

BRIEF



Odissi dance exponent Dona Ganguly at a dance workshop, at Indian Museum ahead of Basanta Utsav in Kolkata, Monday.

FICCI Secretary

New Delhi: Former bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Ficci, the industry body said on Monday. Pathak will take over the charge on March 1. "In a career spanning 37 years, Pathak has spent time in government as an IAS Officer as well as helped large companies in the private sector.

NCW Nomination

New Delhi: Actor-turned-politician and BJP leader Khushbu Sundar has been nominated as a member of the National Commission for Women (NCW). Sundar, a member of the BJP's national executive committee, posted the notification on her appointment on social media. She was congratulated by Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai, who said her appointment was a recognition of her "relentless pursuit and fight" for women's rights.

Girl killed

New Delhi: A three-and-half-year-old girl was killed after being allegedly hit by a car driven by a senior Indian Air Force officer's son in southwest Delhi's Cantonment area, police said on Monday. The accused is a first year college student in a private college and has been arrested, they said, adding that the accident took place on Sunday.

Tiger dies

Rishikesh: A tiger injured in a fight for territorial dominance died during treatment, Chief Conservator of Forest Kumaon division Prasanna Kumar Patra said on Monday. The fight had taken place in Fanto range of Terai West forest division earlier this month, he said. The tiger was tranquilised on February 26 and had been under treatment since but on Sunday the big cat succumbed to its injuries sustained in the fight, he said.

Heroin seized

Guwahati: Heroin worth Rs 8 crore was seized in uwahati and three persons were arrested, police said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, two vehicles were intercepted in Nalpara in Basistha police station area on Sunday night and the drugs were seized, they said. About 1.056 kg of heroin was being transported in 88 soap cases on these two vehicles.

Weather
High 36 Low 16

MARKET
NIFTY 17,392.70
SENSEX 59,288.35

BULLION
GOLD 55,413
SILVER 63,050

India cannot be 'prisoner of its past'

SC dismisses plea for a panel to restore 'original' names of historical places

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Asserting that India cannot be a "prisoner of its past", the Supreme Court Monday dismissed a plea to constitute a commission for restoring "original" names of historical places "renamed by barbaric foreign invaders" and came down heavily on the petitioner for wanting to "dig the past" and "keep the country on a boil".

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna said it is a historical fact that India was invaded several times and even ruled by a foreign power and these facts cannot be wished away selectively.

The history of any country cannot haunt the present and future generations of the nation, the bench said and questioned the motive of advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the petitioner.

"You want to keep this as a live issue and keep the country on a boil. You want to dig the past and place it before the present

generation. What has been buried, let it remain buried, we don't want those issues to come alive and disrupt the harmony among the citizens of the country," the court said.

Dismissing the PIL, the court said, "It's a historical fact that our country was invaded several times and even ruled by a foreign power. It is part of our history and we cannot wish away these facts selectively. India cannot be a prisoner of its past."

"Have we not got more pressing problems to tend to than constituting this commission? We have to move on rather than move back. What do you want to achieve by filing these kinds of petitions", the bench asked Upadhyay.

This court is supposed to protect the principles of the constitution and cannot be an instrument to create havoc and allow anyone to point fingers at any one particular community, the top court said.

"You run down a particular section of society. India is a secular country

and this is a secular forum. Our constitution has adopted the word secular and we as protectors of the constitution will go by that. Let us not break this society by filling such kinds of petitions, please have the country in mind", the top court said.

Upadhyay alleged that many historical and religious places whose mention could be found in ancient scriptures like 'The Vedas' and 'Puranas' were named after the "barbaric invaders", who not only looted the country but destroyed places of religious significance to Hindus.

"We have roads after Lodhi, Ghazni, Akbar and Ghori but there is not a single road named after Pandavas in Delhi, though 'Indraprastha' was founded by 'Yudhishthira'. Even Faridabad was named after the person who looted the city", he said, pointing out that a similar petition is pending before this court.

Justice Joseph told Upadhyay that the pending petition relates to

places of religious worship and it has nothing to do with the present petition.

He pointed out that religious worship has nothing to do with naming roads and said that Mughal emperor Akbar had tried to create harmony between the communities.

Justice Nagarathna said, "Hinduism is a way of life, which has assimilated everyone. Because of this way of life, we are able to live together. Let us not break it away, with such kind of petitions. Keep the harmony of the country in mind instead of religion. There is no bigotry in Hinduism".

Justice Joseph said that he is a Christian but still he is very fond of Hinduism, which is a great religion and should not be belittled.

"The heights which Hinduism has reached and is mentioned in Upanishads, Vedas and Bhagwad Geeta is unequal in any system. We should be proud of this great religion and not belittle it.

Delhi court sends Dy CM Manish Sisodia to 5-day CBI custody

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

A special court sent Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to five-day CBI remand on Monday after the agency sought his custody for effective interrogation to unravel the alleged scam in the now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

Special judge M K Nagpal passed the order on a plea of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which produced the AAP leader before him a day after his arrest and sought his five-day custody. There was a heavy security presence in and outside the Rouse Avenue Courts premises.

During the more-than-an-hour-long hearing, Sisodia's counsel said that it was the lieutenant governor who had approved the changes in the excise policy and that the central probe agency was going after the elected government. "I can't do anything. It has to be approved by appropriate authority," he submitted. Sisodia



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia being taken to Rouse Avenue Court by CBI officials in the excise policy case, in New Delhi, Monday.

claimed that there was no evidence against him and opposed the CBI's plea for his remand.

"I (Sisodia) am the finance minister. I've to present the budget...what changed yesterday that the finance minister was to be placed under custody? Was he not available for next days? Or was this arrest done for ulterior mo-

tive? This case is an assault on an individual as well as the institution. Remand will send a message, this is a fit case for declining remand," Sisodia's counsel told the court. He submitted that Sisodia acted as a member of the Delhi government and hence the decision can neither be attributed to him nor can he be questioned. The counsel for the probe agency submitted that the arrested minister's custody was required for effective interrogation in the case.

Sisodia claimed that he had no role in the case but the probe showed he personally took decisions, the CBI submitted. Sisodia's counsel, while opposing the probe agency's plea for custody, submitted that the CBI says he changed his cell phones, but that is not a crime. The counsel said the policy was implemented after taking suggestions even from the Delhi lieutenant governor and that since it required consultations, there was no chance of conspiracy.

Remarks against PM

SC extends interim bail period of Congress leader Pawan Khera till March 3

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday extended the period of interim bail granted to Congress leader Pawan Khera in a case related to his alleged objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi till March 3.

The Assam Police arrested Khera in connection with the case last week.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud took note of the submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, who appeared in the court on behalf of the Assam government, that the state police wanted to file its reply.

Additional Advocate General Garima Prasad, appearing in the matter for the Uttar Pradesh government, said she will also file her response in the matter.

The bench took note of the submissions and fixed Khera's plea for hearing on March 3, making it clear that the interim bail, granted to him on February 23, will remain in force till then. "List on Friday.

PM rips into Congress for 'insulting' party chief Kharge

Belagavi (K'taka), Feb 27 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of disrespecting Karnataka, while alleging that its President Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from the state, was insulted by the party during its plenary session in Chhattisgarh.

He said Kharge was insulted and disrespected by the party, in favour of a "family", apparently indicating the Nehru-Gandhi family, despite the Congress chief's seniority and age. "I want to remind you how Congress hates Karnataka. Insulting Karnataka's leaders is



part of Congress' old culture. From whomever Congress' family feels troubled, disrespecting them begins in that party. History stands witness to the insult meted out to the leaders such as S Nijalingappa and Veerendra Patil before the family. Everyone in

Karnataka knows it," Modi said. Addressing a massive gathering here, he said now once again, one more leader from Karnataka has been insulted by loyalists of the family.

"I have great respect for Mallikarjun Kharge, a son of this land, who has about 50 years of parliamentary or legislature experience. He has tried to do whatever he could in the service of people. But I was sad looking at how Kharge, who is the President of the party and a senior in age, was treated during the Congress' session in Chhattisgarh," the Prime Minister said.

Woman fights wild boar to save 11-yr-old daughter, dies

Korba, Feb 27 (PTI):

A courageous woman fought off a wild boar to save her 11-year-old daughter at a farmland in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, forest officials said on Monday.

While her daughter remained unhurt, the woman died of serious injuries suffered in the face-off with the animal, they said.

The incident took place on Sunday in Teliyamar village under Pasan police station limits when the woman, identified as Duvashiya Bai (45) and her daughter Rinki went to a nearby farm to fetch

soil, said Pasan forest range officer Rammivas Dahayat said. As per preliminary information, when the woman was busy digging soil with a pickaxe, a wild boar suddenly reached there and charged towards her daughter, he said.

Duvashiya confronted the animal with the pickaxe in a desperate bid to save her child, the official said. In the struggle, the woman managed to kill the wild boar but she also suffered serious injuries leading to her death, he said. No harm was reported to the girl, the official said.

MAHA AARTI



Devotees perform Maha Aarti at 108 Kundiyi Shivshakti Maha Yagya, in Gurugram, Monday.

EPFO sets May 3 as deadline for higher pension

New Delhi: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Monday set May 3 as the deadline for subscribers to opt for a higher pension. The Supreme Court on November 4 allowed another change for employees who were existing EPS members as on September 1, 2014, to contribute up to 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries - as against 8.33 per cent of pensionable salary capped at Rs 15,000 a month - towards pension. The apex court gave a four-month window to enable opting for higher pensions. The deadline accordingly should have been around March 3, 2023, but EPFO only last week came out with the procedure for opting for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

Par panel to seek explanation from 13 opposition MPs for disrupting RS proceedings

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

A parliamentary panel on privilege notices has decided to seek an explanation from 13 opposition Rajya Sabha MPs, including a suspended member, for disrupting proceedings of the Upper House during the first leg of the budget session, sources said on Monday.

A privilege notice against 12 of these MPs was referred to the committee by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Rajya Sabha's committee of privileges chaired by Deputy Chairman Hariवंsh unanimously decided on

Monday to seek an explanation from 13 MPs, including nine from the Congress and three from the AAP, on the notices moved against them.

Of these parliamentarians, Congress' Rajni Patil was suspended on February 10 for the remainder of the Budget Session for videographing the proceedings of the Upper House. The others from the party are Shaktisinh Gohil, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Imran Prattapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham and Ranjeet

Ranjan. The AAP members are Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sandeep Kumar Pathak.

A Rajya Sabha bulletin dated February 18 stated that Dhankhar has asked the privilege committee to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 MPs for repeatedly entering the well of the House, shouting slogans and obstructing its proceedings.

The Rajya Sabha saw repeated disruptions due to protests by the opposition MPs over various issues during the first leg of the Budget Session which concluded earlier this month.

'Set your house in order'

SC raps defence ministry over payment of arrears of OROP in installments

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the Ministry of Defence over the delay in payment of arrears of One Rank-One Pension (OROP) to eligible pensioners of the armed forces and sought an explanation from the secretary concerned for issuing a communication extending the timeline for payments fixed by the court.

On January 9, the top court granted time till March 15 to the Centre for payment of total arrears of OROP. But on January 20, the ministry issued a communication that the arrears shall be paid in four yearly installments which has been challenged by a group of ex-servicemen. Observing that the sanctity of the judicial

process has to be maintained, a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud asked the Ministry to "set its house in order" and directed the secretary to file a personal affidavit explaining his position. "We gave you an extension till March 15 for payment of arrears. Now in the face of our orders of January 9, how can you issue a communication that you will pay the amount in four equal installments? Why shouldn't we proceed against your secretary? In the face of our order, how can you pass an order by an administrative circular extending time... "You tell your secretary that we are going to take action against him for issuing that communication.

Voting in Meghalaya, Nagaland peaceful: EC

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Voting for the Meghalaya and Nagaland Assembly polls went off peacefully on Monday, the Election Commission (EC) said, adding that there was no demand for a re-poll from the two northeastern states.

While both states have 60 Assembly seats, polling was held on 59 seats each, the EC pointed out.

Polling for the Sohiong seat in Meghalaya was adjourned due to the death of one of the candidates. Since the Akuluto seat in Nagaland remained uncontested with only one candidate, no election was required there.

"Polling across 3,419 polling stations in



First time voters show their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting their votes at a polling booth during the Meghalaya Assembly elections, in Ri Bhoi district, Monday.

Meghalaya and 2,291 in Nagaland went off peacefully today... Advance planning and extensive monitoring by the commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar...ensured

smooth conduct of elections in the two states with no re-poll reported in any of the 5,710 polling stations," the EC said.

In 2018, 11 re-polls were held in Nagaland and one was held in Meghalaya.

CBSE cautions students against rumours about question paper leaks

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday cautioned students and parents against rumours about question papers for board exams being leaked.

The board has also warned students against indulging in rumour-mongering and has stated that action will be taken against them as per "unfair means" rules, if any involvement is found.

"It has come to the notice of the board that certain unscrupulous elements are regularly spreading rumours on YouTube, Facebook,

Twitter and other social media platforms about paper leak or claiming to have access to question papers of 2023 exams," a senior board official said.

"These persons, groups and agencies intend to fleece the gullible students and parents as they demand money in return. Such irresponsible activities create confusion and panic among the students and public. The board is vigilant and active in identifying and taking action against those spreading fake news and rumours," he added.

Classes 10 and 12 CBSE board exams are currently underway and will conclude on April 5.

Gang of bike lifters busted; three held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: With the arrest of three ruffians including two juveniles, police claimed to have busted a gang of notorious bike lifters. Five stolen bikes worth Rs 2.10 lakh were recovered from them.

Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela) informed that SP Dr Abhishek Pallava and other senior officers had instructed to trace the accused of thefts and burglaries and ensure recovery of the stolen property.

On the instructions of senior officers, a special team of Supela Police

Station was constituted and deployed on the task of tracing the people involved in vehicle thefts. The team marked the spots of motorcycle theft incidents and examined the CCTV footage to identify the suspects.

Police team maintained vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. In this sequel, a suspect Neelkamal Verma was taken into custody.

On the basis of CCTV footage, police interrogated him strictly about the incidents of bike lifting. Soon the suspect confessed to have committed the crimes



with the help of two minor accomplices. He confessed to have stolen 05 motorcycles from different places.

He had stolen bike of Ghanshyam Shah from liquor shop Supela, (02) Amarjit's motorcycle from

Laxmi Nagar market, (03) Mohammad Azhar Qureshi's motorcycle from Noor Masjid, (04) Nadeem Khan's motorcycle from Farid Nagar and (05) Jogesh Verma's motorcycle from Shankaracharya

Hospital. Police recovered all the stolen bikes from the possession of the accused.

The accused Neelkamal Verma (19) son of Karan Singh Verma a resident of Krishna Nagar, Supela and two juveniles were arrested under section 379 of IPC and sent to jail on judicial remand.

Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma (SHO, Supela), ASI Rajnikant Dewan, Head Constable Santosh Sharma, Constables Ravi Sao, Surendra Patel, Surya Prakash Singh and Shyamji Mishra played a vital role in arresting the accused.

BJP to gherao residences of CM and PHE Minister today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: BJP workers of Patan and Ahiwara assembly will stage gherao at the residences of Chief Minister and PHE Minister located at Bhilai-3 on February 28. The demonstrators will gather around 13:00 hrs near Mangal Bhavan in Old Bhilai. MP Vijay Baghel and other senior leaders would address the BJP workers and thereafter they would march towards the residences of CM and PHE Minister.

MP Baghel alleged that the insensitive Congress government and the Chief Minister have broken the dream of pakka houses for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The outrage among the eligible families and the general public regarding this will be clearly visible during the demonstration



on February 28.

Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel said that thousands of families who have been deprived of benefits of the PMAY will actively participate in the gherao. The Congress government has stopped the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, through which every poor and needy person was to get a house. This scheme has been put on hold by the Government of Chhattisgarh. Considering

the situation, BJP had launched the Mor Awas Mor Adhikar program. The state government has deprived about 16 lakh homeless people of their rights. About 10-10 thousand families from Patan and Ahiwara assembly constituencies have been deprived of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He alleged that the Congress government has kept the people of Chhattisgarh away from development by creating a record of corruption.

Durg District BJP President Jitendra Verma and Bhilai District President Brajesh Bichpuria are continuously holding meetings across the district to mobilise the affected people. He said that public anger against the insensitive Chief Minister and the Congress government in the state has reached its peak.

Free Health Camp organised in Pendridih Village

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR Dept organised a free health camp in Village Pendridih near the Plant's Hirri Mines on February 25, 2023. Large number of villagers benefitted from the health check-up camp.

Free medicines were distributed. The camp was organised under the leadership of Chatradhari, acting as Head of CSR Dept and with the assistance of Members of CSR Committee and public representatives from village.

Dr Upadhyaya and his medical team did a health check-up of villagers and patiently heard them as



they spoke about their health problems, and gave them medicines free of cost.

Dry Flower handicraft-making training workshop for women inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: A three-month training workshop to train women from Village Borai in Durg in the skill of making Dry Flower handicrafts in association with Chhattisgarh Hastshilp Vikas Board was inaugurated on February 25, 2023 as part of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR programme. As many as 25 women are being trained so that they can be self-employed and thereby employed.

During the course of their training the women would be given a stipend of Rs 3000 per month. Several such workshops as well as



other CSR programmes aimed at giving rural folk from villages near the steel plant and its Mines self-employment opportunities are regularly being organised. The workshop will run till May 24, 2023.

Addressing participants and guests, Shaileendra Dhoke, Senior Manager (L&A), BSP and chief guest of the inaugural ceremony said there is a growing demand for handicrafts made from dry

flower. The workshop will enable womenfolk from the village to earn their livelihood and become self-dependent.

Urging participants to properly learn the skills that would be imparted

during the workshop, S Kehri, Manager, Chhattisgarh Hastshilp Vikas Board said if they bring in quality into their creations, they can very well earn additional income for their families.

Present as special guests at the inaugural function were Dhana Bai Thakur, Member, Borai - Durg Janpad, former Janpad Member, Shiv Kumari Vaishnav, Deputy Sarpanch, Lochan Sinha and Sharad Sahu, Nitesh, Manoj from Chhattisgarh Hastshilp Vikas Board along with trainer, Neeraj Swami Haldar, Anjani Kumar Dwivedi from SAIL-BSP's CSR Dept proposed the vote of thanks.

Administration takes cognizance; case registered on Mishra's complaint

Over registration of leases issued by Bhilai Steel Plant

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: The district administration has taken cognizance over the complaint filed by Senior Corporator Vashisth Narayan Mishra regarding registry of long term lease issued by the Bhilai Steel Plant under the Scheme for leasing of houses to employees 2002-03. SDM court has registered a case and after serving notice to Bhilai Steel Plant, the next hearing will be held on March 03.

Mishra has alleged that the long term lease has been issued by Bhilai Steel Plant in violation of the provisions of Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956, Chhattisgarh Town and Country Planning Act 1973 and Chhattisgarh Land Development Act 1984. He alleged that the permission for the construction of the building is being given against the law, and in connection with the additional construction case, penalty being imposed by the BSP.

