhattisgarh and Koriya, were always the core of his vision, and he worked sincerely to realize this vision. He was a multifaceted personality. Baghel said that Koriya Kumar Dr. Singhdev may have been born in a royal family, but he lived the life of a fakir. His life was very simple. He was frugal throughout his life. Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev

was easygoing, simple, sociable, and had cheerful personality. Chief Minister said that the way the tribals take from nature only as per their requirement and do not store it, in the same way Koriya Kumar lived his life with simplicity. Recalling his tenure as PHE Minister, Chief Minister said that back then, Dr. Singhdev had personally visited the area to study water recharging work there. His expertise was in water management and irrigation projects. Mr. Baghel told that Dr. Singhdev was part of the family. Chief Minister said that when he became an MLA and a minister in 1967, half of the portfolios were with him. He also rendered remarkable services as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. When Chhattisgarh was formed, he became the first

finance minister of the state. His thoughts and ideas are the foundation of the progressive economy of Chhattisgarh today. Today, Chhattisgarh is moving fast on the foundation of the economy of Chhattisgarh laid by him as the Finance Minister. Chief Minister told that Dr. Singhdev would often ask him to call him uncle instead of Kumar Saheb. The absence of such a simple-minded and sociable person is definitely an irreparable loss for all of us. Chief Minister Baghel also mentioned the contribution of Koriya Kumar's father late Ramanuja Pratap Singhdeo in the making of labour law and mid-day meal scheme, which is being implemented in the entire country today. He said that the love and affection of Koriya Kumar was always with him. Today, on this

occasion, I pay my respects to that great personality who devoted his entire life to the development of the state, said Baghel.

On this occasion, CM Baghel performed Bhumi Pujan of various development works costing about Rs. 10.99 crore for the district, which includes works worth Rs. 7.63 crore for Municipal Council Baikunthpur, works of Rs. 2.86 crore for Municipal Council Shivpur-Charcha and various other development works of Rs. 50 lakh including the community hall of Sarva Adivasi Samaj in Baikunthpur*

On this occasion, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, Minister in-charge of Home, Public Works and District Tamradhwaj Sahu, Health Minister T.S. Singhdev, School Education Minister Dr. Premjai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary and Baikunthpur MLA Ambika Singhdev, Vice President of Surguja Development Authority and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Gulab Kamro and Director, CGMSC and Manendragarh MLA Dr. Vinay Jaiswal including local public representatives, eminent citizens and elders. Common people were present in large numbers.

Teachers should be insightful and always keep striving for self-development: Prof Chakrawal

Online refresher program concludes in CU

Bilaspur, Feb 13: An online refresher program on 'Design and Development of Outcome Based Curriculum', was organized jointly by Department of Education and UGC Human Resource Development Center, Guru Ghasidas University's from Jan 30 to Feb 11 and the program concluded on Feb 11. Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal was the Chief Guest of the program which took place in online mode.

A total of 38 participants from nine states participated in this program and 33 subject experts from various higher educational institutions of the country presented their lectures in this program.

The concluding session of the program started with the welcome of the guests. First of all, the participants recounted their experiences gained in the program and described the program as well organized and well managed and congratulated the organizing committee for the selection of invited subject experts. The Coordinator of the Refresher Program, Professor C.S. Vazalwar introduced everyone to the tasks carried out by the participants and the ses-



sions that took place every day in the Refresher Program. Professor Ratnesha Singh, Director of the UGC Human Resource Development Center, lauded all the participants for having successfully completed the program.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal told all the participants about the qualities that go into the

making of a good teacher and said that a teacher is the ideal of the students, so before giving lessons to the students, teachers should bring that thing into their own conduct, otherwise it has no meaning. Prof. Chakrawal said, "It is crucial that everyone, teachers in particular, are insightful and always keep striving for self-development." He ex-

plained the importance of work in life and said that it is the duty of a teacher to take care of the future of his students, and with this aim, he should dedicate himself.

Dr. Sambit Kumar Padhi, Co-coordinator of the Refresher Program, delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Jyoti Verma, Co-coordinator of the program, teachers, participants, researchers of the Education Department and all the employees of UGC Human Resource Development Center, Guru Ghasidas University were present. The program was conducted by Ragendra Singh Thakur, Assistant Director of the UGC Human Resource Development Center.

On Modern Tools and Techniques

Raipur, Feb 13: Five day national workshop on Modern Tools and Techniques in Chemical and Biological Research at Centre for Basic Sciences (CBS), Pt RSU Raipur was inaugurated on February 13 at the hands of Vice Chancellor Professor Kesari Lal Verma. In his speech he congratulated all the participants for their selection in the workshop and encouraged them for learning more of scientific techniques. CBS Director Professor Kallol Kumar Ghosh in his welcome speech threw light on the aim of this workshop. The special guests Prof A K Gupta from School of Studies in Biology, Pt RSU and Prof. Manas Kanti Deb from School of Studies in Chemistry also expressed their views. In the workshop 45 partic-



ipants from different districts of Chhattisgarh are taking part. These participants will be taught about latest techniques and instruments used in the researches of Chemistry and Biology. The programme coordinators Dr Bhanushree Gupta and Dr Veenu Joshi said, 18 lectures (both offline and online) will be delivered in this workshop by the professors and scientists from renowned institutions.

These institutions are IIT Delhi, IIT Bhubaneswar, BARC Mumbai, AIIMS Raipur and Department of Biotechnology Delhi. Hands on Training of different softwares (Computational Chemistry SPSS, Chem Draw)

will also be given in the workshop.

In the first technical session Dr Mahabub Alam, Chemistry Department, IIT Bhubaneswar delivered a lecture on Computational Chemistry and its uses in Chemistry and Biology apart from hands on training through software. The second lecture was of Prof Aarti Parghania, School of Studies in Biology, Pt RSU along with hands on training on SPSS software. Later participants receive hands on training on rotary evaporator and fluorescence spectrophotometer. The workshop will conclude on February 17.

'Initiative on Wash' organised at KPS

By Rotary Club of Raipur Greater

Raipur, Feb 13: Rotary Club of Raipur Greater organised 'Initiative on Wash' (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) in school, UNICEF Chhattisgarh on Feb 13, 2023.



Wash is one of the important mandates of UNICEF for the benefit of children. UNICEF Chhattisgarh works with the school education department on improving access to adequate water with prescribed quality, inclusive and general friendly functional wash facilities and services and hygiene promotion and behaviour change communication, including handwashing with soap and menstrual hygiene management. Krishna Public School, Dunda was one of the 101 benefitted Schools from wash Campaign. There were 4000+ students who attended this campaign and learnt seven steps of Hand wash demonstrated by Rotary Club Hand

Wash Warriors. This Campaign was a huge success because of the presence of Dignitaries from Rotary Club Greater, Ramesh Agrawal, TRF Technical Coordinator WASH, Director WASH Rotary Action Group, Shashank Rastogi Dist Governor, Rtn. Manjeet Singh Arora, Rtn Vinay Agrawal, Rtn Rahul Jadhav Secretary, Rtn K. Panigrahi, Dist WASH Chairman, Rtn Hemant Agrawal Program Chairman, Rahul Dubey, Ekansh Jalan, Rajesh Chourasia. Subhash Sahu and Bharat Daga Rotary Raipur, Main also graced the occasion. The Executive Director Krishna Group of

Schools, Raipur Region Ashutosh and the Principal Priyanka Tripathi welcomed the Dignitaries and Rotary Club members. Director Ashutosh appreciated the initiative taken by the Rotary Club to teach the systematic and simple technic of handwash. He asserted that Hand Hygiene is considered an effective intervention against communicable diseases, including diarrhoea and respiratory infection. Proper hand washing has shown benefits in lowering the prevalence of many illnesses. He also appreciated the team KPS for their efforts to make this event successful.

State's procurement of Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi continues at a rapid pace

So far, apprx 27,000 quintals worth Rs 8.21 cr have been purchased

Procurement by all primary forest-produce cooperative groups in the state

Raipur, Feb 13: In line with the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to promote the crops of

Kodo, Kutki and Ragi in Chhattisgarh, these crops are being procured at support price. So far, the state has bought 26 thousand 808 quintals of Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi valued at Rs 8 crore 21 lakh under the leadership of Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar.

According to the State Minor Forest Produce Association, Kodo is being purchased at a rate of Rs.30 per kg, Kutki at a rate of Rs.31, and Ragi at a

rate of Rs.35.78 per kg. So far, 22 thousand 855 quintals of Kodo, 01 thousand 182 quintals of Kutki, and 02 thousand 772 quintals of Ragi have been purchased. Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi will be purchased at the support price until February 15, 2023.

It is noteworthy that Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi are being procured by all the Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Societies of the State Minor Forest Produce Federation in the

entire state. Principal Secretary Forest Manoj Kumar Pingua said that by expanding its scope in the interest of farmers, these crops are now being procured at the support price through all the primary forest produce cooperative societies of the State Minor Forest Produce Association in the entire state. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Sanjay Shukla told that by identifying such areas of

the state, which are located outside the jurisdiction of the Primary Minor Forest Produce Committee or District Union, these villages and areas have been bought under the jurisdiction of the nearest Primary Minor Forest Produce Committee and District Union. As a result, Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi can be purchased in such areas at the support price and the collectors of these crops will get the benefit of the support price.

SAI Excellency, Lucknow, Petroleum Board Delhi enters semi-finals

Sundargarh, Mumbai and Danapur out of the tournament

79th Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey Tournament

Rajnandgaon, Feb 13: In an interesting match in the first-half, SAI Excellency Hostel, Lucknow defeated SAI Centre Sundargarh in a tie-breaker scoring 5-4 and in the second match, Petroleum Board, Delhi defeated Western Railway, Mumbai in the second quarter final by 7-2 and secured berth in the semi-finals of the 79th Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey tournament here on Monday. In another match SAIL Academy, Rourkela defeated BRC Danapur by 4-1 and entered into quarter finals. On the 6th day of the the pre-quarter final Hockey Tournament, SAIL Academy, Rourkela defeated Bihar



Regiment Centre (BRC), Danapur by 4-1 and entered the quarter final. Both the teams could not score a single goal in the first and second quarter, but in the third quarter, SAIL scored a goal through penalty corner on 31st minute. In this Carbin Lakra scored the goal and took his team ahead by 1-0. In the second-half of the match, Niket of SAIL scored another goal in the 37th minutes and just after this in the 38th minute, BRC Danapur got a penalty corner and here Manoranjan Minj scored a goal

and made the score 2-1. After this in the 41st minute, Devnath of SAIL and Karan Lakra in the 59th minute scored two more goals and took their team ahead with lead of 4-1 and entered into quarter finals. In the other two quarter finals played in the tournament, the match SAI Excellency, Lucknow defeated SAI Centre, Sundargarh in a tie-breaker with 5-4 and entered into semi-finals. In this match, in the 8th minutes, Dharmendra Yadav of SAI Excellency scored

a goal through penalty corner and took a lead. After this in the 21st minute, Rohit Bishra of SAI Sundargarh scored a goal and made the score equal 1-1 each. This situation remained till the end of the match and therefore in the tie-breaker, from SAI Lucknow, Dharmendra Yadav, Deepak Patel, Jai Prakash Patel, Dhananjay Yadav and from SAI Sundargarh Luv Lite Kujur and Iman Jojo and Joseph scored the goal. In the second quarter final between Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi

Tomorrow's matches
1. Customs Pune V/s SAIL Academy, Rourkela at 1:30 pm
2. RCF Kapoorthala V/s NCR Allahabad at 3:30 pm

defeated Western Railway, Mumbai, by 7-2 and entered into semi-finals. From New Delhi's team- Manpreet Singh scored a goal in the 6th minute; Gurjinder in the 50th minute and Roshan Minj in the 51st minute and Arfan Yusuf in the 58th minute. From Mumbai's team, only Irshad Mirza could score a goal in the 7th minute and Shubham Singh in the 54th minute.

In the matches played on Monday, Rajesh Jain presented the man-of-match award in the first match of SAIL Academy Rourkela captain- Tarun Yadav and in the second match to Arjun Yadav of SAI Excellency and to Arfan Yusuf of Petroleum Board, New Delhi in the third match with cash prize of Rs 1500 each.

Amity University organizes Amity Football League



To conserve Chhattisgarh rivers

Raipur, Feb 13: Amity University is organizing Amity Football League from 13th February till 17th February 2023. The aim of this league is to conserve the rivers of Chhattisgarh and to motivate the youth in this mission. 6 teams are participating in this inter-school football league and the

names of the teams are based on the rivers of Chhattisgarh, Arpa, Pairi, Mahanadi, Shivnath, Indravati & Kharun river. The first match was inaugurated after the state song which beautifully explains the various rivers flowing through Chhattisgarh. During the inauguration, the Vice-Chancellor of Amity University, Dr. Piyush Kant Pandey spoke about

the importance of conserving water and rivers and emphasized the role of the youth in this effort. The event was attended by the Registrar, Director of PR, Dean of Student Welfare, heads of various schools, and a large number of students who were there to show their support for the players. Total there will be 10 matches amongst the schools and finals will be played on February 17.

BRIEF



Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi with beneficiaries of Kaithangu project, in Wayanad, Monday.

Blaze

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out at a factory near Moti Nagar police station in west Delhi, officials said on Monday. The blaze, which erupted late on Sunday night, has been brought under control and there are no reports of any injuries so far, Delhi Fire Services Director Atul Garg said. The fire services received a call about the blaze at 11.40 pm, following which 27 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, he said.

Earthquake

Gangtok: An earthquake of 4.3 magnitude struck Sikkim in the early hours of Monday, according to the National Center for Seismology. The earthquake took place around 4.15 am at a depth of 10 km, around 70 km north-west of Yuksom in West Sikkim district, it said. The tremors were felt in and around Yuksom town, officials said.

Mishap

Muzaffarnagar: Two people were killed and one person was injured, when an unknown speeding vehicle hit a car on the Dehradun-Delhi national highway, police said on Monday. The accident took place on Sunday when the car was returning from Mussoorie to Meerut, SHO Khatauli police station, Sanjeev Kumar said. One of the deceased has been identified as Dilshad (30), while the identity of the other deceased is yet to be ascertained, Kumar said.

Fire

Thane: Three persons travelling in a car had a narrow escape after their vehicle caught fire in Maharashtra's Thane district on Monday, civic officials said. The incident took place at around 3 am near Kharegaon toll plaza when the car was heading towards Nashik from Mumbai. Traffic movement on the road was affected for some time due to the incident, they said.

Murdered

Siliguri: A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband in the northern West Bengal city of Siliguri, police said on Monday. The woman, identified as Supriya Sinha, left her in-laws' home in Sitai in Cooch Behar district around two months back and started living on rent in Bhaktinagar in New Jalpaiguri police station area with her three kids, they said.

'I'm Ram Vilas Paswan's political heir'

● Chirag may inherit his wealth

Patna, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras asserted that he was the "political successor" of his elder brother Ram Vilas Paswan, whose son Chirag could lay claim "only" to the financial assets (samptati) of the late leader.

Paras made the avowal here on Sunday in reply to queries from journalists about his relationship with his nephew, against whom he had raised a banner of revolt two years ago and split the Lok Janshakti Party floated by his late brother.

"I will explain why I call myself the political successor of 'bade saheb'. He started off as an MLA from Alauli in Bihar in 1969 and gave up the seat in 1977 upon becoming the MP from Hajipur. He asked me to contest from the assembly seat and I followed his orders though I was in a government job," said Paras, who now represents Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Sabha seat.

The Union minister, who



Pashupati Kumar Paras

made his parliamentary debut in the Lok Sabha polls of 2019, when his brother announced his decision to opt for the Rajya Sabha, claimed that it was at "bade saheb's insistence" that I had to move to Delhi, despite not being very keen to do so.

"I was initially reluctant. I had even suggested that beta (son - Chirag) or bhabhi ji (sister in law - Chirag's mother) be considered as the Hajipur candidate. "I was having a great time in Bihar, serving as a minister in the Nitish Kumar government and heading the LJP state unit. But 'bade saheb' was insistent. The massive wave in support of the

NDA had still not picked up and he was of the view that only I could retain his seat for the party. I had made no secret of my unwillingness to enter the fray even during the campaign," said Paras.

He also noted that it was a "glorious coincidence" to have learnt about his induction in the Union cabinet from the home minister on the day of Paswan's birth anniversary.

"Inside Parliament, I am allotted the very seat that he used to occupy while he was a Union minister," said the minister for food processing. Paras categorically ruled out the possibility of a rapprochement with Chirag, asserting that had it been a crack merely in the party it could have been mended but "the chasm exists between our hearts". "As a son, he (Chirag) may inherit the wealth of his father. But it is he who is the political successor (rajneetik varis)," he maintained. He bristled when his attention was drawn towards speculations that the nephew, who has reaffirmed loyalty towards the BJP after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's exit from the

NDA, could be rewarded with a berth in the Union council of ministers. "Please be informed that there can be no expansion or reshuffle of the Union council of ministers. At least not till the polls to assemblies in a few states in the Northeast were held and the ongoing Parliament session was over," he said.

Paras, while talking to reporters, also said it was unbecoming of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to have uttered "ask my deputy" in response to queries about cabinet expansion. Responding to questions from journalists on speculations about a state cabinet expansion and the demand by Congress for two more berths, Kumar had said on Saturday, "You people ask this question to the deputy CM." Paras, in a jibe at Kumar, said, "It shows that he is no longer the powerful CM under whom we had worked. It is his deputy, Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, who calls the shots. Even the Congress, a junior alliance partner, has expressed disappointment with Nitish Kumar's stance."

'Christians contributed to nation building but didn't get respect'

Dimapur, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union Minister John Barla said the Christian community of the country has made lots of contributions to nation-building, but they did not get the respect they deserve.

Addressing a programme organised by the National Christian Council in Nagaland's Dimapur on Sunday, he said people of the community should unite to let the country know about their contribution prior to Independence and after that. People have studied in institutions built by the Christian community and have become IAS officers, doctors, engineers and even political lead-



John Barla

ers, he said. "Are we supposed to tell the people what we have given to the country? We do not blow our own trumpet, that's why we don't get respect," said Barla, the Minister of State (MoS) for Minority Affairs. "We have made lots of contributions to nation-building, but our

Churches get destroyed," he said. Christians are not a threat to the country but are at the forefront of nation-building, he added.

It is time for Christians across the country to get united, and make people aware of the contributions they made to the nation, the minister said. "Before Independence, we built schools, hospitals and ashrams, and till today, we are providing service to the people of the country. We did not get respect during the previous governments, but this government has given me the responsibility to go to the people and tell them to trust the present government as it is not against Christians," he said.

'If voted to power, will first implement old pension scheme'

Agartala, Feb 13 (PTI):

Senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat said the reintroduction of the old pension scheme will be the first decision the Left-Congress alliance will take if it is voted to power in Tripura.

Addressing an election rally at Khayerpur in West Tripura district on Sunday, he said the new pension scheme was not implemented in Tripura as long as the Left Front government was in power in the state.

"It was the BJP that introduced the new pension scheme in the state after coming to power in 2018," he said. The first decision the Left-Congress will take after coming to power is

PROTEST AGAINST TORTURE



People raise slogans during a protest against alleged torture and harassment of street vendors by MCD, outside Civic Centre in New Delhi, Monday.

Missing NRI traced to Mumbai suburb

● Reunited with kin after 12 days

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

A 69-year-old Non-Resident Indian, who went missing from Mumbai international airport, has been traced to a suburb and reunited with his

daughter after 12 days with the help of two alert citizens, police said on Monday.

The NRI, Dharmalingam Pillai, who has been suffering from memory loss and lives in South Africa, went missing on January 30 a few hours before he and his daughter were scheduled

to take a flight from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here to Durban, they said. Pillai, who is a retired clerk, and his daughter, working on a senior position in the field of logistics, had come to India to visit their roots on the occasion of his birthday.

SHOWCASING TALENT



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during 'Samadhan Yatra', in Sasaram, Monday.

J&K govt approves Rs 329-cr project

● To achieve self reliance in mutton sector

Jammu, Feb 13 (PTI):

In a bid to boost production and reduce import costs, the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a Rs 329 crore project for the next five years to achieve self reliance in mutton sector.

He said that the project is aimed at creating 6,000 jobs besides setting up of 122 enterprises in the mutton sector in the Union Territory.

"In view of huge mutton usage in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmiri cuisine and in order to reduce meat import, the government has approved an ambitious Rs 329 crore project for next five years to achieve self reliance in mutton sec-

tor", Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo said.

The initiative also envisages achieving self-reliance in the mutton sector through a combination of innovative interventions including vertical upgrades, horizontal expansion besides focused attention on health cover and nutrition, he said.

Despite the region's competitive advantage and potential to become self-reliant in the mutton sector, there is a shortfall of 41 per cent leading to an import bill of Rs 1400 crore every year, officials said. "Investing in growth and improvement of the mutton sector in J&K is not only about boosting production and reducing import costs, but it is also about providing quality and safe meat to con-

sumers, improving the livelihoods of traditional farmers besides creating new job opportunities in the region", Dulloo said.

One of the major interventions planned is import of mutton breeds, which will lead to establishment of 72 breed-based farms to provide high genetic merit to animals. The project aims to conduct 1,00,000 Artificial Inseminations annually and establish 400 new commercial farms every year. The project also focuses on clusterization, creation of mandis, abattoirs and common facility centers (CFCs), to support marketing and value addition of the sector, he said.

The existing mutton production is not only of insufficient quantity but also lacks quality and is not FSSAI compliant, putting consumers at risk.

The majority of the livestock population is held by Bakerwals who follow traditional methods of farming, resulting in low productivity and profits.

The UT has less than five breeds of sheep with the majority being dual purpose breeds such as Kashmir Merino, Rambouillet, and Corriedale. However, there is increasing demand for fast-growing mutton breeds like Dorper, Romnov, South Down and others, they said.

The expected output from the project include import of 2700 high genetic merit and elite sheep and goats, increased lambing percentage from 80 to 120 and considerable reduction in marketable age for sheep and goats (40-50 kg in 6 months), they officials said.

'Those who believe in trans-man's pregnancy live in fool's paradise'

Kozhikode (Kerala), Feb 13 (PTI):

Senior Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader M K Muneer has questioned the logic behind the reports that a trans-man has delivered a baby in Kerala, saying those who believe in such a claim "live in a fool's paradise."

As the transgender community in Kerala celebrated the birth of a baby for trans-couple Ziya Paval and Zahhad here last week, Muneer has said homosexual couples can never conceive and termed as "hollow" the claim that the per-



M K Muneer

son who had delivered a baby in Kerala recently was a trans-man.

Ziya Paval had recently announced partner Zahhad's pregnancy, claiming that this was the first

trans-man's pregnancy in India. The couple was blessed with a baby at a state-run hospital here on February 8.

"Those who believe in such wonders are living in a fool's paradise," Muneer said while addressing a programme organised by Wisdom Islamic Conference here on Sunday. The former state minister said the person who gave birth to a baby was actually a woman, although she had removed her breasts to look like a man.

"The presence of a womb in the person who gave

birth to the baby proves that it was actually a woman," the Kozhuvallur MLA said, adding that the pregnancy happens when a sperm fertilises an egg.

Muneer's statement came amid a move by the transgender couple to register their new gender identity in the birth certificate and other documents of the newborn.

Though Zahhad had delivered the child, the trans-man wanted his name to be registered as the father of the baby and Paval, his trans-woman partner as the mother.

Four joint replacements at once help woman walk again

● AIIMS-Bhubaneswar earns PM's praise

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13 (PTI):

Doctors at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar performed a critical surgery to replace four joints of a 37-year-old woman, helping her walk again without any support, officials said on Monday.

It is the second such quadruple joint replacement surgery to be performed anywhere in the world with the first being at AIIMS-Delhi, they said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the efforts. "Compliments to our doctors for always being at the forefront of innovation and embracing new changes in the medical

world. Their dexterity makes us proud!" PM Modi tweeted, quoting a tweet of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar that announced the successful surgery. The woman had severe arthritis on her hips and knees, and used to walk with the help of walking aids and that too with extreme difficulty, doctors said. There was no movement in the hip joints and she had very little movement in both knees, they said. She needed replacement surgeries of all four joints, they added.

It was decided that all four replacements will be performed in one setting, the doctors said.

The replacements of the hips were performed first, followed by the knees, and it took three hours to complete the procedure, they

said. Stating that four joint replacements in one setting incur numerous challenges, doctors said that because of her young age, no comorbidities and perfect team management, the surgery was successful. The patient was in ICU for two days and she started walking on the third day, happy with the outcomes, they said.

The cost of the implants and surgery were provided by the state government through the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, officials said. Earlier, a patient from Odisha underwent surgery at AIIMS-Delhi in which all four joint replacements were done in one setting. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Dr Ashutosh Biswas said.

10 US balloons flew in its airspace: China

Beijing, Feb 13 (AP):

China on Monday said more than 10 US high-altitude balloons have flown in its airspace during the past year without its permission, following Washington's accusation that Beijing operates a fleet of surveillance balloons around the world.

The Chinese allegation comes after the US shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon that had crossed from Alaska to South Carolina, sparking a new crisis in bilateral relations that have spiralled to their lowest level in decades.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin gave no details about the alleged US balloons, how they had been dealt with or whether they

had government or military links. "It is also common for US balloons to illegally enter the airspace of other countries," Wang said at a daily briefing. "Since last year, US high-altitude balloons have illegally flown over China's airspace more than 10 times without the approval of Chinese authorities." Wang said the US should "first reflect on itself and change course, rather than smear and instigate a confrontation".

China says the balloon shot down by the US was an unmanned airship made for meteorological research that had been blown off course. It has accused the US of overreacting by shooting it down and threatened to take unspecified action in response. Following the inci-

dent, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelled a visit to Beijing that many had hoped would put the brakes on the sharp decline in relations over Taiwan, trade, human rights and threatening Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea. Also on Monday, the Philippines accused a Chinese coast guard ship of targeting a Philippine coast guard vessel with a military-grade laser and temporarily blinding some of its crew in the South China Sea, calling it a "blatant" violation of Manila's sovereign rights.

Wang said a Philippine coast guard vessel had trespassed into Chinese waters without permission on February 6 and that Chinese coast guard vessels responded "profes-

sionally and with restraint".

China claims virtually all of the strategic waterway and has been steadily building up its maritime forces and island outposts.

"China and the Philippines are maintaining communication through diplomatic channels in this regard," Wang said. China's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to a question about the incident.

Adding to tensions, a US fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" over Lake Huron on Sunday on orders from President Joe Biden. It was the fourth such downing in eight days in an extraordinary chain of events over US airspace that Pentagon officials believe has no peacetime precedent.

MASS DESTRUCTION



A young man walks through the rubble of a destroyed building hit by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, Monday.

India, Nepal agree to boost economic and development ties

Kathmandu, Feb 13 (PTI):

India and Nepal agreed on Monday to further bolster their economic and development cooperation as Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra met his Nepalese counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive bilateral relations.

Foreign Secretary Kwatra arrived here on a two-day official visit to hold talks with the country's top political leadership on the entire range of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vinay Kwatra met his counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal and reviewed the wide-ranging India-Nepal partnership," the Indian embassy here tweeted.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen their economic and development cooperation for benefit of the two countries and region as a whole," it said.

Later, Kwatra called on



Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra with Nepal's Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal during a meeting, in Nepal, Monday.

Nepal Minister of Nepal Bimala Rai Paudyal and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive India-Nepal relations.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vinay Kwatra called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Nepal @bimalarp today and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive India-Nepal relations," the mis-

ter tweeted.

During his visit, Kwatra, who was earlier India's ambassador here, will pay courtesy calls to Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Foreign Minister Paudyal.

It is expected that Kwatra will also discuss with his Nepalese interlocutors the possibility of a visit to India by Nepal's

Prime Minister Prachanda. Prachanda has said that he will travel to India on his first foreign visit.

Nepal and India will discuss various matters of bilateral cooperation such as connectivity, power trade, agriculture, health and culture among others during the foreign secretary's visit, according to a statement issued by Nepal's foreign ministry here on Sunday.

"The visit is in continuation of the regular exchange of visits between the two friendly neighbours," it said. Earlier, Kwatra was received at Tribhuvan International Airport by his Nepalese counterpart Paudyal upon arrival.

He had a one-to-one meeting with Paudyal before the delegation level meeting started.

Seven members each from Nepal and India took part in the Foreign Secretary level bilateral meeting. Indian Ambassador to Nepal

Naveen Srivastava was among the members of the Indian delegation while Joint Secretary and spokesperson at the Foreign Ministry Sewa Lamsal was among the members of the Nepalese delegation.

This is the first high-level visit from India after Prime Minister Prachanda assumed office for the third time in December.

Kwatra is also expected to meet Nepal's top political leaders, including Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba and CPN-UML chairman KP Sharma Oli.

"The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy," the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

India's Neighbourhood First' policy is an integral component of Indian foreign policy.

Ants show the way to beating traffic jams

Sydney, Feb 13:

Being stuck in traffic is stressful, wastes time and resources and ends up costing the world's economies trillions of dollars a year. Jams happen daily and authorities have spent decades trying to fix the problem with little success. Yet a solution may be literally under our feet.

Ants. There are an estimated 20 quadrillion ants on Earth. That's more than the number of stars in the Milky Way (and possibly more than the number of stars in the entire observable universe).

These ants - which can live in colonies that contain billions of individuals and can span thousands of kilometres - are nearly always moving yet somehow they never get stuck. Like humans, ants have sophisticated transportation systems to ensure the efficient movement of individuals, resources and information.

The talks, that will last from Monday to Thursday, would be the second round of the Pakistan-US Mid-Level Defence Dialogue after the first round was held in Pakistan in January 2021, it said in a statement on Sunday.

The Pakistani team, headed by the Chief of General Staff (CGS) Lt Gen Mohammed Saeed, reached the US capital on Sunday afternoon. The delegation includes two major generals, two brigadiers and a civilian representative. Additional Secretary for Americas Muhammad

Mudassir Tipu from the foreign ministry. They will interact with their counterparts at the US Defence Department, which is also known as the Pentagon. The CGS heads the second most influential office in the Pakistan Army after the Chief of Army Staff. He is

BLASPHEMY KILLING Police in Pakistan arrest 75

Lahore, Feb 13 (PTI):

Over 75 suspects, including members of the radical Tehreek Laibbaik Pakistan (TLP) outfit, have been arrested for their alleged role in the lynching of a blasphemy-accused man in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Monday.

A violent mob on Saturday stormed the police station at Warburton in Nankana Sahib, some 80kms from Lahore, took custody of Waris Ali Issa, who was arrested for allegedly desecrating the holy book, stripped him naked, and dragged him into the streets before beating him to death.

An FIR has been registered against over 800 sus-

pects for killing Waris, attacking police personnel, and ransacking the police station under terrorism and different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"So far we have arrested over 75 suspects as identification of more suspects is in the process through various mobile video and CCTV clips," Nankana Sahib District Police Officer (DPO) Asim Iftikhar said on Monday.

He said activists of a religious outfit were also involved in the brutal killing of Waris.

"The religious extremists incited the people through announcements from mosques to storm the police station and take custody of the blasphemy accused," Iftikhar said,

adding that the police had "hidden" Waris in the bathroom of the police station in order to save him from the wrath of the people but to no avail.

Another senior officer told PTI that TLP activists were involved in inciting people and leading the mob. "At least 10 members of the TLP are included in those arrested in the lynching. Raids are underway to arrest the remaining TLP activists and others involved in the gruesome crime," the officer said, adding that some neighbours of Waris accused him of witchcraft.

They alleged that Waris pasted the pictures of his ex-wife and a knife on the holy pages for witchcraft, the officer said.

'Pak, US to hold defence talks to boost security ties'

Islamabad, Feb 13 (PTI):

Pakistan and the US are set to hold defence talks in Washington on Monday to enhance coordination on strategic issues and explore various options for ramping up bilateral military and security ties, the foreign office here has announced.

The talks, that will last from Monday to Thursday, would be the second round of the Pakistan-US Mid-Level Defence Dialogue after the first round was held in Pakistan in January 2021, it said in a statement on Sunday.

The Pakistani team, headed by the Chief of General Staff (CGS) Lt Gen Mohammed Saeed, reached the US capital on Sunday afternoon. The delegation includes two major generals, two brigadiers and a civilian representative. Additional Secretary for Americas Muhammad

Mudassir Tipu from the foreign ministry. They will interact with their counterparts at the US Defence Department, which is also known as the Pentagon. The CGS heads the second most influential office in the Pakistan Army after the Chief of Army Staff. He is

the administrative head of both intelligence and operational forces. "Pakistan's inter-agency delegation, led by the chief of general staff, will comprise senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joint Staff Headquarters and three services headquarters.

