

YUGMARG

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CIRCULATED IN DELHI, CHANDIGARH, PUNJAB, HARYANA, HIMACHAL AND J&K



Badal, BJP and Captain's nefarious alliance won't be able to form the govt: Cheema



PGI Professor's second edition of Roadmap and Control of Substance Abuse in Punjab issued



New study finds better treatment for Parkinson's disease

Team India becomes No.1 ranked side in T20Is



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Gold prices decline Rs 212; silver down by Rs 480

NEW DELHI: Gold prices on Monday declined by Rs 212 to Rs 49,827 per 10 gram in the national capital, in line with selling in the overseas markets, along with a rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 50,039 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver tumbled by Rs 480 to Rs 63,329 per kg, compared with the previous close of Rs 63,809.

SC to hear plea seeking cancellation of Class X, XII offline exams

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking cancellation of physical exams for Class X and XII to be conducted by all State Boards, CBSE, ICSE and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana, Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli agreed to list the matter for an early hearing. A lawyer mentioned the petition for urgent listing of the case before the bench stating, "This is regarding class X and XII exams. Physical classes could not be conducted due to pandemic." "Let the matter go before the bench of Justice AM Khanwilkar," said the CJI.

Case lodged against SP chief Akhilesh

ETAWAH : A case has been lodged against Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav for violation of the model code of conduct at Saifai police station. Returning Officer Shruti Singh on Monday informed that the case has been lodged under The Representation of The People Act and section 188 of the CrPC for disobeying official order by talking to the media within 200 meter periphery of Abhinav School polling station after casting his vote on Sunday. The case was lodged on the basis of a joint report submitted by SDM Saifai, Jyotsana Bandhu and Circle Officer Vijay Singh.

Security forces recover

IEDs, weapons
MALKANGIRI : A joint team of Special Operating Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) recovered a major Maoist's dump of incriminating articles near the jungle area of Nadmenjeri village under Jantri gram panchayat under Jodambo police limits in the border area of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in Malkangiri district, informed Nitesh Wadhmani, SP, Malkangiri on Sunday afternoon. Speaking to the a news agency, Malkangiri SP said, "This has led to the recovery and seizure of a large number of arms, improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), explosives, Maoist literature and other incriminating articles."

Fodder Scam: Lalu Yadav sentenced to five years Jail

AGENCY RANCHI, FEBRUARY 21

A CBI court on Monday sentenced former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav to five years imprisonment in the fifth fodder scam case and imposed a fine of Rs 60 lakhs on him. Yadav was declared guilty on February 15. Of the 99 accused in the case, 24 were acquitted, while three-year jail terms were pronounced for the 46 accused. The fate of the remaining accused will be decided on Monday.

Yadav has been found guilty of illegal withdrawals of Rs 139.35 crore from the Doranda treasury by a special CBI court in Jharkhand's Ranchi.

The hearing for the pronouncement of quantum of punishment for Yadav has been scheduled for today.

Yadav has been sentenced in four fodder scam cases. This case (RC 47A/97) was the fifth and the biggest in which Rs 139.35 crore was illegally withdrawn.

The Rs 950-crore fodder scam relates to the fraudulent withdrawal of public funds from government treasuries in various districts of undivided



Bihar.

Of the original 170 accused in the matter, 55 have died, seven have become government witnesses, two have accepted the charges against them and six are absconding. The court gave the verdict on February 15 against the remaining 99 accused, including Yadav.

The scam came into light after a

raid conducted by Deputy Commissioner of Chaibasa Amit Khare at the Animal Husbandry Department in January 1996. The CBI was roped in by the Patna High Court in March 1996 after increasing pressure to investigate the case. The CBI registered an FIR in the case at a time when Bihar was still undivided.

In June 1997, Yadav was named

an accused in the case for the first time in the chargesheet filed by the CBI.

Following the chargesheet and mounting pressure from the Opposition, Yadav resigned as the Chief Minister after which Rabri Devi succeeded him in July 1997 even while he continued to operate behind the curtains in Bihar.

Due to the bifurcation of Bihar and the formation of Jharkhand, the case was transferred to the Jharkhand High Court in October 2001. Special CBI court began trial in the fodder scam case in February 2002. Yadav's first conviction came in September 2013 in the Chaibasa treasury case related to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 37.70 crore.

He was handed over five years in prison leading to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha membership. He was later granted bail by the Supreme Court.

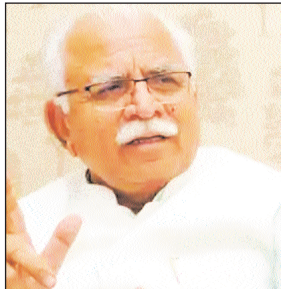
The RJD supremo's trouble renewed again in 2017 when a special CBI court in December 2017 convicted him in the second scam case related to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from Deoghari treasury.

Village level Committee will be formed for ensuring development works: Hry CM

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal said that till the Panchayat elections are not held in the state, village-level Committees would be constituted to play an important role in the implementation of development works.

Work will be done in the village only in consultation with these Committees. Due to this, development work in the village will also not be affected and the demands of public representatives will also be heard. Along with this, the meetings of Gram Sabha will also be organized regularly, said Sh. Manohar Lal. The Chief Minister said this while speaking during the pre-budget discussion with the representatives and officials associated with rural development and Panchayati Raj institutions held on Monday. The Chief Minister said that officers and public representatives should work together for the development of rural areas so that it brings better results. Every penny should be used for the public. The public is first of all con-



nected with the lower level unit of the system, which is the Gram Panchayat; hence strengthening this unit is the utmost priority of the State Government. In this new budget, we need to take a new resolution, said Sh. Manohar Lal. The Chief Minister said that the Gram Darshan Portal, Vikas Nidhi Portal of each village has been created for ensuring rural development. Through the Gram Darshan Portal, every villager can share their problem related to their village with the government. Besides this, there is also a need to think about increasing the income of Gram Panchayats. Income can also be increased through various subjects.

India, France sign roadmap to enhance bilateral exchanges

AGENCY PARIS, FEB 21

India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and forge a common vision of ocean governance based on the rule of law and cooperate on sustainable and resilient coastal and waterways infrastructure.

The agreement was signed during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's three-day visit to France which began on Sunday with bilateral talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The roadmap scope will encompass maritime trade, the naval indus-



try, fisheries, marine technology and scientific research, ocean observation, marine biodiversity, marine ecosystem-based management and integrated coastal management, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways,

cooperation between competent administrations on civil maritime issues, marine spatial planning as well as international law of the sea and related multilateral negotiations.

"India and France intend to make the blue economy a driver of progress of their respective societies while respecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. Both countries aim to contribute to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Sunday.

It said the two countries wish to

contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. The two sides called for a sustainable approach to fishing that would ensure decent living conditions to professionals of the sector, while conserving the resource in the medium and long terms. "India and France nurture a high quality dialogue on maritime security, which enables them to raise strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific. This partnership marks a significant step-forward in India-France cooperation for maritime security, the ministry said.

Two band artists die of electrocution in Faridabad

AGENCY FARIDABAD (HARYANA), FEB 21

Two band artists died of electrocution in the Tigaon area here, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Junhera village late on Sunday night during a marriage function, they said.

The deceased have been identified as Akbar (25) and Atru (45), both residents of Sohna town in Haryana.

Akbar and Atru were holding umbrella lights when a band was accompanying a marriage party. They came in contact with a live wire and died of electric shock, police said. Police reached the spot after learning

about the incident and took the bodies in their custody, Station House Officer of Tigaon police station Satyapal said.

He said the bodies were handed to family members after post-mortem.

The families of the deceased demanded monetary help from the administration.

My husband was the sole breadwinner in the family. He received Rs 500 per event of the band. I have five children -- a son and four daughters -- and now I have no means to feed my family. I need help, said Asmin, the wife of Akbar. Atru's family too asked for help from the government. Atru is survived by his wife and nine children, family members said.

US claims Russia has ordered final preparations for invasion

AGENCY KYIV, FEB 21

Russia on Sunday rescinded earlier pledges to pull tens of thousands of its troops back from Ukraine's northern border, a move that US leaders said put Russia another step closer to launching what they said was the planned invasion of Ukraine.

Residents of Ukraine's capital filled a gold-domed cathedral to pray for peace.

Russia's action extends what it said were military exercises, originally set to end Sunday, that brought an estimated 30,000 Russian forces to Belarus, Ukraine's neighbour to the north. They are among at least 150,000 Russian troops now deployed outside Ukraine's borders, along with tanks, warplanes, artillery and other war materiel.

The continued deployment of the Russian forces in Belarus raised concern that they could be used to sweep down on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, a city of about 3 million people less than a three-hour drive away.

In Kyiv, life outwardly continued as usual for some on a mild winter Sunday, with brunches and church services,



ahead of what US President Joe Biden said late last week was an already decided-upon Russian attack.

Katerina Spanchak, who fled a region of eastern Ukraine when it was taken over by Russian-allied separatists, was among worshippers crowded into the capital's St. Michael's monastery, smoky with the candles burned by the faithful, to pray that Ukraine be spared.

We all love life, and we are all united by our love of life," Spanchak said, pausing to compose herself. We should appreciate it every day. That's why I think everything will be fine. Our joint prayers will help to elude this tragedy, which is advancing," said another worshipper, who identified himself only by his first name, Oleh. A US official said Sunday that Biden's assertion that Putin has made the decision to roll Russian forces.

Farmers to benefit under PM-Kusum scheme

JASWINDER SHARMA
KARNAL: To promote agricultural activities using solar energy in rural areas, subsidies on solar power pumps are being provided to the farmers by the central and state government. Haryana Government has taken an important initiative under the able leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal, which will prove to be very beneficial for the farmers of the state. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Uthhan Mahabhayan i.e. PM-Kusum Yojana, 75 percent subsidy is being given by the state government to the farmers for installing solar pump sets, which farmers should take advantage of. Deputy Commissioner Anish Yadav informed that this unique initiative has been taken by the state government for irrigation work to the farmers under PM-KUSUM scheme. In order to save water and electricity, the Haryana government is focusing on replacing the traditional tube wells with solar pump sets and micro irrigation instead of the old pattern of irrigation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Uthhan Mahabhayan i.e. PM-KUSUM Yojana, farmers can take a solar pump for irrigation at a discount of 75 percent. Farmers will have to pay only 25 percent of the cost of the solar pump.

Man commits suicide

PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: 35-year-old Pawan's son Singram of village Mehmadpur committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree in the forest of Sadipur. Mentally disturbed due to drug addiction, Pawan was missing from the house for two days. Jeeto Devi told the police that her only son Pawan was a victim of addiction. He was mentally disturbed, due to intoxication and could not even get married. Jeeto Devi reached there after getting information about the dead body of a young man hanging from a tree in the forest of Sadipur, she identified the deceased as her son Pawan, Jeeto Devi did not blame anyone for the death of her son, SHO Ramphal said that action is being taken on the statement of Jeeto Dev

30 hurt in Communal clash

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: About three months ago, on the night of Diwali, the spark of a dispute between two communities in Nagal village was ignited again today. But this time the controversy seemed to be more serious than before in which about 30 people from both the communities are said to be injured. Out of these, 10-12 have been admitted to the hospital in serious condition. The attackers attacked the houses and whoever came forward was beaten. Even household items and many bikes were also broken. Sticks were used in the attacks. Bricks were also reportedly thrown.

On getting information about the matter, the police administration swung into action. DSP Radaur Rajat Gulia reached the spot along with the police force and interacted with the people of both the sides. Later District Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal and DSP Pramod Kumar also inspected the spot and assured of appropriate action in the matter. When the police were informed, the station in-charge came to the spot with two vehicles.

Board exams for class V, VIII postponed

CHANDIGARH- Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal said that the board examinations for class V and VIII have been postponed for the next one year. These examinations will not be conducted this year by the Haryana Board of School Education. The Chief Minister gave this information while interacting with media persons. The Chief Minister said that recently, the Haryana Board of School Education had decided to conduct class V and VIII examinations. After this, some parents and school managers met him in this regard and urged the Board to postpone it, citing that studies have been affected due to the Covid Pandemic. Due to this, the Board has decided not to conduct these examinations through Haryana Board of School Education for one year.

Accused held in factory theft

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Tightening the screws on the criminals against the property as per the order of SP Maqsood Ahmed, the accused was arrested by the police station civil line in the case of stealing goods from the factory. The accused was produced in the court on Monday, from where he was sent to judicial custody on order of the court. Police spokesman Pradeep Nain said that according to the complaint of Sunil Jindal resident Sector 20 Hooda Kaithal, he has a factory to make agricultural machinery on Jind bypass. Satyavan, a resident of village Atila, used to work in his factory a year ago. Goods were being stolen from his factory for 6 months. On 9 January this year, he caught Satyavan stealing in the factory, but released him after Satyavan apologised. On February 19, at 9 pm, Satyavan was caught red handed again while stealing from the factory. The spokesman said that after registering a case in the police station civil line, during investigation by the head constable Rohtash of the police station civil line, accused Satyawan resident Atila was arrested from Baba Ladana. After thorough interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing the goods from the factory. During the investigation, the stolen property was recovered from the possession of the accused. He was produced in the court on Monday, from where he was sent to judicial custody as per the order of the court.

Accused arrested in rape case

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Police PRO Pradeep Nain said that during the quick investigation of a sodomisation case with a 7-year-old minor child, resident of a village under police station Sadar by the team of outpost in-charge Sagantpura Sub-Inspector Ramesh Kumar, about 22-year-old accused Bajjeet resident Sanghan was arrested. On the complaint of the father of the child, as per the case registered on February 18 in the police station Sadar, a case was registered by the above accused for raping his minor boy, on which the accused was arrested by SI Ramesh Kumar during the prompt investigation. The accused was produced in the court on Monday, from where he was sent to judicial custody under the order of the court.

HARYANA

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

HSNCB prepares roadmap for drug prevention in State

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB) has prepared a roadmap from village, ward-level to state level to eradicate drugs. Presiding over the State Apex Committee meeting held on Monday in this regard, Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said HSNCB would coordinate with various departments for the prevention of drug abuse as per the aim of the state government and spread information in this regard by holding awareness campaigns. He said the objective of the government is to prevent and control drug smuggling and to rehabilitate drug addicts. For this, the HSNCB should prepare an institutional structure, in which the senior officers of all the concerned departments should also be involved, so that the schemes can be implemented

in this direction with uniformity. He directed the officers that the Administrative Secretaries of the departments should send their suggestions to the Haryana State Drug Control Bureau within the next seven days so that the State Action Plan can be finalised at the earliest. Kaushal said the Bureau should conduct scientific, social and psychological studies in collaboration with various universities of the state to prepare a policy and effective strategy for rehabilitation.

For this, soon the draft of terms and conditions should be prepared and finalised. Besides this, periodic evaluation reports of the work being done by the Bureau should also be prepared. He said youth clubs set up by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department should also be included in the awareness campaign. HSNCB Additional Director General of Police Shrikant Jadhav informed that

mission teams have been formulated from village-ward level to state-level for the prevention of drugs. The main objective of these teams will be to trace drug addicts, thereafter, enter their data in the mobile application, to make substantial efforts to counsel and rehabilitate addicts and to spread awareness in this regard. He said Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been prepared for the Inquiry Officers to investigate the cases under the NDPS Act. In addition, regular courses and training programmes are being conducted by the Bureau at Haryana Police Academy and Police Training Centres for matters covered under NDPS Act. Under the public awareness programme, various seminars, road shows and competitions are being organised by the Bureau at regular intervals through the departments and NGOs concerned.

Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau's third awareness program in Panipat district



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
SAMALKHAPANIPAT: Under the guidelines and guidance of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau Chief and Additional Director General of Police Shrikant Jadhav Sahb, students of Government Industrial Training Institute Mahila Samalkha and National High School Samalkha were made aware to stay away from drugs. This was the third one day awareness program in Panipat district. The workshop was organized under the chairmanship of the Principal of the institute Dr. Krishna and Haryana State Narcotic Control Bureau, Kamal Unit In-charge Inspector Sandeep Kumar. Sub-Inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, appointed as the in-charge of awareness program and rehabilitation in the Bureau, was the keynote speaker in the institute. In two different institutes, students were made aware of drugs in detail and a pledge was made not to take drugs in life. Giving the definition of intoxication, Sub-Inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma said that we generally consider bidi cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol to be intoxicants, but in today's era the definition of intoxication has also become very wide.

Education minister lays foundation of school building

R K KASHYAP
CHHACHHRAULI: Education, Forest and Tourism Minister Kanwar Pal laid the foundation stone of the building and other development works at Ledi's Government Senior Secondary School to be completed at a cost of Rs.1 crore 14 lakh. On this occasion, District Media In-charge Kapil Manish Garg, Circle President Kalyan Singh, Divisional General Secretary Shivkumar Sharma, Divisional General Secretary Dr Jagdish Dhimani, BJP leader Pritam Singh Manga Jaidri, Former Chairman Sulekhchand Kashyap, Om Prakash Arya, Rajkumar Kashyap, Ravinder Nirman, Rajkumar Sharma Vedpal, Kulbir Singh, Rajesh Bhardwaj, Praveen Sharma, Rohit Garg, Anil Saini, Subhash Ledi,

Chhachhrauli police station in-charge Sandeep Kumar, District Education Officer Satpal Kaushik, District Education Project Officer Suman Bahmani, Block Education Officer Kailash Kumari, Principal Pramjit Sandhu, RO Dinesh Kumar and other officers and employees were present. Education Minister Kanwar Pal said that it was he who raised the status of Ledi's government school from class X to XII. Due to which there has been an increase in the number of students studying here and now a new building will be constructed in which new additional rooms will be constructed for the facilities of the students. Kanwar Pal said that his effort that government schools have more facilities than private schools. On reaching the program, the students of the school welcomed the Education Minister by presenting a cultural program. District Education Officer Satpal Kaushik presented him a memento.

