



BRIEF



BJP MP Saroj Pandey during the second part of Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Award

■ **Udhampur:** One Lt Gen and two major generals were among 117 soldiers awarded for gallantry and distinguished service as the Indian Army's northern command conducted an investiture ceremony here to honour its personnel deployed in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi presented the awards to officers, junior commissioned officers, and other ranks.

Mishap

■ **Noida:** A toddler was crushed to death by a truck on Tuesday when she strayed onto a road while playing outside her house in Greater Noida, police here said. Police arrested the truck driver involved in the accident, that happened around 7.30 am. The 13-month-old baby lived with her family in a shanty in the Surajpur area. She was playing outside and strayed onto the road where she got run over by the rear tyre of a canter truck.

Encounter

■ **Srinagar:** A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district in south Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Based on a specific input generated by police regarding the presence of a terrorist in village Charsoo of Awnatipora, a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the area, a police spokesman said.

Services

■ **New Delhi:** The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Tuesday said bus services will start after 2 pm on Holi. All the city bus services will remain suspended till 2 pm on Friday in view of the Dulhendi festival, it added. "In evening shift, bus services on some selected bus routes will be operated as per traffic requirement." "Since the traffic load will be very less on this day, only 898 buses will be operated in the afternoon service," an official statement said.

Review

■ **New Delhi:** The Congress on Tuesday held a meeting to review its poor performance in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, identify shortcomings and chalk out future plans for the politically-crucial state. AICC general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra chaired the review meeting which was attended by the party's top state leaders.

Weather
High 38 Low 21

MARKET
NIFTY 16,663.00
SENSEX 55,776.85

BULLION
GOLD 51,437
SILVER 67,973

HIJAB BAN

Bengaluru, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday said Hijab was not part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith and effectively upheld the ban against the headscarf in educational institutions in the state by dismissing pleas from Muslim girls seeking nod to wear it in classrooms.

A three-judge full bench of the High Court said the prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to, even as the aggrieved petitioner Muslim girls said they would continue their legal battle and termed today's order as "unconstitutional."

The court suggested the possibility of some 'unseen hands' behind the hijab row to engineer social unrest and disharmony and expressed dismay over the issue being blown out of proportion during the academic term.

The row that broke out

'Hijab not part of essential Islamic religious practice'



Bengaluru: Commuters in front of the Karnataka High Court, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

at Udupi in January this year soon spread to other parts of the state before witnessing national repercussions, with voices for and against the headscarf, even as it resonated in some foreign countries like Pakistan.

After having reserved its order on Feb 25, the court on Tuesday dismissed the batch of petitions from the Udupi-based Muslim girls who

sought its nod for wearing hijab inside classrooms and also said there was no material placed on record to prima facie show wearing the headscarf was an essential religious practice. Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi-led bench said, "we are of the considered opinion that wearing of Hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith." The

'HC verdict challenged in SC'

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court's verdict dismissing petitions seeking permission to wear hijabs inside the classroom, news agency PTI reported. Earlier in the day, a full bench of the Karnataka High Court had dismissed a batch of petitions filed by Muslims girls from pre-university colleges in Udupi region of the state seeking the right to wear hijabs or headscarves along with uniforms inside classrooms. "We are of the considered opinion that wearing of the hijab by Muslim women does not make up an essential religious practice in Islamic faith," the full bench said in the gist of its order that was read out by the Karnataka chief justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Tuesday morning.

other two judges in the panel were Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi. The bench also maintained that the government has the power to issue the impugned order dated February 5, 2022, banning clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges, which the Muslim girls had challenged in the High Court. It rejected the plea to initiate a disciplinary inquiry

against the college, its principal and a teacher.

"In the above circumstances, all these writ petitions being devoid of merits are liable to be and accordingly are dismissed. In view of the dismissal of the writ petition, all the pending applications pale into insignificance and are accordingly disposed off," the bench said in its order. The court also said that school uniform will cease to be a uniform if hijab is also allowed.

Two women Naxals killed in encounter with security forces

Dantewada, Mar 15:

Two women Naxals were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Dantewada district on Tuesday, a senior official said.

The face-off took place in a forest near Gorli-Mutheli villages under Katakalyan police station limits, about 400 km from the state capital Raipur, when a joint team of security forces was out on a search operation. At around 11.30 am, the gunfight broke out between Gorli and Mutheli. After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two women ultras along with two 12 bore rifles and a country made weapon were recovered from the spot. The official said prima facie, one of the deceased was identified as Pedaras LOS commander Manjula and the other one as Gangi Punem, a protection team member.

There were specific inputs about the presence of cadres of Pedaras LOS (local organisation squad) and Katakalyan Area

About the incident

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Committee formations of Maoists in the forests of Jiyakortha, Gorli, Mutheli and Danikortha villages along the border of Dantewada and Sukma districts. Hence, a joint squad of personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Sukma and Dantewada, CRPF's 230th battalion and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CRPF) was sent to the area, he said.

At around 11.30 am, the gunfight broke out between Gorli and Mutheli," he said. After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two women ultras along with two 12 bore rifles and a country made weapon were recovered from the spot, he said.

'Stature of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru far above any title'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The martyrdom of freedom fighters including Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru is a fact and is not dependent on the presumed presence or absence of official records, the government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, asserting that their stature is far above any award, title or status.

In a written reply to a question from a member, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said the heroes who lost their lives during the freedom struggle have become martyrs for the cause of attaining the independence of India.

Mishra said the martyrdom of these freedom

fighters and their invaluable contribution to India's freedom struggle form an inalienable part of the discourse of the country's fight for freedom and is well known in India's history. "Their martyrdom in the supreme national cause of independence is a fact and is not dependent on the presumed presence or absence of official records. Their stature is far above any award or title or status accorded in this regard," he said.

BJP MP Jyotirmay Singh Mahato had put forth queries on whether the government has given martyr status to heroes like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev who lost their lives in the freedom struggle.

MARTIAL ART DISPLAY



Army jawans perform Kalaripayattu, a martial art and dance form, during a cultural programme organised as part of Southern Command Investiture Ceremony, at Yodhasthall, Dronachal base in Bhopal.

'Kashmir Files' has rattled ecosystem that wanted to bury truth: PM

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday praised 'The Kashmir Files', a movie based on the plight of displaced Kashmiri Hindus, and slammed the "campaign to discredit" it by those who claim to be the flagbearers of freedom of expression.

"They are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts," Modi said in a ringing endorsement of the film that is now at the centre of a political slugfest with the Congress and some other



opposition parties objecting to it. Addressing the BJP parliamentary party meeting, Modi spoke at length about the film and lamented that no attempt has been made till now to make movies depicting the horrors of Partition and Emergency as there have been continuous efforts to "bury the truth".

Ukraine's capital barraged; 3 EU nation leaders to visit

Kyiv, Mar 15 (AP):

Russia's relentless bombardment of Ukraine edged closer to central Kyiv as a series of strikes hit a residential neighbourhood Tuesday, while the leaders of three European Union countries planned a bold visit to Ukraine's capital and the number of people the war has driven from the country passed 3 million.

Large explosions thundered across Kyiv before dawn from what Ukrainian authorities said were artillery strikes, as Russia's assault on the city appeared to

'Over 180 cr doses of COVID vaccines administered'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

■ 77,314 adverse events reported

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that as on March 13 this year, a total of over 180 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been administered in the country and 77,314 adverse events, which come to 0.004 per cent, have been reported.

The government said that over 8.91 crore doses of vaccine Covaxin has been administered in the age group of 15-18 years as on March 12 and the number of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported are 1,739 minor, 81 serious, and six severe.

The Centre told a bench

of Justices L N Rao and B R Gavai that a substantial number of individuals in the country are vaccinated and the vaccines have proved to be very effective and safe.

It said both vaccines -- Covaxin and Covishield -- generate antibodies and adverse events are also found to be minimum.

Further the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of these vaccines, which are rolled out after an elaborate procedure by domain experts, are also accepted by World Health Organisation which shows recognition by

CRPF for additional helipads in LWE areas

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The CRPF is mulling creation of more night landing capable helipads as air evacuation of its injured troops from remote Left Wing Extremism-affected areas remains a sore point for the force.

The paramilitary force has deployed close to 40 percent of its total strength (about 1.20 lakh personnel) for anti-Naxal operations in various states with its troops and special jungle warfare units like the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) undertaking a "decisive battle" in some of the worst violence affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

The force, as per senior officers and documents accessed by PTI, is establishing at least 30 new forward operating bases (FOB) in deep jungles of Chhattisgarh (south Bastar) while about half-a-dozen such locations are being scouted in Jharkhand and Bihar as

part of the strategy of "moving deep into the Maoist stronghold and hitting them hard."

The government has said the number of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts in the country has come down from 126 to 70 over the last few years and it is working to better these numbers.

"Helipads are a pre-requisite to meet any contingency while implementing the government's strategy of going deep. During an encounter or IED blast in these far flung areas, air evacuation of injured troops is the most important factor so that they can get quick medical care and lives are saved," a senior officer deployed in the LWE operations grid said.

Now, he adds, here is the catch. "There have been numerous instances when troops undertaking an operation secured a landing site near them but the helicopters got delayed or pilots refused the sortie due to a variety of technical reasons. The 'golden hour' is lost," he said.

HEADS ROLL

Sonia asks PCC chiefs of 5 states to resign

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

After the party's drubbing in the just-concluded Assembly polls in five states, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has asked its state unit chiefs in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur to put in their papers.

The development comes two days after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) discussed threadbare the reasons for the party's debacle in these Assembly polls. The Congress failed to win in any of the states and lost Punjab to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has asked the PCC Presidents of Uttar

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur to put in their resignations in order to facilitate reorganisation of PCCs," chief spokesperson of the party Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter.

While Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu was appointed to the post only a few months ago, the Uttarakhand unit president of the party, Ganesh Godiyal, and his Manipur counterpart Loken Singh were also appointed before the Assembly elections. Gandhi has also sought the resignation of Girish Chodankar, who heads the Goa unit of the party, and Uttar Pradesh PCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu.

global experts also, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said in their brief submission on behalf of the Centre.

The court is hearing arguments on a plea seeking directions for disclosure of data on clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines and post-job cases. The arguments would continue on March 21.

As per the last available figure (i.e. as on March 13, 2022), the total number of doses administered is 180,13,23,547 (more than 180 crores approx.) and the total number of adverse events reported (including minor, severe, and serious

cases) are 77,314 (0.004 per cent), the Centre said.

Regarding vaccination of minors, it said the question of paediatric vaccination was taken up at a stage where more than substantial data on the safety and immunogenicity of Covaxin in adults was available. It is relevant to note that as on March 12, 2022, 8,91,39,455 doses of Covaxin have been administered in the age group of 15-18 years age group. In this age group, the number of AEFIs reported are 1,739 (minor) (0.014 per cent), 81 (serious) (0.0009 per cent) and 6 (severe) (0.0001 per cent), the brief submissions of the two law officers said.

IN BENEFIT OF STUDENTS CBSE re-evaluates Class 10 Odia OMR sheets

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Over 20k students benefit with revision

The CBSE has re-evaluated the OMR sheets of the class 10 Odia exam with the correct answer key approved by an expert committee that benefitted over 28,000 students, officials said on Tuesday.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday set up an expert committee to probe into the alleged discrepancies in the question

and answer key of Odia's paper of class 10 first term examination.

"It was directed by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan that the dispute must be resolved within the next 24 hours and students' grievance addressed immediately and appropriately.

"Accordingly, with a view to ascertaining the factual position, an expert committee was constituted by CBSE for examining the discrepancies mentioned in the representation," the CBSE said in an official statement.



Firefighters work in an apartment building damaged by shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday.

become more systematic. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

barrages hit four multi-story buildings in the city and caused dozens of deaths.

Women symbolize power; make them realize their strength: Governor

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Women have become empowered in every field and they have achieved their position in the public domain. Earlier, there were only one or two women governors of the states, but today, eight out of 29 states have women as their Governors. This shows the rapid pace of women empowerment, said Governor Anusuiya Ukey while addressing the 'Atulya Shakti' programme organized here at Rungta College on Tuesday. Governor added that women have been leaders in every field. A daughter of Bastar has even succeeded in conquering Mount Everest. Her success shows that women are not left behind in any front. Sharing her experiences, the Governor said that recently she met sister of former Chief Secretary Vivek Dhand, who is a differently abled 65-year-old lady and is wheelchair bound for the past few years. Still her spirits are high and she paints very

beautiful paintings. "She made me feel that with talent and skill, one can overcome every difficulty", Ukey added. Governor further said that Vedic shloka mentions women as "Shakti Roopen Sansthita", the symbol of power. A woman is power in herself and the only need is to recognize your powers and know your strengths to achieve success in every field. She further suggested the women to inspire and help other women to move ahead. Women have immense power and they just need motivation and encouragement. If they get encouragement from the family or society, no one can stop them. Referring to the women working in public domain, the Governor said that all such women have made their place with hard work. There is no field in which women cannot display their skills. Governor honored the women who are working appreciably in various fields. Chhattisgarh State

Commission for Women Chairman Kiranmayee Nayak was present as special guest. Nayak said that she never felt that there is a need to empower women. Women have always been empowered. They only need to be reminded about their powers. Once they realize their powers, they get completely engaged in fulfilling their resolutions. All India Professional Congress President Kshitij Chandrakar said that International Women's Day should not be the only occasion to appreciate the contributions of women. He emphasized on the need to have such spirit and respect for women every day. He urged all to give respect to the women at home. Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal, DCC Chief Mukesh Chandrakar, Santosh Rungta, IP Mishra and other dignitaries were present. Gunjan Chauhan Chandel, Manish Soni, Amrita Singh and other members of the organizing team were present.

Women Safety Awareness Program 'Abhivyakti' concludes

Bhilai, Mar 15:

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Durg Police organized women safety awareness programmes "Abhivyakti" for the seven consecutive days. Team of IUCAW office and Raksha Team visited rural areas, schools, colleges and other places to spread awareness regarding women safety, cyber frauds, domestic violence, traffic rules, POCSO Act, eve-teasing, human trafficking, health hygiene, career counseling, etc. Efforts were made to make the girl students and general public aware about these issues. The week long programme concluded at village Ruhi located within the limits of Patan Police Station. At the outset, children presented the state song "Arpa Pairi Ke Dhar". Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu and



Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar outlined the activities conducted during the week long programme. They spread awareness about the women safety app "Abhivyakti" among the guests, dignitaries, villagers, children, Anganwadi workers, women and girls. She further informed that in all the police station areas, efforts were made to make more and more people aware by displaying pictures / videos on women safety awareness topics. They were also detailed

about the Raksha Team, Abhivyakti App, Women's Helpline Number 9111801091, etc. The cops appealed the people to use social media carefully. If any female faces any problem and do not want to reveal her identity, she can send her complaint as a WhatsApp message on the women helpline number. Senior Superintendent of Police BN Meena participated in the Annaprashan event. ASP Meeta Pawar and Police Officers also attended the baby shower programme of pregnant women. SSP BN Meena,



Inspector Sangeeta Mishra, ASI Hemlata Deshmukh, Village Sarpanch Bharti Jangde, women and child development officials and Anganwadi workers were present. Rangoli, Mehndi, chair race, tug of war and cuisine competitions were held. The winners were feted with citations and prizes by the Police Department. Women who cooperated with the police department were also honored with citation and memento. Inspector Navi Monika Pandey proposed the vote of thanks.

Bamboo handicraft training camp organised



Bhilai, Mar 15: A Bamboo Handicraft Training Camp was organised by SAIL-BSP's CSR department along with Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for women empowerment. The programme was inaugurated by Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel) at

Dundera village. Twenty women were shortlisted to attend this training programme. They are being trained for three months from March 10, 2022 to June 09, 2022. The participants will get a scholarship of Rs 3000/ per month. Nisha Soni, in her address stated that BSP's CSR Department takes

concerted efforts towards women empowerment and making them self-sufficient. Women will be economically independent and become a source of income generation for their families through training programmes like this, she said. At the outset, Shivrajan Nair addressed the gathering. Sushil Kamde and Vivek Mishra welcomed the guests. The programme was compered by Rajni Rajak. Vivek Chandrakar, Parshad, members of Village Self Help Group, Kapil Dev, Budhelal and other persons from CSR department were present on the occasion.

'Nai Chetna' for women contract workers organised in Mills Zone 1



Bhilai, Mar 15: 'Nai Chetna', a programme for women contract labour was organised in Mills Zone 1 for workers of Merchant Mill and Wire Rod Mill the other day. The objective of the programme was to create awareness about legal rights, welfare amenities, Safety, health, Cleanliness and prevention against Sexual harassment. Ajay Bedi, CGM (Merchant Mill & Wire Rod Mill) in his address said that women contract labour should be aware about their legal rights, welfare amenities, Safety, health which is being dealt with in this programme. He urged them to pay

attention to the information being shared in this forum. This programme is a step towards public awareness and is a praiseworthy initiative of Personnel department, he added. Shubhshree Prashant, SM (M & HS) imparted information on Health and Safety. Anupma Kumari stressed on the need to adopt Safe working practices at the workplace. The programme was coordinated by Rajeev Kumar, DGM (P-Mills Zone 1). Employees of Personnel department of Mills Zone 1 played a significant role in making this programme successful.

'World Consumer Rights Day' celebrated at St Thomas College

Bhilai, Mar 14:

The PG Department of Commerce under the aegis of COMMZENITH & in association with its MoU partner Sitabai Arts Commerce & Science College, Akola (MH) celebrated World Consumer Rights Day on March 14, 2022. Maitreyi Mathur Retired, District Judge and Retired President of Consumer Forum, Durg Chhattisgarh and Advocate Dr Mayur Navin Malviya, Finance Trainer, Academician and Director of Malviya Academy, Akola Maharashtra were the resource persons on the occasion. Dr Mayur



Malviya explained the minute details along with different sections of Consumer protection Act and its redressal. Maitreyi Mathur said that previously there was no need of this Act, but in the present scenario where moral values and ethics are going

down, such type of act is required for protecting the innocent consumers that is why this act is enacted in a very simple language. Principal Incharge Dr Mariam Jacob gave her virtual presence and congratulated the department for the conduct of the pro-

gram. Convener & Head Department of Commerce of St Thomas College Bhilai Dr Sapna Sharma welcomed the participants. The sessions were very informative. Dr Neelam Gandhi, Asst Prof in Department of Commerce conducted the programme. Co-Convenor Dr Deepali Shah of Sitabai Arts, Commerce & Science College, Akola Maharashtra proposed the Vote of thanks. Faculties and students of both the colleges attended the programme. The Faculties of commerce department of both the colleges coordinated in making the programme a success.

BMC gets 20 Swachhata Brand Ambassadors including Anurag Basu

Bhilai, Mar 15:

In a bid to bring awareness among public about cleanliness, Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal has nominated 20 cleanliness brand ambassadors. The Mayor has included people eminent persons from all walks of life including social work, journalism, industry, film world, medical world, business world, sports and education. On the recommendation of MLA Devendra Yadav, Neeraj Pal has selected people who are proficient in different disciplines to contribute in this work of cleanliness. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Neeraj Pal said that the BMC administration is working tirelessly to realize the vision of cleanliness. The Corporation is making effort to attain the



top ranks in the cleanliness survey 2022 for the cities with population of 5 to 10 lakhs. He added that with the assistance from Swachhata Brand Ambassadors, it would be easy to communicate with the general public and make them aware about cleanliness and work towards the vision of clean and beautiful Bhilai. At the outset, all the Swachhata Ambassadors got acquainted with each

other followed by a meeting. Sanitation in-charge Lakshmi Raju informed everyone about the work being done by Bhilai Municipal Corporation and how the brand ambassadors would help in Citizen feedback, awareness through social media, home composting and such works. The newly appointed Swachhata Brand Ambassadors said that they would work towards making people aware on

the need to give the city a clean environment through various events. Mayor Neeraj Pal on Tuesday today appointed Anurag Basu from film industry; KK Jha and Nitin Gupta from ancillary industry; Rajendra Kumar Agarwal, Sanjay Ojha, Santosh Rai, Arif Khan and Sachin Pratap Singh from education; K Chandrashekhar, Munna Sahu, Sant Kumar Keskar, Nitin Phule, Dhanraj Parade and Jai Govind Yadav from social work; Dr Chiranjeevi from medical field, Rajendra Sonboir from journalism as well as Sanjay Jain, Dilip Devangan, Rakesh Malhotra and Ram Jaspal from other fields. During this, Siju Anthony, a member of the Mayor in Council, was prominently present.