After quake, war-hit Syrians struggle to get aid, rebuild

Atareh (Syria), Feb 13 (AP):

After years of war, residents of areas in north-west Syria struck by a massive earthquake are grappling with their new and worsening reality.

Almost one week after the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck northern Syria and neighbouring Turkiye, the United Nations has

acknowledged an international failure to help Syrian quake victims.

In Atareh, a town that Syrian rebels still hold after years of fighting government troops, survivors dug through the debris of their homes Sunday, picking up the remnants of their shattered lives and looking for ways to heal after the latest in a series of hu-

manitarian disasters to hit the war-battered area.

Excavators lifted rubble and residents with shovels and picks destroyed columns to even out a demolished building.

Dozens of newly displaced families gathered for hot meals from local volunteers and the local opposition-run government.

Dubai boom sees Russian cash, high rents and reborn projects

Dubai, Feb 13 (AP):

Fourteen years after a financial crisis nearly brought Dubai to its knees, several major abandoned real estate projects are finally showing signs of life as part of a new economic boom in the city-state.

As with previous upturns in Dubai, war is a driving force. But this time it's Russian investors fleeing Moscow's war on Ukraine, rather than people escaping Mideast battlefields.

"There's lots of parts of the world where there are real challenges and people looking for a safe haven," said Richard Waind, group managing director for Betterhomes, a real estate brokerage in the emirate. "I think that's a safe haven both for the capital but also for their families."

While there's no sign the market could be in similar trouble as in 2009, some concerns have started to surface. Skyrocketing rental costs are worsening a cost-of-living squeeze for

the foreign workforce that powers the emirate.

Meanwhile, the US Treasury is worried about the amount of Russian money flowing into the real estate market of the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates.

"In theory, there should be significant reputational risk with the UAE apparently acting as a willing bridge, enabling Russian oligarchs to use the Emirates as a waystation between the Russian financial system and that of the West," said Jodi Vittori, a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who has written extensively on Dubai being a money-laundering haven.

"But the reality seems to point otherwise," she said. Dubai's government and the UAE's Foreign Ministry did not respond to detailed questions from The Associated Press.

It's hard to overstate just how much the Emirates has changed over the last

half century. Since 1968, the seven sheikhdoms that make up the UAE have grown from a British protectorate of some 180,000 people to a federation that's home to more than 9.2 million. Government statisticians say 3.5 million people live in Dubai alone, with an ad-

ditional 1.1 million who temporarily live in the city or commute there for work each day.

Oil, much of it from Abu Dhabi's vast reserves, fuelled the UAE's initial modernisation. After Dubai began allowing foreign ownership of "freehold" properties in 2002,

the world's tallest building, cavernous malls and sprawling subdivisions emerged from what once were uninterrupted stretches of windblown sand dunes.

Real estate now represents some 10 per cent of Dubai's overall gross domestic product.

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07-01/EITC/Tr-359/2106 Raipur, Dated - 13-Feb-2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Sealed offers are invited from experienced bidder for -

S No	Tender No.	Particulars	Tender Document Fee	EMD	Due Date & time of bid submission	Due Date & time of bid opening
1.	Tr- 359 & RfX No. 8100029779	Development of applications for GIS survey through Mobile App and Web portal along with SAP integration	Rs.2000/- + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2360/-	Rs. 49,900/-	01-Mar-23 14:00 pm.	01-Mar-23 15:30 pm.

2. For further details & downloading the Tender document, please visit at our web site www.cspdc.co.in tender / tender notices / central offices and e-bidding portal. 3. Any corrigendum or extension of due date of tender opening shall not be published in newspaper. It will be displayed only on the website and e-bidding portal.

SAVE ELECTRICITY S-35652/1 Executive Director (EITC)

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BILASPUR (C.G.) E-Procurement Tender Notice

Nit No.06/NN/Electrical Dep./2022-23 Bilaspur, Date 13/02/2023

Online percentage rate tenders in Form 'A' Application are invited from those contractors registered in C & above class in new registration system 'Unified Registration System' (e-Registration) with Chhattisgarh P.W.D. State Governments and their undertaking/firms of repute having 'A' class Electrical License issued by Chhattisgarh Govt. registered on UADD website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> on behalf of the Bilaspur Municipal Corporation for following works in S.O.R. issued by Engineer in Chief PWD Electrical work SOR 01/06/2020.

System Tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract (in Lakhs)	Online Tender Submission Due Date
124380	Supply and Installation of LED Street Light Pole and fitting from Mahamaya Chowk to Turkadhil Pool.	190.31	07/03/2023

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 14/02/2023 at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

Superintending Engineer Municipal Corporation Bilaspur (C.G.)
Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)
1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No. 1, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) - 492006
CIN : U45203CT1981SG001853, PAN: AABCM6288N, GST Regn No22AABCM6288N5ZY
Phone : 0771-6621000 Fax : 0771-2583794
Website : www.csidc.in, Email address : csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (3rd Call) (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

NIT No. 40/CSIDC/E.E.1/Division-1/2022-23/ 124392 Raipur, dated 10/02/2023

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking constituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the State invites online tender for the following works :-

S. No.	Name of work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dept.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs)	Last Date for Online Submission of Tender
1	Infrastructure development Work Including, Road, Drain, Culvert, the work under Water Supply, Street light & Building works for Proposed New Food park Area at Gram-Hathkera-Bidbida, District-Mungeli (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	769.92	20.02.2023

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions, scope of works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 10/02/2023 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper

NOTE: 1) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact CG e-Proc Helpdesk. Operated by Mjunction Services Limited, they may reach Helpdesk using 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer Division-I S-35643/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Empowering the Family

'Women as Foundation of a Value-based Society' is very relevant. Women have played a very important role in shaping the values and ethics in Indian society.

Whenever women have got equal opportunities, they have performed at par with men and sometimes better than them in every field. Women's participation is increasing in many fields. However, many of them are not able to reach the top position. It has been observed that in the middle level management of the private sector, there has been a decrease in women participation above a certain level. The main reason behind this is family responsibilities. Generally working women have to shoulder the responsibility of home too along with the office. We need to change the mindset that bringing up children and managing home are the responsibility of women only. Women should get more support from the family so that she can reach the highest position in her career without any hindrance. The families would be empowered only by the empowerment of women and empowered families would make an empowered society and empowered nation. The competition is increasing these days. People are running after money, power, fame and prestige. There is no harm in being financially strong, but living only for money is not proper. Economic progress and material prosperity can give us materialistic happiness, but not eternal peace. The nature of a mother is always inclusive. She never discriminates between her children. That is why nature is also called "Mother Nature". We all know that mother is the first teacher in the family. She not only introduces the child to the family-members and environment, but also inculcates the prevailing values in the child. Therefore, mothers need to educate their children with right values. Instead of making children career conscious since childhood, they should inspire children to become a good human being. A mother can teach children not to let money become their only priority. With the efforts of a mother, a family can become an ideal family. If every family becomes an ideal family then the nature of the society would automatically change. Our society could become a value-based society. Once the women were considered only for child care and household works. Their domestic works have always been undervalued and under-reported. Now the time has changed and they are being considered part of mainstream workforce. They are playing pivotal role in every sector, whether it be business, politics, social functions, journalism, government jobs etc. Their contribution is the reflection of gender equality. Governments have also launched several schemes for women emancipation and to make them self-reliant. "Vocal for local" campaign will be possible only when women will heartily participate. Similarly, women have to provide systematic skill training, opportunity and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Conscience must reside above interests

Kajal Chatterjee

No kudos is enough for Tamil poet Sukirtharani for politely, but firmly, declining to accept Devi awards just because the main sponsor of the event was a particular industrial group - - - much notorious not only in financial terms, but also for pursuing "development" at the expense of the poor - - - displaced from land and livelihood. Through her sheer action values and principles, Sukirtharani has transmitted the message that everything can be sacrificed for the sake of morality, but morality cannot be sacrificed for the sake of anything. One and half decade ago, the name of a particular Kolkata-based industrialist was negatively associated with the death (murder/suicide) of a young man who performed the great "sin" of marrying outside his religion! And right from that day, I have stopped using all products associated with the brand name of that particular industrialist. Obviously my individual boycott of his product hasn't stopped him from increasing his clout through sponsoring many glamorous sporting or cultural events; but at least at the end of the day, I can remain accountable to my conscience for remaining dissociated with any product/event produced/sponsored by his company. Sukirtharani has helped me in awarding my resolve an additional boost so as to never compromise with any wrong and injustice. Had all persons of the society been as upright and conscientious as Sukirtharani; the immoral brigade would have been compelled to shut up their shops permanently. Thanks Sukirtharani for your unique protest through such a non-violent way.

And a word or two for the so-called "neutral" brigade. A bully is brutally beating up a weaker innocent person to pulp to serve his own interest. And sitting upon the fence, I am shouting "I am on the side of peace; put an immediate end to violence". "Peace" would not descend from the sky just through sheer deluge of "moral sermons"; rather sanity might prevail only when I would take on the bully through words or action protesting his inhuman behaviour. If we can't hold guts enough to call spade the spade and name/shame the bullies/aggressor/muscle-flexer for "strategic interests"; it is better to maintain silence instead of playing the role of "messenger of peace and non-violence". Any call of "This era is not of war", without naming shaming castigating the aggressor, is akin to putting the bully and the victim on the same pedestal and if this is not an indirect clean-chit to the offender along with laying equal blame on the defending force also - - - then what's it. Yes, neither is the Russia-Ukraine matter a "WAR" nor has the violence started by Ukraine. Yes, far from being a "WAR", it is nothing but a barbaric aggression by a totalitarian regime upon a weaker democratic country. So advising Ukraine to have a talk with Russia imparts a message that both nations are on equally wrong footing and baying blood of each other when the fact remains that Ukraine is merely defending its territory from the Russian invasion. These types of "sane" proposals are as bizarre as that of the "liberals" after the barbaric demolition of Babri Masjid - - - "Hindus and Muslims should arrive at a negotiation"! What a negotiation. A full-fledged mosque has been brutally razed to the ground in front of all and yet Muslims have to arrive at a negotiation when the only call should have been - - - "Immediately rebuild the mosque and punish the demolition brigade"! In the same vein, the only call of civilization remains - - - "Russia stop your unhumanitarian antics, immediately". No way can the responsibility of ending the "WAR" be thrust upon the invaded Ukraine. To eradicate the dreaded policy of apartheid, the world did not wage a war with arms against South Africa. Instead, the international community merely boycotted the country from every affair. Along with the struggle of Nelson Mandela, the tactics of boycott also played a great role in putting an end to the apartheid regime. Similarly, all sorts of inhumanity around the globe and the society can be put to an end with the devils being taught a lesson if we refuse to get lured by "strategic interests" and instead learn to boycott them. No wonder why Italian poet Dante Alighieri had rightly remarked "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis".

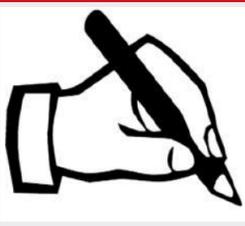
FOR A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE



People donate blankets, clothes and other items for victims of earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria, in Srinagar, Monday.

Child Marriage: The devastating end of childhood

DIPAK KURMI



The recent concern against the crackdown on paedophiles who married minor girls as young as 10-11 years in Assam is nothing new, but a continued concern for boys and men, at the cost of girls. This gender bias is classical patriarchy. There can be no argument that the steps taken by the Assam Police and the concern shown by Assam Chief Minister to put an end to child marriage are praiseworthy. Be assured, millions of girls, fearing being married at an early age by their parents, must be blessing the police and hoping for a better future for themselves. The gherao of police stations against the drive is another posturing, attempt to keep the status quo, where men are allowed to continue with their exploitative power relations, by marrying underage girls, deprived of education and independence. When the Government of India, sloganeered, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" in 2014 visible in all possible places movable and immovable, it was not only a novice in terms of scale but also reflected State priority in a manner. Specific to "Child Marriage", even previous governments have shown concern and the issue has been part of public awareness campaigns for ages. The Doordarshan ad, "Matki Kyo Tuti" comparing a small girl child to an un-baked vessel, vulnerable and unable to take the burden of task expected, remains in the minds of many of us. The law on Child Marriage has been in existence since 1929, amended in 1978 and again in 2006, as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (hereinafter PCMA, 2006). The 2006 Law is ineffective and complicates the issue on many counts. First, while it prohibits child marriage, it keeps the status of marriage solemnized as valid; second, it provides for annulment of marriages and in certain circumstances declares as void-ab-into; Third, it defines the groom and bride as a child till age 21

and 18 years respectively; Fourth, groom if a major (above 18 years), but a child (as defined till 21 years) can still be prosecuted for marrying a minor girl; fifth, while there is a mention of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO) and their role, it remains to be executed in most non-serious manner, and sixth, the most critical, is that the PCMA, 2006 is silent on a sexual relationship and age of consent. So while the law was in place, the above-mentioned loopholes, allowed the key players, especially parents and religious custodians, to happily ignore it as if nothing changed.

Child marriages continued with an unabated 23.3% in 2020-21, according to the latest National Family Health Survey-5 data. The crime against children shamelessly gets projected and discussed as a socio-cultural-religious issue, demanding soft handling with kids' gloves. For every outcry by a girl child as a victim; there are always counter stories of grandmothers who were 11-12-13 years when married, had dozens of children and lived a happy life. The girl child's concerns, her rights violation, health and well-being and other aspirations have never been of priority in our patriarchal society. The syndicate behind child marriages who were dismissive of PCMA, 2006 as a non-interfering piece of legislation, only got troubled in 2017. The enactment of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (hereinafter POCSO, 2012) filled the vacuum as to the sexual relationship and age of consent; issues on which the PCMA, 2006 has been silent. POCSO, 2012 technically covered everyone intending or having a sexual relationship with a minor child (read girl), including husbands.

However, there was still a breather for the ogling paedophiles, in the form of exception 2 in Section 375, Indian Penal Code, 1860; which allowed unregulated sex with wives above age 15 as a patriarchal chatterloot. In simple words, the IPC exception, protected individuals who intended of marrying and sexually exploiting minor girls and allowed rape (read sex) by husbands if the bride is above 15 years. This protective cover was removed, in 2017, by the Supreme Court of India, in its landmark judgment dated 11 October 2017 in the matter, Independent Thought vs Union of India; wherein it declared sex with a minor wife as rape. Interestingly in 2015, the amended Juvenile Justice

(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter JJ Act, 2015) included children victims or risk of child marriage as a category for extending support of the Child Protection System, providing a well-structured mechanism under erstwhile ICPS (now rechristened as Mission Vatsalya) as an alternative to the defunct CMPO. Thus, the conjoint reading of PCMA, 2006; POCSO, 2012; JJ Act, 2015 and Independent Thought Judgment has triggered possibilities for countering child marriage with more stringent actions, than mere lip service. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (hereinafter NCPCR) and its State Arms have monitoring roles under both POCSO, 2012 and JJ Act, 2015, to close the implementation loop. So it took a few years for the system to realize the existence of both Substantive Legal position post-2017 judgment and Procedural backing under JJ Act 2015; after which police started registering cases of Child Marriage under POCSO, 2012 and girls were produced before the Child Welfare Committees under the JJ Act, 2015 with support facilities of Child Care Institution (CCI). The sporadic filing of police cases was countered by conflicting Judgments by different High Courts. A judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Javed vs. the State of Haryana and Others held that a Muslim girl aged 15 years can enter into a legal and valid marriage as per personal law. This has been challenged in the Supreme Court of India, in the matter NCPCR vs. Gulam Deen, where the NCPCR, expressed concerns about the use of personal law as a defence for crimes under POCSO, 2012. The Supreme Court Bench on 13 January 2023 recorded in the order "Pending further orders, the impugned judgment (of Punjab and Haryana High Court), should not be relied upon as precedent (in any other case). The Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment differs from the 2017 Independent Thought Judgment of the Supreme Court where it was declared that child-friendly progressive legislations such as POCSO, 2012 and PCMA, 2006 were both "secular and special", having an overriding effect on other legislations. The patriarchy fought back with another set of salvos, with concerns to protect boys and men who are languishing in Observation homes and Jails; with bizarre arguments to portray the welfare of girls. In recent times the

questions as to the status of 'romantic relationships' within POCSO, 2012; have been under much discussion. Forgetting completely how power dynamics, socialization and a culture of silence works.

How most such romances are preceded by a series of illegal acts of stalking (online/offline), voyeurism, harassment, coercion, threats and allurements trapping the victim to agree. Post-2017 there are growing concerns for the rights of girls 'to choose' and 'agency of the child' etc as frontal arguments; with the intent to reverse the situation and provide cover fire to protect men intending to exploit minor girls. There are calls to decrease the age of consent, allowing unrestricted minor marriages. Surprisingly the grave concerns of girls as to their health, education, aspirations etc are missing from the discussion points. What takes supremacy are her right to have sex, right to choose her partner and right to move away (elope) from lawful guardianship with her wish. Sadly none of such arguments has answers as to what after that. There is a pending Prohibition of Child Marriage Amendment Bill, 2021 already tabled and under consideration before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports (EWCY&S) which intends to raise the age of marriage for girls at par with the boys to 21 years. The law proposed takes forward the Constitutional Mandate of gender equality based on the recommendations by the Task Force, Niti Ayog (task force to examine matters about the age of motherhood). There can be no doubt that the position of girls in society has changed and it must continue to do so. Post the implementation of the Right to Education in 2009, the number of calls received against child marriage by Child Helpline 1098 has increased drastically. The efforts by the government to legally recognize, child marriage as a rights violation, and take appropriate punitive action, will have a positive long-term impact. Girls, betrayed by family and society, have to be saved from forced early marriages and a strong message of it being a criminal act and not merely a social issue, from the State, was much needed. The government without delay must amend Article 21A of the Constitution to extend the right to education for girls till class 12 in the true spirit of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earthquake is due to Climate change

Earthquakes are one of the many dangerous and destructive natural disasters that can occur anywhere in the world, and as the recent quakes in Turkey and Syria demonstrate, they are definitely cause for concern. To begin with, there is no link between weather and earthquakes. This makes sense because earthquakes occur underground, where surface temperature and conditions have no bearing. However, climate change has the potential to affect earthquakes. This is due to the fact that the only true variable in earthquakes is the amount of stress on a fault line. According to NASA, the most likely scenario is that climate change causes surface water to add to the stress on a fault. There are also droughts. Droughts, according to NASA researchers, can change the size of mountains due to water loss. In theory, this could result in a change in stress on faults. Other studies have found that groundwater extraction during droughts can affect stress by essentially changing the weight of the planet's crust, which can cause changes between both sides of a fault line and causes an earthquake. Then there are glaciers, which move as well. Glacial earthquakes can occur as glaciers shift due to climate change. Therefore, to reduce earthquakes lowering stress loads is very much essential. In other words, climate change could play a role in earthquakes.

VijayKumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Turkey earthquake and climate change

In a bad omen for our planet, it has been found that climate change made the extreme temperatures that baked northwest India and Pakistan in April and May over 100 times more likely and also increased the chances that such heat waves will occur more frequently by the end of the century. To put it in simpler terms, without accounting for climate change, a heat wave exceeding 2010's average temperature could happen once in every 312 years, according to an attribution study published recently. Taking climate change into account, however, the probabilities increased to once in every 3.1 years in the current climate, and to once in every 1.15 years by the end of the century. Now the news had come in that climate change can be one of the reasons behind it though there no direct link between weather and earthquake but circumstantial evidence does point out such possibilities. However, climate change has the potential to affect the earthquake. This is due to the fact that the only true variable in earthquakes is the amount of stress on a fault line. According to NASA, the most likely scenario is that climate change causes surface water to add to the stress on a fault. There are also droughts. Droughts, according to NASA researchers, can change the size of mountains due to water loss. In theory, this could result in a change in stress on faults. Then there are glaciers, which move as well. Glacial earthquakes can occur as glaciers shift due to climate change. Therefore, to reduce earthquakes lowering stress loads is very much essential. In other words, climate change could play a role in earthquakes. In the last we can say there is need of fresh deep study in every field where the climate change is showing its adverse impact.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Every year on February 14th, people honour their love for one another by spending time together, sending flowers and sharing Valentine's messages of love. For many Valentine's Day is one day of the year where couples really want to have a great date and show their partner how much they love them and care about

Valentine's Day is a time when people show feelings of love, affection and friendship. It is one of the hottest occasions of the year, even it is celebrated in winter. Helen Keller has rightly said that "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

Flowers have a way of creating strong and lasting memories. I would only say that flowers may fade; but the memories and the emotions never vanish. I remember the first flower I ever received from my wife on my first Valentine's Day. I will always remember the comfort those flowers gave my family. Her beauty and energetic personality are forever linked to the purity and

splendour of white flowers.

There are so many ways to describe that intense emotion call love. Everybody has their own idea and explanation for love, like: - Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end. I feel love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.

Romantic thoughts emerge as Valentine's Day approaches and reminders of Valentine's Day lingers for months. It is also natural that we celebrate the occasion by giving our spouse a romantic Valentine's Day gift but we use the Valentine's Day holiday to discuss with our kids the nature of romantic love, and their feelings

for their mother.

We open up with them, and share our feelings deeply, so that they can see you as a complete person. This may seem sappy, but my relationship with my wife is the most important role model for romantic love and partnership as we grow up.

Our life is full of colours and I hope this Valentine Day will add more colours in our life. My 30th Wedding Anniversary falls on Valentine Day. (Yes, it's really on Valentine's Day) I am trying to figure out what to do for my wife on this special day. As I thought about my wife this week, I was reminded of how wonderful she is. She is perfect for me; she puts me first, right after God.

We never fight, and if we have

a disagreement, we always work things out without fighting, how perfect is that! She is not afraid to tell me she loves me many times each day. Sometimes I feel we are each other's flesh and blood. We are each other's essence, our souls are intertwined, and we are a caduceus united.

We love each other, adore each other, and respect each other, know each other's limitations and help each other transcend it, and if we cannot, be the strength for each other when one falls. My Wedding Anniversary that falls on Valentine Day always reminds me that "Love is the magician that pulls man out of his own heart." and I can never forget the memories I share every year.

BRIEF

Farm productivity



■ Indore: The G-20 meet will bring out solutions like new technologies for enhancing farm productivity, which is key for addressing the global food security concerns, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Monday. Addressing the first Agriculture Deputies' Meeting here, Chouhan said the need of the hour is to focus on three main areas — increasing production, reducing cost of cultivation and ensuring better prices to the farmers. India is already working towards this direction, he said. "Food security is a major concern before the world due to the rising population. By 2030, the global foodgrains demand is estimated to be 345 million tonnes as against 192 million tonnes in the year 2000," the minister said. Only 12 per cent of the world's arable land is suitable for agriculture.

Aviation hub



■ New Delhi: The government is working to create an aviation hub in India and various steps, including airlines inducting wide-body aircraft and increasing their fleet size, are being taken, Union minister V K Singh said on Monday. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, he said the civil aviation ministry has consulted the stakeholders and has asked the aviation industry to come together to develop India as a hub for aviation. To a query on whether it is a fact that the ministry is actively working on creating an international aviation hub for international and domestic passengers in India by utilising Indian airports and Indian aircraft, he replied in the affirmative.

Environmental concerns



■ New Delhi: Union Power Minister R K Singh on Monday said addressing environmental concerns will remain a priority for the government. "India is committed to providing reliable and affordable power supply to people while keeping environmental concerns as the core priority," Singh, who is also the Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said in a statement.

Retail inflation spurts to 3-month high of 6.52 pc in Jan

New Delhi, Feb 13:

Retail inflation again breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit and touched a three-month high of 6.52 per cent in January, mainly due to higher prices in the food basket, including cereals and protein-rich items. With the exception of November and December 2022, retail inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 5.72 per cent in December and 6.01 per cent in January 2022. The previous high was 6.77 per cent in October. While the prices of vegetable declined in January, most of the other items, including 'fuel and light' became dearer. The rate of price rise in the food basket was 5.94 per cent in January, up from 4.19 per cent in the preceding month and 5.43



per cent in the year-ago month, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The inflation in rural areas was higher at 6.85 per cent as compared to 6 per cent in the urban centres. Last week, the RBI — which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains below 6 per cent — had raised the key short-term rate (repo) by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent with an aim to check price rise. The Reserve Bank has projected the retail in-

flation at 6.5 per cent in 2022-23, with January-December quarter at 5.7 per cent. Headline CPI inflation moderated by 105 basis points during November-December 2022 from its level of 6.77 per cent in October 2022. This was due to a softening in food inflation on the back of a sharp deflation in vegetable prices, which more than offset the inflationary pressures from cereals, protein-based food items and spices, the RBI had said last week.

Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras to give boost to small traders: Vineet Pandey

New Delhi, Feb 13:

Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras are expected to give a boost to small traders to further promote the country's exports, Secretary in the Department of Posts Vineet Pandey said here on Monday. He also said that due to its low cost structure, and simple process, the working of post offices is suitable for small and medium businesses.

The department, Pandey said, is working on a comprehensive plan to make its network useful for ODOP (one district one product) and small businesses of north eastern states. "Dak niryat kendras are expected to



give a boost to small traders," he said here at an event organised by India Post - AMRITPEX-2023. MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) accounts for 8 per cent of the country's, 45 per cent of total manufacturing output and 40 per cent of India's exports.

GST compensation to some states delayed due to lack of AG certificate: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Feb 13: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said GST compensation to some states is delayed due to non-availability of AG's authenticated certificate, and that Kerala has not sent even a single such certificate since 2017-18. Replying to a supplementary question, she also said that Rs 86,912 crore has been released for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation payable to all states up to May 31, 2022. She said as per law, GST Council decides to whom the GST compensation is to be released, not by the central government.

"AG's certification is (mandatory) by law between the Centre, states and the AG (accountant general), and it is an agreed process. So, unless the authentication is given by the AG..," she said. The finance

CEOS ROUND TABLE



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses CEOs Round Table during the Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru, Monday, Feb. 13.



minister said if there is any delay of getting the AG's authentication, it is a matter between the AG and the state government concerned, and they have to sort it out. "If between them there is a problem, the authentication certificate gets delayed in reaching the central government," she said. Sitharaman underlined that to get GST compensation,

state governments have to do a lot more. "The state governments have to, pardon me using the word, be efficient to sort it out things with the AG. But without AG certificate, beyond a certain limits, it is very difficult for me to go," she said. Referring to Kerala, the minister said post GST induction, the southern state has not sent AG certificate for GST compensation for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21.

She said Kerala has not sent the AG certificate even for one year for getting compensation dues. Despite that, Sitharaman said, the Centre has been accused of not releasing the funds on time. She urged Kerala MP N K Premachandran (who asked the supplementary question) to sit with the state government and request it to send the AG certificates in one go.

Renault-Nissan commit Rs 5,300 crore investments in TN

■ To introduce 6 new models including EVs

Chennai, Feb 13: France-based automobile manufacturer Renault and Japan-headquartered Nissan on Monday committed investments of USD 600 million (around Rs 5,300 crore) in the country 15 years after foraying into the Tamil Nadu automobile industry.

The fresh round of investments would witness rollout of six new models between the two companies, including two electric vehicles, representing the two global brands, Nissan Global Chief Operating Officer and Member, Alliance Board Ashwani Gupta said here. Currently, both automakers produce four models at the Chennai plant located at

Oragadam, about 45 kilometres from here. According to Gupta, the Renault-Nissan manufacturing facility would also become 100 per cent carbon neutral by 2025 with use of renewable energy.

The investments would see creation of 2,000 new jobs at the Renault Nissan Research and Development and Business Centre located at Mahindra Research City in Singaperumalkoil.

Gupta, in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin, Renault India Country CEO Venkatram Mamillapalle exchanged memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu government promoted nodal agency Guidance Bureau MD and CEO Vishnu Venugopal at an event here.

Sensex extends losses for 2nd day; IT, bank stocks top drags

Mumbai, Feb 13:

Equity benchmark Sensex declined around 251 points on Monday, pressured by heavy selling in IT and bank stocks amid a mixed trend overseas. A weak rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said. Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 250.86 points or 0.41 per cent lower at 60,431.84. During the session, the index touched a high of 60,740.95 and a low of 60,245.05. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 85.60 points or 0.48 per cent to finish at 17,770.90. SBI was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, tumbling 2.83 per



cent, followed by Infosys, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and Axis Bank. In contrast, Titan, L&T, NTPC, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, ITC and HDFC twins were among the prominent winners, rising as much as 1.97 per

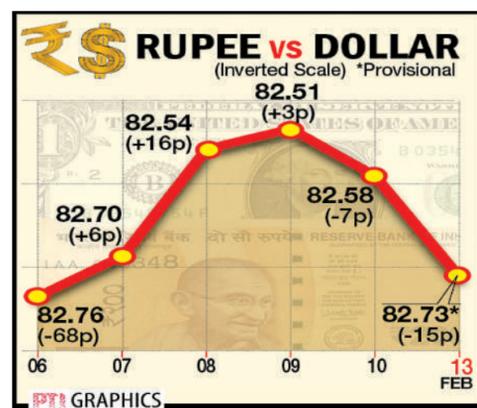
cent. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices dropped up to 1.25 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul closed in the red, while Shanghai settled higher.

Rupee falls 15 paise to close at 82.73 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 13:

The rupee fell by 15 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. Firm crude oil prices further dented investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.68 against the greenback, and fell to an intra-day low of 82.77.

It finally settled at 82.73 (provisional), down 15 paise over its previous close. In the previous session on Friday, the rupee settled at 82.58 against the dollar. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by



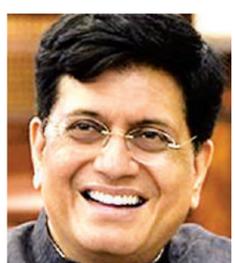
BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on a weak tone in Asian markets and a strong dollar. Traders also pared their positions ahead of CPI data which is expected a tad higher from the previ-

ous month's reading. However, a weak start to crude oil on Monday cushioned the downside. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias amid risk aversion in global markets and rising US dol-

lar. Sustained outflows by foreign investors may also mount downside pressure on the domestic currency," Choudhary said. Traders may remain cautious ahead of inflation data from India today and US tomorrow. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.20 to Rs 83.30, Choudhary added. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.15 per cent higher at 103.78. "Dollar strengthened on risk aversion in global markets amid expectations of a hawkish Fed and economic slowdown in the UK," Choudhary said. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 1.19 per cent to USD 85.36 per barrel.

FCI must sell more wheat in open market: Goyal

New Delhi, Feb 13: Union food and consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal has asked state-owned FCI to open more procurement centres covering all revenue districts in Uttar Pradesh for the benefit of farmers and also sell more wheat in open market to cool prices. The minister stated this while reviewing the operations of Food Corporation of India's (FCI) UP Region in Lucknow. FCI is the government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains. Goyal told the FCI officials to use modern technologies in foodgrain management and quality control to bring more transparency and minimum human interface, according to an



official statement. He called upon all the officers to send their suggestions to make the functioning of the FCI more efficient and modern. Goyal directed FCI officers to use their expertise in the field of foodgrain management and suggest the better design of godowns in order to create higher capacities in limited area of land.

HDFC Bank launches pilot for Offline Digital Payments

Mumbai, Feb 13:

HDFC Bank has launched a pilot in partnership with Crunchfish, to test offline digital payments for merchants and customers under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program, known as 'OfflinePay'. HDFC Bank's 'OfflinePay' will enable customers and merchants to make and receive payments even when there is no mobile network. HDFC Bank is the first bank in the industry to launch a digital payment solution in a completely offline mode. This can boost adoption of digital payments in smaller towns and rural areas with poor network connectivity. Even in urban cen-

tres, it can enable cashless payments during large public events, fairs & exhibitions despite network congestion; underground metro stations, parking lots, & retail stores with network blind spots; and even in airplanes, sea-ferries, and trains with no network. HDFC Bank has been working with the regulator to pilot offline digital payments under the Payments cohort of RBI's Regulatory Sandbox program. In September 2022, RBI approved HDFC Bank's application, in partnership with Crunchfish, to access the Regulatory Sandbox. Crunchfish Digital Cash AB is a subsidiary of Crunchfish AB, a publicly listed company on Nasdaq

First North Growth Market in Stockholm, Sweden. The pilot, if successful, will provide the basis for RBI's guidance and regulatory support in providing offline digital payments based on 'CrunchfishDigital Cash' platform to the payment ecosystem of India.

"HDFC Bank is pleased to work under regulator's guidance and partner with Crunchfish Digital Cash to launch 'OfflinePay', an industry-first digital solution. This innovation will accelerate financial inclusion in remote areas by enabling adoption of digital payments as both merchants and customers can do transactions without any network.

Audi expects high double digit growth in India this year

New Delhi, Feb 13:

German luxury car-maker Audi on Monday said it expects to have a significant double digit growth in India in 2023 on the back of new products and full-year availability of its popular models. The company launched its Q3 Sportback model, a sporty compact crossover style of its popular SUV Q3, priced at Rs 51.43 lakh (ex-showroom) line as it seeks to continue with the momentum of its strong sales growth posted last year.