Mishra stated that Bhilai Township area and Bhilai Steel Plant's factory are located under the limits of Municipal Corporation Bhilai. There are about 35 markets in the sector, in which there are 1213 shops on lease and 1914 shops on license, thus a total of 3127 shops have been allotted.

Violating the provisions mentioned in Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956, Chhattisgarh Town and Country Planning Act 1973 and Chhattisgarh Land Development Act 1984, the Bhilai Steel Plant management allotted the shops on lease with provisions of fixed building height construction. This provision is contrary to the rules and against the law. Bhilai Steel Management does not have the powers of Town and Country Planning Act 1973 and Chhattisgarh Municipal Rules Act 1956 and Land Development Act 1984.

He further explained that earlier the Bhilai Steel Plant used to deposit building license fees to the erstwhile Special Area Development Authority for the construction of houses, shops, etc. in its township area. Bhilai Steel Plant Management

does not have any kind of statutory right to give permission for construction of buildings. As the Bhilai Township is now located within the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, the provisions of Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956, Chhattisgarh Town and Country Planning Act 1973 and Chhattisgarh Land Development Act 1984 are applicable here also.

Mishra alleged that without the permission of the state government, the Bhilai Steel Plant has allotted its various buildings, shops and plots on a 30-year lease/license by taking a premium in respect of the plots, which should be registered with the sub-registrar's office, Durg. But the plant management is deliberately recording the lease in Rs 50/-, 75/- and Rs 100/- stamp papers contrary to the rules and regulations. Due to this system, the government is suffering revenue loss which would have been received in the form of stamp duty, registration fee and stamp duty. Bhilai Steel Management is working contrary to the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, he alleged.

Only Municipal Corporation Bhilai has the authority to give permission for construction. Under the Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Act 1956 and Section 291, buildings cannot be constructed without construction permission for all the constructions that take place in the corporation area, he asserted.

CA Rahul Batra, the outgoing Chairman of Cicasa Bhilai and currently the Vice President of CA Bhilai Branch, has expressed gratitude to all the members while giving credit for this achievement to the entire Cicasa team.

CA Batra said that it is the result of cooperation and support of all the members that the Bhilai branch has once again hoisted the flag of its success. He also expressed the hope that in the coming years also Bhilai branch will continue to work exemplarily at the national and regional level. He thanked Cicasa team members CA Priyesh Lekhwani, Nandini Kataria, Isha Agarwal, Palak Garg, Srijan Sahu,

Cicasa Bhilai feted for special contribution

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: Cicasa under Bhilai ICAI branch has been awarded by Central India Regional Council for the work done for CA students in the year 2022-23. Bhilai Cicasa branch has been awarded for its special contribution in various activities such as personality development seminars, workshops and educational events conducted for CA students.

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CA Batra said that it is the result of cooperation and support of all the members that the Bhilai



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He thanked Cicasa team members CA Priyesh Lekhwani, Nandini Kataria, Isha Agarwal, Palak Garg, Srijan Sahu,

Siddhant Singh, Ankit Agarwal and all the students who contributed in all the student activities last year. He also thanked outgoing Chairman CA Pradeep Pal, present Chairman CA Payal Jain, Secretary CA Anshu Sinha, CA Suraj Soni and CA Shivam Chowdhary from the team of CA Bhilai Branch.

CPL T 20: Raipur capitals become champions, Grey Riders lift trophy for women

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 27: In the final match of Chhattisgarh Premier League T20 organised at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium Naya Raipur, under the joint auspices of Chhattisgarh Cricket Council and Veer Sports Club, Wennington Court Raipur Capitals captured the title by defeating Phil Fighters Bilaspur.

State Congress Committee Sports Cell President Praveen Jain informed that Raipur Capitals won the toss and elected to bat first. The team set a target of 174 runs for the loss of 7 wickets thanks to Ritesh Chaturvedni's unbeaten 101 knock off 47 balls in



the allotted 20 overs. Bowling for Phil Fighters Bilaspur Harjeet took 3 wickets while Gautam got 2 wickets. While chasing the target, the entire team of

Bilaspur was bundled out for 86 runs in 14.5 overs. Ritesh, Manish and Piyush took 3-3 wickets each for Raipur Capital. Raipur Capital won the match by 88 runs and won

the title of Chhattisgarh Premier League. Ritesh Chaturvedni was selected Man of the Match, while best batsman went to Shreyash Mukherjee of Abujmad Tigers (291



runs), Best bowler Ritesh Chaturvedni (16 wickets) of Raipur Capital, Best fielder Shibli Ghazi of Bilaspur, Best wicket keeper Surya Pratap Joshi of Raipur Capital and Man of

the Tournament went to Ritesh Chaturvedni, who finished the tournament with 262 runs and also took 16 wickets in bowling. The winning team was awarded a cash prize of Rs

3 lakh and the runner-up team was awarded Rs 2 lakh. NSUI National President Neeraj Kundan distributed prizes to the winners on the concluding day of the competition as

the chief guest.

For the first time, four women's teams also participated in the contested. In the final match played between Yellow Challengers and Grey Riders. Grey Fighters won the toss and decided to bowl first. Barring first, Yellow Rider scored 99 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in 15 overs, in which Sidiksha Tiwari contributed 37 runs and Komal 22 runs.

Duggu and Nisha took one wicket each for Grey Fighters. In reply, Grey Fighter won the match by reaching the target on the loss of 6 wickets in 14.4 overs. Bindiya Sahu scored 28 and Dhanalakshmi scored 16 runs. Man of the match was given to Sidiksha Tiwari of Yellow Riders.

BJP is unable to face challenges of Cong: Baghel

● Therefore is putting ED forward in order to save its face

Raipur, Feb 27: About the ED's action against the vendor just the next day after the convention, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said earlier ED had raided the party office bearers, MLAs and IAS officers and then to the Labour department and Environment Department as well. After this the ED team sat in the house of the vendor for about 4-5 hours without any ID card or issuing of any notice. Baghel charged that BJP has left no chance to stop Congress from holding its Plenary Session in Raipur



and therefore to seek peace and happiness for the people of the state and to give some more of 'sad-buddhi' to BJP he is going to offer obeisance to Siddhivinayak Ganeshji in Mumbai.

Speaking about the arrest of Dy. CM Manish Sisodia by CBI, Baghel said that he does not know as to in what way BJP wants to convey or explain it to him, but they (ED) do not want to go to BJP

-ruled states. BJP is unable to face the challenges of Congress party and its leaders and therefore has put ED in the front to save its face. He said he would seek blessings of Siddhivinayak Ganpatiji to give knowledge to ED to visit BJP states as well and find out about rampant corruption.

About the garland made out of bamboo and false rumour in case of the 'gold chain' to Congress delegates, CM Baghel charged that BJP always wants and is ready to spread false rumour. The garland by which the delegates were welcome is made out of bamboo and it is even valuable than the gold. The tribes in Chhattisgarh make spe-

cial type of garland in their villages and the BJPians should ask their leader Raman Singh, as it is prepared in his district only.

CM Baghel said that with peaceful and unhindered completion of AICC convention, wherein all the national party leaders came, have returned with the warm and fond memories of warm welcome and love from rich art & culture of Chhattisgarh and would spread it to their states. He expressed gratitude to all his colleagues, as entire convention went off peacefully and since this was the first convention held in Chhattisgarh, it is an honour for all Congmen and to self, he added.

BJP is crossing its limit of ill-feeling and frustration: Baghel

● Conduct raid in the house of businessman looking after management of the Convention

Raipur, Feb 27: CM Bhupesh Baghel came down heavily against the BJP government at the Centre and ED raids on businessmen, traders, party office bearers, IAS officers and others in the state. Baghel charged that BJP is crossing its limit of ill-feeling and frustration. At the first place, they could not stop party's National Convention even after raids on party office bearers, leaders, IAS office and others and on Saturday they reached the

house of the businessman looking after the management of the convention.

CM Baghel informed that the suspicious persons claimed themselves to be ED officials, but none showed their I-Cards, nor any warrant and only threatening. They sought answer to the allegations made by BJP and then left, saying that they will come back. On this Baghel said that even after innumerable efforts, they (BJP and ED) could not stop party's National Convention in the capital city. This in turn has exposed the dictatorial face of BJP and on which neither any party leader, businessmen is afraid of and now would fear, but would face it head-on.

On that day, ED took action against the Chairman of Labour Welfare Board Sunny Agrawal having house in Tikrapara and is with the status of State Minister and at the residence of Vinod Tiwari, Nigam Mandal member in Mowa and at the residence of Dadsena in Avanti Vihar. Along with this the ED conducted raid in the house of Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai in Bhilai as well.

Apart from this ED had raided the houses of RP Singh and MLA Bhilai Devendra Yadav and in the Housing Board Colony House of the MLA in sector-5 and at the residence of Girish Dewangan as well.

School girl commits suicide, dies on the spot

● Jumps off 6-storey building under construction in Boriyakhurd

Raipur, Feb 27: A school-girl committed suicide by jumping off a 6-storey building under construction in Boriyakhurd area of Raipur on Monday afternoon. She died on the spot after jumping off. It is not yet clear as to what prompted her to take this suicidal step. Seeing the student standing on the under-construction building, the people around tried to save her. The people around kept convincing her to get down, but she did not agree. The girl student did not stop even after people asked her to come down. Police who reached the spot started investiga-



The body was brought to Medical College Hospital (Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital) for postmortem. A heart-wrenching video of the incident has also come to the fore.

The building from which the student committed suicide by jumping is the under-construction building of Raipur Development Authority. The name of the deceased student is Alia Parveen. She was a Class IX student in Santoshi Nagar Government Higher Secondary.

IIT Bhilai organised a five-day workshop on Industry 4.0

Raipur, Feb 27: The Institute Innovation Council (IIC) at IIT Bhilai organised a 5-day workshop on Industry 4.0 on February 17-20, which was generously funded by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). The event was graced by an experienced panel of speakers which included Anand Panchbhai from Logy.AI, Dr. ChitradEEP Majumdar from Nokia Standards, Saroj Kumar and Saurabh Varshney from Bhilai Steel Plant, Hemant Giri from NVIDIA, Prof. Sumeet Gupta from IIM Raipur, and Prof. Rajesh Ingle from IIT Naya Raipur.



We are now in the fourth industrial revolution, also referred to as Industry 4.0. Industry 4.0 is revolutionising the way companies manufacture, improve and distribute their products. The experts covered a wide range of exciting topics related to Industry 4.0, providing attendees with valuable insights and knowledge including invaluable hands-on sessions. The workshop covered theoretical and practical knowledge on the application of Industry 4.0 concepts in industrial production, the impact of Industry 4.0 on business model innovation and competitiveness, as well as the

human-oriented aspects of Internet of things (IoT) and data security issues. Additionally, the event included case studies on the application of technology in Industry 4.0 and its effect on industrial production. Overall, the workshop was a resounding success, and the participants left with a better understanding of the major paradigms of Industry 4.0 and its impact on business.

AAP leaders gherao BJP office, raise slogans in protest



● Over arrest of AAP leader and Dy. CM Manish Sisodia

Raipur, Feb 27: Party workers and leaders of Aam Adami Party (AAP) staged protest and gheraoed BJP offices all over the country to protest against 8 hours of CBI inquiry into the alleged liquor scam with Dy. CM Manish Sisodia in Delhi.

In line with this, AAP Chhattisgarh unit also gheraoed BJP's office at Ekatma Parisar in Raipur and raised slogans in protest. During this some party workers even entered into minor scuffle with the policemen.

To protest against AAP leader and Dy. CM Delhi Manish Sisodia in Delhi, AAP party workers in large number gheraoed BJP's office here on

Monday. This demonstration was led by AAP State in-charge Sanjeev Jha and AAP State president Komal Upendi and here the party workers raised slogans in protest against BJP government at the Centre and its dictatorship.

It is notable here that right after the 2021 liquor policy in Delhi, BJP has been charging AAP of having launched it to favour its near & dear ones and therefore has brought this policy. On the other, AAP charged that having lost the MCD polls in Delhi and even the post of Mayor, BJP is now trying to settle the score, firing shots keeping the gun on the shoulders of CBI and ED.

Surgery of mediastinal hydatid cyst in Ambedkar Hospital

Raipur, Feb 27: Successful surgery of mediastinal hydatid cyst was done under the leadership of Krishnakant Sahu, Head of the Department of Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur. According to Dr Krishnakant Sahu, probably for the first time in the state the surgery of mediastinal hydatid cyst has been done in the heart, chest and vascular surgery department of Ambedkar Hospital. After the operation, the patient is healthy and ready to go home. This disease, called hydatid cyst, is spread through dog feces. It is caused by a worm called Echinococcus granulosus. It is more common in peo-



ple who live or play with dogs. This disease (hydatid cyst) affects the liver the most. After that it can also occur in the lungs, brain, intestine and heart but it is very rare to find hydatid cyst in the mediastinum (a space within chest that contains heart and other structures). This disease is commonly found in North Africa and South Africa.



The patient (young man) also used to serve sick dogs 2 years back. According to Dr Sahu three to four operations of hydatid cyst of lungs are done every month in his department, but he had not seen such a case till date. Four years ago a case of hydatid cyst inside the heart had come to the department.

The patient who is 21-year-old youth, is a resident of Balod district.

While preparing for competitive exams he was having cough and difficulty in breathing for almost two months. He was so out of breath that he was having trouble even talking. He had even mild cough for about a year. On being shown to the local doctor, he was given cough medicine. But when the breath started to swell too much, he informed his sister, who is the nursing in-charge sister in Ambedkar Hospital. Patient's sister then got the X-ray of his chest done, in which it was found that there was some lump above the heart. When they contacted Dr Sahu got a CT scan of the chest done in which it was found that there was a third stage cancerous tumor above the heart.

Patient's sister has been nursing incharge in CTVS

department, so she knew that heart cancer surgery is done in Heart, Chest, Vascular Surgery department of Ambedkar Hospital. So she immediately sent her brother to Dr Sahu. Dr Sahu advised CT guided biopsy. In this too, the type of cancer could not be detected. But the patient's breath was going on too much, so Dr Sahu made preparations for the operation without wasting much time. This operation was different from the operation of other hydatid cysts. The lump had engulfed the aorta, the left pulmonary artery and the left main trachea and therefore a slight mistake could have resulted in the death of the patient. The heart lung machine was also kept ready for this operation. The size of this lump was 10X8 cm.

'Samvad Setu' workshop organised by the Office of the CEO More than 1.47 lakh women received no-cost treatment

● To increase the participation of Divyang and third gender in the election process

Raipur, Feb 27: The Samvad Setu workshop was organised on Monday by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Chhattisgarh and the Social Welfare Department of the State Government to increase the participation of citizens belonging to Divyang and third gender groups in the election process. Organized at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur, NGOs working for the welfare of Divyang and Third Gender, officials of Social Welfare Department and representatives of Third Gender community participated in the workshop.



Addressing the workshop, Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale informed about the facilities being provided by the Election Commission of India for the differently-abled and third gender. She appealed for cooperation from all sections to ensure 100 percent participation of Divyangs and third gender in the upcoming elections in the state. In the workshop, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Shikha Rajput Tiwari, Joint Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Vipin Manjhi, Additional Director of Social Welfare

Department Mr. Pankaj Verma and PWD, Chhattisgarh, State Icon Chitrasen Sahu also participated.

In the workshop, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Vinay Agarwal gave detailed information about the facilities available to the differently-abled at the polling booth. He told about various formats of Election Commission like Form-6 and Form-3 for voter registration and amendment. Giving infor-

mation about the "Saksham" app prepared by the commission for the disabled, he said that on the day of polling, disabled voters can apply for wheelchair, pick and drop facility. Mr. Agarwal said that according to the new instructions of the Election Commission of India, now the facility of postal ballot has also been made available to senior voters above 80 years and voters with more than 40 percent

disability. Under this facility, before the polling day, the polling team goes door-to-door to collect postal ballot papers of such voters. He also informed the participants about Braille Epic, Braille Voter Guide, Braille Dummy Ballot. Third gender community present in the workshop was informed that third gender and orphans can now mention "Guru" as their relative while filling Form-6 for voter registration.

Raipur, Feb 27: Around 1969 camps have been set up under Mukhyamantri Dai-Didi mobile clinic yojana thus far, while 1 lakh 47 thousand 362 women and girls living in slums of Raipur, Bilaspur, and Bhilai Municipal areas have been treated through Dai-Didi Clinic by setting up camp near their homes.

It should be mentioned that Mukhyamantri Dai-Didi Clinic Yojana is managed by the Chhattisgarh Government's Urban Administration and Development Department. Under the initiative, a team of

female doctors and staff members arrive in the vehicle of Dai-Didi Clinic's mobile medical unit and treat poor women and girls for free for a variety of diseases. This time these mobile medical units have performed lab tests on 28 thousand 94 women and distributed free medicines to 1 lakh 40 thousand 333 women.

Previously, such women liv-

ing in poor slum neighborhoods and working hard were unable to receive treatment owing to a lack of time or a variety of other factors, but now they can receive care from a Dai-Didi clinic near their homes via women doctors and medical workers. Now, Women are receiving care from doctors and are able to receive treatment in time as a result of this scheme.

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International Women's Day

Women in large number take out bike rally



Telibandha Lake to convey the message of the empowerment of women. In the rally, Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhediya, Chairperson of CG State

Women Commission Dr. Kiranmayee Nayak, Chairperson of Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Tej Kunwar Netam,

President of District Panchayat Raipur Domeswari Verma, Director of Women and Child Development Department Divya Mishra, Chief of UNICEF in the state Job Zachariah, and many public representatives and women were present. They gave the message of 'Gadhbo Suposhit Chhattisgarh' and 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. The rally started from the Telibandha Lake in Raipur and covered a distance of 15 kilometers while passing Ghadi Chowk, Amapara, Station Chowk, Fafadih Chowk, Ambedkar Chowk, and Canal Road to end at the Telibandha Lake again.

Athlete and Mountaineer Asha Malviya pays courtesy call to Governor



Raipur, Feb 27: The Athlete and Mountaineer of Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh, Asha Malviya, had a courtesy meeting with Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan in Raj Bhawan today. The Governor Harichandan gave his best wishes to Malviya for her bicycle tour to convey the message of women's empowerment. He also praised her noble endeavor. It is noteworthy that Malviya is doing a solo bicycle tour to convey the message of empowerment of women. So far, Malviya has covered 9000 kilometers, traversing 10 states.

'RATANPUR NAGRI'



Variety of stage performances were given in the 'Dharmnath Bhagwan's Ratanpur Nagri' at Science College ground and in which members of Raipur Jain Samaj performed drama 'Chaivan Kalyanak' on the dais with help of Choreographers from Gujarat and Maharashtra

Sant Nirankari Mission launch cleanliness drive

Regarding the Clean Water Mission

Jagdalpur, Feb 27: As per the orders of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Maharaj regarding the Clean Water Mission, a cleanliness drive was conducted in the entire Chhattisgarh state on Monday. In Jagdalpur city too, a cleanliness drive was conducted from 8 am to 10 am at Mahadev Ghat under the guidance of Govardhan Das Navtani of Sant Nirankari Mission team. In this programme, Seva Dal, Sadhu Sangat, present in full dress, came down below the ghat in cleanliness mission, picked up the dirt around the banks of Indravati river, garbage, membrane, and deposited it on one side and cleaned it.