Employees of Electrical Zone feted with Pali Shiromani & Karm Shiromani Award

Bhilai, Mar 15: Employees belonging to Electrical Zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani Puraskar' on March 07, 2022 for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant. Pali Shiromani Award winners of Electrical zone included Mahadev Singh Rana, Deputy Manager, ETL, S Srikumar, CRME, and Karm Shiromani Award winners M Laxman Rao,

Sr Techn(E), MSDS-II, Somkant Jogi, Sr Techn, ERS, Bhusaram, Master OCT, HME, Gurudutt Deshpande, Techn (EF/B Attdt), DNW, Dulendra Kumar Sen, Master Techn (Switch), Telecom were felicitated for their exemplary work. The norms of social distancing were followed in conducting and distribution of the prizes during the function in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The function was presided over by

(Telecomm). Departmental HODs US Barwal, GM (ETL), AK Nayak, GM (CRME), Ravindra Kumar, GM (MSDS-II), PK Padhy, GM (ERS) and MA Siddique, GM (HME), Bensey George, GM (DNW), HK Sirmour, DGM (Telcomm) and Kuntal Baghel, DGM (ERS) presented the award winners with a certificate of merit, memento and appreciation letter for the spouse of the employee. The programme was conducted by Personnel Office of P&E Zone.

LS Sahu wins Runner up position in SPSB Table Tennis tournament

**Bhilai, Mar 14:**

Inter Steel plant Table tennis tournament was organised at ISP, Burnpur from March 10-12, 2022 by Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB). LS Sahu, AM (Projects) from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant was declared as the Runner up in the Inter steel Plant Table Tennis tournament. Various

steel plants including Tata Steel compete in this tournament. LS Sahu fared well in the tournament and secured the Runners up position. It is noteworthy that LS Sahu has been felicitated with the Shaheed Vinod Chaubey award by Chhattisgarh Government for his contribution in the field of Table Tennis.

IWD celebrated at Shri Shankaracharya College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

To create awareness on women's health and hygiene

Bhilai, Mar 15: Shri Shankaracharya College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Junwani celebrated International Women's Day under the theme women's health and hygiene. The convener of the programme, Dr Swarnali Das Paul, Principal SSCPS said that creating awareness on female diseases was the main motto of this event. Special guest Dr Kirti Verma Bhandari, Gynaecologist, SJM Maternity and diagnostic

centre, Bhilai and Dr Rekha Ratnani, Head Gynaecologist, SSIMS, delivered lectures on the theme. Jaya Mishra, President SGEES delivered a beautiful talk on "Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow" in which vice principal and guest explored the ways in which women and girls are leading the charges on climate change adaptation, mitigation, a response around the world, contributing powerful leaders and change makers to more

sustainable future for all. The first session was conveyed by Dr Kirti Verma Bhandari in which she addressed the audience regarding the health issues related to women and girls and taught how to maintain hygiene and live a healthier life. The second session was conveyed by Dr Rekha Ratnani. She emphasized the role of women in their personal and professional life and motivated to live an independent life. More than hundred participants were present in this event.



'No new promises made, stress on development works'

Mayor presents annual budget of Rs 1475 cr for RMC for 2022-23

Members of Opposition creates ruckus on 'user charges' and hosts of other issues

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: The Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar presented annual budget of Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) for 2022-23 for that of Rs 1475 crore and gave emphasis on balanced development. Not making any new promises, the Mayor laid stress on implementation of the pending or the recently started works. During this the members of the Opposition created din in the House on the issue of 'user charges' and other issues and even staged protest coming to



dais of the Speaker.

Mayor Ejaz Dhebar in his main budget speech said that at present Raipur is with three star rating and is among the best six states in the country and to bring it on No. 1 a lot of hard work needs to be done and added that the pace with which the state government is working, they will definitely get suc-

cess. Mayor informed that lifeline of Raipur city is 'Kharun' River and new initiative will be taken for its purification and cleaning. Similarly work plans will be prepared for small traders and city will be made tanker-free. All the 10 wards of RMC will be provided with ambulance facility and the people BPL will be provided 'gau-



kash' free of cost for performing final rites of deceased. Similarly by paying attention on health services, around 80 new Clinics will be opened in the city, he added.

Budget presented in briefcase made out of cow-dung:

In line with the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel carrying a briefcase made out of cow-dung for presentation of state's budget in the VS, the Mayor Ejaz Dhebar also followed in his footsteps and came along with briefcase made from cow-dung and presented the budget in the House. It was 'Goumai

Vaste Laxmi' written on top of the briefcase.

Budget at a glance:

- # Provision of Rs 31 cr has been made for housing scheme for all.
- # Provision of Rs 110 cr for 'Amrut Mission Yojana'
- # Provision of Rs 150 cr for Infrastructure Development
- # Provision of Rs 5.5 cr for 'Pushpa-Vatika'
- # Provision of Rs 1 cr for City Bus Project
- # Provision of Rs 1.5 cr for 'Gyan Sthali Yojana'
- # Provision of Rs 44.5 cr for 'safai' contract

Promises made in the budget

- For cleaning of capital city Raipur's life line - Kharun River, a work plan of three years has been prepared and for this four STPs of total 206 MLD will be started for purification of stale water from drains entering Kharun river.
- Under 'Pauni Pasari Yojana' and by fixing new vending zones, a work plan will be prepared for entire RMC to assist small traders for running their business smoothly and then it will be implemented.
- To make city 'Tanker-Free', 'Amrut Mission Yojana' will be immediately implemented.
- Health and medical facilities in entire RMC will be expanded and to ensure that a patient gets ambulance facility well on time, all the ten zones of RMC will be provided with ambulance vehicle.
- In case of sudden death of one from family, there is immediately need for keeping the body inside deep freezer and taking a sensitive initiative, RMC will be providing one 'Deep Freezer' facility in all 10 zones of RMC.
- For performing final rites of deceased person in the family from BPL and middle class families, RMC will be provided 'Gau Kash' free of cost.
- To provide children from poor families with education facility in English medium, the Binni Bai Sonkar Best School' will be upgraded as English Medium School from this FY.
- To provide domestic services like that of plumber, cooler, TV, fridge repair mechanic, carpenter and others, an online portal app will be prepared and this will help the local workers get employment and people would be able to get facilities sitting at home.
- By developing infrastructure along with study and teaching in the Government Schools, a strong foundation will be prepared by introducing and promoting intellectual, educational, sports and cultural activities.
- The Sports grounds in capital city Raipur will be developed and along with this all the seven ponds and gardens will be given facelift in the coming three years.
- With Raipur developing into cosmopolitan city, RMC is already working on 'Smart Road Scheme' to ensure smooth movement of traffic and proper parking facilities in areas facing traffic congestion. In the first leg, Raipur Smart City Limited, will be developing 220 mts road from near Oxyzone in GE Road to Raja Tabal Road and develop it as 'Smart Road'.

Work according to the aspirations of the people: Governor

Corporators should be sensitive towards problems of the public

Uikey first Governor to attend the GBM of RMC

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey attended the general body meeting (GBM) of Raipur Municipal Corporation on Tuesday. After reaching the Corporation office, Mahatma Gandhi Sadan, the Governor paid homage to the father of the nation by garlanding his statue.

On this occasion, MLA duo Satyanarayan Sharma, Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey, Leader of Opposition Minal Choubey and women corporators also gave a warm welcome to Governor Uikey. This is probably the first time that



a Governor has attended a general body meeting of a municipal corporation.

Addressing the general body meeting of the Municipal Corporation, Governor Ms. Uikey called upon the corporators to work according to the aspirations of the people and be sensitive to the problems of the people. All of you corporators are the voice of the people and it is your responsibility to fulfill the basic needs of the common people. Do not be arrogant in your conduct and rituals, she added.

Governor also told corporators to visit their area regularly and also take

feedback of your work from people, so that you are aware of what people want. Ms. Uikey said that urban bodies and village panchayats are the primary schools of democracy. The people's representatives who have been elected here are introduced for the first time to democracy and parliamentary functioning. This is my first experience in this house.

Like Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, there are questions and answers of pros and cons, time is fixed for question hours. Certainly the role of the House would have been important in making

Raipur a clean, beautiful and smart city. People are occupying many important posts after leaving the house of the urban body. The Governor of Jharkhand, Ramesh Bais was once a member of this House. Many MLAs and MPs have also started their journey from this house. The more good work you do, the more people's affection and respect you will get and you will reach new heights in your future political career.

Governor Uikey in her remarks appreciated the remarkable works done by the corporation in Raipur city including initiatives like Vivekananda Sarovar, Telibandha Talab Beautification and Nalanda Library, Pink Toilet. On this occasion, RMC Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey and Commissioner Municipal Corporation Prabhat Malik also addressed the gathering. Mayor Ejaz Dhebar honoured Governor Uikey with a memento.

Nine officers served notices on Tender process irregularities

Reply sought within 15 days: Minister

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Nine senior officials including 6 Indian Forest Services (IFS) Officers have been served show cause notices on the reported complaint of irregularities in Tender works being carried out for various works in Forest Department.

Minister for Forest Md Akbar said that appropriate action would be taken against those responsible for irregularities after receiving reply from them.

Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dharmal Kaushik on Tuesday raised the issued during Question Hour here. He asked the Minister about the action taken against the officials after irregularities were reported in the Tender Process for various works



in Forest Department. Minister Akbar confirmed about the irregularities and added that nine officers are responsible for the irregularities.

Oppn alleges irregularities in DMF expenditure

Raipur: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Keshav Chandra alleged irregularities in the expenditure from the amount of District Mineral Fund (DMF) and added that nearly Rs 21 crore were spent on Training purpose and sought reply from the Treasury bench on utilization of fund and the Audit for the said. Replying to the charges, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that state government is ready to investigate on the alleged irregularities on receiving a written complaint. BJP MLAs too grilled the Treasury bench on the rational utilization of the DMF Fund. Akaltara MLA Saurabh Singh alleged that the guidelines of DMF utilization is being violated in several districts.

ties and have been served notices. Minister said that 30 days duration is essential for the Tender Process but only 21 days time were given to the interested firms whereas the rules of Warehouse Purchase too were ignored. Minister said that departmental process has been initiated whereas Probe Officer has not been appointed so far and added that the accused officers have been given time of 15 days to reply to the show cause notices. Leader of Opposition said that violation of rules would encourage corruption in government departments.

Officials whose name have been reported in the irregularities are Vishnuraj Narendran, Ayush Jain, Amitabh Bajpai, Stylo Mandavi, Vijaya Vinod Kurre and Ashok Kumar Patle from IFS rank whereas NK Sharma, DK Sahu and DK Mehar are from State Forest Services.

NYAY scheme failed to provide justice to farmers: Brijmohan

Oppn grills Treasury bench during discussion on budgetary demands of Agriculture department

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday termed the NYAY scheme of Congress government to be injustice to the farmers as the eligible farmers are not able to get the benefits.

Launching attack on the Treasury bench during the discussion on the budgetary provision of the Agriculture department in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, the senior BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal said that said that the farmers are being provided Rs 2500 under the NYAY scheme but the recipients are paying heavy price as their electricity, road and education benefits of their family members are curtailed by the

state government. He further added that the state government has provided compensation of just Rs 4 lakh to the family members of the farmer died during the protest against land acquisition in Naya Raipur whereas Chief Minister had given Rs 50 lakh compensation to the farmer from Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh only to please the party high command. He also held the Congress government responsible for growing corruption.

Counting the allegation, the senior Congress MLA Mohan Markam held the previous BJP government responsible for the alleged suicide of the farmers. He also claimed that several development works have been taken place during the last three years whereas previous BJP government had failed to deliver the promises to the people. He also mentioned the waiver of agriculture loan of the farmers as part of the exercise initiated by the Congress government towards welfare of the farmers.

FULLY DRENCHED IN COLOURS



A shopkeeper selling variety of colours in an area locally seems to be fully drenched in all colours, providing instant acceptance from customers.

Over 204 killed, 81 injured in elephant attacks

● In three years

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: At least 204 people were killed and 81 injured in elephant attacks, while 45 pachyderms died due to various reasons, including electrocution, in Chhattisgarh in the last three years, the state legislative Assembly was informed on Tuesday.

In a reply to a question by BJP MLA Rajneesh Kumar Singh, state Forest and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Akbar said that 72,112

cases of injury and loss of life and damage to crops and properties in elephant attacks were registered in the state from January 1, 2019 to February 1 this year. As many as 204 people have died and 81 sustained injuries in elephant attacks, while 63,603 cases of crop damage, 5,232 of damage to houses and 2,992 of other property damages were reported in the last three years, he said in a written reply.

Over Rs 60.5 crore were paid in compensation in these cases during this period, the minister said,

adding that compensation to the tune of over Rs 1.01 crore was pending in 664 of these cases.

On October 7, the state government notified an area of 1,995.48 sq km (in northern Chhattisgarh) as Lemru elephant reserve. At least 39 coal mines in two coal blocks - Mand Raigarh and Hasdeo Arand - fall within limits of Lemru elephant reserve. Under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the Central government has not permitted mining in any of the mines in the elephant reserve area, the minister said in the reply.

CG witnessing growing patients of Endometriosis

AIIMS-R leads month long awareness programme with State level CME

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh is witnessing a growing number of Endometriosis patients in the last few years. All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been receiving almost 100 female patients per month suffering from Endometriosis. It can lead to excessive menstrual cramps and heavy



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal and Dr. Nilaj Bagde during CME on Endometriosis by AIIMS, Raipur.

menstrual flow and pain. Experts say that timely diagnosis and treatment could be decisive to over-

come the challenge. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at AIIMS,

Raipur is organizing a month long awareness programs to educate women on the issue. A state level CME 'Key Practice Updates on Endometriosis' has been organized by the department to disseminate information on the topic.

In his keynote address Director Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that females generally ignore their health problems due to family related responsibilities. It is other family members' duty to give them much needed support. Prof. Nagarkar said that AIIMS is leading state medical colleges to create awareness

about Endometriosis. 'Timely intervention can save women from pain and other disorders related to Endometriosis. We are focusing more on the research to come out with specific treatment protocols in the state, he said.

Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal elaborated the genetic base of Endometriosis and said that women with Endometriosis are more likely to have infertility or difficulty getting pregnant. 'Patients with Endometriosis have some tissue outside of the uterus mostly affecting women between ages

of 25 to 40. Timely diagnosis and minimal invasive surgery can definitively treat it, she said.

Dr. Nilaj Kumar Bagde said that Obs and Gyne OPD is receiving around 100 patients per month which shows alarming situation in the state. 'Women suffering from Endometriosis develop tissue outside the uterus which can lead to pain and excessive bleeding. All diagnosis and treatment facilities are available at AIIMS for Endometriosis, he said. The CME witnessed impressive numbers of participants around the state in hybrid mode.

Future of the country lies in educational institutions, says Governor

● Appreciated the painting of children on Smart City

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Governor Anusuiya Uikey attended the Education Excellence Award distribution function organized by a media group in Durg on Tuesday. On this occasion, she honored educational institutions for their contribution in various fields. The Governor praised the painting of children on Smart City. She said that I saw your painting on the vision of Smart City. You have made such a beautiful painting and have shown the city of your dreams in such a way that I am sure you guys are the future of the country.

In her address while felicitating educational institutions and children in Twin City, she said that the future of the country lies in educational institutions. The better the work done here, the brighter the future of the country will be. She said that the city which is seen in the imagination of children. How beautiful it is which has



modern facilities. There is universal harmony. This beautiful hypothesis shows how much potential our children have. The more responsibility the educational institutions fulfill their duties, the better will be the future of the country. India will have a different identity in the world stage. Such

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modern facilities. There is universal harmony. This beautiful hypothesis shows how much potential our children have. The more responsibility the educational institutions fulfill their duties, the better will be the future of the country. India will have a different identity in the world stage. Such

has been prepared under the guidance of the Prime Minister. It emphasizes on the all round development of the children. Along with studies, children are also prepared for cultural and skill development.

Children gain a better understanding of their environment and move towards saving it. She said that work is being done towards the implementation of the education policy of the year 2020. On this occasion, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, Rajat Moona, Vice Chancellor of CSVTU, Mukesh Verma, IP Mishra of Shankaracharya Group and other dignitaries were present.

The Governor met the heads of educational institutions performing well in the award ceremony and congratulated them and also encouraged the children.

HOLI IN SCHOOL



School children enjoying pre-Holi celebration with school friends as there is holiday on occasion of Holi.

CM releases a book based on the journey of 'Kosa' silk



Raipur, Mar 15: At his office in the Vidhan Sabha premise today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book 'The Incredible Journey of Kosa', edited by senior journalist K.N. Kishore and Dr. Rajendra Mohanty. This book is based on the journey of Kosa silk from the mythical period to the present day, Kosa sarees and dress material. Senior journalist Babul Sharma was also present on the occasion.

This book discusses the mythology behind 'Kosa' silk, its historical origin, literary evidence telling about the arrival and development of silk in India and its arrival in Chhattisgarh as well. Moreover, the book also

consists of a detailed discussion on the traditional process of silk production, thread making and different types of silk fabrics such as sarees, dress material, furnishing etc. Also, this book will give a brief on the handloom Kosa product of Chhattisgarh and will serve as a storehouse of knowledge for the new generations. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel congratulated and extended best wishes to all the people involved in the publication of the book.

Kishore informed that this book is an attempt to document the journey, motifs, colors and weaves of Kosa along with traditional forms of silk weaving and also to preserve the history of Kosa.

CAP increasing confidence of tribals among 219th Corps CRPF

Konta, Mar 15: Civic Action Program and Medical Camp was organized by 219th Corps CRPF on March 15 under the direction of Commandant Nitin Kumar. Under which, keeping in mind the scorching heat, a terracotta water filter was installed for the supply of pure drinking water in village-Injram on the Konta-Sukma main road (National Highway-30). So that people traveling on National Highway and Injram-Bhee road and nearby villagers can get its benefit. Along with this, medicines were distributed by treating common diseases like cold, cough, fever, high blood pressure, body ache, joint pain, chronic wounds/wounds, sore throat and malaria through medical camps for better health of the villagers.

Civic Action Program (CAP) was organized in village-Injram with the



aim of connecting with the main stream of development and making them aware of the importance of government schemes and programs. Through the Civic Action Programme, radio, mosquito nets, solar lamps and other items of daily use were distributed to the villagers of Injram, Gondipara and Asirguda. Along with this, sports material like bat-ball, carom, football, volleyball, badminton set etc. were

given to make children aware of sports and to increase their enthusiasm. During this, people were made aware about the diseases caused by drinking impure water by Rahul R (Senior Medical Officer). Also told that we will all fight together against Covid-19 Corona virus and if anyone has any kind of disease, then he can come at any time for treatment to the hospital located at Injram Headquarters.

'World Consumer Day' observed in all branches of PNB



● Coming under Bilaspur Zone

Bilaspur, Mar 15: Punjab National Bank, zonal and branch office Bilaspur and BDA observed World Consumer Day on March 15, with an objective to provide 'consumer protection and consumer prosperity'. The meeting was attended

by PNB Zonal Head Tapas Kranti Jha, Chief Manager Pratap Singh, Chief Manager Deepraj, Branch Manager Umakant Mehar, Senior Manager Official Language Ashraf Ansari addressed the valuable customers and exchanged their views as well. This programme was organized in all branches of Bilaspur zone.

KPS becomes the State Champion in Fit India Quiz State Finals



Raipur, Mar 15: Krishna Public School (KPS) Kamal Vihar, Dunda again proved its mettle at Fit India State Finals. Ishant Talreja and Manan Sethia, 2 students from KPS achieved the distinction of representing their state at the national level and the only team of Raipur Chhattisgarh in the state finals of Fit India Quiz. In this quiz, 36,299 students from 13,502 schools participated in the preliminary round from all over India. This competition was jointly organized

by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and CBSE. It is a national platform wherein opportunity is provided to the students to showcase their knowledge related to fitness and sports at the school level. In this competition, Ishant Talreja and Manan Sethia, after clearing the preliminary round (which was organized by National Talent Agency), secured their first position in the state semi-final and final round.

Various questions were

asked in this competition which was based on Indian Sports History, Traditional Games, Yoga, Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Khelo India Games and other popular sports. By giving good answers to each question based on these topics, through their talent and intelligence, the students bagged first position in Chhattisgarh State Finals and defeated other teams by a huge margin. The school will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 2.5 Lakhs rupees as prize money and Rs 25000 will be given jointly to both the winners. This competition was held online. Team KPS has been selected for the National Round which will be held in three phases: Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Final.

Delegation of CPROA, CSTEU, SPS pay courtesy call on CM

To express gratitude for the restoration of old pension scheme

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association (CPROA) has thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the announcement to resume implementation of old pension scheme for government employees in Chhattisgarh. The union has called it a historic decision in the interest of state government employees.

The delegation of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association today met Chief Minister Baghel at his office in the assembly premise and thanked him for the decision.