"I am looking at a significant high double digit growth for this year as well. We grew 27 per cent last year, but this year also we will continue to grow because the whole product line is available," Audi



India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon told PTI. He was responding to the company's sales growth expectation in 2023.

This year, he said the company will have the full product line available, including the popular models such as SUV Q3, Q7 and top end sedan A8, which were launched last year.

Switzerland celebrates Yash Chopra's legacy

Switzerland is paying tribute to the legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra, saluting his contribution of having showcased Switzerland's beauty to Indians through the magic of his cinema. The much-awaited Netflix docu-series, *The Romantics*, is a celebration of the legacy of Yash Chopra, YRF and its cultural impact on Indians over the past 50 years. It is set to release this Tuesday, the 14th of February.

Remo Käser, Director of Sales Jungfrau Railways, Switzerland, reveals, "The legend, Yash Chopra, has presented the beauty of Switzerland and especially the Jungfrau Region to Indians across the world for generations, through his beautiful, soulful cinema. Indians, who come to Jungfrauoch - Top of Europe year on year, have always spoken to us about how the romantic films of Yash Chopra have pushed them to visit the Jungfrau Region and Interlaken and make memories for a lifetime."

The Swiss authorities will celebrate Yash Chopra's legacy across the country, especially in places where the filmmaker shot mega-hits like *Darr* and *Chandni*. His son Aditya Chopra also shot the all-time blockbuster, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* in Switzerland.

Every Indian has been enchanted by Switzerland's snow-capped mountains, lush valleys, and pristine lakes in large part because of Yash Chopra's films. It is said that he



visited Switzerland for his honeymoon and was smitten by the country instantly. The Swiss government has continuously honoured the legendary filmmaker through the years.

In 2011, Switzerland's Jungfrau Railways inaugurated a train named after him - an honour shared only with the railway's founder, Adolf Guyer. The train featured his signature and name on a signboard. In May 2016, a bronze statue of Yash Chopra was installed by the Switzerland government as a tribute, near the Congress Centre in Interlaken, a popular tourist spot.

At the prestigious Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa, a special deluxe cinema-themed suite was named after

Yash Chopra. In 2011, the filmmaker inaugurated the suite. Lake Laeuken, in the Canton of Berne, is referred to as Lake Chopra! The Swiss government honoured Yash Chopra with the title of Ambassador of Interlaken, making him the first recipient of the award. He was also bestowed the Swiss Ambassador's Award.

Remo adds, "Switzerland and India have a great bond of mutual respect and admiration and Yash Chopra has played a monumental role in solidifying the relationship between our great nations. Switzerland is only too proud to celebrate his legacy here."

From Aamir Khan to Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan to Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh

Bachchan to Ranveer Singh, Rani Mukerji to Hrithik Roshan, Katrina Kaif to Anushka Sharma, the mega-stars and icons of Hindi cinema have come together to speak about Yash Chopra and YRF's contribution to Indian cinema in *The Romantics*.

The *Romantics* has been directed by Oscar & Emmy-nominated filmmaker Smriti Mundhra, who returns to Netflix after the phenomenal success of Indian Matchmaking and the *Never Have I Ever* Season 3.

Netflix, in this four-part docu-series, will feature 35 leading personalities from the film industry, who have closely worked with YRF through its 50-year glorious existence.

Interestingly, the reclusive head of the iconic Yash Raj Films, Aditya Chopra, has also recorded his first on-camera interview for *The Romantics*! Hearing him share insights about YRF and the Hindi film industry in this docu-series is bound to be a huge highlight for the film fraternity, cinephiles & Hindi cinema audience at large.

The trailer of *The Romantics* has been appreciated globally. Netflix will release *The Romantics* on Feb 14, 2023, as a tribute to Yash Chopra, who is regarded as the 'Father of Romance' in India because of his iconic romantic films like *Silsila*, *Lamhe*, *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Veer-Zaara*, *Dil To Pagal Hai*, *Chandni*, *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, etc.

Love stories on TV that proved that love has no age-bar



lishing that love knows no bounds and no age, breaking the monotonous plot of the Hindi tv show that exposes a significant issue like age disparity. These love stories have no age limits. From Star Bharat's *Na Umra Ki Seema* Ho to *Dil Sambhal Ja Zara*.

Here are 5 age defying love stories on Hindi television

1. Na Umra Ki Seema Ho - Starring Rachana Mistry and Iqbal Khan in lead roles the Star Bharat show *Na Umra Ki Seema Ho* is a story of Vidhi a young woman, who falls in love with Devratha, a middle aged business tycoon. Together they embark on a journey of love and acceptance beyond the barrier of age.

2. Dil Sambhal Jaa Zara - Starring Smriti Kalra and Sanjay Kapoor, *Dil Sambhal Ja Zara* is a story of Ahana, a young girl navigating her life in urban India, who gets caught in a web of relationships when she meets Anant,



a middle-aged man.

3. Aapke Aajane Se - *Aap Ke Aa Jane Se* is a Hindi romantic drama television series starring Karan Jotwani and Suhasi Dhani in the lead. It is a love story between a 42-year-old middle class, conservative single mother, Vedika and a 24-year-old.

4. Kehta hai Dil Jee Le Zara - Starring Rushlaan Mumtaaz and Sangita Gosh the story of the show revolves around the life of 34-year-old women, Sanchi Prabhu, and Dhruv Goyal, a 27-year-old, charming, wealthy lawyer, arrives on

holiday from Mumbai and stays with Sanchi's neighbor. Sanchi initially finds Dhruv irritating but they later become friends and realize their love for each other.

5. Molkki - Starring Amar Upadhyay and Priyal Mahajan the story revolves around the tradition of 'molkki', where a young poor girl is married to an aged wealthy man in exchange of money. In real life too, Priyal Mahajan and Amar Upadhyay, who play the lead roles of Virender and Purvi, have an age gap of 25 years. Priyal is 19 and Amar is 44.

Shamita pens a hopeful note desiring a better society for women

Returning to the silver screen after quite a hiatus, Shamita Shetty marks her return to the theatres with a strong, impactful story of a single, independent woman. As the film releases today, Shamita pours her heart out in a social media post urging her fans to watch the film.

With pictures that offer glimpses into the film, Shamita Shetty posted on social media saying, "A film that I'm so proud off. A story that needs to be told for all women out there who have been time and again subjected to Patriarchy, lack of privacy,

sexism or constant judgement for what they wear or just how they are!!!! The journey of Meera in *The Tenant* is especially close to my heart having been subjected to a lot of constant judgement in my life.. very few wanted to understand my story but were constantly so quick to judge. Here's hoping for a positive change in our society, one that will let our women live their lives unapologetic, pursuing their dreams with courage for a life they want! THE TENANT is finally OUT IN CINEMAS NEAR YOU My beautiful tribe.. go

watch it". Shouldering the film and driving the narrative solely, Shamita Shetty is not only returning to the silver screen with *The Tenant* but also delivers a female-centric, contemporary narrative stirring conversation in the society. Mirroring the prevailing prejudices and judgements of the society towards modern, single woman, Shamita Shetty highlights the struggles of womanhood in con-

servative Indian environment. Opting for important and impactful roles, Shamita Shetty has been delivering impressive performances. Having made her debut with a Yash Raj film *ohabbatein*, Shamita has not only made her mark on the silver screen but also created ripples across television and OTT, and now marks her return to silver screen.



Anushka Kaushik takes up rifle shooting lessons!

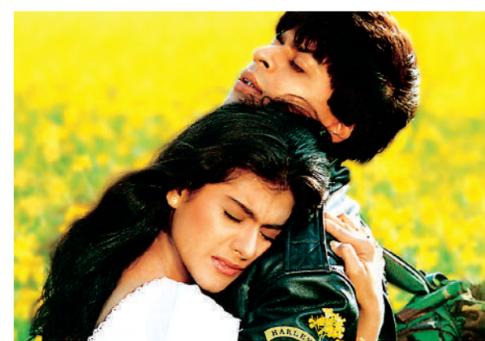


Anushka Kaushik became a talent to look out for after giving some amazing performances in projects like *Ghar Wapasi* and *Thar*. She has some more interesting projects lined up for which she had been quite busy shooting continuously. But even though Anushka has wrapped up the shoot of

her upcoming projects, she is not yet ready to take it easy. She is indeed utilizing this break to work on herself and learn something new, and one of those new things for her is rifle shooting. The actress has recently taken up this new activity and is having a gala time learning it. Talking about the same, Anushka shares, "It's been a while since I took any break and now I got one and I just wanted to utilise it in the best possible way. I feel that life is definitely all about exploring and tapping into your hidden talent and unlocking new skills. So I started with air rifle shooting. For Anushka to take this activity up, a huge credit goes to her father too. Explaining why, the actress informs, "My father taught me rifle shooting and hitting the bull's eye. So I was quite inclined towards learning it."

DDLJ to get a wider release this Valentine's Day!

Aditya Chopra directed *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ) is the longest running movie in the history of Indian cinema. The all-time blockbuster catapulted Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to become superstars of the country and is one of the biggest IPs emerging from the Indian film industry. DDLJ shaped pop culture for India and Indians over the generations. This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, DDLJ will see a wider release across India, Yash Raj Films confirms. Rohan Malhotra, Vice President, Distribution, YRF, says, "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ), the longest running film in the history of cinema, has become synonymous to romance for India and Indians for generations since it's historic release. We are constantly requested by the audience and fans, through the year, for a wider showcasing of the film so



that they can again and again watch this milestone-setting film with their friends and family in theatres! This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, we are making their wish come true. DDLJ will be screened across India, starting Feb 10, for a period

of one week only!" DDLJ will be released in 31 cities across India, including Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodra, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Lucknow, Noida, Dehradun, Delhi, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore,

Chennai, Vellore, Trivandrum. Interestingly for audiences, they can get a taste of Shah Rukh Khan as Raj in DDLJ and as Pathaan in theatres over this Valentine's Day period. Pathaan is currently wreaking havoc at the box office as it has become the all-time highest grossing Hindi film ever worldwide! Rohan says, "YRF & SRK are not only synonymous with delivering Indian cinema's biggest blockbusters but also for collaborating on films which have redefined the Indian film industry and have had a lasting cultural impact" He adds, "It is an amazing coincidence that DDLJ, an all-time blockbuster, was released by YRF during its 25th year celebrations & this year, history has repeated itself with Pathaan as it has become the highest grossing Hindi film worldwide (original format) during YRF's 50 year celebrations!" He further adds, "We are thrilled to give the audience an opportunity to watch DDLJ and Pathaan, which are going to run simultaneously on the big screen, during this period."

An era has an important role to play in love and relationship

Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB's upcoming family romance drama, follows the journey of Dhruv and Tara, who are from two different eras. The show is set to break through the clutter with a love story never seen on television before. Tara (played by Riya Sharma), a princess from the 17th century, travels against the grain of time and arrives in the present day, where she meets Dhruv (played by Ishaan Dhawan). Sony SAB's consistent focus is on creating good content and bringing to life shows that appeal to each family member. With Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB brings an exciting show,



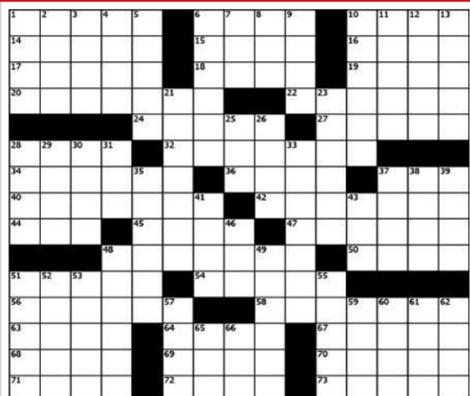
which will captivate audiences with its engaging narrative and unique characters. Dhruv Tara will premiere on 20th February, airing every Monday to Saturday at 8 PM only on Sony SAB. In a candid conversation, Ishaan Dhawan who plays the character of Dhruv

shared his thoughts on how modern-day love and relationships are different from the 17th century. He said, "To me, there is definitely a difference between modern love and traditional love, and I firmly believe that an era has an important role to play in love and relation-

ship. In earlier days, the meaning of love was to stand up for your values, stick to your word, stay beside your partner irrespective of complex and challenging situations. In today's age, we as humans tend to overthink a lot about every relationship in life. The purity and innocence that relationships had back in the day are now missing and we are trying to keep everything under control be it love or relationships. People tend to miss enjoying the little moments in love and life."

Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare premieres on Sony SAB on 20th February, Monday to Saturday, 8 PM!

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Baldwin and Guinness
- Klutz's cry
- 43,560 square feet
- Hot chocolate
- Fee
- Not that
- Ethical
- Pharmacy measure
- Turner and Williams
- Imitate
- Cold era (2 wds.)

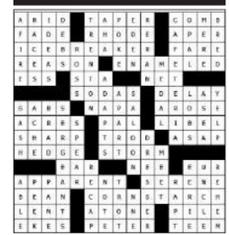
DOWN

- Apex
- Weaving device
- Unbleached color
- West Virginia product
- Lettuce dish
- Trying experience
- Rowing device
- School group (abbr.)
- Tractor-trailer
- Go to
- Defraud
- Blue Mountains
- Curved letters
- Window above a door
- Julius
- Chart
- Location
- In the middle of
- Chilly
- Unoccupied

561

- Japanese warrior
- Court dividers
- Book of maps
- Heavenly dish
- Female Japanese entertainer
- Motorcycle adjunct
- Munitions
- Gnaw
- Atmosphere layer
- Words of comprehension (2 wds.)
- Relieve
- Likely
- Loch
- Tinter
- Recorded
- Lion's lair
- James Bond's drink
- Go over again
- Use a paper towel
- Stop
- Wallet fillers
- City eyecore
- Coal receptacle
- Age
- Talks back
- Reply
- One more time
- To the point
- Green fruits
- Take as one's own
- Scored on serve
- Bible book
- Henhouse
- Novelist
- Critic Rex
- Horse food
- WNW's opposite

SOLUTION 560



Mandhana hits pay dirt, Harmanpreet gets half as nine Indian women get crore-plus deals

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

Smriti Mandhana stole the thunder in the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) auctions as Royal Challengers Bangalore pipped Mumbai Indians in a bidding war to buy the India vice-captain for Rs 3.40 crore (USD 410,000) here on Monday.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur came much cheaper for Mumbai Indians at nearly half the price of Mandhana at Rs 1.80 crore. Harman is also not the highest paid in her team where England's Nat Sciver-Brunt got way more at Rs 3.20 crore.

In fact, Harmanpreet was not even among the top-six Indian buys as the second costliest player from the country so far is all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who was bought by UP Warriorz for Rs 2.6 crore.

The hard-hitting Shafali Verma and star of the T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on Sunday, Jemimah Rodrigues were picked by Delhi Capitals for Rs 2 crore and Rs 2.20 crore respectively. All-rounders Pooja Vastrakar and Richa Ghosh laughed



their way to the bank with Rs 1.90 crore deals offered by MI and RCB respectively. Jemimah and Richa's deals were also a case of recency bias as the Pakistan match on Sunday did play a big role.

However, Delhi Capitals pulled off a coup by roping in one of contemporary women's cricket's best leaders Meg Lanning of Australia for Rs 1.10 crore.

The RCB, which teed off the buying spree, also explained their choices and the price attached to it. "Everyone knows Mandhana and (Australia's Elysse) Perry — Rs 1.7 crore; we were pretty committed to the



Nita Ambani, owner of Mumbai Indians, with the team's head coach Charlotte Edwards and bowling coach and team mentor Jhulan Goswami during the inaugural Women's Premier League auctions, in Mumbai, Monday.

couple of people we wanted to get. We're very happy to get such quality players. It's a dream result for us to get Mandhana, Perry and (Sophie) Devine (Rs 50 lakh)," RCB Director of Cricket Mike Hesson said during a media interaction.

"Smriti has got plenty of captaincy experience and is familiar with the Indian conditions, so highly likely (she'll be the captain)," Mandhana, who watched the auction with her team

cheering each bid, was ecstatic. "We have been watching auction of men's (players). It is such a big moment for women to have an auction of this sort. The whole thing is exciting. RCB's legacy is big, they have built a big fan-base. Hope we both can together build a big team," Mandhana said. Deepti on her part said, "We waited for this opportunity and since I am from UP, it is a great feeling. I want to contribute as much as possi-

ble for UP Warriorz."

One of the prominent picks during the first round of auction was Australia's off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner, who was bought by Gautam Adani-owned Gujarat Giants for Rs 3.20 crore (USD 386,000). Gardner and Nat Sciver are the two highest-paid overseas players.

Gujarat primarily bought foreign players and are yet to buy prominent India players save Harleen Deol for Rs 40 lakh.

Star Australian all-rounder Perry received a cool Rs 1.70 crore (USD 205,000) winning bid from RCB, who also got New Zealand skipper Devine dirt cheap at a base price of Rs 50 lakh.

RCB has already exhausted Rs 7.10 crore out of Rs 12-crore purse on four players and they need to get another 11 players with the rest of the Rs 4.90 crore to have a mandatory squad size of 15 players. The maximum squad strength will be 18 players.

UP Warriorz also got England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone on board for Rs 1.80 crore.

BCCI shifts Dharamsala Test to Indore

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The third Test between India and Australia scheduled to be played from March 1-5 has been shifted from Dharamsala to Indore, owing to poor outfield conditions, BCCI said on Monday.

That the Test will be shifted was confirmed on Sunday itself after BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee's report deemed the re-laid outfield as unfit for an international match.

"The third Test of the Mastercard Australia tour of India for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, originally scheduled to take place at the HPCA Stadium, Dharamsala from 1st to 5th March has now been moved to Holkar Stadium, Indore," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. "Owing to harsh winter conditions in the region, the outfield lacks sufficient grass density and will need some time to develop fully," Shah further stated. The inclement weather added to the woes of Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) as the local ground staff didn't get enough time to grow good



layer of grass on the patches of bald outfield.

However, it must be mentioned that apart from the latest inspection, the BCCI pitches and grounds committee team had also inspected the ground once before and that time it was not even close to being ready.

Questions are being raised at BCCI's scheduling team and why wasn't a proper homework being done and weather conditions factored in before allotting the match to Dharamsala when no cricket has been played at the venue for the past one season.

In fact, the last two international games — one T20I and other ODI against South Africa were washed out after one spell

of rain and the ground couldn't be prepared for a curtailed game.

Himachal Pradesh Ranji team played their home games at Nadaun as the pitch and outfield were being re-laid.

The norm of having an international match at any venue needs to follow specific parameters and one is to have at least one competitive game a few weeks before an ODI, T20I or Test.

Like Holkar Stadium in Indore, where the third Test will be held, it has already conducted a number of first class and age group games this season with the last one being Ranji Trophy semi-final between Mandhya Pradesh and Bengal that ended on February 12.

'WC snub was lowest phase of my life'

Jemimah Rodrigues contemplated quitting game

Cape Town, Feb 13 (PTI):

From touching the lowest ebb after the ODI World Cup snub in New Zealand last year to hitting the winning runs in victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in the T20 global event, Jemimah Rodrigues has done brilliantly to turn the corner in less than 12 months.

Rodrigues, who hit a match-winning 38-ball unbeaten 53 in a seven-wicket win in India's Women's T20 World Cup opener here on Sunday, said at one point of time she even contemplated quitting the game. "I think this time last year when I was at home and I was not in a good head-space because I was



dropped from (India's) 50 World Cup squad. That was the toughest time for me, but there was so many people who helped me through-

out this time," Rodrigues said at the post-match press conference. "Honestly, many a time I had nothing to tell myself. I had, there

were so many times I had given up, you know I didn't have the strength to carry (on) and I know a lot of people say you need to back yourself you need to motivate yourself but when a person is going through, they only know what they're going through," an emotional Rodrigues bared her heart during the interaction. The support system is very important, she said.

"I was blessed that I had people who believed in me and helped me push through that time so I am just grateful to them. It felt like that was that was one of the lowest phase of my life but it turned out to be the reason why I could come here today."

Shubman Gill named ICC Men's Player of January

Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI):

India batter Shubman Gill was on Monday named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper Grace Scrivens became the youngest player to be named for the women's honour.

Gill enjoyed a record-breaking month in white-ball cricket in January. The free-scoring batter was a prolific source of runs throughout the month, most notably in the ODI format, scoring big against both Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

With 567 runs during January, which included



three century-plus scores, the 23-year-old Gill wowed fans with a lethal combination of graceful and attacking strokeplay.

In a month which presented several highlights for Gill, his stand-out performance came in the form of a stunning double-

hundred in the nail-biting victory over New Zealand in the series opener in Hyderabad. His unbeaten 208 came off just 149 balls with 28 boundaries — a startling feat not just because it made him the youngest double-centurion in the ODI format, but

also because all those around him seemed to falter on a difficult pitch for batters. Sandwiched between this innings were two further centuries — 116 in a dominant victory over Sri Lanka, and 112 in the final ODI against New Zealand.

Gill overcame a competitive field to claim his first ICC Men's Player-of-the-Month award, beating New Zealand opener Devon Conway and compatriot Mohammed Siraj in the global vote. In doing so, he becomes the first Indian winner since Virat Kohli in October 2022. "January was a special month for me and winning this award makes it all the more memorable.

India's lower-order batters will make difference in Test series: Coach McDonald

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald believes India's strong lower-order batting, comprising Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel among others, will be the "differentiator" in the three remaining Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Jadeja and Patel played a pivotal role with the bat in the first innings, slamming 70 and 84 respectively, as India amassed 400 runs in response to the visiting team's total of 177.

That, along with Rohit Sharma's century and sterling bowling performances from Jadeja and Ashwin, helped the hosts thrash Australia by an innings and 132 runs inside three



days at Nagpur to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. The two teams will play the second Test in New Delhi from February 17, and McDonald said India's lower-order batters will challenge his side. "Their (India's) lower-order batting is also going

to be a differentiator in this series in (Ravindra) Jadeja, (Axar) Patel and (Ravichandran) Ashwin they've got a really strong lower-order and we're going to be challenged by that," McDonald told SEN Radio on Monday. "They're no doubt going to have more runs available to their lower-order than ours, so we've got to try to work out how to break even in that sense."

The coach, who took over following the departure of Justin Langer last year, said the loss in the opening Test will not force the team to revisit its strategy for the next three matches, expressing hope that the pre-series planning can still work.

Rourkela stadium to host four national c'ships to give international feel to players

Rourkela, Feb 13 (PTI):

Four age-group national hockey championships will be organised at the newly-built Birs Munda Stadium here this year to give the domestic players a feel of the state-of-the-art facility, which jointly hosted the men's World Cup along with the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar last month.

The four tournaments are the Junior Women National Championship (April 13-23), Junior Men National Championship (April 28-May 8), Sub-junior Women National Championship (May 13-23) and Sub-junior Men National Championship

(May 28-June 7).

The Senior Men National Championship 2023, meanwhile, will be held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu from May 3 to 14.

"We have taken a major step by signing a multi-year contract with the FanCode who have over 50 million users to show all the National Championship matches live in India and the Indian sub-continent," said Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

"We also want to introduce video referral at the domestic level so that players understand the process early in their careers.

Eoin Morgan quits franchise cricket

London, Feb 13 (PTI):

Eoin Morgan, England's lone 50-over World Cup-winning captain, on Monday announced retirement from all short-format franchise cricket with immediate effect, less than a year after he quit the international game.

The 36-year-old Morgan had retired from international cricket in July 2022 after a 16-year career — first with Ireland and then with England — but continued to play in short-format tournaments around the world.

"It is with great pride that I am announcing my retirement from all forms of cricket. After much deliberation, I believe that



now is the right time to step away from the game that has given me so much over the years," Morgan said in a statement.

Morgan captained London Spirit to the Hundred's eliminator last year, was a losing finalist in the Abu Dhabi T10 with New York Strikers, and

made seven appearances for Paarl Royals in the recently-concluded SA20.

He said he cherished every moment of his cricketing career.

"From moving to England in 2005 to join Middlesex, right up to the very end, playing for Paarl Royals in SA20, I have cherished every moment," said Morgan who made his England debut in an ODI in 2006.

"Thanks to cricket, I have been able to travel the world and meet incredible people, many of whom I have developed lifelong friendships with. Playing for franchise teams across the globe has given me so many memories that I will hold onto forever."

Pak captain Bismah Maroof rues lack of global T20 league opportunities

Cape Town, Feb 13 (PTI):

Teen sensation Ayesha Naseem might have made the cricket world sit back and take notice of her batting prowess against India in the T20 World Cup but her skipper Bismah Maroof is pained at the realisation that Pakistani women won't be part of the WPL auction. Maroof, who scored one of her best T20 half-centuries (68 off 55 balls) and young Naseem (43 not out off 25 balls) did push India to the limits but on Monday when most of the women internationals in South Africa were hoping for a bid, Pakistani girls would



only be able to watch it on their phones. Pakistani players (male or female) are not allowed in BCCI's flagship events — IPL and now Women's Premier League (WPL). "We as Pakistan, you know we don't get many opportunities to play in the leagues that's very unfortunate.

India start favourites against Kazakhstan in Badminton Asia Mixed Team C'ships opener

Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI): Spearheaded by a fit again and rejuvenated PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy, India will fancy their chances against Kazakhstan in their opening Group B tie at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2023, starting here on Tuesday.

Two-time Olympic medalist and world No.7 Sindhu has recovered completely from a stress fracture that kept her out of action for five months last year and is gunning for success in the new season. After winning

the gold medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the injury forced Sindhu to pull out of the World Championships and also missed the remainder of the last season. Having made a scratchy start to the new season in the Malaysia Open and India Open at home, Sindhu is itching for success and would be going full throttle here. Sindhu's back-up in the women's singles is 32nd-ranked Aakarshi Kashyap, winner of the Bangladesh International Challenge last month.

Jyothi Yarraji and Jeswin Aldrin win silver each in Asian Indoor Athletics C'ships



Astana, Feb 13 (PTI): Jyothi Yarraji and Jeswin Aldrin won a silver medal each in women's 60m hurdles and men's long jump by smashing their own national indoor records on the concluding day of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships here on Sunday. Yarraji improved upon her earlier national indoor record she set on Saturday — 8.16 sec — during the heats, as

she clocked 8.13 sec on Sunday to finish behind Japan's Masumi Aoki (8.01 sec).

Aldrin, on the other hand, produced a best jump of 7.97m to finish behind Lon Yu Tang (8.02m) of Chinese Taipei in the final.

He had jumped 7.93m in qualification on Friday, which was his earlier national indoor record before being broken on Sunday.

FIA president Ben Sulayem pushing for more events including Formula 1

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI): FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem feels a combination of hosting high-profile racing events like Formula 1 and extensive work at the grassroots is what India needs to revive motorsport in the country.

Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of the inaugural Formula E race in Hyderabad, the first non-European president of the world governing body for car racing, spoke on a range of issues including his plans for a big market like

India, women in motorsport, the pressing need to make the sport more affordable and why he has stepped back from the day to day running of FIA. "In my manifesto (ahead of his election in December 2021) I had mentioned how important India is. Not because I am here, not because I am the president," said Ben Sulayem, a former rally driver from the UAE.

"India and China both have the manufacturers, both have the numbers. We have not scratched the surface yet.

BJP left no stone unturned to develop Tripura: PM Modi

Agartala, Feb 13 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that there is no family in Tripura that has not received the benefits of BJP's policies.

Modi, addressing a rally here on the last day of electioneering in the poll-bound state, also said that the saffron party, as a "faithful servant" (sevak), left no stone unturned to develop the place.

"Agartala has become the gateway for international trade in the Northeast, the state capital will soon become a business hub," he noted.

The BJP believes in "politics of change (badlao), not of revenge (badla)", he maintained.

Lashing out at the Left Front and the Congress,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election campaign rally ahead of the Tripura Assembly elections, in Agartala.

the PM said that the two parties just want to fill their coffers without caring for people's welfare.

"The Leftists and the Congress can do anything to satiate their hunger for power. They wrestle in

Kerala and forge friendly relations in Tripura," he said.

Under the BJP regime, people got free ration, healthcare assistance, houses and other facilities, Modi said.

"I want to assure all those who are yet to get pucca houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana that they will get one after the BJP government takes oath in the state," he added.

India committed to maintain balance between fishing performance and minimizing negative impact: Union Fisheries Secretary

Kochi, Feb 13 (PTI):

India is committed to maintaining a balance between improving the fishing performance and minimizing its negative impacts, Union Fisheries Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain said on Monday.

Inaugurating a five-day international symposium on innovations in fishing technologies for sustainable and resilient fisheries here, Swain said India was working on maximising the net revenue from fisheries through 'value conservation, value capture and value creation.'

"The government is also committed to maintain a balance between improving the fishing

performance and minimising its negative impacts," he said, adding that policies and legal provisions are primarily focused on low-impact fishing.

Pressure of fish stocks in near-shore waters have made us think of improving the situation by exploring resources in the high seas, Swain said.

According to him, this will ensure not only a better economics for the sector but contribute to ecological sustainability also.

The top fisheries official also said that appropriate technologies are crucial in maintaining sustainability in the marine fisheries sector of the country, adding that

improved gear management practices would help protect and promote the interest of small-scale fisheries sector; reduce by-catch, manage ghost fishing and mitigate climate change.

"Assimilation of latest technologies for fuel efficiency like in the case of dual-fuel hybrid fishing vessels would bring down fishing cost, a need of the hour for small-scale fishers in India. Choice of fishing technology plays a crucial role in determining the outcome of the fishing," he said.

The symposium is being organised by the Bay of Bengal Programme International

Organisation (BOBP-IGO), the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and national fisheries institutions on the occasion of the 23rd annual meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) -FAO Joint Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (ICES-FAO WGTFB).

Around 250 participants from 30 countries are attending the event and there will be witness over 80 technical sessions on various themes such as active fishing gear, passive fishing gear, ghost fishing nets, etc.

DU women students protest against 'withholding' of exam results

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Students of Delhi University's Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) on Monday staged a demonstration at the varsity's examination branch decrying the withholding of examination results of many students.

Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), a student organisation, alleged that the semester results of many students have been withheld by the officials who claim that there are errors in the registration forms of the students.

"The students have paid fees on the portal and yet even on presenting the fee

slips, the blame for the delay in the declaration of the exam results is being put on them by the officials who state that their registration form and admit cards were 'provisional' and not final," KYS said in a statement.

The results of the second, third, and fourth semester exams of NCWEB students have been held back. These exams were conducted online during the pandemic.

There was no immediate response from the university administration. The students have also accused officials of marking several of them absent despite their appearance in exams.

HC says won't expunge trial court's observations at this stage but they will not affect investigation, trial

● Jamia Nagar violence

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to expunge at this stage observations made against the police by a trial court while discharging student activist Sharjeel Imam and others in a 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case but said the observations will not affect further investigation or trial of any accused.

The high court issued notices to student activists Imam, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Safoora Zargar and others seeking their response to Delhi Police's challenge to their discharge in the case.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing Delhi Police, urged the high court on Monday to expunge the remarks made by the trial court, arguing that the case concerned an unlawful assembly turning violent and not "right to dissent". "There is nothing before the trial court to disregard the third supplementary charge sheet. Observations are going to influence and be detrimental to any further investigation," Jain said.

The senior law officer also contended that the observations made by the trial court could not have been passed at the stage of framing of charges. Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said at the present stage it was not expunging the ob-

servations but ordered, "Observations made against the investigating agency will not affect further investigation or trial of any accused".

The matter would be heard next on March 16.

The trial court had in its February 4 order discharged 11 people, including the respondents, while holding that they were made "scapegoats" by police and that dissent has to be encouraged, not stifled.

The FIR was lodged in connection with the violence that erupted after a clash between police and people protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the Jamia Nagar area here in December 2019.

The police, in its revi-

sion petition, has said the trial court's order is in the teeth of well-settled principles of law, suffers from grave infirmities which go to the root of the matter and is perverse.

The police plea said the trial court has not only discharged the accused but was also swayed by "emotional" and "sentimental feelings" and has cast aspersions on the prosecuting agency and passed "gravely prejudicial" and "adverse" remarks against the prosecuting agency and the investigation.

"The trial court, while not considering and weighing the evidence on record, has proceeded to discharge the respondents (accused) at the stage of framing of charges.

Rahul attacks PM Modi over his alleged link with Adani

Wayanad (Ker), Feb 13 (PTI):

Launching a scathing attack on the Prime Minister over his alleged link with business tycoon Gautam Adani, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the PM "thinks that he is very powerful, but he doesn't realise that the absolute last thing that I am scared of is Narendra Modi."

Recalling the speech he had made in Parliament recently in which he had raised certain matters pertaining to the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group of companies, Gandhi, while addressing Congress workers in his constituency, said he was

asked to show proof with regard to what he had said.