Chhattisgarh under Project Amrit. Because of this, Mahadev Ghat is being cleaned today. Commissioner Dinesh Nag congratulated and thanked the entire team cleaning the rivers.

During this, the Nirankari team including the employees of the corporation, Gavardhandas Navtani, Rajesh Devani, Dilip Sundarani, Ramesh Kevat, Dinesh Krishani, Vijay Hinduja, Rajkumar, Vandana Navtani, Suman Devani, Suhasani Kartan, Pranjal Hinduja, Sushma Kevat, Roshni Matlani, Hema Panjwani, Megha Khatri, Asha Uike, Mona Khatri, Neelam Navtani, Sonia Vaswani, Tapasya Krishani and all the brothers and sisters were present.

223 patients were successfully operated upon

In the district hospital based on the surveyed list for blindness-free district

Dhamtari, Feb 27: In accordance with the state government's orders, Dhamtari district has achieved 100 percent success in operating cases of blindness caused by cataracts in both eyes. The district hospital successfully operated on all of the indicated patients who were surveyed. They can now see things with their own eyes. In this regard, it was stated that beginning in April 2022, a survey of patients with cataracts in both eyes was conducted, with 223 people identified, all of whom were operated on.

In this regard, it was said that the patient cannot see an object more than three meters distant due to cataracts in both eyes. This is a type of blindness ailment that causes issues for people. With this in mind, the state government instructed that a survey is to be



conducted of individuals suffering from cataracts in both eyes so that they can see in at least one eye and live a normal life. In accordance with the aforesaid order, 223 patients have been discovered and successfully operated on since April of last year. Nodal Officer of Blindness Control Program Dr. J.S. Khalsa said that Cataract is an age-related disease due to which the vision of the patient's eyes decreases and vision appears blurred. He said it can be diagnosed and can be cured with a 10-15 minute

operation. Under the direction of Collector Mr. Rituraj Raghuvanshi and Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S.K. Mandal, an intense survey was undertaken in the district's villages and cities, and all 223 identified patients were operated. Cataract patients in both eyes are now able to regain their vision and live normal lives.

Meanwhile, From April 2022 to the present, three thousand 350 cataract patients were successfully operated on in the district hospital, according to the nodal officer of the blind-

ness control program. From procedures performed in the district hospital and private health institutes during the last year, 5000 people have had successful eye operations. Hospital Superintendent and Civil Surgeon, Dr. A.K. Tondar along with his staff was involved in this endeavor; and as a consequence of the hard work of the entire team which included the situation of blindness caused by cataract in both eyes has been controlled in the Dhamtari district.

Korba district ranks first in the state in timely wage payment

- 99.72 percent FTO released in time frame
- Rs 91 cr wage payment done

Korba, Feb 27: Korba district has led the state in timely payment of compensation for work done under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. So far this year, 99.72 percent of Fund Transfer Orders (FTO) have been issued within the district's time limit for wage payment. Wages totaling Rs 90.99 crore have been paid into the accounts of workers in the district so far in the financial year 2022-23.

Collector Sanjeev Jha conducts continual evaluation and monitoring of MNREGA, as a result of which Korba district ranks first in the state in terms of timely payment of payments. Collector Korba previously instructed the Chief Executive Officer and Program Officer of all District Panchayats to sub-

mit cash transfer orders within 8 days of the closure of the muster roll in order to ensure 100% timely wage payment in MNREGA works.

Nutan Kanwar, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Korba said that in this financial year 2022-23, 99.92 percent in district panchayat Korba, 99.9 percent in Katla, 98.9 percent in Katghora, 99.61 percent in Pali and 99.84 percent in district Panchayat Podi Uproda F.T.O. has been issued within a specified time frame. Similarly, till February 21, 2023, Rs 14.58 crore in district panchayat Korba, Rs 11.63 crore in Katla, Rs 6.61 crore in Katghora, Rs 25.67 crore in Pali, Rs 30.05 crore in district panchayat Podi Uproda and Rs 2.42 crore in other implementing agency's accounts. Wages have been paid and CEO Zila Panchayat informed that as per the demand in the district, labour-oriented works are being made available to a maximum number of labourers, so that the villagers can get more employment opportunities.

Kayaking to be new attraction for tourists



by getting eco-tourism park developed in Sondhur reservoir, swing and fooding facility too is being provided for children and tourists. Due to this the tourists are enjoying the boating and 'Kayaking' facility in Sondhur just at a cost of Rs 30 each and this is going on for last six months.

At Devdhara waterfall, near Gram Kulhadighat (the village adopted by ex-PM Late Rajiv Gandhi), which is about 18 kms from Tehsil headquarters, four Kayaking boats have been called for Kayaking in the lower portion of the waterfall in Kathawa nursery river and by this the people are imparted training in Kayaking as well and after which they can enjoy Kayaking here. By starting Kayaking facility in Devdhara waterfall coming under Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, the strength of the tourists will increase from big states and city



like Mumbai, Goa, Kerala. In big cities this Kayaking is available and in it one has to tow a small size Kayaking boat.

This is not only good for recreation, but for health also. With start of this facility, the tourism potential of the region can be promoted.

Facility of two Gypsies for tourists

In order to reach upto these two spots, two Gypsy vehicles have been provided in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve by the Forest department. For last few days large number of tourists are

visiting Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve and are visiting the river for boat cruise and to Devdhara waterfall for Kayaking.

What Dy. Director says

Dy. Director Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve Varun Jain said that in order to boost tourism in the region, four Kayaking boats have been brought for Kayaking in Kathawa river, in lower portion of Devdhara waterfall. Soon its price would be fixed up by the Forest management Samiti and then all the tourists can avail this facility after training.

Many irregularities in construction of NH-930

With pot-holes being levelled with soil, blowing of dust resulting in poor visibility

Kusumkasa, Feb 27: On Wednesday evening an accident took place near Kusumkasa wherein two bikers fell down and got injured. Janpad member Sanjay Bais charged that there are lots of irregularities in the construction work of National Highway (NH). In this accident, there was no person on behalf of the contractor to inquire about the condition of those injured and this clearly indicates that the ongoing road construction work is going on at God's mercy. It was later the injured duo were taken to nearby hospital when the traders nearby called 108.

Soil dumped in pitching work resulting in accidents:

Few days back pipeline has been laid for 'Nal-Jal'

services and the same was damaged using big machines for digging. The residents of the region were not getting water for last one month and even after apprising the local administration by the people, they remain silent. NHAI is least bothered about the problems being faced by the residents and are only interested in their works. Now it is due to unplanned and uneven road construction work that such accidents are taking place and which may prove to be fatal for someone. But even after all this happening, NH officials are least bothered.

Two-wheeler riders at high risk:

The construction of NH-930 is being done sidelining the safety aspects and this has already taken quite a few deaths and cause damage to vehicles and injured many. All the more the officials of NHAI are keeping eyes closed and contractors are enjoying the freedom given. Now it appears as if those

involved neck deep in corruption are waiting for more deaths to take place and then only they will carry out any changes or do proper road repair work.

It is notable here that complaint about irregularities in road construction work the senior officers to the District Collector has already being made and this news has been published in the newspapers as well, but to no avail. Set aside this the traders and villagers too have held discussions with the District Collector Kuldeep Singh and in turn he has also assured of improvement in repair works. But on this only the pot-holes are levelled with soil or murrum and are openly violating the basic standards required for the same. Neither any diversion board has been installed, nor it is properly drenched with water for curing purpose and all this shows seriousness on part of the contractor and the authorities controlling it.

Parliamentary Secretary thanks CM for opening of hostel in Kota

Jagdalpur, Feb 27: Parliamentary Secretary and Jagdalpur MLA Rekhand Jain has written a letter thanking Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for urging the Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot to allot land free of cost for construction of hostel for students kept in undergoing coaching in Kota in Rajasthan to prepare for competitive exams.



He said that this initiative by CM will prove to be a boon for thousands of students of the state including Bastar going for coaching to Kota to take up

exams for IIT, NEET and IIT every year in Rajasthan's Kota. It has been mentioned in the letter that every year hundreds of students of Bastar region go to Kota to prepare for the examination to become doctors or engineers.

To shape the future of the children, their parents put in all their money and resources and which badly affects their economic condition.

With this decision by the Chief Minister, thousands of families of Bastar will get relief from financial troubles. Along with this, the doors of jobs will also open in the concerned department by running hostels on the lines of Delhi.

Due to this, employment of unemployed youths can be done in the government department. Jain has described this effort of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as short-sighted and an excellent step taken in the interest of the state and Bastar.

9-year-old Aditya Raje Singh receives 'Little Champ Icon Award 2023'

Raipur, Feb 27: Aditya Raje Singh received Little Champ Icon Award in 36Garh Icon Awards 2023 at the hands of Sanjeev Jha, National Spokesperson Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) & MLA of Buradi Vidhansabha New Delhi.

Aditya Raje received this award for his selfless contributions in the field of Environment, Yoga, Social activities etc.

Aditya Raje is also Judo Gold Medallist from CBSE 2022 and National Judo



Player. Aditya Raje recently had a meet with Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais and shared a word about his work with him also. He thanked his family, friends, teachers for being a part of his journey so far and shared that these awards motivate him for his hard work he has been doing continuously for the Nation and the society. All the family members and friends are happy for his new achievement and wish him all luck for his future.

Overloaded pick-up Van turns turtle, one dies

- Many suffered injuries, two serious
- Labourers were being taken to CIL 'Badi' for work
- CHC running at the mercy of only with 2 doctors, nurse and ward boy



Kharora, Feb 27: An overloaded pick-up Van with labourers turned turtle near Nayaktand of Kharora on Sunday morning and it resulted in screaming and panic among those injured. One of the labourer came beneath the Pick-up Van and died on the spot.

In this Pick-up Van, there were 50 labourers, including 45 women and all

received injuries. Five of the labourers with serious injuries were admitted in a private hospital near city and are reported critical.

It is learnt that all the labourers are from Gram Mohrenga and were going to work in CIL Badi in Kharora. It was around 8:00 in the morning the pick-up Van left for CIL Badi in Kharora along with 50 labourers.

Doctors did not reached even after MLA's call

When the accident took place, the people informed about it to the MLA Dharshiwa and in turn she assured to make arrangements for the doctor. But even after call by the MLA, the doctors could not reach for two hours. It is notable here that it is with services of two doctors that around 105 villages of Kharora tehsil are taking advantage of medical services. BMO in-charge Dr Uma Paikra informed that there is already shortage of doctors in the CHC. The police reached the site and took statement of the persons injured. Nagar Panchayat President Anil Soni informed that when there was BJP government in the state, at that time MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma had done lockout. But now being in the government, Anita Sharma is unable to make any arrangements. Ganesh Shankar Mishra reached the hospital and took information about the treatment being offered by the hospital management. Mishra has urged the owner of CIL owner Kamal to bear up the expenses for the treatment and provide necessary compensation for it as well. In this incident, Kaushalya Verma, Bhagwati Verma got serious injuries.

No sooner the pick-up reached Nayaktand border; it turned turtle near the turn and this resulted in huge huge screaming sound and cry for help. It was with the help of near-

by people that many were taken out.

Since the driver of pick-up tried to turn the vehicle near the Triangle chowk, the vehicle turned turtle, mainly due to the fact that it was overloaded and entire load of the vehicle shifted to one side.

When the injured passengers were taken nearby CHC, there was no doctor present and then Nagar Panchayat President Anil Soni reached there and directed the nurse and ward boy to start the treatment and after which the treatment started.

Actually vegetable production is taken on large scale in 'CIL Badi' and for which labourers are brought from nearby villages and they bring them in small goods vehicles.

For this the police has also acted tough on them once and had even directed not to carry persons in goods vehicle, but due to highhandedness of CIL management, this incident took place.

Decomposed body found hanging from a tree

- Just at a short distance from SP's residence

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Feb 27: It was just at short distance that a decomposed body hanging from a tree was found just at a short distance from SP's bungalow in city and the police got the information about it on Feb 26 at around 8:00 pm.

The police started the investigation and since it was night, they could not find out much about the age, name and identity. The area where the body was located is known as 'Jurripara' and entire incident is that of Balod Thana. TI Balod Thana Naveen Borkar informed that when they got information about body



hanging from a tree, the Balod team went to the site and took down the body. There was no written matter or document found near or in the body and since it was night, it was difficult to make out the face as well.

TI Balod Thana informed that on seeing the decomposed body, it can be anticipated that it is around one week old and whether it is suicide or other case and as to how many days old the body is there, would be known only after the forensic reports. Presently there is increase in the number of incidents of suicides in the Balod thana area.

Sanitation system in chaos in Rajim City



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 27: The sanitation system in the region is in chaos as drains roads and nooks are emitting foul smell and owing to which mosquito breeding has increased drastically in the region.

Resentment is being seen among the citizens against the Nagar Panchayat and administration and here it is important to tell that after Maghi Punni fair, filth and garbage has accumulated from the fairground to the confluence site and the

sanitation workers are no were in sight and in places like Pasra Bazar, toilets and public places dirt and stench have taken a bad shape.

At the end of the city, in Ward No. 14 Patharra and Ward No. 15 Nawadih, the sanitation system has completely collapsed and due to non-availability of garbage vehicles, people are collecting garbage and keeping it in their homes. As per information, Ward number 15 is the ward of Nawadih Nagar Panchayat Vice President Rekha Kuleshwar Sahu, whereas

GM honours railway staff for quick redressal of the problems

Of the passengers

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 27: Railway employees who played the best role and contribution in quick redressal of problems/complaints received from passengers through Rail Madad app were felicitated on February 23, 2023 by General Manager Alok Kumar at South East Central Railway Headquarters, Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway has secured the third position in the entire Indian Railways following the instructions and instructions of the General Manager/ Additional General Manager in quick disposal of the problems/complaints received from the passengers and then taking feedback



from them. In this series, among the railwaymen who were honored for the month of October, November and December, 2022 (three months), include Arjun Pawar, Junior Engineer (C&W), Mrs. Srivani Chandravanshi, CCC, Sonveer, Constable, Alok Kumar, Head Constable, P. Som Shekhar, CRS, Deepak Lodhi, Constable, M.L. Yogi, Constable, S. K Sharma, ASI, L. V. Ramana, Sr. CC, P. Upadhyay, Jr. Engineer (C&W), Vijay Vitohle, Constable and Pradeep Godve, Constable. In line

with the digital initiatives of the Prime Minister, Indian Railways has developed an app named 'Rail Madad' for the last 3 years, to improve and speed up the process of redressal of complaints of railway passengers by completely digitizing the complaint management system has been issued. Rail Madad App registers the complaints of passengers and provides them continuous information about the status of redressal of complaints. Passengers are also informed about the steps taken by the Railways

through SMS by providing the complaint number immediately after registration on this app. All the helpline numbers used by the Railways in the past have been included in the 'Rail Madad' app. By calling the helpline number 139, the problems of the passengers are being resolved through 'Rail Madad'.

During the current financial year 2022-23 under South East and Central Railway, from October to December 2022, 15581 complaints of railway passengers were received through Rail Madad, which were resolved 100 percent. Passengers are requested to make maximum use of this app issued by Railways to solve any kind of problems/complaints related to railways during the journey.

SECR conducts PREM meeting

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 27: SECR conducted PREM meeting at zonal level on February 23 at South East Central Railway Headquarters Bilaspur (PREM: Participation of Railway Employees in Management).



The purpose of the Prem meeting is to bring qualitative improvement in the productivity and functioning of the organization through discussions between the representatives of unions and associations and the management of the railway organization.

The meeting was presided over by Alok Kumar, General Manager, South East Central Railway and the Heads of Departments as well as President of South East Central Railway Mazdoor Congress, President of South East Central Railway Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Association, Zonal Undersecretary Backward

used in case of train delay. 19 trains are running with LHB coaches and 03 trains with ICF standardized rake. The Nagpur-Durg section has been notified fit for 130 kmph, The process of increasing the speed between Jharsuguda to Bilaspur from 110 kmph to 130 kmph is underway. Automatic signaling system has been approved from New Katni Junction to EIB.

Jairamnagar - Bilaspur-Ghuktu section has been commissioned in auto signaling area. Belha to Bilaspur in Raipur Division and Kalamma to Durg in Nagpur Division

Farmers and party workers attend PM's 'Mann-ki-Baat'

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Feb 27: The villagers of Kodava which comes under Berla development block have enthusiastically participated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program. Senior farmer Neetu Ram Patel, BJP leader Sunil Rajput, Bishan Parkar, media in-charge Rakesh Pandey, Ramakant Joshi, Mukesh Patel, Narayan Sahu, Bishelal Patel, Sushil Sahu etc. were present. Addressing the nation Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 'Mann Ki Baat' is a wonderful platform for expression of public participation and the power of the country increases with the power of the society. The Prime Minister said, 'I remember the day when in 'Mann-ki-Baat' we talked about promoting traditional sports of India and immediately at that time a wave arose in the country to join, enjoy and learn Indian sports. When there was talk of Indian toys in 'Mann Ki Baat', the people of the country promoted it wholeheartedly. Now there has been so much craze for Indian toys that their demand is increasing even in foreign countries. He said when we talked about Indian genres of storytelling, their fame also reached far and wide. People are getting more and more attracted to Indian storytelling genres. People are getting tele-consultation through e-Sanjeevani app, The Prime Minister further said, in our fast moving country, the power of Digital India is reaching every nook and corner, and there is an app called e-Sanjeevani and from this app, you can take medical



advice through video conference. Through this, there is a wonderful relationship with 10 crore patients and doctors, he said. The Prime Minister also said, Kanchan Banerjee, who lives in America, has drawn my attention to one such campaign related to the preservation of heritage.

Third line work affects train operations

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 27: The work of new line is being done in Barh-Farah section of Agra Railway Division of North Central Railway and the work of connecting Barh railway station with the third line will also be done.

This work is being done from February 09 to March 05, 2023. As a result of this work, the operation of some trains running through South East Central Railway will be affected.

Trains leaving from diverted route:

1 8477 Puri - Yoginagari Rishikesh Utkal Express on 2nd March, 2023 will be diverted to run via Agra - Etmadpur - Mitawali - Ghazia Bad Junction - Meerut Nagar Junction.

20807 Visakhapatnam - Amritsar Hirkud Express leaving Visakhapatnam on 03 March 2023 will be diverted to run via Agra - Etmadpur - Mitawali - Ghaziabad Junction - New Delhi.

22868 Nizamuddin - Durg Express leaving Nizamuddin on 04th March, 2023 will be diverted to run via Nizamuddin - Ghaziabad Junction - Mitawali - Et Madpur - Agra.