On the occasion, President of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association, Balmukund Tamboli said that this announcement made by Chief Minister



Baghel is a compassionate step of Chhattisgarh Government to ensure that the government employees and their families live a respectable life even after retirement. He said that Chief Minister has always taken decisions in the interest of government employees with empathy and compassion. This is the reason why government employees in the state have their morale high and they are wholeheartedly engaged in the implementation of government schemes and policies. Tamboli further said that

under the old pension scheme, the employees would get a fixed pension amount after retirement and the dependent family would get the benefit of pension. Government employees and officers are overjoyed with this announcement of Chief Minister and now they can work with renewed enthusiasm and dedication. The delegation included the patrons of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association, J.L. Dario and Umesh Mishra, along with other officials namely, Munnalal Choudhary, Manrakhan Markam, Nitin Sharma, Zarif Khan, Kamlesh Sahu, Kamalajyoti Zahire, Sachin Sharma, Omprakash Dahria, Bhavani Singh Thakur, and Ravindra Chaudhary.

Similarly a delegation of Chhattisgarh School Teacher Employees Union (CSTEU) and under the leadership of Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai and MLA Ram Kumar Yadav and Chhattisgarh State Police Services (SPS) paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his office in

the Vidhan Sabha premises today. They expressed their gratitude towards Chief Minister for restoration of the old pension scheme for the officers and employees of the state. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel has announced to restore old pension scheme in the state's budget for the year 2022-23.

On this occasion, State President of the Union Sanjay Tiwari, Secretary Prakash Sahu, Tirath Narayan Banjare and members of the Union from Raipur, Bilajigarh, Bhatapara and Baloda-Bazar were also present.

State Police Service (SPS) officers delegation comprised of Kamleshwar Chandel, Mukesh Thakur, Sukhmandan Rathore, Kirtan Rathore, Abhishek Maheshwari, Khoman Sinha, DC Patel, Udayant Behar, Manoj Dhruv and police inspectors including Rajesh Singh, Amit Tiwari and Nilesh Singh were among those present on the occasion.

Street play presented by 'Urchins' at CU Bilaspur

Raipur, Mar 15: In Guru Ghasidas University (Central University), 'The Urchins', a socio-cultural and theatrical group of the Central University performed a street play after the university reopened. This was the team's first performance in the University after a long gap of the Corona period.

The play was staged in front of the Silver Jubilee Auditorium on March 14 at 1 pm. The team returned with the play 'Stree Aur Woh Din' written by renowned play-



wright, Arvind Gaur and which was directed by Urchins. The play presents social issues like toxic masculinity and menstruation, and seeks to dispel the misconceptions associated with these issues.

Team Urchins' teacher coordinator, Dr. Manish Srivastava was present during the entire performance to encourage the team. The play proved to be a success among the audience and it was well received by the audience. University students also gave their positive and

appreciative feedback to the team. The new students seemed excited about the team and the theatre. The performance was directed by student coordinators, Shruti Sharma and Saurabh Yadav.

The members of the performing team in the play were Divya Rani, Tina Rani Sahu, Adarsh Mishra, Pranay Naidu, Lokesh Singh, Shivani Vishwakarma, Akanksha Tirkey, Matraka Sahu, Abhijit Chandra, Prachi Jaiswal and Gaurav Sinha.

OBITUARY

Shanti Mishra

Raipur: Shanti Mishra (Tarpongi-Mohadawale), R/o Manana (Battalion) Raipur, breathed her last here on March 14. She was W/o Late Ramesh Mishra and her final rites were performed at Mana crematorium. She was mother of Ashok Mishra.

'Efforts being made not to allow screening of Hindi Film'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: MLA Brijmohan Agrawal raised the issue of the film 'The Kashmir Files' during zero-house in Vidhan Sabha here on Monday. He said that effort is being made not to allow screening of this film in the theatres and it is equivalent to sedition charges. He said that plans are afoot to stop its

screening from talkies in Raipur city and the place where the film is running, the audience is being taken for a ride by flashing boards that it is running Houseful and no tickets are available. He charged that there is conspiracy to avoid audience from watching the film. It will be better if this film can be made tax-free like the way it has been done in MP and Gujarat.

Ruling govt filling pockets of 'mafias': Brijmohan

Mungeli, Mar 15:

Former WRD Minister and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal was accorded warm welcome on his arrival in Mungeli by the BJP party workers and later he met the workers at BJP leader Prem Arya's residence.

On this occasion Brijmohan Agrawal informed that prior to going for programme in Lormi, he was welcomed in Mungeli and with past memories he recalled that it is almost 2-3 years that he visited this place. With presence of MLA CJC (J) Dharmjeet Singh, there were speculations that he may join BJP and replying to which Brijmohan said that Dharmjeet Singh is also in Opposition and since both are in the Opposition and therefore they are friends and they jointly grill the ruling government. On asking about present condition of rul-



ing government in state, Brijmohan Agrawal charged that it is the most corrupt of all the government and most unsuccessful and failure on all fronts. From one point of view it is basically a government of mafias, he alleged, adding that there is hardly any place left in Chhattisgarh be it sand mafia, drug mafia, liquor mafia, real-estate mafia, 'paddy' mafia and others which is bereft of involvement by present-day government in the state.

Speaking further Brijmohan said that earlier Chhattisgarh used to be a peaceful state and despite 42% of forest reserve, no mafia prevailed in that region. But now there is mafia existing in almost all the fields in Chhattisgarh, who are prospering with due protection from the state government. Contrary to this the government's coffers are being emptied and it is going more into the pockets of 'well-protected' mafias of the state govern-

ment. Brijmohan charged that the ruling government in the state is only after looting state of its rich resources and is working with the sole intention on how to make the government's reserves empty.

The last BJP government in the state ruled for 15 yrs and at that time the loan amount was just Rs 36000 crore and which in just 3 yrs rule of Congress government has shot upto Rs 51000 crore and the near future it will touch Rs

90000 crore. The state's budget is that of Rs 1.04 lakh crore and on this the annual interest itself will be Rs 10000 crore. This amount is equivalent to the amount of interest waived off to the farmers and the amount being paid under Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana. Paddy was purchased from just 42 lakh farmers in the state, whereas the actual number of farmers in state are 49 lakh and in this way, paddy is being purchased from just 22 lakh farmers and Brijmohan questioned as to where the paddy of other farmers is being sold.

If the Mazdoor Nyay Yojana has been started, then leaving 22 lakh labourers, it should be passed onto 27 lakh people, as there are only 22 lakh labourers registered in the state and their Rs 560 cr is into account of the state government, he added.

Dr. ML Rathi award conferred to Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal

In provincial convention of IMA

Raigarh, Mar 15:

The Provincial Convention of the Medical Council of India, being organized for almost a decade, was organized for the first time in the city. This two-day convention began on March 12 in the presence of the best doctors of four states. For the first time in the convention, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal of AIIMS Raipur was present on the invitation for the speech on the title 'from death to life'.

Dr. Agrawal, who has changed the lives of more than one thousand bone cancer patients, enriched the knowledge of the doctors present about the complex treatment related to bone diseases. Alok Chandra Agrawal was honored with a memento from the stage of IMA.

In a special conversation, Ortho specialist Dr. AC Agrawal told that from diet to disorderly routine can also be the



reason for bone disease. For the treatment of complex bone diseases and bone cancer, Dr. Agrawal traveled from the metropolis of the country to London and many countries of Europe and humbly learned the art of treatment from specialist

doctors. Expert Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal is currently the only FAMS degree holder of Chhattisgarh. Earlier this qualification was with Dr. HSD Sharma, a doctor of undivided Madhya Pradesh, who died in 2002. Dr. Aggarwal, a gentleman and a brilliant student by nature, started work on bone treatment with Dr. HKT Raza, an orthodontist from Jabalpur who has been treating serious orthopedic related ailments for nearly 30 years. Describing the IMA convention as a better environment for learning and learning, Dr. Agrawal opined for hospitals to have their own expert panels, so that their availability is maintained round the clock. This experiment is very important in the era of super-speciality, and doctors have to understand that ultimately the patient's interest is paramount, he asserted.

State govt fulfills what it promises: Akbar



Kawardha, Mar 14:

Forest, Transport, Housing and Environment, Law-Legislative Minister and Kawardha MLA Mohammad Akbar here inaugurated the community hall of Marar Patel Samaj during his stay at Sahaspur Lohara in Kabirdham district. For this, Rs.25 lakh from the MLA fund was approved by the Minister. Addressing the gather-

ing Mohammad Akbar said that the promises made by the State Government are fulfilled one by one. Mr. Akbar said that, the state government formulated the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana for the empowerment of the farming community. On providing the amount at the rate of Rs. 9 thousand per acre, the farmers were paid Rs. 2500 per quintal and in the Kharif year 98 lakh metric

tonnes of paddy has been purchased for Rs.25 thousand crores and now paddy will be purchased from farmers at the rate of Rs 2540 per quintal, he said.

On this occasion, Pandaria MLA Mamta Chandrakar, Neelkanth Chandravanshi, Bodla District President Smt. Leela Dhanuk Verma, Manharan Shrivastava, Shakambhari Board members Hari Patel, Sitaram Patel, Ashok Patel, Pardeshi Patel, Ramcharan Patel, Dhush Patel including members of the society, public representatives, and senior citizens were present. The program was addressed by the representatives of Patel Samaj including MLA of Pandaria, Mamta Chandrakar. These included Bhagwan Singh Patel, Hari Singh Patel, Sitaram Patel, Ramkumar Patel, Ramcharan Patel etc.

Couple arrested in Human Trafficking case

Surajpur, Mar 15:

The game of human trafficking continues unabated in the remote Chandni Biharpur area of ??the district, where a 21 year old pregnant woman belonging to the Pando tribe was sold for lakhs of rupees, by a couple belonging to the same village as that of the woman. The woman was allegedly sold to Prem Tawar of Madhya Pradesh for Rs 1.50 lakh by Sagar Singh and Shyama Bai Jaiswal, who on pretext of a good life had entraped the 21 year old in her plans.

As per information, when the victim girl has a dispute with her husband, she decides to reach out to Jaiswal for help, who in the pretext of helping her took her to Ratan Singh, a native of Moldi village of Khilchipur, Rajgarh district police station of Madhya Pradesh. Thereafter she was sold to

the main accuse Prem Tawar, a resident of the same village. After subjected to rape and torture by Tawar, the victim fled and reached her village.

Meanwhile the victim's husband had filed a missing person case, after the sudden disappearance of his wife, and after two months, the victim somehow reached her house and reported the matter to the local police station.

The Chandni police have registered a crime under 370,376 and arrested husband and wife Sagar Singh-Shyama Bai Jaiswal, resident of Mahuli, while another accused Prem Tawar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, is on the run presently. In the interrogation of the police, many shocking cases have come to the fore and many other women are suspected to have fallen to human trafficking by the couple.

Youths take out massive 'bike-rally'

With demand to make Khairagarh a new district

Khairagarh, Mar 15:

The people in support of making Khairagarh block as district, took out a massive bike-rally which was flagged off by Pensioners Sangh. It is notable here that an indefinite strike to make Khairagarh, Chuikhadan and Gandai as district is going on for last 200 days in Khairagarh city.

In this context the supporters of this demand took out a bike-rally on March 12. The rally passed through main thoroughfares in city and reached Chuikhadan via Piparia, Dimrinakua. Here the rallyist were welcomed and after this they passed through Betalrani Ghat and reach Narmada Chowk via Kumbharvad, Bakarkatta, Rampur, Palimeta and sought support of the people present.



From Narmada Chowk they went to Gandai and then back to Khairagarh via. Daniya, Udaipur and Bazar Ataria.

It is worthwhile to mention here that demand to make Khairagarh a separate district is going on for long and in this campaign a bike rally was taken out and it was supported by 'Adhivakta Sangh', 'Vayapari Sangh'

and common men. During this rally, Narendra Soni, Hemudas Sahu, President Adhivakta Sangh Suresh Bhatta, Kaushal Prasad, Kosare, Ramkumar Jangde, Manoj Choubey, Kishore Soni, Rajkumar Borkar, Raju Yadu, Ramesh Yadu, Hemdas Kosare, Manharan Dewangan, Manesh Banjare and others were present.

Cases of fake signatures, order on rise in region

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 15:

The news about fake orders for Holi celebrations from March 17-18 is in the air through social media these days.

Right after formation of district, cases related to fake signatures has been highlighted and on this no action has been taken by the District or Police administration and therefore such cases is on the rise.

There are reports of fake signatures in Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi district, but so far district administration has not taken any firm action

Lack of action boosting morale of such persons

and due to which many cases have come forward in government department, Gram Panchayats. One of the recent case was that of fake recruitment in the Project office and in this through fake signatures the accused were misleading people about appointment in the Project office.

In this way about two months back, fake signature of Asst. Director in social wel-

कार्यालय उप संचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही (३७११०)

संख्या / सा. / २०२०-२१ / ११५५

विषय- कर्मी इलाकार करने की संकेत में।

विषयवस्तु- १. कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा HDFC बैंक में जमान खुलवाने हेतु प्रेषित २८/०१/२०२१ को भी कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) द्वारा सत्यापन किया गया है। २. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को जमान प्राप्त था, परन्तु उनके द्वारा प्राप्त प्रमाणों में त्रुटि पायी गयी है। ३. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ४. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ५. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ६. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ७. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ८. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। ९. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है। १०. कि कोमलसोनी (पुत्रवर्ग) को सत्यापन किया गया है।

संख्या- १. बैंक द्वारा काला कोषण कार्य की प्रमाणाति। २. सत्यापन की प्रमाणाति।

संख्या/सा./२०२०-२१/११५५

प्रति- १. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

२. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

३. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

४. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

५. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

६. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

७. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

८. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

९. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१०. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

११. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१२. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१३. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१४. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१५. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१६. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१७. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१८. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

१९. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

२०. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

२१. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

२२. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

२३. उपसंचालक समाज कल्याण जिला-गौरेला-पेंड्रा-मरवाही

fare department was done by Komal Soni- Rehabilitation Assistant. In this even after signature by Asst. Director, Komal Soni forged his signature and put his mobile number near it and in this also no action was taken.

Apart from this a bigger forgery than this was done by Komal Soni remaining in the post of Asst. Director and got all his brothers viz.

Kailash, Kapoor Soni and nephew Sagar Soni recruited in the Social Welfare Department Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi. So with no firm action in

such cases, the incidents of fake signature and forgery are on the rise in the district and so far no concrete step has been taken to put a check on the same.

In such a case, Komal Soni and his brother Kapoor Soni are employed in two posts in the Social Welfare Department and in this one of the post is that of 'Divyan Mitran' and other that of watchman.

Getting work done by so many persons from one family raises many eyebrows and so far in this case no action has been taken.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vandna Suryawani, D/o Shri Rajaram Suryawani, R/o B-31, Sector-2, Devendra Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) inform the general public that I have changed my name from Vandna Suryawani, D/o Shri Rajaram Suryawani to Khushi Vaswani, W/o Shri Prakash Vaswani . Hereby, from now I will be identified by my new name Khushi Vaswani W/o Shri Prakash Vaswani and this will be recorded in all my official and semi-official documents.

Khushi Vaswani B-31, Sector-2, Devendra Nagar Raipur (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Navin Jhabak S/o Gyanchand Jhabak resident of 560, College Road Mahasamund (C.G.) - 493445 has changed my old name Navin Jhabak S/o Gyanchand Jhabak, so in the future. I should be recognized by my new name that is Navin Kumar Jhabak S/o Gyanchand Jhabak in all Government and other documents.

NAVIN KUMAR JHABAK

560, College Road,

Mahasamund (C.G.) - 493445

Cycles distributed under SCY to 25 girl students



Dhamdha, Mar 15: Under 'Sarswati Cycle Yojana' at Government HS School Ghota, cycles were distributed to 25 girl students here on Monday. On this occasion Principal Manoj Kumar Shukla, Sarpanch Balaram Sunhare, Himachal Patel,

Lubhan Singh Patel, Gajanand Nourange, staff of the School Radhekumar Verma, Sarita Verma, Pila Kurre, Dilip Kumar, Kamlesh Tamrakar, Teerath Markande, Vimla Chandel, Hitendra Dheewar were present.

Bandhan Bank

Regional Office: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6. Phone: +91-79-26421671-75

Demand Notice to Borrowers

The under mentioned action is notified under N.P.A and demand notice is issued by Bandhan Bank Ltd. to the following borrower(s), under sec.13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (The Act), 2002 which was returned unserved. Hence, this notice is issued to you all and public at large through publication.

Name of borrower(s), Loan Account No.	Description of mortgaged property (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice/Date of NPA	O/S Amount as on Date of Demand Notice	Date of Pasting of Notice
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha	All that piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring about 1500 sq. ft., Khasra No. 1157/1, Part No. 14/1, Mouja Kurud, Beside Rungta College, Astha Developer, Bhilai, Dist. Durg, State (CG) and bounded by: North: Land of Seller, East: 30 Feet Road, West: Land of Seller, South: Land of Seller	08.12.2021/ 18.03.2017	Rs.98,119.75 Rs.20,39,571.46	22.12.2021
Mr. Vinod Patel Mrs. Rashmi Patel 861/788	All that piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring about 1937 sq. ft., Khasra No. 1557/38, Old No. 564, PH No. 14/19-A Part , Ward No. 16, Behind New Govt School, Rungta College Road, Near CSEB Office, Kurud Kailesh Nagar, Bhilai, Durg (CG)-490001 and bounded by: North: Plot No. 25, East: Plot No. 32, West: 30 Feet Road, South: Plot No. 23	07.12.2021/ 18.03.2017	Rs.17,64,585.61	22.12.2021

Demand made against you through this notice to repay to the Bank dues mentioned against your name with interest, costs and charges within 60 days from the date hereof, failing which the Bank will further proceed to take steps u/s.13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. The borrowers'/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Bhilai
Date: 16/03/2022

Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

BRIEF

Overshot

■ **Faridabad:** A reversing goods train overshot the dead end of its track and rammed into its stopper and a wall beyond it in Old Faridabad railway station, damaging a couple of vehicles in the parking lot across the wall, an official said. A railwayman standing behind the train to guide its reversal miraculously escaped unhurt in the incident which occurred. Station superintendent AK Goyal said. It was meant to unload consignment, he said.

Held

■ **Srinagar:** Security forces arrested a militant belonging to the Jaish e Mohammad outfit in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. During surprise checking by security forces, movement of a suspicious person was noticed and he was apprehended. He was identified as Abrar Bashir, a resident of Takia Pulwama. Incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a magazine, grenade were seized from him.

Convicts

■ **Kolkata:** The TMC government in Bengal has in the last 11 years released 574 life convicts who had served over 14 years in correctional home "after a meticulous background check". Of the 574 convicts, 541 are male and 33 female. The government, under the recommendation of state sentence review board (SSRB), West Bengal, has, from time to time, taken a decision to prematurely release life-convicts from correctional homes.

Held

■ **Berhampur:** Nine people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the post-poll violence in Odisha's Ganjam district. There has, however, been no breakthrough yet in the violence at Kendupadar in Gangapur, in which an elected ward member was killed and four others were injured. There was clash between BJD and BJP supporters at Hinjalakuda in Ganjam district in which eight people were injured, five of them seriously.

Charas

■ **Maharajganj:** Two people were arrested with 20.5 kg charas worth Rs 2.1 crore in Maharajganj district, police here said. Bechu (28) and Sanjeev Kumar (26), both from Maharajganj, were arrested near Baba Mandir area of Shyamdeurwa, Superintendent of Police Pradeep Kumar Gupta said. One member of the gang managed to escape and a hunt is on to nab him, Gupta said.

Notice

■ **Indore:** Taking cognizance of some police personnel brutally beating a naked man in Indore, the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission served a notice to police seeking an explanation. MPHRC chairman Justice Narendra Jain has sought a reply from the police commissioner in ten days, an official of the commission said.

Amid heat wave, Mumbai civic body asks citizens to stay hydrated

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

In the wake of severe heat wave conditions in Mumbai and neighbouring districts, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has appealed to citizens to stay safe and hydrated and avoid going out in the afternoon.

A person suffering from a heat stroke should immediately be taken to hospital, it said, and asked people to increase the intake of water and other healthy fluids.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'orange alert' (severe heat wave conditions in some parts) for Tuesday and a 'yellow alert' (heat wave conditions in isolated parts) for Wednesday.

It has predicted that the



People walk under scorching Sun in Mumbai on Tuesday.

maximum temperature in Mumbai will be around 40 degrees Celsius over the next two days.

On Monday, suburban Santacruz recorded the maximum temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius, as per the MeT department.

In view of the IMD's warning, the Mumbai civic body took to Twitter

to inform citizens about the do's and don'ts and asked them to "stay hydrated and safe".

To minimise the impact during the heat wave and to prevent a serious ailment or death because of the heat stroke, the BMC also asked people to avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12 noon

and 3 pm.

It suggested people to carry water while going out in the afternoon.

"Drink sufficient water and as often as possible, even if not thirsty," the BMC said and asked people to avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high.