"...and I have written to the Speaker with every single point they have removed and supporting proof," Gandhi said.

A major part of Gandhi's address during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks on the President's address was removed.

"Modi thinks that he is very powerful and people will get scared of him. He doesn't realise that the absolute last thing that I am scared of is Narendra Modi", the Wayanad MP said, escalating his attacks on the Prime Minister's alleged link with Adani.

G-20 summit will bring new solutions to boost farm productivity: Shivraj

Indore, Feb 13 (PTI):

The G-20 meet will bring out solutions like new technologies for enhancing farm productivity, which is key for addressing the global food security concerns, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Monday.

Addressing the first Agriculture Deputies' Meeting here, Chouhan said the need of the hour is to focus on three main areas -- increasing production, reducing cost of cultivation and ensuring better prices to the farmers.

India is already working towards this direction, he said. "Food security is a major concern before the world due to the

rising population. By 2030, the global foodgrains demand is estimated to be 345 million tonnes as against 192 million tonnes in the year 2000," the minister said.

Only 12 per cent of the world's arable land is suitable for agriculture. Neither the land is going to increase nor the natural resources, he said.

Therefore, it is necessary to utilise land and natural resources in a better way and increase the farm productivity to meet the future food demand, he added. The Minister also said, "I am confident that the G-20 summit will help boost the farm sector by connecting new technologies through local organisations."

Speaking to the media

separately, the Chief Minister highlighted the food security challenges faced by the entire world due to the growing population. He said India will play its rightful role in feeding the world.

The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition which showcased millets and its value-added food products apart from the allied farm sector.

During the three-day event, issues such as climate-smart initiatives, adoption of climate-smart technology by small farmers as well as agriculture market information system, wheat initiatives, agriculture risk management and reduction of food loss -- will be discussed in detail.



Activists of Communist party of India (CPI) protest demanding probe into the Adani row, in Mumbai, Monday.

'Qualified person can be given any post'

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Monday defended the appointment of retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer as the governor of Andhra Pradesh, saying a qualified person can be given any post and his ability should not be questioned. The Congress had attacked the government over the appointment of Nazeer, who was part of the historic 2019 Ayodhya verdict, and called the move a "great threat" to the independence of the judiciary.

Responding to a query on the appointment of Nazeer, Thakur, who holds Sports, and Information & Broadcasting portfolios, said, "Any 'kabil' (qualified) person can be given any post. That person's ability should not be questioned". Thakur didn't respond to queries on the Hindenburg Research report which had alleged stock manipulation by Adani Group, a charge denied by the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate.

Will send PM a copy: Gehlot hits back at Modi

● Rajasthan CM says his state budget 'model' for country

Jaipur, Feb 13 (PTI):

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday called his state budget a "model" for others to follow and offered to send a copy to the Centre, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi poked fun over a goof-up during his budget presentation. At a rally in Rajasthan's Dausa on Sunday, Modi picked on a blunder at the Rajasthan Budget presentation Friday, when Gehlot mistakenly read portions of the last year's budget. The PM taunt-

ed that the Congress lacks vision and its announcements remain just on paper. Gehlot said he rectified his mistake within "34 seconds", and claimed that the BJP is rattled by his government's performance in the state that goes to the polls this year-end. "I can send the copy of the Budget to the prime minister and he can send it to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. They will realise that our budget is a model budget," the Rajasthan CM told PTI. "The budget we presented in Rajasthan can become a model budget for the country. We have taken care of all sections, all families. I can claim that such a budget is rare," he added.

ED opposes AAP minister Satyendar Jain's bail plea

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday opposed before the Delhi High Court the bail plea of jailed AAP minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case being probed by it. Jain, arrested on May 30 last year by the agency, is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, representing ED, argued before Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma that the AAP leader's stand that there are no proceeds of crime can be "demolished" by the material on record which also shows that he was "in the

thick of things". In its reply filed in the court, the agency said that the bail plea of Jain, a sitting minister, should be dismissed as his release would obstruct further investigation and there is CCTV footage from Tihar jail, where he is in judicial custody, to show that he is an "influential person" who may influence witnesses and frustrate the proceedings.

ED had arrested Jain in the money laundering case based on a CBI FIR lodged against Jain in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. "Money laundering is crystal clear. Their case is that Satyendar Jain has nothing to do with it. I have to establish that Satyendar Jain was in the thick of these things," ASG

Raju argued before the high court on Monday. Raju claimed that there is a statement under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by Jain which also supports the agency's case and there are proceeds of crime of over Rs 4 crore.

"I have admission of Satyendar Jain which shows he is a beneficiary (of the companies)," said the senior law officer, adding that the statement of an auditor connected with the companies in question has also established money laundering. In its reply filed in the case, the ED said that under PMLA, it cannot be said that bail is the rule and jail is the exception and when a public servant commits an economic offence it

erodes public confidence as well and has a larger impact on society.

The agency asserted that during investigation, it was found that the "modus operandi" in the present case involved "transferring cash from Delhi to Kolkata through Hawala operators and in lieu of cash, accommodation entries were layered and received from Kolkata-based shell companies into companies owned by applicant (Jain) and agricultural lands were purchased from these funds. Applicant has denied having any role in taking accommodation entries in his companies".

The reply further emphasised that there is "clear cut evidence" of Jain influencing co-accused Vaibhav Jain

and Ankush Jain in Tihar jail. The "special treatment extended by the prison authorities to Satyendar Kumar Jain shows that the ED's apprehension throughout was correct that being a former minister of prisons and health he is receiving favourable treatment from the prison officials including the prison doctors", it added.

"The applicant (Jain) continues to be a sitting minister in the Government of NCT Delhi and has been influencing witnesses through his incarceration. The above facts are borne out from the CCTV video footage of Tihar jail premises submitted by the Directorate before the PMLA special judge," the reply said.

कालड़ा बर्न एंव
लास्टिक कांस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

- कमर
- जांच
- आर्म
- वक्ष स्थल
- शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों का लेजर द्वारा लाइपोसक्शन

डॉ. आर. व. शर्मा से मान्यता प्राप्त

आर. व. सी. के. सामन्त, चौथे कालोनी एंव पंचवटी नार्का, धर्मपुरी रोड कलर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060



BRIEF



Devotees dressed as Lord Hanuman take part in a procession, in Amritsar, Monday.

Avalanche

Gopeshwar: An avalanche occurred on a hill slope near the Vishnuprayag hydro electric project in Uttarakhand Sunday evening, officials said. There was no damage to life and property, Chamoli District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said on Monday, adding that such avalanches are normal in the Himalayas. A mass of snow slid down the mountainside close to the 420 MW hydel project's barrage site following the avalanche. The barrage is close to the Badrinath National Highway and a few hundred metres down the Khiron river, which is considered one of the most dangerous tributaries of the Alaknanda river.

Supriyo hospitalised

Kolkata: West Bengal tourism minister Babul Supriyo was hospitalised on Monday afternoon after he complained of chest pain, a senior official said. The singer-turned-politician was made to undergo medical tests as soon as he was admitted to a hospital here, the official said. The angiography test has revealed that the minister has "minor coronary artery disease", he said.

Leopard rescued

Mangaluru: A one-year-old leopard, which fell into a well at Niddodin near here, was rescued and later released into the wild, Forest Department officials said. The officials initially tried luring the animal inside a cage on Sunday by lowering it down the well and were unsuccessful, a release said. A rescue team led by wild life specialist Dr Yashvini Naravi with Dr Meghana, Dr Prithvi and Dr Nafisa then decided to immobilise the leopard and bring it up from the well which was too deep and had a small cave inside where the animal was hiding.

Cop dragged

Palghar: A traffic police constable was dragged on the bonnet of a car for nearly 1.50 km as its driver suddenly drove the vehicle after being stopped for jumping signal in Vasai town of Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Monday. The car driver, a 19-year-old man who did not possess a valid driving licence, was arrested after the incident on Sunday evening and charged with attempt to murder among other offences, said senior inspector Sampatrao Patil of the Manickpur police station.

Weather
High 31 Low 11

MARKET
NIFTY 17,770.90
SENSEX 60,431.84

BULLION
GOLD 56,648
SILVER 66,357

Adani-Hindenburg row

Centre agrees to SC proposal of setting up of a panel of experts on regulatory mechanism

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Centre has no objection to a proposal for setting up a panel of domain experts to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms for the stock market, the Supreme Court was told on Monday while it was hearing pleas relating to the Adani stocks rout after the Hindenburg report. The central government, however, told a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that it wanted to give the names of the domain experts for the committee and the scope of its mandate in a sealed cover in larger interest. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre

and SEBI, said that the market regulator and other statutory bodies are equipped to deal with the present situation arising out of the Hindenburg report. "The government has no objection to forming a committee. But, the remit of the committee, we can suggest. We can provide names in a sealed cover," the lawyer said.

Mehta apprehended that any "unintentional" message on setting up of the panel may have some adverse impact on the flow of money. The top court has now listed two PILs, alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the Adani

Group's stock value, for hearing on Friday.

On February 10, the top court said the interests of Indian investors need to be protected against market volatility in the backdrop of the Adani stocks rout and asked the Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms.

It had also sought the views of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Centre as to how to ensure a robust mechanism is in place since the capital movement now is "seamless" in the country.

Jahangirpuri communal clash

Man involved in pelting stones arrested

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

A 24-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly pelting stones during last year's communal clashes in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, police said on Monday.

The accused, Salman alias Suleman, was part of the group that allegedly conspired and executed the riots on April 16, 2022, they said. With the fresh arrest, the police claimed to have nabbed more than 36 people involved in the incident, including juveniles. A cash reward of Rs 25,000 had been declared on Salman's arrest, police said, adding that he is a drug addict. "During interrogation, we found out

that the accused was involved in planning and conspiring the riots. He was actively involved in collecting and pelting stones," a senior police officer said. After the incident, he fled to West Bengal and then Mumbai. Salman frequently changed his hideouts before returning to Delhi again, he said. He was found previously involved in two cases, an attempt to murder and a theft. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Jintendra Kumar Meena said, "We got information about Salman, who was involved in the Jahangirpuri riots, would be coming to meet one of his contacts on February 11.

'1.12 lakh daily wage earners committed suicide in 2019-21'

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

A total of 1.12 lakh daily wage earners committed suicide in three years — 2019 to 2021, Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav said in Lok Sabha on Monday, quoting reports of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Yadav said 66,912 housewives, 53,661 self-employed persons, 43,420 salaried persons and 43,385 unemployed persons also committed suicide during the period. As many as 35,950 students and 31,839 persons engaged in the farming sector such as cultivators and agricultural labourers also committed suicide in three years — 2019,

Three die of asphyxiation at brick kiln

Balrampur, Feb 13 (PTI):

Three persons died due to asphyxiation after inhaling smoke at a brick kiln in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place late Sunday night at the brick kiln in Khujari village, an official said.

As per findings of the preliminary investigation, police suspect the three persons, including the brick kiln owner, slept atop the structure in an inebriated condition and died due to suffocation, he said.

The incident came to light on Monday morning when a labourer tried to wake them up. When they did not wake up, the labourer alerted villagers and local police, the official said.

HERITAGE WALK



A foreign delegate makes Jalebi during heritage walk on the first day of G20 meeting, in Indore, Monday.

Case against Setalvad

2 ex-IPS officers sent to Ahmedabad sessions court for trial

Ahmedabad, Feb 13 (PTI):

A metropolitan magistrate's court here on Monday committed to the sessions court for trial a case against social activist Teesta Setalvad and two former IPS officers wherein they are accused of fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people and defame Gujarat" in connection with the 2002 post-Godhra riots in the state. Additional metropolitan magistrate MV Chauhan committed the case to the sessions court in Ahmedabad for trial against Setalvad, former state Director General of Police RB Sreekumar and ex-Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt. The Ahmedabad city po-

lice's crime branch had registered an FIR (first information report) against them in June 2022, and a special investigation team (SIT) formed to probe the case had filed a chargesheet in the metropolitan magistrate's court on September 21 last year. While Mumbai-based activist Setalvad and Sreekumar, arrested in June 2022, are currently out on interim bail, Bhatt is serving a life sentence in a jail in Palanpur in Gujarat's Banaskantha district in a custodial death matter. According to existing legal norms, all cases relating to offences punishable with a life sentence or jail term exceeding seven years are to be committed to a sessions court for trial.

Govt to Lok Sabha

2020 and 2021, he said during the Question Hour.

The minister said that according to the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008, the government is mandated to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector, including daily wage workers, by formulating suitable welfare schemes on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, and any other benefit as may be determined by the central government.

The life and disability cover is provided through the Pradhan Mantri

Lakhimpur Kheri violence

Only accused, victims' representative, their lawyers to be present in trial court, says SC

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday said nobody except the accused, victims' representatives and their lawyers shall be present in the court conducting the trial in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence cases in which Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish is among those facing prosecution.

The apex court order came after the victims' lawyer claimed that a large number of supporters of Ashish Mishra were usually present during trial court proceedings creating an "intimidatory atmosphere", but the charge was denied by

the defence lawyer who claimed that there were more people from the victims' side and suggested in-camera proceedings.

The apex court said it was passing the order to ensure that trial proceedings in the sessions court in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh are conducted smoothly.

"With a view to ensure that trial proceedings are conducted smoothly and no impediment is caused by anyone, it is directed that the accused persons in both the FIRs and one representative of the victim or complainant are permitted to attend the court proceedings along with their respective counsel," a bench of jus-

ices Surya Kant and J K Maheshwari said.

The bench also perused a February 7 letter sent by the first additional district and sessions judge, Lakhimpur Kheri, and said, "We appreciate that the presiding officer has taken prompt and necessary action to ensure summoned witnesses remain present in court".

It posted the matter on March 14, the date already fixed.

During the hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the victim families in the case against Ashish, said summonses to witnesses were reaching a day after the date of proceedings.

Part 1 of Budget session concludes

Lok Sabha to meet again on March 13

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Lok Sabha was adjourned on Monday for a month-long recess and will meet again on March 13.

The first part of the Budget session saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi responding to a debate on the 'Motion of Thanks to the President's Address' and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabling the Union Budget.

The session began on January 31 with the address of President Droupadi Murmu to a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

During the first part of the session, Sitharaman also replied to the general discussion on the Union Budget.

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION



Couple celebrate Valentine's Day in the backdrop of Taj Mahal on its eve, in Agra, Monday.

Guv asks CM to explain principals' selection for visit abroad

Punjab row

Chandigarh, Feb 13 (PTI): Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Monday questioned a government appointment and the selection of school principals for a foreign trip, drawing a sharp response from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who said his government is only answerable to Punjabis and not a Centre-appointed governor. The row erupted after Purohit wrote a letter to Mann asking for details on the selection of government school principals sent to Singapore for a training seminar, saying he has received complaints of "malpractices and illegalities" in this regard. The governor also questioned the appointment of Gurinderjit Singh

Jawanda as the Punjab Information and Communication Technology Corporation chairman and pointed out that his name figured in a kidnapping and property grabbing case.

The Mann-led AAP government had sent 36 government school principals to a professional teacher training seminar in Singapore from February 6 to 10. "I have received complaints in respect to the selection of principals for sending them to Singapore for training. The complainants point out certain malpractices and illegalities in the selection of these principals. The allegation is that there is no transparency," Purohit said in his letter. "I, therefore, request you

to send me the criteria and details of entire selection process. Please also give detail if it was widely published throughout Punjab. As per news reports since the first batch has come back, please let me have details of total expenditure incurred on travelling and boarding lodging and expenses towards training," he said. Purohit asked Mann to reply to his letter within a fortnight, failing which he would seek legal advice for further action. Taking to Twitter soon after, Mann said he and his government are only answerable to the 3 crore Punjabis and not to any governor appointed by the Centre.

"Treat this as my reply," the chief minister said in a tweet in Punjabi.

Mesmerising mid-air maneuverings leave audience spellbound at Aero India

Bengaluru, Feb 13 (PTI):

Mesmerising aerial display left the audience spellbound at the inaugural session of the Aero India-2023 here on Monday. The metal birds soared high and performed breathtaking aerobatics and mid-air maneuvering as the five-day aerospace and defence show took off at the Air Force Station Yelahanka. There were displays by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited made Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Combat Helicopters, Light Utility Helicopters and Sukhoi-30, and Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters, among others. The inaugural show featured various formations such as 'Tiranga', 'Dhwaj',



Suryakiran aerobatics team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) performs during the inauguration of Aero India 2023, at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru, Monday.

and 'Bhim'. A key highlight of the inaugural session of Asia's biggest aerospace show was the Chief of the

Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari leading the Gurukul formation in the Tejas air-

craft. The Surya Kiran batch of the IAF stole the show with their scintillating performance.

Police follows e-footprints to nab notorious thief

Stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 crore recovered

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: With the arrest of a notorious thief and recovery of stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 lakhs, police claimed to have solved a multi million rupees theft incident which occurred at Adarsh Nagar on February 05. After identifying the accused with the help of CCTV footage, the cops travelled almost 5000 kilometers in three days while following the e-footprints of the accused.

After stealing huge cash and a large quantity of jewellery, the accused was enjoying a vacation in Goa. Team of Durg Police managed to arrest him from a beach in Goa. The accused hails from Nagpur, Maharashtra and was presently living in a rented house in Durg.

Under the guise of a street vendor of caps and

goggles, the accused used to conduct recce and spot the locked houses to commit theft during the night. He is an accused in over 41 criminal cases of theft, extortion, robbery, attempt to robbery, etc registered in different police stations of Nagpur Maharashtra.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control and Command Centre in Sector 6, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that Padmanabhpur Chowki had received a complaint from one Pankaj Rathi, resident of Adarsh Nagar Durg. On February 05, Rathi family had locked their house and gone to Raipur to attend a marriage function.

They returned home around midnight on February 06 and found that the main door was broken. On entering the house, they found that the almirah was also broken and about 2000 grams of gold ornaments; 15 kg silver ornaments / biscuits and about Rs 10 lakh cash

was stolen.

Taking the case into serious consideration, IG (Durg Range) Dr Anand Chhabra instructed Durg Police to trace the accused and recover the stolen booty. Under the guidance of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava and supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, CSP Vaibhav Baner Ramanlal and DSP (Crime) Prabhakar Kumar, a joint team of ACCU, Padmanabhpur Chowki and Durg Civil Team was formed. Under the leadership of ACCU in-charge Inspector Santosh Mishra and Padmanabhpur SHO Inspector Rajeev Tiwari, the team interrogated the habitual criminals and criminals released from jail. The team examined the CCTV footage and



spotted the suspect moving on a scooter. With the help of CCTV footage of different locations, Cops discovered that the accused resides near Green Chowk. With the help of informers, police identified the suspect as Akshay Irani, who was presently residing in Titurdeh. Police collected information about his residence, local relations, friends and family mem-

bers and found that the actual name of the accused is Akshay Bhaisare and he is a native of Minimata Nagar Kalamna, Nagpur, Maharashtra. About 41 criminal cases of theft, robbery, attempt to robbery and extortion were registered in various police stations of Nagpur against him. The accused had married an Irani girl who resided in his neigh-

borhood and later they had come to Durg. Initially he resided in Kelabari, Bhatapara and later he shifted to Titurdeh in Durg. During day time, the accused worked as a vendor of caps and glasses. But actually, he conducted recce under the guise of a street vendor. After identifying his target, he committed thefts during the night. After getting detailed information about the accused, police traced and followed his e-footprints and located the accused in Mumbai and Goa.

Under the guidance of senior officers, an 11-member team led by CSP (Durg) Vaibhav Banker Ramanlal was sent to Mumbai and Goa. After

reaching Goa, the team made sustained efforts to locate the accused and finally he was caught at Anjuna Beach, Goa.

The team covered a distance of 5000 kms non-stop in 03 days and succeeded in arresting the accused. During interrogation, the accused confessed to have committed several thefts in the past one year including theft at Rathi House in Adarsh Nagar. On the basis of revelations made by the accused, police recovered the gold and silver from the place of the in-laws of the accused in Bhatapara. The accused had buried the gold and silver in the compound of the house. He had concealed the cash in a pillow and had escaped to Goa with some cash. Police have recovered stolen booty worth Rs 2.25 crore from his possession.

CSP (Durg) Vaibhav Banker Ramanlal; ACCU I/c Inspector Santosh Mishra; Inspector Rajeev Tiwari; ASI Purna Bahadur; ASI Shamit

Mishra; Head Constable Santosh Mishra; Constable Anup Sharma; Constable Jugnu Singh; Constable Upendra Yadav; Constable Pradeep Thakur; Constable Farooq Khan; Constable Dhirendra Yadav; Head Constable Satyendra Madharia; Constable Jagjit Singh; Constable Tisheshwar Rathore; Constable Vikrant Kumar; Constable Narendra Sahare; Constable Rinku Soni; Constable Sanat Bharti; Constable Shobhit Sinha; Constable Komal Rajput; Constable Khurram Baksh; Constable Dikesh Sinha; Constable Santosh; Constable Chitrasen Sahu; Constable Keshav Sahu; Constable Javed Khan; Constable Prashant Patankar; Constable Nasir Baksh; Constable Kishor Soni; Constable Thomas Peter; Constable Kamlesh Yadav; Constable Bharthari Nishad and Constable Gaur Singh played a vital role in solving the case.

St Thomas College organises guest lecture on natural farming

BRM creates daily production records on consecutive days



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bar and Rod Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has set a new daily record in rolling of any section by producing 3512 tonnes of 16 mm TMT bars on February 11, 2023. Earlier this record was made on January 26, 2023 by rolling 3481 tonnes in 16

mm TMT bars. Along with this, BRM has surpassed its previous record of rolling 3512 tonnes in 16 mm TMT bar established on February 11, 2023 on the consecutive day and again created a daily record in rolling of any section by producing 3692 tonnes in 16 mm TMT bar on February 12, 2023. Mukesh

Gupta, CGM (BRM) congratulated the entire BRM team for the record-breaking performance. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) of BSP have congratulated the entire BRM team and its supporting departments for the record-breaking performance.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: The PG Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology of St Thomas College organised a guest lecture on "Farmlab - On Farm natural fertilizers development by Farmers" in association with MoU Partner Farmlabs, Pune. The objective of this webinar was to make students provide knowledge of organic farming and preparation of Biofertilizer.

Dr Santosh Chavan, Director, Farmlab Laboratory, Pune deliv-



ered a lecture on Bio-organic preparations. He told in the seminar that chemical fertilizers are toxic to environment and health. In his talk he gave a good knowledge about different methods for production of Natural fertilizers. He also discussed the journey of farmer field from last 5 years. He told his experiences regarding

preparation of biofertilizers from starting till date. In the seminar Dr Santosh thanked the government for providing financial assistance and support for Bio-organic preparations. The princi-

pal Dr MG Roymon congratulated all staff members and said that St Thomas College has been regularly organising this type of programme for beneficial to students. This event was supervised by Dr V Shanthi, Dr Ujjwala Supe, Dr Shubha Diwan, Ekta Saxena, Dr Anubhuti Jha and Sulagana Ghosh Barman, Faculties of Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology. The Programme was conducted by Dr Ujjwala Supe, Assistant professor, Department of Biotechnology, St Thomas College.

MiC meeting deliberates on many important issues

Bol Bum Sewa Samiti to celebrate Mahashivratri in a grand manner



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: An important meeting of the MiC of Bhilai Municipal Corporation was conducted under the chair of Mayor Neeraj Pal in the presence of Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi. Mayor in Council members Malti Thakur, Siju

Anthony, Saket Chandrakar, Keshav Choubey, Ekansh Banchoor, Lakshmpati Raju, Aditya Singh, Meera Banjare, Sandeep Nirankari, Lalchand Verma, Mannan Ghaffar Khan, Neha Sahu, Rita Singh Gera and Chandrashekhar Gawai were present. The meeting discussed in detail the cleanliness contract, providing skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled laborers in

the water works department of the corporation, construction of a shed at a cost of Rs 10 lakh next to the Sector 5 BSNL office and laying of paver block in Street 15 of Sector 5. At the MiC meeting the Deputy Commissioner Narendra Banjare, Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Pooja Pillay, Amitabh Sharma and Khirodra Bhoi etc were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bol Bum Sewa and Kalyan Samiti is organising Mahashivratri celebrations in a grand manner for the fifteenth consecutive year. The marriage procession of Bhole Baba will be taken out in a magnificent manner and the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati will be performed.

While addressing media persons here at Supela on Monday, Bol Bum Samiti President Daya Singh informed that this mega religious event will be held on the occasion of Mahashivratri on February 18. He added that the grandeur of this event attracts the devotees from different districts of the state.

The organisers are continuously working to make the event a grand success. Several dignitaries have been invited in



the programme. This year also, the organisers have made special arrangements. The grandeur of the event can be gauged from the fact that till now more than 31000 invitation cards have been distributed.

Daya Singh informed that to make this procession successful, the office bearers, youth wing, women's wing and members of the Bol Bum Sewa and Kalyan Samiti are working for the last three months. They

have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Bhpesh Baghel, former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh; Union Ministers, Governors, former Cabinet Ministers, eminent citizens and politicians.

Speaking about the attractions of the programme, Daya Singh informed that tableaux of Kerala have been included in the marriage procession of Lord Shiva. The artists will be dressed as Lord Shiva, Maa

Parvati, Ganesha, Lord Hanuman and other deities. Tableaux from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh will also be the centre of attraction. Tableaux from different districts of Chhattisgarh will also participate. Devotees will have glimpses of Ram Darbar, Shri Krishna Leela, Shiv Tandav, Shiv - Parvati Vivah, Radha Krishna and much more.

Raut Nacha, Akhada, Panthi, DJ, Dhumaal, Band Party, etc

will create a devotional atmosphere. For the first time, a laser show of Mumbai will be staged here.

The procession is scheduled to begin at 14:00 hrs from Indira Nagar (Hathkhaj) and prayers will be offered at Ram Janki Mandir. The procession will move across Transport Nagar, Canal Road, Kartikeya Chowk, Bol Bum Chowk, Nandi Triangle, Zone 1 Shiv mandir and conclude at Durga Puja Ground in Khursipar where the marriage will be conducted.

Office bearers and members of the organising committee including Women's wing president Manju Mishra, Pushpa Singh, Sunita Devi, Rajwinder Kaur, Tarini Sharma, Bilotin Jaiswal, Hemlata Bisai, Mukesh Sharma, Pradeep Soni, Nandu Gupta and others were present in the press conference.

All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 concludes on grand note

Bhilai Maitri College organises talk on 'Spirituality Relevance in Present Era'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 was organised on a grand scale by Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. The session on its final day began with a guest lecture on "Challenges for a Physician in the 21st Century" by Dr C Narasimhan (Head of Electro Physiology & SE Consultant Cardiology, AIG Hospital, Hyderabad). After this, a very interesting and informative medical quiz was organised by Quiz Master and former Director (Personnel) of Shipping Corporation of India, SPS Jaggi and Jacob Kurian, GM (LA & PR). The interesting and informative medical quiz won a lot of applause from the doctors. After the quiz,



the winners of various competitions were announced. Dr M Ravindranath (CMO I/c (M & HS), Dr Pramod Binayake (CMO, (M & HS)), Dr Sudhir Rai (GM, Tata Steel), Dr Navin Kumar (GM VSP) Dr BK Hota (ED, RSP), Dr BB Karunamoy (CMO, Bokaro), Dr MY Suresh (CMO, Bhadravati) and Dr Minati Pal (ACMO, Durgapur) were present on the stage during the Prize distribution ceremony. The Winners of various categories in-

clude Dr PJ Roy, Dr Dipti Soy, Dr Sudeshna Dasgupta in MBBS paper and Dr Prachi Mene, Dr SK Tiwari, Dr Biswaroop Mukherjee in long paper. Similarly, Dr Akanksha Sharma, Dr Bhupendra Kumar Gupta, Dr Jitendra Pandey in TOM paper and Dr Rajesh Thakur, Dr Amit Kumar, Dr Subhasmita Patnaik were winners in short paper presentation. Dr Tapas Mandal, Dr B Shashidhar, Dr Pankaj Kumar in OHS paper and Dr

Siriki Dheeraj, Dr Abha Singh, Dr Saujanya N in MBBS poster were awarded. In PG Poster, Dr Col SS Chauhan, Dr Puspsha Kumari, Dr A Shanti Priya captured the prize. Dr Pragya Jyoti Roy and Dr Neelkanth Sahu of RSP got the first prize in the quiz, Dr Shiva Martha and Dr Sumit Upadhyay of BSP got the second prize and Dr Abha Singh and Dr Siddhant Verma of Tata got the third prize. Best Male Speaker Award was

given to Dr Deb Sanjay Nag and Best Female Speaker Award to Dr Akanksha Sharma and Best Team Award was given to Tata Steel Plant.

At the end of the program, Dr Subodh Saha, Secretary, Organising Committee stated that the smooth execution of the Conference was possible due to the guidance of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) along with the Head of the organising committee and CMO in-charge, Dr M Ravindranath, Committee Chairman and CMO, Dr Pramod Binayake and all the Committee officials. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants and Incharges of all the steel plants. He also wished Tata Steel Plant the very best for organising the next "AISMOC".

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bhilai Maitri College, Risali, organised a talk on "Relevance of spirituality in the present age" which was delivered by Gaur Shyam Das, A Devotee, Akshay Patra foundation, Hare Krishna Movement. Present era is full of competition and aspirations and the students lack time for spirituality which is the essence of finding happiness in one's life.

The session was helpful to train the students to channelise their mind to

focus on the positive aspects and control the negative urges. The B Ed and D El Ed trainees found the session helpful and relevant in satisfying their curious minds. Principal Dr Surekha Vinod Patil and all the staff members of college attended and took full knowledge and advantage of the programme.



NTPC has set global operational benchmarks in sustainable power generation: RK Singh

Raipur/ New Delhi Feb 13: "India is committed to providing reliable and affordable power supply to people while keeping environmental concerns as the core priority", said R.K. Singh, Cabinet Minister (Power, New & Renewable Energy) during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day international O&M conference, the Indian Power Stations 2023 being organized by NTPC Limited at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. While addressing the audience he further lauded NTPC Limited's accomplishment by saying, "NTPC Limited has set global operational benchmarks in terms of its performance, culture, and progress."

The three-day Indian Power Stations 2023 International O&M Conference or IPS 2023 is being organized from Feb 13-15 at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on "Strategies for reliable and sustainable power generation in changing energy scenario" being the theme for this year. Day 1 began with the inauguration of the Conference and

Technogalaxy exhibition followed by technical sessions of the O&M Conference and interaction with vendors at the exhibition. Continuing the same on Day 2, there will be a concluding session for NTPC delegates. Day 3 will include Technogalaxy and interaction with vendors in exhibition stalls followed by the presentation of vendors.

Commenting on the contribution of NTPC Limited in the energy sector, Krishan Pal, Minister of State of Power said, "The efforts of NTPC have been commendable so far. As the need for power increases in the country, the need is to tackle certain challenges that come along with it. I believe that a lot of interesting ideas will come from this conference which will help significantly in the future of sustainable and reliable power."

NTPC Vindhyachal achieved the distinction of crossing 600 + BE score and received the coveted Overall Excellence award. Since the IPS conference was withheld in the past two years due to the Covid



IPS 2023
इंडियन पावर स्टेशन्स (ऑपरेशन ओ एम एन एन)
Indian Power Stations (International O&M Conference)
13 to 15 February 2023

pandemic, this year, the laurels for the stations recognized for Overall Excellence for Years 20-21 and 21-22 assessment years were bagged by NTPC Singrauli and NTPC Rihand respectively. The Overall Excellence for assessment year 22-23 - Special recognition by jury - was awarded to NTPC Solapur. The awards were received by the BUH of the Respective stations along with the Regional Executive Directors.

NTPC Korba received the First Runner-Up award, and NTPC Talcher Kaniha received the

Second Runner-Up award. Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson Central Electrical Authority (CEA), VK Dewangan, CMD, REC Ltd, DK Patel Director (HR), Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operation), Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) and Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), independent directors of NTPC and senior officials were present during the felicitation ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC Limited said, "Reliable and sustainable power is more important than PLF or the generation. Going forward, the challenges with renewable energy and thermal power will become more severe as the requirements for the grid will have to be taken into consideration. Safety, reliability, flexibility, efficiency, and affordability is the priority. We should keep the cost of power as low as possible"

As the world is currently undergoing major transformations induced by the Covid 19, the war in

Ukraine, and the resultant supply chain disruptions affecting global commodity prices. NTPC pledges to never compromise on the availability of energy for the country's growth and to maintain a high living standard for the people.

Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, CEA said, "The narrative around the world is to move away from coal-based power generation. The fact that every country has its own transition path holds true. But for a country like India, there is no option other than coal for a sustainable and reliable source of energy for consumers at present."