Mother tongue identity of personality: Dr. Jaswinder

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: In Guru Nanak Khalsa College Karnal Tara Singh's memorable speech was organised. The keynote speaker on this occasion was the former Dean of Punjabi University, Patiala, Prof. Dr. Jaswinder Singh was the speaker, while the special speaker was Dr. Harsimran Singh Randhawa, former chairman of the Punjabi department of Kurukshetra University. Tributes were paid to former MP and former chief Sardar Tara Singh and his best works were remembered. Principal of the college Dr. Major Singh welcomed everyone and in his address said that Punjabi language is 11th in India, ninth in the world, first in Punjab and second in Haryana. That is why today this Mother Language Day is being celebrated. Dr. Jaswinder Singh said that in our mother tongue we are breathing, dreaming and feeling. Mother tongue cannot be opposed, compared or has enmity with any other language. Mother tongue is the identity of your personality.



ty. Dr. Harsimran Singh Randhawa said that mother tongue not only teaches us language but also teaches us to live life. Dr. Gurinder Singh said that on February 21, 1952, Mother Language Day was celebrated for the first time. The stage was conducted by Prof. By Jatinder Pal. On this occasion Prof. Praveen Kor, Prof. Preetpal, former Principal Dr. S.P. Singh, Deputy Principal of College Management Committee Sardar Surendra Pal Singh Pasricha, Dr. Bir Singh, Dr. Devi Bhushan, Prof. Imran, Prof. Pradeep, Dr. Deepak and students were present.

Important for kids to have technical knowledge: Laxman Das



PREETI RANI
SADHAUR: In order to be successful in today's technological age, it is necessary to have book knowledge as well as technical knowledge. Technical knowledge not only gets one self-employed but it may also help people give employment to others. This was stated by retired principal Laxman Das, while addressing the students of Government Senior Secondary School, Saravan. He informed that various trainings are being imparted under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. During this, Sandeep Saini, professor in Hindi, explained to the students about the importance of education and proper use of time. Amit Sharma, Harsh, Rajendra Narwal, Manish Saini and Harvinder Khanna were also present on the occasion.

Collusion alleged behind firing of 11 Aadhaar operators in Yamunanagar

R K KASHYAP
YAMUNANAGAR: The 13 Aadhaar operators working in the district information technology system have urged the district administration and the government to continue their services. The same district has also been accused of harassing 13 operators working in the information technology system and not paying salary under minimum wages. It may be mentioned that the work of Aadhaar project by district information technology system has been going on since the year 2015 as per the order of Haryana government, for the implementation of which 13 Aadhaar operators certified by UIDI were appointed in different places in the district from 12 June 2018. But after the term of two of these Aadhaar operators Shiv Kumar and Sukhwinder Kaur ended on July 15, 2018, only 11 Aadhaar operators were working in the district. Aadhaar operators were appointed under the district information technology system for updating, renewing, and any kind of change to these operators who were also being paid salary under minimum wages. Babita, one of the 11 operators fired from the Aadhaar card operator job, sought an answer under RTI in which all the Aadhaar operators should have got the benefit of ESI from the administration but their number was not enough for PF account. In the same RTI, it was also revealed that out of the 13 names for Aadhaar operator work, only 11 names have been shown while the names of 13 Aadhaar operators were attached with the report on 31st December 2021. The same Aadhaar card operator was also accused of deducting fees of Rs 100 which was not found to be true in the investigation. Petitioner Babita has also accused the DI of the department and another person of colluding and removing 11 operators from the job and putting them under the contractor. The petitioner informed that all the Aadhaar operators have been made subject to CSC by the department in which their salary has also been halved which is not fair. She appealed to the government and administration to continue the service of Aadhaar operator. She said that she was supporting his family with the work of Aadhaar operator but when the government halves his salary and transfers him to CSC, she finds it difficult to manage house expenses.

CM is a far-sighted person: Kashyap



getting the benefit of these schemes. He said that maximum development work would be done in the light on priority basis. He said that the Chief Minister of the State, Manohar Lal is a person of far-reaching thinking and during his reign, all-round development has taken place equally in all the assembly constituencies of the state. Haryana Gramin Chowkidar Sabha gave a memorandum related to its demands related to the watchmen. On this occasion Municipal Secretary Mohit Kumar, BJP leader Charan Singh Madhan, Raman Udana, Rakesh Pal Councillor, Ramkumar Kashyap, Mandal Media Head Shiv Batra, Haryana Rural Chowkidar Sabha District President Jarnail Singh, Joginder Singh Jarnail Singh, Madan Lal, Mamuram, including BJP leaders and workers were also present.

MLA Kashyap hears problems of lawyers

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, FEBRUARY 21

MLA Ramkumar Kashyap reached the court premises and listened to the problems of the office bearers and lawyers of the Bar Association. On reaching the court premises, the office bearers of the Bar Association gave a rousing welcome to the MLA and honoured him with bouquets. Bar Association President Ranbir Singh Dhandha placed the demand letter before the MLA. MLA Kashyap thanked the office bearers of the Bar Association for this honor and efforts would be made to fulfill the demands made by the office bearers of the Bar Association at the earliest by bringing them to the notice of the Chief Minister. Among these main demands, the obstacles being faced in the construction of new chambers for lawyers in the court premises were appraised and the demand for financial help for the new chambers and to get them constructed at the earliest was placed before the MLA.

Kashyap said that he will try to fulfill the main demand of the chambers. He said that our country and the state have been affected a lot due to the Corona epidemic, due to which development works have been hampered a



lot, but now all development works have been expedited and they will be completed soon. He said that advocates are an educated and respected class and lawyers play an important role in the progress of the society. He said that today advocates are taking forward the progress of the country and the state by sitting on high posts. He said that advocates have a special importance in the upliftment of the poor victims. On this occasion, Bar Association President Ranbir Dhandha, Deputy President Rakesh Verma, Secretary Rajesh Kashyap, Co-Secretary Shakar Ali Chauhan, Advocate Rajesh Gupta, Rakesh Kamboj, Naresh Chauhan, Ranjit Singh, Laxmandas Kamboj, Gurcharan Singh, Dharam Singh, Virbhan Mehta, Karna Singh along with other advocates were also present.

Importance of time management stressed

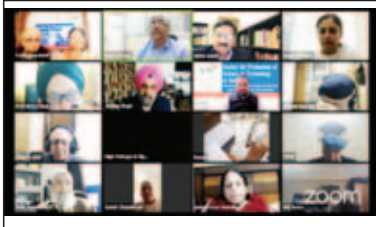
NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: BRP Sanjeev Kumar inspected the on-going Life Skill Camp at Government Secondary School Dhaurala. Vocational teacher Nirmal Singh, who arrived at the programme, taught the children about safety and security and tricks to stay safe from incidents of harassment.

He informed the children to how to negotiate the incidents of earthquake, fire and so on. On the other hand, BRP Sanjeev Kumar said that children have to work with concentration. When you do reading or writing, you should not do it with the tendency to keep it. Reading and writing while understanding is very important. Children should have a tendency to practice writing for improvement. At the same time, they were told about how to get good marks in the exam and were explained the importance of time in daily life. The children were told that there should be proper management of time for each task in their routine. All can get higher education only through proper management of time, and can advance in practical life as well as social level. In-charge Neeraj Rani, Sushma Devi and PTI Nayab Saini were present on this occasion.



Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar remembered

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
SONEPAT: The 128th birth anniversary of the legendary Scientist and administrator, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, his contributions to development of Institutions in India was celebrated through an expository lecture "CSIR - Promises Kept and Gifts yet Undelivered", by Prof. Girish Sahni, former Director General of CSIR (council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Bhatnagar was close to Nehru and other top leaders who advocated technology led development of the country and time and again emphasized the need for utilizing the science base for development. The CSIR, founded in the year 1942 has the motto "to provide scientific industrial R & D that maximizes the economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India. Dr. Sahni was delivering the 9th lecture in the series "Institution Building and Nurturing Initiatives in Independent India" initiated by the Society for Promotion of Science and Technology in India to Celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', 75th year of Indian Independence. The session was attended online on zoom and many more viewed the same on the Facebook page of SPSTI. These lectures are held in association with in association with the Chandigarh chapters of the Science academies INSA, NASI & INYAS and Punjab Engineering College (PEC) (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh with support from the Haryana Council of Science Innovation and Technology.



NEWS AT A
GLANCE

Congress party expelled Bhupendra Singh Randhawa and Inderjit Singh Raipur for carrying out activities against party

KULJEET SINGH JANDIALA GURU: Congress party leader and chairman Milkfed Amritsar and chairman SC SAIL Inderjit Singh Raipur were expelled

from the party for carrying out activities against the Congress party. Let us tell you that both of them were working president of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and from Jandiala.

Congress party's candidate Sukhwinder Singh Danny Bandala was shown the way out by the party for helping

the opposition party during the election campaign. Big action has been taken against both of them by the Congress party.

4 positive patients of Covid-19 in district

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Giving information about the condition of Covid-19, Civil Surgeon Dr. Parminder Kaur said that today with the receipt of 1647 new samplings with suspected flu-like symptoms and receiving reports of 1137 samplings, 04 positive patients of Covid-19 have come. She said that so far the total number of positive patients in the district has been 37831 from samplings and with the receipt of 2855 positive cases from outlying districts the total positive cases of Covid-19 have become 40686. The total number of saplings of Covid-19 taken so far in the district is 1100516 and according to lab reports, 1060293 samplings are negative. While 4201 samplings are awaiting report and the death toll so far is 1091. The number of active cases is 124 while the number of cured patients is 39471.



Congress candidate Naresh Puri from Surjanpur constituency showing Mark on his finger with his family after casting his vote.
Photo by: R. SINGH



BLO Harpreet Singh giving certificates to Priyanka after casting her vote for the first time at Booth No. 86 Bhoia.
Photo by: R. SINGH

Badal, BJP and Captain's nefarious alliance won't be able to form the govt: Cheema

GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Senior Leader and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema accused Akali Dal Badal and Bhartiya Janata Party of betraying Punjab and Punjabis.

Cheema said that SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia had exposed the face of SAD-BJP in front of the people of Punjab by saying that SAD would again ally with BJP to form government in Punjab. Cheema claimed that a coalition government of SAD-BJP, Capt Amarinder Singh can be formed on Mars, but the voters of Punjab had completely rejected SAD (Badal), BJP and Capt Amarinder Singh.

In a statement issued from the party headquarters on Monday, Harpal Singh Cheema said that the claim made by SAD leader Bikram Majithia on the day of polls to form a government with BJP proved that SAD only sever the ties with them to woo the votes of farmers and labourers. He said that SAD and BJP were always on the same page about farm laws and Majithia's statement again reflected it. He said that SAD had internal political alliance with BJP even today but to deceive the



people of Punjab SAD had only pretended to separate from BJP. Harpal Singh Cheema said

that Akali Dal Badal and Capt. Amarinder Singh had always betrayed Punjab and Punjabis. He said that Majithia's statement showed that SAD, BJP and Capt. Amarinder Singh had contested separately as public show while internally SAD-BJP and Captain were together. He said that SAD supported anti-farmer agricultural laws in the central government but dueto the pressure of farmers' agitation Badals pretended to sever ties with BJP. And, Majithia has removed the veil from that drama today.

Cheema said that it was due to the SAD-BJP alliance that no action was taken against Bikram Majithia even after many legal cases against him. It is because of the support of BJP that SAD leaders are still running mafias, drug mafia, sand mafia, transport mafia and cable mafia are robbing people.

Harpal Singh Cheema said that the people of Punjab had voted for a change of government, which sent a clear message that this time there would be a change of government in Punjab. He said that alliance of SAD, BJP and Capt. Amarinder Singh can form government on Mars but not on the holy land of Punjab.

Village Sidhwan Khurd sets Example

JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): Village Sidhwan Khurd of constituency Jagraon has set an example for others in Vidhan Sabha elections. The village residents did not put flags or banners of any political party at their house and there were no booths of political parties at the village on the day of polling to avoid any kind of clash among the village residents.



When village residents Mandeep Singh and Jaskaran Singh were questioned about this, they said that differences in political views create misunderstandings and disputes among the village residents every time during elections so they village residents unanimously decided not to install banners, flags or booths of any political party in the village. "Elections keep coming and going but

unity among people is the most important thing," they said. It is worth mentioning that village Sidhwan Khurd is one of the most literate villages of the area and has good schools and college for education.

SSP, SDM thank voters and political parties for peaceful elections

SUKH NAHAR JAGRAON, FEB 21

Polling at constituency Jagraon ended up peacefully as voters enthusiastically exercised their right to vote owing to excellent arrangements made by police and civil administration under the guidance of SSP Patil Ketan Baliram and SDM cum RO Vikas Hira.

SSP Patil Ketan Baliram said that the prime aim was to conduct peaceful and fair election and that has been achieved by police district Ludhiana rural. He applauded the security personnel, CAPF and Punjab police for its dedication and tireless efforts. He stated that there was complete discipline at all the locations and polling continued peacefully and uninterrupted. "The security person-



nel was well-prepared to deal with any kind of situation and it is due to their collaborative efforts that we were able to conduct fair and peaceful elections," he said. He thanked voters, candidates, political parties and other officials for their cooperation and support. SDM Vikas Hira stated that the polling was completed successfully with no major complaints from voters or candidates. "It is due to collaborative effort of deputed officials that polling ended



up successfully in constituency Jagraon," he said. He thanked the voters, candidates, political parties, media and every person that contributed in conducting fair elections in the constituency. He also appreciated the election staff for its hard work and diligence saying that the staff worked day and night to ensure smooth conduct of elections. He informed that EVM machines have been dispatched to Ludhiana for counting on march 10.

Women lead over men in exercising their right to vote

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, FEB 21

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer, Smt. Apneet Riyait informed that the voting for the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Election-2022 has been successfully completed in Hoshiarpur district, for which the voters and election staff deserve congratulations. She said that the cooperation of the candidates who are contesting the elections to vote peacefully has also been commendable. She informed that 68.66 percent voting took place in 7 assembly constituencies of the district.

District Election Officer said that in the assembly constituency Mukerian 1,41,481 (69.72 percent), Dasuya



1,31,816 (66.90 percent), Ur-mur 1,24,166 (68.60 percent), Sham Chaurasi 1,23,083 (69.43 percent), Hoshiarpur 1, In 27,089 (65.92 per cent), Chhabawal 1,44,992 (71.19 per cent) and Garhshankar assembly constituency, 1,21,646 (69.40 per cent) voters cast their votes. She said that women have played a leading role as compared to men in exercising their right to vote. She informed that 4,46,475 women cast their

Election process is completed peacefully, SSP Batala thanks voters and security personnel

BATALA (VERMA): Voting in five assembly constituencies in Batala police district was completed peacefully last evening. Batala District Police SSP Mr. Gaurav Tora (IPS) thanked all the voters and political leaders for conducting the election process peacefully. He also directed the Punjab Police, Punjab Home Guards, BSF personnel deployed on election duty. He commended the paramilitary personnel who have performed their duties with utmost sincerity, diligence and dedication. SSP Batala: Mr. Gaurav Tora said that in the five Assembly constituencies of Batala, Fatehgarh Churian, Qadian, Dera Baba Nanak and Sri Hargobindpur which fall under Police District Batala, the polling took place in an atmosphere of complete peace and no incident of fighting took place. Did not appear. He said that all the voters and the contesting candidates and their supporters have also given their full support to the administration for which they are thankful to all.



DEO Gurdaspur thanks people of district for peaceful conduct of voting process in district



VERMA GURDASPUR, FEB 21

District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, Mr. Mohammad Ishfaq, thanked all the residents of the district for conducting the voting process in a peaceful manner in the district. The voting process has been carried out successfully with the help of the staff, for which all are to be congratulated. He also thanked all the candidates including the political parties for their support to the district administration in making the voting process smooth and peaceful.

Mohammad Ishfaq, District Electoral Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur today held a meeting with the contesting candi-

dates / representatives regarding arrangements made for strong rooms at Sukhinder Group of Institutes, Gurdaspur and arrangements for counting of votes on March 10. A press conference was held with the media colleagues. On this occasion, Dr. Mr. Nanak Singh SSP Gurdaspur, Mr. Gory Tora SSP Batala, Mr. Amarpreet Singh Returning Officer Gurdaspur, Mr. Manjinder Singh Election Kanungo and contesting candidates / representatives were present.

Speaking on the occasion District Election Officer Gurdaspur said that the voting machines for polling have been kept in the strong rooms set up at Sukhinder Group of Institutes Gurdaspur under strict security arrangements.

Need for regular inspection of wheat crop to protect it from diseases and pests: Agriculture Officer



PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): Block Agriculture Officer Dr. Amrik Singh visited various villages to inspect the wheat crop due to climate change. On this occasion Love Kumar Sharma Block Technology Manager (Atma), Ragbir Singh along with farmers Randeep Singh, Sham Lal and Joginder Singh were also present. Informing the farmers about the infestation of yellow rust and sticky in the fields of Karnail Singh, a progressive farmer in village Manwal, Dr. Amrik Singh said that due to climate change, wheat and other rakes crops could be attacked by pests and diseases. He said that next 10-15 days are very important for wheat crop especially for HD 2967 variety of wheat. He said that wheat crop in block Pathankot has not been attacked by any disease or pest at present but farmers need to be vigilant. He said that Yellow rust first appears on the lower leaves, which appear as yellow powdery long stripes in the form of spots, if the affected leaves are held in two fingers then yellow powder is applied on the fingers.

For immunization of children mission rainbow starts on 7th March: CS

SUMER GARG SANGRUR, FEB 21

In view of mission rainbow 4.0, which is going to start from the 7th March, a district level workshop was organized by the health department, Sangrur and SMO, Dr. Nivedita has given the training Civil Surgeon(CS), Sangrur, Dr. Parminder Kaur said that under mission rainbow in the district, children from 0 to 2 years of age and pregnant women who have been deprived from immunization would be vaccinated.

She appealed to all the residents of the district to take advantage of this campaign and prevent their children from contracting eight deadly diseases like whooping cough, Jaundice, Polio, tetanus, measles, TB and diarrhoea. She said that this



campaign would start from 7th March and would continue for next three months and vaccination would be carried out for seven days of every month. On this occasion, CS, said that National Pulse Polio Campaign would be launched on February 27, 28 and March 1 in which children up to the age of five years would be given polio drops. She said that preparations in this regard have been completed. District immunization officer, Dr. Sanjay Mathur, EPI Assistant, Akmal and Gurpreet Singh were present.

Manish Bansal thanks Barnala residents



KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA, FEB 21

Congress candidate from Barnala Manish Bansal and his father and former Union Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal thanked the party leaders, workers, supporters, well-wishers, and all the voters of the constituency after the voting process and said that the love that they got from Barnala residents can

never be forgotten, but every effort will be made to repay the debt by serving the Barnala constituency.

The people of Barnala constituency are my family and my doors are open day and night as a servant. He also thanked all for maintaining communal harmony and peace.