It also asked citizens to avoid tea, coffee, soft drinks, high-protein and stale food, and suggested that people use a hat or an umbrella and also use a damp cloth on head, neck, face and limbs if they work outdoors.

The BMC also asked people to take ORS (oral rehydration salts) and homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water and buttermilk which help to re-hydrate the body. Use fans and take bath in cold water frequently, it said.

Maha Council adjourned for the day after din

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Maharashtra Legislative Council was adjourned for the day on Tuesday after an uproar over the issue of an FIR against Leader of Opposition in the Upper House Pravin Darekar.

The Mumbai police on Monday registered the FIR against BJP MLC Darekar for allegedly using bogus membership of a labour organisation to become director of the Mumbai Bank, following a complaint by an Aam Aadmi Party functionary.

On Tuesday, BJP members shouted slogans in the Council against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress) gov-

ernment.

BJP MLC Bhai Girkar said, "The FIR against Darekar is an attempt to muzzle the voice of the opposition. The MVA government has taken action against him because it is being cornered for its own wrong doings and various scandals that the BJP is exposing.

Amid the din in the Council, Chairman Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar adjourned the House for 25 minutes.

After the House proceedings resumed, the opposition continued its objection against the FIR and shouted slogans against the state government.

The council chairman later adjourned the House for the day.

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday demanded a court-monitored CBI probe into the killing of party councillor Tapan Kandu and the mysterious death of student activist Anis Khan in West Bengal.

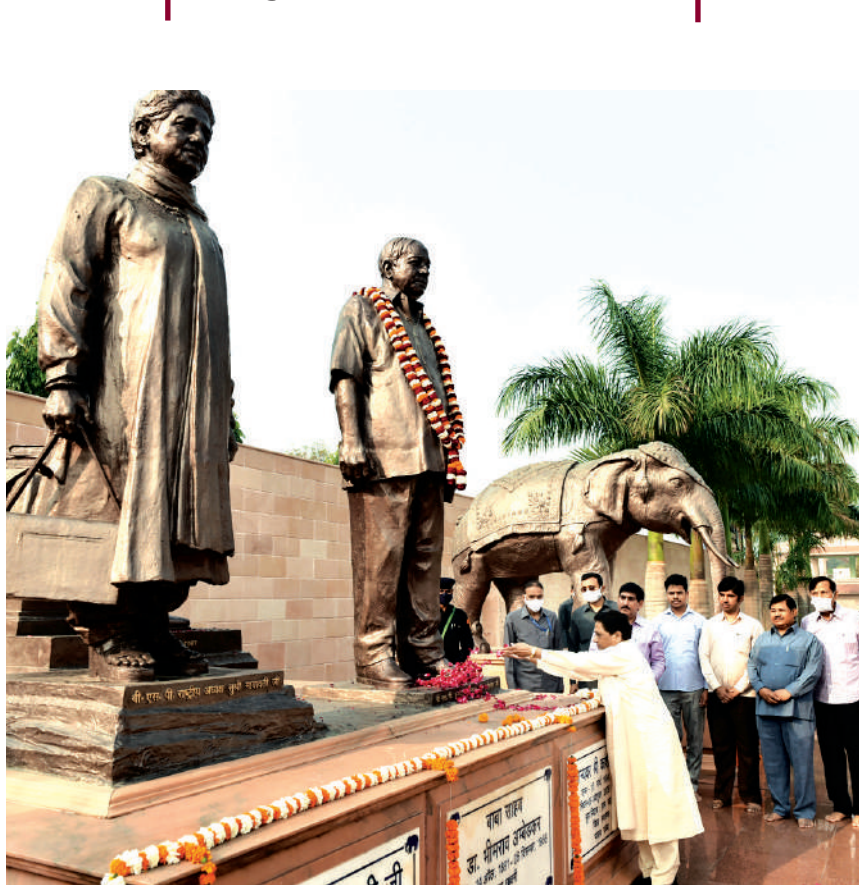
A four-time Congress councillor of Jhalda Municipality in West Bengal's Purulia district, Kandu was shot dead on Sunday. Raising the issues during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Chowdhury alleged the Trinamool Congress, the ruling party in West Bengal, was involved in the murder of Kandu in collusion with a section of the police. About the death of



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

18-year old Khan last month, Chowdhury, who is also the state Congress chief, claimed that elections can no longer be held independently in the state amid the prevailing "lawlessness". "I demand a court-monitored CBI inquiry into the murder of Kandu and Khan. I urge the Human

KANSHI RAM REMEMBERED



BSP supremo Mayawati pays a floral tribute to party founder Kanshi Ram on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the party office, in Lucknow, Tuesday.

'Demand CBI probe into WB councilor murder'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday demanded a court-monitored CBI probe into the killing of party councillor Tapan Kandu and the mysterious death of student activist Anis Khan in West Bengal.



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

18-year old Khan last month, Chowdhury, who is also the state Congress chief, claimed that elections can no longer be held independently in the state amid the prevailing "lawlessness". "I demand a court-monitored CBI inquiry into the murder of Kandu and Khan. I urge the Human

Rights Commission, Scheduled Caste Commission and the Minorities Commission that they also demand such an inquiry," Chowdhury said.

Anis Khan's family members have alleged that he was pushed off the second floor of their residence at Amta in Howrah district on the night of February 18 by four people with one donning a police uniform and the others wearing the dress of civic volunteers. Meanwhile, Two more people were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the murder of TMC councillor Anupam Dutta, taking the total number of apprehensions in the case to three, police said.

6,411 candidates in fray for Odisha urban polls

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15 (PTI):

As many as 6,411 candidates remain in the fray for the elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha scheduled on March 24 after 641 people withdrew their nominations on the last date of the process, the State Election Commission (SEC) said.

The polling for 109 civic bodies, including three municipal corporations, is scheduled to be held on March 24. After the withdrawal of nomination papers, 569 candidates are vying for the post of either chairperson or mayor, while 5,842 nominees are seeking election for the post of either councillor or corporator, the SEC said.

As many as 102 candidates withdrew their nominations filed for the post of either chairperson or mayor, while 539 people opted out of the elections for the post of either councillor or corporator, the SEC said. The SEC has asked the district magistrates cum collectors to ensure that the ongoing campaigning for the urban polls ends at 5 PM on March 22, 48 hours before the polling. As per rules, no person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting in any polling area during the period of 48 hours before voting. SEC Secretary R N Sahu, in a letter to all district collectors, said that public meetings and campaigning in any mode should be positively stopped at 5 PM on March 22.

Action plan to ensure preservation of indigenous, tribal faiths

Guwahati, Mar 15 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that his government's newly created department for indigenous faith would create an action plan to ensure the preservation and promotion of faith and culture of anthropologically indigenous and tribal communities.

Assam is a microcosm of a bigger region where people belonging to different indigenous and tribal faith and culture have resided since ages, a manifestation of different factors, the younger generations seem to be losing touch with the ancient faith and practices due to several factors, the chief minister said during his interaction with representatives of 30 tribal communities here. Considering the importance of ancient



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma meets with tribal communities representatives in Guwahati.

wisdom of the indigenous tribal faith and culture, my government has taken the decision to create a department to work for the promotion of faith and culture of anthropologically indigenous and tribal communities, Sarma said. "The department would create an

action plan for the state government to enrich the state's demography and will essentially undertake deep research to help the younger generation to imbibe the virtues of ancient faith and culture", the chief minister said. He asked the representatives to register

their organizations with the department to enable the government to provide institutional support to the organizations that have been engaged in the preservation and promotion of indigenous and tribal faith and culture. The tribal communities that are still preserving and practising their ancient religion, faith and culture can also apply for government support through a portal, Sarma added. The government will initiate adequate steps for studies on these subjects by the younger generation so that the society at large gets benefited, he said. The state government was also planning to hold a mega exhibition encapsulating in miniature the characteristics, creations, art and culture of indigenous and tribal faith to create more patronage for them, Sarma added.

Wildfires burn down several hectares of land in Kerala

Wayanad, Mar 15 (PTI):

Several acres of high range areas of Palakkad and Wayanad districts in Kerala were burnt down in wildfires, which occurred a few days ago, before forest officials managed to douse them. High range areas of Walaray in Palakkad and Vellamunda in Wayanad were affected by wildfires which occurred on Saturday and Sunday respectively, forest officials said and added that similar incidents were reported earlier in the month also in these two districts.

Wayanad North DFO, Darshan Gattani IFS, speaking to PTI, said the recent wildfire occurred in the grassland areas of the for-



Wildfires in Kerala.

est region of the district. He said that while the actual reason for the fire has to be determined, the extreme heat, rising temperatures, wind conditions and hilly terrain were contributing factors. Besides the recent wildfire incident, others were also reported earlier in the month from various parts of the district like

Kalpetta, Banasura dam area and Pericherimala, he said and added that in all these places the fire was contained in less than 12 hours. Palakkad DFO, Srinivas Kurra IFS, told PTI that the wildfire in the Walaray area of the district occurred on Saturday and could be doused only by Tuesday morning.

Girish Chodankar resigns as Goa Congress chief

● After party's poor show in Assembly polls

Panaji, Mar 15 (PTI):

Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar has resigned from the post, taking moral responsibility for his party's poor performance in the recently concluded state Assembly elections.

All India Congress Committee's Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao told PTI on Tuesday that Chodankar has sent his resignation to the AICC.

Chodankar was at the helm of affairs of the Congress during the recent elections held for the 40-member Goa Assembly.

The Congress managed to win 11 seats and its ally Goa Forward Party secured one seat, while the



Girish Chodankar

BJP emerged as the single largest party by bagging 20 seats.

After the poll results were declared last Thursday, Chodankar had offered to quit while accepting moral responsibility for his party's poor show. Sources in the Congress said Chodankar's resignation will be accepted and a new face will replace him.

Leaders like Sankalp Amonkar, Aleixo Sequeira and Elvis Gomes are front-runners for the post, they said.

Amonkar and Sequeira won the recent Assembly polls, while Gomes, a former bureaucrat, lost the election from Panaji Assembly seat.

The sources also did not rule out the possibility of the Congress considering senior leader Digambar Kamat, who won the poll Margao Assembly seat, for the top party post in the coastal state. In the 2017 Goa Assembly polls, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 seats, but it failed to form government. The BJP, which had then bagged 13 seats, came to power with the support of some regional parties and independents.

Oppn ruckus over 'insult' of speaker by Nitish

● Nitish Kumar Bihar CM since 2005

Patna, Mar 15 (PTI):

The alleged insult of Bihar assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar paralysed the House where ruckus created by the opposition over the issue forced repeated adjournments of the proceedings on Tuesday.

Strangely, both Sinha and Kumar chose not to attend the House which was in turmoil over the showdown between the two on the previous day. While the speaker remained seated inside his chamber, meeting MLAs who dropped in out of cu-



RJD legislators wear a black ribbon in protest against the Bihar government during the ongoing Budget session of the state Assembly, in Patna, Tuesday.

riosity, the chief minister was away in Maner Sharif, a Sufi shrine on the outskirts of the state capital, where he ducked queries from journalists about the stalemate with a cryptic smile

and a wave.

MLAs of the RJD, the principal opposition party, had come to the House wearing black badges as a mark of protest against what they saw as a slight in-

flicted on the Chair by the head of the government.

They were further provoked upon seeing senior BJP leader Prem Kumar in the Chair, when the House first assembled at 11 AM, and after being adjourned till 2 PM met for the post-lunch session. Opposition members trooped into the well, shouting slogans like "Nitish Kumar Murdabad" and "Nitish Kumar Hosh Mein Aao", forcing the adjournment of proceedings till 4.50 PM. Earlier, in the pre-lunch session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary sought to defend the chief minister, who "acknowledges the importance of the Chair".

BRIEF

Expels

Bratislava: Slovakia's Foreign Ministry says it has decided to expel three Russian diplomats following its assessment of information from the country's intelligence services. The ministry said the decision was made and the diplomats based at Russian embassy in the capital of Bratislava have 72 hours to leave the country. The ministry said it urged Russian embassy to make sure the activities of their diplomats were in line with convention.

Freezes

Beirut: A Lebanese judge froze the assets of five of Lebanon's largest banks and those of their board of directors as she investigates possible transfers of billions of dollars aboard during the country's economic meltdown. Decision by Judge Ghada Aoun with Mount Lebanon district court covers real estate, vehicles and shares that the five banks or their directors own in other companies. Move came days after travel bans were imposed.

Airlifts

London: The UK government has airlifted 21 Ukrainian children from the conflict zone with Russia for life-saving cancer treatment by experts at different hospitals across England. The 21 children and their immediate family members arrived in England from Poland and will be assessed by National Health Service (NHS) doctors to understand their health needs before being sent to NHS hospitals free of charge to continue care.

Ukraine war may lead to rethinking of US defence of Europe

Washington, Mar 15 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine and his push to upend the broader security order in Europe may lead to a historic shift in American thinking about defence of the continent. Depending on how far Putin goes, this could mean a buildup of US military power in Europe not seen since the Cold War. The prospect of a bigger US military footprint in Europe is a remarkable turnaround from just two years ago. In 2020, President Donald Trump ordered thousands of American troops out of Germany as part of his argument that Europeans were undeserving allies. Just days after taking office, President Joe Biden stopped the withdrawal before it could start, and his administration has stressed NATO's importance even as Biden identifies China as the main long-term threat to US security.



An old so called 'raisin bomber' airplane from WW II is seen at the airlift memorial at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany.

Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine. 'We are in a new era of sustained confrontation with Russia,' says Alexander Vershbow, a former US ambassador to Russia and former deputy secretary-general of NATO. He argues that the United States, in cooperation with NATO allies, will need to establish a more muscular stance to deal with a more threatening Russia. That is especially so in Eastern Europe, where Russia's proximity poses a problem for the three Baltic nations that are former Soviet states. defence Secretary Lloyd Austin was flying to Europe on Tuesday for his second round of Ukraine consultations at NATO headquarters in Brussels. He also will travel to two Eastern European NATO countries Slovakia, which borders Ukraine, and Bulgaria, which does not. After a NATO meeting last month, Austin visited two other allies on the eastern flank, Poland and Lithuania. In just the past two months, the US presence in Europe has jumped from about 80,000 troops to about 100,000, which is nearly as many as were there in 1997 when the United States and its NATO allies began an expansion of the alliance that Putin says threatens Russia and must be reversed. By comparison, in 1991, the year the Soviet Union dissolved, the United States had 305,000 troops in Europe, including 224,000 in Germany alone, according to Pentagon records. The number then dropped steadily, reaching 101,000 in 2005 and about 64,000 as recently as 2020.

COVID-19 cases more than double in China



An official in front of a barrier blocking off a street in Shanghai on Tuesday.

Beijing, Mar 15 (AP): China's new COVID-19 cases Tuesday more than doubled from the previous day as the country faces by far its biggest outbreak since the early days of the pandemic. The National Health Commission said 3,507 new locally spread cases had been identified in the latest 24-hour period, up from 1,337 a day earlier. A fast-spreading variant known as 'stealth omicron' is testing China's zero-tolerance strategy, which had kept the virus at bay since the deadly initial outbreak in the city of Wuhan in early 2020. China has recorded more than 10,000 cases in the first two weeks of March, far exceeding previous flare-ups. No new deaths have been reported.

Nearly three-fourths of China's new infections were in Jilin, a province in the northeast that reported 2,601 cases. Smaller outbreaks have hit more than a dozen provinces and major cities including Beijing and Shanghai. Jilin has barred residents from leaving the province and from traveling between cities within it. The 9 million residents of Changchun, the provincial capital and an auto manufacturing hub, have been locked down since Friday as authorities conduct repeated rounds of mass testing both there and in the city of Jilin.

Army attacks in eastern Myanmar worst in decades

More than 1,670 civilians have been killed

Bangkok, Mar 15 (AP):

While Russia's war in Ukraine dominates global attention, Myanmar's military is targeting civilians in air and ground attacks on a scale unmatched in the country since World War II, according to a longtime relief worker who spent almost three months in a combat zone in the Southeast Asian nation. David Eubank, director of the Free Burma Rangers, a humanitarian relief organization, told The Associated Press that the military's jets



Black smoke arises from burning buildings in Waraisupla village in Kayah State.

and helicopters stage frequent attacks in the areas of eastern Myanmar where he and his volunteers operate, bringing medical and food aid to civilians caught in conflict. Ground forces are also firing artillery indiscriminately, he said causing thousands to flee their homes. Video shot by his group's members includes rare images of repeated air strikes by Myanmar military aircraft in Kayah State also known as Karenni State causing a number of civilian deaths.

Peru's congress votes to debate Prez impeachment

Lima, Mar 15 (AFP): Peru's opposition-dominated congress voted in favor of a motion to debate whether or not to impeach leftist President Pedro Castillo. It is already the second time Castillo, a former rural school teacher, has faced such a vote in just seven months in office. Similar moves resulted in former presidents Pablo Kuczynski (in 2018) and Martin Vizcarra (2020) leaving office.

US working towards global coalition far beyond G7, NATO

Washington, Mar 15 (IPT):

The Biden administration is working to build a global coalition far beyond G7 and NATO partners, the White House has said. Some of the biggest countries like China, India, Brazil and Mexico are not part of America's economic warfare against Russia, but that does not undermine the efforts of the Biden administration against Moscow, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

“Not just China, but some of the biggest countries in the world like India or Brazil, some countries in Latin America like Mexico, they are not part of this economic warfare against Russia. Is this something that undermines the effort from the White House and European countries? “I would say it

doesn't undermine our efforts. We have been working to build a global coalition far beyond the G7 and our NATO partners, and had a great deal of success in that. And every country has to decide where they want to stand, where they want to be as we look and the history books are written,” Psaki said during her daily news conference. “As we have seen, the impact of the president's leadership on the global stage and the economic consequences that have been put into place have led Russia and the Russian economy to be on the brink of collapse.

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 मिमी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 मिमी व्यास के कनोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मिमी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6&10 kg/cm², स्पेशल सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टेस्टिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत मॉड्यूल अनुसार।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./दिनांक/सिस्टम नम्बर	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में)	अमानत राशि (लाख रु. में)
1	206/18.01.2022 94097	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहर, ग्राम अकिरा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 113 नग	79.92	60000/-
2	254/30.01.2022 94100	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम मलमण्डा एवं जामटोली के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 65 नग	50.73	38050/-
3	274/01.02.2022 94102	विकासखण्ड पल्लवगांव के ग्राम पाकरगांव के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 266 नग	183.71	137800/-
4	276/01.02.2022 94103	विकासखण्ड कुनकुरी के ग्राम धंभीडांड एवं रेतते के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 217 नग	147.13	110350/-
5	278/01.02.2022 94104	विकासखण्ड दुलदुला के ग्राम बंभुरकेला एवं सांपघारा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 154 नग	87.88	65950/-
6	283/01.02.2022 94111	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम बरटोली, जकवा एवं मुद के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 134 नग	91.77	68850/-
7	286/01.02.2022 94123	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम सरडीह एवं सारुडीह के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 159 नग	52.88	39700/-
8	293/02.02.2022 94804	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम ओडका के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 298 नग	179.37	134550/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 25.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-68694/1

Iran says several held in nuclear facility sabotage plot

Tehran, Mar 15 (AP): Iranian state television has reported that the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard arrested members of a network working for Israel that planned to sabotage Iran's major underground nuclear facility at Fordo. The TV claimed that the Zionist regime a Tehran reference meaning Israel has for years been trying to hit Fordo, a top nuclear facility in the country, but without success. The report did not say how many suspects were arrested, what their nationalities were or when and where the arrests supposedly took place. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Iran has recently stopped the International Atomic Energy Agency from accessing its surveillance camera footage and has resumed enrichment of uranium at Fordo as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers fell apart and talks of returning to the deal paused.

स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड

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डिमाड रजिस्ट्रेशन नोटिस 2022-2023

वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-2023 में समझौता पत्र में प्रवेश करने के उद्देश्य में, अपने सोच-विचार के लिए, सेल अपने ग्राहकों को उनकी माइल्ड स्टील की जरूरतों को दर्शाने के लिए आमंत्रित करता है। विस्तृत विवरण दिनांक 28.03.2022 तक www.sail.co.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है या सेल के शाखा विक्रय/क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। आवेदन प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि 28 मार्च, 2022 है।

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(छत्तीसगढ़ शासन का एक उपक्रम) (ISO 9001:2015 Certified)

प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, रिंग रोड नं.-1, तेलीबाधा, रायपुर 492006 (छ.ग.)
दूरभाष : कार्यालय - 0771-6621000 फैक्स : 0771-2583794
Website : www.csdc.in, Email address : csdc.cg@nic.in, csdc_raipur@yahoo.com

// ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट निविदा सूचना //

निविदा क्र. 22/का.अ. सं.-2/सीएसआईडीसी/2021-22
रायपुर दिनांक 14/03/2022

ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म "ए" (प्रतिशत दर) पर वांछित श्रेणी में छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में द वर्ग तथा चरपर श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑन-लाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	अमानत राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य
22	Construction of Cement Concrete road underground water tank connecting of Udyog Bhawan to 95259	20.72 Lacs	15600/-	885/-
प्रथम आमंत्रण	Parking area repairing of first floor bathroom and Electric panel room at Udyog Bhawan, Raipur (C.G.)			