The 14624 Firozpur - Chhindwara Express leaving Firozpur on 04 March 2023 will run via Delhi Safdarjung - Nizamuddin - Ghaziabad Junction - Mitawali - Etmadpur - Agra via diversion route.

ESAF REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Mamnathy, Thiruvur - 680 651, Kerala.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers of branch/s listed below, inspite of repeated reminders and notices, will be auctioned as per details given below:

DATE OF AUCTION: 03-03-2023 TIME: 10 AM TO 4 PM

AUCTION VENUE: THROUGH E-AUCTION

AUCTION ADDRESS: <https://gold.matezone.org/>

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

BHILAI: 63210001711310, 63220000032115, 32055, 11255, CHAMPA: 63220000045481, DURG: 63220000035900, KORBA: 63210001690297, 63220000013792, 11545, MAHASAMUND: 63220000053465, 39442, 25559, 34292, PITHORA: 63220000016456, RAIGARH: 63220000050361, 19891, 52397, 47167, 63210001725593, 170531, 1721721, 1704923, 1724705, RAIPUR: 63210001701789, RAINANGDAON: 63210001724445.

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying total due amount, may do so on or before (2 Days before date of auction) at the respective branches.

Bidders who wish to participate in auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firm/company. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in auction.

Thiruvur Date: 28-02-2023

Sd/ Authorized Signatory

UCO BANK Zonal Office, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) Email: zoraipur.rec@ucobank.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(b) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 21.03.2023 between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM for recovery of amount dues and Reserve Price & EMD alongwith other details are given below:- Last date and time for submission of bid on 2 Hrs. before Auction Time. **Date and Time of E-Auction:- 21.03.2023 Between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each.**

Sl. No.	Name of Branch/Contact Details	Name of Borrowers & Guarantors	Amount Dues	Type of possession	Date of Demand & Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price	Estimated Money
01	Sector-1, Bhalai Saurabh Srivastava 9844050800	Mr. Suresh Kumar Apukuttan & Mr. Sunila Suresh Kumar	19.19 Lakh	Symbolic Possession	28.12.2017	Property Details Residential plot at KH no 1159/33 & 1159/34, PH no 14/19, Mouza-Karut Bhalai, Dist Durg C.G.	21,15,000/-	2,11,500/-
02	KOHKA (1227) Gaaur SEHGAL 9999197470	Mr. Brij Bihari Singh	17.39 Lakh	Symbolic Possession	16.11.2017	Brij Bihari Singh Property Details Residential House, KH no 56/45, PH no 19, ward no 07, Village- Kohka, Purani Basti, Bhalai, Dist- Durg, C.G. Plot area- 1170 SQFT.	17,39,000/-	1,73,900/-
03	Pensionbada Branch (1834) sanjib kumar Gouda 9952053884	Mrs. Pustha Rajesh Jha & Mr. Rajesh Hand Kishor	29.02 Lakh	Symbolic Possession	03.04.2021	Mrs. Pustha Rajesh Jha & Mr. Rajesh Hand Kishor Jha - Land & building at House no.52, Mathporena chourasia colony, PH-105/59/61, KH.no.195/40, Raipur, Land Area 748 SQFT, Chhattisgarh.	25,51,000/-	2,55,100/-
04	CC Bhalai (0299) Anwartha Agrahani 9755017202 9844048723	Mr. Shivendra Pratap Singh & Mrs. Archana	30.55 Lakh	Symbolic Possession	16.11.2021	Mrs. Archana Singh - Property Details: Residential Flat no.604, situated at 5th floor C/Block, Sri Kankari Heritage Daldal Sector, Mowa, Raipur C.G. situated on plot no. 405, Khazra no. 553/1, 553/2, 554, 555, 556/1, 556/3, PH no.109, Mowa-Dist: Raipur C.G.	30,75,000/-	3,07,500/-
05	Charoda (0811) Jaydev Tripathi 9438179100	Mr. Vinny Madan	19.23 Lakh	Physical Possession	22.12.2016	Flat No. B-402 Erawal Park, CGHR Padmanabhpur Tah & Distt. - Durg C.G.	15,80,000/-	1,58,000/-
06	Bilaspur (0290) Anirudh 9893330019	M/s M.K. Udyog Prop. Late Jasvir singh Hora s/o Late Manjeet singh Hora	5472000/-	Symbolic Possession	07.10.2021	1. "Owner of Property": m/s M.K. Udyog Prop. Late Jasvir singh Hora s/o Late Manjeet singh Hora. Details of Property: All Plant & machineries accessories in normal course of business situated at M.K. Udyog, village:Chorbhatti khurd, kota Road, Bilaspur C.G. 2. Diverted land situated at old PH no.27(New PH no.28)Khazra no.94/3,R.N.M. Sakri Chorbhatti, Khurd,Kota Road Bilaspur C.G. 0.33 Acre ls. 14388 sqft. Property owner: Late Manjeet Singh Hora 3. Diverted land situated at old PH no.27 (New PH no.28) Khazra no.94/2,R.N.M. Sakri, Mouja Chorbhatti, Khurd, Vikas khurd & Tal: Takhatpur, Dist-Bilaspur C.G. 0.07 acre ls. 30529sqft. Property owner: Late Jasvir singh Hora s/o Late Manjeet Singh. 25,000/-	37,91,000/-	3,79,100/-

Date & Time of E-Auction 21.03.2023, 11.00 PM. to 4.00 PM. & Property Inspection Date & Time: 13.03.2023, 1.00 PM. to 4.00 PM. For detailed terms & conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in the above mentioned website and <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Phone 79871 41252.

THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS

Date: 27.02.2023 Place: Raipur (C.G.) Authorised Officer, UCO Bank, Raipur (C.G.)

BRIEF



Actor Shilpa Shetty at Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday.

Watery grave

Vijayawada: Six men drowned in a pond in Toderu village in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, police said on Monday. The six were part of a 10-member group which entered the pond on Sunday, police said, adding four of them managed to escape to safety. Incidentally, all of them know how to swim but swampy conditions in the pond meant six got stuck under the water, leading to their death, police said.

Poaching

Gondia: Five persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in poaching during raids in Maharashtra's Gondia district, an official said on Monday. In a joint operation, personnel from the police and forest department conducted raids in the Naxal-affected Palandur Jamindari and Mangedari villages in Deori tehsil in the early hours of Sunday, he said.

Fire

Kolkata: A fire broke out at a footwear shop in a multi-storey building in Haridevpur area here on Monday morning, officials said. There was no report of any loss of life or injury, they said. The blaze has been brought under control and an investigation is underway to ascertain its cause, the officials added.

Protest

Srinagar: The BJP on Monday held protests at several places in Kashmir against the killing of Kashmiri Pandit bank guard Sanjay Sharma. Terrorists on Sunday shot dead the 40-year-old Sharma in Pulwama district while he was on his way to a local market. The main protest was held in Jawahar Nagar area of the city where dozens of BJP workers demonstrated against the killing.

Condole

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Assembly Monday condoled the death of Rasamanjari Devi, the last queen of Tigrira estate and a former member of the House. Rasamanjari Devi passed away at her residence at Athagarh in Cuttack district due to old age-related ailments on Sunday. She was 96.

Run over

Jaipur: Three people were killed and two others injured after being run over by a container truck in Rajasthan's Banswara district on Monday, police said. The incident took place at Chirola village on NH-56, they said. Two bikes collided with each other following which the riders were run over by a container truck, killing three people, Station House Officer Kapil Patidar said.

'Bihar moved backwards since Nitish took over'

● In 2005

Patna, Feb 27 (PTI):

RJD's malcontent MLA Sudhaker Singh fired a fresh salvo at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday, alleging that the state moved backwards since he assumed office in 2005.

Singh, whose tirades against Kumar had caused his ministerial stint to end in an unceremonious resignation a couple of months ago, was speaking to reporters before commencement of the lengthy budget session of the state legislature.

"Bihar has moved backwards ever since Nitish



Sudhaker Singh

Kumar took over in 2005. The sooner members of the legislature decide to have him replaced, the better it shall be for the state," said the Ramgarh MLA, who is also the son of state RJD president Jagadanad Singh.

Singh, who had started his political journey a decade ago with the BJP, also mocked Kumar's alleged prime ministerial

ambitions, asserting that "it would be better to impose President's rule in the country instead of having Nitish Kumar as the PM".

Replying to a query, he said, "My vote will always be for (Deputy CM) Tejashwi Yadav, though I leave it to members of the party to decide who shall succeed Kumar."

When pointed out that his words could lead to a backlash from the JD(U), Singh claimed the party is "full of opportunists flocking together for the sake of power".

Singh was slapped with a show-cause notice by the RJD last month, following his remarks against the chief minister.

Historical town Barsana set to celebrate Lathmar Holi' today

Mathura (UP), Feb 27 (PTI):

Historical town Barsana — the land of Radha Rani — will witness a spectacle on Tuesday when menfolk will drench womenfolk with colours and the women wielding batons playfully hitting the men to drive them away.

Every year, thousands of devotees and tourists are attracted to the town here to witness Lathmar Holi, the festival that honours the couple, Radha and Krishna.

"Holi in Barsana virtually is a repeat of Holi representing the 'Dwaapar' age with menfolk trying to drench womenfolk with colours and women preventing them through baton attacks. The men protect

themselves by carrying leather shields," Raas Bihari, a priest of Ladli temple in Barsana, said.

Legend has it that when Krishna visited Barsana to spray colours on his beloved, Radha and her friends playfully hit him with sticks and drove him out of the town. Lathmar Holi seeks to recreate that.

"Holi in Mathura is celebrated for around 25 days. It is celebrated at different locations in different ways. On Friday, we organised 'Phool ke Holi' (Holi of flowers) at Ramanreti in Gokul. On February 28, we are having 'Lathmar Holi' in Barsana, the next day we have Lathmar Holi in Nandgaon. After that we have Rangbharni in

Vrindavan. So, there are different ways of celebrating Holi in different parts of the district. Together it is called Rangotsav," District Magistrate Pulkit Khare said.

Officials said heavy security arrangements have been made for the festival in Barsana on Tuesday.

Six additional SPs, 14 police circle officers, 60 inspectors/SHOs, 300 sub-inspectors, 1,200 constables, 40 women sub-inspectors, 130 women constables, four traffic inspectors, 50 traffic sub-inspectors and five companies of the PAC would be deployed for Lathmar Holi, they said.

To prevent unlawful activities and misbehaviour with women, police



Bulldozer being used to demolish alleged illegal structures during an anti-encroachment drive by Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, in Guwahati, Monday.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

GUV BAIS TO LEGISLATURE

Maha Govt to hold 600 job fairs during financial year



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar and others arrive at the State Assembly on the first day of Budget session, in Mumbai, Monday.

Mumbai, Feb 27 (PTI):

M a h a r a s h t r a Government will organize 600 job fairs in the financial year 2022-23, Governor Ramesh Bais informed the state legisla-

ture Monday. The budget session of state legislature began with the governor's address to members of both the Houses. "Memoranda of Understanding were signed with 45 companies

to create 1.25 lakh jobs. Twenty four project proposals have been approved which amount to an investment of Rs 87,774 crore, creating 61,000 jobs," Bais said in his address. The state government signed MOUs with 19 companies for an investment of Rs 1.37 lakh crore at the World Economic Forum meet in Davos last month, he said.

"My Government has successfully organized training for 4.85 lakh youth and 2.81 lakh farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana," the governor said.

The state government has doubled the pension of freedom fighters and their spouses, from Rs 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month, he said.

NCP MLA arrives with 4-month-old son

MAHA BUDGET SESSION

● BJP MLA uses walker

Mumbai, Feb 27 (PTI):

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA Saroj Ahire caught people's attention on Monday when she arrived on the first day of the Maharashtra's legislature's Budget session in Mumbai carrying her four-month-old son.

Ahire had also carried the baby with her during the winter session of the legislature held in December last year in Nagpur.

"There is a Hirkani unit in the Vidhan Bhawan which can be used by women to feed their babies. The provision is for all working women," a Vidhan Bhawan official said.

Ahire, however, com-



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA Saroj Ahire carrying her son arrives at Vidhan Bhawan on the first day of the Maharashtra Assembly Budget Session, in Mumbai, Monday.

plained of dust in one of the Hirkani units in the Vidhan Bhawan.

"I expect officials to clean these rooms," she told reporters in the legislature complex.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Jaykumar Gore, who was injured in a car accident in December 2022, arrived to attend the budget session using a walker.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project heading towards completion

Jammu, Feb 27 (PTI):

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project is heading towards completion with 90 per cent of its sanctioned cost of Rs 37,012.26 crore utilised, a senior railway official said on Monday.

With the completion of the project, Kashmir will be linked with rest of the country. The official said the prestigious national project, being personally monitored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, is progressing "very well" and the works are taking place in "top gear" at all fronts.

"The latest sanctioned cost of the USBRL project is Rs 37,012.26 crore. Cumulative booking of expenditure till February 23 is Rs 3,34.21 crore which is 90.29 per cent of the total sanctioned cost," Chief Administrative Officer, USBRL, S P Mahi told PTI.

The Railway ministry sanctioned the construction of the railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar in phases 25-km Udhampur to Katra in 1994, 118 km Qazigund to Baramulla and 129 km Katra to Qazigund in 1999.

In view of the importance of the USBRL in providing seamless and hassle-free connectivity to Kashmir, the 272 km-long USBRL project was declared as a "National Project" in 2002.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 161 km was commissioned in phases with first phase 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014, while the work on 11-km Katra-Banihal stretch is going on.

"Indian Railways is moving closer to connecting Kashmir to the rest of the railway network day-by-day. The USBRL project is progressing very well. The world's highest railway bridge across Chenab river has been completed and track-linking work on it has started, while work on Indian Railways first cable-stayed bridge' is nearing

completion," Mahi said. He said the works are progressing in top gear at all fronts. "The morale of officers and staff working on the project is very high and they are highly motivated to complete this prestigious work expeditiously."

"The alignment of USBRL Project is a culmination of a large number of tunnels and bridges, which are to be implemented in highly rugged and mountainous terrain with the most difficult Himalayan geology," he said. He said the project involves 38 tunnels (combined length of 119 km), the longest tunnel (T-49) is having a length of 12.77 km and has been made through on February 15 last year.

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Devotees participate in the 'Kappukettu ceremony' as part of the annual pongala festival, at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Monday.

'Promote evidence-based research in Ayush to boost acceptance'

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Noting that ayurveda has efficacy to address various ailments and it is being recognised the world over, Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt has emphasised on promoting evidence-based research in the Ayush systems of medicine to further strengthen their acceptance. He was speaking after inaugurating the four-day Ayuryog Expo & State Arogya Fair in Varanasi. The fair, which began on February 24, is being attended by a large number of ayurveda experts, pharma companies and government organisations. The country's leading ayurveda pharma companies have put up their stalls at the expo to show-



Ajay Bhatt

case their products. Uttar Pradesh Ayush Minister Dayashankar Mishra visited various stalls at the venue and appreciated the range of ayurveda products manufactured by AIMIL Pharma, a Delhi-based ayurveda company. On the occasion, AIMIL Pharmaceutical Executive

Director Sanchit Sharma said his company has been conducting research scientifically as per people's healthcare needs.

Before launching in the market, clinical trials are being conducted so that they are effective for patients and there is no side-effect, he said.

In fact, after intensive research, AIMIL Pharma has successfully launched medicines such as NEERI-KFT to prevent the progressive deterioration of kidney function. There are drugs like BGR-34 and Leukoskin which have been developed in collaboration with scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) respectively.

Taliban forces kill two IS members

KABUL RAID

Islamabad, Feb 27 (AP):

Taliban security forces killed two militants from the Islamic State group and detained a third in an overnight raid in the Afghan capital of Kabul, the spokesman for the Taliban government said Monday.

The regional affiliate of the Islamic State group known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province is a key rival of the Taliban. The militant group has increased its attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover of the country in August 2021. Targets have included

Taliban patrols and members of Afghanistan's Shiite minority.

According to Zabihullah Mujahid, the main Taliban government spokesman in Kabul, the operation took place in a residential neighbourhood, targeting IS militants who were planning to organise attacks in the Afghan capital. He said the Kher Khana neighborhood is an important IS hideout. There was no immediate comment from the IS. Mujahid said two IS members were killed and one was arrested, and ammunition and military equipment were seized in the raid. There were no casualties among the Taliban forces during in

the operation, he added.

In a separate operation this month, Taliban intelligence forces killed three IS militants and arrested one in an overnight operation in eastern part of Kabul, in Karti Naw neighbourhood. The Taliban had claimed that IS was behind organised recent attacks in the capital.

Overnight, posts on social media reported several explosions and small-arms fire in the area of Kher Khana.

The Taliban swept across the country in mid-August 2021, seizing power as US and NATO forces were in the last weeks of their final withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war. (AP)

ANTI-GOVT PROTEST



Anti-government demonstrators protest against recent reforms pushed by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to the country's electoral law that they say threaten democracy, in Mexico City's main square, The Zocalo, Monday.

Magnitude 5.6 quake hits Turkiye; more buildings collapse

Ankara, Feb 27 (AP):

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake shook southern Turkiye on Monday three weeks after a catastrophic temblor devastated the region causing some already damaged buildings to collapse, an official said. A father and daughter were reported trapped beneath the rubble of one building.

Monday's earthquake was centred in the town of Yesilyurt in Malatya province, the country's disaster management agency said. Yesilyurt's mayor, Mehmet Cinar, told HaberTurk television that a number of buildings in the town collapsed, including a four-story building where a father and daughter were trapped.

Cinar said the pair had entered the damaged

building to collect belongings.

Elsewhere in Malatya, search-and-rescue teams were sifting through the rubble of another building that toppled on top of some parked cars, HaberTurk reported.

Malatya was among 11 Turkish provinces hit by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that devastated parts of southern Turkiye and northern Syria on February 6.

That quake led to more than 48,000 deaths in both countries as well as the collapse or serious damage of 173,000 buildings in Turkiye.

AFAD, Turkiye's disaster management agency, said that close to 10,000 aftershocks have hit the region affected by the quake since February 6. (AP)

Journalists, police clash at Gaddafi Stadium

In Lahore city

Lahore, Feb 27 (PTI):

Chaos descended upon the Gaddafi Stadium, which was hosting a PSL cricket match, after a group of journalists were denied entry to the venue by police officials for wearing masks in solidarity with the slain journalist Arshad Sharif.

Sharif, 49, a former reporter and TV anchor with ARY TV, was shot dead in Nairobi on October 23 last year under mysterious circumstances, sending shockwaves across Pakistan.

On Sunday, television anchor Imran Riaz and his friends donning masks

with the picture of Sharif were stopped by police from entering the Gaddafi Stadium, the venue of a PSL-8 match, despite having tickets.

The situation quickly escalated after Riaz and his friends began to chant slogans to show their solidarity with Sharif.

Video clips showed police officials and the journalists engaged in heated arguments after the police surrounded them and asked them to surrender their masks before entering the stadium.