A large number of workers and supporters were present on the occasion.

73.11 pc turnout recorded in 8 constituencies of Patiala dist: DC



RAKESH JINDAL NABHA, FEB 21

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Mr. Sandeep Hans has released the account of votes cast on 20th February for Punjab Vidhan Sabha General Election-2022. He said here today that in 8 assembly constituencies of Patiala district 73.11 per cent voters had cast their votes for a total of 102 candidates in all the constituencies of the district contributing to the strengthening of democracy. Sandeep Hans said that the entire election process was successfully concluded peacefully late last evening. He said that out of 15, 15, 445 voters in 8 assembly constituencies of Patiala district, 791776 are male voters and 723609 are

female voters. Out of these, a total of 11,70,925 voters, out of which 5 lakh 86 thousand 10 men and 5 lakh 21 thousand 889 women have exercised their right to vote. Out of a total of 60 transgender voters, 26 transgender voters also exercised their democratic right.

Giving information about the constituency wise votes, Sandeep Hans said that out of total 1 lakh 84 thousand 623 voters in Assembly constituency 109-Nabha (SC), a total of 1 lakh 42 thousand 254 (77.05 percent) cast their votes. Out of which, 75,568 men and 66,684 women and 2 transgenders voted for 9 candidates. Similarly, 110-Patiala are contesting in rural, out of total 2 lakh 25 thousand 639 voters in this constituency, 77166 male and 69774 female and 2 transgender voters a total 1 lakh 46 thousand 942 (65.12%) voters voted for 19 candidates.

Gurmat Samagam organised by Sarbat Khalsa at Gurdwara Preet Nagar

SHARANJEET PATHANKOT, FEB 21

On behalf of Sarbat Khalsa Sanstha Gurmat Samagam was organized under the supervision of Jathedar Gurdeep Singh Gulati the chief manager of the organization, in the Gurdwara Singh Sabha Preet Nagar Pathankot with the cooperation of the Sangat.

In the ceremony, Bhair Sar-taj Singh Hoshiarpur, the famous narrator and preacher of the cult, explained the ongoing bani very well, after which the ragi group of Bhai Vikram Singh performed melodious kirtan to the sangat delighted. The chief manager of the organization Jathedar Gurdeep Singh Gulati and the speaker Master Channan Singh also inspired the sangat to become Guru Wale by drinking nectar, in the end the langar of Guru Sahib was distributed. On



this occasion Jathedar Gurdeep Singh Gulati, Jathedar Channan Singh, Jathedar Kulwant Singh, Gursharan Singh, Advocate Jagdish Singh, Davinder Singh Baba, Surinder Singh, Gurjit Singh, Parmjit Singh, Dr Balbir Singh, Manas Kaur, Balkar Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Hardev Singh, Inderjit Singh, Bhupinder Kaur, Surinder Kaur, Sucha Singh Goraya, Gurdev Singh, Ajit

Singh, Joginder Singh Khalsa, Lakhbir Singh, Nirmal Kaur, Lakhinder Kaur, Kamaljit Singh, Surinder Singh, Joginder Singh, Deedar Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Malkit Singh, Jaswant Kaur, Jathedarni Ranjit Kaur, Surinder Singh, Jaswant Singh, Ramjit Kaur, Harinder Singh, Guriqbal Singh, Gurmukh Singh, Gurmeet Singh etc.

Kiki Dhillon thanks voters, workers and constituency residents for their generous love during election campaign

SURINDER DAMDAMI FARIDKOT, FEB 21

Markfed Chairman and Congress Party candidate from Faridkot constituency Kishaldeep Singh Kiki Dhillon thanked all the Congress workers, voters and supporters and said that he was proud of the people of his constituency who participated in the Assembly elections. He was extremely honored.

He said that he has never received as much love in every village, every area of the city/Can forget. In a statement issued here today, Kishaldeep Singh Kiki Dhillon said that all the Congress workers of the constituency worked hard day and night during the election campaign for the Assembly elections and reached out to every house to tell the people about the achievements. "For the last five years, I



have worked day and night for the people and worked hard," he said. Now when he reached out to the people during the election campaign to ask for votes, he was overjoyed when people were praising his development work and people were selling. He was being honored for his deeds.

He said that now he was fully satisfied with the development work done by him and people welcomed him everywhere in return for these development works. "Even though the defeat is now locked in the voting machines, I feel like I have won now because the love I got from the people during the election campaign is the

biggest victory," he said. "No, I have shown my back to the people during the last five years and I have risen above partisanship and done the work of the people," he said. Now when the opportunity came, people did not look back on me but appreciated what I did. He also thanked all the Congress workers who had worked day and night.

While the opposition parties were spreading new rumors and false propaganda to mislead the people, it was the Congress workers who kept the people from being misled and gave accurate information about the development work done in the last five years.

Covid positivity touch 46
in Kangra with 63009
case load: DC

DHARAMSHALA: Atleast 46 fresh cases tested positive on Monday for the lethal novel Corona pushing the Kangra district case load to 63009. There was no death reported from any part of the district Monday and the death toll remained stagnant at 1237 in this district. Deputy Commissioner Kangra Dr. Nipun Jindal told that all the 46 fresh cases who have tested positive today have been isolated as per the protocol. Deputy commissioner Jindal further said there was no death reported from any part of the district Monday. He said the number of active cases has further slashed down to 432 on Monday against 518 on Sunday in this district. Deputy Commissioner said there were 132 recoveries too, pushing the number of the recovered patients to 61334 Monday.

Doctors' strike
entered the 12th day

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: The strike of doctors is continuing across the state for demands. Everyday doctors are living on pen down strike in OPD services from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and after that doctors again OPD services are being given smoothly. On Monday, the strike of doctors continued in district Kangra, due to which the patients who came for medical treatment had to face a lot of problems. However, emergency services in hospitals were run smoothly by doctors. The doctors' strike has entered its 12th day on Monday. Dr. Ajay Dutta of Zonal Hospital said that doctors are doing pen down strike over pay discrepancies, he said that today is the 12th day but if we talk about it, talks with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur were proposed, but due to his ill health. Couldn't meet. He said that a joint committee meeting would be held in Shimla after which the next decision would be taken. Patients coming to the hospital also said about the strike of doctors that the strike is causing a lot of trouble and a lot of time is being wasted. He said that he has been coming since morning, but the treatment is getting delayed. He said that the government should find a solution to this problem at the earliest.

Dishant Sharma
clears JRF exams

JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA: Dishant Sharma, a resident of Nanami village of Panchayat Dhundla of sub-division Bangana, has passed the JRF examination. Dishant Sharma told that he has passed the JRF exam without any coaching. He told that I have cleared NET 5 times, once set and now JRF exam. Nishant Sharma told that he has passed his education from Government Primary School Nanami and Middle School from Malangad Middle School and class IX to 12 from Government Senior Secondary School, Dhoon. After that he has done his graduation and post graduation from Panjab University. He has done his post graduation in Sociology. His father works as a daffany in the Central Bank of India and mother Indubala works as a housewife. Now also selected for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF). While there is an atmosphere of happiness in his family with the success, there is a wave of happiness in the area. Dishant Sharma has given the credit of this phenomenal achievement to his parents and teachers along with his hard work.

Body of Haryana
youth found in
Gagret's Kaloh

AMB: The dead body of a Haryana youth was found in Gagret's Kaloh, a girl's number was found written on the paper. The body of a 30-year-old youth has been found in village Kaloh, just 500 meters away from the police station Gagret. Police have started investigation by taking possession of body. According to the information, this body was found near a medical store in village Kaloh on Gagret-Una road. Youth is identified Pravesh Kumar, son of Bhagwan Das resident of Kurukshetra, Haryana. Police have started investigation by taking possession of dead body. He has perhaps swallowed poisonous substance.SP Una Arijit Sen said that the police is investigating from every aspect. Forensic team has been called to the spot, so that the entire sequence of events can be uncovered, he added.

49000 children to be
polio drops from Feb
27 to March 1

SOLAN (AHIMA JAIN): Under the medical section Nalagarh, from February 27 to March 1, 49000 children will be given pulse polio doses. This information was given by SDM Nalagarh Mahendra Pal Gurjar during a meeting organized in this regard. He said that 145 centers have been earmarked to make the Pulse Polio campaign a success. At these centers, 660 workers of Health and Family Welfare Department and Anganwadi centers will provide their services. 32 observers have also been appointed to make the polio campaign a success. He said that the students of Awasthi Nursing College, Lord Mahavira Nursing College and Bhojia Nursing College are also making contribution in this campaign.

HIMACHAL/JK

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Governor honores National Child
Award winner Shriya Lohia

AGENCY
SHIMLA, FEB 21

Kumari Shriya Lohia, a resident of sub-division Sundernagar of Mandi district, who is also a recipient of the National Child Award, called on Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Raj Bhavan on Monday. On the occasion, the Governor honored Kumari Shriya for her achievements.

The Governor expressed happiness that Kumari Shriya has registered several awards for Motorsports Karting Race at the national level. He said that she has brought pride to Himachal by representing the country in international racing. He said that she was an inspiration to other budding players.



Congress asks
Govt to resolve
doctors' agitation

SHIMLA, FEB 21

Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore on Monday urged the government to end the deadlock over a pen down strike by doctors in the state.

Rathore said that people, particularly from far-flung areas, were facing a lot of hardship due to the strike. He asked the government to address their genuine grievances.

Tibetan MP meets
Himachal Governor

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, FEB 21

17th exiled Tibetan Parliament MPs Khenpo Jamfal Tenzin and Geshe Atong Rinchen Gyaltsen met Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as a courtesy and also shared their views on the Tibet issue. Tibetan Parliament MPs Khenpo Jamfal Tenzin and Geshe Atong Rinchen Gyaltsen met Tibetans from Shimla Yangchen Gatseling and surrounding Tibetan residential areas as part of a public meeting programme. He reached the Dolanji Bon Tibetan settlement and welcomed the audience along

with the 34th Kyabje Menri Trijin Lungtok Dawa Dargya Rinpoche and Kyabje Menri Ponlob Trinle Nyima Rinpoche



He visited Pal Shen Ten Mainrilling Monastery, Ratna Mainrilling Nunnery, School and also held a public meeting. The MP is currently visiting the Paonta Tibetan settlement.

Statue of Saraswati
should be installed
in college: ABVP



UNA, FEB 21

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Unit, Una, by handing over a memorandum to Pratima Nadda, Vice-Principal of Government Postgraduate College, Una, raised demand for setting up a statue of Saraswati in college campus. She said that first statue is installed in every college. Seeing proper place in campus, statue should be installed with legal legislation, along with this new teacher should be appointed as soon as possible on post of vacant Hindi subject in college. District Convenor Vinod Thakur, SFC District Convenor Chandan Sekhdi, Province Executive Member and District Social Media Coordinator Arun Koushal, Unit Minister Ankita Thakur, Unit Vice President Vishal Thakur, Daman Raizada, Khushi, Co-Conveners Hitesh, Ruchika, Jagdeep, Siddhant, Nikhil, Smriti and Tamanna Himanshi were present.

Kuldeep Chand complains to Pb
SC Commission over reservation

KISHORI LAL BAINS
AMB, FEB 21

Kuldeep Chand, leader of Mission Pay Back to Society has lodged a written complaint with Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes Chandigarh regarding non-implementation of reservation policy for Scheduled Castes during recruitment to various posts in Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Chandigarh. In this regard, Kuldeep Chand, leader of Mission Pay Back to Society, said that on February 9, 2022, Aam Aadmi Party's candidate from the assembly constituency, Shri Anandpur Sahib Harjot Singh Bains, in a press conference, said that in the recent days, the Punjab Vidhan Sabha was held in Chandigarh. Reservation policy for different castes has not been applied during recruitment to various posts and a list of recruitment for various posts has been issued and stated that various political persons have been recruited for various posts and by the authorities. Recommendations have been made. There have been reports about this in various newspapers. Kuldeep Chand said that on the basis of these reports, the complaint along with relevant documents has been sent in the name of Chairman, Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes, Chandigarh. This complaint Gyan Chand Member Punjab State Scheduled.The complaint has been lodged with the Scheduled Caste Commission Chandigarh and in this complaint the Scheduled Castes Commission has been requested to take action against the officials responsible for not implementing the reservation policy made by the government for the Scheduled Castes.



MLA launches machines
installed in lab

DAULAT CHAUHAN
JAWALI, FEB 21

MLA Thakur Arjun Singh inaugurated cell counter machine, auto analyzer and trueNat machine at Civil Hospital Jawali on Monday. On reaching the Civil Hospital, MLA Arjun Singh was accorded a rousing welcome by the staff including SMO Jawali Dr Aman Dubey Dr Ashish Kumar.MLA Arjun Singh said that due to cell counter machine and auto analyzer installed at a cost of Rs 3.87 lakh, now every type of test of patients will be done in the hospital itself and patients will not have to wander here and there in private labs to get the test done. Due to TrueNat machine, now the test report of TB including Covid will be available within an hour. He said that the oxygen generator plant costing crores of rupees



will also start soon at Civil Hospital Jawali, the work of construction of its safe room is going on at a brisk pace. He said that a budget provision of Rs.6 crore has been made for the construction of additional building near the hospital building. Soon after laying the foundation stone, construction work will also start. He said that the digital X-ray machine will also be installed in the hospital soon. He said that our

government is providing better facilities to the public under the health sector under "Healthy Society - Healthy Himachal".

On this occasion Dr. Aman Dua, Dr. Ashish Kumar, Pharmacist Bharat Bhushan, Lab Technician Balkar Singh, Nominated Councilor Satish Goldy, Gurdeep Singh, Tilak Rapotra, Attar Singh, Pankaj Dogra, Sahil Pagotra, Suresh Guleria were present.

Electric vehicles hub to be
made by 2025: Thakur

BUREAU
UNA, FEB 21

Himachal Pradesh Electric Policy-2022 has been notified by state government to keep air clean here, so that air pollution can be reduced by stopping smoke coming out of vehicles. State will be made hub of electric vehicles by year 2025, many categories of electric vehicles will also be produced in state. Government has set a target of registering 15 percent electric vehicles by year 2025 and four cities of the state namely Shimla, Mandi, Baddi and Dharamshala are proposed to be made electric vehicle towns.Transport Minister Bikram Singh Thakur said that under the new policy, demand for electric vehicles would be boosted through provision of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. The use of electric vehicles will be made mandatory in a phased manner starting with public



transport and government institutions and also at institutional level. He said that aim of Government is to attract investment for manufacturing of Electric Vehicles and R&D ecosystem. Sate will create a separate secretariat to ensure effective implementation of new electric vehicle policy.

Tourism industry ended due to dual
policies of govt: Sanjeev Gandhi

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, FEB 21

Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee's media panelist Sanjeev Gandhi alleged that the tourism industry of the state has been completely destroyed due to the dual policies of the state BJP government. Addressing a press conference in Dharamsala, he said that every industry in the country and the state has been affected due to Corona. To save the tourism industry, no vaccine or booster dose was given to it by the BJP government. He said that tourism industry is a great Kumbh for employment in the state. The budget



provision of Rs 2.45 crore made by the central government for the tourism industry last year has no focus on the tourism industry. He said that the state BJP government should focus on tourism industry in the budget session and any such provision should be made in the budget so that the tourism industry which is dying can

be saved. Sanjeev Gandhi said that every year 1700 crore business is done in the state. In the year 2004, 87 lakh domestic tourists and 4 lakh foreign tourists came to Himachal. The government had told the hoteliers not to take demand charge for 6 months, but the government collected all the demand charges from the hoteliers.

Not even a single paisa relief was given by the government. From water to electricity charges were taken. The government did not refrain from collecting property tax even during the Corona period. State BJP government talked about bringing investment of 1300 crores, outsiders were brought here. He said that why the government did not talk to the people of Himachal to invest. Why has the government not forgiven the electricity of hoteliers? The government has no provision for this. He said that the government will have to make a separate budget provision for the tourism industry.

Land worth crores
sold by using fake
documents

DAULAT CHAUHAN
JAWALI, FEB 21

The problems of Pong Dam displaced people of district Kangra are not taking the name of lessening. Recently, a case of selling crores of land in Rajasthan by land mafia of Nagrota Surian resident Naresh Kumar son Khushiram by making forged documents has come to the fore.Naresh Kumar told that his land falls in Tehsil Garhsana district Ganganagar. The Mohanlal land mafia, along with four or five people, made all false documents and forged signatures and sold their land worth crores to Jaswinder Kaur for lakhs of rupees.He told that his tenant told that someone is getting your murabba today registered, then Naresh Kumar reached there and saw that his land was being sold by the land mafia by making all forged documents. On this, Naresh Kumar complained to the police station Ghadsana.Police have started investigation by registering a case against the land mafia under sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 47, 120B of IPC.

Proposals worth 8.95 cr rupees under
CM's Swavalamban Yojana approved

PANKAJ BHARTIYA
HAMIRPUR, FEB 21

Thirty-nine new proposals worth 8.95 crore rupees under the Mukhyamnatri Swablamban yojana were approved during a meeting under the program held here last evening under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Debasweta Banik. She said that the district has good potential for milk production and that is why the Hamirpur district has been selected for milk production under the "One District One Product scheme". Banik said that all the thirty-nine approved proposals would be sent to the banks for making finance to the applicants. About 8 crore 95 lakh rupees will be invested in these proposed enterprises and



173 people will get direct employment. Under the Mukhyamantri Swavalamban Yojana, a subsidy of about Rs. 1 crore 91 lakh will be given by the state government for these enterprises, she added. Deputy Commissioner said that Mukhyamantri Swavalamban Yojana is one of the ambitious schemes of the State Government. Male entrepreneurs in the age group of 18 to 45 years and women up to 50 years of age can take advantage of this. Under this scheme, projects up to one

crore rupees can be funded by banks. In this, there is a provision of subsidy up to 25 percent for male entrepreneurs, 30 percent for women, and 35 percent for widows on fixed capital i.e. building plant, and machinery up to Rs 60 lakh. Apart from this, the government also bears the interest amount at the rate of 5 percent for three years on loans up to Rs 60 lakh. The Deputy Commissioner said that the state government has now introduced 18 new activities in this scheme such as dairy development, cold stores for milk and milk products, manufacturing of agricultural equipment, sericulture, silage units, farm stay, and farm tourism, petrol pumps, charging stations and tissue culture laboratory, etc.