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की Mjunction Service Limited वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> की पर दिनांक 14/03/2022 समय 17:01 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
नोट :- निविदा में माग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को Mjunction Service Limited वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर पंजीयन तथा वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सम्मिलित करवाना अनिवार्य है।

प्र.कार्यपालन अभियंता संभाग-02

S-31799/2

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

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davn 48124/12/0010/2122

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 मिमी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 मिमी व्यास के कनोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मिमी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6&10 kg/cm², स्पेशल सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टेस्टिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत मॉड्यूल अनुसार।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./दिनांक/सिस्टम नम्बर	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में)	अमानत राशि (लाख रु. में)
1	629/07.03.2022 94084	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम कोटानपानी एवं लपई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 114 नग	64.47	48400/-
2	630/07.03.2022 94086	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम नकदीमुण्डा, पातरतोरा, खुटेरा एवं सुजीबहार के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 134 नग	110.39	82800/-
3	631/07.03.2022 94088	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम रेवडा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 130 नग	76.56	57450/-
4	632/07.03.2022 94089	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम पिर्ई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 109 नग	79.92	59950/-
5	633/07.03.2022 94091	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम पिर्ई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 123 नग	79.72	59800/-
6	634/07.03.2022 94036	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहर के ग्राम बोकी एवं डूमरिया के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 85 नग	46.65	35000/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 24.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-68692/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, MAHASAMUND DISTRICT - MAHASAMUND (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call)

System Tender No. 94919 / NIT No.: 21/SAC/2021-22
Mahasamund Dated: 11.03.2022
Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 04.04.2022 at 17.30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : REMODLING & CC LINING OF MAIN CANAL RD RD 450 TO 1290 M, RD 1350 TO 1440 M & RD 1560 TO 1650M OF KARAGULA TANK IN BLOCK BAGBAHARA OF MAHASAMUND DISTRICT. (UNDER D.M.F. FUND)

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs.25.38 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.03.2022, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MAHASAMUND (C.G.)

G-68682/2

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (S&P-Gen) 5th Floor, Viduyat Sewa Bhawan, Danganiya, Raipur - Pin 492013
Phone : 0771-2574451/61 Fax : 0771-2574458; e-mail : cesnp.cspgcl@cspec.co.in web site : www.cspc.co.in

No. 03-03/ TN- 442-22/4607 Raipur, Dtd. 14/ 03/2022

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN- 442 /22

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from Experienced & reputed contractors for Supply/ work as mentioned below:-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification	Description	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Due date & time for bid submission
1.	EW- 548 [Rfx. no. 8100024815] (With RLA)	Daily cleaning of New crusher house (VGFs, RGS & RBFs), CHP-INT. at 1x500 MW Extn. HTPS, Korba (West).	17,000/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	04.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
2.	EW-549 [Rfx. no. 8100024816] (With RLA)	Day to day Preventive, General & Breakdown maintenance, of DM plant and Water system at 1x500 MW Extn. HTPS, Korba (West).	24,600/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	05.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
3.	HW-550 [Rfx. no. 8100024818] (Without RLA)	Deployment of labour to assist maintenance work of EMD-II of PH-II, HTPS, Korba (West) for a period of 24 months	23,500/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	04.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
4.	HW-551 [Rfx. no. 8100024819] (With RLA)	AOH of Mills & its components of 2x210 MW BHEL make Boilers of U # 1 & 2 of HTPS, Korba (West)".	46,500/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	05.04.2022 15:00 Hrs

The details of NIT can be viewed from our website www.cspc.co.in. The Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded online from our e-bidding portal: - <https://ebidding.cspc.co.in:50724/irj/portal> Any amendment/ corrigendum, including bid submission & opening date, if required, will be displayed on our website only.

Chief Engineer (S&P: Gen) CSPGCL: Raipur

"SAVE ELECTRICITY" S-31803/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Inspiring scientific collaboration

The Centre said that the campaign will include children in the age group of 12-14 years and that the country's second indigenous vaccine, Corbevax, will be rolled out for the new group. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had granted emergency use authorisation to Corbevax, for use on children between ages of 12-18. This is the second vaccine to be approved for use in the 12-18 age category. Zydus Cadila's three-dose COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D was the first job to get approval from the DCGI for use on all individuals above the age of 12. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has been used to inoculate teenagers in the 15-18 years category from January onward. Serum Institute of India (SII) has sought EUA from India's drug regulator for its COVID-19 vaccine Covovax for ages 12 to 17 group. Corbevax will inspire more scientific collaborations without intellectual property rights like patents and open source technology for humanity. The story of Corbevax is inspiring for international scientific cooperation. Two years ago, when a pair of Houston scientists first began crafting a cheap, easy-to-make COVID-19 vaccine, they had a tough time finding support for it at home in the US, a country that rewards expensive, flashy new tech. But the team at the Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine, led by Dr Maria Elena Bottazzi and Peter Hotez, worked on their patent-free vaccine with donated money in relative obscurity, failing to garner much outside interest. Then one thing finally broke through and spoke to the people who had been overlooking their open-source approach to the vaccine known by its first producer as Corbevax. It came without strings or a secret formula, making it a true humanitarian pursuit that could finally reach the unvaccinated corners of the developing world. Bottazzi and Hotez, both pioneers in the field of immunology, run Baylor's National School of Tropical Medicine and have been developing coronavirus vaccines for more than a decade, including formulas for the SARS and MERS viruses. Their vaccine uses the same recombinant protein technology already used for decades in the hepatitis B vaccine, a common childhood shot. The vaccine technology has no intellectual property rights attached to it. That means the building blocks of the vaccine can be had for the price of a phone call. Once produced, the vaccine can be sold to governments for far less than any other vaccine currently on the market. Much of the praise for Corbevax and its Texas inventors seems to be their willingness and that of Biological E and the investors to forgo a large profit in favour of the more altruistic goal of better access and distribution of the vaccine. Bottazzi and Hotez were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for practicing what Hotez calls 'Texas vaccine diplomacy,' by creating a path for the entire world to be inoculated. Earlier in the week, members of America's influential Congressional Hispanic Caucus have urged US President Joe Biden to champion vaccine collaboration with India to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to Biden, Texas delegation members and other members (Hispanic areas), requested the administration to lead distribution of low-cost vaccines to low-income nations with low vaccination rates to save millions of lives and bring an end to the worldwide pandemic. The lawmakers urged the President to use the two vaccines which are a result of India-US collaborations for the global good and to end vaccine inequity through Corbevax and Covovax. While the Corbevax vaccine is patent-free, another vaccine, developed by American biotechnology company Novavax, is in production in India and its export is planned to the COVAX facility.

Comparing hijab debates

The Karnataka High Court pronounced its judgment in the hijab case. The court has upheld the government's order and dismissed petitions challenging the ban on hijab in educational institutes. The petitioners for hijab plan to move the Supreme Court after reading the full high court order. Wearing of hijab is not a part of Essential Religious Practice in Islamic faith and thus, is not protected under Article 25 of the Constitution, the Karnataka High Court has held. An important question before the Court in this case was whether wearing of hijab is part of essential religious practise of Islam and whether State interference in such matters is warranted. The court was also called to consider whether wearing of hijab partakes the character of right to expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and whether restriction can be levied only under Article 19(2). Internationally, particularly in Europe, the hijab is often in controversy as personal attire, not just school or work uniform. The debate over hijab in Europe is even more extreme than in India. The latest controversy over the hijab erupted in October last year. Ironically, the trigger was an anti-discrimination video campaign launched by the Council of Europe. The video caused an uproar in France. The French minister Sarah El Hairy, spoke out forcefully against the video and claimed credit for the Council's decision to withdraw it from circulation. Right-wing politicians such as Marine le Pen and Michel Barnier and prominent television pundits added their voices to the criticism of the campaign. France is not the only European country that restricts the hijab. The inflow of Muslim immigrants to Europe and the threat of violent Islamist groups have made Muslim minorities a target of hostility and discrimination, and the hijab has become a visual symbol of these tensions. Of the 27 EU member states and the United Kingdom, nine have some legal restriction on veiling; there have been legislative proposals to limit the practice in five more. In countries with no national restrictions, some regions have decided independently to ban face coverings. There are only six EU countries, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Romania where there has been no public debate so far on restricting the veil. But there is nuance in the interaction between prior levels of religiosity and modernisation. Need to compare debates regarding hijab.

'HOLI' SHOPPING



Children visit a shop selling 'Gula' and water pistols in preparation for 'Holi' in Amritsar, Punjab.

Law to protect camel is contributing to its decline in Rajasthan



AZERA RAHMAN



Camels were once a prized possession for breeders in Rajasthan. Madhavram Raika, a breeder from Pali district, said that his father owned 150 camels. Of these, both young and adult male camels would be sold at a handsome price, sustaining the family for decades. A law in 2015, the Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, that aimed to protect the state animal, however, is contributing to its downfall, lament breeders. The price of the animal has dipped so much and the losses have been so high that those like Madhavram have had to sell all their camels, even as others are struggling for sustenance, bringing down the total number of camels in the state significantly. 'Koi fayda nahin hua (There has been no gain)', Madhavram said about the state government's decision to declare the camel as the state animal back in 2014. 'We thought that after being declared the state animal, our animals' and our future would look brighter. But that has not been the case. On top of that, the 2015 law restricting selling our animals outside the state has caused the prices to dip by a large margin,' he said. Prices of camels have dropped by 80-90 percent from the price that they would fetch earlier. Hariram Raika, another camel breeder from Manigar village in the same district, chipped in, 'Before 2015 when the Act came into being,' he said, 'an eight-ten-month-old camel would be sold for Rs 15,000 or more. Now we hardly get Rs 3000 for a three-four-year-old animal.' The animals would mostly be sold to buyers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh. Most of them would be farmers who use the camel for agricultural purposes, or for

life,' Rathore said. 'But when the Act was passed, there was a blanket ban on the sale of both male and female camels. This stopped all trade and hit us bad.' The law, however, is not the only reason why camel breeders are struggling. Loss of grazing land for their animals is another reason. Pastoralists like Hariram Raika for instance said that for generations, their animals would graze openly and venture into the forests of Kumbalgarh for two months in a year, during the monsoons. 'But once it was declared a wildlife sanctuary, we were no longer allowed,' he said. 'Earlier we would earn as much as Rs 2-2.5 lakh a year by selling our animals,' Hariram said, 'Now (after the law) we make about Rs 25,000-30,000. This has severely impacted our economic status.' From 60 camels, he now has 30, selling the rest in desperation since he could no longer afford their upkeep. For Madhavram, things have been even more drastic. He now herds others' camels, and earns a monthly income of Rs 8,000. His lowered economic prowess affected his family, leading to domestic problems, and finally forcing his wife to work as a daily wage worker to run their house. Theirs are not uncommon stories. And the proof is in the depleting numbers of the camel. In a village called Ansh Ki Dhani in the Pali district where 100 families live, back in 1991, there were 5,000 camels. Now there are just 200. In another village called Jodhwar Ki Dhani, there were 7,000-8,000 camels about six years back; now there are just 300-400. In most cases, breeders are now letting go of the male camels to fend for themselves, while trying to keep the females. There has been an unprecedented rise in the number of stray camels in recent times, Rathore said. In desperation, some people have resorted to selling their animals illegally, walking across the state border on foot for trade, he added. In a bid to check the declining camel population, the state government started a Camel Development Scheme in 2016 to give an incentive of Rs 10,000 for every newborn calf in three installments. Many breeders however could not avail of this incentive, and some did not get the final installment, making this scheme unsuccessful. As an alternative means of livelihood, breeders have begun to sell camel milk. This was after much persuasion since it went against their traditional

beliefs. Camel milk has often been touted as a superfood, claimed to be beneficial for autism, diabetes, liver disease, jaundice, even cancer. Camel Charisma is one such initiative through which breeders of the Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan now sell camel milk. 'Through this, a family can earn between Rs 18,000 to Rs 30,000 a month,' Rathore said. Camel Charisma pays Rs. 60 per litre of camel milk to the breeders. They also make camel milk products like cheese and soap; even camel poop paper. Things, however, are moving slowly. Competitive pricing in comparison to cow's milk or buffalo's, and a lack of demand among the general populace because of inadequate marketing, they feel, is the reason behind this. Lack of infrastructure in the cold chain is another challenge. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson, who has been engaged in camel research for more than 30 years and is a co-founder of Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan, added that there is a huge demand for camel milk outside India, 'particularly China', but because of lack of infrastructure, they haven't been able to meet the need. 'We think that if the 2015 law is amended, we will be able to save our animals,' Hariram Raika said, 'Otherwise the next five years will be critical for our camels.' The state government had formed a committee to look into the issues after the camel breeders staged a protest against the ban during the 2019 Pushkar Mela. In the list of recommendations submitted thereafter, the breeders asked, in addition to amendment of the law, to include camel milk in mid-day meals in schools, to promote it in the market, and for free-range grazing rights. An official of the Animal Husbandry department has now assured that the process to amend the law is underway. 'There is a proposal of amendments that have been cleared by the law ministry and will soon be introduced in the assembly,' the official told. 'The new provisions would be such that except for slaughter, breeders would be able to send their animals across the state's borders and earn their revenue.' There is no estimate of when this would happen so it is still a wait-and-watch game for the camel breeders of Rajasthan. (Azera Rahman based in Jodhpur is WaterAid India media fellow 2018 and NFI media fellow 2014.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poland's humanity

No, the border security force there are not armed with Chilli Guns to dissuade escaping tortured refugees from entering the territory. Neither the politicians there render a barbaric call of "Throw Out the Termites" with the delighted "nationalist" population clapping in unison. Instead, refugees are accorded a warm welcome there with the homeless delivered free SIM cards, biscuits, drinks, blankets, nappies and most importantly even homes are offered too. The heart-touching pictures of Polish volunteers handing out warm beverages to Ukrainians at the border checkpoints deserve the caption "where humanity and divinity meet". Indeed in the current international perspective of "Neutrality" "Dine with the Devils" "Strategic interest" and "Rabid nationalism", if there is paradise on earth; it is in Poland, in Poland, in Poland.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Proper uniform

The Noble laureate from Pakistan Malala Yousafzai had poked her nose into the ongoing hijab row in India. Recently, while speaking to media in Pakistan she said, "Refusing to let go to school in their hijabs is horrifying". We should make it clear to her that every school and even colleges in India has proper uniform and one should come to school in proper uniform irrespective of caste, creed, religion, gender or status. Secondly, why she is maintaining pin-drop silence when everyday Hindu girls are kidnapped and raped in Pakistan? Before coming to lecture on the condition of minorities in India, one should tell her in clear term that minorities are treated at par with the majority. In fact, in some areas the minorities are given special (VVIP) status. So, people like Malala who come from a terrorist-funded country like Pakistan should better not comment over India. Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi in her last-ditch effort to salvage some pride by pleasing a particular people in before the impending UP election defeat of her party echoed the similar lines of Malala. She opined that wearing hijab, jeans and bikini are fundamental rights of every Indian. Yes, we all agree that our Constitution has given us rights to wear according to our wishes, but does it mean that one student should go to school or college wearing bikini? Julie, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Upamanyu@upamanyu70
A lot of things which are happening in this country at the moment were unbelievable to process even ten years back. Some people tend to forget the key to it all, political power. The only thing which legitimately shifts the Overton window.

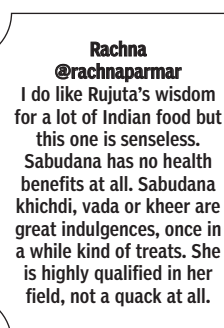
James Palmer@BeijingPalmer
the thing about Musk is that he is, in fact, a very poor Poster. can't meme, can't dunk, weak content, but he's propped up by saps because he's rich. He's like a petty autocrat whom his underlings keep letting score goals on the pitch, but who at some level 'knows' he can't play.



KBS Sidhu @kbsidhu1961
Instead of making the film #KashmirFiles tax-free, various State Governments should double or triple the entertainment duty, with the proviso that the entire collection derived therefrom shall be dedicated to a fund dedicated to the return/rehabilitation of Kashmiri refugees.



IFSSaket Badola@Saket_Badola The character and charisma of Forest Guest Houses ? #ValmikiTigerReserve



Rachna @rachnaparmar
I do like Rujuta's wisdom for a lot of Indian food but this one is senseless. Sabudana has no health benefits at all. Sabudana khichdi, vada or kheer are great indulgences, once in a while kind of treats. She is highly qualified in her field, not a quack at all.



db@db_is_db
Would you want an EV with the car's operating system switch lying with the manufacturer? You would be sitting turkey, if it were a Chinese or some foreign manufacturer and India gets into hostilities with a foreign nation friendly to these chaps. Just the humble petrol car for me

Pyaricetamol@SatanKinani
What kind of parents are buying those cheap quality plastic thalis by the kilos for their brats to throw waterbombs on strangers? Just now one senior citizen walking ahead of me was pelted from one balcony. What do these people want their kids to grow up into?

BRIEF

Milestone



New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Tuesday said its CNG range of vehicles has crossed the cumulative sales milestone of 10 lakh units. MSIL MD CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said our aim is to offer safe, reliable, clean, technologically advanced and eco friendly vehicles.

Expand

New Delhi: Drone delivery logistics firm Skye Air Mobility on Tuesday said it plans to ramp up its fleet size to about 120 drones in 12-15 months from the current four as it chases growth opportunities in key areas such as healthcare and diagnostics. Ankit Kumar, CEO of Skye Air Mobility, said the company has crossed the milestone of 1,000 flights in six months of operations, and is looking to reach a level of one lakh flights over next months.

Raises

Mumbai: Omnichannel jewellery retailer Bluestone has raised over USD 30 million (about Rs 228 crore) in a funding round led by Sunil Kant Munjal, chairman of Hero Enterprise, at a valuation of USD 410 million. Bluestone - backed by marquee investors, including Ratan Tata, Accel, Kalaari, Iron Pillar, IvyCap and Saama Capital - claims to be the largest omnichannel precious jewellery brand, the company said in a statement.

Funding

New Delhi: Unicorn startup Licious, which sells meat products and seafood, on Tuesday said it has raised USD 150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) in funding led by Singapore-based Amansa Capital for business growth. Other major investors in the Series F2 funding round include Kotak PE and Axis Growth Avenues AIF-I.

Buys

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Ltd said it has bought about 50 acres of land parcel at Sonipat in Haryana for plotted development as part of its plan to expand business across major cities. The Mumbai-based firm did not disclose the deal value as well as the name of the seller. This is the second major land deal by Godrej Properties in the Delhi-NCR area.

Platform

Washington: Indian-American entrepreneur from Silicon Valley has launched an artificial intelligence-based platform through which people can invest in stocks for as low as USD1. "We are bringing one of the best ways to earn more to people who need it the most. We are trying to make the investments as much as possible to be socially responsible, impactful and conscious," Selvan Rajan, CEO of SmartMoney IA, said in a statement.

Over Rs 53,600 cr GST compensation yet to be released to states

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Over Rs 53,600 crore of GST compensation for the current fiscal is yet to be released to the states, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. So far this fiscal, Rs 96,576 crore has been released to the states on account of GST compensation, and an additional Rs 1.59 lakh crore has been given as back-to-back loan to make good the revenue shortfall on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation from July 1, 2017.

The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16.

The compensation amount to be paid from the



Nirmala Sitharaman

compensation fund is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

"Centre is committed to release full GST Compensation to the States/UTs as per GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 for the transition period by extending the levy of Compensation cess beyond 5 years to meet the GST revenue shortfall as well as servicing the loan borrowed through special window scheme," Sitharaman said.

Giving details of GST compensation yet to be released to the states for current fiscal ending March, the minister said Rs 53,661 crore is yet to be released for the 2021-22 fiscal.

This include Rs 11,563 crore to be released to Maharashtra, Rs 6,954 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs 6,733 crore to Tamil Nadu, Rs 5,461 crore to Delhi and Rs 4,292 crore to West Bengal.

Sitharaman further said GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 has already been paid to the

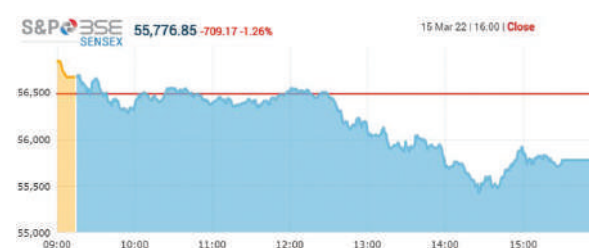
States/UTs. "The economic impact of the pandemic has led to higher compensation requirement due to lower GST collection and at the same time lower collection of GST compensation cess," she said.