In the video, a police inspector was seen shouting to the journalists that wearing the mask showing the face of Sharif on the premises of the stadium was a clear violation

of the regulations of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Soon, a scuffle broke out between the police officials and the journalists.

"By wearing Arshad Sharif's masks, we wanted to show solidarity with him and his family and seek justice for him," Riaz was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

In August last year, Sharif was booked on charges of sedition for interviewing former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's close aide Shehbaz Gill.

In the interview, Gill criticised the Shehbaz Sharif government for trying to pitch Khan against the country's powerful Army. Sharif subsequently fled the country.

A month after he left Pakistan, ARY TV fired Sharif, saying he had repeatedly criticised the military on social media in violation of the company's policy.

In October last year, he was shot dead in Nairobi, in what the Kenyan authorities claim was a case of "mistaken identity."

But in December last year, Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the federal government to constitute a special Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe the case after the initial investigation revealed the murder was "premeditated."

Sharif was awarded the 'Pride of Performance' in 2019 by Pakistan President Arif Alvi.

Washington, Feb 27 (PTI):

India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is undergoing "an era of transformation" to make it a developed nation by 2047, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said, urging the Indian diaspora to be a part of this "once in a lifetime" change.

Shekhawat, the Union water resources minister, made the comments on Sunday during an interaction with the Indian-American community leaders organised at the Indian Embassy. "We are undergoing an era of transformation," Shekhawat said.

Describing the transformation that India is experiencing as "once in a life-



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat addresses the Indian diaspora during an event at the Indian Embassy, in Washington, USA, Sunday.

time, or a once in centuries opportunity," Shekhawat stressed that the diaspora, as brand ambassadors of the country, have a vital role in the change.

As a result of the steps being taken under the leadership of Prime Minister

Modi, India today is a "launching pad" for fast-track development and is all set to achieve its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, he said.

"There is no platform in the world today where India can be ignored," Shekhawat added. India's role at the global level has risen significantly, and the world looks at it on several issues, Shekhawat said in his remarks in Hindi.

He added that the worldview of India, today, has changed. Shekhawat said that at the same time, the government consistently worked to resolve and address the issues of the common man. Urging Indian-Americans to be a part of this transformation process, Shekhawat said, "Whatever area we have chosen for ourselves in life and wherever we work, it should be our pledge that during this phase of the transformation of our country, we also have our responsibilities."

TAGORE MEMORIAL



Consul General of India in Houston Aseem Mahajan speaks during the inauguration of Tagore Grove Memorial, in Houston, Texas, USA, Monday.

Jolt to Prachanda as ex-PM Oli withdraws support

Kathmandu, Feb 27 (PTI):

Nepal's second largest party in Parliament - CPN-UML - on Monday withdrew its support to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda"-led government following a rift over backing the main opposition party's candidate for the presidential poll, plunging the Himalayan nation to another spell of political instability.

"A high-level meeting of the party held under the leadership of party chief K P Sharma Oli on Monday decided to quit the government and withdraw the party's support to the Prachanda-led government," Bishnu Rijal, deputy chief of the party's central publicity committee,

As Prime Minister

Prachanda violated the December 25 agreement while forming the seven-party coalition government and betrayed the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML), the party took the decision to leave the government, Rijal said.

The UML ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Poudyal and Foreign Minister Bimala Rai Poudyal, submitted their resignations to the Prime Minister.

There were eight UML ministers including Deputy Prime Minister in the Prachanda-led incumbent government and all of them are resigning en masse.

Meanwhile, Rashtriya Swatantra Party led by former TV journalist Ravi Lamichhane has decided to continue its support to the government.

The party's high-level meeting on Monday decided to back the Prachanda-led government, said Biraj Bhakta Shrestha, deputy Parliamentary Party leader

of RSP. In the 275-member House, the UML has 79 lawmakers while CPN (Maoist Center) has 32. CPN (Unified Socialist) and Rashtriya Swatantra Party have 10 and 20 members, respectively. Janamat Party has 6 members, Loktantrik Samajbadi Party 4 and Nagarik Unmukti Party 3 members in the parliament.

'Country now peaceful, life is returning'

Baghdad, Feb 27 (AP):



Abdul Latif Rashid

Nearly 20 years after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein by U.S.-led forces, Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid wants the world to know his country now is at peace, democratic and intent on rebuilding economic life while maintaining a government that serves the whole country and the region.

Rashid told The Associated Press on Sunday that after overcoming the hardships of the past two decades, Iraq is ready to focus on improving everyday life for its people. Those hardships included years of resistance to foreign troops, violence between Sunnis and Shiites, and attacks by Islamic State group extremists who once controlled large areas, including Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. "Peace and security is all over the country, and I would be very glad if you will report that and emphasize on that, instead of giving a picture of Iraq ... still (as) a war zone, which a lot of media still do," Rashid said. While Iraq's major fighting has ended, there have been

some recent outbreaks of violence including on the day of Rashid's election, which came after a year-long stalemate following the October 2021 election. Ahead of the vote, at least nine rockets targeted Iraq's Parliament inside Baghdad's fortified Green Zone. After Rashid's election, he nominated Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who formed a government with the backing of a coalition of Iran-backed parties and with promises of improving security and public services.

Despite its oil wealth, Iraq's infrastructure remains weak. Private generators fill in for the hours of daily state electricity cuts. Long-promised public transportation projects,

including a Baghdad metro, have not come to fruition.

Rashid said this is due to damage as "a result of conflicts and as a result of terror, as a result of a number of years living at war." Government critics say the sputtering electricity supply is also a result of endemic corruption, rooted in the country's sectarian power-sharing system that allows political elites to use patronage networks to consolidate power.

Rashid, who spoke at his presidential quarters in Saddam's former palace, also asserted that most Iraqis believe the 2003 invasion of Saddam-ruled Iraq by the United States and its allies was necessary because of the former dictator's brutality.

He said he believes most Iraqis, "including all sections of the society, the Kurds, the Sunni, the Christian, the Shiites, they were all against" Saddam and appreciate that the U.S. and its allies came to "save" Iraq. "Obviously certain things did not work out as we hoped. Nobody expected Daesh (the Islamic State group) and nobody expected car

bombs," he said. "It should have been controlled right from the beginning. It should have been studied and planned out right from the beginning. I think the myth was that once Saddam is removed, Iraq becomes heaven."

The reality proved more difficult, he said, but it hasn't weakened Iraq's commitment to democracy. "Even if you have conflicts and if we have arguments, it's much better to have a freedom and democracy rather than a dictatorship," he said.

However, mass anti-government demonstrations that kicked off in late 2019 were often put down by force. Hundreds of protesters were killed by security forces and state-backed armed groups.

Rashid acknowledged there are still conflicts, but urged Iraqis, particularly the younger generation, to be patient and have faith in the future. "We don't have much choice but to live together ... and let our democratic election take place to represent our values," said Rashid, a veteran Kurdish politician and former water minister after Saddam's ouster.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India

No. RC/NF-C/T/2023/897 Date: 17.02.2023

CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT

AIIMS Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from the Indian nationals for the following posts:- 1. Consultant (Civil) - 02 (UR-02), 2. Consultant (Electrical) - 01 (UR-01), 3. Consultant (AC&R) - 02 (UR-02) on contractual basis for a period of 11 months in consolidated remuneration of Cell-1 of Pay Level-7 (7th CPC) with applicable DA at AIIMS Raipur. The detailed essential qualification, experience and terms and conditions for recruitment to this post are available on www.aiimsraipur.edu.in. Last date of receipt of hard copy of application form is 20.03.2023. All the amendments, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only on the website.

- Deputy Director (Admin.)

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक छत्तीसगढ़
अरण्य भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक सेक्टर - 19, अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर (छ.ग.)
(प्रभाग - अनुसंधान एवं विस्तार)

फोन: 0771-2512808 ईमेल: ccf-re.cg@gov.in

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for "Request for Empanelment" (RFE) from the Individuals/ Private Entities/Public Sector Undertaking for buyback of Eucalyptus, Melia dubia (Malabar neem) & Bamboos at Minimum Purchase Price (MPP)

The Chief Conservator of Forest, Research & Extension (CCF-R&E), Raipur invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for "Request for Empanelment" (RFE) from the Individuals/ Private Entities/ Public Sector Undertaking for buyback of Eucalyptus, Melia dubia (Malabar neem) & Bamboos at Minimum Purchase Price (MPP) decided by the Govt of Chhattisgarh. The EoI document is available in the website of Chhattisgarh Forest Department- www.cgforest.com or www.forest.cg.gov.in. This invitation is open to the eligible entities who qualify under eligibility criteria as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the EoI document. Interested participants may obtain further information from the above office or from the website.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Extension), Aranya Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur

G-98914/1

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006 PH: 0788 - 2261892, 2264992, E-mail: recovery.durg@bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Kawardha Branch 97524 10792	M/s. Sarla Traders its prop. Smt. Sarla Chandravanshi, Add.: Gram-Daujari, P.H.No.-19,R.I.Circle, Ravelli, Tahsil - Kawardha, Dist.-Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh - 491995	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of equitable mortgage of residentially diverted land and buildings as per Memorandum of entry registered gift deed 2470 dated 02.09.2020 bearing Survey No: 149/4, PH No-19, area 0.061 Hectre situated at Village-Daujari, R.I.Circle-Ravelli, Tahsil-Kawardha, Dist-kabirdham (Standing in the name of Mrs. Sarla Chandravanshi W/o Mr.Mahendra Chandravanshi). Boundaries: On the South by Property of Salik, On the North by:CC Road, On the East by:Property of Manik, On the West by:Property of Manik.	18.11.2022 Rs. 15,30,832.65 + interest + other charges 22.02.2023 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgageors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 28.02.2023, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



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Green Growth

Three pillars have been underlined for green growth and energy transmission. First, increasing the production of renewable energy; second, reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and finally, rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country. This strategy has underlined the announcements of measures like ethanol blending, PM KUSUM Yojana, incentives for solar manufacturing, rooftop solar scheme, coal gasification, and battery storage in the Budgets of the past few years. Underlining the significant announcements in previous years' budgets, the Prime Minister highlighted schemes such as green credit for industries, PM Pranam Yojna for farmers, Gobardhan Yojna for villages, vehicle scrapping policy for cities, Green Hydrogen and wetland conservation in this year's budget. India's commanding position in the renewable energy space will ensure a commensurate change in the world. Referring to the global efforts for diversification of the energy supply chain, the Budget presented this year has given a great opportunity to every green energy investor to invest in India. This will also be very useful for the startups in the sector, he added. "India has been the fastest when it comes to renewable energy capacity addition among major economies since 2014", the Prime Minister said. India's track record shows its capability to achieve the objectives before time when it comes to renewable energy resources. India achieved the target of 40% contributions from non-fossil fuels in the installed electricity capacity 9 years before the target date. India achieved the target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol 5 months before time and emphasised that the nation strives to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 instead of 2030. India has the potential of producing 10 thousand million cubic metres of biogas from Gobar (cow dung) and 1.5 lakh cubic meter gas which can contribute up to 8% to the city gas distribution in the country. "Because of these possibilities, today the Gobardhan Yojana is an important component of India's biofuel strategy. In this budget, the government has announced plans to set up 500 new plants under the Gobardhan Yojana. India's vehicle scrapping policy is a crucial part of the green growth strategy. He informed that the government has made provisions of Rs 3000 crores in this year's budget to scrap around 3 lakh vehicles owned by Central and State governments that are older than 15 years including police vehicles, ambulances and buses. "Vehicle Scrapping is going to become a huge market", following the principle of Reuse, Recycle and Recovery. It gives new strength to our circular economy and urged the youth of India to join various means of the circular economy. India has to increase its battery storage capacity to 125-gigawatt hours in the next 6-7 years. The government has come out with a viability gap funding scheme in this budget to support the battery developers to achieve big goals in this capital-intensive sector.

Ahmedabad - India's First World Heritage City

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Ahmedabad city was founded on 26 February 1411 and announced as the capital on 4 March 1411 by Ahmed Shah I of Gujarat Sultanate as a new capital. UNESCO has declared Ahmedabad (Gujarat) as World Heritage City. Really one feels proud of being Amdavadi. There are many who are not aware about the various heritage places in Ahmedabad. The names of various places Monuments are found only in tourism maps and Websites. Ahmedabad rose in stature and soon began to be called the "Garden city of Hindustan". It flourished during the steady reign of the Sultans. The merchant class grew in affluence, and peace and stability began to attract a great number of people from surrounding areas. It is now the largest city in Gujarat and the seventh largest city in India. One would be surprised to know that Manek Chowk, named after Maneknath became the marketing complex of the new city. Kalupur, named after Begda's minister Abba Haji Kalu, consists of a mixed population of Jains and Muslims. Usmampur was a prosperous suburb during the Badshah period, specializing in the trade of ghee and local medicines. The era of the Sultans in Gujarat has often been called the "Golden age of Ahmedabad". Architecture has found its glory in Ahmedabad. Today, the masjid of Siddi Sayed and the design of "Jalis" has become the main advertising logos of the city. Our heritage is all that has been passed to us by previous generations. Cultural heritage is a legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society - man-made heritage. It is disheartening to note that some people, forgetting that they are doing an irreparable damage to invaluable archaeological masterpieces by inscribe their initials, names, love messages on these national treasures. We must learn to value our inheritance for reasons beyond their mere utility and their functional use. This is because each heritage is unique and exceptional; it is the responsibility of the current generation to preserve it. The conservation and protection of these monuments cannot be neglected any further. It clearly shows that cities like Ahmedabad have emerged as the prime engines of the Indian economic growth and generators of national wealth. Ahmedabad is the best of India's mega-cities the commercial capital of Gujarat, Ahmedabad has progressed steadily over the years. The reasons for this could be attributed to uninterrupted and stable power supply, No water shortage, wide and maintained roads, friendly & traditional, yet progressive people, good educational and health facilities etc. The most important is the city is a heritage city with people still living in heritage buildings in the old city that has become hosts for some of the most modern management schools. People of Ahmedabad are known for their cooperative attitude, entrepreneurship and aspiration for values. Graced by rich heritage and culture Ahmedabad offers values to the tradition and diversity. One would have observed that the Amdavadis are very fun loving and has a lot of respect for the traditions and customs of their community. It would be no exaggeration to say that in the whole world there exists no town so grand and beautiful like Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad after more than 600 years now make its presence on the international map. It is now regarded as a national pilgrimage, a symbol of non-violence and peace. People of Ahmedabad are known for their cooperative attitude, entrepreneurship and aspiration for values. They have a great vision to take the city to dizzy heights with their business acumen and gentle mannerisms. One thing is certain that if the world today recognises Mahatma Gandhi as the apostle of peace, Ahmedabad had a major role in the making of the Mahatma. In the last 600 years, Ahmedabad has seen unpredictable changes and has developed into a mega-city which is at heart of Gujarat state's development. It is nice to see that though the city has changed over the years it has sealed its historical and cultural heritage.

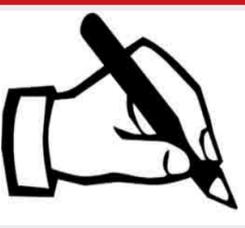
TOURISTS AT TAJ MAHAL



cap: Foreign tourists pose for photos during their visit to the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Monday.

India-US Deal for Predator Drones

RAGHU



EARLY this month, it was announced that India was on the verge of signing a deal with the US for acquisition of 30 high-end armed predator drones, 10 each for the army, air force and navy, at a total cost of around \$3 billion (Rs 24,000 crore). The deal has been in the pipeline for many years since first being announced in 2017, and seems to have neared finalisation now. The deal is believed to have been discussed during the visit to Washington by India's national security advisor, Ajit Doval along with a high-powered team of heads of scientific and industrial departments and agencies, and during meetings with his counterpart, Jake Sullivan, US deputy secretary of defence, Kathleen Hicks and other US officials. These meetings were part of the first set of interactions under the new initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (i-CET) launched by India and the US in May 2022. This programme covers a wide range of issues across scientific, technological, industrial, defence and strategic domains. In defence, India appears to be expecting more substantive outcomes from i-CET than have emanated from the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) under the Indo-US Defence Agreement. A clear obstacle so far has been US reluctance on technology sharing and transfer, which India is particularly keen on, and US preference for sale of defence equipment with advanced technologies. Under i-CET, India is apparently hopeful of some co-development projects.

Two specific items that have come up for discussion are jet engines, a critical area of interest for India, and aircraft-launched drones. In the former, an offer is believed to have been made by General Electric to co-develop engines for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the twin-engine 5th generation fighter being developed by DRDO, while also entering into license production agreements with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for GE-404/414 engines used in different versions of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). The air-launched

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (AL-UAV) under the DTII is based on the understanding that the resultant intellectual property (IP) would be jointly held by India and the US. While these Projects would, if at all, fructify in the near-to-medium term, both India and the US are believed to be keen on an early conclusion to the sale by the US to India of armed predator drones. Sources in Washington were quoted in various media outlets as saying that the "ball is now in India's court." Earlier talks were only for unarmed predator drones, and the possibility of armed predators opened up only after India signed the fourth and last of the foundational security agreements, BECA or Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement, which would allow the US to transfer equipment with the ability to use US geo-spatial intelligence which the predator would require to realise its full capabilities. The exact contours of the predator deal are yet to be finalised by India. Navy chief admiral R Hari Kumar said deliberations were on as to whether the numbers of predator drones procured need to be "rationalised," (read reduced) since the long-awaited indigenous drone appears set to become available in the not too distant future.

PREDATOR RPV

The Predator RQ9, also called Reaper or Guardian drones or, more accurately, remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) are considered among the best in its class. When acquired in the armed version, India will be arguably the first country other than US military allies to receive them. The RQ9 made by General Atomics of the US is a larger, heavier and far more capable version of the earlier RQ1. The RQ9 Predator is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drone that can operate at the upper end of the MALE ceiling at around 50,000 feet with a range of around 1800km. When loaded with 450kg munitions and 2x450kg fuel tanks, the RQ9 with 66 feet wingspan has endurance of 42 hours, and 23 hours when fully loaded with munitions. These enable the predator to loiter above a defined area for long periods for surveillance or while waiting for specific targets. In the US version, predators carry GBU Paveway-II laser-guided bombs, AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-ground missiles, AGM-114 Hellfire-II air-to-ground missiles and are being modified to carry AIM Stinger air-to-air missiles. The armaments package for India is not known yet. The predator comes with a manned control station from where it is piloted remotely. The US air force insists on having fully qualified and trained pilots for each RPV, putting considerable strain on human resources, despite repeated requests from the Pentagon to permit other technical personnel to operate the drones. India is

developing a separate cadre for drone operations. The RPV takes off from a normal airfield with a runway of 5000 feet, whereas some versions enable autonomous take off and landing on 3000 feet runways.