President of Press
Club Hamirpur
announced his team

HAMIRPUR , FEB 21

Sushil Sharma, President of Hamirpur Press club has announced the names of his team after holding discussions with the general house. Senior journalists Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Vikram Dhatwalia, Dinesh Kanwar, Surendra Katoch, and Vijay Shama have been named as the patrons of the club. Other office-bearers of the team are as under: Working President, Ravindra Chandel, Senior Vice President,Anil Sharma; Vice President Neel Kant Bhardwaj, Praveen Kumar, Prakash Thakur, Usha Chauhan, Jasvir Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Rakesh Pal Singh Soharu, Rajkumar. General Secretary Arvindr Singh, Additional General Secretary Harish Nanda, Chief Advisor Ajay Thakur, Organization Secretary Vishal Rana, Secretary Kanchan Sharma, Meenakshi, Sumit Rathore, Rajesh Khanna, Ashok Rana, Umesh Sharma, Ashwani Walia, Mangalesh Rao, Ravindra Kumar, Press Secretary Surendra Thakur, Spokesperson Jeevan Kumar, Treasurer Kamlesh Kumar Bhardwaj, Executive Members are Vivekanand Sharma, Vikesh Sharma, Amit Katoch, Randhir Rana, Nitika, Poonam, Dinesh Kumar, Babita Chandel, Harsha, Kamal Krishna, Ankush Pathiyal, Anil Kumar, Pankaj Bhartiya, Navneet Batta, Dr. Aditya Puri, and Mahendra Kumar Soni.

NEWS AT A
GLANCEArya Mahila College
celebrated Punjabi
Maa Boli Day

R. SINGH
PATHANKOT: Punjabi Maa Boli Day was celebrated under the chairmanship of Principal Dr. Gurmeet Kaur at RRMK Arya Mahila College Pathankot. On this occasion, all the girl students were administered oath by the Punjabi Department. Dr. Rupinderjit Kaur told that 21st February is celebrated as National Mother Language Day. Mother tongue is that language, which the child learns easily from his parents, siblings, relatives, neighborhood since his childhood. The knowledge of this language starts when the child sits on the mother's lap. Until the child is fully conscious, only this mother tongue is respected in his surroundings. Principal Dr. Gurmeet Kaur while addressing the students said that no matter how many languages a person learns, he can express his thoughts in the best way only in his mother tongue. That's why every language is important in itself. Therefore, we should pay off the debt of our mother language by putting more and more love towards our mother tongue and contributing more towards its development. On this occasion Dr. Aarti Palta, Kamani, Shivani Pathania, Sheetal, Dr. Pallavi Mahajan, Savita were present.

In democracy, public will be
paramount next 5 years will be
devoted to public welfare
schemes: Arora

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: MLA and Congress candidate Sunder Sham Arora expressed his gratitude to the conscious voters of Hoshiarpur for conducting the polling peacefully. Shri Arora said that in a democracy, people are paramount and with the cooperation of the people, I will actively play my role in public welfare schemes for the next five years. He told the leaders and workers of all the parties that in the Hoshiarpur Vidhansabha, everyone got the voting process done with restraint and everyone deserves congratulations for this. Mr. Arora said that he never slandered the leaders of any political party. He said that he does not have any differences with the leader and worker of any political party, there can be only political differences. During this, he met his supporters in different groups at his residence and discussed about the voting in different areas.

Intl Mother Lanugage
Day celerbated at
MLU DAV College

ASHOK KAURA
PHAGWARA: International Mother Language Day was celebrated with great fanfare at MLU DAV College Phagwara under the guidance of Dr. Kiranjeet Randhawa Principal of the college. In the year 2000, UNESCO announced International Mother Language Day with an objective to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Focusing on the same, Punjabi department organised a seminar for staff and students to promote mother language Punjabi. The students gave speeches, sang songs, and made posters.

PGI Professor's second edition of Roadmap and
Control of Substance Abuse in Punjab issued

RN KHERA
CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

The second edition of Roadmap for Prevention and Control of Substance Abuse in Punjab, edited by Dr. JS Thakur, Professor of Community Medicine at PGIMER was released today by Sh. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator, UT Chandigarh. The report contains comprehensive information on burden of substance abuse in India and the state of Punjab, various types of substances abused by people, strategies for prevention and control, the District Substance Abuse Prevention Plan and implementation.

During the occasion, Prof. Surjit Singh, Director PGIMER, Chandigarh and Dr. GB Singh, DHS Punjab were also present. The report highlights the burden of substance abuse in Punjab. As per the State of Punjab Household Survey (SPHS) and State wide NCD STEP's Survey by PGIMER, the projected number of overall substance use in Punjab is 15.4%. Translating it to the absolute number, more than 3 million people in Punjab are currently consuming one or the other kind of drug, mainly among the men. Alcohol is the maximally abused substance by more than 2 million people, followed by tobacco which is consumed by more than 1.5 million



people. This is followed by abuse of opioids by 1.7 lakh individuals, followed by cannabinoids as well as sedative-inhalant- stimulants. The latter are largely a class of pharmacological or prescription drugs being used illicitly. There are also a large number of injecting drug users in states with high prevalence of HIV (19.5%) in a recent survey.

The book is made in the simple form easily understood by the technical and lay public. The basic information on various types of drugs and their effect on body and impact of substance abuse on teens, younger and older adults is men-

tioned in the book. Key features of the book include comprehensive information on development of strategies of prevention and control of Substance abuse and implementation guidelines with estimated budget required for a five-year plan. There is a provision for setting up of the state, regional resource and training centres in a decentralized manner, and the service delivery under the plan covers village, block and district level and can be evaluated every five years. Thus, the plan itself is a self-sustained strategy, which will work towards supply, demand and harm reduction meas-

ures. Supply reduction strategy means to target the illegal drugs, whereby the efforts generally involve attempts to disrupt the distribution and supply chains for these drugs. Demand reduction can be mediated via the efforts aimed at reducing the public desire for illegal and illicit drugs. De-addiction services are contributing to demand reduction measures. Harm reduction or minimization strategy tends to include a range of public health policies designed to reduce the harmful consequences associated with various human behaviors, both legal and illegal.

RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala
participated in online National Youth
Parliament Festival

BATALA (VERMA): Under the able guidance of Principal Dr. Ekta Khosla, RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala participated in online National Youth Parliament Festival, Coordinated by Dr. Meenakshi Duggal (Coordinator Social Sciences) and Mr. Vinay Kumar (Convener NSS). The students participated in District Level event of the National Parliament organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Department of Youth Affairs '2021-22'.

In the first level of this National event, an online declamation competition was organized in which six students of college - Ms. Ripudaman, Simranjit Kaur, Reetu Rajput, Gurpreet Kaur, Prabhjot Kaur and Simranjit Kaur (from BA Sem. VI) took part. Mrs. Rupali Aggarwal from Political Science department guided the students in this event.

Complaints lodged with Election
Commission over alleged rigging,
re-polling at both booths

VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, FEB 21

The issue of fraudulent voting in Booth Nos. 119 and 120 of Lohgarh area is gaining momentum. BJP candidate Sanjeev Khanna on Monday accused the Akali Dal of forcibly casting fake votes during a press conference at his election office. Sanjeev Khanna, meanwhile, said that these were the votes, knowing how many votes would have been forged before him. He complained to the Election Commission and asked for polling at booths 119 and 120. He said that NK Sharma was beginning to see his defeat, due to which he was forced to cast as many fake votes as he could. Meanwhile, Sanjeev Khanna said that this time the people of Punjab have voted for change. Due to which the results this time will be amazing. Khanna, on the other hand, thanked the voters of Dera Bassi constituency and claimed that he would form a government to ensure his victory. Sanjeev Khanna said that if he won, he would first solve the sewerage and water problem in Zirakpur. When asked, Khanna said that the Akali Dal was talking about an alliance because it already knew that it had lost and the people outside Punjab wanted to re-align with the BJP. The rest is up to the High Command. He said that BJP was contesting elections on its own for the first time. Due to which he has got full support of the people.

Students of CGC Wakaar Ahmed and Arshdeep Dhammu
Jhanjeri, Mohali Shines at India Skills 2021 Competition

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, FEB 21

Chandigarh Group of Colleges Jhanjeri in the biggest showcase of skills excellence two students were awarded for their commendable performance.

Wakaar Ahmed secured the gold medal in state level skill competition and Arshdeep Dhammu secured silver medal with modules accompanying MCQ test, practical test and viva voice at the India Skill Competition 2021 under. Later, they proved their skills and dedication at the regional level where Wakaar Ahmad & Arshdeep Dhammu participated as a team and represented the Gold medal. Then, they compete in the national competition and won Silver medal as a massive achievement.



ment. President Rashpal Singh Dhalwal extend his well-wishes and congratulated the winners on this well-deserved success. These National awards recognize outstanding contributions towards their work and knowl-

edge. CGC Jhanjeri mainly focuses on skill integrated higher education and has always encouraged the students and given all types of facilities to showcase their talents at world level so that its students can excel.

International mother
language day celebrated
at Blossoms

SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, FEB 21

Blossoms convent school celebrated international mother language day at its premises. The teachers informed students about the importance of the day.

The teachers told students that the language learnt at home by children always had a special place in their hearts and is their natural way of expressing themselves. School principal Dr. Amarjeet Kaur Naaz said that mother languages hold a great importance and should be respected. She stated that children these days find it embarrassing to accept their mother languages owing to the western influence which is completely wrong.

"We need to protect our mother languages and we



should also learn to embrace them without hesitation as they are a part of our culture," she said. School president Manpreet Singh Brar said that the school shall continue making efforts to help students learn more about their mother languages.

Felicitation Ceremony for National and Inter
National Gold, Silver, Bronze Medalists

RAJIV JAIN
CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Dharm Pal, Adviser to Administrator, felicitated various Winners of IndiaSkills 2021, Nationals, Inter University, Junior World Cup at Sukhna Lake today. More than 39 participants were brought together at one platform to honour their incredible performance at different levels. Felicitated by It was a joint event of Directorate of Technical Education and Department of Sports.

It was delighted to witness the Champions at one platform. Winners Included 11 students who won, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Medal of Excellence in various trades ie ITSSB, Industrial Control, Restaurant Service, Painting Decorating, Water Technology, Landscaping etc at India Skill Nationals held at Delhi. The spectacular evening also brought together the sports players who have shown great performance in Athletic, boxing, cricket, hockey, Rowing,

1 lakh 76 thousand 358 voters
exercised their right to vote in
Kharar Assembly constituency

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, FEB 21

The polling in Kharar Assembly constituency was completed peacefully and 1 lakh 76 thousand 358 voters exercised their right to vote which was 66.17 percent of the total electorate. According to the information received in this regard 94 thousand 898 men and 81 thousand 458 women voted.

Under the tight and able supervision of Kharar SDMC- Returning Officer Avikesh Gupta the voting was very free and fair and no untoward incident was noticed. It may be recalled that at the time of 1917 elections 1 lakh 58 thousand 419 voters had cast their votes and at that time Aam Aadmi Party candidate Kanwar Sandhu was declared elected by getting 54 thousand 171 votes.

At that time Jagmohan Singh Kang (Congress) got 52 thousand 159 votes and Ranjit Singh Gill (Sormani Akali Dal) got 46 thousand 807 votes. As per information, a total of 316 polling booths were set up by the administration this time.

In all these booths the highest turnout was recorded at Government Elementary School Tanda which was 90.03 per cent of the total electorate. Similarly, 88.58 per cent voting took place at Patti Guraha booth.

The lowest turnout was at Honey Dew Smart Public School Kharar which was 43.85 percent. Similarly, the turnout in one booth at Government Elementary School Desumajra was 45.62 per cent. It may be recalled that this time 17 candidates were in the fray and a tough contest is expected.

Case registered against four
persons for casting fake votes

VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, FEB 21

A case was registered on Sunday 2022 against four persons who were going to cast fake votes in Booth Nos. 119 and 120 of Lohgarh police station and they were arrested on the spot.

The police have registered a case against him under sections 419 and 171F of the IPC. According to information received from the spot, Aam Aadmi Party polling agent Kamaljit Singh and Congress party polling agent Avtar Singh started shouting around 5.15 pm that two women and two men had come to cast fake votes.

He lodged a complaint with Zirakpur police station, media and Election Commission Talking to reporters, Kamaljit Singh and Avtar Singh said that both of them are polling agents of their respective parties. At around 5.15 pm, four persons, including two women and two men,

came and checked their voter cards and identified them as being from someone else. He said that for fear of being caught he started telling the truth and said that he was working in the house of Akali Dal candidate NK Sharma and he had come to cast fake votes.

Police reached the spot after receiving the information and after talking to Presiding Officer Mukesh Rai, arrested the four accused and registered a case against them at Zirakpur police station. Regarding the matter, the investigating officer said that four persons were present when they reached the booths 119 and 120 of Lohgarh on information of installation of fake boats while on patrol to complete their election duty.

After investigating the case, the police registered a case and released the accused on bail. At the same time, AAP and Congress polling agents have appealed not to hold polling at these booths.



wrestling and weightlifting. Chandigarh Administration also awarded to 15 Mentors of Technical Education and 9 Coaches of Education Department. Dharm Pal shared that, "It's been a delight to witness the quality of talent, passion and perseverance with which the candidates have competed at the IndiaSkills and National Competition. Congratulations to all the winners and participants." I am personally met all the champions and I am certain that the future of skills is in safe hands with such an efficient workforce, he added. The competition has been keeping pace with new evolving skill sets and includes the latest technology and techniques. The Govern-

ment, industry and experts will work together to ensure that Team India is best equipped with the desired training and tools to perform their best at WorldSkills International Competition, which will be held in Shanghai, China later this year. The Adviser shared that, "I am certain we will bag more medals this year. I also ensure that Sport Department will also provide better facility to winners so that they can showcase their best performance". On this occasion, SS Gill IAS, Secretary Technical Education -cum- Sports along with Sh Jagjit Singh, PCS Director Technical Education and Sh. Tejdeep Singh Saini, Director Sports were also present.

Gurmat Samagam organised at Gurdwara Manji Sahib Diwan
Hall to commemorate martyrs of Saka Nankana Sahib

CHARNJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, FEB 21

To commemorate the martyrs of Saka (massacre) Nankana Sahib that took place in 1921, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) organised a Gurmat Samagam (religious congregation) at Gurdwara Manji Sahib Diwan Hall on Monday. On this occasion, following the bhog (culmination) of Sri Akhand Path Sahib, jatha of Bhai Jagtar Singh Rajpura connected the Sangat with Gurbani Kirtan and kathawachak (narrator) Bhai Harmitar Singh shared the Gurmat views. Paying homage to the martyrs of Saka Nankana Sahib, Bhai Harmitar Singh said the determination



and courage shown by the Sikhs warriors, to liberate the birthplace of the first Guru, Gurdwara Nankana Sahib from the control of so-called Mahants, proved to be the foundation stone for organising the Sikh Qaum (community). He said

that it is imperative today to take guidance from these great martyrs of the Qaum to set priorities for the future of the community and especially for the Sikh youth, to carry out their future responsibilities towards the Sikh faith, it is important to guard the Sikh history and Gurmat principles.

Those present during the event included SGPC additional secretary S. Partap Singh, manager Sri Darbar Sahib S. Gurinder Singh Mathrewal, superintendent S. Malkit Singh Beharwal, manager S. Baghel Singh, supervisor S. Kabal Singh, S. Kunan Singh, and more.

Handloom India Exhibition begins at Himachal Bhawan

CS JOLLY
CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Handloom India Exhibition with the latest variety and designs of fine silk and cotton handloom sarees, for the summer and wedding season, has started at Himachal Bhawan, Sec 28 here. The showcase will continue till February 27. The sarees on display are crafted by experienced and skilled craftsmen from across the country.

Jayesh Gupta who is organising the exhibition by getting all original artisans from all over the country un-



der one roof said, "Lavish sarees and dress materials, brought from all parts of the country, are showcased in the exhibition. Silk sarees are available in a variety of designs, patterns and colour combinations. At the same

time, a captivating collection of fashion jewelry is also on display. Gujarat's Handmade Patola Sarees are available in the range of Rs 15 thousand to 2 lakhs, each piece of this variety takes eight months to prepare.

It is woven twice and each thread is dyed separately. Due to the use of pure silk, this saree is expensive." "At the same time, in the Paithani sarees of Maharash-

tra, ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000, there is a glimpse of rural life, Mughal art and these present a majestic style too," added Gupta.

The weavers of Banarasi keep on experimenting in various ways to make their sarees popular as per the new trends. Sometimes they print a garden scene on Banarasi sarees, and sometimes prepare motifs for Paithani sarees of Maharashtra. From traditional Banarasi Zari and Kadhwa Booti sarees to Tanchoi silk sarees all are available in a competitive price range of Rs 1000 to 5000.

Guru Amar Dass Public
School celebrates
International Mother
Tongue Day



HARPREET SINGH LEHAL
JALANDHAR: Guru Amar Dass Public School celebrated International Mother Tongue Day under the guidance of President S.Ajit Singh Sethi and All committee members . On this occasion Inter House Punjabi Declaration Contest was held online. This competition was from Grade 6 to Grade 8. Students prepared slogans in punjabi language in the school to make people aware about the importance of punjabi language and to nurture it. Message was also given to protect and educate girl child . President S.Ajit Singh Sethi,Vice Principal Dr Sonika Singh and Ms Renuka Angrish Incharge Online Classes congratulated and encouraged the students to fulfill their responsibilities towards the international Mother Tongue.

Mother Language Day
celebrated at Apeejay
College



JALANDHAR: The Department of Punjabi of Apeejay College of Fine Arts, Jalandhar celebrated International Mother Language Day. Principal Dr. Neerja Dhingra was the Chief Guest of the day. Putting forth her views on this occasion, she said that in order to communicate at social level it is better to be multi lingual but one should never forget the roots and one's own mother tongue. Madam Lovepreet Kaur from Department of Punjabi recited a self-composed poem and also a documentary created by her was shown. Sandeep Singh talked about how the age of technology has created a worst effect on the vocabulary and pronunciations of today's youth. The pure language has today resulted in the form of slang language. Dr. Raman Dhadra made the students take an oath to respect and value their mother tongue and culture. Dr. Anjana from Department of Hindi had organized Essay writing competition and the winners were given certificates for it. Dr. Navjot Deol gave the vote of thanks. The Department of Punjabi of Apeejay College of Fine Arts, Jalandhar celebrated International Mother Language Day. Principal Dr. Neerja Dhingra was the Chief Guest of the day. Putting forth her views on this occasion, she said that in order to communicate at social level it is better to be multi lingual but one should never forget the roots and one's own mother tongue. Madam Lovepreet Kaur from Department of Punjabi recited a self-composed poem and also a documentary created by her was shown. Mr. Sandeep Singh talked about how the age of technology has created a worst effect on the vocabulary and pronunciations of today's youth. The pure language has today resulted in the form of slang language. Dr. Raman Dhadra made the students take an oath to respect and value their mother tongue and culture. Dr. Anjana from Department of Hindi had organized Essay writing competition and the winners were given certificates for it. Dr. Navjot Deol gave the vote of thanks.