In a separate reply, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the total GST collection during the current fiscal till February is over Rs 13.33 lakh crore. This include Central GST mop up of over Rs 2.43 lakh crore, Integrated GST of over Rs 6.87 lakh crore, State GST of over Rs 3.11 lakh crore and cess of Rs 90,442 crore.

"CGST is credited to Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) while SGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of respective States. Out of this total IGST collected by the Centre, Centre received Rs 3,09,150 crore and Rs 2,60,467 crore have been received by the States by way of settlement (regular & adhoc) of IGST till February, 2022," Chaudhary said.

Sensex tumbles 709 pts on weak global trends

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):



Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their five-day rally on Tuesday and settled deep in the red, mirroring weak global markets, with decline in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank.

Despite opening with gains of over 200 points, the 30-share Sensex turned highly volatile and tumbled 709.17 points or 1.26 per cent to close at 55,776.85. During the day, the benchmark index plunged 1,067.07 points or 1.88 per cent to 55,418.95.

The broader NSE Nifty also declined 208.30 points or 1.23 per cent to close at 16,663.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, Reliance Industries Limited, Axis Bank and HCL Tech were the major drags.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Nestle

India, Asian Paints and Titan were among the gainers.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Shanghai settled sharply lower amid concerns over fresh virus lockdowns. Tokyo was marginally higher.

Exchanges in Europe were largely trading lower in the afternoon trade. Germany's DAX lost 2.3% to 13,612.44 and the CAC 40 in Paris was also 2.3% lower at 6,223.67. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 1.5% to 7,088.89.

The futures for the S&P 500 and Dow industrials were down 0.7%. Shares in Hong Kong have sunk to near six-year lows after the neighbouring city of Shenzhen was ordered into a shutdown to combat

China's worst COVID-19 outbreak in two years.

The Hang Seng index lost 5.7% to 18,415.08 after wobbling more than 6% lower. The Shanghai Composite gave up 5% to 3,063.97.

Fears continue to dog stock markets that lockdowns could spread, which would severely impact China's growth," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a commentary.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.2% to 25,346.48, while the Kospi in Seoul gave up 0.9% to 2,621.53. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slid 0.7% to 7,097.40 and shares also fell in Taiwan and Bangkok.

Stock exchanges in the US settled on a mixed note in the overnight trade.

DSP Investment Managers launches DSP Nifty SDL Plus

Mumbai, Mar 15:

DSP Investment Managers announced the launch of DSP Nifty SDL Plus G- Sec Jun 2028 30:70 Index Fund, an open-ended target maturity index fund, which will mature after about six years in June 2028. The portfolio will be invested only in sovereign securities with a 70:30 split between Government Securities (G-Sec) and State Development Loans (SDL) respectively, in line with the Nifty SDL Plus G- Sec Jun 2028 30:70 Index.

The portfolio has a unique design with dual filters for selecting SDLs. Instead of just applying a Liquidity Filter, there is an additional Quality Filter of low leverage. This Quality Filter is based on each State's GDP in proportion to its total li-

abilities and the top 10 States/UTs with the best quality scores will be selected. Hence the portfolio will have a combination of highly liquid G-Secs and a selectivelist of SDLs with low leverage and high liquidity, all which are maturing during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2028.

The Fund offers investors the potential of relatively stable and predictable returns. Long term investors (holding >3 years) can also get additional year of indexation benefit if invested before 31 Mar 2022. Investors who subscribe during the NFO and remain invested till the defined maturity can get a total of 7 years Indexation benefit.

The New Fund Offer opened for subscription on March 11th, 2022 and closes on March 17th 2022.



Samsung Southwest Asia President Ken Kang exchanges the MoU for setting up a new compressor plant with Industries Secretary S Krishnan in presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in Chennai, Tuesday.

Amazon Business announces exciting deals for MSMEs

Mumbai, Mar 15:

Amazon Business today announced the commencement of an 'End of Financial Year Sale' to help its business customers utilize their procurement budgets efficiently before the end of the current financial year. The event that started today is curated to help B2B customers discover relevant selection and also get incremental cashback and discounts on these purchases to save costs. The event aims to ensure that MSMEs can efficiently utilize their pending budgets for the current financial year.

The event will run till March 18th 2022 and focus on supplies for MSMEs to cater both ends of hybrid work model, thus offering curated selections for both Work From Home (WFH) and Back To Work (BTW). Under work from home, MSMEs can buy supplies for an efficient work from home setup across multiple categories such as laptops, electronics products, stationary items, furniture's. Back to work store will include protective equipment, essential back to work supplies, social distancing friendly office setup such and COVID medical supplies. From sneeze guards, cones,

signs, tape, barriers, strips, labels, barriers, measurement instruments to IT peripherals, breakroom supplies, the shopping event will offer wide selection of products to its business customers.

Business customers can enjoy 10% cashback, up to Rs 500 on a minimum spend of Rs 1500, with the application of code FYES22 at the time of payment checkout. This cashback is applicable across all the business relevant categories including computers & accessories, electronic appliances, office products, office improvement, office kitchen, industrial & scientific.

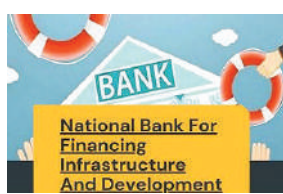
NaBFID to commence operations from first quarter of FY-23

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will begin its operations from the first quarter of the next financial year, its chairman KV Kamath said on Tuesday.

NaBFID was set up by the government last year as a development financial institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in the country.

"The board structure (for NaBFID) is in place. The basic foundation and policy framework have been built. From the next quar-



ter, which is the quarter starting April, we should be operationalised," Kamath said at an event organised by the Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers' Association (ICEMA).

He said a core team of 25 people is already in place and the process of selection of the CEO and other leaders to run the bank is underway.

Toyota Kirloskar drives in new Glanza starting at Rs 6.39 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday launched the all-new version of its premium hatchback Glanza in the country with a price starting at Rs 6.39 lakh (ex-showroom).

The model comes with an 1197 cc petrol engine mated with manual and automatic transmissions.

The five-speed manual variants of Glanza have been priced between Rs 6.39 lakh and Rs 9.19 lakh, while the automatic trims (AMT) are tagged between Rs 7.79 lakh and Rs 9.69 lakh. The new version delivers fuel ef-



iciency of over 22 kmpl and also features an idle start-stop function, the automaker said. Other prominent features include six airbags, ABS (anti-lock braking system), hill hold control, head-up display, 360-degree camera and nine-inch smart play cast, among others. "Over these last few years, the Glanza has won many hearts in India. And yet again with

States must decide soon to decriminalise Legal Metrology Act

Goyal highlighted action on misleading advertisements

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the government intends to decriminalise the Legal Metrology Act and asked his department as well as states to take a decision on this issue at the earliest in order to stop harassment of small shopkeepers.

Addressing an event here to celebrate the World Consumer Rights Day, the minister said the government's priority is to pro-



Piyush Goyal

tect consumers for unfair trade practice, but the law should not become a "tool of harassment".

The Legal Metrology Act 2009 enforces standards related to weights and measures. In its present form, the law prescribe imprisonment, in addition to fine, for second or subsequent offence. "I personally

would like to flag off a couple of concerns...because I do believe that it's important. I do believe it's important that what Rohit Kumar Singh (Consumer Affairs Secretary) said about decriminalisation should also be understood by all of us," he said.

"We have a Legal Metrology Act. And I myself being a startup entrepreneur 35 years ago. And 35 years ago, also the harassment that we faced due to the Act as an entrepreneur is possibly something which is being faced even today, particularly by small shopkeepers, small businesses on a day to day basis," he said.

75 cos to get sops under auto PLI scheme

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotoCorp, Lucas-TVS, Tata Cummins and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts are among the 75 firms approved for receiving incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile and auto components sector, the government said on Tuesday.

Proposed investment of Rs 29,834 crore is expected from the 75 approved applicants under the Component Champion Incentive Scheme.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries had earlier se-



lected 20 applicants under the Champion OEM Incentive Scheme. The two components are part of the PLI scheme.

The scheme offers incentive of up to 18 per cent to encourage industry to make fresh investments in indigenous supply chain of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products.

Vikram Singh Chauhan in awe of Ajay Devgn while working in 'Rudra'



Dehradun-born lawyer-turned-actor Vikram Singh Chauhan, who was seen in 'Mardaani 2', is receiving good response for his performance in Ajay Devgn starrer 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness'.

Vikram shifted to Mumbai to work in a law firm and soon he was keen to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. In 'Rudra' the actor plays Captain Ashok Nikose, a person suffering from Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Vikram shares his experience of working with Ajay in the web series: "Its one of the best learning experiences for me. I had my scenes with Ajay sir, Atul (Kulkarni) sir and Ashwini (Kalsekar)

ma'am. Their hold on their craft is so strong that just to watch them perform is so serene."

"I specifically took a lot from Ajay sir, not just nuances of acting but a way of life. He doesn't talk much but is always listening and aware of what's going around him. Super focused, always greeting people with a gentle smile," he adds.

The actor believes that the Covid break gave him the time that he required to prepare for the role and says: "I got a lot of prep time during covid break. I saw a lot of documentaries on war veterans suffering from PTSD and on abused childhood. I worked on my body language to get that of Ashok Nikose."

Buzz about Sonali Bendre's Tollywood appearance after 18 years



Actress Sonali Bendre is in talks for an upcoming biggie in Telugu, as the news has now caught the attention of all. It is reported that Sonali will star in Jr NTR's untitled movie, which is to be helmed by 'Srimanthudu', 'Mirchi', and 'Janatha Garage' fame Koratala Siva.

The makers want to get Sonali on board, for an important role. So, they seemed to have approached the 'Manmadhudu' actress, for which she apparently gave it a nod. If the news is to be believed, Sonali Bendre is all set to make a comeback in the Tollywood film industry after 18 years. Sonali was last seen in Chiranjeevi's 'Shankar Dada MBBS' before she quit acting in Tollywood.

Now that she is all set to play a pivotal role in the film combination of Koratala Shiva and Jr NTR, her fans can't get happier.

Sonali Bendre had appeared in super hit Telugu movies like 'Murari', 'Indra', 'Manmadhudu', 'Shankar Dada MBBS' and many more. She was well-received by the Telugu audience, but the actress had to move back to Mumbai, as she had started her family. More details about the project are expected to be out soon.



Neetu Kapoor to judge 'Dance Deewane Juniors'

Children are blessed not only with the most beautiful hearts but possess talent hardcore, and now they are all set to take on the dance floor with COLORS' new show 'Dance Deewane Juniors'! After the spectacular success of 'Dance Deewane', COLORS is introducing the juniors version wherein children from the age group of 4-14 years can showcase their hardcore dancing talent fueled with deewangi and perform in solos, duet or in group on a national platform. As the young dancers gear up to set the stage on fire with their immense talent, the channel has roped in Bollywood's TIMELESS Beauty star Neetu Kapoor to judge this show, hereby marking her debut on television! She will be joining the judging panel alongside Bollywood diva Nora Fatehi and esteemed choreographer Marzi Pestonji. Ahead of taking charge as the judge, Neetu Kapoor says, "It gives me great joy to be part of a show that will give the upcoming dance prodigies a golden opportunity to showcase their talent. I see my role in 'Dance Deewane Juniors' as a responsibility to nurture and support the little ones. I can't wait to see them take on the stage."

I want every Indian to hate my character: Pallavi Joshi on 'The Kashmir Files'



Pallavi Joshi, producer of 'The Kashmir Files' and also plays one of its pivotal characters, has said that her role was a very challenging one. The award-winning film and television actress essays the role of Professor Radhika Menon, a JNU professor who motivates her students to fight for 'Azad Kashmir'.

When asked why she chose to play the character, Joshi said: "When I was talking about their trauma, I could sense the villain they were staring at. I made up my mind to do the character and play the role so vehemently that every Indian should hate the character." She was addressing the

media in the Capital along with the rest of 'The Kashmir Files' team. Joshi's character, believed to have been modelled after Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy, is heard declaring in the film, "Kashmir has never been an integral part of India and this is a historical fact. Agar India Britain se apni Independence ke liye lad sakti hai toh Kashmir kyun nahi (If India can fight the British Raj for independence, then why not Kashmir)?"

When asked if the character was defaming the university, Director Vivek Agnihotri said: "Research and Google, and you will get the answers."

World TV premiere of Sooryavanshi on Mar 19



WORLD TV PREMIERE

SAT, 19th MAR 8 PM

ZEE CINEMA

सिने में CINEMA

Hit the siren, kyunki Zee Cinema par hogi dhamakedar entry saal ke sabse bade blockbuster 'Sooryavanshi' ki! The film that revived the big screens from a long slumber with a whopping 200 crores at the box office, the film that got families rejoicing at theatres - Sooryavanshi is all set to bring the same roar to your TV screens. This Holi, enjoy the grandest television event of the year with your friends and family with the World Television Premiere of the most awaited blockbuster of the year Sooryavanshi on Zee Cinema on 19th March at 8pm. The prelude to the premiere saw people across the length and breadth of the country celebrate the Sooryavanshi mania as their cities were transformed with one-of-a-kind themed activations to match the colossal hype for the film!

With an intent to spread joy, grandeur, and cheer, a tailored delicious experience for home

towners will be offered by adding a masaledar twist to their local specialty food with some of the most famous food stalls across the country. Harping on the tagda punch of the special trio Indore's globally

recognized 'Johnny Hot Dog', Bhopal's super popular 'Anand Namkeen' and the iconic 'Deena Chat Bhandar' in Varanasi transformed their popular items like Hot Dog, Crispy Samosa and Tamatar Chat into a

Sooryavanshi specials for their customers. If we're celebrating with food, how can one leave out the famous 'Parle Vada Pav Samrat' from Mumbai, 'Sharma ji ki Chai' from Lucknow and 'Thaggu ke Ladd' from Kanpur,

as the shopkeepers bring you the delectable Sooryavanshi special Vada Pav, Kadak Chai-Samosa combo, and Laddu, kyuki muh meetha karna toh banta hai! Embracing the very, many qualities of Rohit Shetty's mighty cops, the visitors of the stalls are offered free taste to this Sooryavanshi special delicacies during this on-ground celebration. But that's not all, Sooryavanshi themed canters will be traveling to the streets of multiple cities engaging visitors with experiential activities and special gifts. This will be followed by #HoliWithSooryavanshiToli challenge on social media, where viewers will be asked to recreate the hook step of 'Aila re Aila' with their super fun toli tagging Zee Cinema to spread the joy further. This Holi, join the celebration of the biggest blockbuster of the year with the World Television Premiere of Sooryavanshi on Zee Cinema on 19th March at 8pm!

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesh approves and predicts peace in plenty.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesh.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Ganesh finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your subordinates will be enthusiastic, compliant and cooperative.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You will be faced with serious financial problems today. You may even have to pay through your nose to get what you desire. Later in the evening, you might accomplish some short-term goals. Ganesh predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesh says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be good news coming from friends or relatives living abroad. Your working ability and efficiency will make you popular in the office today. In the day today you shall have a variety of good and bad experiences.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

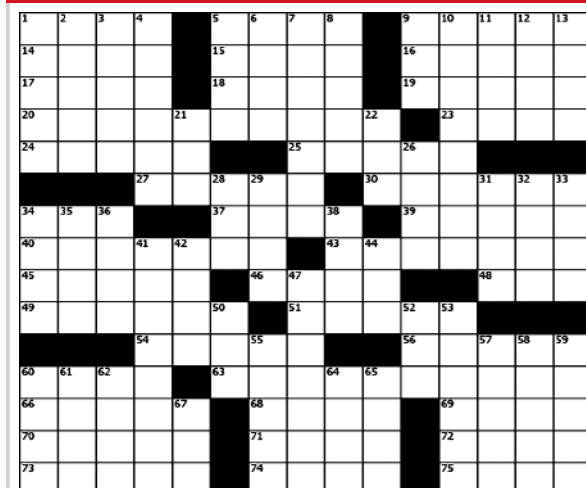
Ganesh foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you.

CROSSWORD

242



ACROSS

- Ripped
- Cruise and Hanks
- Singer _____ Reddy
- Lincoln, et al.
- Eden resident
- Digging tool
- Castle ditch
- Earth's center
- Fork features
- Walker

- Fender-bender result
- Resource
- Barter
- Excessive excitement
- Zodiac sign
- Can.'s neighbor
- She, in Valencia
- Assisted
- Umbrella
- Hide
- Public
- Arctic transport

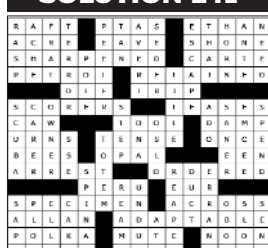
- Had brunch
- Approached
- Totalled
- Sends forth
- Actress _____ Evans
- Auction actions
- Ownership
- Incensed
- Thoroughfare
- Come together
- Fables
- Minister to
- Farm unit
- Disparaging
- Irritable
- Minus

DOWN

- Florida City
- Certain woodwinds
- Peruses
- Admiration
- Diplomacy
- Smell
- Matrimonial
- Greasy streak
- FDI's successor
- Widespread outbreak
- Alley
- Genesis location
- Cozy abode
- Bus terminal (abbr.)
- Scold constantly
- School official
- New (prefix)
- Evils

- Brainstorm
- Uncluttered
- Loafing
- "Once _____ a time..."
- Hoard
- _____ code
- Scored on serve
- Took into custody
- Flower stalk
- Unusual
- Roped
- Quick swim
- Overhead trains
- Deary
- Rich dessert
- Female relative
- Achievers
- Stakes
- Morsels
- Iraq's neighbor
- Artist Salvador _____
- Harmonized
- Water whirl
- Vane letters

SOLUTION 241



Indian campaign ends in Singapore after exit of Manika-Archana pair



Singapore: India's campaign in the USD 2 million Singapore Smash came to an end with the quarterfinal exit of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath in the women's doubles here on Tuesday. The second-seeded Japanese pair of Hina Hayata and Mima Ito needed just 25 minutes to dispose of the Indian duo 11-7, 11-4, 11-8 to enter the semifinals. Ranked No. 6 in doubles, Manika and Archana struggled against the left-right Japanese onslaught, but tackling left-hander Hayata's powerful spins turned out to be a big ask. There was no respite for the Indians from the right-hander Ito either. Ito, with superb service variations, put them in the dock. Though the world No. 2 Japanese conceded seven points in the first game, they brought it down drastically in the second when the Indian duo not only made several unforced errors but failed time and again to capitalise on their service.

Vihari, Abhimanyu back at Dhaka Premier League



Kolkata: Test specialist Hanuma Vihari and Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran are among the seven Indian cricketers featuring in the Dhaka Premier League one-day tournament. It's a free window for the domestic Indian cricketers who were not picked for the IPL beginning March 26. Fresh from featuring in India's 2-0 sweep over Sri Lanka, Hanuma has joined Abahani Limited and is expected to join them after a short break in Hyderabad. Bengal captain Abhimanyu on the other hand was back at Prime Bank Cricket Club for his third season after 2017 and 2019. It's an invitational tournament and Abhimanyu got the BCCI's clearance on Monday to fly out to Dhaka for the one and a half month long tournament. Abhimanyu scored 30 in their 50-run win over City Club in their opening match at Savar on Tuesday.

Vishwanath, Vanshaj strike gold

New Delhi: Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Vanshaj (63.5kg) clinched gold medals in the men's youth competition as the Indian contingent concluded its campaign with a whopping 39 medals, including 15 gold, at the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan. The haul also included 10 silver and 14 bronze. Indian youth boxers secured seven gold, three silver and eight bronze medals while the junior team finished with 21 medals including eight gold, seven silver and six bronze. Chennai-boxer Vishwanath produced a clinical performance during his thumping 5-0 win over Kyrgyzstan's Ergeshov Bekzat late on Monday night. Later Vanshaj, who hails from Sonapat, added a second gold to youth men's tally as he registered a 4-1 win over Uzbekistan's Javokhir Ummataliev. However, in the +92kg category, Aman Singh Bisht ended with a silver medal after suffering a 1-4 loss to the local boxer Saif Al-Rawashdeh. Vishwanath, and Vanshaj had won silver while Aman had secured bronze in the last edition of the tournament.

Mumbai Indians begin preparation for IPL; Kishan, Rohit, Bumrah join squad

Mumbai: Record five time IPL champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday set the ground running for their 2022 campaign. The 12-day strength and conditioning pre-season camp, ahead of Mumbai Indians' first match, is being held at their in-house training facility at Reliance Jio Stadium in neighbouring Navi Mumbai. "Mumbai Indians will also play a couple of inter-squad practice matches towards the second week of the camp," a media statement issued by Mumbai Indians stated. The first day training session was preceded with player assessment analysis by the coaching staff led by director of cricket Zaheer Khan and coach Mahela Jayawardene. Joining Zaheer and Mahela on this task will be Shane Bond, Robin Singh, Kiran More, Rahul Sanghvi, Vinay Kumar, TA Sekar, Paul Chapman and data analyst CKM Dhananjai.