The RQ9 has its own powerful sensors and static as well as video cameras for all-weather day or night operations. By some accounts, it can identify vehicle license plate numbers from 10,000 feet. It is linked with satellite communications, other airborne surveillance and targeting platforms, as well as ground forces for observation and targeting, and is now equipped with electronic warfare suites to enable operations in conflict zones with adversary radars. However, it is believed India is interested mostly in the predator's beyond-visual-range (BVR) capabilities while operating in uncontested airspace.

For all its vaunted capabilities, the predator can also be quite vulnerable, especially when operating against capable or well-equipped adversaries. In the early years of its operations by 2010, 38 predators of early vintage had been lost during operations in conflict zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. Predators have also been shot down by Houthi over Yemen, and by suspected Wagner forces over Libya. By 2015, over 20 predators had crashed due to a still unidentified problem in its starter motor. India has been operating two unarmed MQ9 Sea Guardian reconnaissance RPVs on lease from General Atomics. These drones have been used over the Bay of Bengal-Indian Ocean region, the Maldives area as well as in the Himalayan region, and the armed forces are believed to be impressed with their performance. General Atomics chief executive Vivek Lal informed the press that he had received feedback of experience of over 3,000 hours flying time covering 26 million sq.km. He also stated that arrangements had been made with Bharat Forge to make landing gear and other parts and sub-assemblies for RPVs. It is believed that if the larger deal for predators is realised, General Atomics may help set up MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) facilities in India to also handle other predator drones operated by countries in the region.

INDIGENOUS DRONES

India has been seriously lagging in its development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), even while indigenous development of manned aircraft has accelerated over the past decade or more. This is a time when the security scenario in India's surroundings has deteriorated, when the role of drones in military applications has gained significant momentum, and when potential adversarial forces have made major advances in drone technology. India has not only taken an inordinate amount of time to develop a suitable high-perform-

ance UAV, it has also failed to develop drones of various sizes and capabilities as the world has seen from Turkey or Iran. Detailed discussion on this topic would be taken up separately. Of relevance to this article, DRDO is said to have almost completed all stages of development of an indigenous UAV and handed it over to HAL for limited series production. Drone development in India had started way back in the 1980s at the National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL) of the CSIR under the leadership of Rustom Damania. Further development of the UAV called the Light Canard Research Aircraft was taken up later by the Aeronautics Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO, and the UAV was named Rustom or warrior after the demise of its initial designer. The successor Rustom-II, later renamed Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance (TAPAS or heat) - Beyond Horizon 201 (TAPAS-BH 201), has gone through a series of prototypes development, each more advanced than the previous one, and had its first flight in 2016. Collaboration with HAL and defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has been built-in so as to enable early design maturation and productionisation.

Tapas-BH-201 is a MALE drone with design inspired by the Predator MQ1, the first version of the predator. With wingspan of 67 feet, the drone can carry payload of 350 kg and has shown endurance of 18 hours at 28,000 feet, and range of over 250km. DRDO is confident of converting the UAV into an armed version fairly quickly. The original engine by M/S Austro was discarded after take-over of the company by a China-based company, after which a Lycoming engine was fitted during trials. This was later replaced by twin 100hp turbo-prop engines from Saturn-NPO of Russia. The UAV takes off from a conventional runway, with satellite link and linked to the indigenous GAGAN navigation system. Tapas-BH-201 is expected to be around 40 per cent less expensive compared to similar imported UAVs. An indigenous engine is believed to be under development by Tech Mahindra and DRDO's Vehicle Research & Development Establishment in Ahmedabad. All three services are believed to be satisfied with the performance of the UAV, and substantial orders are expected, although the limited range of the Tapas would be a serious impediment for naval operations. At present, it therefore looks like India may reduce the numbers of predators bought from the US, especially for the army and the air force. It is to be hoped that further improvement and serial production of the Tapas-BH-201, and other drones currently under development, would be accelerated through expedited developmental funding from the government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Playing with fire

The highly unprofessional approach of the Punjab Police in dealing with the gun-wielding crowd raising Khalistani slogans is evident. It is time for the state government to control the activities of Khalistani supporters with a steely resolve so that the bloody era the people of Punjab have witnessed in the past is not repeated. No one should be allowed to disturb the peaceful environment in the state. Anarchists arouse religious sentiments for their own interests, which the religious leaders must condemn firmly. Action should be taken against those who used the holy book for unethical purposes.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

At the receiving end

Pawan Khara was deplaned by the Assam and Delhi police and arrested for joking about the PM's name. In politics, the Opposition raises questions and jokes over the working of the Centre and the states. Arresting someone while he's on his flight, or in his personal space is not the right thing to do. Many times in the past, politicians have said objectionable things about one another, and no strict action was taken. Is that how our democracy will now be? In Adani's case, no such prompt action was taken, but when the Opposition questions it, leaders have to face consequences. Are there no rules for the Central government? The country would want to know why there is no accountability with regard to the Centre while the Opposition has to suffer such arrests and raids.

Jasbir Singh, Jalandhar

Governor's role

It is unfortunate that the constitutional head and the elected head are at daggers drawn ('Governor says won't allow Punjab session'). A Governor is the nominal head of the state, while the real powers lie with the CM and his Council of Ministers. The former has to protect the spirit of the Constitution while the latter has to act within its framework. The Governor is duty-bound to act on the advice of the CM and his ministers and not on the directions of his political bosses. By refusing nod to convene the Budget session, he is jeopardising the functioning of the state government.

Faqir Singh, by mail

Rescue mokes

Donkeys are sensitive, intelligent creatures with strong bonds with their families, these gentle animals under threat across the country now. According to reports in the country, there is a lot of illegal donkey trafficking, slaughtering, and selling of donkey flesh taking place. Some are also slaughtered by children across many states. According to reports, most donkeys are slaughtered in various locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Donkeys are smuggled into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from other states under the cover of darkness to avoid police interception. Concerned parties should conduct immediate investigations and raids to rescue donkeys. There is a widespread belief in the country that donkey flesh and blood can cure diseases. According to reports, the donkey population dropped by 50% in last five years.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Rise in temperature threatens food security

Dr. Gyan Pathak

The unprecedented rise in temperature touching 40 degree Celsius, in parts of India in February, which is technically a winter month, has threatened not only the food security of the country but also various sectors of the economy - ranging from availability of potable water to electricity impacting almost all aspects of life, particularly the health services. It's a matter of serious concern for the country since it has already been predicted that there is a possibility of an intensely hot summer and extended heatwaves this year. Only a year before in 2022, India had recorded its warmest March on record, with an average maximum temperature of 33.1 degree Celsius or 1.86 degree Celsius above the long-term average. Heatwaves generally occur in April but are less common, but May is usually the month of excessively high temperatures. Hence, Centre's mere setting up of a committee to monitor the situation and issuing advisories to farmers are only an adhoc act while the country needs a comprehensive policy and strategy to deal with the crisis to prevent a catastro-

phe that is likely to be triggered by heating up of the land and the atmosphere. There is a general concern of unprecedented damage to the kharif crops standing in the field - particularly wheat and mustard. The government has issued advisories to the farmers on adopting micro irrigation to minimize the damage and avoid the repeat of the damage similar to last year when output was declined due to early onset of heatwave in March which led to ban of wheat export in May. It triggered rise in food prices putting the vulnerable poor in great difficulty and the government is still struggling to reign in the food inflation. IMD has said that the higher daytime temperatures might have an adverse impact on wheat that is approaching the productive growth period, which is sensitive to temperature. High temperatures during the flowering and maturing period lead to loss in yield. There could be a similar impact on other standing crops and horticulture. Their advisory said, "Add much material in the space between two rows of vegetable crops to conserve soil moisture and maintain soil temperature." However, government must accept that the poor farmers don't

have even means to implement the advisories issued by the government. It has been estimated that the standing wheat crop which was sown in December-January will be impacted to an extent of 5-10 per cent, and mustard between 4-6 per cent, if the present heat condition worsens. India actually needs to plan something more than the advisories issued and what is already in place, such as heat related health action plans, or the national framework of heat action plan through the National Disaster Management Authority which is supposed to coordinate the network of state disaster response agencies and city leaders to prepare for soaring temperature and ensure that everyone is aware of heatwave Do's and Don'ts. It is an important aspect in itself but can provide only too small a relief than the crisis people suffer. India is one of the most densely populated countries, and hence severe heatwave conditions would impact hundreds of millions of people, livestock, and entire ecology. Moreover, heatwaves have cascading impact not only on human health but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water, energy supplies and all sectors of the economy.

Heatwave conditions in India is not a new phenomenon, but the situation has been deteriorating with the climate change. WMO has always been emphasizing on multi-hazard planning so that the services may reach the most vulnerable, but India's efforts are nowhere compared to the challenge the country has been facing. WMO had even issued an alerts last year in April-May about extreme heatwave conditions in the country. Only days after the warning land surface temperatures over pockets of northwest India was recorded by satellites reached 55 degree Celsius or even crossed 60 degrees in some places in the first week of May. However, India is yet to have any comprehensive strategy. The heatwave conditions in February in several northern areas of the country proves the earlier observations of the WMO that heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and starting earlier than in the past. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its Sixth Assessment Report, said that heatwaves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in South Asia this century. The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences had issued a document last

year which says that the frequency of warm extremes over India has increased during 1951-2015, with accelerated warning trends during the recent 30 years period 1986-2015. Significant warming is observed for the warmest day, warmest night and coldest night since 1986. The pre-monsoon heatwave frequency, duration, intensity and areal coverage over India are projected to substantially increase during the twenty-first century.

A climate update by WMO and UK Met Office had warned last year that the world overall temperature is moving in a dangerous direction and it is almost certain that 2022-2026 will see a warmest year on record though there is close to fifty-fifty chance (48 per cent) of breaching 1.5°C, though there is only a small chance (10 per cent) of the five-year mean exceeding this threshold. It brought the greatest concern for India and Pakistan. The 2022 Global Food Policy Report by US based International Food Policy Research Institute had even warned that "South Asia is a climate change hotspot, with many climate-induced risks compounded by significant existing vulnerabilities."

BRIEF Startup conclave



New Delhi: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala will inaugurate a grand startup conclave to be held on Tuesday in Hyderabad. The conclave, in collaboration with National Dairy Development Board, the Telangana government and industry body CII, aims to promote startups in the livestock, dairy, and animal husbandry sectors, an official statement said. It will bring together entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts to share their ideas and network.

Tech support



Thiruvananthapuram: Japan-based JFE Engineering Limited has agreed to provide technical support to the upcoming waste-to-energy plant at Kozhikode, Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Sunday, Keiichi Nagaya, Director, Head of Overseas Business and Environmental Solution Sector, of the firm, met the Chief Minister here and assured assistance for the state's first waste-to-energy treatment plant.

MyMandi



New Delhi: Gwalior's royal family scion Mahanaaryaman Scindia, whose name speaks volumes, has shed his legacy and ventured into building his own empire from scratch through start-up MyMandi, which he expects to turn profitable in about one-and-a-half years of its business commencement.

Investment opportunities



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday called on Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai and discussed investment opportunities. Patnaik met Ambani and talked about the strengths of Odisha as an investment destination, and future investment plans of Reliance in the state, a communication received from the Chief Minister's Office said.

PM Modi to address post-budget webinar on technology

New Delhi, Feb 27:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a post-budget webinar on the theme 'Unleashing the Potential: Ease of living using technology' on Tuesday. According to an official statement, the webinar will discuss the Budget announcements related to DigiLocker entity, national data governance, address update facility, fintech services, Centre of Excellence on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Mission Karmayogi, E-Courts, 5G and ease of doing business. Discussions would also revolve around simplification of KYC, Common Business Identifier, Unified Filing Process, among others. The prime minister will address the post-budget webinar on the theme 'Unleashing the Potential: Ease of living using technology' on Tuesday at 10 AM via video conferencing, the release said. The webinar will be led by the Ministry



of Electronics and Information Technology and co-led by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). It will involve discussions on the budget announcements pertaining to theme and the specifics catering to IT Ministry, DPIIT, Department of Justice, Department of Telecom, Department of Expenditure and Department of Commerce. The stakeholders and experts from state governments, industry, start-ups, academia and civil societies will deliberate and carve out milestones and

implementation plan pertaining to the key budget announcements. "Several eminent personalities namely Debjani Ghosh, NASSCOM, Justice A. Mohamed Mustaque, Pawan Goenka, Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd, and Akash Ambani, Reliance Jio Infocomm will grace the webinar and share their insights in the plenary opening session after the context setting by Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary MeitY," the release said. As a part of the webinar, four parallel breakout sessions — Ease of living using technology for access (led by MeitY), ease of accessing justice (led by DoJ), ease of doing business using technology especially for small businesses (led by DPIIT) and ease of living using 5G use-cases and labs (led by DoT) will be organised. The plenary closing session will have summarisation by the moderators of the breakout sessions and conclusory remarks may be made by Union Ministers, the release added.

NPPA fixes retail price of 74 drug formulations

New Delhi, Feb 27:

Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority on Monday said it has fixed the retail prices of 74 formulations, including the medications to treat diabetes and high blood pressure. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the prices under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013 based on the decision of the 109th authority meeting held on February 21 this year. As per the notification, the NPPA has fixed the price of one tablet of Dapagliflozin Sitagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride (extended-release tablets) at Rs 27.75. Similarly, the drug price regulator has fixed the price of one tablet of blood pressure lower-



ing medication Telmisartan and Bisoprolol Fumarate tablets at Rs 10.92. The NPPA said it has also revised the ceiling price of 80 scheduled formulations (NLEM 2022) including the one to treat epilepsy and neutropenia. The ceiling price of one tablet (200mg) of Sodium Valproate has been fixed at Rs 3.20. Similarly, the ceiling price of Filgrastim injection (one vial) has been fixed at Rs 1,034.51. The price of one tablet of Hydrocortisone (20 mg), a steroid, has been fixed at Rs 13.28.

Rupee falls 10 paise to close at 82.85 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 27:

The rupee depreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.85 (provisional) against the US currency on Monday as a stronger dollar in the overseas market and a muted trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.87 against the greenback and closed at 82.85 (provisional), registering a fall of 10 paise over its previous close of 82.75. During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.82 and a low of 82.94 against the American dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the



greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally lower at 105.15. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.46 per cent to USD 83.54 per barrel. The Indian rupee depreciated on weak domestic markets and a strong greenback.

Surge in crude oil prices and FII outflows also weighed on rupee, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Dollar strengthened on concerns over higher interest rates for longer amid higher inflation and upbeat economic data from the US, Choudhary added. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and positive greenback. Month-end Dollar demand from importers may weigh on Rupee. However, any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India may prevent sharp fall in Rupee," Choudhary said.

Airtel crosses 10 million unique customer mark on 5G network

New Delhi, Feb 27:

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday announced that it has crossed the 10 million unique 5G user mark on its network. In a statement, the company said it is well poised to cover every town and key rural areas with Airtel 5G services by the end of March 2024. The company informed it has surpassed the 10 million unique 5G user milestone, on its network. In November 2022, Airtel became the first and only operator to have 1 million unique customers on its network within 30 days of its commercial launch, the state-

ment added. It is pertinent to mention that high speed 5G services were launched in the country, on October 1, 2022. The 5G services powers ultra-low latency connections, which allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to a mobile device in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas). The fifth Generation or 5G would, going forward, would enable powerful solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more-immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming, among others applications.

Gitanjali Bhutani at the forefront of innovation at Amazon India

Mumbai, Feb 27: Women have been gracefully donning their many-hued hats while they handle the endless chores at home and the diverse agendas at work. In their various roles as mothers, wives, daughters, and stronger leaders, women are making a difference in society. Traditionally, women have had to overcome more barriers in order to succeed and build their own careers. Amazon India is constantly working towards creating an inclusive and equitable workplace for all. Aligned with this year's International Women's Day theme, '#EmbraceEquity', Amazon India in its second edition of #SheIsAmazon campaign

highlights women who inspire, lead, and innovate. Gitanjali Bhutani, Director of Software Development, CMT, Amazon India, is one such example. Gitanjali joined Amazon India in 2014, and she leads a multidisciplinary team of engineers, scientists, and business teams, driving innovation and automation to provide customers with an enhanced and seamless delivery experience. She and her team have built large-scale automated systems that provide customers with access to great prices. What drives Gitanjali is to be a part of a dynamic environment that solves real-world customer prob-

lems through technology. The idea of touching customer lives and being a part of it from the smallest to the largest buying decisions motivates her to strive for excellence. She continuously challenges herself and her teams to achieve the impossible, which has led to them solving particularly hard problems and earning customer trust. In her tenure of over eight years at Amazon, she has built algorithms, machine-learning models, and novel approaches to solving extremely complex problems. Elaborating on her journey, she says, "I started my journey with Amazon India as a software Development Engineer.

MOU SIGNING



Jindal Stainless Director Vijay Sharma (left) and CII Executive Director Pikender Pal Singh during signing of MoU between CII and Jindal Stainless' national mission on 'War against Corrosion' in the presence of Niti Aayog Member V. K Saraswat and Jindal Stainless MD Abhyuday Jindal, in New Delhi, Monday, Feb. 27.

Air India has 'enormous' potential: CEO Campbell Wilson

Strong action taken against incidents of intoxication onboard flights

New Delhi, Feb 27:

Air India, which is set to buy 470 planes for about USD 70 billion, has 'enormous' potential and efforts are on to make the group a significant international player in the aviation space, according to the airline's chief Campbell Wilson. Against the backdrop of incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard flights and the airline's decision to amend its alcohol serving policy, Wilson said strong action is being taken against such instances of intoxication which is also a multifaceted issue. "We straightened (alcohol policy) a bit



to recognise the signs of intoxication... What has changed in a large respect is the practice of reporting and acting on intoxication... almost everyday there is an incident and usually it is a case of someone drinking their own liquor before getting on-

board the aircraft or smuggling their own duty free liquor onto the aircraft and consuming it. "This is being reported more often and we are taking strong action when it happens," the Air India CEO and MD said during a virtual media interaction on Monday. He pointed out that the issue of intoxication is something that has been noted internationally and has been on the rise since Covid. It is something that IATA has called out, he added. IATA (International Air Transport Association) is a global grouping of airlines and Air India is also a member.

Retail mutual fund assets base grows 9.3 pc to over Rs 23 lakh cr in Jan

New Delhi, Feb 27:

Retail investors' interest in the Indian mutual fund industry has seen an uptick with the value of assets held by them witnessing a rise of 9.3 per cent to Rs 23.4 lakh crore in January this year. In comparison, the value of assets held by retail investors in mutual funds stood at Rs 21.40 lakh crore in January 2022, latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. However, the value of institutional assets has marginally decreased to Rs 17.42 lakh crore in January 2023, from Rs 17.49 lakh crore in

January 2022. Industry insiders believe the increase in asset base is mostly the result of advanced SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) flows, which touched Rs 13,000-crore for the fourth time in a row in January this year. In addition, industry body Amfi has played an important role in driving awareness towards mutual funds among retail investors. As per the data, flows through SIP rose to Rs 13,856 crore in January from Rs 13,573 crore in December. This was the fourth consecutive month when SIP flows remained above the Rs 13,000-crore mark.