V Ramesh Babu, (Director, Operations), NTPC also spoke on the occasion. He emphasized the commitment to generating and providing reliable power at competitive prices in a sustainable manner by optimizing the use of multiple energy resources with innovative eco-friendly technologies, contributing to the economic development of the nation, social upliftment of society, and promoting a healthy environment.



DUSTY ROADS
With digging done in most of the roads, the denizens are facing blow of dust with passing of vehicles and it is going to become worse in summers.

Man killed and wife seriously injured in car-Hyva collision

● **Pick-up conductor too succumbs to injuries in another accident**

Raipur, Feb 13: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents in Raipur on Monday. The first accident took place in Nimora area of Raipur and the second in Mandir Hasaud area. Raipur police are probing both the accidents.

In first accident the car of a man coming from

Gariaband with his wife to Raipur collided with a Hyva standing on the road. Man driving the car died on the spot while his wife was seriously injured. She was rushed to Ambedkar Hospital for treatment. Deceased Jaiprakash Patra (45) was resident of Gariaband and was working as LIC agent. He was coming along with his wife to Raipur to meet their acquaintances when they met with an accident. Police rushed Jayaprakash's wife to the hospital where she is

undergoing treatment. The second accident took place on National Highway 53 on the road leading from Mandir Hasaud to Arang. A pick-up vehicle overturned after colliding with a truck in front of RT Engineering College leaving its conductor dead on the spot. The driver of the pickup was badly injured in the accident and was trapped inside the vehicle. Some passers-by informed the ambulance and the police. After a prolonged effort the driver was rescued from the vehicle.

NIT Raipur organised Codeutsava 6.0

Raipur, Feb 13: National Institute of Technology Raipur's Turning Club of Programmers (TCP) - The official coding club conducted the sixth edition of its annual flagship event, "Codeutsava 6.0" from 11th to 12th February 2023. The event was successfully organised under the adept guidance of Dr Pavan Kumar Mishra, faculty in-charge, TCP. Dr Shrish Verma, Dean (Academics), Dr Sudhakar Pandey, Associate Professor, Information Technology (IT), Dr Pavan Kumar Mishra, Assistant Professor, IT, Dr Samir Bajpai, Professor, Civil Engineering, and Dr Rakesh Tripathi, Assistant Professor, IT were the special guests for the inaugural ceremony. Faculty members of the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and IT also served as the guests.

Dr Samir Bajpai strongly emphasised the fact that technology is not at all branch-specific and that each and every student must keep themselves updated with the ongoing and futuristic technologies to discover ample growth in their career trajectories. Dr. Shrish Verma encouraged all the students to actively participate in the events and gain the best of

experiences. Post the inaugural ceremony, the guests took a tour of all the event venues.

Day-1 witnessed the most anticipated 28-hour long annual hackathon alongside various fun-filled and enthralling events like IT quiz, code riddles, logo designing for brand, and round-1 of the "Ultimate Gaming" (Valorant) with participants from other colleges and cities as well. Three 2-day workshop sessions on the technical topics like cloud computing, data structures and algorithms, and AI Chat GPT further added to the overall exuberance of the event. Day-2 observed the further segments of the hackathon and the technical workshops, and round-2 of the "Ultimate Gaming" (Valorant). The 2-day mega event concluded with a closing ceremony felicitating all the winners. Over 100 teams from different parts of India had participated in the hackathon, of which 23 teams and 125 members were finalised from prominent institutes. Team "Technicutes" from NIT Raipur bagged the first prize, followed by team "Synchronised Minds" bagging the 2nd prize and Team "The Scriptors" bagging the third prize.

CGBSE helpline from Feb 21 before start of board exams

Raipur, Feb 14: Helpline-2023 is being started by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) from February 21 in view of high school, higher secondary and higher secondary vocational examinations.

CGBSE Secretary Prof. VK Goyal said that psychologists, educational motivators, subject experts and officers of the board will be present to answer to queries of students in the helpline. Psychologists, psychiatrists, educational motivators will give counseling by solving the problems related to exam fear, exam

stress. The subject experts will solve the problems related to the examination of the subject to be held on the next day and the officials of the board will solve the problems related to the board.

Students, teachers and parents can call on the helpline on the toll free no 18002334363 to get solution for their problems. CGBSE Secretary Prof. VK Goyal said that psychologists, educational motivators, subject ex-

perts and officers of the board will be present to answer to queries of students in the helpline. Psychologists, psychiatrists, educational motivators will give counseling by solving the problems related to exam fear, exam

stress. The subject experts will solve the problems related to the examination of the subject to be held on the next day and the officials of the board will solve the problems related to the board.

Nearly 98 lakh MT of paddy lifted for custom milling

Raipur, Feb 13: After procuring paddy from farmers at the support price in the state, millers are now rapidly lifting it for custom milling. So far, 98 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy have been lifted, with DOs issued for lifting of 103 lakh MT of paddy. Paddy lifting is going on continuously under the guidance of the district administration. This year more than 107 lakh MT of paddy has been procured at support price from the farmers of the state. It is worth mentioning that, following the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel last year, the lifting of paddy has again been started from procurement centers for custom milling this year, which has resulted in a significant reduction in transportation expenditure for the state government.

Statue of senior social worker Kanhaiya Prasad Tiwari unveiled



Raipur, Feb 13: Statue of Kanhaiya Prasad Tiwari Dharmacharya, social worker and associate of freedom fighter, was unveiled in Pacheda village of Abhanpur, adjacent to the capital. MLA Satyanarayan Sharma was present as chief guest at the statue unveiling ceremony.

Mahant Dr Ram Sundar Das Chairman Gou Seva Aayog and Anita Yogendra Sharma, MLA Dharseva were special guests. Dhanendra Sahu presided over the programme. Villagers and people in the nearby areas were present on the occasion.

Central Bank of India awarded 'Utkarsh Purashkar'

● **For Digital Payment campaign 'Digital Utsav'**

Raipur, Feb 13: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi awarded Central Bank of India for 1st Highest Percentage of Digital Payment Transactions. On behalf of Central Bank of India, the award was received by Mr. J.S. Sawhney, Zonal Head, Delhi at the event. The award was named as 'U T K A R S H PURASHKAR'.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi launched the PAN India Digital payment campaign "DIGITAL UTSAV" on 9th February, 2023 at The India Habitat Centre, New Delhi by Chief Guest Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology in presence of Simmi Chaudhary, IES Economic Adviser and Secretary, Ministry of Electronics



and Information Technology and other delegates of Central Govt., Bankers, Fin techs etc. In order to make this launching successful Central Bank of India has organised various activities like setting up Digital Payment Camps at various places of Delhi NCR mentioning Malviya Nagar, Nehru Place, Janpath, Safdarjung, Ghonda, Jyoti Nagar, Gokulpuri, Gurgaon, Tilak Nagar and Sect 15 Faridabad. The Theme of

the Camp was Information Security, Cyber Security, Digital Payments Awareness and our Bank's Digital Product awareness for safe and secure digital payments usage. We have arranged Standees, Pen, Badges, Banners, Caps, Stickers, Selfie Point, and Leaflets distributed at the Camps. Digital Payment Road Shows were also organised at GK2 Market, Chandini Chowk, Lal Qila, ITO, Delhi Gate, Gurgaon. The Road show consisted of

Bikes, Cycles, Staff and Digital Awareness Flags, Caps, Pens, Badges, leaflets etc were distributed during the Road Show. Flagging off of a Branding Vehicle containing Digital Banking Awareness and our Bank's Digital Products was done by the Chief Guest of the event from the Venue. The Branding Vehicle played "Chutki Baja ke" Digital Payment anthem and other digital payment digital payment awareness videos of our Bank.

Issue of killing of BJP workers in Ch'garh echoes in Parliament

Raipur, Feb 13: Lashing out at Congress in the Lok Sabha over brutal killing of 4 BJP office bearers in Chhattisgarh in the last 30 days the Chhattisgarh State BJP President MP Arun Sao said that the Government of India should direct Chhattisgarh Government for

the security of the people. He also demanded a fair probe into the incidents of 'targeted' killing of BJP leaders in Chhattisgarh. Alleging political conspiracy

against the Bharatiya Janata Party he said that martyrdom of BJP leaders will not go in vain. The Congress government in Chhattisgarh has failed to provide security to the people of the state, he said, adding that attempts are being made to bleed Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh will not let the martyrdom of 4 sons of Mahatari go in vain, he added. Seeking impartial probe through the House Sao asked the Government of India to direct state government to protect life of people of Chhattisgarh.

RBI organises Financial Literacy Week 2023



Raipur, Feb 13: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme among the public across the country. The theme selected for the current year FLW is "Good Financial Behaviour - Your Saviour" which is being observed between February 13 and 17, 2023.

For the State of Chhattisgarh, the FLW was inaugurated by Mrs Reeny Ajith, Regional Director for Chhattisgarh, RBI on

February 13, 2023 and the event was attended by J. P. Tirkey RBI Ombudsman, Dr. Gyanendra Mani, CGM, NABARD, Mrs Sheetal S Verma, Director, Directorate of Institutional Finance, Govt of Chhattisgarh, D.K. Upadhyay, Convenor SLBC, Mohan Rawat, DGM, RBI, other officials from RBI and banks.

The theme "Good Financial Behaviour - Your Saviour" emphasizes on "Saving, planning, and budgeting" and "Prudent use of digital financial services" which aligns with the overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.

RBI has developed this year's FLW content in the form of three posters and audio-visuals. Banks have been advised to disseminate this information and create awareness among their customers and public by displaying these posters on their websites, ATMs,

mobile applications, and digital display boards deployed in their branches. Additionally, at the national level RBI will undertake a centralized mass media campaign in different languages during the month of February 2023. On similar lines, at the State level, RBI Raipur will undertake mass media campaign (TVC) in Chhattisgarhi dialect.

Police nabs 5 accused in online fraud case worth lakhs

● **Five cheated of amount around 20 lakh**

Raipur, Feb 13: Raipur police has nabbed five of fake Google Customer Care (Jamtada) gang on charges of cheating scores of lakhs through online fraud. The police formed a team to investigate into the matter and through technical analysis and the accounts in which the amount was transferred them rounded off to place call Durgapur (WB). A team was sent there to camp and on reaching there they came to know that the accused are playing cautiously and using all fake SIM cards and even the accounts in



the Bank were of different places and using it only for online fraud. The police team residing in Durgapur came to know about their location from a house in Durgapur and on raiding the house, nabbed five accused viz. MD Alam, Dinesh Rai, Prakash Rajawar, Mahendra Singh, Rohit Kumar R/o Devghar Jharkhand. On asking se-

riously about the incident of online fraud, they all accepted their hand in it and informed that on asking people to update their mobile number, the cheated them of lakhs of cash. The team also seized 16 no's mobile phones, 151 SIMs of different companies, 11 no's ATM cards of different banks and brought the accused on

transit remand to Raipur from Durgapur (WB). The complainant Sudarshan Jain of Mowa Heights Raipur was cheated of Rs 14 lakh for updating his mobile Phonepay App and was asked to download F-Support App and after which he lost Rs 14 lakh. Another complainant was Subhash Chandra of Ashoka Ratna, Pandri Thana area who lost Rs 1.92 lakh after he was asked to download Anidesk App in his mobile. Another Sandhya Kabra of Ashoka Ratna Raipur also lost Rs 2.12 lakh with similar request of downloading the Anidesk App. One Kedar Pradhan, R/o Kushalpur, also lost Rs 1 lakh with online fraud.

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Work continuously for improvement in settlement error: CM



Complaints of illicit sale of liquor be treated seriously
CM reviews govt's schemes

Raipur, Feb 13: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reviewed the progress of government schemes by holding a meeting of officials at Abhanpur circuit house yesterday after

Bhent-mulaqat with the general public in Tamasivni and Khorpa villages under Abhanpur assembly constituency of Raipur district. He inquired about various schemes including Godhan Nyay Yojana, RIPA, Narva Yojana.

Chief Minister said that instructions were given to the officers to connect rural women with livelihood-oriented activities and to bring progress in the works

of Narva. He took information about ground water level from the Public Health Engineering Department and gave instructions to continue the Narva programme. Prior to this, Chief Minister directed Revenue Department officials to correct the settlement error as well as to carry out caste certificate and other revenue work on a regular basis. While for the Suposhan Abhiyan he instructed for going to the

homes of malnourished children to provide nutritional information, getting pregnant women checked for Anemia, arranging treatment for Anemia, and providing free treatment and other facilities to an increasing number of people in the Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana.

He also reviewed the condition of roads and progress of Jal Jeevan Mission from the PHE department. He expressed serious displeasure on the complaint of sale of illicit liquor and being sold at higher rate. Similarly, he asked to take strict action on the complaint of illegal mining. On this occasion, Abhanpur MLA Dhanendra Sahu, Chief Minister's Secretary Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi, Raipur District Collector, Superintendent of Police and other senior officers were present.

'Koriya Kumar' devoted his entire life for devp of Ch'garh'

CM unveils statue of State's first Finance Minister 'Koriya Kumar' Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev



Koriya, Feb 13: Raipur, 13 February 2023/ Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled the statue of state's first Finance Minister, Late Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev, popularly known as 'Koriya Kumar', at Ghadi Chowk, Baikunthpur, the district headquarters of Koriya, on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Chief Minister paid tribute to late Dr Ramchandra Singhdev by garlanding his statue.

Remembering late Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that his entire life was dedicated to Chhattisgarh. Development and betterment of Chhattisgarh and Koriya, were always the core of his vision, and he worked sincerely to realize this vision. He was a multifaceted personality. Baghel said that Koriya Kumar Dr. Singhdev may have been born in a royal family, but he lived the life of a fakir. His life was very simple. He was frugal throughout his life. Dr. Ramchandra Singhdev

was easygoing, simple, sociable, and had cheerful personality. Chief Minister said that the way the tribals take from nature only as per their requirement and do not store it, in the same way Koriya Kumar lived his life with simplicity. Recalling his tenure as PHE Minister, Chief Minister said that back then, Dr. Singhdev had personally visited the area to study water recharging work there. His expertise was in water management and irrigation projects. Mr. Baghel told that Dr. Singhdev was part of the family. Chief Minister said that when he became an MLA and a minister in 1967, half of the portfolios were with him. He also rendered remarkable services as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. When Chhattisgarh was formed, he became the first

finance minister of the state. His thoughts and ideas are the foundation of the progressive economy of Chhattisgarh today. Today, Chhattisgarh is moving fast on the foundation of the economy of Chhattisgarh laid by him as the Finance Minister. Chief Minister told that Dr. Singhdev would often ask him to call him uncle instead of Kumar Saheb. The absence of such a simple-minded and sociable person is definitely an irreparable loss for all of us. Chief Minister Baghel also mentioned the contribution of Koriya Kumar's father late Ramanuja Pratap Singhdeo in the making of labour law and mid-day meal scheme, which is being implemented in the entire country today. He said that the love and affection of Koriya Kumar was always with him. Today, on this

occasion, I pay my respects to that great personality who devoted his entire life to the development of the state, said Baghel.

On this occasion, CM Baghel performed Bhumi Pujan of various development works costing about Rs. 10.99 crore for the district, which includes works worth Rs. 7.63 crore for Municipal Council Baikunthpur, works of Rs. 2.86 crore for Municipal Council Shivpur-Charcha and various other development works of Rs. 50 lakh including the community hall of Sarva Adivasi Samaj in Baikunthpur*

On this occasion, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, Minister in-charge of Home, Public Works and District Tamradhwaj Sahu, Health Minister T.S. Singhdev, School Education Minister Dr. Premjai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary and Baikunthpur MLA Ambika Singhdev, Vice President of Surguja Development Authority and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Gulab Kamro and Director, CGMSC and Manendragarh MLA Dr. Vinay Jaiswal including local public representatives, eminent citizens and elders. Common people were present in large numbers.

Teachers should be insightful and always keep striving for self-development: Prof Chakrawal

Online refresher program concludes in CU

Bilaspur, Feb 13: An online refresher program on 'Design and Development of Outcome Based Curriculum', was organized jointly by Department of Education and UGC Human Resource Development Center, Guru Ghasidas University's from Jan 30 to Feb 11 and the program concluded on Feb 11. Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal was the Chief Guest of the program which took place in online mode.

A total of 38 participants from nine states participated in this program and 33 subject experts from various higher educational institutions of the country presented their lectures in this program.

The concluding session of the program started with the welcome of the guests. First of all, the participants recounted their experiences gained in the program and described the program as well organized and well managed and congratulated the organizing committee for the selection of invited subject experts. The Coordinator of the Refresher Program, Professor C.S. Vazalwar introduced everyone to the tasks carried out by the participants and the ses-



sions that took place every day in the Refresher Program. Professor Ratnesh Singh, Director of the UGC Human Resource Development Center, lauded all the participants for having successfully completed the program.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal told all the participants about the qualities that go into the

making of a good teacher and said that a teacher is the ideal of the students, so before giving lessons to the students, teachers should bring that thing into their own conduct, otherwise it has no meaning. Prof. Chakrawal said, "It is crucial that everyone, teachers in particular, are insightful and always keep striving for self-development." He ex-

plained the importance of work in life and said that it is the duty of a teacher to take care of the future of his students, and with this aim, he should dedicate himself.

Dr. Sambit Kumar Padhi, Co-coordinator of the Refresher Program, delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Jyoti Verma, Co-coordinator of the program, teachers, participants, researchers of the Education Department and all the employees of UGC Human Resource Development Center, Guru Ghasidas University were present. The program was conducted by Ragendra Singh Thakur, Assistant Director of the UGC Human Resource Development Center.

On Modern Tools and Techniques

Raipur, Feb 13: Five day national workshop on Modern Tools and Techniques in Chemical and Biological Research at Centre for Basic Sciences (CBS), Pt RSU Raipur was inaugurated on February 13 at the hands of Vice Chancellor Professor Kesari Lal Verma. In his speech he congratulated all the participants for their selection in the workshop and encouraged them for learning more of scientific techniques. CBS Director Professor Kallol Kumar Ghosh in his welcome speech threw light on the aim of this workshop. The special guests Prof A K Gupta from School of Studies in Biology, Pt RSU and Prof. Manas Kanti Deb from School of Studies in Chemistry also expressed their views. In the workshop 45 partic-



ipants from different districts of Chhattisgarh are taking part. These participants will be taught about latest techniques and instruments used in the researches of Chemistry and Biology. The programme coordinators Dr Bhanushree Gupta and Dr Venu Joshi said, 18 lectures (both offline and online) will be delivered in this workshop by the professors and scientists from renowned institutions.

These institutions are IIT Delhi, IIT Bhubaneswar, BARC Mumbai, AIIMS Raipur and Department of Biotechnology Delhi. Hands on Training of different softwares (Computational Chemistry SPSS, Chem Draw)

will also be given in the workshop.

In the first technical session Dr Mahabooob Alam, Chemistry Department, IIT Bhubaneswar delivered a lecture on Computational Chemistry and its uses in Chemistry and Biology apart from hands on training through software. The second lecture was of Prof Aarti Parghania, School of Studies in Biology, Pt RSU along with hands on training on SPSS software. Later participants receive hands on training on rotary evaporator and fluorescence spectrophotometer. The workshop will conclude on February 17.

'Initiative on Wash' organised at KPS

By Rotary Club of Raipur Greater

Raipur, Feb 13: Rotary Club of Raipur Greater organised 'Initiative on Wash' (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) in school, UNICEF Chhattisgarh on Feb 13, 2023.



Wash is one of the important mandates of UNICEF for the benefit of children. UNICEF Chhattisgarh works with the school education department on improving access to adequate water with prescribed quality, inclusive and general friendly functional wash facilities and services and hygiene promotion and behaviour change communication, including handwashing with soap and menstrual hygiene management. Krishna Public School, Dunda was one of the 101 benefitted Schools from wash Campaign. There were 4000+ students who attended this campaign and learnt seven steps of Hand wash demonstrated by Rotary Club Hand

Wash Warriors. This Campaign was a huge success because of the presence of Dignitaries from Rotary Club Greater, Ramesh Agrawal, TRF Technical Coordinator WASH, Director WASH Rotary Action Group, Shashank Rastogi Dist Governor, Rtn. Manjeet Singh Arora, Rtn Vinay Agrawal, Rtn Rahul Jadhav Secretary, Rtn K. Panigrahi, Dist WASH Chairman, Rtn Hemant Agrawal Program Chairman, Rahul Dubey, Ekansh Jalan, Rajesh Chourasia. Subhash Sahu and Bharat Daga Rotary Raipur, Main also graced the occasion. The Executive Director Krishna Group of

State's procurement of Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi continues at a rapid pace

So far, approx 27,000 quintals worth Rs 8.21 cr have been purchased

Procurement by all primary forest-produce cooperative groups in the state

Raipur, Feb 13: In line with the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to promote the crops of

Kodo, Kutki and Ragi in Chhattisgarh, these crops are being procured at support price. So far, the state has bought 26 thousand 808 quintals of Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi valued at Rs 8 crore 21 lakh under the leadership of Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar.

According to the State Minor Forest Produce Association, Kodo is being purchased at a rate of Rs.30 per kg, Kutki at a rate of Rs.31, and Ragi at a

rate of Rs.35.78 per kg. So far, 22 thousand 855 quintals of Kodo, 01 thousand 182 quintals of Kutki, and 02 thousand 772 quintals of Ragi have been purchased. Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi will be purchased at the support price until February 15, 2023.

It is noteworthy that Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi are being procured by all the Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Societies of the State Minor Forest Produce Federation in the

entire state. Principal Secretary Forest Manoj Kumar Pingua said that by expanding its scope in the interest of farmers, these crops are now being procured at the support price through all the primary forest produce cooperative societies of the State Minor Forest Produce Association in the entire state. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Sanjay Shukla told that by identifying such areas of

the state, which are located outside the jurisdiction of the Primary Minor Forest Produce Committee or District Union, these villages and areas have been bought under the jurisdiction of the nearest Primary Minor Forest Produce Committee and District Union. As a result, Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi can be purchased in such areas at the support price and the collectors of these crops will get the benefit of the support price.

SAI Excellency, Lucknow, Petroleum Board Delhi enters semi-finals

Sundargarh, Mumbai and Danapur out of the tournament

79th Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey Tournament

Rajnandgaon, Feb 13: In an interesting match in the first-half, SAI Excellency Hostel, Lucknow defeated SAI Centre Sundargarh in a tie-breaker scoring 5-4 and in the second match, Petroleum Board, Delhi defeated Western Railway, Mumbai in the second quarter final by 7-2 and secured berth in the semi-finals of the 79th Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey tournament here on Monday. In another match SAIL Academy, Rourkela defeated BRC Danapur by 4-1 and entered into quarter finals. On the 6th day of the the pre-quarter final Hockey Tournament, SAIL Academy, Rourkela defeated Bihar



Regiment Centre (BRC), Danapur by 4-1 and entered the quarter final. Both the teams could not score a single goal in the first and second quarter, but in the third quarter, SAIL scored a goal through penalty corner on 31st minute. In this Carbin Lakra scored the goal and took his team ahead by 1-0. In the second-half of the match, Niket of SAIL scored another goal in the 37th minutes and just after this in the 38th minute, BRC Danapur got a penalty corner and here Manoranjan Minj scored a goal

and made the score 2-1. After this in the 41st minute, Devnath of SAILI and Karan Lakra in the 59th minute scored two more goals and took their team ahead with lead of 4-1 and entered into quarter finals.

In the other two quarter finals played in the tournament, the match SAI Excellency, Lucknow defeated SAI Centre, Sundargarh in a tie-breaker with 5-4 and entered into semi-finals. In this match, in the 8th minutes, Dharmendra Yadav of SAI Excellency scored

a goal through penalty corner and took a lead. After this in the 21st minute, Rohit Bishra of SAI Sundargarh scored a goal and made the score equal 1-1 each. This situation remained till the end of the match and therefore in the tie-breaker, from SAI Lucknow, Dharmendra Yadav, Deepak Patel, Jai Prakash Patel, Dhananjay Yadav and from SAI Sundargarh Luv Lite Kujur and Iman Jojo and Joseph scored the goal. In the second quarter final between Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi

Tomorrow's matches

1. Customs Pune V/s SAIL Academy, Rourkela at 1:30 pm
2. RCF Kapoorthala V/s NCR Allahabad at 3:30 pm

defeated Western Railway, Mumbai, by 7-2 and entered into semi-finals. From New Delhi's team- Manpreet Singh scored a goal in the 6th minute; Gurjinder in the 50th minute and Roshan Minj in the 51st minute and Arfan Yusuf in the 58th minute. From Mumbai's team, only Irshad Mirza could score a goal in the 7th minute and Shubham Singh in the 54th minute.

In the matches played on Monday, Rajesh Jain presented the man-of-match award in the first match of SAIL Academy Rourkela captain- Tarun Yadav and in the second match to Arjun Yadav of SAI Excellency and to Arfan Yusuf of Petroleum Board, New Delhi in the third match with cash prize of Rs 1500 each.

Amity University organizes Amity Football League



To conserve Chhattisgarh rivers

Raipur, Feb 13: Amity University is organizing Amity Football League from 13th February till 17th February 2023. The aim of this league is to conserve the rivers of Chhattisgarh and to motivate the youth in this mission. 6 teams are participating in this inter-school football league and the

names of the teams are based on the rivers of Chhattisgarh, Arpa, Pairi, Mahanadi, Shivnath, Indravati & Kharun river.

The first match was inaugurated after the state song which beautifully explains the various rivers flowing through Chhattisgarh. During the inauguration, the Vice-Chancellor of Amity University, Dr. Piyush Kant Pandey spoke about

the importance of conserving water and rivers and emphasized the role of the youth in this effort. The event was attended by the Registrar, Director of PR, Dean of Student Welfare, heads of various schools, and a large number of students who were there to show their support for the players.

Total there will be 10 matches amongst the schools and finals will be played on February 17.

Bhavna Bohra gifts health checkup facility

Wheelchair provided to Divyang to appear in PSC Exam

Central Chronicle News

Kabirdham, Feb 13: Social worker and president of District Panchayat Kabirdham, Bhavna Bohra, who has been dedicated to serving and helping every needy people, here inaugurated the free mobile health path lab and dedicated it to the public. Seer Puri Shankaracharya Swami Shri Nishchalanand Saraswati Maharaj, who came to village Ranveerpur under the national campaign, inaugurated it by cutting the ribbon at the school ground, Bazar Chowk.

Swami Shri Nishchalanand congratulated Bhavna Bohra for this meaningful effort and her readiness for public service. On this occasion, more than 15 thousand district residents and religious lovers, special and very special guests from every corner of the state were present.

On this occasion, Bhavna Bohra, founder of Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan, said that today is a very important day for her. In view of the inconvenience being faced by the common people due to lack of facilities for health check-up in the district and region, the feelings that they had in their mind for its solution have come true today.

Bhavna Bohra, who is continuously working for the service, protection and help of every needy and poor people of Kabirdham district, said that through this free mobile health unit, a target has been set to benefit more than 30 thousand people every year.

Along with providing better health facilities to



the people living there, more than 20 different, complex and general tests will be done free of cost by going to every village of the district, which is done in private labs for about Rs 200 to 2000.

With this mobile health path lab, apart from providing health facilities to the residents of the area, they will get relief from running and financial assistance will also be provided to the needy and

poor people. He told that due to the health problems prevailing in the area and the lack of equipment for health check-up, seeing the problems being faced by the public, he constantly had a feeling that he should make some efforts to solve them.

With this objective and goal, he has started this free mobile health path lab for the people of the district, which will provide financial and mental sup-

port to people of every class. With the introduction of this mobile health path lab, especially people living in rural areas had to travel to remote places, but with the introduction of this service, this health check-up will reach their village.

With this, along with the elderly and women, poor and needy people will get better testing facilities and their time and money will also be saved. This service started by Bhavna Bohra for the purpose of public service will provide better testing facilities to thousands of people in the district.

It may be noted that public service work is being done by Bhavna Bohra for the past years in Kabirdham district and

other nearby districts. Along with this, Arogyam free health camp for better health of the residents, distribution of free equipment to 72 disabled people on the 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, free food and rest facility for Kanwar pilgrims going from Kabirdham district, oxygen concentrator in community health centers.

Nari Samman Alankaran for women empowerment, Meri Sakhi self-protection program, sewing machine to women, installation of sanitary pad vending machine, Corona Warrior Service Award, free ration distribution, Haldhar Sammelan for farmers, pure drinking water supply in major places of the region Installation of water coolers, organizing camps on Yoga Day, plantation of trees under Hamar Gaon Hariyar Gaon Abhiyan are being done continuously.

**Central Chronicle News**

Gorella-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 13: A wheelchair was immediately provided to orthopedically handicapped Rohit Kumar, under the Scheme of Supply of Accessories of the Social Welfare Department, when it came to the notice of Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia, who taking prompt action did the needful. Showing sensitivity, the Collector sent a letter to Anandrop Tiwari, the in-charge of the examination and to the

Social Welfare Department and instructed to get a wheelchair, taking quick action in centre Swami Atmanand English Medium School, Semra.

On this occasion, Joint Collector Anandrop Tiwari, District Education Officer N. Chandra, Principal Narendra Kumar Tiwari, Area Coordinator KK Srivas, Assistant Director of Social Welfare Department Jitendra Kumar Srivastava and Sunil Mishra and other employees were present on this occasion.

Information about 'good touch bad touch' given in schools

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 13: District Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara directed to give information about child protection, child rights in all residential schools, potakabins, ashrams, schools operating in the district and under the same, District Program Officer Lupendra Mahing and District Child Protection Officer Rahul Kaushik, forming a team in all the residential schools, POTA Cabins, ashrams, schools of the development block are spreading awareness under the Care and Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act



2012. Along with this, information is also being given about how children should complain in relation to crime.

Giving detailed information about children in care and need under the Juvenile Justice

Children's Care and Protection Act 2015, under which orphans, destitute, nomads, child labor, beggary, missing, where and how to present them. All the children living in residential schools were explained about the forma-

tion of child committees according to the age group and their smooth implementation.

Along with this, information about child line number 1089 was given. Children were given information related to their education and protection. During this, a documentary film was also shown regarding the sexual abuse of children by showing soft, happy videos to the children. Naveen Kumar Mishra, Protection Officer, Rajkumar Nishad, social worker, Sandeep Chidem, social worker, Raju Kashyap, outreach worker and teacher-teacher were present.

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Feb 13: The annual function and prize distribution ceremony at Government Nehru Post Graduate College was held on Tuesday, Feb 7. The program was presided over by District Cooperative Central Bank Rajnandgaon and Nawaz Khan, President of College Public Participation Committee.

Mr. Khan, presiding while addressing the students, said that after the year-long activities of the college, the annual festival and prize distribution ceremony is organized to prepare the students for the upcoming examinations with full enthusiasm. He asked the students to actively participate in



sports, academics and NCC, NSS and other activities including study-teaching.

Principal of the college, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Jambulkar read out the annual report of the college, in which, giving information about the achievements of the college including the history of the college, he told that it is a matter of pride

for the college to get B plus grade in NAAC assessment.

Along with this, the students of various departments of the college were felicitated with cash awards and enthralling cultural programs were presented by the students, in which students presented folk dances based on Chhattisgarhi culture and folk

art and other melodious songs.

An attractive presentation of various yoga poses was given by the students of Yoga Science through dance. Sudesh Meshram, Uma Mahesh Verma, Pushpa Verma, Janpad Narendra Verma, Sandeep Singh Gaharwar, Kamleshwar Verma, Kishan Vaishnav, Nalini along with members of the College Public Participation Committee, college professors Dr. R.R. Koche, Nitesh Tirpude, G.K.Yadav, Neelam Chaturvedani, Mrs. Sonali Loya, Omprakash Verma, Gulshan Sinha, H.R. Padme, Avinash Singh Bedprakash Sahu, Dr. Medhavi Nareyan, Dr. Naushin Anjum, Mrs. Tulika Chakraborty, Ms. Richa Aggarwal and a large number of students were present.

Food license and registration camp organized

Mungelli, Feb 13: One day food license and registration camp is being organized by the Food and Drug Administration on February 14 from 11 am to 4 pm at Jhuleal Temple Complex Raipur Road, in which all types of food and grain vendors will be registered. Food Safety Officer of Food and Drug Administration, Ajit Baghel said that vendors of food items such as Galla, Kirana, hawkers food items, sugars, vegetables, Daily Needs, Sugarcane Juice, Mid Day Meal Self Help Group, Dhaba, Bakery, Dairy, Juice, Restaurant, Canteen, all Food Items Manufacturers, all Fair Price Shop Food license and registration is mandatory for those who sell food items such as nutraceuticals, vitamins and all types of food items in medical stores. Documents required for registration is photo copy of Aadhaar card, photo copy of electricity bill or rent agreement or other document related to the premises, one photo, and fee Rs 100 per year online challan. Vendors with an annual turnover above 12 lakh rupees can apply while wholesale, distributor, hotel, restaurant, canteen, transport the fee for those involved in production is fixed at Rs 5,000 per year for online challan and Rs 100 for computer operator.