PCB planning to introduce women's PSL early next year

Karachi: Alarmed by the poor showing of the national team in the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja on Tuesday said the PCB is planning to introduce a proper domestic set-up for them, which includes a T20 franchise-based league to begin early next year to unearth new talent. "There is a lot of work to be done in our women's cricket set-up. You have to take into consideration the restrictions and other issues that are unique to women in sports. We have to take steps to have a proper domestic calendar for women with three-day matches," Ramiz told reporters here. Pakistan lost all its opening four games in the World Cup to lie at the bottom of the points table. Pakistan still have three league matches remaining against the West Indies, England and New Zealand.

Australia's dominant show continues in Women's WC

Wellington, Mar 15 (PTI):

A dominant Australia confidently carried on their march towards a record seventh title as they pummelled West Indies by seven wickets in a lopsided league stage contest to register their fourth consecutive win at the ICC Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

Australia, the most successful team in the history of the event, has lived up to its favourites tag so far in the tournament as it has looked way too strong compared to the other seven teams in the fray.

The Meg Lanning-led side seemed to have all its bases covered, dishing out clinical performances one after another to lead the standings with eight points from four wins.

West Indies, the 2013 runner-up side, were no match for Australia as the team from the Caribbean was bundled out for a meagre 131 in 45.5 overs after opting to bat.

Skipper Stafanie Taylor played a lone hand with a fighting 91-ball 50 as West Indies kept losing wickets at regular intervals from the word go.

Taylor held one end as wickets kept tumbling from the other. West Indies struggle can be gauged from the fact that their best partnership was a 36-run fourth wicket stand

Defeat WI by 7 wickets to remain unbeaten



Ellyse Perry struck early to dent West Indies.

between Taylor and wicketkeeper batter Shemaine Campbelle (20). Ellyse Perry (3/22) and

Ashleigh Gardner (3/25) shared six wickets between them for Australia, while Jess Jonassen

Brief Scores:

West Indies: 131 all out in 45.5 overs (Stafanie Taylor 50; Ellyse Perry 3/22, Ashleigh Gardner 3/25). **Australia:** 132 for 3 in 30.2 overs (Rachael Haynes 83 not out, Beth Mooney 28 not out; Chinelle Henry 1/20).

picked up two scalps giving away 18 runs.

The chase was always going to be a cakewalk for the Australians. Opener Rachael Haynes hit a stylish 83 not out off 95 balls with the help of nine boundaries to anchor Australia's chase after they suffered two early blows in the form of Alyssa Healy and Lanning.

With Australia in a spot of bother at seven for two and later 58 for three, Haynes took the onus on herself to guide the innings in Beth Mooney's (28 not out) company and the duo overwhelmed the target easily in 30.2 overs.

Chinelle Henry (1/20), Hayley Matthews (1/31) and Shamillia Connell (1/32) picked up a wicket each for the Windies.

While Australia remain unbeaten in the tournament so far, West Indies suffered their second defeat, a heavy one, from four games and are placed fifth in the standings with four points.

Lakshya Sen climbs a spot to 11th, Sindhu static in 7th position



Badminton world rankings

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen rose a place to 11th in the men's singles chart, while double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu is static at the seventh spot among women in the latest BWF world rankings issued on Tuesday.

Sen has risen remarkably over the last few months in the BWF rankings riding on his impressive performances at the world stage. He currently has 70,086 points in the men's singles list which is being headed by Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, followed by Japan's Kento Momota and another Dane Anders Antonsen.

India's Kidambi Srikanth dropped a rung in the chart to be in the 12th spot with 69,158 points, while B Sai Praneeth also dropped a place to be in the 19th position. Sen rose up

the chart riding on his sensational form over the last six months, finishing runners-up at the German Open last week after his title-winning run at the India Open and his bronze medal feat at the World Championships in December last year.

HS Prannoy and Sameer Verma are the next best placed Indians at the 24th and 26th spots respectively.

Among women, Sindhu has maintained her seventh spot with 90,994 points, while another Olympic medallist Sania Nehwal occupies the 28th position.

In the men's doubles rankings list, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are static at eighth spot, while the next best Indians are MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila in the 40th position. The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy are also static at 19th spot, while the mixed doubles combination of Ponnappa and Rankireddy occupy the 25th position.

Nadal now 17-0, No. 1 Medvedev crashes out at Indian Wells



Indian Wells, Mar 15 (AP):

Rafael Nadal is still perfect in the desert to stay at the top, where he replaced Novak Djokovic. Is it better to be No. 1 for let's say one week in your life or never touch it? Medvedev said. You know, I think it's still better to at least touch it. Djokovic will reclaim the No. 1 ranking next week. The Serb is unvaccinated against COVID-19, so he wasn't allowed to enter the United States to play at Indian Wells or the upcoming Miami Open.

So far this year, no one is touching the fourth-ranked Nadal. Medvedev needed to reach

the quarterfinals in the desert to stay at the top, where he replaced Novak Djokovic.

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So far this year, no one is touching the fourth-ranked Nadal.

Mount Maunganui, Mar 15 (PTI):

Their confidence high after an impressive win over the West Indies, India would look for much-needed consistency with the bat against a struggling England in their fourth league stage match of the ICC Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.

Currently placed third after a morale-boosting 155-run against the West Indies, India would like to keep the winning momentum going and maintain its stay in the top four especially when they take on table toppers Australia after England.

After an inexplicably slow performance against New Zealand when the Indian batters played out 162 dot balls, Smriti Mandhana (123 off 119) and Harmanpreet Kaur (109 off 107) produce a splendid batting display, slamming twin centuries against the West Indies to power India to their highest total (317/8) in the history of the showpiece

India aim for consistency in clash against England



event. "I think for us, it is very important the way we performed in the last game; we just need to continue that, rather than thinking about what are your negatives and what are your positive points," vice-captain Kaur told reporters on the eve of the game. Both openers -- Mandhana and Yastika

Bhatia -- showed intent from the very beginning, something coach Romesh Powar had stressed upon ahead of the match.

Mandhana played a fluent 123 run-knock while Kaur also continued her fine run, bringing up her fourth ton and the first since hitting the famous 171 not out against

Australia in the 2017 World Cup. The duo will be eager to continue in the same vein with the race for semifinal berths heating up. However, all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who has been elevated to the top, has to do more with the bat as does skipper Mithali Raj, who has also been off the boil recently.

All England Championships Sindhu, Sen and Srikanth begin India's quest for elusive title

Birmingham, Mar 15 (PTI):

All eyes will be on in-form shuttler Lakshya Sen, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and World Championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth as they look to break India's 21-year title drought at the All England Championships, which begins here on Wednesday.

The top Indian players, including Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Srikanth have failed to lift the prestigious trophy with Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Prakash Padukone (1980) still remaining the only two Indians to claim the coveted title.

While Saina had come



close by reaching the finals in 2015, it remained elusive for Sindhu, who has otherwise claimed medals in all other big-ticket events such as Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. While

Sindhu, seeded sixth, will once again be in the reckoning, it will be unseeded Sen who will be in focus this time, given the kind of build-up the 20-year-old had ahead of the Super 1000 event. Sen has been in sensational form for the last six months as he

added a runners-up finish at the German Open last week, following his title-winning run at India Open and his bronze medal feat at the World Championships in December last year.

The Almora shuttler will be the cynosure of all eyes as he steps on to the court against compatriot Sourabh Verma in the opening round.

Sindhu, however, exited in the second round at the German Open after a shock defeat to a lower-ranked Zhang Yi Man of China and would look to quickly recover from the loss when she opens her campaign against a tricky world No 17 Chinese Wang Zhi Yi.

Indians slip in ICC Women's ODI Rankings

Dubai, Mar 15 (PTI):

India skipper Mithali Raj's descent in the ICC ODI rankings continued as she slipped three places to seventh while opener Smriti Mandhana dropped to 11th in the latest standings released on Tuesday, taking into account the ongoing World Cup in New Zealand.

Raj, who slipped a couple of places last week, has 696 points after she was dismissed for 31 and 5 against New Zealand and West Indies respectively. She is currently joint seventh with Australia opener Rachael Haynes. Mandhana, on the other hand, moved out of the top 10 to 11th despite hitting 123 against West Indies on Saturday.

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami, who became the leading wicket-taker in World Cups, has also slipped two places to be sixth in the bowlers' chart while Deepti Sharma maintained her

sixth place in the all-rounders' list. Sophie Ecclestone, Amy Satterthwaite, Marizanne Kapp and Laura Wolvaardt have all taken major leaps in the rankings after their sizzling performances in the ongoing World Cup.

Despite England failing to win a single match at the World Cup, Ecclestone has been a shining light for her team, bowling with great discipline. Her performances have seen her rise to the No.1 spot in the bowling charts, overtaking Australia's Jess Jonassen.

The other big gainer in the bowling charts is Marizanne Kapp, who registered the best-ever figures of her international career during South Africa's three-wicket win against England.

Her 5/45 helped South Africa restrict England to 235/9 and she made a handy contribution with the bat as well during the chase, chipping in with a vital 32 runs.

Cong leaders hit out at Sibal for criticising Gandhis

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Reflecting the dissensions in the party, senior Congress leaders on Tuesday lashed out at their colleague Kapil Sibal for his remarks against the leadership with the party's Lok Sabha whip accusing him of speaking the language of the BJP and the RSS.

Manickam Tagore, a staunch Rahul Gandhi loyalist, said the RSS and the BJP want the Gandhis to be out of leadership position to kill the Congress party and destroy the idea of India.

Congress national spokesperson Pawan Khara said Sibal should

elections for the post of Congress president instead of making public comments against the leadership.

"Why RSS and BJP wants Nehru-Gandhi's out of the leadership? Because without Gandhi's leadership Congress will be become Janata party. It's easy to kill Congress then it's easy to destroy the idea of India (sic)," Tagore said on Twitter.

"Kapil Sibal knows it but why he is speaking the language of RSS/BJP," the Congress' Lok Sabha whip asked.

Khara also put out a Twitter post hitting out at Sibal. "Dr Harshvardhan did not ask you to step

aside from Chandni Chowk. He fought an election and defeated you Kapil Sibal. Those who want to lead Congress are free to fight upcoming election for the position of party president instead of chanting everyday against current leadership," Khara tweeted.

Sibal has said Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to lead the party. "Leadership is in cuckoo land I want a 'Sab ki Congress'. Some want a 'Ghar ki Congress'," Sibal told the Indian Express in an interview.

The remarks came after the Congress Working Committee met on Sunday,

and after almost five hours of deliberations urged Sonia Gandhi to continue to lead and initiate changes required to strengthen the party.

The CWC also rejected Gandhi's offer to make any and every sacrifice for the party, which was construed by some as an offer of Gandhi family to step aside, and reposed faith in her leadership.

The Congress put out a video of all its former leaders from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, on its Twitter handle.

"We will fight on. We will overcome. We will continue to raise your voice," the party said.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command presents Yudh Seva medals to family members of martyred soldiers during an Investiture ceremony, in Udhampur, Tuesday.

Cong MLAs walkout over demand of implementation of old pension scheme

Bhopal, Mar 15 (PTI):

Demanding that the old pension scheme be made available for government employees recruited after 2005, Congress members staged a walkout from the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday as their demand for a discussion was not taken up.

Congress legislators P C Sharma, Sajjan Singh Verma, N P Prajapati and others raised the issue through a call attention motion and demanded a discussion on it during Zero Hour.

Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have restored the old pension

scheme, they said. But Speaker Girish Gautam denied permission to take up the matter during Zero Hour, saying, "You can speak on the issue separately. Opposition MLAs insisted that it was a serious issue affecting lakhs of families, and created a ruckus."

As the Speaker did not relent, Congress members walked out, shouting slogans. A section of government employees are opposed to the National Pension Scheme (NPS), introduced after 2004, as it is market-linked and does not provide a guaranteed pension benefit unlike the old system.

'50% rise in pediatric orthopaedic cases, wrong postures during online classes to blame'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

A 50 per cent rise in pediatric orthopaedic cases with complaints of excruciating pain in the neck and back have been noted in hospital OPDs with doctors attributing it primarily to wrong postures during online classes.

The rise in multiple skeletal issues among children can be attributed to incorrect posture. This, in turn, can be blamed on increased screen exposure following school closure due to Covid which made the children physically and mentally unwell, experts said. Dr Shubhang Aggarwal, Orthopaedic and Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon and Director at NHS

Hospital in Jalandhar said, "Wrong sitting postures coupled with almost no physical activity are to be blamed."

"Pediatric orthopaedic cases increased by 50 per cent. Most of them are overweight, have stamina and suffer from anxiety and attention deficit disorder," Dr Aggarwal said.

According to Dr Surbhit Rastogi, Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Vasant Kunj, a lot of children have been experiencing cervical neck and back stiffness observed mainly among the working adult population.

This is mainly attributed to children being confined to their homes and not getting exposed

to sunlight, the doctor said. "It's essential to observe some precautionary measures such as having calcium-rich diet, sunlight exposure, taking small breaks every half an hour, doing some stretching exercises, switching to ergonomic chairs with proper back support and adding some indoor and outdoor physical activities in the daily routine of kids," Dr Rastogi said.

Even teachers should ensure that during online classes they dedicate five minutes for some fun stretching activities, he said. Ideally, one should stand upright for one minute after sitting for 10 minutes at a stretch. This helps to strengthen your back by ensuring

proper blood circulation and maintaining muscle tone, the doctor said.

Parents should never ignore such back and neck issues in their kids and should visit an orthopaedic if there is any such complaint.

"Parents should be concerned when their kids complain of pain in neck and back, even if an initial x-ray exam doesn't reveal a problem."

"When children complain of back pain, about a third of the time there's a serious reason, whether due to an injury, infection or a tumour."

They should be immediately rushed to the hospital," added Dr Vishal Gupta, Orthopedic Surgeon, Ujala Cygnus Rainbow Hospital, Agra.

India sends fourth shipment of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

India on Tuesday sent the fourth shipment of 2,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistani land route as part of its humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. India despatched the first consignment of 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan through Pakistani on February 22 and it reached the Afghan city of Jalalabad on February 26. Fifty trucks carried the consignment.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has so far sent 8,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian aid. "Our partnership continues. Despatched fourth convoy of humanitarian assistance

consisting of 2000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan today. Total of 8000 MTs sent as on date. @WFP_Afghanistan is partnering with us for the internal distribution of wheat within Afghanistan," he tweeted.

India had sent a proposal to Pakistan on October 7 seeking the transit facility to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan via Pakistan and it received a positive response from Islamabad on November 24.

Following the Pakistani response, both sides were in touch to finalise the modalities for the transportation of the shipments. Each of the bags was stamped with the text: 'Gift from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan' in English, Pashto and Dari.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees carry the Seethala Mallikarjuna Swamys Rathotsava during a religious procession towards the Mullayanagiri hill range, in Chikmagalur, Tuesday.

LASTING COLOURS

Widows celebrate Holi at Vrindavan temple

Mathura (UPI), Mar 15 (PTI):

A large number of widows from various shelter homes gathered at the Gopinath Temple in Vrindavan on Tuesday to celebrate Holi, giving a toss to orthodox traditions that forbid them from taking part in the festival of colours.

The celebration at the historic temple, which first began in 2013, was kept in abeyance for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to officials.

"It was unbelievable for the widows in the Indian society to break the age-old tradition," said Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of NGO Sulabh

International who initiated efforts to mobilise widows of Vrindavan to celebrate Holi. Around 10 years ago, taking note of the pathetic condition of widows living in Vrindavan, the Supreme Court had asked NGO Sulabh International to look after them.

On Tuesday, widow Gaurvani Dasi was thrilled to play Holi as maid companion of Radha Rani.

Dressed in white sarees, the widows danced, sang Rasiya (tradition Holi song of Brij) and smeared each other's faces with herbal 'gula'.

Chhavi Maa, a 70-year-old widow, welcomed the change with open arms

after leading years of monotonous life. Widows hailing from West Bengal also showered flower petals on each other and chanted Krishna bhajans.

Applying colours at the feet of Lord Krishna statue, Manu Ghosh (85) said she never imagined that she would get the opportunity to play Holi at a temple.

"We have no words to express our joy," Widows Vimla Dasi (65), Ratania Devi (67) and Chhaya (66) said in unison, but in a choked voice.

The festival was celebrated in the presence of a large gathering including some saints of Vrindavan.

Army announces chair of excellence at USI in memory of Gen Rawat

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday announced setting up of a 'Chair of Excellence' in memory of India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI), a leading military think tank.

The announcement, made at a ceremony, came a day ahead of the 65th birthday of Gen Rawat who was killed in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on December 8 along with his wife Madhulika and 12 armed forces personnel. The 'Gen Bipin Rawat memorial Chair of Excellence' will focus on the field of jointness and integration among the armed forces. "Late Gen

Bipin Rawat who served as India's first CDS as well as the 27th Chief of Indian Army was an outstanding professional and was in the midst of steering one of the most radical transformations of the Indian military," the Army said.

"The Chair of Excellence is a befitting tribute to the astute leadership and professionalism of the General," it said in a statement.

In his remarks, the Army Chief said Gen Rawat was passionate about strategic thoughts and invested considerable time and energy in the activities of various think tanks. "And, therefore, his 65th birthday provided an opportune moment to reinforce the services' bond with their intellectual institutions. The Chair will

be open to veterans of three services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security," Gen Naravane said.

The Army Chief is also serving as the officiating Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The topic for this year's research has been chosen as "jointness and integration in the context of land warfare in India", officials said.

They said the 'Chair of Excellence' will be open to all veteran officers of the armed forces and civilians having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs.

The period of research would be from July 1 for a period of one year, every year. On January 1, 2020, Gen Rawat had taken charge as India's first

CDS with a mandate to bring in convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

A key mandate of the CDS was to facilitate the restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through the establishment of theatre commands.

As the CDS, Gen Rawat carried out the extensive groundwork to roll out tri-services reforms.

In his role as Chief of Army Chief between 2016 and 2019, he strongly backed a policy of hot pursuit in dealing with cross-border terrorism and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ker ritual artist faces 'ban' to perform as son marries Muslim woman

Kannur (Ker), Mar 15 (PTI):

A Kerala artist is facing a "ban" to perform a ritual artform in local temple festivals here as his son married a Muslim woman at Karivelloor, a known Left bastion, in this north Kerala district.

Vinod Panicker, a known 'Poorakali-Marathukali' artist for the last 37 years, alleged that the management of some local temples informed him that he could not perform the traditional artform as he lives in the same house where his non-Hindu daughter-in-law lives which is against rituals and customs.

The management committee of a temple, a shrine of Thiyya commu-

nity here, even told him that if he shifts to some other place from his own house, where the non-Hindu woman resides, then he would be allowed to perform the rituals.

As he rejected their demand, they conducted the ritual with another artist recently, he said.

"I have clearly told them that I don't want to abandon my son and daughter-in-law or shift to any other house. I had been performing the ritual art for nearly four decades and it is such a pain to suffer this humiliation," Panicker said.

Claiming that the incident revealed the religious and communal mindset of the society, the artist said he is a follower

of the teachings of Sree Narayana Guru, the saint-reformer who professed 'one caste, one religion and one God' for mankind.

However, the temple committee justified the action saying that rituals were not permitting to invite an artist for performance from a house where a non-Hindu person lives.

The also said they did not impose any ban but only informed Panicker that rituals could not be violated.

A temple management official said he was a Marxist party sympathiser but that does not mean that temple rituals need not be followed.

The incident raised many eyebrows as

Karivelloor is a place where the ruling CPI(M) has deep roots.

As the issue triggered a controversy, senior Marxist Party leader and former minister E P Jayarajan came out criticising the temple management saying it was a 'grave lapse' from their side and the party was against that.

He also alleged that they had kept the development as a secret but now it has come to the public domain.

"Poorakkali" is a traditional dance ritual performed by men during the nine-day Pooram festival in Bhagavathy temples and sacred groves across Malabar (north Kerala).



BRIEF



BJP MP Saroj Pandey during the second part of Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Award

■ **Udhampur:** One Lt Gen and two major generals were among 117 soldiers awarded for gallantry and distinguished service as the Indian Army's northern command conducted an investiture ceremony here to honour its personnel deployed in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi presented the awards to officers, junior commissioned officers, and other ranks.

Mishap

■ **Noida:** A toddler was crushed to death by a truck on Tuesday when she strayed onto a road while playing outside her house in Greater Noida, police here said. Police arrested the truck driver involved in the accident, that happened around 7.30 am. The 13-month-old baby lived with her family in a shanty in the Surajpur area. She was playing outside and strayed onto the road where she got run over by the rear tyre of a canter truck.