Sensex, Nifty close in red for 7th straight session on weak global trends

Mumbai, Feb 27:

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slid for a seventh straight session on Monday, logging their longest losing run in the past five months, following a bearish trend in global markets amid concerns over aggressive rate hikes by developed economies. Fresh foreign fund outflows and losses in IT, auto and oil stocks also dented investor sentiments. The BSE Sensex declined by 175.58 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 59,288.35 with 17 of its shares posting losses. During the day, it tanked 526.29 points or 0.88 per cent to 58,937.64. The NSE Nifty fell 73.10



points or 0.42 per cent to end at 17,392.70 as 33 of its stocks ended in the red. Sensex and Nifty fell for a

seventh straight session, matching the seven-session losing run in the last week of September last

year. In the seven sessions, Sensex tanked 2,031 points or 3.4 per cent while Nifty shed 643 points or 4.1 per cent to close below the 17,400 level. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Wipro and Bajaj Finance were the biggest laggards. Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were among the gainers. "Bears continued to wreak havoc in the domestic market as the latest data releases from the US heightened the existing worries of aggressive rate hikes.

HCL Foundation announces 2023 HCL Grant recipients

Mumbai, Feb 27: HCL Foundation announced the NGOs selected for the 2023 edition of its flagship program HCL Grant - which supports pioneering work in sustainable rural development in India. HCL Foundation delivers the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech. Three NGOs—Planearth, Innovators in Health (IIH) India and Meghshala Trust will receive Rs 5 crore (appx. \$620,000) each for their projects under the HCL Grant endowment. This year's winners were chosen from submissions from more than 15,000 entities, an increase of 80% versus last year. According to Ms. Robin Ann Abrams, Chairperson of the HCL Grant Jury and Board Member, HCLTech: "These organizations and their projects - aligned to the HCL Foundation's core areas of focus

in environment, health and education - will bring a visible and inclusive change to the 'last mile.' We believe their work will provide an important lifeline to rural communities by bridging inequality in healthcare, helping in freshwater conservation and more readily bringing education to underserved populations." In addition, six NGO finalists will receive grants of Rs 25 lakh (appx. \$30,000) each in the following categories: Environment: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER); North-East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA), Education: MAHAN; Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (SSRDPT) and Health: Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS); Guria Swyam SeviSansthan (GSSS).



Shocking! Mandeep and Khushwant come face to face in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan offers a glimpse into two families separated by circumstantial misunderstandings and the hurt that follows. In just a few months, the show has struck a chord with the audience with its emotional storytelling, relatable situations, and enthralling plot twists, which have kept them glued to their seats. What follows next is a nail-biting sequence where Mandeep (Sandeep Baswana) and his wife Aastha (Reema Vohra) decide to come to India, unknown of what destiny has lined up for them.

Amrita (Kaveri Priyam) has been behind bars in a case of classic misunderstanding, and Mandeep tries to save the day by rescuing her and he arrives just in time. In the upcoming episodes, Mandeep is informed that Khushwant (Jaswant Menaria) is responsible for all the mishaps over the years, including putting Amrita in jail. A shocked Khushwant refuses to believe his eyes upon seeing Mandeep in India. Will

Mandeep finally seek revenge on Khushwant and hold him responsible for all the past mishaps?

Sandeep Baswana essaying the role of Mandeep, says, "Mandeep is a man of reason but when he comes face to face with the reality that kept him away from his loved ones, all rationality goes for a toss, and he is only focused on seeking revenge on the person who gave him a world of hurt. Mandeep, is going through a life-changing experience and is unaware of what is about to follow. In the upcoming episodes, my character Mandeep will be undergoing a wide range of emotions and I think it is definitely helping me widen my range as an artiste and helping me grow. This week, the audience will surely be on the edge of their seats and it will be interesting to watch if Mandeep and Dilpreet finally come face to face after twenty-five years?"

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

'Wants to challenge stereotypes and redefine dayans on screen'

Witches, dayans, and chudails are a common part of fantasy shows on Indian Television. But, Shemaroo Umang's original fantasy show Raaz Mahal - Dakini Ka Rahasya recently took fans by a sweet surprise with the entry of one of the most glamorous witches - Mantralekha, played by none other than Kamy Panjabi. Yes! Kamy Panjabi entered the much-loved show as Mantralekha, the sister of Dakini Chandralekha, and since then fans have been eagerly waiting for the 'X factor' she adds to the intriguing plotline.

Kamy, who is known for her versatility, recently opened up about playing a witch in the show. She declared that she doesn't want to copy anyone, but rather redefine the way chudails and dayans have been portrayed on screen. "When I was offered the role of Mantralekha, I knew I wanted to challenge the common stereotypes of a chudail or dayan on screen. Usually, witches are seen screaming or crying loudly, but I categorically refused to follow the age-old norm, as I wanted to break

through the barriers and add my personal touch to the character." "I did not take inspiration from other characters as I don't want to copy anyone else, but I rather approached the character with fresh perspective and creativity. I believe in pushing the boundaries, and each day I'm working towards portraying Mantralekha differently.

I am excited to give a glamorous twist to this traditionally feared character and redefine chudails and dayans on screen. It's time to witness a never-before-seen era of witches specially created by Kamy Panjabi!" Well, Kamy Panjabi as Mantralekha is certainly going to take the entertainment quotient to greater heights. But, what's the purpose of her sudden entry? Is she connected to capturing Dakini (played by Ridhima Tiwari) in a bottle? What are her plans? Will she become a threat to Adhiraj (Himanshu Soni) and Sunaina (Neha Harsoora)? To find out, Watch Raaz Mahal - Dakini Ka Rahasya every Monday to Saturday at 8:30 PM only on Shemaroo Umang.



Shehaan Kapahi talks about exam season and how the cast helps him prepare

Exam season is tense, not only for students but also parents. Families during exam time are a full-fledged unit, from teaching to revising, everyone is hands on when it comes to preparation. One such 'reel life' family is the Wagle family on Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey. They have often been the prime example of a family that learns together, is a family that stays together and continue to inspire their audience by their unique yet lovable ways of tackling everyday issues.

Shehaan Kapahi, who plays the role of Atharva Wagle, is a child actor who juggles work and studies seamlessly. With the ongoing exam season, Shehaan Kapahi opens up about how the cast and crew help him prepare during such a stressful time.

When asked about balancing work and studies, Shehaan said, "Acting is something I've always been passionate about. It is a privilege to be able to do what you love at such a



young age and with such supportive people around you. Studying was non-negotiable to me when I started acting and even though balancing both is tough at times, it is imperative. Sumeet Sir (Rajesh Wagle) and Pariva Ma'am (Vandana Wagle) are very similar to my own parents in a lot of ways. They are always making me

laugh, pulling my leg but also disciplining me when required. When exams are around the corner, they help me with revisions, have random pop quizzes and ensure I'm well versed with all my lessons."

Talking about his message to the students who are going to be appearing for their exams soon,

Shehaan added, "I wish everyone the best of luck. It is a busy time, but you will get through it. Take help where required and keep working hard! All the best!"

Tune in to watch Wagle Ki Duniya: Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey only on Sony SAB every Monday to Saturday at 9:00 PM.

Nikhil Yadav enters 'Ek Mahanayak - Dr B. R. Ambedkar'

Nikhil Yadav, last seen in several television shows, OTT, commercials, and theatre, is set to join &TV's Ek Mahanayak - Dr B. R. Ambedkar. The actor will essay the role of Maloji, the younger brother of Nandu, Bhimrao's (Atharva) friend. Bhimrao will play a significant role in guiding Maloji and showing him the right direction. Talking about his character Maloji, Nikhil Yadav shares, "Maloji and Bhimrao became friends when he moved to the chawl in Bombay. Maloji is not financially secure, focusing more on making money than his studies. However, Bhimrao will encourage him to focus on his studies so that he can use education to become self-reliant. They share a special bond, and their journey will inspire an inspiring track."

Talking about his excitement about joining the show, Nikhil Yadav adds, "It is truly an honour to be given an opportunity to work with the Ek Mahanayak - Dr B.R. Ambedkar team. It is undoubtedly one of the most compelling and inspiring shows on Indian television. I have watched the show but had never imagined being a part of it one day. People who have read the life journey of Dr Ambedkar would be somewhat familiar with Maloji, whose life took a new turn



when he met Babasaheb. It is a real character from Babasaheb's life, and I feel blessed to essay it. Dr Ambedkar strongly believed in education as a means to transform one's life. He was the biggest propagator of equality in education, and through this new track, the viewers will see yet another important aspect of his life journey.

We have already begun shooting. It was wonderful to shoot with experienced and seasoned actors. They were quite warm and welcoming. I look forward to an exciting journey and hope the character strikes a chord with the audience."

Watch Nikhil Yadav as Maloji in Ek Mahanayak - Dr B. R. Ambedkar every Monday to Friday at 8:30 pm only on &TV!

Actors' thrilling encounters with wildlife animals

World Wildlife Day is an annual celebration held on March 3rd to raise awareness of wildlife conservation. &TV artists hope to promote a global system and its preservation by talking about their favourite wild animals and their experiences encountering them on a forest safari. These include Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna, Doosri Maa), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari, Bhabji Ghar Par Hai). Himani Shivpuri, essaying Katori Amma in &TV's Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "I come from Uttarakhand, which has beautiful wildlife species and a sanctuary where people can spot their favourite creatures. However, I would like to share an experience with a snake nearby. I love snakes and find them beautiful. I was young and playing with a few friends in our backyard. Suddenly, we spotted a snake there in the late evening. It was a huge snake, and everyone started running out of fear. However, keeping a distance from the animal, I watched closely for its next move. As a child, you have that innocence and curiosity to see things that might have a dangerous outcome. My initial reaction was similar, but I became mesmerized by the beauty of that snake after seeing it so closely. In no



time, it moved ahead. I returned home and shared the incident with my mother. And the response I received from her was not to play there again (laughs). I know her concern was my safety, but to reveal to you all, I visited there many times to see if it was still around. Besides that, I have visited various wildlife refuges around the world. It is one of the most exciting and relaxing things to do, especially since you are surrounded by nature simultaneously. In honour of this day, I urge people to provide them with a safe environment so that their existence is preserved."

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

'Akshay Kumar is my fitness inspiration'

Vibhav Roy recently made is comeback to television screen with Star Bharat's new show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai'. Vibhav is adored by the audience for his portrayal of 'Som' in the performance alongside renowned actress Sushmita Mukherjee and Kajal Chauhan. The actor maintains a fantastic physique and level of fitness despite his demanding shooting schedule. Speaking about the same, Vibhav Roy gets candid about his fitness regimens and the inspiration behind it.

He says, "Lifestyle and fitness should go hand in hand, thus Mr. Akshay Kumar is one somebody who I truly look up to in terms of lifestyle and fitness. He has always been outspoken about maintaining a fit and healthy lifestyle and how to do so without the use of synthetic superfoods like protein powders or steroids. And I do the same, so I keep my exercise programme extremely natural and straightforward, consisting primarily of yoga,



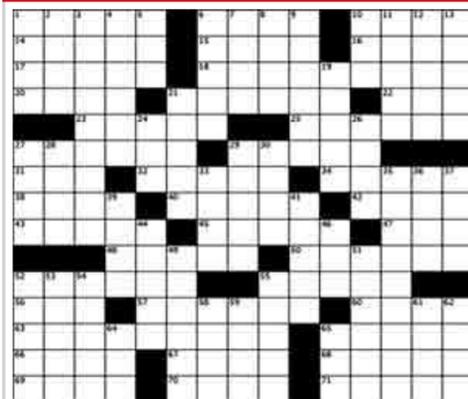
weightlifting, dance, and a little sport like cricket. In other words, it's a good balance of aerobic and challenging weightlifting."

He further adds, "In order to maintain a healthy weight while working as an actor, I also try to keep my diet uncomplicated. I consume more protein-rich foods than carbohydrates and a moderate amount of healthy fats. It's also challenging for us to find time to exercise because of our busy schedules, but as the saying goes, "you gotta do what ya gotta do."

Speaking of the current episode of his show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' on Star Bharat, 'Som' and 'Gaura' would be united in a lovely bond of marriage. Nevertheless, Sushmita Mukherjee aka 'Rekha' is doing everything in her power to make this marriage fail because she does not want to make Gaura her Bahu. Does faith have any further intentions for Rekha, Som, and Gaur? Will Rekha triumph?

Stay tune to watch 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' every Monday-Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Star Bharat.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Bring about
- Shoe part
- Additional
- Dad's sisters
- Wheel shaft
- Bakery employee
- Begin
- Ocean's fluid (2 wds.)
- Cavity
- Prisoner
- Wind dir.

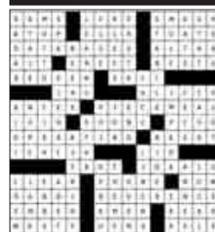
DOWN

- Money
- Passenger vehicle
- Unchanged
- Scattered
- NJ time zone
- Common contraction
- Test
- Fitzgerald of jazz
- Alphabet part
- Actress _____ Farrow
- Eight musicians
- _____ Witherspoon of "Just Like Heaven"
- Was mistaken
- _____ corji
- Singer _____ Hayes
- Bride's response (2 wds.)
- Over
- Talented

575

- Yank
- Furious
- Medicinal amount
- Paring tool
- Actress _____ Streep
- _____ Vegas, Nevada
- Junior's dad
- Express relief
- Helper
- Not fresh
- At no time, poetically
- Clue
- Anchorman _____ Jennings
- Different
- Plus
- Change
- Increase
- Author Oscar _____
- Norwegian port
- _____ belt
- Strike back
- Cozy
- Rim
- Astronaut _____ Armstrong
- Sequence
- Cloth
- And not
- Singer _____ Franklin
- Method
- Jet
- Artist's stand
- Road curves
- Slogan
- Brad
- Lodges
- Secluded valley
- Cow crowd
- Indignation
- Resort

SOLUTION 574



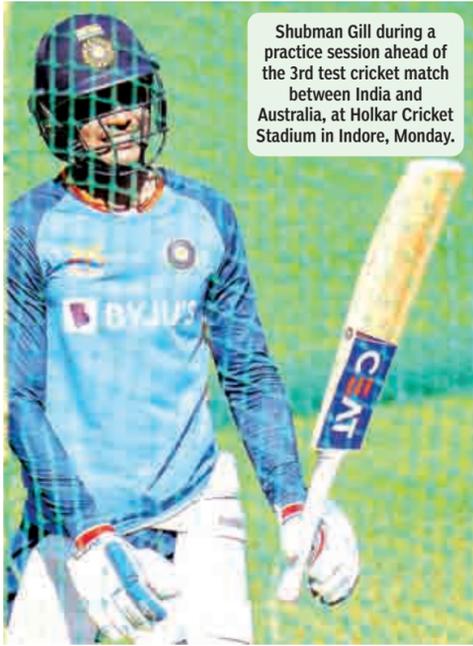
Fighting for the same spot, Rahul, Gill grind it out simultaneously in nets

Indore, Feb 27 (PTI):

There were no definite cues but it seemed like an audition when the struggling K L Rahul and the much younger Shubam Gill batted simultaneously during a training session on Monday ahead of the third Test against Australia.

Stripped of India vice-captaincy following his prolonged lean patch in the five-day format, Rahul put in the hard yards in what could possibly be the final training session before the game, beginning Wednesday.

The selection of Rahul, who averages an ordinary 33.44 after 47 Tests, at the expense of Gill, who is a superstar in the making, has divided opinions in the cricketing fraternity. Both batted in adjacent nets for around 30 minutes under the supervision of head coach Rahul Dravid. Rahul has got an extended run as the team management has immense faith in his abilities but with every failure, the pressure is mounting on the stylish opener. Gill, on the other hand, has had a coming-of-age season across for-



Shubman Gill during a practice session ahead of the 3rd test cricket match between India and Australia, at Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore, Monday.

mats and his supporters, which include former cricketers, believe there is no better time to draft him into the playing eleven. While Gill was more attacking in his approach, Rahul bided his time and focused on his defence. Rahul left and

blocked the first 18 balls he faced before practicing the aerial hits down the ground off spinners.

He then traded places with Gill to face R Ashwin and there also, he looked to play everything with a straight bat. Before batting along-

Wickets are not unplayable: KS Bharat

Indore: The wickets so far in the Border-Gavaskar trophy have not been unplayable but require the batters to trust their defence, said India wicketkeeper K S Bharat on Monday. Having been part of the Test side for past 12 months, Bharat finally got to make his debut in the ongoing series with Rishabh Pant recovering from the injuries he sustained during a car accident in December. Bharat was impressive behind the stumps in the first two Tests and played a morale-boosting knock in India's chase of 115 in Delhi. Sent ahead of Ravindra Jadeja in the small run chase, Bharat scored an attacking 23 off 22 balls, comprising three fours and a six.

side Rahul, Gill was the first member of the team to hit the nets as other underwent warm-up and fielding drills.

After their stint in the main nets, both Gill and Rahul moved to the other side of the ground to face a few throwdowns.

Swept away by the spin test, Smith and Co concentrate on orthodox cricket



Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne during a practice session ahead of the 3rd test cricket match between India and Australia, at Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore, Monday.

Indore, Feb 27 (PTI): Ravichandran Ashwin's enviable record in Test matches at the Holkar Stadium could make the Australian batters rethink their strategy of playing the high-risk sweep shots, which brought about their downfall in the first two games. Ashwin has 18 wickets in the two Tests he has played at this venue at an average of

12.5 runs. Australia, who arrived here a week after their second-innings surrender in Delhi, turned up for the net session before their scheduled time. They were slammed for their tactics against Indian spinners at the Ferozeshah Kotla with half of the side falling to the poorly-executed sweep shots on a slow and low surface. Having lost the chance to regain the

Starc good enough for third Test

Indore, Feb 27 (PTI) Senior Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has still not '100 per cent' recovered from his injury but is ready to make an impact in the third Test against India beginning here on Wednesday.

With skipper Pat Cummins back home to be with his unwell mother, Australia will rely on Starc to provide the odd breakthrough and support the spinners.

Indian pacers have already made a substantial contribution in the series with Mohammed Shami being the standout fast bowler. "I am feeling fine. There's going to be a level of discomfort for a while. I



Mitchell Starc bowls during a practice session ahead of the 3rd test cricket match between India and Australia, at Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore, Monday.

don't think it's going to be a 100 per cent for a fair while, but it's good enough. "The ball is coming out quite nicely and I am bowling at full tilt.

Border-Gavaskar trophy, Australia looked keen to learn from their mistakes in their three-hour-long training session. Rather than going for the sweep shot, Steve Smith and Co concentrated on front-foot defence against the spinners besides stepping out to hit down the ground. Smith and Usman Khawaja were the first ones to hit the nets and batted for more than

an hour against Nathan Lyon and Matthew Kuhnemann. One of the best batters against spin in the Australian set-up, Smith's performances have been underwhelming so far and he will be keen to correct that in the game beginning Wednesday. Lyon troubled both Khawaja and Smith as the duo looked determined to firm up their defence.