A stage like Rajim is not available everywhere: Gorelal Burman

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 13: In a special conversation with Chhattisgarh's renowned folk singer Gorelal Burman, famous music magician Surbaha, who arrived to perform at the Maghi Punni Mela, said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has done a commendable job by starting the Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and this has given us an opportunity to recognize our soil culture. Praising the stage, Mr. Burman said that no one can compare Rajim, there is no stage like it anywhere. Right now the Bhoramdev Festival is going on, but it does not have the attraction of the whole state, while artists from all over the state give their performances here, he said. He further said that people's attitude



towards entertainment has changed, so I request that the program should be held from 7 to 10 in the evening instead of at night. Giving an all-night show harms the health of both the artist and the audience and as the guidelines of the Supreme Court should be followed strictly because as the night wears on and people get drunk and indulge in hooliganism and misbehaviour. Talking on the lyrics and sentiment of the State song, Gorelal Burman said that the new artist will have to work very hard and have to

go through every ritual to reach zeniths. Chhattisgarhi music is immortal, then Khuman Sahu's, Laxman Masturia, the magician of the pen, no one can erase him. Funkar like Kedar Yadav cannot be found again and no one can replace Kismat Bai Markam who sang Chaura Ma Gonda. He also said that at present, the condition of artists is very strange, the fate of artists is not good, for this the government will have to take initiative; otherwise there will be no artist in the future.

In Jhankar

Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasaud, Feb 13: Jhankar annual festival was organized on the occasion of completion of 50 years of the establishment day of the first school in Bahna Kadi, in collaboration with two primary schools and former secondary school and Panchayat Bahna Kadi located on Kaushalya Mandir Marg near the capital Raipur.

In the presence of all the guests, teachers, sarpanch



Ashok Banjare and panchayat representatives, the program was inaugurated by lighting a lamp on the shadow picture of Maa Saraswati and later the

students gave a mesmerizing performance on Chhattisgarh's cultural folk-dance Sua Karma Dabriya Panthi Rawat and Nacha.

Under the leadership of Gram Panchayat Bahna Kadi Ashok Banjare, all the Panchayat representatives were honored on completion of 3 years tenure, in which the first retired teacher of the village, Dr. CL Rathe, the head of all three schools Pathak Sir, Karuna Verma, Laxmi Narayan Barle Narendra Devhare, Suresh Kurre health workers, Uttam Devhare, Deepak Banjare, Rajendra Banjare, Uday Todar, Prahlad Yadav, and all the teachers, journalists, cooks, Bhandari were honored.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.
CIN: L65910KL1992PLC006623
W/470A (00) W553A (New), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala - 680 027

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 28/02/2023 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-
BILASPUR, Bus Stand, Bilaspur, 117040700018450, 8527, 117040700020683, 1233, Sarkanda, Bilaspur, 121440700016176, RAIGARH, Kotra Road, 126070730006388, 6624, SURGUJA, Ambedkar Chowk Ambikapur, 131880730014057.

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072604049.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

pnbs Circle Office, Plot No. A-48, Ring Road No. 2, Gaurav Path, Bilaspur, Ph.: (07752) 432710/729

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, 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 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the dates, mentioned against each Account (given below) calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notices / date of receipt of the said notices/ The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees and the on this below mention date, Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of Account/ Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Property Mortgaged & Owner of the Property	Date of Demand Notice Possession Notice affixed on	Amount outstanding as on the date of Possession Notice
1.	M/s Satguru Fly Ash Bricks Prop/Mortgagor: Shri Rekhand Koshle S/o Shyamdas Koshle	All that part and parcel of EM of Land at KH No. 11/4 & 12/4, P.H. No. 27, Total area 0.206 hect. Situated at village: Domanpur, Post-Dashrangpur, G.P. Domanpur, Teh & Dist- Mungeli, C.G standing in the name of Rekhand Koshle s/o Shyamdas Koshle. Boundaries: - On the North by- Remaining Land of seller, On the South by- Property of Samedas, On the East by- Property of Samedas, On the West by- Dashrangpur-Domanpur Road.	18.02.2021 07.02.2023	₹ 5,45,989.06 + interest & other charges - any amt paid after issuance of demand notice
2.	Mr. Syed Naeem Shah, S/o Merhom Syed Azeem Shah, Address:- Ganesh Nagar, Main Mohalla, Chuchuhiyapara, Bilaspur-495004. Guarantor- 1. Shabina Parveen w/o. Syed Naeem Siahk. 2. Waqar Ahmed s/o. Nisar Ahmed.	All that part and parcel of Diverted Land Situated at Mouja- Torwa, Ganesh Nagar, Chuchuhiyapara, PH No 22, Sheet no 12/11, Plot no 440/11, khasra no-950/19, Area- 934 sq. ft standing in the name of Shri Syed Ajeem Shah S/O Shri Merhom Syed Ajeem Shah. Boundaries:- North- Land of Chitrehka Sahu, South- Land of Rehana, East- Nistari Rasta, West- Land of Rathore.	09.09.2022 07.02.2023	₹ 10,76,465.53 + interest & other charges - any amt paid after issuance of demand notice

Date: 13.02.2023 Place : Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank

CHANGE OF NAME

It is Informed to the General Public that i Mohammad Anwar S/o Mohammad Habib Bakshi Resident of Near Saluja Vihar Bhatiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 Have Changed my old Name Mohammad Anwar S/o Mohammad Habib Bakshi, So in future i should be recognized by my New Name Mohammad Anwar Bakshi S/o Mohammad Habib Bakshi in all Government and other document.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is Informed to the General Public that i Ayishan Parveen D/o Abdul Gani Resident of H.No. 17 Near Masjid Masanganj Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 Have Changed my old Name Ayishan Parveen D/o Abdul Gani, So in future i should be recognized by my New Name Ayesha Parveen D/o Abdul Gani in all Government and other document.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is Informed to the General Public that i Shaheen Bano W/o Sageer Ahmad Khan Resident of Near Raza Masjid Bhartiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 Have Changed my old Name Shaheen Bano W/o Sageer Ahmad Khan, So in future i should be recognized by my New Name Sahin Bano W/o Sageer Ahmad Khan in all Government and other document.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is Informed to the General Public that i Shabina Parveen Baxavee W/o Mohammad Anwar Bakshi Resident of Near Saluja Vihar Bhatiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 Have Changed my old Name Shabina Parveen Baxavee W/o Mohammad Anwar Bakshi, So in future i should be recognized by my New Name Shabina Parveen Bakshi W/o Mohammad Anwar Bakshi in all Government and other document.

Mohammad Anwar Bakshi
Near Saluja Vihar Bhatiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Ayesha Parveen
H.No. 17 Near Masjid Masanganj Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Sahin Bano
Near Raza Masjid Bhartiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Shabina Parveen Bakshi
Near Saluja Vihar Bhatiya Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

BRIEF



Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi with beneficiaries of Kaithangu project, in Wayanad, Monday.

Blaze

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out at a factory near Moti Nagar police station in west Delhi, officials said on Monday. The blaze, which erupted late on Sunday night, has been brought under control and there are no reports of any injuries so far, Delhi Fire Services Director Atul Garg said. The fire services received a call about the blaze at 11.40 pm, following which 27 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, he said.

Earthquake

Gangtok: An earthquake of 4.3 magnitude struck Sikkim in the early hours of Monday, according to the National Center for Seismology. The earthquake took place around 4.15 am at a depth of 10 km, around 70 km north-west of Yuksom in West Sikkim district, it said. The tremors were felt in and around Yuksom town, officials said.

Mishap

Muzaffarnagar: Two people were killed and one person was injured, when an unknown speeding vehicle hit a car on the Dehradun-Delhi national highway, police said on Monday. The accident took place on Sunday when the car was returning from Mussoorie to Meerut, SHO Khatauli police station, Sanjeev Kumar said. One of the deceased has been identified as Dilshad (30), while the identity of the other deceased is yet to be ascertained, Kumar said.

Fire

Thane: Three persons travelling in a car had a narrow escape after their vehicle caught fire in Maharashtra's Thane district on Monday, civic officials said. The incident took place at around 3 am near Kharegaon toll plaza when the car was heading towards Nashik from Mumbai. Traffic movement on the road was affected for some time due to the incident, they said.

Murdered

Siliguri: A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband in the northern West Bengal city of Siliguri, police said on Monday. The woman, identified as Supriya Sinha, left her in-laws' home in Sitai in Cooch Behar district around two months back and started living on rent in Bhaktinagar in New Jalpaiguri police station area with her three kids, they said.

'I'm Ram Vilas Paswan's political heir'

● Chirag may inherit his wealth

Patna, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras asserted that he was the "political successor" of his elder brother Ram Vilas Paswan, whose son Chirag could lay claim "only" to the financial assets (sam-patti) of the late leader.

Paras made the av-erment here on Sunday in reply to queries from jour-nalists about his relation-ship with his nephew, against whom he had raised a banner of revolt two years ago and split the Lok Janshakti Party floated by his late brother.

"I will explain why I call myself the political suc-cessor of 'bade saheb'. He started off as an MLA from Alauli in Bihar in 1969 and gave up the seat in 1977 upon becoming the MP from Hajipur. He asked me to contest from the as-sembly seat and I followed his orders though I was in a government job," said Paras, who now represents Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Sabha seat.

The Union minister, who



Pashupati Kumar Paras

made his parliamentary debut in the Lok Sabha polls of 2019, when his brother announced his decision to opt for the Rajya Sabha, claimed that it was at "bade saheb's insis-tence" that I had to move to Delhi, despite not being very keen to do so.

"I was initially reluc-tant. I had even suggested that beta (son - Chirag) or bhabhi ji (sister in law - Chirag's mother) be con-sidered as the Hajipur can-didate. "I was having a great time in Bihar, serv-ing as a minister in the Nitish Kumar government and heading the LJP state unit. But 'bade saheb' was insistent. The massive wave in support of the

NDA had still not picked up and he was of the view that only I could retain his seat for the party. I had made no secret of my un-willingness to enter the fray even during the cam-paign," said Paras.

He also noted that it was a "glorious coincidence" to have learnt about his in-duction in the Union cabi-net from the home minis-ter on the day of Paswan's birth anniversary.

"Inside Parliament, I am allotted the very seat that he used to occupy while he was a Union minister," said the minister for food processing. Paras categori-cally ruled out the possi-bility of a rapprochement with Chirag, asserting that had it been a crack merely in the party it could have been mended but "the chasm exists between our hearts". "As a son, he (Chirag) may inherit the wealth of his father. But it is he who is the political successor (rajneetik varis)," he maintained. He bristled when his attention was drawn towards specu-lations that the nephew, who has reaffirmed loyalty towards the BJP after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's exit from the

NDA, could be rewarded with a berth in the Union council of ministers. "Please be informed that there can be no expansion or reshuffle of the Union council of ministers. At least not till the polls to as-semblies in a few states in the Northeast were held and the ongoing Parliament session was over," he said.

Paras, while talking to reporters, also said it was unbecoming of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to have uttered "ask my deputy" in response to queries about cabinet ex-pansion. Responding to questions from journalists on speculations about a state cabinet expansion and the demand by Congress for two more berths, Kumar had said on Saturday, "You people ask this question to the deputy CM." Paras, in a jibe at Kumar, said, "It shows that he is no longer the power-ful CM under whom we had worked. It is his deputy, Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, who calls the shots. Even the Congress, a junior alliance partner, has expressed disappoint-ment with Nitish Kumar's stance."

PROTEST AGAINST TORTURE



People raise slogans during a protest against alleged torture and harassment of street vendors by MCD, outside Civic Centre in New Delhi, Monday.

Missing NRI traced to Mumbai suburb

● Reunited with kin after 12 days

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

A 69-year-old Non-Resident Indian, who went missing from Mumbai international airport, has been traced to a suburb and reunited with his

daughter after 12 days with the help of two alert citizens, police said on Monday.

The NRI, Dharmalingam Pillai, who has been suffering from memory loss and lives in South Africa, went missing on January 30 a few hours before he and his daughter were scheduled

to take a flight from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here to Durban, they said. Pillai, who is a retired clerk, and his daughter, working on a senior position in the field of logistics, had come to India to visit their roots on the occasion of his birth-day.

'Christians contributed to nation building but didn't get respect'

Dimapur, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union Minister John Barla said the Christian commu-nity of the country has made lots of contributions to na-tion-building, but they did not get the respect they de-serve.

Addressing a programme organised by the National Christian Council in Nagaland's Dimapur on Sunday, he said people of the community should unite to let the country know about their contribution prior to Independence and after that. People have studied in in-stitutions built by the Christian community and have become IAS officers, doctors, en-gineers and even political lead-



John Barla

ers, he said. "Are we supposed to tell the people what we have given to the country? We do not blow our own trumpet, that's why we don't get re-spect," said Barla, the Minister of State (MoS) for Minority Affairs. "We have made lots of contributions to nation-building, but our

Churches get destroyed," he said. Christians are not a threat to the country but are at the forefront of nation-building, he added.

It is time for Christians across the country to get united, and make people aware of the contributions they made to the nation, the minister said. "Before Independence, we built schools, hospitals and ashrams, and till today, we are providing service to the people of the country. We did not get respect during the previous governments, but this government has given me the responsibility to go to the people and tell them to trust the present government as it is not against Christians," he said.

'If voted to power, will first implement old pension scheme'

Agartala, Feb 13 (PTI):

Senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat said the reintroduction of the old pension scheme will be the first decision the Left-Congress alliance will take if it is voted to power in Tripura.

Addressing an election rally at Khayerpur in West Tripura district on Sunday, he said the new pension scheme was not implemented in Tripura as long as the Left Front government was in power in the state.

"It was the BJP that in-troduced the new pension scheme in the state after coming to power in 2018," he said. The first decision the Left-Congress will take after coming to power is



Prakash Karat

bringing back the old pension scheme, the CPI(M) politburo member said.

"In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress won the elections and reintroduced the old pension scheme for the employees as it had promised. In Tripura, the same thing will be done if the

Left-Congress forms the next government," he said.

The Left Front and the Congress have promised to reintroduce the old pension scheme in an attempt to woo the 1.88 lakh state government employees in Tripura.

Alleging that the BJP has failed to deliver in Northeastern state, Karat said, "The law and order situation has worsened in the state with 707 rape cases recorded between January 2020 and December 2022. The state has earned a bad name in crime against women."

The CPI(M) leader al-leged that the BJP was spending a huge amount of money to win the elec-tions.

"People must remain vigilant about the way BJP is spending money. We must foil the ploy to re-store democracy in the state," he said.

Asserting that a victory for the opposition alliance in a small state like Tripura has national ram-ifications, Karat said, "It will surely boost the coun-trywide movement to pro-protect the democracy and secularism, which are now under threat."

Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik, and CPM leader Pabitra Kar who is contesting from the Khayerpur assembly also addressed the rally.

The polling will be held on February 16, and the votes will be counted on March 2.

SHOWCASING TALENT



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during 'Samadhan Yatra', in Sasaram, Monday.

'Those who believe in trans-man's pregnancy live in fool's paradise'

Kozhikode (Kerala), Feb 13 (PTI):

Senior Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader M K Muneer has questioned the logic behind the reports that a trans-man has delivered a baby in Kerala, saying those who believe in such a claim "live in a fool's paradise."

As the transgender community in Kerala celebrated the birth of a baby for trans-couple Ziya Paval and Zahhad here last week, Muneer has said homosex-ual couples can never con-ceive and termed as "hol-low" the claim that the per-



M K Muneer

son who had delivered a baby in Kerala recently was a trans-man.

Ziya Paval had recently announced partner Zahhad's pregnancy, claim-ing that this was the first

trans-man's pregnancy in India. The couple was blessed with a baby at a state-run hospital here on February 8.

"Those who believe in such wonders are living in a fool's paradise," Muneer said while addressing a programme organised by Wisdom Islamic Conference here on Sunday. The former state minister said the person who gave birth to a baby was actually a woman, although she had removed her breasts to look like a man.

"The presence of a womb in the person who gave

birth to the baby proves that it was actually a woman," the Kozhuvally MLA said, adding that the pregnancy happens when a sperm fertilises an egg.

Muneer's statement came amid a move by the transgender couple to reg-ister their new gender iden-tity in the birth certificate and other documents of the newborn.

Though Zahhad had del-ivered the child, the trans-man wanted his name to be registered as the father of the baby and Paval, his trans-woman partner as the mother.

J&K govt approves Rs 329-cr project

● To achieve self reliance in mutton sector

Jammu, Feb 13 (PTI):

In a bid to boost produc-tion and reduce import costs, the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a Rs 329 crore project for the next five years to achieve self re-liance in mutton sector.

He said that the project is aimed at creating 6,000 jobs besides setting up of 122 enterprises in the mutton sector in the Union Territory.

"In view of huge mutton usage in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmiri cuisine and in order to reduce meat im-port, the government has approved an ambitious Rs 329 crore project for next five years to achieve self reliance in mutton sec-

tor", Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo said.

The initiative also en-visages achieving self-reliance in the mutton sector through a combination of innovative inter-ventions including vertical upgrades, horizontal ex-pansion besides focused attention on health cover and nutrition, he said.

Despite the region's competitive advantage and potential to become self-reliant in the mutton sector, there is a shortfall of 41 per cent leading to an import bill of Rs 1400 crore every year, officials said. "Investing in growth and improvement of the mutton sector in J&K is not only about boosting production and reducing import costs, but it is also about providing quality and safe meat to con-

sumers, improving the livelihoods of traditional farmers besides creating new job opportunities in the region", Dulloo said.

One of the major inter-ventions planned is im-port of muttonous breeds, which will lead to estab-lishment of 72 breed-based farms to provide high genetic merit to animals. The project aims to conduct 1,00,000 Artificial Inseminations annually and establish 400 new commercial farms every year. The project also fo-cuses on clusterization, creation of mandis, abatoirs and common facility centers (CFCs), to support marketing and value addition of the sector, he said.

The existing mutton production is not only of insufficient quantity but also lacks quality and is not FSSAI compliant, put-ting consumers at risk.

The majority of the live-stock population is held by Bakerwals who follow traditional methods of farm-ing, resulting in low pro-ductivity and profits.

The UT has less than five breeds of sheep with the majority being dual purpose breeds such as Kashmir Merino, Rambouillet, and Corriedale. However, there is increasing de-mand for fast-growing mutton breeds like Dorper, Romnov, South Down and others, they said.

The expected output from the project include import of 2700 high genet-ic merit and elite sheep and goats, increased lamb-ing percentage from 80 to 120 and considerable re-duction in marketable age for sheep and goats (40-50 kg in 6 months), they officials said.

Four joint replacements at once help woman walk again

● AIIMS-Bhubaneswar earns PM's praise

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13 (PTI):

Doctors at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar performed a critical surgery to replace four joints of a 37-year-old woman, helping her walk again without any sup-port, officials said on Monday.

It is the second such quadruple joint replace-ment surgery to be per-formed anywhere in the world with the first being at AIIMS-Delhi, they said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the ef-forts. "Compliments to our doctors for always being at the forefront of innovation and embracing new changes in the medical

world. Their dexterity makes us proud!" PM Modi tweeted, quoting a tweet of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar that announced the successful surgery. The woman had severe arthritis on her hips and knees, and used to walk with the help of walking aids and that too with extreme difficulty, doctors said. There was no movement in the hip joints and she had very little movement in both knees, they said. She needed re-placement surgeries of all four joints, they added.

It was decided that all four replacements will be performed in one setting, the doctors said.

The replacements of the hips were performed first, followed by the knees, and it took three hours to com-plete the procedure, they

said. Stating that four joint replacements in one set-ting incur numerous chal-lenges, doctors said that because of her young age, no comorbidities and per-fect team management, the surgery was success-ful. The patient was in ICU for two days and she start-ed walking on the third day, happy with the out-comes, they said.

The cost of the implants and surgery were provid-ed by the state government through the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, officials said. Earlier, a patient from Odisha underwent surgery at AIIMS-Delhi in which all four joint re-placements were done in one setting. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Dr Ashutosh Biswas said.

10 US balloons flew in its airspace: China

Beijing, Feb 13 (AP):

China on Monday said more than 10 US high-altitude balloons have flown in its airspace during the past year without its permission, following Washington's accusation that Beijing operates a fleet of surveillance balloons around the world.

The Chinese allegation comes after the US shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon that had crossed from Alaska to South Carolina, sparking a new crisis in bilateral relations that have spiralled to their lowest level in decades.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin gave no details about the alleged US balloons, how they had been dealt with or whether they

had government or military links. "It is also common for US balloons to illegally enter the airspace of other countries," Wang said at a daily briefing. "Since last year, US high-altitude balloons have illegally flown over China's airspace more than 10 times without the approval of Chinese authorities." Wang said the US should "first reflect on itself and change course, rather than smear and instigate a confrontation".

China says the balloon shot down by the US was an unmanned airship made for meteorological research that had been blown off course. It has accused the US of overreacting by shooting it down and threatened to take unspecified action in response. Following the inci-

dent, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelled a visit to Beijing that many had hoped would put the brakes on the sharp decline in relations over Taiwan, trade, human rights and threatening Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea. Also on Monday, the Philippines accused a Chinese coast guard ship of targeting a Philippine coast guard vessel with a military-grade laser and temporarily blinding some of its crew in the South China Sea, calling it a "blatant" violation of Manila's sovereign rights.

Wang said a Philippine coast guard vessel had trespassed into Chinese waters without permission on February 6 and that Chinese coast guard vessels responded "profes-

sionally and with restraint".

China claims virtually all of the strategic waterway and has been steadily building up its maritime forces and island outposts.

"China and the Philippines are maintaining communication through diplomatic channels in this regard," Wang said. China's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to a question about the incident.

Adding to tensions, a US fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" over Lake Huron on Sunday on orders from President Joe Biden. It was the fourth such downing in eight days in an extraordinary chain of events over US airspace that Pentagon officials believe has no peacetime precedent.

MASS DESTRUCTION



A young man walks through the rubble of a destroyed building hit by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, Monday.

India, Nepal agree to boost economic and development ties

Kathmandu, Feb 13 (PTI):

India and Nepal agreed on Monday to further bolster their economic and development cooperation as Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra met his Nepalese counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive bilateral relations.

Foreign Secretary Kwatra arrived here on a two-day official visit to hold talks with the country's top political leadership on the entire range of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vinay Kwatra met his counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal and reviewed the comprehensive India-Nepal partnership," the Indian embassy here tweeted.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen their economic and development cooperation for benefit of the two countries and region as a whole," it said.

Later, Kwatra called on



Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra with Nepal's Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal during a meeting, in Nepal, Monday.

Foreign Minister of Nepal Bimala Rai Paudyal and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive India-Nepal relations.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vinay Kwatra called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Nepal @bimalarp today and had a fruitful exchange on strengthening the comprehensive India-Nepal relations," the mis-

sion tweeted.

During his visit, Kwatra, who was earlier India's ambassador here, will pay courtesy calls to Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Foreign Minister Paudyal.

It is expected that Kwatra will also discuss with his Nepalese interlocutors the possibility of a visit to India by Nepal's

Prime Minister Prachanda. Prachanda has said that he will travel to India on his first foreign visit.

Nepal and India will discuss various matters of bilateral cooperation such as connectivity, power trade, agriculture, health and culture among others during the foreign secretary's visit, according to a statement issued by Nepal's foreign ministry here on Sunday.

"The visit is in continuation of the regular exchange of visits between the two friendly neighbours," it said.

Earlier, Kwatra was received at Tribhuvan International Airport by his Nepalese counterpart Paudyal upon arrival.

He had a one-to-one meeting with Paudyal before the delegation level meeting started.

Seven members each from Nepal and India took part in the Foreign Secretary level bilateral meeting. Indian Ambassador to Nepal

Naveen Srivastava was among the members of the Indian delegation while Joint Secretary and spokesperson at the Foreign Ministry Sewa Lamsal was among the members of the Nepalese delegation.

This is the first high-level visit from India after Prime Minister Prachanda assumed office for the third time in December.

Kwatra is also expected to meet Nepal's top political leaders, including Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba and CPN-UML chairman KP Sharma Oli.

"The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy," the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

India's Neighbourhood First' policy is an integral component of Indian foreign policy.

BLASPHEMY KILLING

Police in Pakistan arrest 75

Lahore, Feb 13 (PTI):

Over 75 suspects, including members of the radical Tehreek Laibbaik Pakistan (TLP) outfit, have been arrested for their alleged role in the lynching of a blasphemy-accused man in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Monday.

A violent mob on Saturday stormed the police station at Warburton in Nankana Sahib, some 80kms from Lahore, took custody of Waris Ali Issa, who was arrested for allegedly desecrating the holy book, stripped him naked, and dragged him into the streets before beating him to death.

An FIR has been registered against over 800 sus-

pects for killing Waris, attacking police personnel, and ransacking the police station under terrorism and different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"So far we have arrested over 75 suspects as identification of more suspects is in the process through various mobile video and CCTV clips," Nankana Sahib District Police Officer (DPO) Asim Iftikhar said on Monday.

He said activists of a religious outfit were also involved in the brutal killing of Waris.

"The religious extremists incited the people through announcements from mosques to storm the police station and take custody of the blasphemy accused," Iftikhar said,

adding that the police had "hidden" Waris in the bathroom of the police station in order to save him from the wrath of the people but to no avail.

Another senior officer told PTI that TLP activists were involved in inciting people and leading the mob. "At least 10 members of the TLP are included in those arrested in the lynching. Raids are underway to arrest the remaining TLP activists and others involved in the gruesome crime," the officer said, adding that some neighbours of Waris accused him of witchcraft.

They alleged that Waris pasted the pictures of his ex-wife and a knife on the holy pages for witchcraft, the officer said.

'Pak, US to hold defence talks to boost security ties'

Islamabad, Feb 13 (PTI):

Pakistan and the US are set to hold defence talks in Washington on Monday to enhance coordination on strategic issues and explore various options for ramping up bilateral military and security ties, the foreign office here has announced.

The talks, that will last from Monday to Thursday, would be the second round of the Pakistan-US Mid-Level Defence Dialogue after the first round was held in Pakistan in January 2021, it said in a statement on Sunday.

The Pakistani team, headed by the Chief of General Staff (CGS) Lt Gen Mohammed Saeed, reached the US capital on Sunday afternoon. The delegation includes two major generals, two brigadiers and a civilian representative. Additional Secretary for Americas Muhammad

Mudassir Tipu from the foreign ministry. They will interact with their counterparts at the US Defence Department, which is also known as the Pentagon. The CGS heads the second most influential office in the Pakistan Army after the Chief of Army Staff. He is

the administrative head of both intelligence and operational forces. "Pakistan's inter-agency delegation, led by the chief of general staff, will comprise senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joint Staff Headquarters and three services headquarters.

After quake, war-hit Syrians struggle to get aid, rebuild

Atareh (Syria), Feb 13 (AP):

After years of war, residents of areas in north-western Syria struck by a massive earthquake are grappling with their new and worsening reality.

Almost one week after the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck northern Syria and neighbouring Turkiye, the United Nations has

acknowledged an international failure to help Syrian quake victims.

In Atareh, a town that Syrian rebels still hold after years of fighting government troops, survivors dug through the debris of their homes Sunday, picking up the remnants of their shattered lives and looking for ways to heal after the latest in a series of hu-

manitarian disasters to hit the war-battered area.

Excavators lifted rubble and residents with shovels and picks destroyed columns to even out a demolished building.

Dozens of newly displaced families gathered for hot meals from local volunteers and the local opposition-run government.

Ants show the way to beating traffic jams

Sydney, Feb 13:

Being stuck in traffic is stressful, wastes time and resources and ends up costing the world's economies trillions of dollars a year. Jams happen daily and authorities have spent decades trying to fix the problem with little success. Yet a solution may be literally under our feet.

Ants. There are an estimated 20 quadrillion ants on Earth. That's more than the number of stars in the Milky Way (and possibly more than the number of stars in the entire observable universe).

These ants - which can live in colonies that contain billions of individuals and can span thousands of kilometres - are nearly always moving yet somehow they never get stuck.

Like humans, ants have sophisticated transportation systems to ensure the efficient movement of individuals, resources and information.

Dubai boom sees Russian cash, high rents and reborn projects

Dubai, Feb 13 (AP):

Fourteen years after a financial crisis nearly brought Dubai to its knees, several major abandoned real estate projects are finally showing signs of life as part of a new economic boom in the city-state.

As with previous upturns in Dubai, war is a driving force. But this time it's Russian investors fleeing Moscow's war on Ukraine, rather than people escaping Mideast battlefields.

"There's lots of parts of the world where there are real challenges and people looking for a safe haven," said Richard Waind, group managing director for Betterhomes, a real estate brokerage in the emirate. "I think that's a safe haven both for the capital but also for their families."

While there's no sign the market could be in similar trouble as in 2009, some concerns have started to surface. Skyrocketing rental costs are worsening a cost-of-living squeeze for

the foreign workforce that powers the emirate.

Meanwhile, the US Treasury is worried about the amount of Russian money flowing into the real estate market of the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates.

"In theory, there should be significant reputational risk with the UAE apparently acting as a willing bridge, enabling Russian oligarchs to use the Emirates as a waystation between the Russian financial system and that of the West," said Jodi Vittori, a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who has written extensively on Dubai being a money-laundering haven.

"But the reality seems to point otherwise," she said. Dubai's government and the UAE's Foreign Ministry did not respond to detailed questions from The Associated Press.

It's hard to overstate just how much the Emirates has changed over the last

half century.

Since 1968, the seven sheikhdoms that make up the UAE have grown from a British protectorate of some 180,000 people to a federation that's home to more than 9.2 million. Government statisticians say 3.5 million people live in Dubai alone, with an ad-

ditional 1.1 million who temporarily live in the city or commute there for work each day.

Oil, much of it from Abu Dhabi's vast reserves, fuelled the UAE's initial modernisation. After Dubai began allowing foreign ownership of "freehold" properties in 2002,

the world's tallest building, cavernous malls and sprawling subdivisions emerged from what once were uninterrupted stretches of windblown sand dunes.

Real estate now represents some 10 per cent of Dubai's overall gross domestic product.

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07-01/EITC/Tr-359/2106 Raipur, Dated - 13-Feb-2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Sealed offers are invited from experienced bidder for -

S No	Tender No.	Particulars	Tender Document Fee	EMD	Due Date & time of bid submission	Due Date & time of bid opening
1.	Tr- 359 & RfX No. 8100029779	Development of applications for GIS survey through Mobile App and Web portal along with SAP integration	Rs.2000/- + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2360/-	Rs. 49,900/-	01-Mar-23 14:00 pm.	01-Mar-23 15:30 pm.

2. For further details & downloading the Tender document, please visit at our web site www.cspdl.co.in tender / tender notices / central offices and e-bidding portal. 3. Any corrigendum or extension of due date of tender opening shall not be published in newspaper. It will be displayed only on the website and e-bidding portal.
SAVE ELECTRICITY S-35652/1 Executive Director (EITC)

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BILASPUR (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Nit No.06/NN/Electrical Dep./2022-23 Bilaspur, Date 13/02/2023

Online percentage rate tenders in Form 'A' Application are invited from those contractors registered in C & above class in new registration system 'Unified Registration System' (e-Registration) with Chhattisgarh P.W.D. State Governments and their undertaking/firms of repute having 'A' class Electrical License issued by Chhattisgarh Govt. registered on UADD website https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in on behalf of the Bilaspur Municipal Corporation for following works in S.O.R. issued by Engineer in Chief PWD Electrical work SOR 01/06/2020.

System Tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract (in Lakhs)	Online Tender Submission Due Date
124380	Supply and Installation of LED Street Light Pole and fitting from Mahamaya Chowk to Turkadhil Pool.	190.31	07/03/2023

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in from 14/02/2023 at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

Superintending Engineer Municipal Corporation Bilaspur (C.G.)
Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)
1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No. 1, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) - 492006
CIN : U45203CT1981SG001853, PAN: AABCM6288N, GST Regn No22AABCM6288N5ZY
Phone : 0771-6621000 Fax : 0771-2583794
Website : www.csidc.in, Email address : csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (3rd Call)

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

NIT No. 40/CSIDC/E.E.1/Division-1/2022-23/ 124392 Raipur, dated 10/02/2023

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking constituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the State invites online tender for the following works :-

S. No.	Name of work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dept.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs)	Last Date for Online Submission of Tender
1	Infrastructure development Work Including, Road, Drain, Culvert, the work under Water Supply, Street light & Building works for Proposed New Food park Area at Gram-Hathkera-Bidbida, District-Mungeli (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	769.92	20.02.2023

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions, scope of works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in from 10/02/2023 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper

NOTE: 1) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact CG e-Proc Helpdesk. Operated by Mjunction Services Limited, they may reach Helpdesk using 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer Division-I S-35643/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 315

Empowering the Family

'Women as Foundation of a Value-based Society' is very relevant. Women have played a very important role in shaping the values and ethics in Indian society.