Cong will retain
power in Pb: Gehri



ISHWAR GARG
TALWANDI SABO: In the recent Punjab Assembly elections held on Feb 20, the voters did their duty by voting with great enthusiasm and these wise voters exercised their right to cast their votes with their wise thinking and showed that the people will bring only those candidates forward who work for people. These remarks were made by Punjab Congress General Secretary Kiranjit Singh Gehri during a special interaction with journalists as per the assessment conducted in various villages of the local market. He said that Congress would make history by registering victory and forming government in Punjab and Congress candidate from Talwandi Sabo constituency Khushbaj Singh Jatana would also win. It may be recalled that Kiranjit Singh Gehri from the Congress also campaigned in favour of Khushbaj Singh Jatana in the villages of the area during the election campaign days.



YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Lakhimpur Kheri in eye of storm over
farmers' deaths goes to poll on Feb-23

AGENCY
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, FEB 21

Lakhimpur Kheri, which caught national attention in October last year for the alleged killing of the farmers, will go to the polls on February 23 in the ongoing Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Bharatiya Janata Party's Yogesh Verma had won the Lakhimpur seat in the 2017 Assembly polls by defeating Samajwadi Party's Utkarsh Verma Madhur with a formidable margin of more than 37,000 votes. The prestige of the Union Minister of State for the Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni will also be at stake in the Lakhimpur Kheri constituency. He's a local MP, besides having been at the centre of controversy after his son was named in the FIR in the incident leading to the deaths of the farmers.

Interestingly, both the BJP and the SP have repeated their candidates. The constituency caught the eyeballs in the



ongoing polls because of the political heat generated by the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in the Parliament and also outside.

In 2012, Utkarsh Verma Madhur from the SP had won the seat defeating the Bahujan Samajwadi Party's Gyan Prakash Bajpai. Congress has fielded Ravi Shankar Trivedi whereas

the BSP has fielded Mohan Bajpai from the seat. Khushi Kinnar from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is also in the fray along with AIMIM's Mohammad Usman Siddiqui. Eight Assembly constituencies in the Kheri Lok Sabha seat are Mohammadi, Gola Gokarannath, Kasta, Lakhimpur, Srinagar, Nighasan,

Villages will be
developed like cities:
Sandedep Singh

DEEPAK SHARMA
ISMAILABAD, FEB 21

Sports Minister Sandeep Sandeep Singh said today that the villages will be rejuvenated on the lines of cities. For this, projects will be prepared while sitting among the villagers. All roads to the dera will be paved. Like villages, the deras will get electricity facilities round the clock. He was addressing the villagers in village Thaska Meeran ji. Sandeep Singh said that the public welfare schemes will be brought for every section. He said that efforts are being made to provide all possible help to the needy families. Eligible families coming under the poverty line are being identified through online. All kinds of benefits will be given to such families. People of the village should get the works of public interest done together. Priority should be given to mutual harmony in the village. On this occasion, the organiser of the programme Gurtek Singh presented a demand letter on behalf of the village. Sandeep Singh said that all the demands will be fulfilled. On this occasion Dr. Chuhar Singh, Gurlal Singh, Rachpal Singh, BJP Mandal President Chiranjeev Garg, Vikas Rana, Akshay Nanda, Karnail Singh, Jarnail Singh etc. were present. The Sports Minister reached Tothad Farm. He also remembered Late Banta Singh Tothad. Banta Singh had settled the farm after coming from Pakistan.

5 overloaded vehicles
seized during a drive

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR, FEB 21

RTO team reached the area to take action on overloaded vehicles. During this drive, the team seized five overloaded vehicles and issued invoices.

The team was led by RTO Secretary Dr. Subhash Chandra. On the other hand, as soon as the team to take action against the overloaded trucks reached the area, the overloaded drivers became active. As long as the team remained in the area, the overloaded vehicles disappeared from the road.

RTO Dr Subhash Chandra said that he inspected the area with the team. During this time, five overloaded tractor-trolleys were invoiced. He said that his action will continue. Overload will not be tolerated at any cost.



On the other hand, state president of Haryana Anti-Corruption Society Advocate Varyam Singh says that there is an abundance of overloaded vehicles in the area. If the team takes continuous action on the overloaded vehicles then there may be a pause on the menace.

Poet Darbar dedicated to International Mother
Language Day was held at SSD College

KARANPREET DHANDRAL
BARNALA, FEB 21

International Mother Tongue Day was organized at Kavi Darbar SSD College here. Mr. Shivdarshan Kumar Sharma, Chairman, D Sabha Raj Barnala congratulated the students on International Punjabi Day and expressed his concern over the Punjabi language to the students. There is no need so we should be the custodians of Punjabi mother tongue.



Should it be taken to new heights? Our Gurus, Sufi poets have created literature in Punjabi language. Shiromani Punjabi writer Om Prakash Gaso ji said that Punjabi is our mother tongue. Keep it up We should be proud to speak Punjabi. The Punjabi

community which is making great strides in foreign countries as well as the Punjabi language has been taken to the international level. College Principal Lal Singh Ji said that Punjabi language is our lifeblood. We cannot deny our mother tongue. We should

Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary confident of
victory in Phillaur

ASHOK KAURA

PHILLAUR: As the hustle bustle of Punjab legislative assembly elections gets over, there is a sense of calm at the residence of Phillaur constituency's Indian National Congress candidate Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary. As party members and followers enter and exit Pragati, his humble abode for the last decade in Phillaur, Vikramjit greets all of them with folded hands, hugs and touches elders' feet. Vikramjit's campaign has been a long one this time, in comparison to the 2017 elections when he barely had time to visit even half the villages. This time he visited each village and held meetings with the locals since his announcement in the first list of Congress candidates on 15th January.

PAGE
7

GM reviews performance
of Northern Railway

NEW DELHI, FEB 21

Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager Northern Railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs through video conferencing. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on mobility enhancement and other developmental infrastructure works and Freight loading. The Northern Railway maintained good record of punctuality and continue to emphasis on punctual running of trains. He also informed that Northern Railway runs 998 CRACK freight trains during the period from 10.02.2022 to 16.02.2022 which improves freight loading.He said that, apart from safety the mobility enhancement works are the prime focus area of Northern Railway. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions to expedite the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress. He stressed upon the



safety for smooth train operations and asked the officials to curb any kind of obstruction during operation of trains.Sh. Gangal, also said that, whenever necessary and required the concerned staff should be counsel and trained. He said the monitoring of rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error should be left.He emphasized upon minimizing the human failure in train operation. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain the punctuality and keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority. The General Manager also took the stock of progress of work related with raising of speed from 130 kmph to 160 kmph on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai route.

151 to be honoured at
talent recognition function

ROHIT LAMSAR
TARAORI, FEB 21

On behalf of Jai Bharat Yuva Mandal, Taraori, a Talent Recognition Ceremony will be organized on 6th March 2022 at Swagat Palace, Anjanthali Road here, Apart from studies and sports, the top students in other competitions, teachers who have done special work in the field of education, in the field of social service, environment, literature and journalism, about 151 people who have done better and remarkable work in the society were selected, who will be honoured by Prof Rajesh Vaidya, who has acquired Ph.D from England.

This information was given by Rohit Lamsar, President of Jai Bharat Yuva Mandal, Taraori, and Pankaj Thakur, Press Secretary. He informed that 151 talents are honored on behalf of Jai Bharat Yuva Mandal every year. In this connection, this



year also 151 talents who have contributed in the interest of society will be honored with Best Achievement Award.

Children from many schools will present cultural activities in the program. Also, many children will present poems on social issues. Apart from this, well-known anchor Mehak Sharma will also conduct many games between school children and dignitaries. Not only this, many famous poets will also participate and regale the audience with the poems written by them.

Meet Hair thanks voter
and supporters

KULDEEP SOOD/GULSHAN KUMAR
BARNALA, FEB 21

AAP candidates from Barnala Assembly constituency who voted for Aam Aadmi Party, especially supporters who did their duty honestly and diligently while campaigning for Aam Aadmi Party and Gurmeet Singh Meet Hair thanked wholeheartedly. He said that the Aam Aadmi Party government is coming into power. On March 10, Bhagwant Singh Mann will become the Chief Minister of the Punjab Government on behalf of the Aam Aadmi Party. After that work will be done for the betterment of Punjab. Punjab will be taken forward in a new and planned manner. Work will be done keeping health and education at the forefront, inspectorate state will be closed in Punjab. Work will be done keeping in view the welfare of the people and it will be guarded. We are your brothers, sons, it will be our duty to make laws taking care of your every need and make Punjab better by implementing them. All Punjab has been planned, the election manifesto will be implemented and each MLA will be appointed. Will act as a worker in his constituency. Punjab will be taken on the path of progress like the Delhi model and its revenue will be increased. Mafia will be eradicated from Punjab. Parminder Singh



Bhangu Joint Secretary Punjab, Gurdeep Singh Bath District President, Balwant Singh Sidhu District Media Incharge, Gurjant Singh, Charanjit Singh Khaira, Jagtar Singh Bamrah among others were present on the occasion.

Haryana State Board of Technical Education
signs MoU with Jindal Stainless

CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

With the vision to empower India's youth by upskilling them, Haryana State Board of Technical Education (HSBTE), signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Jindal Stainless with the joint objective to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel technology and applications. For this, they have agreed to institutionalize stainless steel courses in all polytechnic colleges in Haryana state. The MoU was signed by Secretary, HSBTE, Mr Rajesh Goel and Senior Vice President, Manufacturing, Jindal Stainless (Hisar) Limited, Mr Vijay Bindlish in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, Technical & Higher Education, Govt. of Haryana, Shri Anand Mohan Sharan (IAS)and Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Vijay Sharma. Lauding this initiative, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Anand Mohan Saran (IAS) said "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless can prove to be a milestone in creating a



stainless India. With this partnership, our faculty and students will get hands-on industry experience, insights, and training. We congratulate Jindal Stainless for this initiative and look forward to working together to prepare future-ready professionals." Speaking for the stainless steel industry,Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Vijay Sharma said, "As leaders in the Indian stainless steel industry, we consider it our responsibility to foster an ecosystem for growth and adoption of stainless steel. This MoU will pave the way for a series of professional courses for students and equip them with technical exposure on

stainless steel applications in the industry. We are thankful to the Haryana government for encouraging this partnership, and look forward to working with HSBTE and developing an ecosystem of practical knowledge, innovation, and sustainability." As per the partnership, two modules on stainless steel will be launched. One compulsory module will be launched for the fourth semester students of mechanical engineering students of all government polytechnics in Haryana. This module will be a part of the "Materials and Metallurgy" (MM) subject and will have 10 lectures. This will be institutionalized across all 25 polytechnic colleges in Haryana, benefitting more than 3,000 students every year. The courses are planned to be introduced from March 2022 onwards. In addition to this, a 3-credit 42-lecture elective course will be launched at Government Polytechnic (GP), Hisar for the fifth semester mechanical engineering students.

Muslim Community in UK holds virtual meeting with
World Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

VERMA
QADIAN, FEB 21

The World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad held a virtual online meeting with converts to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community living in the UK. His Holiness presided the meeting from the MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford, whilst more than 65 male and female converts to Ahmadiyyat joined from the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London. During the event, some members narrated their personal stories of why they joined the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, whilst others had the opportunity to ask questions to His Holiness. One of the attendees asked for advice on how to develop patience and overcome personal challenges. One attendee asked His



Holiness what the major differences were between Ahmadi Muslims and other Muslims. His Holiness advised that he should read the literature of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and in particular the book 'Invitation to Ahmadiyyat' by the second Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. His Holiness explained that whilst the rest of the Muslims were awaiting the Messiah and Mahdi to come, Ahmadi Muslims believe that he has already come in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) who claimed to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.

EDITORIAL

New lesson

The news that more children are going to school is most welcome in any Indian state. The government's role in bringing children from underprivileged households into school and keeping them there is of overwhelming importance. But this requires money. Improving the school system in terms of size, infrastructure, access, quality and affordability for all calls for funds not always available in a state's coffers. The West Bengal government's proposal for a public-private partnership model in the sphere of school education can be placed in the combined context of strained purse-strings and an aspirational population. Unused government land and buildings would be given to private investors, while the latter would upgrade infrastructure, provide recurring and non-recurring expenses, fix fees, hire teachers, and decide on the medium of instruction and affiliating board. Predictably, this is being seen by the Opposition as the first step towards privatization, which brings with it apprehensions of education being snatched away from children coming from socially and economically weaker backgrounds. Overturning the goal of expanding the educational base, that is. That the government would ensure the admission of 30 per cent of students through its own channels to address this possibility is not being considered adequate, apart from worries about political bias.

While the fears may not be baseless, the issue could be considered dispassionately too. Reports suggest that the state government is thinking of the PPP model for the buildings and premises of 79 schools lying unused, since these closed because of a lack of students. That by itself is not a bad idea. West Bengal may be on the verge of a bold step. But to make the move truly beneficial, each aspect has to be closely thought through. Medium of instruction and affiliation, for example, are sensitive matters; is it enough to leave them entirely to private players? As it is, children from marginalized groups have problems following the standard language of the state in class, let alone the English medium. And how is the government going to ensure that PPP schools do not focus on urban areas? The state should set its terms clearly, for it is the government's goals that must be fulfilled. There is no dearth of private schools. The PPP model should be distinct with the benefits, both tangible and intangible, balanced for all stakeholders.

Digital University: Integrating Learning, Actualising Inclusion

The education system has to be inclusive, dynamic and evolving so as to meet the ever-increasing needs and aspirations of a diverse group of learners. It should be able to advance in the field to remain current and relevant. ICT is a great enabler as well as a great disabler in this context; if we catch up with ICT, it becomes an enabler and if we lag behind, it becomes a disabler.

Digital or virtual education is emerging as a most-potent mode of the teaching-learning world over, especially after the corona pandemic. Learning loss owing to the closure of educational institutions was mitigated to a considerable extent due to online learning. In spite of limitations of high bandwidth internet connectivity and electronic gadgets, online learning helped avoid academic sessions becoming zero, and precious years of students were saved. The corona pandemic prompted UGC to increase percentage of online teaching components from 20 to 40. Several universities resorted to LMS customised by the INFLIBNET.

In the process, teachers and students developed skills in online teaching-learning to a large extent. UGC uploaded a draft regulation on blended learning for suggestions from academia and permitted universities to offer online programmes. The Ministry of Education launched several ICT initiatives for improving equity, access, quality and GER. These include, SWAYAM, ARPIT, SWAYAMPRAKHA, NPTEL, NDL, e-PG Pathshala, Shodhganga, e-Shodhsindhu, e-Yatra, ShodhShuddhi, Spoken Tutorials, Virtual Labs, VIDWAN etc. There is a need felt now to accelerate and scale up the above-mentioned and new efforts for leveraging the benefits of virtual learning. Anticipating the future growth trajectory of the learning system, the central government announced several initiatives on 17th May, 2020 itself. These included the launch of PM e-Vidya pro-



gramme for multimode access to digital education encompassing Diksha (one nation-one digital platform), one class-one channel (upto class-XII), special e-Contents for the differently-abled student community and use of radio, community radio and podcast and e-Tutoring for higher education.

All this amply demonstrates that the government has been preparing for a big push with respect to digital learning, which eventually happened on 1st February, 2022 with the announcement made by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman for establishing a digital university. She informed that this university is intended to provide access to world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experiences to students across the country at their "hands".

It will be set-up on a networked hub and spoke model. In this model, the knowledge will originate from a centralised hub and will digitally travel to spokes (smaller locations) for use. Here, the hub refers to the best public universities and institutions in India and the spokes refer to individual learners who will be beneficiaries of the digital mode of delivery of knowledge. This digital university will comply with ISTE standards for the use of technology in teaching-learning. The catch

point is that each hub needs to develop a cutting-edge ICT system. The beauty of plan is that the knowledge originating at the hubs will be in different Indian languages.

Modes of instruction in a digital or virtual university range from distance learning to live, interactive classes where students communicate with a teacher. In an asynchronous learning environment, the students are given the assignments from the self-paced courses to be completed within a timeframe. Students complete the assignments at their own pace and the interactions are limited to discussion boards, blogs, wikis etc. Oppositely, synchronous online study happens in real-time, whereby teachers and students all interact online simultaneously. This happens either through text, video, audio or in all modes. In addition to the scheduled class time, there are usually additional assignments to be completed. Therefore these lessons are socially constructed. In my view, the proposed digital university should embrace all three models of online learning to meet the needs of diverse sections of the student community dwelling in a wide-range of socio-economic contexts. An added advantage is that students can graduate from their homes without ever dislocating themselves. Moreover, online resources function as a library, and with the facility for creating online study materials, the requirement of textbooks is also met with.

However, the caution is that it becomes extremely difficult to keep the learners' attention at the optimum level in the online learning ecosystem, making synchronous learning extremely difficult. Teachers have to find technology-enabled creative ways to keep students' attention focussed on the screen as they are in the comfort zone of their home environment. Individualising lessons and short breaks can help students to stay engaged. Moreover, in a synchronous learning environment, teachers and

students have to be extremely disciplined and focused in order to avoid learning loss and make it as interactive as offline learning. Digital learners can be effectively engaged through gamification that provides learning material as games to bring clarity and enjoyment to students learning experience. Gamification can also assist students to increase their intrinsic motivation for accomplishing desired learning goals.