Harmanpreet to lead India in Pro League matches against Germany and Australia

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead a 20-member Indian men's hockey team against reigning world champions Germany and world No. 4 Australia in the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League matches in Rourkela.

Harmanpreet will be assisted by mid-fielder Hardik Singh.

The squad includes experienced goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and young Pawan, who replaced Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who has sought leave for his marriage.

The defence will be led

by Harmanpreet, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Kess, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Manjeet, and Manpreet Singh.

The midfielders include Hardik, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Shamsher Singh and Raj Kumar Pal.

Young S Karthi, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek and Gurjant will form the fulcrum of the strike force.

Australian David John and BJ Kariappa have been named as the interim coaches along with Shivendra Singh for the upcoming matches.

Lovlina, Nikhat to spearhead India's challenge in Women's World Boxing Championship

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen will spearhead India's challenge at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2023 here. The tournament will be held from March 15 to 26 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex.

Tokyo bronze medalist, Borgohain (75kg) has two world championships bronze medals so far. She will join several Olympic medalists from other countries in search of glory. Zareen, on the other hand, will defend her title in the 50kg category. She



Boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

became the world champion in the 2022 IBA Women's World Championships held in Istanbul. Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medalist Nitu



Boxer Nikhat Zareen.

Ghanghas will also compete in the 48kg category. The two-time Youth World champion will look to add yet another major medal to her name. "In the last few years, India have be-

come a powerhouse of boxing and we intend to further cement our standing with this talented contingent for the IBA Women's World Championships. It's a line-up of champions and I am sure that they'll bring glory to the country again," said Ajay Singh, president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Manisha Moun, who announced her arrival on the global stage with impressive performances at the 2018 World Championships in Delhi, will represent the country in the highly-competitive 57kg featherweight category.

After poor Ranji Trophy, Rana aims for good IPL with KKR

Mumbai, Feb 27 (PTI):

Having endured a wretched red ball season for Delhi in the Ranji Trophy, dashing left-hander Nitish Rana is determined to make amends by playing some vital knocks for Kolkata Knight Riders in the upcoming Indian Premier League.

Rana was dropped from the Ranji team after scores of 14, 40 and 0 and came back in the final game against Mumbai in which he managed only 11 and 6 not out.

T20 is Rana's favourite format and over the years he has played some good knocks for KKR. With a career T20 strike-rate of 136



after 161 shortest format games, Rana is one of the batting mainstays for the Shah Rukh co-owned franchise.

The southpaw took to social media and shared his training video where he was seen striking the ball well.

Record-breaker Williamson bats Black Caps back into 2nd Test

Wellington, Feb 27 (AP):

Kane Williamson was officially and unofficially New Zealand's best batsman on the fourth day of the second Test Monday as his 26th Test century allowed New Zealand to lead England by 257 runs after following on.

Tom Blundell made 90 and was the last man out as New Zealand's second innings ended at 483 less than an hour before stumps.

Under New Zealand-born head coach Brendon McCullum, England already has pulled off its highest successful run chase in tests, scoring 378 to beat India at Edgbaston last year. This chase for 258 with more than 100 overs available would seem a walk in the park by comparison.

Tim Southee removed Zac Crawley (24) with a ball that cut back to hit off peg and at stumps England was 48-1, needing 210 from 103 overs on the last day to sweep the two-match series.

The odds still heavily favour the visitors but Williamson at least has given New Zealand hope. When he reached 29 on his way to 132, he became New Zealand's highest run-scorer in Tests, overtaking his former teammate Ross Taylor, who ended his career last year with 7,682 runs.

And in batting for all of the fourth day, in productive partnerships with Henry Nicholls, Daryl



Kane Williamson celebrates making 100 runs against England on day 4 of their cricket test match in Wellington, New Zealand, Monday.

Mitchell and Tom Blundell, Williamson guided New Zealand from a 226 run deficit when England enforced the follow-on Sunday to a respectable lead.

"I don't sort of think too much about records," Williamson said. "It's all about the team and the position you're in and trying to do more. "It was nice to be part of some partnerships today and get a pret-

ty good second innings effort on the board. Having said that you always want more and we were hoping for a few more in terms of the position we got ourselves into. But all to play for tomorrow."

After making only 10 runs in his previous three innings in the series, Williamson showed why he is New Zealand's best batsman when the chips are down.

Revenge for Norrie against Alcaraz at Rio Open

Rio de Janeiro, Feb 27 (AP):

Cameron Norrie waited a week for his revenge against top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz, rallying from a set and 3-0 down to beat the Spanish teenager in the Rio Open final on Sunday for his first title of the year.

Second-seeded Norrie won 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 to win the fifth title of his career after defeats in the final to Richard Gasquet in Auckland in January and to Alcaraz in the Argentina Open championship match last weekend. Alcaraz's failure to retain his title at the clay-court tournament in Rio de Janeiro also stopped

him from tying with Novak Djokovic in points at the top of the rankings. Djokovic would still have been No. 1 due to other results.

Alcaraz and Norrie went head to head in a tightly fought first set, which was eventually decided by Alcaraz's drop shots breaking Norrie's serve.

Alcaraz showed more confidence with his powerful forehand shots at the start of the second set, and opened a 3-0 advantage against Norrie. But the British player recovered in the middle of the set as Alcaraz felt pains in his right leg, which hindered his movement and serve.

Mbapp and Messi combine as leader PSG wins 3-0 at Marseille

Paris, Feb 27 (AP):

Kylian Mbapp scored twice and Lionel Messi got the other goal as the World Cup final stars combined to give French league leader Paris Saint-Germain a 3-0 win at title challenger Marseille.

Mbapp tops the league's scoring charts outright with 17 goals, and he matched Edinson Cavani's PSG club-record tally of 200 in the process on Sunday.

What better place to do it than at bitter rival Marseille, where PSG lost in the French Cup earlier this month without the in-



Lionel Messi kicks the ball during the French League One soccer match between Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille.

jured Mbapp in the team? This time, PSG was without the injured Neymar but didn't miss the Brazil star.

A win would have moved second-place Marseille within two points of defending champion PSG. Instead, Marseille trails by eight points with only 13 rounds remaining.

"Everyone put in the right effort," PSG coach Christophe Galtier said.

Galtier is from Marseille and played for the club as a gritty defender, which means some Marseille fans are simply unable to understand why he is coaching PSG.

'WPL great platform to make India comeback'

Mumbai, Feb 27 (PTI):



Seasoned India leg-spinner Poonam Yadav believes the Women's Premier League (WPL) will not just provide a great opportunity to senior players to come back into national reckoning, it will also be a boon for young players to learn from international stars.

The Delhi Capitals player, who is hoping to take the WPL route to regain her place in the national side, added the tournament will take Indian women's cricket to the next level. The 31-year-old last played for India in an ODI against Bangladesh in March last year and was bought by the Delhi franchise for the inaugural

Richa Ghosh only Indian in ICC's 'Most Valuable Team' of Women's T20 World Cup

Cape Town, Feb 27 (PTI):

India's wicket-keeper batter Richa Ghosh's exploits during the side's run to the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup here have earned her a place in ICC's Most Valuable Team of the tournament announced on Monday.

The 19-year-old wicket-keeper and middle-order batter had a couple of below-par scores against Ireland in the group stages and Australia in the semi-finals, but three unbeaten knocks — 31 not out vs Pakistan, 44 not out vs West Indies and 47 not out vs England — saw her end the tournament with 136 runs. Four players from Australia, who lifted the trophy for a record-



extending sixth time, figure in the XI. They are wicketkeeper-opener Alyssa Healy, who scored 189 runs at 47.25 and effected four dismissals, all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner, who scored 110 runs at 36.66 and grabbed 10 wickets at 12.50, Darcie Brown (seven wickets at 15.00) and Megan Schutt (10 wickets at 12.50).

HOLI FESTIVAL



A worker spread coloured powder (Gulaal) to dry ahead of the Holi festival, in Gurugram, Monday.

SC refuses to entertain pleas seeking postponement of NEET-PG

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain pleas seeking postponement of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG 2023, which is scheduled for March 5, saying there is nothing in this world to prevent somebody who has not made it to try again. The apex court was dealing with two petitions seeking postponement of the postgraduate medical entrance test.

The petitioners had sought postponement of the exam, saying they did not get adequate time to prepare for the exam and that the counselling has to be conducted after August 11 since the cut-off date for internship has been

extended to that date.

A bench of Justices S R Bhat and Dipankar Datta was informed by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the National Board of Examinations (NBE), that admit cards for the exam have been issued on Monday as per schedule and the counselling may commence from July 15. She told the bench that the date of exam was announced in September last year.

"There is no date available in the near future with our technology partner to conduct the exam," she told the bench. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, said the examination

can be postponed by some weeks and asked if the counselling has to take place after August 11, is there much advantage by rushing the exam in this manner. Bhati said administrative arrangements have been put in place for the scheduled exam.

Senior advocate Vivek Tankha, who also appeared for the petitioners, said for every candidate the subject and the college is very important. "There is nothing in this world to prevent somebody who has not made it to try again," the bench observed. Tankha said this has become "acute" because of NEET as every state earlier used to have its own exam for medical admission.

"Right or wrong, all this is a part of the evolutionary process. Sometimes...it's right, sometimes it's wrong. You will take it as it comes," the bench said, adding, "We are not entertaining the petitions". On February 24, the NBE had told the apex court that around 2.09 lakh candidates have registered for the NEET-PG exam 2023 and no alternative date for conducting it may be available in the near future if it is postponed.

The NEET-PG examination will be conducted as per schedule on March 5 for those aspiring to get admission to postgraduate medical courses, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had told Lok Sabha on February 10.

SC to hear on March 21 pleas challenging tenure extension of ED director

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on March 21 the pleas challenging the amended law allowing extension of up to five years for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) director. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Aravind Kumar deferred the matter after noting that it needs a detailed hearing. "List on March 21," the bench said.

As the hearing commenced, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that an affidavit has been filed by the Centre stating that the petitions in the matter have been filed on behalf of such leaders against whom cases of money laundering are pending. "All political peo-

ple facing serious money laundering cases have come before this court," he submitted. To this, the top court remarked, "We are not concerned with that."

Senior advocate KV Vishwanathan, who has been appointed as amicus curiae in the case, said extensions may only be granted in exceptional cases. The top court on December 12 had sought the response from the Centre and others to a plea challenging the third extension granted to Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra. It had issued notices to the Union of India, Central Vigilance Commission and the ED director on a plea filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur.

Witness Umesh Pal killing

One accused gunned down in encounter by UP police

Prayagraj (UP), Feb 27 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh police on Monday gunned down one of the accused in the sensational February 24 killing of a prime witness in the 2005 murder case of then BSP MLA Raju Pal in an encounter here, an official said. Police claimed that they retaliated when he opened fire at them.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Navendu Kumar told PTI that Arbaaz, who was the driver of the white SUV used by the assailants to attack witness Umesh Pal, was surrounded by police teams following an intelligence input.

He opened fire on the police and was injured in the ensuing encounter in Nehru Park under Dhoomanganj police station at around 3 pm, Kumar said. He was taken



Policemen on the spot where Arbaaz, suspect in Umesh Pal's killing, was killed in an encounter, in Prayagraj, Monday.

to hospital where doctors declared him dead, the officer said. "Arbaaz was accompanied by two or three other people who managed to escape from the spot. We

are trying to track them," the officer added. Umesh Pal and his police security guard Sandeep Nishad were shot dead on Friday outside his home in

Dhoomanganj area of Prayagraj. Another security personnel Raghendra Singh, who was injured in the attack, was admitted to SRN Hospital in critical

condition and was referred to Lucknow on Sunday.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by Umesh Pal's wife Jaya Pal, a case was registered at Dhoomanganj police station (in Prayagraj) against gangster-turned politician Atiq Ahmed, his brother Ashraf, wife Shaista Parveen, two sons, aides Guddu Muslim and Gulam and nine others.

They have been booked under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, police said.

Cop accused of killing minister was efficient: Minister

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27 (PTI):

Odisha minister TK Behera on Monday said the dismissed assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Gopal Das who allegedly shot dead health minister Naba Kishore Das last month was an efficient police officer. Gopal Das joined the police service as a constable in 1992 and was promoted to the post of ASI in 2009, the minister of state for home said. Since 1993, he had been praised by the Odisha Police 45 times, Behera said while replying to a question of BJP member Kusum Tete in the Assembly. The police officer had gunned down the health minister while the latter was stepping out of his vehicle to attend a public meeting at Gandhi Chowk on January 29. The government handed over the probe to the state Crime Branch.

No allegation of Gautam Navlakha committing any act of violence, lawyer tells HC

Mumbai, Feb 27 (PTI):

There is no allegation against Gautam Navlakha of committing any "act of violence" in the voluminous chargesheet filed in the Elgar Parisha-Maoist links case, the activist's lawyer told the Bombay High Court on Monday.

While arguing for the activist's bail, the lawyer also said that there was no prospect of the trial in the case to commence in the near future. A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and P D Naik is hearing the arguments on the bail plea, and the same will continue on Tuesday.

Navlakha was arrested in April 2020 after he sur-

rendered before the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and is currently under house arrest pursuant to the Supreme Court's order.

Appearing for Navlakha, advocate Yug Chaudhary said there was not a single allegation of the activist committing any act of violence, association of violence, abetment of violence, or being part of conspiracy to commit violence in the chargesheet filed by the probe agency.

Hence, no offence under chapter IV (punishment for terrorist activities) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), is made out, he argued. "The basic ingredient of chapter IV is commission

of a terror act, abetment, association or conspiracy. There is nothing against me (accused)," the lawyer submitted.

"There was no description of terrorist acts in the chargesheet. No seizure of bombs, arms...there has to be something. It cannot be an imagination," he said.

Chaudhary, further, claimed that if at all any allegation is made out, it is for offences carrying five to 10 years of imprisonment. He also pointed out the delay in commencement of trial while arguing for Navlakha's bail.

The discharge application was argued months ago, but the prosecution is yet to file its reply. A large number of discharge ap-

plications (of other accused) are pending and charges have not been framed yet, the lawyer submitted. Hence, there is no prospect of the trial to begin soon. Even if the trial begins, it will go on for decades, he added.

Chaudhary further informed the court that till today, they haven't received the clone copies of the documents seized from the computer of the accused.

The Elgar case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial in Pune district.

India likely to miss 2030 deadline for over half of health SDGs: Lancet study

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

India is not on target for over 50 per cent of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to health and social determinants of health seven years before the 2030 deadline, according to a study published in The Lancet journal.

An international team of researchers found that over 75 per cent Indian districts are off target for crucial SDG indicators like access to basic services, poverty, stunting and wasting of children, anaemia, child marriage, partner violence, tobacco use, and modern contraceptive use.

For these indicators, more than 75 per cent of the districts were off-target.

These districts are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha. "India is not on target for 19 of the 33 SDGs indicators... Because of a worsening trend observed between 2016 and 2021, and assuming no course correction occurs, many districts will never meet the targets on the SDGs even well after 2030," the authors of the study noted.

"Developing a strategic roadmap at this time will help India ensure success with regards to meeting the SDGs," they said. India's emergence and sustenance as a leading economic power depends on meeting some of the more basic health and social determinants of health-related

SDGs in an immediate and equitable manner, the authors said. The study provides the first systematic midline assessment of the progress that 707 Indian districts out of 763 have made to achieve the SDGs related to health and social determinants of health.

The assessment suggests an urgent need to increase the pace and momentum on four SDG goals: No poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3) and gender equality (SDG 5).

The researchers, from Harvard University, US, Laxmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute in New Delhi, Graduate School of Korea University, and Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, pointed

out some positives as well. India is on-target to meet 13 out of the 33 indicators.

These are internet use, bank account for women, full vaccination, improved sanitation, reduction in multi-dimensional poverty, birth registration, skilled birth attendants, electricity access, tobacco use reduction among women, lowering of child marriage among less than 15-year-old girls, under-five mortality, teenage sexual violence and neonatal mortality.

Among the 19 off-target indicators, the conditions have worsened for three related to anaemia because of an increase in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and non-pregnant women between 2016 and 2021.

Young authors should have collective consciousness to fight censorship: Nobel laureate Annie Ernaux

New Delhi, Feb 27 (PTI):

Censorship in writing is a "tragedy," said 2022 Nobel Prize winner Annie Ernaux as she encouraged young authors to have a "collective consciousness" to fight against its imposition.

Ernaux, who is on her maiden visit to India as part of a delegation of authors from France -- the guest country in the ongoing New Delhi World Book Fair -- was speaking here on Sunday at the Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts.

"Alone we cannot do anything. So first of all I would like to tell young authors to have a collective consciousness to fight... It is a tragedy, real

drama to be censored when you write and this was the case in Europe, USSR and Eastern Europe, the change happened with the change of regime... so collective fight against the government imposing censorship is what is necessary," said the 82-year-old French writer.

Ernaux, however, admitted that it is "very easy" for someone like her -- who has come from outside -- to say the above as she comes from a country where "censorship does not exist anymore".

The author of "L'vnement" (Happening), "La Place" (A Man's Place) and her most critically acclaimed book "Les anneés" (The Years),

Ernaux was awarded the Nobel for the "courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements, and collective restraints of personal memory".

Having shifted from fiction early in her career to focus on memoirs, Ernaux's work would often combine historic and individual experiences.

When asked about reasons behind her abandoning fiction altogether, the author of "A Woman's Story" said, to her, novels were sort of a "betrayal" towards her relationship with the world -- which she claimed was different from the kids with the "bourgeois background".

Youth should understand importance of India's 'invaluable legacy': President Murmu

Jaipur, Feb 27 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu said on Monday that it is necessary for the youth and children to understand the importance of the country's "invaluable legacy". She also emphasised that basic values and principles should be passed from one generation to another to keep the Indianness alive.

"We should be proud of our rich culture and our youth and children should understand the importance of invaluable legacy of the country, it is important," Murmu said while addressing a gathering at the 14th Rashtriya



President Droupadi Murmu with Union MoS for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal and Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra during the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, in Bikaner, Monday.

Sanskriti Mahotsav in Bikaner in Rajasthan. She further said, "Change is the rule of life

but some basic values and principles should be passed on from generation to generation to keep the

Indianness alive." Murmu also said there is a need to identify arts and artisans in villages, which have a plenty of them, and bring them to limelight.

The 14th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being organised from February 25 to March 5 at Karni Singh Stadium in Bikaner by the Union Ministry of Culture.

The nine-day cultural extravaganza will see participation of artistes from across India. This festival is a unique effort to bring recognition to India's various arts, cuisines and handicrafts at one place.

The president said that it is necessary to match technology with traditions and science with art.

कालड़ा बर्न एंव

प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

फेस लिफ्ट

बोटावर्सफिलर

शेड लिफ्ट

रिक्तन पॉलिशिंग

लेजर फेशियल

फॉन: 9827143060/8871003060