Whenever women have got equal opportunities, they have performed at par with men and sometimes better than them in every field. Women's participation is increasing in many fields. However, many of them are not able to reach the top position. It has been observed that in the middle level management of the private sector, there has been a decrease in women participation above a certain level. The main reason behind this is family responsibilities. Generally working women have to shoulder the responsibility of home too along with the office. We need to change the mindset that bringing up children and managing home are the responsibility of women only. Women should get more support from the family so that she can reach the highest position in her career without any hindrance. The families would be empowered only by the empowerment of women and empowered families would make an empowered society and empowered nation. The competition is increasing these days. People are running after money, power, fame and prestige. There is no harm in being financially strong, but living only for money is not proper. Economic progress and material prosperity can give us materialistic happiness, but not eternal peace. The nature of a mother is always inclusive. She never discriminates between her children. That is why nature is also called "Mother Nature". We all know that mother is the first teacher in the family. She not only introduces the child to the family-members and environment, but also inculcates the prevailing values in the child. Therefore, mothers need to educate their children with right values. Instead of making children career conscious since childhood, they should inspire children to become a good human being. A mother can teach children not to let money become their only priority. With the efforts of a mother, a family can become an ideal family. If every family becomes an ideal family then the nature of the society would automatically change. Our society could become a value-based society. Once the women were considered only for child care and household works. Their domestic works have always been undervalued and under-reported. Now the time has changed and they are being considered part of mainstream workforce. They are playing pivotal role in every sector, whether it be business, politics, social functions, journalism, government jobs etc. Their contribution is the reflection of gender equality. Governments have also launched several schemes for women emancipation and to make them self-reliant. "Vocal for local" campaign will be possible only when women will heartily participate. Similarly, women have to provide systematic skill training, opportunity and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Conscience must reside above interests

Kajal Chatterjee

No kudos is enough for Tamil poet Sukirtharani for politely, but firmly, declining to accept Devi awards just because the main sponsor of the event was a particular industrial group - - - much notorious not only in financial terms, but also for pursuing "development" at the expense of the poor - - - displaced from land and livelihood. Through her sheer action values and principles, Sukirtharani has transmitted the message that everything can be sacrificed for the sake of morality, but morality cannot be sacrificed for the sake of anything. One and half decade ago, the name of a particular Kolkata-based industrialist was negatively associated with the death (murder/suicide) of a young man who performed the great "sin" of marrying outside his religion! And right from that day, I have stopped using all products associated with the brand name of that particular industrialist. Obviously my individual boycott of his product hasn't stopped him from increasing his clout through sponsoring many glamorous sporting or cultural events; but at least at the end of the day, I can remain accountable to my conscience for remaining dissociated with any product/event produced/sponsored by his company. Sukirtharani has helped me in awarding my resolve an additional boost so as to never compromise with any wrong and injustice. Had all persons of the society been as upright and conscientious as Sukirtharani; the immoral brigade would have been compelled to shut up their shops permanently. Thanks Sukirtharani for your unique protest through such a non-violent way.

And a word or two for the so-called "neutral" brigade. A bully is brutally beating up a weaker innocent person to pulp to serve his own interest. And sitting upon the fence, I am shouting "I am on the side of peace; put an immediate end to violence". "Peace" would not descend from the sky just through sheer deluge of "moral sermons"; rather sanity might prevail only when I would take on the bully through words or action protesting his inhuman behaviour. If we can't hold guts enough to call spade the spade and name/shame the bullies/aggressor/muscle-flexer for "strategic interests"; it is better to maintain silence instead of playing the role of "messenger of peace and non-violence". Any call of "This era is not of war", without naming shaming castigating the aggressor, is akin to putting the bully and the victim on the same pedestal and if this is not an indirect clean-chit to the offender along with laying equal blame on the defending force also - - - then what's it. Yes, neither is the Russia-Ukraine matter a "WAR" nor has the violence started by Ukraine. Yes, far from being a "WAR", it is nothing but a barbaric aggression by a totalitarian regime upon a weaker democratic country. So advising Ukraine to have a talk with Russia imparts a message that both nations are on equally wrong footing and baying blood of each other when the fact remains that Ukraine is merely defending its territory from the Russian invasion. These types of "sane" proposals are as bizarre as that of the "liberals" after the barbaric demolition of Babri Masjid - - - "Hindus and Muslims should arrive at a negotiation"! What a negotiation. A full-fledged mosque has been brutally razed to the ground in front of all and yet Muslims have to arrive at a negotiation when the only call should have been - - - "Immediately rebuild the mosque and punish the demolition brigade"! In the same vein, the only call of civilization remains - - - "Russia stop your unhumanitarian antics, immediately". No way can the responsibility of ending the "WAR" be thrust upon the invaded Ukraine. To eradicate the dreaded policy of apartheid, the world did not wage a war with arms against South Africa. Instead, the international community merely boycotted the country from every affair. Along with the struggle of Nelson Mandela, the tactics of boycott also played a great role in putting an end to the apartheid regime. Similarly, all sorts of inhumanity around the globe and the society can be put to an end with the devils being taught a lesson if we refuse to get lured by "strategic interests" and instead learn to boycott them. No wonder why Italian poet Dante Alighieri had rightly remarked "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis".

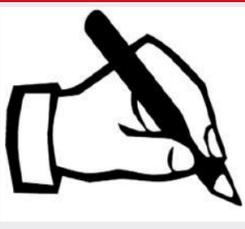
FOR A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE



People donate blankets, clothes and other items for victims of earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria, in Srinagar, Monday.

Child Marriage: The devastating end of childhood

DIPAK KURMI



The recent concern against the crackdown on paedophiles who married minor girls as young as 10-11 years in Assam is nothing new, but a continued concern for boys and men, at the cost of girls. This gender bias is classical patriarchy. There can be no argument that the steps taken by the Assam Police and the concern shown by Assam Chief Minister to put an end to child marriage are praiseworthy. Be assured, millions of girls, fearing being married at an early age by their parents, must be blessing the police and hoping for a better future for themselves. The gherao of police stations against the drive is another posturing, attempt to keep the status quo, where men are allowed to continue with their exploitative power relations, by marrying underage girls, deprived of education and independence. When the Government of India, sloganeered, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" in 2014 visible in all possible places movable and immovable, it was not only a novice in terms of scale but also reflected State priority in a manner. Specific to "Child Marriage", even previous governments have shown concern and the issue has been part of public awareness campaigns for ages. The Doordarshan ad, "Matki Kyo Tuti" comparing a small girl child to an un-baked vessel, vulnerable and unable to take the burden of task expected, remains in the minds of many of us. The law on Child Marriage has been in existence since 1929, amended in 1978 and again in 2006, as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (hereinafter PCMA, 2006). The 2006 Law is ineffective and complicates the issue on many counts. First, while it prohibits child marriage, it keeps the status of marriage solemnized as valid; second, it provides for annulment of marriages and in certain circumstances declares as void-ab-into; Third, it defines the groom and bride as a child till age 21

and 18 years respectively; Fourth, groom if a major (above 18 years), but a child (as defined till 21 years) can still be prosecuted for marrying a minor girl; fifth, while there is a mention of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO) and their role, it remains to be executed in most non-serious manner, and sixth, the most critical, is that the PCMA, 2006 is silent on a sexual relationship and age of consent. So while the law was in place, the above-mentioned loopholes, allowed the key players, especially parents and religious custodians, to happily ignore it as if nothing changed.

Child marriages continued with an unabated 23.3% in 2020-21, according to the latest National Family Health Survey-5 data. The crime against children shamelessly gets projected and discussed as a socio-cultural-religious issue, demanding soft handling with kids' gloves. For every outcry by a girl child as a victim; there are always counter stories of grandmothers who were 11-12-13 years when married, had dozens of children and lived a happy life. The girl child's concerns, her rights violation, health and well-being and other aspirations have never been of priority in our patriarchal society. The syndicate behind child marriages who were dismissive of PCMA, 2006 as a non-interfering piece of legislation, only got troubled in 2017. The enactment of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (hereinafter POCSO, 2012) filled the vacuum as to the sexual relationship and age of consent; issues on which the PCMA, 2006 has been silent. POCSO, 2012 technically covered everyone intending or having a sexual relationship with a minor child (read girl), including husbands.

However, there was still a breather for the ogling paedophiles, in the form of exception 2 in Section 375, Indian Penal Code, 1860; which allowed unregulated sex with wives above age 15 as a patriarchal chatterloot. In simple words, the IPC exception, protected individuals who intended of marrying and sexually exploiting minor girls and allowed rape (read sex) by husbands if the bride is above 15 years. This protective cover was removed, in 2017, by the Supreme Court of India, in its landmark judgment dated 11 October 2017 in the matter, Independent Thought vs Union of India; wherein it declared sex with a minor wife as rape. Interestingly in 2015, the amended Juvenile Justice

(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter JJ Act, 2015) included children victims or risk of child marriage as a category for extending support of the Child Protection System, providing a well-structured mechanism under erstwhile ICPS (now rechristened as Mission Vatsalya) as an alternative to the defunct CMPO. Thus, the conjoint reading of PCMA, 2006; POCSO, 2012; JJ Act, 2015 and Independent Thought Judgment has triggered possibilities for countering child marriage with more stringent actions, than mere lip service. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (hereinafter NCPCR) and its State Arms have monitoring roles under both POCSO, 2012 and JJ Act, 2015, to close the implementation loop. So it took a few years for the system to realize the existence of both Substantive Legal position post-2017 judgment and Procedural backing under JJ Act 2015; after which police started registering cases of Child Marriage under POCSO, 2012 and girls were produced before the Child Welfare Committees under the JJ Act, 2015 with support facilities of Child Care Institution (CCI). The sporadic filing of police cases was countered by conflicting Judgments by different High Courts. A judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Javed vs. the State of Haryana and Others held that a Muslim girl aged 15 years can enter into a legal and valid marriage as per personal law. This has been challenged in the Supreme Court of India, in the matter NCPCR vs. Gulam Deen, where the NCPCR, expressed concerns about the use of personal law as a defence for crimes under POCSO, 2012. The Supreme Court Bench on 13 January 2023 recorded in the order "Pending further orders, the impugned judgment (of Punjab and Haryana High Court), should not be relied upon as precedent (in any other case). The Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment differs from the 2017 Independent Thought Judgment of the Supreme Court where it was declared that child-friendly progressive legislations such as POCSO, 2012 and PCMA, 2006 were both "secular and special", having an overriding effect on other legislations. The patriarchy fought back with another set of salvos, with concerns to protect boys and men who are languishing in Observation homes and Jails; with bizarre arguments to portray the welfare of girls. In recent times the

questions as to the status of 'romantic relationships' within POCSO, 2012; have been under much discussion. Forgetting completely how power dynamics, socialization and a culture of silence works.

How most such romances are preceded by a series of illegal acts of stalking (online/offline), voyeurism, harassment, coercion, threats and allurements trapping the victim to agree. Post-2017 there are growing concerns for the rights of girls 'to choose' and 'agency of the child' etc as frontal arguments; with the intent to reverse the situation and provide cover fire to protect men intending to exploit minor girls. There are calls to decrease the age of consent, allowing unrestricted minor marriages. Surprisingly the grave concerns of girls as to their health, education, aspirations etc are missing from the discussion points. What takes supremacy are her right to have sex, right to choose her partner and right to move away (elope) from lawful guardianship with her wish. Sadly none of such arguments has answers as to what after that. There is a pending Prohibition of Child Marriage Amendment Bill, 2021 already tabled and under consideration before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports (EWCY&S) which intends to raise the age of marriage for girls at par with the boys to 21 years. The law proposed takes forward the Constitutional Mandate of gender equality based on the recommendations by the Task Force, Niti Ayog (task force to examine matters about the age of motherhood). There can be no doubt that the position of girls in society has changed and it must continue to do so. Post the implementation of the Right to Education in 2009, the number of calls received against child marriage by Child Helpline 1098 has increased drastically. The efforts by the government to legally recognize, child marriage as a rights violation, and take appropriate punitive action, will have a positive long-term impact. Girls, betrayed by family and society, have to be saved from forced early marriages and a strong message of it being a criminal act and not merely a social issue, from the State, was much needed. The government without delay must amend Article 21A of the Constitution to extend the right to education for girls till class 12 in the true spirit of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earthquake is due to Climate change

Earthquakes are one of the many dangerous and destructive natural disasters that can occur anywhere in the world, and as the recent quakes in Turkey and Syria demonstrate, they are definitely cause for concern. To begin with, there is no link between weather and earthquakes. This makes sense because earthquakes occur underground, where surface temperature and conditions have no bearing. However, climate change has the potential to affect earthquakes. This is due to the fact that the only true variable in earthquakes is the amount of stress on a fault line. According to NASA, the most likely scenario is that climate change causes surface water to add to the stress on a fault. There are also droughts. Droughts, according to NASA researchers, can change the size of mountains due to water loss. In theory, this could result in a change in stress on faults. Other studies have found that groundwater extraction during droughts can affect stress by essentially changing the weight of the planet's crust, which can cause changes between both sides of a fault line and causes an earthquake. Then there are glaciers, which move as well. Glacial earthquakes can occur as glaciers shift due to climate change. Therefore, to reduce earthquakes lowering stress loads is very much essential. In other words, climate change could play a role in earthquakes.

VijayKumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Turkey earthquake and climate change

In a bad omen for our planet, it has been found that climate change made the extreme temperatures that baked northwest India and Pakistan in April and May over 100 times more likely and also increased the chances that such heat waves will occur more frequently by the end of the century. To put it in simpler terms, without accounting for climate change, a heat wave exceeding 2010's average temperature could happen once in every 312 years, according to an attribution study published recently. Taking climate change into account, however, the probabilities increased to once in every 3.1 years in the current climate, and to once in every 1.15 years by the end of the century. Now the news had come in that climate change can be one of the reasons behind it though there no direct link between weather and earthquake but circumstantial evidence does point out such possibilities. However, climate change has the potential to affect the earthquake. This is due to the fact that the only true variable in earthquakes is the amount of stress on a fault line. According to NASA, the most likely scenario is that climate change causes surface water to add to the stress on a fault. There are also droughts. Droughts, according to NASA researchers, can change the size of mountains due to water loss. In theory, this could result in a change in stress on faults. Then there are glaciers, which move as well. Glacial earthquakes can occur as glaciers shift due to climate change. Therefore, to reduce earthquakes lowering stress loads is very much essential. In other words, climate change could play a role in earthquakes. In the last we can say there is need of fresh deep study in every field where the climate change is showing its adverse impact.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Every year on February 14th, people honour their love for one another by spending time together, sending flowers and sharing Valentine's messages of love. For many Valentine's Day is one day of the year where couples really want to have a great date and show their partner how much they love them and care about.

Valentine's Day is a time when people show feelings of love, affection and friendship. It is one of the hottest occasions of the year, even it is celebrated in winter. Helen Keller has rightly said that "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

Flowers have a way of creating strong and lasting memories. I would only say that flowers may fade; but the memories and the emotions never vanish. I remember the first flower I ever received from my wife on my first Valentine's Day. I will always remember the comfort those flowers gave my family. Her beauty and energetic personality are forever linked to the purity and

splendour of white flowers.

There are so many ways to describe that intense emotion call love. Everybody has their own idea and explanation for love, like: - Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end. I feel love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.

Romantic thoughts emerge as Valentine's Day approaches and reminders of Valentine's Day lingers for months. It is also natural that we celebrate the occasion by giving our spouse a romantic Valentine's Day gift but we use the Valentine's Day holiday to discuss with our kids the nature of romantic love, and their feelings

for their mother.

We open up with them, and share our feelings deeply, so that they can see you as a complete person. This may seem sappy, but my relationship with my wife is the most important role model for romantic love and partnership as we grow up.

Our life is full of colours and I hope this Valentine Day will add more colours in our life. My 30th Wedding Anniversary falls on Valentine Day. (Yes, it's really on Valentine's Day) I am trying to figure out what to do for my wife on this special day. As I thought about my wife this week, I was reminded of how wonderful she is. She is perfect for me; she puts me first, right after God.

We never fight, and if we have

a disagreement, we always work things out without fighting, how perfect is that! She is not afraid to tell me she loves me many times each day. Sometimes I feel we are each other's flesh and blood. We are each other's essence, our souls are intertwined, and we are a caduceus united.

We love each other, adore each other, and respect each other, know each other's limitations and help each other transcend it, and if we cannot, be the strength for each other when one falls. My Wedding Anniversary that falls on Valentine Day always reminds me that "Love is the magician that pulls man out of his own heart." and I can never forget the memories I share every year.

BRIEF

Farm productivity



■ Indore: The G-20 meet will bring out solutions like new technologies for enhancing farm productivity, which is key for addressing the global food security concerns, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Monday. Addressing the first Agriculture Deputies' Meeting here, Chouhan said the need of the hour is to focus on three main areas — increasing production, reducing cost of cultivation and ensuring better prices to the farmers. India is already working towards this direction, he said. "Food security is a major concern before the world due to the rising population. By 2030, the global foodgrains demand is estimated to be 345 million tonnes as against 192 million tonnes in the year 2000," the minister said. Only 12 per cent of the world's arable land is suitable for agriculture.

Aviation hub



■ New Delhi: The government is working to create an aviation hub in India and various steps, including airlines inducting wide-body aircraft and increasing their fleet size, are being taken, Union minister V K Singh said on Monday. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, he said the civil aviation ministry has consulted the stakeholders and has asked the aviation industry to come together to develop India as a hub for aviation. To a query on whether it is a fact that the ministry is actively working on creating an international aviation hub for international and domestic passengers in India by utilising Indian airports and Indian aircraft, he replied in the affirmative.

Environmental concerns



■ New Delhi: Union Power Minister R K Singh on Monday said addressing environmental concerns will remain a priority for the government. "India is committed to providing reliable and affordable power supply to people while keeping environmental concerns as the core priority," Singh, who is also the Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said in a statement.

Retail inflation spurts to 3-month high of 6.52 pc in Jan

New Delhi, Feb 13:

Retail inflation again breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit and touched a three-month high of 6.52 per cent in January, mainly due to higher prices in the food basket, including cereals and protein-rich items. With the exception of November and December 2022, retail inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 5.72 per cent in December and 6.01 per cent in January 2022. The previous high was 6.77 per cent in October. While the prices of vegetable declined in January, most of the other items, including 'fuel and light' became dearer. The rate of price rise in the food basket was 5.94 per cent in January, up from 4.19 per cent in the preceding month and 5.43



per cent in the year-ago month, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The inflation in rural areas was higher at 6.85 per cent as compared to 6 per cent in the urban centres. Last week, the RBI — which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains below 6 per cent — had raised the key short-term rate (repo) by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent with an aim to check price rise. The Reserve Bank has projected the retail in-

flation at 6.5 per cent in 2022-23, with January-December quarter at 5.7 per cent. Headline CPI inflation moderated by 105 basis points during November-December 2022 from its level of 6.77 per cent in October 2022. This was due to a softening in food inflation on the back of a sharp deflation in vegetable prices, which more than offset the inflationary pressures from cereals, protein-based food items and spices, the RBI had said last week.

Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras to give boost to small traders: Vineet Pandey

New Delhi, Feb 13:

Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras are expected to give a boost to small traders to further promote the country's exports, Secretary in the Department of Posts Vineet Pandey said here on Monday. He also said that due to its low cost structure, and simple process, the working of post offices is suitable for small and medium businesses.

The department, Pandey said, is working on a comprehensive plan to make its network useful for ODOP (one district one product) and small businesses of north eastern states. "Dak niryat kendras are expected to



give a boost to small traders," he said here at an event organised by India Post - AMRITPEX-2023. MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) accounts for 8 per cent of the country's, 45 per cent of total manufacturing output and 40 per cent of India's exports.

GST compensation to some states delayed due to lack of AG certificate: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Feb 13: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said GST compensation to some states is delayed due to non-availability of AG's authenticated certificate, and that Kerala has not sent even a single such certificate since 2017-18. Replying to a supplementary question, she also said that Rs 86,912 crore has been released for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation payable to all states up to May 31, 2022. She said as per law, GST Council decides to whom the GST compensation is to be released, not by the central government.

"AG's certification is (mandatory) by law between the Centre, states and the AG (accountant general), and it is an agreed process. So, unless the authentication is given by the AG..," she said. The finance

CEOS ROUND TABLE



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses CEOs Round Table during the Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru, Monday, Feb. 13.



minister said if there is any delay of getting the AG's authentication, it is a matter between the AG and the state government concerned, and they have to sort it out. "If between them there is a problem, the authentication certificate gets delayed in reaching the central government," she said. Sitharaman underlined that to get GST compensation,

state governments have to do a lot more. "The state governments have to, pardon me using the word, be efficient to sort it out things with the AG. But without AG certificate, beyond a certain limits, it is very difficult for me to go," she said. Referring to Kerala, the minister said post GST induction, the southern state has not sent AG certificate for GST compensation for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21.

She said Kerala has not sent the AG certificate even for one year for getting compensation dues. Despite that, Sitharaman said, the Centre has been accused of not releasing the funds on time. She urged Kerala MP N K Premachandran (who asked the supplementary question) to sit with the state government and request it to send the AG certificates in one go.

Renault-Nissan commit Rs 5,300 crore investments in TN

■ To introduce 6 new models including EVs

Chennai, Feb 13: France-based automobile manufacturer Renault and Japan-headquartered Nissan on Monday committed investments of USD 600 million (around Rs 5,300 crore) in the country 15 years after foraying into the Tamil Nadu automobile industry.

The fresh round of investments would witness rollout of six new models between the two companies, including two electric vehicles, representing the two global brands, Nissan Global Chief Operating Officer and Member, Alliance Board Ashwani Gupta said here. Currently, both automakers produce four models at the Chennai plant located at

Oragadam, about 45 kilometres from here. According to Gupta, the Renault-Nissan manufacturing facility would also become 100 per cent carbon neutral by 2025 with use of renewable energy.

The investments would see creation of 2,000 new jobs at the Renault Nissan Research and Development and Business Centre located at Mahindra Research City in Singaperumalkoil.

Gupta, in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin, Renault India Country CEO Venkatram Mamillapalle exchanged memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu government promoted nodal agency Guidance Bureau MD and CEO Vishnu Venugopal at an event here.

Sensex extends losses for 2nd day; IT, bank stocks top drags

Mumbai, Feb 13:

Equity benchmark Sensex declined around 251 points on Monday, pressured by heavy selling in IT and bank stocks amid a mixed trend overseas. A weak rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said. Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 250.86 points or 0.41 per cent lower at 60,431.84. During the session, the index touched a high of 60,740.95 and a low of 60,245.05. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 85.60 points or 0.48 per cent to finish at 17,770.90. SBI was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, tumbling 2.83 per



cent, followed by Infosys, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and Axis Bank. In contrast, Titan, L&T, NTPC, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, ITC and HDFC twins were among the prominent winners, rising as much as 1.97 per

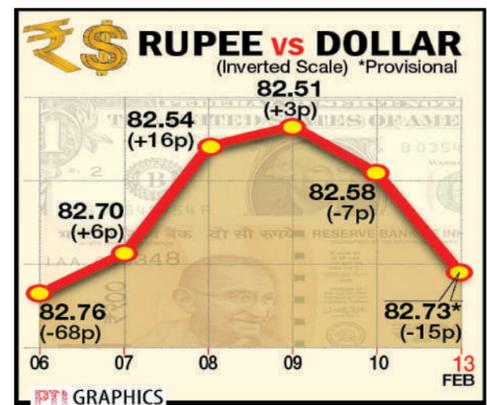
cent. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices dropped up to 1.25 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul closed in the red, while Shanghai settled higher.

Rupee falls 15 paise to close at 82.73 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 13:

The rupee fell by 15 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. Firm crude oil prices further dented investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.68 against the greenback, and fell to an intra-day low of 82.77.

It finally settled at 82.73 (provisional), down 15 paise over its previous close. In the previous session on Friday, the rupee settled at 82.58 against the dollar. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by



BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on a weak tone in Asian markets and a strong dollar. Traders also pared their positions ahead of CPI data which is expected a tad higher from the previ-

ous month's reading. However, a weak start to crude oil on Monday cushioned the downside. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias amid risk aversion in global markets and rising US dol-

lar. Sustained outflows by foreign investors may also mount downside pressure on the domestic currency," Choudhary said. Traders may remain cautious ahead of inflation data from India today and US tomorrow. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.20 to Rs 83.30, Choudhary added. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.15 per cent higher at 103.78. "Dollar strengthened on risk aversion in global markets amid expectations of a hawkish Fed and economic slowdown in the UK," Choudhary said. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 1.19 per cent to USD 85.36 per barrel.

FCI must sell more wheat in open market: Goyal

New Delhi, Feb 13: Union food and consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal has asked state-owned FCI to open more procurement centres covering all revenue districts in Uttar Pradesh for the benefit of farmers and also sell more wheat in open market to cool prices. The minister stated this while reviewing the operations of Food Corporation of India's (FCI) UP Region in Lucknow. FCI is the government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains. Goyal told the FCI officials to use modern technologies in foodgrain management and quality control to bring more transparency and minimum human interface, according to an



official statement. He called upon all the officers to send their suggestions to make the functioning of the FCI more efficient and modern. Goyal directed FCI officers to use their expertise in the field of foodgrain management and suggest the better design of godowns in order to create higher capacities in limited area of land.

HDFC Bank launches pilot for Offline Digital Payments

Mumbai, Feb 13:

HDFC Bank has launched a pilot in partnership with Crunchfish, to test offline digital payments for merchants and customers under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program, known as 'OfflinePay'. HDFC Bank's 'OfflinePay' will enable customers and merchants to make and receive payments even when there is no mobile network. HDFC Bank is the first bank in the industry to launch a digital payment solution in a completely offline mode. This can boost adoption of digital payments in smaller towns and rural areas with poor network connectivity. Even in urban cen-

tres, it can enable cashless payments during large public events, fairs & exhibitions despite network congestion; underground metro stations, parking lots, & retail stores with network blind spots; and even in airplanes, sea ferries, and trains with no network. HDFC Bank has been working with the regulator to pilot offline digital payments under the Payments cohort of RBI's Regulatory Sandbox program. In September 2022, RBI approved HDFC Bank's application, in partnership with Crunchfish, to access the Regulatory Sandbox. Crunchfish Digital Cash AB is a subsidiary of Crunchfish AB, a publicly listed company on Nasdaq

First North Growth Market in Stockholm, Sweden. The pilot, if successful, will provide the basis for RBI's guidance and regulatory support in providing offline digital payments based on 'Crunchfish Digital Cash' platform to the payment ecosystem of India.

"HDFC Bank is pleased to work under regulator's guidance and partner with Crunchfish Digital Cash to launch 'OfflinePay', an industry-first digital solution. This innovation will accelerate financial inclusion in remote areas by enabling adoption of digital payments as both merchants and customers can do transactions without any network.

Audi expects high double digit growth in India this year

New Delhi, Feb 13:

German luxury car-maker Audi on Monday said it expects to have a significant double digit growth in India in 2023 on the back of new products and full-year availability of its popular models. The company launched its Q3 Sportback model, a sporty compact crossover style of its popular SUV Q3, priced at Rs 51.43 lakh (ex-showroom) line as it seeks to continue with the momentum of its strong sales growth posted last year.

"I am looking at a significant high double digit growth for this year as well. We grew 27 per cent last year, but this year also we will continue to grow because the whole product line is available," Audi



India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon told PTI. He was responding to the company's sales growth expectation in 2023.

This year, he said the company will have the full product line available, including the popular models such as SUV Q3, Q7 and top end sedan A8, which were launched last year.

Switzerland celebrates Yash Chopra's legacy

Switzerland is paying tribute to the legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra, saluting his contribution of having showcased Switzerland's beauty to Indians through the magic of his cinema. The much-awaited Netflix docu-series, *The Romantics*, is a celebration of the legacy of Yash Chopra, YRF and its cultural impact on Indians over the past 50 years. It is set to release this Tuesday, the 14th of February.

Remo Käser, Director of Sales Jungfrau Railways, Switzerland, reveals, "The legend, Yash Chopra, has presented the beauty of Switzerland and especially the Jungfrau Region to Indians across the world for generations, through his beautiful, soulful cinema. Indians, who come to Jungfrauoch - Top of Europe year on year, have always spoken to us about how the romantic films of Yash Chopra have pushed them to visit the Jungfrau Region and Interlaken and make memories for a lifetime."

The Swiss authorities will celebrate Yash Chopra's legacy across the country, especially in places where the filmmaker shot mega-hits like *Darr* and *Chandni*. His son Aditya Chopra also shot the all-time blockbuster, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* in Switzerland.

Every Indian has been enchanted by Switzerland's snow-capped mountains, lush valleys, and pristine lakes in large part because of Yash Chopra's films. It is said that he



visited Switzerland for his honeymoon and was smitten by the country instantly. The Swiss government has continuously honoured the legendary filmmaker through the years.

In 2011, Switzerland's Jungfrau Railways inaugurated a train named after him - an honour shared only with the railway's founder, Adolf Guyer. The train featured his signature and name on a signboard. In May 2016, a bronze statue of Yash Chopra was installed by the Switzerland government as a tribute, near the Congress Centre in Interlaken, a popular tourist spot.

At the prestigious Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa, a special deluxe cinema-themed suite was named after

Yash Chopra. In 2011, the filmmaker inaugurated the suite. Lake Laeuken, in the Canton of Berne, is referred to as Lake Chopra! The Swiss government honoured Yash Chopra with the title of Ambassador of Interlaken, making him the first recipient of the award. He was also bestowed the Swiss Ambassador's Award.

Remo adds, "Switzerland and India have a great bond of mutual respect and admiration and Yash Chopra has played a monumental role in solidifying the relationship between our great nations. Switzerland is only too proud to celebrate his legacy here."

From Aamir Khan to Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan to Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh

Bachchan to Ranveer Singh, Rani Mukerji to Hrithik Roshan, Katrina Kaif to Anushka Sharma, the mega-stars and icons of Hindi cinema have come together to speak about Yash Chopra and YRF's contribution to Indian cinema in *The Romantics*.

The *Romantics* has been directed by Oscar & Emmy-nominated filmmaker Smriti Mundhra, who returns to Netflix after the phenomenal success of Indian Matchmaking and the *Never Have I Ever* Season 3.

Netflix, in this four-part docu-series, will feature 35 leading personalities from the film industry, who have closely worked with YRF through its 50-year glorious existence.

Interestingly, the reclusive head of the iconic Yash Raj Films, Aditya Chopra, has also recorded his first on-camera interview for *The Romantics*! Hearing him share insights about YRF and the Hindi film industry in this docu-series is bound to be a huge highlight for the film fraternity, cinephiles & Hindi cinema audience at large.

The trailer of *The Romantics* has been appreciated globally. Netflix will release *The Romantics* on Feb 14, 2023, as a tribute to Yash Chopra, who is regarded as the 'Father of Romance' in India because of his iconic romantic films like *Silsila*, *Lamhe*, *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Veer-Zaara*, *Dil To Pagal Hai*, *Chandni*, *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, etc.



Love stories on TV that proved that love has no age-bar

ishing that love knows no bounds and no age, breaking the monotonous plot of the Hindi tv show that exposes a significant issue like age disparity. These love stories have no age limits. From Star Bharat's *Na Umra Ki Seema* Ho to *Dil Sambhal Ja Zara*.

Here are 5 age defying love stories on Hindi television



Over the years, there have been several TV shows on Indian television that have won a lot of followers. Fans still recall these series and their enduring personalities even after they were no longer on television. In terms of content, things have evolved with time, particularly in modern times. TV celebrities have been seen to be very open-minded and to enjoy trying out various positions that allow them to express their talent and originality. Aside from the typical love storylines, several television programs have succeeded in estab-

1. **Na Umra Ki Seema Ho** - Starring Rachana Mistry and Iqbal Khan in lead roles the Star Bharat show *Na Umra Ki Seema Ho* is a story of Vidhi a young woman, who falls in love with Devratha, a middle aged business tycoon. Together they embark on a journey of love and acceptance beyond the barrier of age.

2. **Dil Sambhal Jaa Zara** - Starring Smriti Kalra and Sanjay Kapoor, *Dil Sambhal Ja Zara* is a story of Ahana, a young girl navigating her life in urban India, who gets caught in a web of relationships when she meets Anant,

a middle-aged man.

3. **Aapke Aajane Se** - *Aap Ke Aa Jane Se* is a Hindi romantic drama television series starring Karan Jotwani and Suhasi Dhani in the lead. It is a love story between a 42-year-old middle class, conservative single mother, Vedika and a 24-year-old.