Thus, a digital university is a huge opportunity for the nation to integrate learning, actualise digital inclusion, and build the future of rich and poor alike. However, the mandate of the digital university should not be restricted to converting traditional course materials into digital forms and their delivery in online mode. Delivery of contents amounts only to having a set of data or information without knowing what to do with it. Analysis, synthesis, inference drawing, firming-up conclusions, application potential and validation of the knowledge created, and mid-course correction complete the learning cycle. How to ensure this, is the biggest challenge in online learning. Creative use of hybrid learning models may help overcome this deficiency. Hybrid learning, as understood, is not merely a mode of delivery of knowledge in a mix of online and offline learning environments. It is actually an appropriate blending of pedagogies for capacity building of learners like lecturing, tutorial, group discussion, debate, students' seminar, home assignment, dissertation, internship, case study, policy formulation, project evaluation, field study, survey, excursion, use of virtual labs etc. Digital University, if conceptualised and nurtured carefully, has the potential to transform current learning system as envisaged in NEP2020.

Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari,
Vice-Chancellor
Central University of Punjab, Bathinda

Literature & Health

Aus welcomes back tourists with toy koalas, Tim Tams

International tourists and business travellers began arriving in Australia with few restrictions on Monday for the first time in almost two years after the government lifted some of the most draconian pandemic measures of any democracy in the world.

Vaccinated travellers were greeted at Sydney's airport by jubilant well-wishers waving toy koalas and favourite Australian foods including Tim Tams chocolate cookies and jars of Vegemite spread.

Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan was on hand to welcome the first arrivals on a Qantas flight from Los Angeles which landed at 6.20 a.m. local time.

I think there'll be a very strong rebound in our tourism market. Our wonderful experiences haven't gone away, Tehan told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said all travelers' vaccination status would be checked before they arrived to avoid a repeat of Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic's visa debacle. Djokovic was issued with a visa through an automated process before



he left Spain to compete in the Australian Open in January but was deported after he arrived in Melbourne because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. Tourism Australia managing director Phillipa Harrison said she expected tourist numbers would take two years to rebound to pre-pandemic levels. This is a really great start, Harrison said. This is what the industry had been asking us for, you know, just give us our international guests back and we will take it from there. Qantas on Monday was bringing in passengers from eight overseas destinations including Vancouver, Singapore, London, and Delhi.

Smartphone app use may reveal your identity: Study

According to researchers, the time a person spends on different smartphone apps is enough to identify them from a larger group in more than one in three cases.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Psychological Science'.

Psychologists Dr Heather Shaw, Professor Paul Taylor and Professor Stacey Conchie from Lancaster University, and Dr David Ellis from the University of Bath analysed smartphone data from 780 people. They fed 4,680 days of app usage data into statistical models. Each of these days was paired with one of the 780 users, such that the models learnt people's daily app use patterns.

The researchers then tested whether models could identify an individual when provided with only a single day of smartphone activity that was anonymous and not yet paired with a user. Dr Ellis from the University of Bath said, "Our models, which were trained on only six



days of app usage data per person, could identify the correct person from a day of anonymous data one-third of the time."

That might not sound like much, but when the models made a prediction regarding who data belonged to, it could also provide a list of the most to the least likely candidates. It was possible to view the top 10 most likely individuals that a specific day of data belonged to. Around 75 per cent of the time, the correct user would be among the top 10 most likely candidates. Professor Taylor from Lancaster University added, "In practical terms, a law enforcement investigation

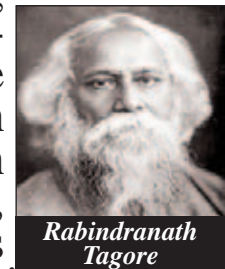
seeking to identify a criminal's new phone from knowledge of their historic phone use could reduce a candidate pool of approximately 1,000 phones to 10 phones, with a 25 per cent risk of missing them." Consequently, the researchers warn that software granted access to a smartphone's standard activity logging could render a reasonable prediction about a user's identity even when they were logged out of their account. Identification is possible with no monitoring of conversations or behaviours within apps themselves.

Dr Shaw from Lancaster University said, "We found that people exhibited consistent patterns in their application usage behaviours on a day-to-day basis, such as using Facebook the most and the calculator app the least. In support of this, we also showed that two days of smartphone data from the same person exhibited greater similarity in app usage patterns than two days of data from different people."

POEMS

Signet of Eternity

The day was when I did not keep myself in readiness for thee; and entering my heart unbidden even as one of the common crowd, unknown to me, my king, thou didst press the signet of eternity upon many a fleeting moment of my life. And today when by chance I light upon them and see thy signature, I find they have lain scattered in the dust mixed with the memory of joys and sorrows of my trivial days forgotten.



·Rabindranath Tagore

50 years after Nixon visit, US-China ties as fraught as ever

At the height of the Cold War, U.S. President Richard Nixon flew into communist China's center of power for a visit that, over time, would transform U.S.-China relations and China's position in the world in ways that were unimaginable at the time.

The relationship between China and the United States was always going to be a challenge, and after half a century of ups and downs, is more fraught than ever.

The Cold War is long over, but on both sides there are fears a new one could be beginning. Despite repeated Chinese disavowals, America worries that the democratic-led world that triumphed over the Soviet Union could



be challenged by the authoritarian model of a powerful and still-rising China. The U.S.-China relationship has always been contentious but one of necessity, said Oriana Skylar Mastro, a China expert at Stanford University.

Perhaps 50 years ago the reasons were mainly economic. Now they are mainly in the security realm. But the relationship has never and will never be easy." Nixon landed in Beijing on a gray winter morning 50 years ago on Monday. Billboards carried slogans such as Down with American Imperialism, part of the upheaval under the Cultural Revolution that banished intellectuals and others to the countryside and subjected many to public humiliation and brutal and even deadly attacks in the name of class struggle. Nixon's 1972 trip, which included meetings with Chairman Mao Zedong and a visit to the Great Wall, led to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979 and the parallel severing of

formal ties with Taiwan, which the U.S. had recognized as the government of China after the communists took power in Beijing in 1949.

Premier Zhou Enlai's translator wrote in a memoir that, to the best of his recollection, Nixon said, This hand stretches out across the Pacific Ocean in friendship as he shook hands with Zhou at the airport. For both sides, it was a friendship born of circumstances, rather than natural allegiances. China and the Soviet Union, formerly communist allies, had split and even clashed along their border in 1969, and Mao saw the United States as a potential counterbalance to any threat of a Soviet invasion. Nixon, embroiled in the Watergate scandal at home and a

war in Vietnam, was seeking to isolate the Soviet Union and exit the prolonged and bloody war that had divided American society. He hoped that China, an ally of communist North Vietnam in its battle with the U.S.-backed South, could play a role in resolving the conflict.

The U.S. president put himself in the position of supplicant to Beijing, said June Teufel Dreyer, a Chinese politics specialist at the University of Miami. Chinese state media promoted the idea that a prosperous China would be a peaceful China and that the country was a huge market for American exports, she said. It would be decades before that happened. First, the U.S. became a huge market for China, pro-

pelling the latter's meteoric rise from an impoverished nation to the world's second largest economy.

Nixon's visit was a pivotal event that ushered in China's turn outward and subsequent rise globally, said the University of Chicago's Dali Yang, the author of numerous books on Chinese politics and economics. Two years after Mao's death in 1976, new leader Deng Xiaoping ushered in an era of partial economic liberalization, creating a mix of state-led capitalism and single-party rule that has endured to this day. China's wealth has enabled a major expansion of its military, which the U.S. and its allies see as a threat. The Communist Party says it seeks only to defend its territory.

Tata Play opens its first retail store in Ludhiana

Ludhiana, In a constant endeavour to make life more jingalala for subscribers and customers, one of India's leading content distribution and Pay TV platform Tata Play (erstwhile known as Tata Sky), today announced the opening of its exclusive jingalala Store in Ludhiana. The new store will offer customers an elevated experience of Tata Play's range of products & services under one roof. Making every entertainment experience enjoyable. Tata Play in its new avatar will provide more fun, freedom and flexibility. Present at the inauguration, Neil Soares, Chief Sales Officer, Tata Play said, "As we have now rebranded to Tata Play, this new jingalala store will help in making entertainment aur bhi jingalala. The store will serve as our first direct point of sale with customers in Ludhiana, giving them a chance to experience the myriad entertainment possibilities that come with a Tata Play connection. It will give Tata Play an increased visibility in the market and offer the 'touch & feel' option that continues to be an important factor in the buying process of Indian customers.

PM Inaugurates Garuda Aerospace Kisan Drone Manufacturing Facilities

Shimla/Jammu, The Honorable Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Make In India drone startup Garuda Aerospace's facilities simultaneously in two locations through video conferencing. The unique and innovative event also featured the PM pressing a Drona Button from his command center which resulted in 100 Kisaan drones simultaneously taking off in 100 villages to commence agriculture spraying operations in 16 different states to celebrate 75 years of Progressive India as part of the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav. Garuda's 110,000 sq feet manufacturing facility in Gurgaon set under a strategic partnership with Defsys Solutions is equipped with Advanced Design and Prototype testing capabilities. The 2.5-acre facility is a hub for drone software design, hardware structural testing, type certification, and manufacturing capacity of 40 drones per day. It is to be noted that 33 Anti Drone systems procurement orders from MOD are being manufactured at this facility. Garuda's proposed Chennai Plant is located on a 20-acre facility where mass volume manufacturing capacity of 100 drones per day and manufacturing of 1,00,000 Kisaan drones are being planned over the next 2 years.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis NIFTY Smallcap 50 Index Fund'

CHANDIGARH: Axis Mutual Fund, one of the leading asset management companies in India announced the launch of Axis NIFTY Smallcap 50 Index Fund, (an Open Ended Index Fund tracking the NIFTY Smallcap 50 Index) today. Managed by Jinesh Gopani, Head – Equity, the fund will track the NIFTY Smallcap 50 TRI Index. The NFO opens for subscription on 21st February 2022 and closes on 7th March, 2022. The minimum application amount is INR 5,000 and investors can invest in multiples of INR 1, thereafter. The exit load is Nil. Mr. Chandresh Nigam, MD & CEO, Axis AMC said, "When it comes to Smallcap companies, who can be considered at the stepping stones to Midcaps and Largecaps, only good quality-oriented companies are able to make the transition. With the introduction of the Axis NIFTY Smallcap 50 Index Fund, we are hoping to drive alpha for our investors while maintaining focus on Quality, Scalability, and Stability in the portfolio. It aligns with our belief of offering quality products to investors that suits their risk appetite and need to yield long term wealth creation opportunities."

Chandigarh's new picture-perfect Pan-Asian restaurant, Pink Wasabi

CHANDIGARH: Pink Wasabi is the newest chic addition with Instagram-able worthy spots at one of the most happening locations in the city, Elante Mall. The elegant-yet-classic dining hotspot offers an amalgamation of delectable Pan-Asian delicacies, exquisite dink while swooning you with the Japanese charm through its thoughtfully curated eccentric ambiance. It's the brand's second restaurant post the grand success of Pink Wasabi in Mumbai last year. Talking about the launch Mr. Prasuj Jain, Owner, Pink Wasabi and Managing Director, SW Entertainment said, "With the launch of Pink Wasabi in Chandigarh, we are elated to take the brand to an eclectic and fast evolving location post the success of our Mumbai restaurant. Being the most Instagram-able café, flourished in all its glory, with chic interiors and sassy vibes along with a distinctive menu that has been curated with a unique twist, innovative techniques coupled with high quality ingredients. Our team's commitment towards impeccable hospitality along with serving flavoursome Pan-Asian delicacies surely make Pink Wasabi a new favourite restaurant among diners in the city".

Archean Chemical Industries Limited files DRHP with SEBI

GURUGRAM : Archean Chemical Industries Limited ('Archean' or 'Company'), a leading specialty marine chemical manufacturer in India, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The IPO consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 10,000 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer for sale of up to 19.07 million shares (the "Offer for Sale"), by the Promoters, and investors including the India Resurgence Fund (a joint venture between the Piramal Group and Bain Capital). Archean Chemical Industries is a leading manufacturer of specialty marine chemicals in India, and is focused on producing and exporting bromine, industrial salt, and sulphate of potash to customers around the world. Archean is the largest exporter of bromine and industrial salt in India in Fiscal 2021 and has amongst the lowest cost of production globally in both bromine and industrial salt. The Company produces its products from its brine reserves in the Rann of Kutch, located on the coast of Gujarat, and manufactures products at its facility near Hajipur in Gujarat.

Audi India expects double-digit sales growth in 2022

Chandigarh: The legendary Audi Q7 becomes Audi India's first launch of 2022, with several other cars lined up for the year. After a successful 2021, Audi India is targeting double-digit growth in 2022 on the back of a strong order bank for existing models in addition to new model launches this year. The German luxury car manufacturer witnessed a 101% growth in sales in 2021 despite the global, semi-conductor shortage and the brutal COVID second wave. 2022 began on a positive note for the brand with the launch of the locally manufactured Audi Q7 on February 03, 2022. The Audi Q7 sits at the heart of Audi's Q-range (SUV's) in addition to the other Q models that the brand sells in India including the Audi Q2, locally manufactured Audi Q5, Audi Q8. Audi's Q range contributes approximately 45% of India's total sales.

NEWS/BUSINESS

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

New study finds better treatment for Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease wherein dopaminergic neurons progressively die in the brainstem. Tremor and difficulties in walking are the most commonly recognizable symptoms for people suffering from Parkinson. Although there is no permanent cure for it, a study from the University of Copenhagen has shown a ray of hope for the treatment of Parkinson's.

The study was published in 'Nature Communications'.

People are primarily treated with medicine, but in some cases, doctors use Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). In DBS, the surgeon places a thin metal wire in the brain, which can be used to send electrical pulses. DBS is effective in treating tremors, but alleviating difficulties in walking and freezing remain a challenge.

The study, conducted in mice, demonstrate that DBS treatment of walking problems in Parkinson could be optimized by targeting specific neurons in the brainstem - possibly benefiting some of the more than 7 to 10 million people suffering from the disease worldwide.

Based on previous animal studies of motor circuits, which are responsible for the planning, control, and execution of voluntary movements, scientists have hypothesized that freezing of walking in Parkinson could be alleviated. That would require DBS to stimulate neurons in the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN), which is located in the brainstem. The PPN was thought

to send signals from the brain to the spinal cord leading to body movements.

Over time, nearly a quarter of the patients have so much trouble walking that they often end up freezing on the spot and falling, and many become housebound.

experience freezing of walking. It has therefore been debated where within the brainstem an optimal stimulation should be. Our study brings new knowledge to the table regarding the best area for DBS in order to alleviate this particular symptom," said corresponding author Professor



NEWS AT A GLANCE

Three die after consuming liquor in UP's Azamgarh

AZAMGARH: Three people died and around 10 hospitalised after they consumed countrymade liquor bought from a government vend here, an official said on Monday. Azamgarh District Magistrate Amrit Tripathi said the incident took place on Sunday evening. Three people died after consuming countrymade liquor bought from the shop in Mahul nagar panchayat under the Ahraula police station area. The dead have been identified as Ram Karan Sonkar (55), Rampreet (55) and Jhabbu Sonkar (52), he said. He said around 10 people have been hospitalised. Police are probing the matter and the bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination, the DM added.

Goa logs 49 COVID-19 cases, no fresh fatality

PANAJI: Goa on Monday reported 49 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally of infections to 2,44,762, a health department official said. The COVID-19 death toll remained unchanged at 3,789 as no fresh fatality due to coronavirus infection was reported. With 40 patients being discharged from hospitals after treatment on Monday, the total number of recoveries in Goa mounted to 2,40,391, the official said. With 1,179 new tests, the total number of samples tested so far for detecting coronavirus infection in Goa went up to 18,68,103, he added. Goa's COVID-19 figures are: Positive cases 2,44,762, new cases 49, death toll 3789, discharged 240391, active cases 579, samples tested till date 1868103.

Assam Police freezes properties of drug kingpin

GUWAHATI: The Assam Police has been able to freeze the illegally acquired properties of a suspected drug kingpin, probably for the first time in the country, a top official said on Monday. The suspect was arrested last month from Karbi Anglong district. In a first, probably in the country, we moved competent authority to freeze the illegally acquired properties by druglord Baba Hazarika of Karbi Anglong, Director General of Police Bhaskariyoti Mahanta tweeted. He added that it was done after a financial investigation was carried out by the Karbi Anglong Police. The precedence is set, a new frontier is opened in our fight against the menace of drugs. We SHALL overcome, Mahanta said. The Assam Police has been carrying out intensified operations against illegal drugs since the second BJP-led government, headed by Himanta Biswa Sarma, assumed charge in May last year.

KCR has ability to lead taking all together: Sanjay Raut

NAGPUR: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Monday said Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has the "ability to lead taking all together", a day after Rao met Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray and NCP president Sharad Pawar in a bid to bring together like-minded parties against the BJP at the national level. Talking to reporters in Nagpur, Raut also claimed that the BJP will get defeated in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls which are currently underway. After meeting Thackeray in Mumbai on Sunday, Rao said he and the Maharashtra CM agreed that change is the need of the hour. Lavishing praise on the Telangana chief minister, Raut said, "K Chandrasekhar Rao is a very hard working leader. He faced a lot of struggles in his political life. He has the ability to lead taking all together." During their meeting on Sunday, Rao, who heads the Telangana Rashtra Samiti and Shiv Sena president Thackeray discussed about development and the country's political situation, he said.

SIT to probe student leader Anish Khan's death: Mamata

KOLKATA, FEB 21

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that a special investigation team (SIT) will be formed to probe student leader Anish Khan's "mysterious" death that has sparked widespread protests by opposition parties.

Banerjee, who also holds the Home (Police) portfolio, said that the SIT will submit its report to her within 15 days.

She also claimed that the former Left leader, who later joined the Indian Secular Front, used to keep in touch with her party, the Trinamool Congress.

"We are forming an SIT which will be set up by the chief secretary under

FM asks banks to be more customer-friendly

AGENCY
MUMBAI, FEB 21

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said banks need to focus more on being customer-friendly so that the process of availing credit becomes more hassle-free for borrowers. However, the minister made it clear that banks do not have to be lenient on credit underwriting standards by taking any adverse risks on a proposal. At a meeting between industry representatives and the finance minister, a startup founder in the baking business suggested for credit to be available hassle-free, to which largest lender SBI's Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said a startup's worries are more on the equity side and assured full support in lending if sufficient equity is on the table.

Later, he also made a mention of the government's



Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Stressing that the person asking the question is a woman operating an innovative enterprise, Sitharaman had a few suggestions for the banking community and also spoke out against their attitude.

"Initially, Mr Khara gave a very bland answer. And then

after being prompted somewhat, he went into talking about a scheme which has a lot of government support, the CGTMSE," she said.