4. **Kehta hai Dil Jee Le Zara** - Starring Rushlaan Mumtaaz and Sangita Gosh the story of the show revolves around the life of 34-year-old women, Sanchi Prabhu, and Dhruv Goyal, a 27-year-old, charming, wealthy lawyer, arrives on

holiday from Mumbai and stays with Sanchi's neighbor. Sanchi initially finds Dhruv irritating but they later become friends and realize their love for each other.

5. **Molkki** - Starring Amar Upadhyay and Priyal Mahajan the story revolves around the tradition of 'molkki', where a young poor girl is married to an aged wealthy man in exchange of money. In real life too, Priyal Mahajan and Amar Upadhyay, who play the lead roles of Virender and Purvi, have an age gap of 25 years. Priyal is 19 and Amar is 44.

Shamita pens a hopeful note desiring a better society for women

Returning to the silver screen after quite a hiatus, Shamita Shetty marks her return to the theatres with a strong, impactful story of a single, independent woman. As the film releases today, Shamita pours her heart out in a social media post urging her fans to watch the film.

With pictures that offer glimpses into the film, Shamita Shetty posted on social media saying, "A film that I'm so proud off. A story that needs to be told for all women out there who have been time and again subjected to Patriarchy, lack of privacy,

sexism or constant judgement for what they wear or just how they are!!!! The journey of Meera in *The Tenant* is especially close to my heart having been subjected to a lot of constant judgement in my life.. very few wanted to understand my story but were constantly so quick to judge. Here's hoping for a positive change in our society, one that will let our women live their lives unapologetic, pursuing their dreams with courage for a life they want!.. afraid of nothing!! THE TENANT is finally OUT IN CINEMAS NEAR YOU My beautiful tribe.. go

watch it". Shouldering the film and driving the narrative solely, Shamita Shetty is not only returning to the silver screen with *The Tenant* but also delivers a female-centric, contemporary narrative stirring conversation in the society. Mirroring the prevailing prejudices and judgements of the society towards modern, single woman, Shamita Shetty highlights the struggles of womanhood in con-

servative Indian environment. Opting for important and impactful roles, Shamita Shetty has been delivering impressive performances. Having made her debut with a Yash Raj film *ohabbatein*, Shamita has not only made her mark on the silver screen but also created ripples across television and OTT, and now marks her return to silver screen.



Anushka Kaushik takes up rifle shooting lessons!



Anushka Kaushik became a talent to look out for after giving some amazing performances in projects like *Ghar Wapas* and *Thar*. She has some more interesting projects lined up for which she had been quite busy shooting continuously. But even though Anushka has wrapped up the shoot of

her upcoming projects, she is not yet ready to take it easy. She is indeed utilizing this break to work on herself and learn something new, and one of those new things for her is rifle shooting. The actress has recently taken up this new activity and is having a gala time learning it. Talking about the same, Anushka shares, "It's been a while since I took any break and now I got one and I just wanted to utilise it in the best possible way. I feel that life is definitely all about exploring and tapping into your hidden talent and unlocking new skills. So I started with air rifle shooting. For Anushka to take this activity up, a huge credit goes to her father too. Explaining why, the actress informs, "My father taught me rifle shooting and hitting the bull's eye. So I was quite inclined towards learning it."

DDLJ to get a wider release this Valentine's Day!

Aditya Chopra directed *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ) is the longest running movie in the history of Indian cinema. The all-time blockbuster catapulted Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to become superstars of the country and is one of the biggest IPs emerging from the Indian film industry. DDLJ shaped pop culture for India and Indians over the generations. This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, DDLJ will see a wider release across India, Yash Raj Films confirms. Rohan Malhotra, Vice President, Distribution, YRF, says, "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ), the longest running film in the history of cinema, has become synonymous to romance for India and Indians for generations since it's historic release. We are constantly requested by the audience and fans, through the year, for a wider showcasing of the film so



that they can again and again watch this milestone-setting film with their friends and family in theatres! This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, we are making their wish come true. DDLJ will be screened across India, starting Feb 10, for a period

of one week only!" DDLJ will be released in 31 cities across India, including Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodra, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Lucknow, Noida, Dehradun, Delhi, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore,

Chennai, Vellore, Trivandrum. Interestingly for audiences, they can get a taste of Shah Rukh Khan as Raj in DDLJ and as Pathaan in theatres over this Valentine's Day period. Pathaan is currently wreaking havoc at the box office as it has become the all-time highest grossing Hindi film ever worldwide! Rohan says, "YRF & SRK are not only synonymous with delivering Indian cinema's biggest blockbusters but also for collaborating on films which have redefined the Indian film industry and have had a lasting cultural impact" He adds, "It is an amazing coincidence that DDLJ, an all-time blockbuster, was released by YRF during its 25th year celebrations & this year, history has repeated itself with Pathaan as it has become the highest grossing Hindi film worldwide (original format) during YRF's 50 year celebrations!" He further adds, "We are thrilled to give the audience an opportunity to watch DDLJ and Pathaan, which are going to run simultaneously on the big screen, during this period."

An era has an important role to play in love and relationship

Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB's upcoming family romance drama, follows the journey of Dhruv and Tara, who are from two different eras. The show is set to break through the clutter with a love story never seen on television before. Tara (played by Riya Sharma), a princess from the 17th century, travels against the grain of time and arrives in the present day, where she meets Dhruv (played by Ishaan Dhawan). Sony SAB's consistent focus is on creating good content and bringing to life shows that appeal to each family member. With Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB brings an exciting show,



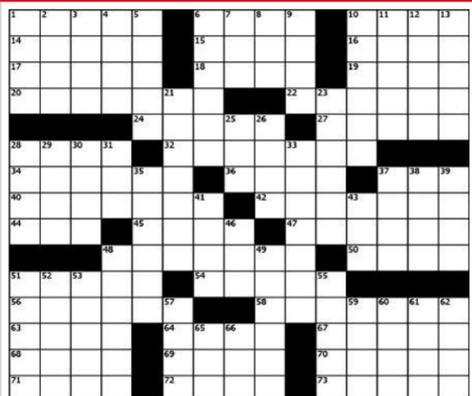
which will captivate audiences with its engaging narrative and unique characters. Dhruv Tara will premiere on 20th February, airing every Monday to Saturday at 8 PM only on Sony SAB. In a candid conversation, Ishaan Dhawan who plays the character of Dhruv

shared his thoughts on how modern-day love and relationships are different from the 17th century. He said, "To me, there is definitely a difference between modern love and traditional love, and I firmly believe that an era has an important role to play in love and relation-

ship. In earlier days, the meaning of love was to stand up for your values, stick to your word, stay beside your partner irrespective of complex and challenging situations. In today's age, we as humans tend to overthink a lot about every relationship in life. The purity and innocence that relationships had back in the day are now missing and we are trying to keep everything under control be it love or relationships. People tend to miss enjoying the little moments in love and life."

Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare premieres on Sony SAB on 20th February, Monday to Saturday, 8 PM!

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Baldwin and Guinness
 - Klutz's cry
 - 43,560 square feet
 - Hot chocolate
 - Fee
 - Not that
 - Ethical
 - Pharmacy measure
 - Turner and Williams
 - Imitate
 - Cold era (2 wds.)
 - Stage offering
 - Stakes
 - Citric
 - Frightened
 - Contemporary
 - Squad vegetables
 - Reporter's question
 - Sickness
 - Horse breed
 - President before JFK
 - Cavity
 - Threefold

- DOWN**
- Apex
 - Weaving device
 - Unbleached color
 - West Virginia product
 - Lettuce dish
 - Trying experience
 - Rowing device
 - School group (abbr.)
 - Tractor-trailer
 - Go to
 - Defraud
 - Blue Mountains
 - Curved letters
 - Window above a door
 - Julius
 - Chart
 - Location
 - In the middle of
 - Chilly
 - Unoccupied
 - Lion's lair
 - James Bond's drink
 - Go over again
 - Use a paper towel
 - Stop
 - Wallet fillers
 - City eyecore
 - Coal receptacle
 - Age
 - Talks back
 - Reply
 - One more time
 - To the point
 - Green fruits
 - Take as one's own
 - Scored on serve
 - Bible book
 - Henhouse
 - Novelist
 - Critic Rex
 - Horse food
 - WNW's opposite



Mandhana hits pay dirt, Harmanpreet gets half as nine Indian women get crore-plus deals

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

Smriti Mandhana stole the thunder in the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) auctions as Royal Challengers Bangalore pipped Mumbai Indians in a bidding war to buy the India vice-captain for Rs 3.40 crore (USD 410,000) here on Monday.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur came much cheaper for Mumbai Indians at nearly half the price of Mandhana at Rs 1.80 crore. Harman is also not the highest paid in her team where England's Nat Sciver-Brunt got way more at Rs 3.20 crore.

In fact, Harmanpreet was not even among the top-six Indian buys as the second costliest player from the country so far is all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who was bought by UP Warriorz for Rs 2.6 crore.

The hard-hitting Shafali Verma and star of the T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on Sunday, Jemimah Rodrigues were picked by Delhi Capitals for Rs 2 crore and Rs 2.20 crore respectively. All-rounders Pooja Vastrakar and Richa Ghosh laughed



their way to the bank with Rs 1.90 crore deals offered by MI and RCB respectively. Jemimah and Richa's deals were also a case of recency bias as the Pakistan match on Sunday did play a big role.

However, Delhi Capitals pulled off a coup by roping in one of contemporary women's cricket's best leaders Meg Lanning of Australia for Rs 1.10 crore.

The RCB, which teed off the buying spree, also explained their choices and the price attached to it. "Everyone knows Mandhana and (Australia's Elyse) Perry — Rs 1.7 crore; we were pretty committed to the



Nita Ambani, owner of Mumbai Indians, with the team's head coach Charlotte Edwards and bowling coach and team mentor Jhulan Goswami during the inaugural Women's Premier League auctions, in Mumbai, Monday.

couple of people we wanted to get. We're very happy to get such quality players. It's a dream result for us to get Mandhana, Perry and (Sophie) Devine (Rs 50 lakh)," RCB Director of Cricket Mike Hesson said during a media interaction.

"Smriti has got plenty of captaincy experience and is familiar with the Indian conditions, so highly likely (she'll be the captain)," Mandhana, who watched the auction with her team

cheering each bid, was ecstatic. "We have been watching auction of men's (players). It is such a big moment for women to have an auction of this sort. The whole thing is exciting. RCB's legacy is big, they have built a big fan-base. Hope we both can together build a big team," Mandhana said. Deepti on her part said, "We waited for this opportunity and since I am from UP, it is a great feeling. I want to contribute as much as possi-

ble for UP Warriorz."

One of the prominent picks during the first round of auction was Australia's off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner, who was bought by Gautam Adani-owned Gujarat Giants for Rs 3.20 crore (USD 386,000). Gardner and Nat Sciver are the two highest-paid overseas players.

Gujarat primarily bought foreign players and are yet to buy prominent India players save Harleen Deol for Rs 40 lakh.

Star Australian all-rounder Perry received a cool Rs 1.70 crore (USD 205,000) winning bid from RCB, who also got New Zealand skipper Devine dirt cheap at a base price of Rs 50 lakh.

RCB has already exhausted Rs 7.10 crore out of Rs 12-crore purse on four players and they need to get another 11 players with the rest of the Rs 4.90 crore to have a mandatory squad size of 15 players. The maximum squad strength will be 18 players.

UP Warriorz also got England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone on board for Rs 1.80 crore.

BCCI shifts Dharamsala Test to Indore

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The third Test between India and Australia scheduled to be played from March 1-5 has been shifted from Dharamsala to Indore, owing to poor outfield conditions, BCCI said on Monday.

That the Test will be shifted was confirmed on Sunday itself after BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee's report deemed the re-laid outfield as unfit for an international match.

"The third Test of the Mastercard Australia tour of India for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, originally scheduled to take place at the HPCA Stadium, Dharamsala from 1st to 5th March has now been moved to Holkar Stadium, Indore," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. "Owing to harsh winter conditions in the region, the outfield lacks sufficient grass density and will need some time to develop fully," Shah further stated. The inclement weather added to the woes of Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) as the local ground staff didn't get enough time to grow good



layer of grass on the patches of bald outfield.

However, it must be mentioned that apart from the latest inspection, the BCCI pitches and grounds committee team had also inspected the ground once before and that time it was not even close to being ready.

Questions are being raised at BCCI's scheduling team and why wasn't a proper homework being done and weather conditions factored in before allotting the match to Dharamsala when no cricket has been played at the venue for the past one season.

In fact, the last two international games — one T20I and other ODI against South Africa were washed out after one spell

of rain and the ground couldn't be prepared for a curtailed game.

Himachal Pradesh Ranji team played their home games at Nadaun as the pitch and outfield were being re-laid.

The norm of having an international match at any venue needs to follow specific parameters and one is to have at least one competitive game a few weeks before an ODI, T20I or Test.

Like Holkar Stadium in Indore, where the third Test will be held, it has already conducted a number of first class and age group games this season with the last one being Ranji Trophy semi-final between Mandhya Pradesh and Bengal that ended on February 12.

'WC snub was lowest phase of my life'

Jemimah Rodrigues contemplated quitting game

Cape Town, Feb 13 (PTI):

From touching the lowest ebb after the ODI World Cup snub in New Zealand last year to hitting the winning runs in victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in the T20 global event, Jemimah Rodrigues has done brilliantly to turn the corner in less than 12 months.

Rodrigues, who hit a match-winning 38-ball unbeaten 53 in a seven-wicket win in India's Women's T20 World Cup opener here on Sunday, said at one point of time she even contemplated quitting the game. "I think this time last year when I was at home and I was not in a good head-space because I was



dropped from (India's) 50 World Cup squad. That was the toughest time for me, but there was so many people who helped me through

out this time," Rodrigues said at the post-match press conference. "Honestly, many a time I had nothing to tell myself. I had, there

were so many times I had given up, you know I didn't have the strength to carry (on) and I know a lot of people say you need to back yourself you need to motivate yourself but when a person is going through, they only know what they're going through," an emotional Rodrigues bared her heart during the interaction. The support system is very important, she said.

"I was blessed that I had people who believed in me and helped me push through that time so I am just grateful to them. It felt like that was that was one of the lowest phase of my life but it turned out to be the reason why I could come here today."

Shubman Gill named ICC Men's Player of January

Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI):

India batter Shubman Gill was on Monday named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper Grace Scrivens became the youngest player to be named for the women's honour.

Gill enjoyed a record-breaking month in white-ball cricket in January. The free-scoring batter was a prolific source of runs throughout the month, most notably in the ODI format, scoring big against both Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

With 567 runs during January, which included



three century-plus scores, the 23-year-old Gill wowed fans with a lethal combination of graceful and attacking strokeplay.

In a month which presented several highlights for Gill, his stand-out performance came in the form of a stunning double-

hundred in the nail-biting victory over New Zealand in the series opener in Hyderabad. His unbeaten 208 came off just 149 balls with 28 boundaries — a startling feat not just because it made him the youngest double-centurion in the ODI format, but

also because all those around him seemed to falter on a difficult pitch for batters. Sandwiched between this innings were two further centuries — 116 in a dominant victory over Sri Lanka, and 112 in the final ODI against New Zealand.

Gill overcame a competitive field to claim his first ICC Men's Player-of-the-Month award, beating New Zealand opener Devon Conway and compatriot Mohammed Siraj in the global vote. In doing so, he becomes the first Indian winner since Virat Kohli in October 2022. "January was a special month for me and winning this award makes it all the more memorable.

India's lower-order batters will make difference in Test series: Coach McDonald

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald believes India's strong lower-order batting, comprising Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel among others, will be the "differentiator" in the three remaining Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Jadeja and Patel played a pivotal role with the bat in the first innings, slamming 70 and 84 respectively, as India amassed 400 runs in response to the visiting team's total of 177.

That, along with Rohit Sharma's century and sterling bowling performances from Jadeja and Ashwin, helped the hosts thrash Australia by an innings and 132 runs inside three



days at Nagpur to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. The two teams will play the second Test in New Delhi from February 17, and McDonald said India's lower-order batters will challenge his side. "Their (India's) lower-order batting is also going

to be a differentiator in this series in (Ravindra) Jadeja, (Axar) Patel and (Ravichandran) Ashwin they've got a really strong lower-order and we're going to be challenged by that," McDonald told SEN Radio on Monday. "They're no doubt going to have more runs available to their lower-order than ours, so we've got to try to work out how to break even in that sense."

The coach, who took over following the departure of Justin Langer last year, said the loss in the opening Test will not force the team to revisit its strategy for the next three matches, expressing hope that the pre-series planning can still work.

Rourkela stadium to host four national c'ships to give international feel to players

Rourkela, Feb 13 (PTI):

Four age-group national hockey championships will be organised at the newly-built Birs Munda Stadium here this year to give the domestic players a feel of the state-of-the-art facility, which jointly hosted the men's World Cup along with the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar last month.

The four tournaments are the Junior Women National Championship (April 13-23), Junior Men National Championship (April 28-May 8), Sub-junior Women National Championship (May 13-23) and Sub-junior Men National Championship

(May 28-June 7).

The Senior Men National Championship 2023, meanwhile, will be held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu from May 3 to 14.

"We have taken a major step by signing a multi-year contract with the FanCode who have over 50 million users to show all the National Championship matches live in India and the Indian sub-continent," said Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

"We also want to introduce video referral at the domestic level so that players understand the process early in their careers.

Eoin Morgan quits franchise cricket

London, Feb 13 (PTI):

Eoin Morgan, England's lone 50-over World Cup-winning captain, on Monday announced retirement from all short-format franchise cricket with immediate effect, less than a year after he quit the international game.

The 36-year-old Morgan had retired from international cricket in July 2022 after a 16-year career — first with Ireland and then with England — but continued to play in short-format tournaments around the world.

"It is with great pride that I am announcing my retirement from all forms of cricket. After much deliberation, I believe that



now is the right time to step away from the game that has given me so much over the years," Morgan said in a statement.

Morgan captained London Spirit to the Hundred's eliminator last year, was a losing finalist in the Abu Dhabi T10 with New York Strikers, and

made seven appearances for Paarl Royals in the recently-concluded SA20.

He said he cherished every moment of his cricketing career.

"From moving to England in 2005 to join Middlesex, right up to the very end, playing for Paarl Royals in SA20, I have cherished every moment," said Morgan who made his England debut in an ODI in 2006.

"Thanks to cricket, I have been able to travel the world and meet incredible people, many of whom I have developed lifelong friendships with. Playing for franchise teams across the globe has given me so many memories that I will hold onto forever."

Pak captain Bismah Maroof rues lack of global T20 league opportunities

Cape Town, Feb 13 (PTI):

Teen sensation Ayesha Naseem might have made the cricket world sit back and take notice of her batting prowess against India in the T20 World Cup but her skipper Bismah Maroof is pained at the realisation that Pakistani women won't be part of the WPL auction. Maroof, who scored one of her best T20 half-centuries (68 off 55 balls) and young Naseem (43 not out off 25 balls) did push India to the limits but on Monday when most of the women internationals in South Africa were hoping for a bid, Pakistani girls would



only be able to watch it on their phones. Pakistani players (male or female) are not allowed in BCCI's flagship events — IPL and now Women's Premier League (WPL). "We as Pakistan, you know we don't get many opportunities to play in the leagues that's very unfortunate.

India start favourites against Kazakhstan in Badminton Asia Mixed Team C'ships opener

Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI): Spearheaded by a fit-again and rejuvenated PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy, India will fancy their chances against Kazakhstan in their opening Group B tie at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2023, starting here on Tuesday.

Two-time Olympic medalist and world No.7 Sindhu has recovered completely from a stress fracture that kept her out of action for five months last year and is gunning for success in the new season. After winning

the gold medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the injury forced Sindhu to pull out of the World Championships and also missed the remainder of the last season. Having made a scratchy start to the new season in the Malaysia Open and India Open at home, Sindhu is itching for success and would be going full throttle here. Sindhu's back-up in the women's singles is 32nd-ranked Aakarshi Kashyap, winner of the Bangladesh International Challenge last month.

Jyothi Yarraji and Jeswin Aldrin win silver each in Asian Indoor Athletics C'ships



Astana, Feb 13 (PTI): Jyothi Yarraji and Jeswin Aldrin won a silver medal each in women's 60m hurdles and men's long jump by smashing their own national indoor records on the concluding day of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships here on Sunday. Yarraji improved upon her earlier national indoor record she set on Saturday — 8.16 sec — during the heats, as

she clocked 8.13 sec on Sunday to finish behind Japan's Masumi Aoki (8.01 sec).

Aldrin, on the other hand, produced a best jump of 7.97m to finish behind Lon Yu Tang (8.02m) of Chinese Taipei in the final.

He had jumped 7.93m in qualification on Friday, which was his earlier national indoor record before being broken on Sunday.

FIA president Ben Sulayem pushing for more events including Formula 1

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI): FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem feels a combination of hosting high-profile racing events like Formula 1 and extensive work at the grassroots is what India needs to revive motorsport in the country.

Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of the inaugural Formula E race in Hyderabad, the first non-European president of the world governing body for car racing, spoke on a range of issues including his plans for a big market like

India, women in motorsport, the pressing need to make the sport more affordable and why he has stepped back from the day to day running of FIA. "In my manifesto (ahead of his election in December 2021) I had mentioned how important India is. Not because I am here, not because I am the president," said Ben Sulayem, a former rally driver from the UAE.

"India and China both have the manufacturers, both have the numbers. We have not scratched the surface yet.

BJP left no stone unturned to develop Tripura: PM Modi

Agartala, Feb 13 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that there is no family in Tripura that has not received the benefits of BJP's policies.

Modi, addressing a rally here on the last day of electioneering in the poll-bound state, also said that the saffron party, as a "faithful servant" (sevak), left no stone unturned to develop the place.

"Agartala has become the gateway for international trade in the Northeast, the state capital will soon become a business hub," he noted.

The BJP believes in "politics of change (badlao), not of revenge (badla)", he maintained.

Lashing out at the Left Front and the Congress,

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election campaign rally ahead of the Tripura Assembly elections, in Agartala.**

the PM said that the two parties just want to fill their coffers without caring for people's welfare.

"The Leftists and the Congress can do anything to satiate their hunger for power. They wrestle in

Kerala and forge friendly relations in Tripura," he said.

Under the BJP regime, people got free ration, healthcare assistance, houses and other facilities, Modi said.

"I want to assure all those who are yet to get pucca houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana that they will get one after the BJP government takes oath in the state," he added.

India committed to maintain balance between fishing performance and minimizing negative impact: Union Fisheries Secretary

Kochi, Feb 13 (PTI):

India is committed to maintaining a balance between improving the fishing performance and minimizing its negative impacts, Union Fisheries Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain said on Monday.

Inaugurating a five-day international symposium on innovations in fishing technologies for sustainable and resilient fisheries here, Swain said India was working on maximising the net revenue from fisheries through 'value conservation, value capture and value creation.'

"The government is also committed to maintain a balance between improving the fishing

performance and minimising its negative impacts," he said, adding that policies and legal provisions are primarily focused on low-impact fishing.

Pressure of fish stocks in near-shore waters have made us think of improving the situation by exploring resources in the high seas, Swain said.

According to him, this will ensure not only a better economics for the sector but contribute to ecological sustainability also.

The top fisheries official also said that appropriate technologies are crucial in maintaining sustainability in the marine fisheries sector of the country, adding that

improved gear management practices would help protect and promote the interest of small-scale fisheries sector; reduce by-catch, manage ghost fishing and mitigate climate change.

"Assimilation of latest technologies for fuel efficiency like in the case of dual-fuel hybrid fishing vessels would bring down fishing cost, a need of the hour for small-scale fishers in India. Choice of fishing technology plays a crucial role in determining the outcome of the fishing," he said.

The symposium is being organised by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental

Organisation (BOBP-IGO), the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and national fisheries institutions on the occasion of the 23rd annual meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) -FAO Joint Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (ICES-FAO WGTFB).

Around 250 participants from 30 countries are attending the event and there will be witness over 80 technical sessions on various themes such as active fishing gear, passive fishing gear, ghost fishing nets, etc.

DU women students protest against 'withholding' of exam results

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Students of Delhi University's Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) on Monday staged a demonstration at the varsity's examination branch decrying the withholding of examination results of many students.

Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), a student organisation, alleged that the semester results of many students have been withheld by the officials who claim that there are errors in the registration forms of the students.

"The students have paid fees on the portal and yet even on presenting the fee

slips, the blame for the delay in the declaration of the exam results is being put on them by the officials who state that their registration form and admit cards were 'provisional' and not final," KYS said in a statement.

The results of the second, third, and fourth semester exams of NCWEB students have been held back. These exams were conducted online during the pandemic.

There was no immediate response from the university administration. The students have also accused officials of marking several of them absent despite their appearance in exams.

HC says won't expunge trial court's observations at this stage but they will not affect investigation, trial

● Jamia Nagar violence**New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):**

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to expunge at this stage observations made against the police by a trial court while discharging student activist Sharjeel Imam and others in a 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case but said the observations will not affect further investigation or trial of any accused.

The high court issued notices to student activists Imam, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Safoora Zargar and others seeking their response to Delhi Police's challenge to their discharge in the case.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing Delhi Police, urged the high court on Monday to expunge the remarks made by the trial court, arguing that the case concerned an unlawful assembly turning violent and not "right to dissent". "There is nothing before the trial court to disregard the third supplementary charge sheet. Observations are going to influence and be detrimental to any further investigation," Jain said.

The senior law officer also contended that the observations made by the trial court could not have been passed at the stage of framing of charges. Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said at the present stage it was not expunging the ob-

servations but ordered, "Observations made against the investigating agency will not affect further investigation or trial of any accused".

The matter would be heard next on March 16.

The trial court had in its February 4 order discharged 11 people, including the respondents, while holding that they were made "scapegoats" by police and that dissent has to be encouraged, not stifled.

The FIR was lodged in connection with the violence that erupted after a clash between police and people protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the Jamia Nagar area here in December 2019.

The police, in its revi-

sion petition, has said the trial court's order is in the teeth of well-settled principles of law, suffers from grave infirmities which go to the root of the matter and is perverse.

The police plea said the trial court has not only discharged the accused but was also swayed by "emotional" and "sentimental feelings" and has cast aspersions on the prosecuting agency and passed "gravely prejudicial" and "adverse" remarks against the prosecuting agency and the investigation.

"The trial court, while not considering and weighing the evidence on record, has proceeded to discharge the respondents (accused) at the stage of framing of charges.

Rahul attacks PM Modi over his alleged link with Adani

Wayanad (Ker), Feb 13 (PTI):

Launching a scathing attack on the Prime Minister over his alleged link with business tycoon Gautam Adani, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the PM "thinks that he is very powerful, but he doesn't realise that the absolute last thing that I am scared of is Narendra Modi."

Recalling the speech he had made in Parliament recently in which he had raised certain matters pertaining to the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group of companies, Gandhi, while addressing Congress workers in his constituency, said he was

asked to show proof with regard to what he had said.

"...and I have written to the Speaker with every single point they have removed and supporting proof," Gandhi said.

A major part of Gandhi's address during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks on the President's address was removed.

"Modi thinks that he is very powerful and people will get scared of him. He doesn't realise that the absolute last thing that I am scared of is Narendra Modi", the Wayanad MP said, escalating his attacks on the Prime Minister's alleged link with Adani.

G-20 summit will bring new solutions to boost farm productivity: Shivraj

Indore, Feb 13 (PTI):

The G-20 meet will bring out solutions like new technologies for enhancing farm productivity, which is key for addressing the global food security concerns, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Monday.

Addressing the first Agriculture Deputies' Meeting here, Chouhan said the need of the hour is to focus on three main areas -- increasing production, reducing cost of cultivation and ensuring better prices to the farmers.

India is already working towards this direction, he said. "Food security is a major concern before the world due to the

rising population. By 2030, the global foodgrains demand is estimated to be 345 million tonnes as against 192 million tonnes in the year 2000," the minister said.

Only 12 per cent of the world's arable land is suitable for agriculture. Neither the land is going to increase nor the natural resources, he said.

Therefore, it is necessary to utilise land and natural resources in a better way and increase the farm productivity to meet the future food demand, he added. The Minister also said, "I am confident that the G-20 summit will help boost the farm sector by connecting new technologies through local organisations."

Speaking to the media

separately, the Chief Minister highlighted the food security challenges faced by the entire world due to the growing population. He said India will play its rightful role in feeding the world.

The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition which showcased millets and its value-added food products apart from the allied farm sector.

During the three-day event, issues such as climate-smart initiatives, adoption of climate-smart technology by small farmers as well as agriculture market information system, wheat initiatives, agriculture risk management and reduction of food loss -- will be discussed in detail.

**Activists of Communist party of India (CPI) protest demanding probe into the Adani row, in Mumbai, Monday.**

'Qualified person can be given any post'

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):

Union minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Monday defended the appointment of retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer as the governor of Andhra Pradesh, saying a qualified person can be given any post and his ability should not be questioned. The Congress had attacked the government over the appointment of Nazeer, who was part of the historic 2019 Ayodhya verdict, and called the move a "great threat" to the independence of the judiciary.

Responding to a query on the appointment of Nazeer, Thakur, who holds Sports, and Information & Broadcasting portfolios, said, "Any 'kabil' (qualified) person can be given any post. That person's ability should not be questioned". Thakur didn't respond to queries on the Hindenburg Research report which had alleged stock manipulation by Adani Group, a charge denied by the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate.

Will send PM a copy: Gehlot hits back at Modi

● Rajasthan CM says his state budget 'model' for country**Jaipur, Feb 13 (PTI):**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday called his state budget a "model" for others to follow and offered to send a copy to the Centre, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi poked fun over a goof-up during his budget presentation. At a rally in Rajasthan's Dausa on Sunday, Modi picked on a blunder at the Rajasthan Budget presentation Friday, when Gehlot mistakenly read portions of the last year's budget. The PM taunt-

ed that the Congress lacks vision and its announcements remain just on paper. Gehlot said he rectified his mistake within "34 seconds", and claimed that the BJP is rattled by his government's performance in the state that goes to the polls this year-end. "I can send the copy of the Budget to the prime minister and he can send it to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. They will realise that our budget is a model budget," the Rajasthan CM told PTI. "The budget we presented in Rajasthan can become a model budget for the country. We have taken care of all sections, all families. I can claim that such a budget is rare," he added.

ED opposes AAP minister Satyendar Jain's bail plea

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday opposed before the Delhi High Court the bail plea of jailed AAP minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case being probed by it. Jain, arrested on May 30 last year by the agency, is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, representing ED, argued before Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma that the AAP leader's stand that there are no proceeds of crime can be "demolished" by the material on record which also shows that he was "in the thick of things". In its reply filed in the court, the agency said that the bail plea of Jain, a sitting minister, should be dismissed as his release would obstruct further investigation and there is CCTV footage from Tihar jail, where he is in judicial custody, to show that he is an "influential person" who may influence witnesses and frustrate the proceedings.

ED had arrested Jain in the money laundering case based on a CBI FIR lodged against Jain in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. "Money laundering is crystal clear. Their case is that Satyendar Jain has nothing to do with it. I have to establish that Satyendar Jain was in the thick of these things," ASG

Raju argued before the high court on Monday. Raju claimed that there is a statement under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by Jain which also supports the agency's case and there are proceeds of crime of over Rs 4 crore.

"I have admission of Satyendar Jain which shows he is a beneficiary (of the companies)," said the senior law officer, adding that the statement of an auditor connected with the companies in question has also established money laundering. In its reply filed in the case, the ED said that under PMLA, it cannot be said that bail is the rule and jail is the exception and when a public servant commits an economic offence it

erodes public confidence as well and has a larger impact on society.

The agency asserted that during investigation, it was found that the "modus operandi" in the present case involved "transferring cash from Delhi to Kolkata through Hawala operators and in lieu of cash, accommodation entries were layered and received from Kolkata-based shell companies into companies owned by applicant (Jain) and agricultural lands were purchased from these funds. Applicant has denied having any role in taking accommodation entries in his companies".

The reply further emphasised that there is "clear cut evidence" of Jain influencing co-accused Vaibhav Jain

and Ankush Jain in Tihar jail. The "special treatment extended by the prison authorities to Satyendar Kumar Jain shows that the ED's apprehension throughout was correct that being a former minister of prisons and health he is receiving favourable treatment from the prison officials including the prison doctors", it added.

"The applicant (Jain) continues to be a sitting minister in the Government of NCT Delhi and has been influencing witnesses through his incarceration. The above facts are borne out from the CCTV video footage of Tihar jail premises submitted by the Directorate before the PMLA special judge," the reply said.

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- जांच
- आर्म
- वक्ष स्थल
- शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों का लेजर द्वारा लाइपोसक्शन

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