"Banks will have to be a lot more customer friendly. Not to the extent of taking adverse risks which you don't need to take, but you need to be a lot more friendly to customers," the minister said. Khara said the

PGIMER's Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology win several awards

CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Members of the faculty and residents of the Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprology at PGI won several awards in the recently concluded National conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) that was held in the hybrid mode in Jaipur earlier this month. The team of Dr Prateeksha Reddy and Dr Vignesh Narayan won the prestigious IADVL National quiz for postgraduates. The Postgraduates from the department have won the prestigious quiz 5 times since its inception in this three-stage quiz competition.

Senior residents who won awards included Dr Vishal Thakur bestowed with the IADVL Abbott Best Researcher Award and Dr Hitaishi Mehta the Dr D.K. Gupta Medal for best paper presentation at the Award paper session. Among the faculty



members Dr Sunil Dogra won the Presidential appreciation award while Dr Tarun Narang was bestowed with Prof. V.N. Sehgal award for Excellence in Dermatology. Dr Anuradha Bishnoi won an award for a paper published in the Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology in the year 2021. Dr Haridharan Anand Shanmugam who was guided by Prof Sanjeev Handa and Dr Dipankar De won the Indubala Devi Memorial award for best publication on contact dermatitis published in the same journal.

SC seeks Centre's response on PIL seeking enforcement of fundamental duties of citizens

NEW DELHI, FEB 21

The Supreme Court on Friday sought Centre and others response on a petition seeking to enforcement of fundamental duties as enshrined in the Constitution and to frame guidelines for taking appropriate adequate steps to sensitize the people and spread general awareness among the citizens in relation to the performance of fundamental duties under the Constitution of India.

The petition has sought direction to the Respondents Union of India and State Governments to the effect of ensuring performance/discharge of the Fundamental Duties by all who are entitled to enjoy the fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution of India.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh was hearing the petition filed by Durga Dutt through advocate on record Karunakar Mahalik.

The petitioner has sought direction from the Respondents to carry out the enactment of appropriate legislation for



effectuation and implementation of Fundamental Duties where required.

The petitioner Dutt, who is an Advocate-On-Record of top Court said that he has filed the petition in the public interest, "for issuance of directives ensuring adherence to the mandates as postulated under Part IV-A of Constitution of India because non-adherence to the same has a direct bearing upon the exercise and enjoyment of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19 & 21 of the Constitution of India for formulation and operationalization of appropriate scheme providing incentives to the citizenry for their adherence."

The petitioner submitted that the Fundamental Duties are intended to serve as a constant reminder to every citizen that while the Constitution conferred on them certain Fundamental Rights specifically, it also requires citizens to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct and democratic behavior because rights and duties are correlative.

"The Fundamental Duties are an important tool to protect the unity and integrity of several institutions including the judiciary. It is submitted that every citizen must learn how to respect the institutions of this Country. There have been cases where Fundamental Duties have been brazenly flouted by the people including the officers of the law and which in turn resulted in the violation of Fundamental rights of other citizens," the petitioner said.

The present Petition, inter alia, aims to address a very important issue of national importance and to promote commitment amongst every citizen, the petitioner said.

Cong lodged complaint with EC regarding uproar at booth number 134 in Gehri Mandi

KULJEET SINGH

JANDIALA GURU: There was a ruckus at Booth No. 134 in Gehri Mandi, Senior Secondary School of Jandiala Guru Assembly, when the workers of Akali Dal Badal Party entered the booth after 6 o'clock. Seeing this matter, the workers of other parties objected and. Said that it is illegal as polling cannot take place after 6 pm. Due to the ruckus at this booth, DSP Jandiala Guru Sukhwinderpal Singh and SHO Jandiala Guru Balkar Singh reached. DSP Jandiala Guru told that both the sides. He pacified the matter by explaining to him. While Congress party worker Parminder Singh told that he has complained about the matter to the Election Commission. While Akali Dal Badal leader Manjinder Singh Bhiri says that tomorrow morning EVM. There was 1 hour late polling due to EVM problem.

Schools re-open in Jammu for classes 3 to 8

JAMMU, FEB 21

Schools re-opened for offline classes for classes 3 to 8 in Jammu on Monday amid strict COVID-19 protocols. The school principal and students expressed their happiness in joining the physical classes. Rameshwar Mengi, the Principal said, "Today is a festival day for the teachers' community as the students are back in the school." "Teachers are very happy and are celebrating it like a festival as the students are back in the school and they are also very happy. Parents don't need to hesitate to send their children to school. They are safe here as we are following all the COVID-19 guidelines," Mengi said. Bhumi, a student shared her happiness saying she was bored attending offline class now she felt happy coming back to school. "I am feeling very happy, online classes were very boring, and offline classes are more interesting as we meet our friends share time with each other, and



clear our doubts with teachers in person," Bhumi said. "During offline classes we found many difficulties while clearing our doubts as technical glitches were one of the reasons," she added. Another student, Aradhya Gupta said she is very happy coming back to the school after two years. "I am very happy coming to school after two years. Now, the study process will be smooth as we found it difficult in online classes," Gupta said. Earlier on February 14, the Jammu and Kashmir administration decided to reopen schools for classes 9-12, while colleges and universities will start offline classes from February 15.

Workshop on 'Innovating Medical Equipment: Role of lab testing Involving Clinicians' conclude at PGIMER

CHANDIGARH, FEB 21

Biomedical Instruments and Devices Hub: A Centre for Innovation, Design and Clinical Validation (BID HUB) established at PGIMER Chandigarh, excelling in the promotion of indigenous high-quality medical devices Research & Development with the support of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. BID-Hub, PGIMER, Chandigarh organized an interactive workshop entitled "Innovating Medical Equipment: Role of lab testing Involving Clinicians," to have an intellectual interchange about developing innovative medical devices, various funding opportunities, and collaboration opportunities.

Prof. J. Gouri Shankar, Director, IISER-Mohali, detailed about the IISER's contribution to the medical device research space and highlighted the areas in which clinicians can exploit IISER's facilities for furthering biomedical device innovations. Prof. GD Puri, Dean Academic PGIMER, Chandigarh, brought out the possibility of meeting among IISER's scientists and PGI

clinicians to know their collective strength and collaborate towards solving biomedical problems together. Prof. Gowrishankar gave a note and showed his willingness that IISER would be happy to hold meetings with clinicians. The other keynote speaker was Mr. SG Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India. He played a key role in the introduction of amendments to the Copyright Act in 2012 and the introduction of the Copyright Rules, 2013. He gave crucial insights related to copyrights specific to the researchers publishing their scientific data in national and international journals. He further elaborated on the 'related rights' and how one should know about and

protect them. Dr. Dinesh Pankaj, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-CSIO, elaborated on the institute's contribution towards biomedical device development. He further suggested that such interactive sessions open up the much-needed platform to brainstorm and develop innovative solutions to the current medical problems together. DrAshutosh Mishra, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI-ML) expert from IIIT, Allahabad interacted with the delegates providing him key insights related to their projects/idea(s) harnessing the poser of AI-ML. Dr. Mishra appreciated India's young talent and envisioned that India would do well in this space in the coming time.

Active COVID-19 cases in India decline to 2,02,131

NEW DELHI, FEB 21

India logged 16,051 new coronavirus infections, taking the virus tally to 4,28,38,524, while the active cases dipped to 2,02,131, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. The death toll climbed to 5,12,109 with 206 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily COVID-19 cases have remained below one lakh for 15 consecutive days.

The active cases comprise 0.47 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.33 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 22,056 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case-load in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.93 per cent



while the weekly positivity rate was recorded as 2.12 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,21,24,284, while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.20 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 175.46 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally

had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

2,250 square km of forest land degraded in J-K: Govt

JAMMU, FEB 21

Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said that 2,250 square kilometres of forest area has been degraded in the Union Territory till date. However, the forest department on an average restores 100-200 square kilometres of the degraded forest area in an year, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Mohit Gera said here. "Out of total of 20,194 square kilometres of the forest area in J&K, around 2,250 square kilometres forest area has degraded," Gera said. He informed that the forest department has set a target of planting 1.3 crore plants this



year and it is on course to meeting the target. Gera said that out of 3,700 traditional village ponds requiring repair and reconstruction, 57 ponds have been taken up under UT capex for repair during this financial year and so far 37 ponds have been reconstructed. The Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, who chaired a meeting to review the working of

forest department, directed the department to restore 1000 square kilometres forest area during the next year in convergence with the funds available under labour component. Gera informed that the campaign-'Har Gaon Hariyal' has been well received by the people at large and the panchayats in the UT are locked in a healthy competition of outdoing one

another on the issue of plantation. The Chief Secretary directed the department to repair all 3,700 ponds within next six months. He said repair and rejuvenation of these ponds will recharge the ground water and improve the whole ecosystem of lives and livelihood in the villages. Saying that the practice of the people feeding monkeys on the national highways and tourist places has to be stopped, the chief secretary said the department needs to improve enforcement through heightened vigil and imposition of fines to deter people from doing so as it causes unnecessary accidental deaths of monkeys.

SHORT TALKS

Trent Boult to miss second Test against South Africa

CHRISTCHURCH : New Zealand coach Gary Stead on Monday confirmed that pacer Trent Boult will miss the second Test against South Africa.

Boult was not in the squad for the opening Test against South Africa as his wife was awaiting the birth of their third child.

"He is not in a position to be available with his loads and where he's at. Since his wife has been having the baby he's missed out on a lot of opportunities to play cricket and bowl. We just felt the risk of him playing was far too great at the moment," ESPNcricinfo quoted Stead as saying.

New Zealand has retained an unchanged 15-player squad for the second Test. "We considered a [frontline] spin option but didn't feel as though we needed it on this pitch, through history and the way it was looking after the last Test match," Stead said.

New Zealand had won the first Test of the two-match series by an innings and 276 runs. The second Test will begin on February 25.

Premier League:

Maguire, Fernandes star as Man Utd thrash Leeds

LEEDS: Harry Maguire and Bruno Fernandes got on the scoring sheet as Manchester United defeated Leeds United in the ongoing Premier League season. The Red Devils outclassed Leeds 4-2 to move to the fourth spot in Premier League standings with 46 points from 26 games.

For United, apart from Maguire and Fernandes, Fred and Anthony Elanga also registered goals. On the other hand, Rodrigo Moreno and Raphinha scored goals for Leeds United.

In another match, Wolves defeated Leicester City 2-1 to move to the seventh spot in the Premier League standings.

United will next square off against Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Champions League's round of 16 fixture.

Andrey Rublev overcomes Felix Auger-Aliassime to lift Marseille crown

MARSEILLE : Andrey Rublev on Sunday overcame Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-5, 7-6(4) in the Open 13 Provence final to lift his first ATP Tour trophy since March 2021.

The Russian, who defeated three Frenchmen in Marseille to reach the championship match at the ATP 250 event, has now captured nine tour-level crowns, improving his record in finals on indoor hard courts to 5-0.

"All the battles I have had with Felix since the first time back in 2018 have had drama," Rublev said in his on-court interview. "All have had at least one set that went 7-6 and now he is one of the greatest players. Especially this season, he is on top now. It was a pleasure to share a court with him and have an amazing final like this."

Since triumphing in Rotterdam last March, Rublev had lost finals at ATP Masters 1000 tournaments in Monte Carlo and Cincinnati and on grass in Halle, an ATP 500 event. However, the second seed ensured he would not suffer the same heartache against Auger-Aliassime. Rublev demonstrated his impressive mental strength in the championship match. The Russian rallied from a break down in the first set and recovered from failing to serve out the clash at 5-4 in the second set. He then saved a set point on serve at 5-6, 30/40 in the second set to eventually triumph after one hour.

Team India becomes No.1 ranked side in T20Is



**AGENCY
KOLKATA, FEB 21**

After winning the third and final T20I against West Indies, Team India became the number one ranked side in the shortest format of the game.

The triumph helped India overtake England at the top of the T20 team rankings, with Rohit Sharma's side now matching the top rating of 269.

While England and India both have the same rating (269), India has a total of 10,484 points, 10 more than England's 10,474.

Pakistan (rating of 266), New Zealand (255) and South Africa (253) round out the top five countries, while Australia (249) remain in sixth after their 4-1 series victory over Sri Lanka.

With the 17-run win in the third T20I, India won the three-match T20I series 3-0. Earlier, the

Men in Blue had defeated West Indies 3-0 in the ODI series as well. India will next lock horns against Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series, beginning Thursday.

Suryakumar Yadav's 65-run knock was backed up by a spirited bowling performance as India defeated West Indies by runs in the third and final T20I here at the Eden Gardens on Sunday. Harshal Patel returned with three

wickets while Venkatesh Iyer also got two wickets.

Earlier, Suryakumar Yadav (65) and Venkatesh Iyer (35*) starred with the bat as India posted 184/5 in the allotted twenty overs. In the last five overs, the hosts managed to add 86 more runs to the total, taking the score past the 180-run mark. Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav formed a 91-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Hockey India name 22-member women's squad for matches against Spain

**AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 21**

Hockey India on Monday named a 22-member women's side that will represent the country in the upcoming FIH Women's Hockey Pro League matches at home in Bhubaneswar, Odisha against Spain.

The matches will be held over the weekend on February 26 and 27, 2022. The team will be led by ace goalkeeper Savita and vice-captained by Deep Grace Ekka. The Indian team will see a new face in promising young forward Sangita Kumari from Jharkhand who has made her impression during her stint with the Junior India side. The 22-member squad



for the double-header against Spain includes Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam and Rajani Etmarpur. Defenders Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Uditia, Ishika Chaudhary while the midfielders selected are

Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Jyoti, Monika, Neha, Navjot Kaur and Namita Toppo. The forward line will see experienced Vandana Katariya, Sharmila Devi, Navneet Kaur, Lalremisiami, Sangita Kumari and Rajwinder Kaur. Additionally, Rashmita Minz, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Sonika, Mariana Kujur and Aishwarya Rajesh Chauhan have been named as standbys for the double-header.

Talking about the team selection, Janneke Schopman, the Chief Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team said, "We are excited to kick off our home Pro League games vs Spain. We had two good training weeks after our return from Oman and I be-

lieve the selected 22 players will be ready to show what they can against Spain.

When you have a strong pool of players, team selection always becomes difficult but I am happy to see that the new players are improving a lot and showing a lot of promise."

She further added, "Spain is a strong opponent, they have consistently performed at a high level only narrowly missing out on the Semi-Finals in Tokyo and clinching the Bronze medal in the last World Cup.

They are very skilful and play from a tight defence, so we are looking to use our own speed and skills and strong defence to compete well against them."

Will try to excel as much as I can for India, says Avesh Khan after T20I debut

**AGENCY
KOLKATA, FEB 21**

After making his T20I debut, India pacer Avesh Khan has said that he will try to give his best whenever he plays for the country.

Avesh had made his debut in the third T20I against West Indies on Sunday at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

"I felt really good. Every player dreams about playing for the country and that came true for me. I enjoyed the match, we won the game so overall it was a good feeling. I will try to excel as much as I can for the country. It was my debut, I was obviously a little nervous. Rohit bhai backed me, Rahul sir told me to enjoy the

game. We defeated West Indies in both ODI and T20I series, so it is a great feeling," Avesh told teammate Venkatesh Iyer in a video posted on BCCI.TV. "I am trying to do the role assigned to me by the management. I am trying to finish the innings off. It is an asset for every captain if he can get two overs out of someone," he added. With the 17-run win in the third T20I, India won the three-match T20I series 3-0. Earlier, the Men in Blue had defeated West Indies 3-0 in the ODI series as well. India will next lock horns against Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series, beginning Thursday. Suryakumar Yadav's 65-run knock was backed up by a spirited bowling performance as India defeated West Indies by runs in the third and final T20I here.

Not hurt by Wriddhi's comments: Dravid

**AGENCY
KOLKATA, FEB 21**

India's head coach Rahul Dravid is not "hurt" by Wriddhiman Saha revealing the "difficult" conversation that the two had about his future as he firmly believes that the veteran keeper-batter "deserved the honesty and clarity" which was provided to him.

Saha, whose India career has come to a halt, recently told the media that Dravid asked him to consider retirement during a private conversation after the South Africa series last month.

Dravid said his intention behind talking to Saha was to ensure he has a clear picture of where he stands and he does not regret it. "I'm actually not hurt at all. I have deep respect for Wriddhi and his achievements and his contribution to Indian cricket. My conversa-



tion came from that place. I think he deserved honesty and clarity," Dravid replied at the end of the T20 series against the West Indies which India won 3-0 on Sunday.

The 37-year-old, who has played 40 Tests for India, was dropped from the squad ahead of the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka. He

subsequently pulled out of the ongoing Ranji Trophy as well.

Dravid said he will continue having such conversations with players whether they like the discussion or not.

"It's about conversations I constantly have with players. I don't expect players to always agree with

everything I say about them.

"That's not how it works. You can have difficult conversations with the players, but that doesn't mean you brush it under the carpet and don't have the conversations," Dravid was crystal clear about his approach.

Dravid said that his philosophy is to have discussions with players before every playing XI is picked.

"I always believe in having those conversations before every playing XI is picked and be open to questions such as why they are not playing. It's natural for players to get upset and feel hurt," he said.

Dravid also explained the rationale behind speaking to Saha, saying that it was necessary as Rishabh Pant has already established himself as the new No.1 wicketkeeper across formats and the Bengal man wouldn't have got chances going forward.



Sumit upstages World Championships medallist, makes strong start

**AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 21**

India's Sumit put up a power-packed performance to make a sensational start to his campaign at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, outclassing 2021 World Championships silver medallist Dzhambulat Bizhamov on an opening day in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Playing his only second senior international tournament, the reigning national champion Sumit produced a flawless show to register a dominating 5-0 victory against his Russian opponent in the 75kg opening round match. The Indian will now face Ukraine's Oleksandr Khyzhniak in the second round.

Meanwhile, Narender Berwal (+92kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Lakshya Chahar (86kg) made exits with defeats in their respective opening round matches. Narender went down fighting 2-3 against the Spanish boxer Ayoub Ghadfa Drissi while Varinder and Chahar lost to their Russian opponents Artur Subkhankulov and Sharabutdin Ateev by 0-5 and 1-4 margin respectively.

The second day of Europe's

oldest international boxing tournament will see four Indian boxers starting their campaigns.

Shiksha will face a tough challenge against the reigning Asian champion Dina Zholaman from Kazakhstan in the 54kg opening round match. Nitu (48kg) and Anamika (50kg) are the other two Indian women to play their matches on Day 2.

Among men, Akash Sangwan, who received bye in the opening round, will play against the German pugilist Deniel Krotter in the 67kg second round match late on Monday night.

The prestigious tournament, which will be played till February 27, has been witnessing the participation of over 450 boxers from 36 countries around the world, including strong boxing nations such as Kazakhstan, Italy, Russia and France.

A 17-member Indian contingent, including seven men and 10 women, is participating in the tournament which is the first from the Golden Belt Series and also a testing event for International Boxing Association's World Boxing Tour format. It is also the first exposure trip for Indian boxers this year.

Really excited about chance to play in one-day WC: Meg Lanning

MELBOURNE: Australia skipper Meg Lanning expressed her excitement over the upcoming ICC Women's ODI World Cup and said that the tournament is going to be extremely tough. The Women's ODI Cup, 2022, will kick start on March 4 with New Zealand and West Indies squaring off in the opening game. "There's no doubt that the 50-over World Cup has been on the radar for a little while, it comes around pretty rarely compared to T20 World Cups so we're looking forward to the opportunity to go and compete. It's a pure World Cup in the sense that you play everybody throughout the tournament, and once you get to the end if you can finish on top it's a pretty amazing effort," Meg Lanning wrote in a column for ICC. "We're all really excited about the chance to play in a one-day World Cup and obviously we're going there to win but it's going to be a pretty tough tournament to play. A lot of our players were involved in that 2017 World Cup, which didn't quite end the way we would have liked and I think since then we've changed the way we approach and play our cricket and are a lot more positive and willing to take a few more risks and I think that suited our game style," she added.

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GURGAON DISTRICT - GURGAON-OLD RAILWAY ROAD: F15444, F15539, F15980, F16110, F16112, F16228, F16382, F16605, F16666, F16839, F17447, F17712, F17796, F17837, F17848, F17857, F17885, F17922, F17985, F17994, F17997, F18004, F18005, F18006, F18007, F18018, F18019, F18030, F18033, F18037, F18038, F18040, F18051, F18052, F18069, F18081, F18082, F18088, F18089, F18090, F18092, F18093, F18096, F18109, F18114, F18117, F18119, F18124, F18127, F18133, F18144, F18147, F18148, F18149, F18151, F18154, F18157, F18160, F18177, F18195, F18197, F18200, F18204, F4222, F5512, F5568, **FARRUKH NAGAR-HARYANA:** F10166, F10167, F10186, F10188, F10195, F10220, F10224, F10229, F10231, F10235, F10251, F10265, F10276, F10283, F10295, F10298, F10300, F10306, F10313, F10314, F10323, F10330, F10333, F10334, F10335, F10337, F10818, F10980, F11204, F11254, F11419, F11423, F11430, F11433, F11435, F11438, F11450, F11458, F11466, F11474, F11477, F11483, F11485, F11490, F11496, F11497, F11501, F11504, F11507, F11509, F11511, F11513, F11515, F11522, F11523, F11531, F11535, F11538, F11546, F11549, F11552, F11560, F11576, F11577, F11579, F11584, F11590, F11593, F11596, F11598, F11604, F11610, F11617, F11618, F11621, F11622, **PATAUDI-HARYANA:** F11624, F12002, F12215, F12216, F12256, F12168, F12169, F12171, F12179, F12180, F12184, F12190, F12191, F12195, F12213, F12214, F12225, F12236, F12246, F12249, F12257, F12268, F12269, F12274, F12280, F12286, F12293, F12300, F12309, F12310, F12320, F12323, F12331, F12336, F12348, F12358, F12374, F12377, F12381, F12382, F12389, F12401, F12403, F12405, F12407, F12413, F12420, F12573, F13437, F13442, F13471, F13735, F13737, F13747, F13748, F13749, F13750, F13753, F13754, F13762, F13767, F13775, F13776, F13777, F13789, F13797, F13806, F13812, F13818, F13820, F13825, F13829, F13835, F13838, F13851, F13853, F13856, F13857, F13859, F13866, F13878, F13884, F13888, F13889, F13892, F13894, F13896, F13899, F13908, F13911, F13912, F13917, F13920, F13921, **GURGAON-DAYANAND COLONY:** F13091, F13215, F13475, F13478, F13563, F13581, F13744, F13776, F13938, F14080, F14081, F14121, F14143, F14243, F14274, F14608, F14921, F15221, F15536, F15548, F15619, F15669, F15746, F15787, F15879, F15900, F15901, F15904, F15925, F15938, F15948, F15952, F15969, F15970, F15990, F15994, F15995, F16007, F16010, F16017, F16023, F16031, F16032, F16034, F16039, F16041, F16052, F16053, F16059, F16066, F16069, F16077, F16082, F16084, F4311, F4312, F4581, F4609, F4610, F5738, **GURGAON SEC - 14:** F10206, F10221, F10342, F10353, F10383, F10392, F10393, F10397, F10401, F10402, F10408, F10410, F10414, F10431, F10436, F10443, F10444, F10446, F10452, F10453, F10455, F10457, F10460, F10461, F10462, F10463, F10464, F10470, F10476, F10479, F10480, F10488, F10490, F10496, F10498, F4649, F4650, F9132, F9163, F9187, F9215, F9416, F9464, F9469, F9647, F9742, F9918, F9939, GL/GGAN/28, GL/GGAN/34, GL/GGAN/50, GL/GGAN/63, GL/GGAN/66, GL/GGAN/69, GL/GGAN/85, **BADSHAPUR - GURGAON:** F39, F48, F51, F52, F55, F59, F63, **HAAJJAR DISTRICT - BAHADURGARH:** F12224, F12321, F13530, F13573, F13788, F13828, F13845, F13898, F13902, F13983, F13987, F13997, F14000, F14001, F14005, F14010, F14016, F14020, F14035, F14037, F14040, F14041, F14052, F14054, F14061, F14063, F14069, F14073, F14075, F14078, F14079, F14082, F14084, F14085, F14086, F14092, F14104, F14105, F14108, F14109, F14110, F14116, F14119, F14122, F14123, F14126, F14128, F14130, F14135, F8785, F9057, GL/BHDG/49, GL/BHDG/67, GL/BHDG/96, **JHAJJAR-HARYANA:** F10011, F10013, F10015, F10017, F10018, F10025, F10035, F10040, F10043, F10047, F10056, F10059, F10063, F10066, F10068, F10069, F10072, F10076, F4650, F5118, F8382, F9848, F9870, F9878, F9880, F9888, F9899, F9900, F9909, F9915, F9925, F9941, F9947, F9951, F9965, F9967, F9973, F9981, F9983, F9984, F9985, F9986, F9988, F9992, F9996, **MAHENDERGARH DISTRICT - NARNALL:** F3990, F4359, F4860, F5005, F5277, F5600, F5631, F5920, F5921, F5926, F5930, F5943, F5947, F5953, F5954, F5955, F5957, F5960, F5962, F5969, F5971, F5972, F5974, F5981, F5985, F5987, F5990, F5993, F5995, F5998, F5999, F6003, F6009, F6010, F6012, F6014, F6015, F6016, F6019, F6021, F6022, F6028, F6029, F6035, F6038, F6039, F6043, F6044, **PALWAL DISTRICT - HASANPUR CHOWK - HODAL:** F146, F147, F151, F260, F263, F268, F272, F290, F295, F297, F301, F49, **REWARI DISTRICT - REWARI:** F10019, F10339, F10376, F10552, F10557, F10583, F10638, F10679, F10699, F10769, F10781, F11570, F11574, F11599, F11612, F11615, F11623, F11624, F11630, F11639, F11641, F11648, F11653, F11654, F11655, F11661, F11667, F11668, F11669, F11682, F11686, F11693, F11697, F11704, F11707, F11711, F11712, F11713, F11714, F11715, F11717, F11719, F11720, F11721, F11723, F11727, F11729, F11732, F11734, F11735, F11737, F11740, F11741, F11746, F11750, F11759, F11766, F11770, F11773, F5784, F8423, **BAWAL:** F25, F26, F29, F30, F33, F35, F36, F38, F42, F44, F46, F49, F54, **ROHTAK DISTRICT - SAMPLA-HARYANA:** F650, F886.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 09.03.2022 at 10.00 am at **GURGAON DISTRICT:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor Sco 11, First Floor, Old Delhi Gurgaon Road, Haryana, Gurgaon - 122001. **HAAJJAR DISTRICT:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, 2142-43, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, Jhajjar - 124507. **MAHENDERGARH DISTRICT:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor, Dewan Tower, Building 755/756, Near Mahavir Chowk, Haryana, Mohindergarh - 123001. **PALWAL DISTRICT:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Killa No-21/1, Upwan Market, Hodal, Palwal, Haryana - 121106. **REWARI DISTRICT:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Brass Market Sco-30, Main Road, Haryana, Rewari - 123401. The bidders are requested to produce Photo Id card, Pan Card. The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS. **Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.**

Want to play characters that stand out and are impactful, says Bobby Deol

Bollywood actor Bobby Deol, who will be seen in a villainous role in his upcoming film *Love Hostel*, said he is scouting to play characters that are unusual and impactful. Written and directed by Shanker Raman, who helmed the acclaimed Pankaj Tripathi-starrer *Gurgaon*, the crime-thriller is set against the backdrop of rustic North India and traces the volatile journey of a young couple (Vikrant Massey and Sanya Malhotra) being hunted by a ruthless mercenary (Deol).

Citing the example of his recent outings like *Class of 83* and his upcoming *Love Hostel*, Deol said the attempt is to break his onscreen image and look for varied roles. He also said he is not restricting himself to playing the main lead.

When I did *Class of 83* I was not the main lead, I was one of the characters which is important to the story. Ditto with *Love Hostel*, I am playing a character in it, I am not the main lead. I enjoy doing these characters because they are very impactful, Deol, known for films such as *Gupt*, *Soldier*, *Ajnabee*, *Humraaz*, told news agency in an interview. I am trying to break my image and try to do different roles. The audience has changed so much they are ready to accept an actor with different avatars, characters. I am glad I got the opportunity to play this role, he said.

The 53-year-old actor said he is looking to play strong and challenging characters, that people would not envision him, like the web-series *Aashram*, in which he was seen as a self-styled godman.

I want to play characters that stand out whether in a film or

a web-series, no matter how much the length of the character is, it is about how much people enjoy them after watching the project and how the character has stayed in their mind, he said. Even with cinema and I am working on a film, I want to look for characters that are interesting and have substance and are not just frivolous, he added.

Deol pointed out it is not just on OTT that he is getting an opportunity to play a diverse role. In commercial films, there are characters that stand out too, besides the stars, the actor observed, adding, It (cinema) is not just about heroism. The stars will be there and if you are part of a project where they are there and you have a great character to play, you also get noticed.

In Shah Rukh Khan-backed, *Love Hostel*, Deol will be seen as Dagar, who he says is a ruthless man. Dagar's character is someone who has been through so much in his life and what he is because of what happened and that is why he is so cold and ruthless, he said. It is difficult to play such characters, Deol said, recalling how he would feel uneasy after essaying the role of Baba Nirala in *Aashram* but has learnt the art to switch on and off between his roles.

I have never done a negative role to that depth (referring to *Love Hostel*). When I was doing *Aashram* I used to feel a little uneasy, why do I have to express these emotions. I would come back to the hotel to the same actors, with whom I was being mean and rude in the scenes.

"Eventually, I learnt how to switch on and off.

There are some people who can't handle it. I have a beautiful family, have strong upbringing. When I come home, I talk to my family and feel relaxed, nothing drives me nuts. He said it is always challenging to play roles that are negative or have shades of grey as they are completely different from their real-life personality. It is always challenging to see how best I can make this character unique, Deol added.

Besides *Love Hostel*, the actor will be seen in season three of filmmaker Prakash Jha's *Aashram* and two films titled *Animal*, co-starring Anil Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra and *Apne 2* with his father Dharmendra and brother Sunny Deol.

Speaking of *Apne 2*, the actor said, it is always his dream to do as much work as possible with his family. To be in a frame together with them is something that I cherish and even our fans cherish that. I am looking forward to *Apne 2* and I am waiting for the script to get ready. The producers will announce it, he said, adding he will begin the shoot of *Animal* later this year.

Love Hostel will make its debut on streaming service ZEE5 on February 25.



I'm the happiest when I make rom-coms: Gina Rodriguez

Hollywood star Gina Rodriguez believes an artiste should create an art that makes them happy, and in her case it is the romantic comedies that bring absolute joy to her. It was The CW's romantic-comedy show "Jane The Virgin" that brought global fame to riguez for her role of Jane Gloriana Villanueva. She won a Golden Globe trophy for the part and that, she also featured in Netflix comedy "Someone Great". The 37-year-old actor said she tried her hand at different genres with films like Alex Garland's "Annihilation" and actioner "Miss Bala" but she has come to a realisation that doing romantic-comedies is what she enjoys the most.

"I love rom-coms. I think it took me a really long time to be okay with making the art that I actually love to make. I always wanted people to see me in all these different lights and I wanted to be like, 'Look, I can act like this and I can act like this.' And then I was, 'But when I make rom-coms, I'm the happiest'," Rodriguez told PTI in a Zoom interview from Los Angeles. She believes that it was her "ego" that drove her to experiment with her choices as an actor. "I believe that was a growing process. I had to get over wanting people to see me in all these different lights and shades, and really be confident that it was okay to do the art that I love. That's where I find a lot of joy in making people laugh and cry."

She currently stars in Amazon romantic comedy "I Want You Back", co-starring Jenny Slate, Charlie Day, Scott Eastwood, Manny Jacinto and Clark Backo. Rodriguez said she wanted to be a part of the movie, which currently streams on Prime Video, as it features characters which are inspired by the real world. "It was wonderful to see a group of people that looked a little bit more diverse like the real world. It was nice to be a part of that. And I want to be a part of just that."

"At the end of the day, what, we're all human and we all relate to the movie in different ways. But we all have a relation to it because we are human and at the most basic level, we all want love. I think this is what Jason, the writers and Amazon did with the movie. They wrote about human beings and how they really look like in the real world."

"I Want You Back" follows the story of Peter (Day) and Emma (Slate), two recently-dumped strangers who team up to sabotage the new relationships of their former partners. Rodrigu ez stars in the movie as Anne, Peter's former girlfriend who dumped him and begins a new ship with Logan, her co-worker at the school where she is a teacher. The actor said she got "lucky" with the movie as she wanted to work with the film's director, Jason Orley, as well writer duo, Isaac Aptaker & Elizabeth Berger.

"I got really lucky. When I first got the script and found out that it was Isaac and abeth who wrote it, I was already very excited and anticipating something a really strong script. They obviously exceeded my expectations use they are incredible writers. I was also a really big fan of Jason Orley, who had studied with Nancy Myers and I felt like he was taught by the queen of rom-coms... So there was this really awesome opportunity to be in a script that was undeniable and with an awesome director," she added.

"I Want You Back" is produced by Peter Safran and John Rickard of The Safran Company, along with Aptaker and Berger of The Walk-Up Company.



Rod after

Never feared losing fame in my career: Madhuri Dixit

Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit Nene says she has always viewed fame with indifference and that is why there was never a fear of losing it. Dixit Nene first shot to fame with her 1988 action romance "Tezaab", four years after her debut with "Abodh", and became one of the top female stars of the '90s, featuring in blockbusters like "Dil", "Saajan", "Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!" and "Dil To Pagal Hai".

Even in the early 2000s, the actor continued to headline both critically acclaimed films and box office wonders like "Pukar", "Lajja" and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus "Devdas", before she moved to the US with her husband Shriram Madhav Nene. "But I never feared losing fame. Fame is a different part of my life. How I live my life is more important than anything else," Dixit Nene told news agency in an interview.

The 54-year-old actor said she is more concerned about staying truthful to her craft rather than worrying about stardom. "Whether I respect everyone, work with good ethics, keep my values in life, whether I am true to my art -- these things are more important to me than, 'Oh has someone recognised me?' Or someone didn't ask me for an autograph or get into this (loop of), 'Am I losing fame? Am I getting fame?' That is not me," she added.

When Dixit Nene broke her sabbatical and returned to India, the actor also came back to the screen with films like the 2007 musical "Aaja Nachle", "Dedh Ishqiya", "Gulaab Gang" and her last big screen release "Kalank" in 2019.

Apart from films, the actor also continued to be in the

public discourse courtesy her shift to TV as she went on to judge a series of dance reality shows throughout the last decade. In short, the actor never went out of sight.

Dixit Nene, who has been habitual to being under the spotlight, believes that fame can become an addiction for some stars but that is not the case with her. "Fame can be addictive, but it depends on the person. Some people might be addicted to fame, they can't live without it or they think they are big stars, so wherever they go people have to cheer. But for me, fame is more like a byproduct of what I do."

"I love my art, I love dancing and everything to do being in front of the camera. I work sincerely towards that and always do my best. Fame becomes what you think about it. I don't think it is good to be obsessed with it," she added.

The first time the actor realised she was famous was shortly after filmmaker N Chandra's "Tezaab", which featured her as Mohini and turned her into an overnight star with the chartbuster "Ek Do Teen".

When the film had released, she was in the US attending her sister's wedding, so she missed the euphoria but as soon as she landed.



Social change happens through fun, family entertainer films: Huma

Actor Huma Qureshi says she decided to do *Double XL*, a film about body shaming, as she believes a "fun family entertainer" like the upcoming project can play an important role in bringing about a change in society. Billed as a "slice-of-life comedy" that revolves around body weight stereotypes, the film is directed by Helmet fame Satramm Ramani and also stars Sonakshi Sinha. *Double XL* explores the journey of two plus-size women -- Rajshree Trivedi (Qureshi) from Meerut and Saira Khanna (Sinha) from New Delhi as they navigate society's beauty standards. It is a very important, fun and entertaining film. I can't wait to share it with everyone. I really believe that social change happens through fun, commercial, and family entertainer films, Qureshi, who currently stars in the ZEE5 series *Mithya*, told a news agency.

But not every social responsibility should fall on filmmakers, she pointed out. We have to be responsible when we are making the film. It is a situation where you have to monitor your own choices and why you are doing it, the 35-year-old actor added. Produced by T-Series, Wakaoo Films and Mudassar Aziz, *Double XL* is scheduled to be released in 2022. Besides this film, Qureshi is awaiting the release of her Tamil movie *Valimai*, co-starring Ajith. She will also be seen in the Netflix film *Monica Oh My Darling* and the second season of SonyLIV series *Maharani*.