Encounter

■ **Srinagar:** A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district in south Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Based on a specific input generated by police regarding the presence of a terrorist in village Charsoo of Awnatipora, a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the area, a police spokesman said.

Services

■ **New Delhi:** The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Tuesday said bus services will start after 2 pm on Holi. All the city bus services will remain suspended till 2 pm on Friday in view of the Dulhendi festival, it added. "In evening shift, bus services on some selected bus routes will be operated as per traffic requirement." "Since the traffic load will be very less on this day, only 898 buses will be operated in the afternoon service," an official statement said.

Review

■ **New Delhi:** The Congress on Tuesday held a meeting to review its poor performance in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, identify shortcomings and chalk out future plans for the politically-crucial state. AICC general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra chaired the review meeting which was attended by the party's top state leaders.

Weather
High 38 Low 21

MARKET
NIFTY 16,663.00
SENSEX 55,776.85

BULLION
GOLD 51,437
SILVER 67,973

HIJAB BAN

Bengaluru, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday said Hijab was not part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith and effectively upheld the ban against the headscarf in educational institutions in the state by dismissing pleas from Muslim girls seeking nod to wear it in classrooms.

A three-judge full bench of the High Court said the prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to, even as the aggrieved petitioner Muslim girls said they would continue their legal battle and termed today's order as "unconstitutional."

The court suggested the possibility of some 'unseen hands' behind the hijab row to engineer social unrest and disharmony and expressed dismay over the issue being blown out of proportion during the academic term.

The row that broke out

'Hijab not part of essential Islamic religious practice'



Bengaluru: Commuters in front of the Karnataka High Court, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

at Udupi in January this year soon spread to other parts of the state before witnessing national repercussions, with voices for and against the headscarf, even as it resonated in some foreign countries like Pakistan.

After having reserved its order on Feb 25, the court on Tuesday dismissed the batch of petitions from the Udupi-based Muslim girls who

sought its nod for wearing hijab inside classrooms and also said there was no material placed on record to prima facie show wearing the headscarf was an essential religious practice. Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi-led bench said, "we are of the considered opinion that wearing of Hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith." The

'HC verdict challenged in SC'

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court's verdict dismissing petitions seeking permission to wear hijabs inside the classroom, news agency PTI reported. Earlier in the day, a full bench of the Karnataka High Court had dismissed a batch of petitions filed by Muslims girls from pre-university colleges in Udupi region of the state seeking the right to wear hijabs or headscarves along with uniforms inside classrooms. "We are of the considered opinion that wearing of the hijab by Muslim women does not make up an essential religious practice in Islamic faith," the full bench said in the gist of its order that was read out by the Karnataka chief justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Tuesday morning.

other two judges in the panel were Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi. The bench also maintained that the government has the power to issue the impugned order dated February 5, 2022, banning clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges, which the Muslim girls had challenged in the High Court. It rejected the plea to initiate a disciplinary inquiry

against the college, its principal and a teacher.

"In the above circumstances, all these writ petitions being devoid of merits are liable to be and accordingly are dismissed. In view of the dismissal of the writ petition, all the pending applications pale into insignificance and are accordingly disposed off," the bench said in its order. The court also said that school uniform will cease to be a uniform if hijab is also allowed.

Two women Naxals killed in encounter with security forces

Dantewada, Mar 15:

Two women Naxals were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Dantewada district on Tuesday, a senior official said.

The face-off took place in a forest near Gorli-Mutheli villages under Katakalyan police station limits, about 400 km from the state capital Raipur, when a joint team of security forces was out on a search operation. At around 11.30 am, the gunfight broke out between Gorli and Mutheli. After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two women ultras along with two 12 bore rifles and a country made weapon were recovered from the spot. The official said prima facie, one of the deceased was identified as Pedaras LOS commander Manjula and the other one as Gangi Punem, a protection team member.

There were specific inputs about the presence of cadres of Pedaras LOS (local organisation squad) and Katakalyan Area

About the incident

The face-off took place in a forest near Gorli-Mutheli villages under Katakalyan police station limits, about 400 km from the state capital Raipur, when a joint team of security forces was out on a search operation. At around 11.30 am, the gunfight broke out between Gorli and Mutheli. After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two women ultras along with two 12 bore rifles and a country made weapon were recovered from the spot. The official said prima facie, one of the deceased was identified as Pedaras LOS commander Manjula and the other one as Gangi Punem, a protection team member.

Committee formations of Maoists in the forests of Jiyakortha, Gorli, Mutheli and Danikortha villages along the border of Dantewada and Sukma districts. Hence, a joint squad of personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Sukma and Dantewada, CRPF's 230th battalion and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CRPF) was sent to the area, he said.

At around 11.30 am, the gunfight broke out between Gorli and Mutheli," he said. After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two women ultras along with two 12 bore rifles and a country made weapon were recovered from the spot, he said.

'Stature of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru far above any title'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The martyrdom of freedom fighters including Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru is a fact and is not dependent on the presumed presence or absence of official records, the government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, asserting that their stature is far above any award, title or status.

In a written reply to a question from a member, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said the heroes who lost their lives during the freedom struggle have become martyrs for the cause of attaining the independence of India.

Mishra said the martyrdom of these freedom

fighters and their invaluable contribution to India's freedom struggle form an inalienable part of the discourse of the country's fight for freedom and is well known in India's history. "Their martyrdom in the supreme national cause of independence is a fact and is not dependent on the presumed presence or absence of official records. Their stature is far above any award or title or status accorded in this regard," he said.

BJP MP Jyotirmay Singh Mahato had put forth queries on whether the government has given martyr status to heroes like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev who lost their lives in the freedom struggle.

MARTIAL ART DISPLAY



Army jawans perform Kalaripayattu, a martial art and dance form, during a cultural programme organised as part of Southern Command Investiture Ceremony, at Yodhasthall, Dronachal base in Bhopal.

'Kashmir Files' has rattled ecosystem that wanted to bury truth: PM

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday praised 'The Kashmir Files', a movie based on the plight of displaced Kashmiri Hindus, and slammed the "campaign to discredit" it by those who claim to be the flagbearers of freedom of expression.

"They are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts," Modi said in a ringing endorsement of the film that is now at the centre of a political slugfest with the Congress and some other



opposition parties objecting to it. Addressing the BJP parliamentary party meeting, Modi spoke at length about the film and lamented that no attempt has been made till now to make movies depicting the horrors of Partition and Emergency as there have been continuous efforts to "bury the truth".

Ukraine's capital barraged; 3 EU nation leaders to visit

Kyiv, Mar 15 (AP):

Russia's relentless bombardment of Ukraine edged closer to central Kyiv as a series of strikes hit a residential neighbourhood Tuesday, while the leaders of three European Union nations planned a bold visit to Ukraine's capital and the number of people the war has driven from the country passed 3 million.

Large explosions thundered across Kyiv before dawn from what Ukrainian authorities said were artillery strikes, as Russia's assault on the city appeared to



Firefighters work in an apartment building damaged by shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday.

become more systematic. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

barrages hit four multi-story buildings in the city and caused dozens of deaths.

CRPF for additional helipads in LWE areas

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The CRPF is mulling creation of more night landing capable helipads as air evacuation of its injured troops from remote Left Wing Extremism-affected areas remains a sore point for the force.

The paramilitary force has deployed close to 40 percent of its total strength (about 1.20 lakh personnel) for anti-Naxal operations in various states with its troops and special jungle warfare units like the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) undertaking a "decisive battle" in some of the worst violence affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

The force, as per senior officers and documents accessed by PTI, is establishing at least 30 new forward operating bases (FOB) in deep jungles of Chhattisgarh (south Bastar) while about half-a-dozen such locations are being scouted in Jharkhand and Bihar as

part of the strategy of "moving deep into the Maoist stronghold and hitting them hard."

The government has said the number of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts in the country has come down from 126 to 70 over the last few years and it is working to better these numbers.

"Helipads are a pre-requisite to meet any contingency while implementing the government's strategy of going deep. During an encounter or IED blast in these far flung areas, air evacuation of injured troops is the most important factor so that they can get quick medical care and lives are saved," a senior officer deployed in the LWE operations grid said.

Now, he adds, here is the catch. "There have been numerous instances when troops undertaking an operation secured a landing site near them but the helicopters got delayed or pilots refused the sortie due to a variety of technical reasons. The 'golden hour' is lost," he said.

HEADS ROLL

Sonia asks PCC chiefs of 5 states to resign

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

After the party's drubbing in the just-concluded Assembly polls in five states, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has asked its state unit chiefs in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur to put in their papers.

The development comes two days after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) discussed threadbare the reasons for the party's debacle in these Assembly polls. The Congress failed to win in any of the states and lost Punjab to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has asked the PCC Presidents of Uttar

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur to put in their resignations in order to facilitate reorganisation of PCCs," chief spokesperson of the party Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter.

While Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu was appointed to the post only a few months ago, the Uttarakhand unit president of the party, Ganesh Godiyal, and his Manipur counterpart Loken Singh were also appointed before the Assembly elections. Gandhi has also sought the resignation of Girish Chodankar, who heads the Goa unit of the party, and Uttar Pradesh PCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu.

'Over 180 cr doses of COVID vaccines administered'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

■ 77,314 adverse events reported

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that as on March 13 this year, a total of over 180 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been administered in the country and 77,314 adverse events, which come to 0.004 per cent, have been reported.

The government said that over 8.91 crore doses of vaccine Covaxin has been administered in the age group of 15-18 years as on March 12 and the number of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported are 1,739 minor, 81 serious, and six severe.

The Centre told a bench

of Justices L N Rao and B R Gavai that a substantial number of individuals in the country are vaccinated and the vaccines have proved to be very effective and safe.

It said both vaccines -- Covaxin and Covishield -- generate antibodies and adverse events are also found to be minimum.

Further the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of these vaccines, which are rolled out after an elaborate procedure by domain experts, are also accepted by World Health Organisation which shows recognition by

global experts also, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said in their brief submission on behalf of the Centre.

The court is hearing arguments on a plea seeking directions for disclosure of data on clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines and post-jab cases. The arguments would continue on March 21.

As per the last available figure (i.e. as on March 13, 2022), the total number of doses administered is 180,13,23,547 (more than 180 crores approx.) and the total number of adverse events reported (including minor, severe, and serious

cases) are 77,314 (0.004 per cent), the Centre said.

Regarding vaccination of minors, it said the question of paediatric vaccination was taken up at a stage where more than substantial data on the safety and immunogenicity of Covaxin in adults was available. It is relevant to note that as on March 12, 2022, 8,91,39,455 doses of Covaxin have been administered in the age group of 15-18 years age group. In this age group, the number of AEFIs reported are 1,739 (minor) (0.014 per cent), 81 (serious) (0.0009 per cent) and 6 (severe) (0.0001 per cent), the brief submissions of the two law officers said.

IN BENEFIT OF STUDENTS

CBSE re-evaluates Class 10 Odia OMR sheets

■ Over 20k students benefit with revision

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The CBSE has re-evaluated the OMR sheets of the class 10 Odia exam with the correct answer key approved by an expert committee that benefitted over 28,000 students, officials said on Tuesday.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday set up an expert committee to probe into the alleged discrepancies in the question

and answer key of Odia's paper of class 10 first term examination.

"It was directed by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan that the dispute must be resolved within the next 24 hours and students' grievance addressed immediately and appropriately.

"Accordingly, with a view to ascertaining the factual position, an expert committee was constituted by CBSE for examining the discrepancies mentioned in the representation," the CBSE said in an official statement.

Women symbolize power; make them realize their strength: Governor

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Women have become empowered in every field and they have achieved their position in the public domain. Earlier, there were only one or two women governors of the states, but today, eight out of 29 states have women as their Governors. This shows the rapid pace of women empowerment, said Governor Anusuiya Ukey while addressing the 'Atulya Shakti' programme organized here at Rungta College on Tuesday. Governor added that women have been leaders in every field. A daughter of Bastar has even succeeded in conquering Mount Everest. Her success shows that women are not left behind in any front. Sharing her experiences, the Governor said that recently she met sister of former Chief Secretary Vivek Dhand, who is a differently abled 65-year-old lady and is wheelchair bound for the past few years. Still her spirits are high and she paints very

beautiful paintings. "She made me feel that with talent and skill, one can overcome every difficulty", Ukey added.

Governor further said that Vedic shloka mentions women as "Shakti Roopen Sanshitha", the symbol of power. A woman is power in herself and the only need is to recognize your powers and know your strengths to achieve success in every field. She further suggested the women to inspire and help other women to move ahead. Women have immense power and they just need motivation and encouragement. If they get encouragement from the family or society, no one can stop them. Referring to the women working in public domain, the Governor said that all such women have made their place with hard work. There is no field in which women cannot display their skills.

Governor honored the women who are working appreciably in various fields. Chhattisgarh State

Commissioner for Women Kiranmayee Nayak was present as special guest. Nayak said that she never felt that there is a need to empower women. Women have always been empowered. They only need to be reminded about their powers. Once they realize their powers, they get completely engaged in fulfilling their resolutions. All India Professional Congress President Kshitij Chandrakar said that International Women's Day should not be the only occasion to appreciate the contributions of women. He emphasized on the need to have such spirit and respect for women every day. He urged all to give respect to the women at home.

Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal, DCC Chief Mukesh Chandrakar, Santosh Rungta, IP Mishra and other dignitaries were present. Gunjan Chauhan Chandel, Manish Soni, Amrita Singh and other members of the organizing team were present.

Women Safety Awareness Program 'Abhivyakti' concludes

Bhilai, Mar 15:

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Durg Police organized women safety awareness programmes "Abhivyakti" for the seven consecutive days. Team of IUCAW office and Raksha Team visited rural areas, schools, colleges and other places to spread awareness regarding women safety, cyber frauds, domestic violence, traffic rules, POCSO Act, eve-teasing, human trafficking, health hygiene, career counseling, etc. Efforts were made to make the girl students and general public aware about these issues. The week long programme concluded at village Ruhi located within the limits of Patan Police Station. At the outset, children presented the state song "Arpa Pairi Ke Dhar". Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu and



Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar outlined the activities conducted during the week long programme. They spread awareness about the women safety app "Abhivyakti" among the guests, dignitaries, villagers, children, Anganwadi workers, women and girls. She further informed that in all the police station areas, efforts were made to make more and more people aware by displaying pictures / videos on women safety awareness topics. They were also detailed

about the Raksha Team, Abhivyakti App, Women's Helpline Number 9111801091, etc. The cops appealed the people to use social media carefully. If any female faces any problem and do not want to reveal her identity, she can send her complaint as a WhatsApp message on the women helpline number.

Senior Superintendent of Police BN Meena participated in the Annaprashan event. ASP Meeta Pawar and Police Officers also attended the baby shower programme of pregnant women. SSP BN Meena,



Inspector Sangeeta Mishra, ASI Hemlata Deshmukh, Village Sarpanch Bharti Jangde, women and child development officials and Anganwadi workers were present. Rangoli, Mehndi, chair race, tug of war and cuisine competitions were held. The winners were feted with citations and prizes by the Police Department. Women who cooperated with the police department were also honored with citation and memento. Inspector Navi Monika Pandey proposed the vote of thanks.

Bamboo handicraft training camp organised



Bhilai, Mar 15: A Bamboo Handicraft Training Camp was organised by SAIL-BSP's CSR department along with Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for women empowerment. The programme was inaugurated by Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel) at

Dundera village. Twenty women were shortlisted to attend this training programme. They are being trained for three months from March 10, 2022 to June 09, 2022. The participants will get a scholarship of Rs 3000/ per month.

Nisha Soni, in her address stated that BSP's CSR Department takes

concerted efforts towards women empowerment and making them self-sufficient. Women will be economically independent and become a source of income generation for their families through training programmes like this, she said.

At the outset, Shivrajan Nair addressed the gathering. Sushil Kamde and Vivek Mishra welcomed the guests. The programme was compered by Rajni Rajak. Vivek Chandrakar, Parshad, members of Village Self Help Group, Kapil Dev, Budhelal and other persons from CSR department were present on the occasion.

'Nai Chetna' for women contract workers organised in Mills Zone 1



Bhilai, Mar 15: 'Nai Chetna', a programme for women contract labour was organised in Mills Zone 1 for workers of Merchant Mill and Wire Rod Mill the other day. The objective of the programme was to create awareness about legal rights, welfare amenities, Safety, health, Cleanliness and prevention against Sexual harassment. Ajay Bedi, CGM (Merchant Mill & Wire Rod Mill) in his address said that women contract labour should be aware about their legal rights, welfare amenities, Safety, health which is being dealt with in this programme. He urged them to pay

attention to the information being shared in this forum. This programme is a step towards public awareness and is a praiseworthy initiative of Personnel department, he added. Shubhshree Prashant, SM (M & HS) imparted information on Health and Safety. Anupma Kumari stressed on the need to adopt Safe working practices at the workplace. The programme was coordinated by Rajeev Kumar, DGM (P-Mills Zone 1). Employees of Personnel department of Mills Zone 1 played a significant role in making this programme successful.

'World Consumer Rights Day' celebrated at St Thomas College

Bhilai, Mar 14:

The PG Department of Commerce under the aegis of COMMZENITH & in association with its MoU partner Sitabai Arts Commerce & Science College, Akola (MH) celebrated World Consumer Rights Day on March 14, 2022. Maitreyi Mathur Retired, District Judge and Retired President of Consumer Forum, Durg Chhattisgarh and Advocate Dr Mayur Navin Malviya, Finance Trainer, Academician and Director of Malviya Academy, Akola Maharashtra were the resource persons on the occasion. Dr Mayur



Malviya explained the minute details along with different sections of Consumer protection Act and its redressal. Maitreyi Mathur said that previously there was no need of this Act, but in the present scenario where moral values and ethics are going

down, such type of act is required for protecting the innocent consumers that is why this act is enacted in a very simple language. Principal Incharge Dr Mariam Jacob gave her virtual presence and congratulated the department for the conduct of the pro-

gram. Convener & Head Department of Commerce of St Thomas College Bhilai Dr Sapna Sharma welcomed the participants. The sessions were very informative. Dr Neelam Gandhi, Asst Prof in Department of Commerce conducted the programme. Co-Convener Dr Deepali Shah of Sitabai Arts, Commerce & Science College, Akola Maharashtra proposed the Vote of thanks. Faculties and students of both the colleges attended the programme. The Faculties of commerce department of both the colleges coordinated in making the programme a success.

BMC gets 20 Swachhata Brand Ambassadors including Anurag Basu

Bhilai, Mar 15:

In a bid to bring awareness among public about cleanliness, Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal has nominated 20 cleanliness brand ambassadors. The Mayor has included people eminent persons from all walks of life including social work, journalism, industry, film world, medical world, business world, sports and education. On the recommendation of MLA Devendra Yadav, Neeraj Pal has selected people who are proficient in different disciplines to contribute in this work of cleanliness. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Neeraj Pal said that the BMC administration is working tirelessly to realize the vision of cleanliness. The Corporation is making effort to attain the



top ranks in the cleanliness survey 2022 for the cities with population of 5 to 10 lakhs.

He added that with the assistance from Swachhata Brand Ambassadors, it would be easy to communicate with the general public and make them aware about cleanliness and work towards the vision of clean and beautiful Bhilai. At the outset, all the Swachhata Ambassadors got acquainted with each

other followed by a meeting. Sanitation in-charge Lakshmi Raju informed everyone about the work being done by Bhilai Municipal Corporation and how the brand ambassadors would help in Citizen feedback, awareness through social media, home composting and such works. The newly appointed Swachhata Brand Ambassadors said that they would work towards making people aware on

the need to give the city a clean environment through various events.

Mayor Neeraj Pal on Tuesday today appointed Anurag Basu from film industry; KK Jha and Nitin Gupta from ancillary industry; Rajendra Kumar Agarwal, Sanjay Ojha, Santosh Rai, Arif Khan and Sachin Pratap Singh from education; K Chandrashekhar, Munna Sahu, Sant Kumar Keskar, Nitin Phule, Dhanraj Parade and Jai Govind Yadav from social work; Dr Chiranjeevi from medical field, Rajendra Sonboir from journalism as well as Sanjay Jain, Dilip Devangan, Rakesh Malhotra and Ram Jaspal from other fields. During this, Siju Anthony, a member of the Mayor in Council, was prominently present.

Employees of Electrical Zone feted with Pali Shiromani & Karm Shiromani Award

Bhilai, Mar 15: Employees belonging to Electrical Zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani Puraskar' on March 07, 2022 for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant. Pali Shiromani Award winners of Electrical zone included Mahadev Singh Rana, Deputy Manager, ETL, S Srikumar, CRME, and Karm Shiromani Award winners M Laxman Rao,

Sr Techn(E), MSDS-II, Somkant Jogi, Sr Techn, ERS, Bhusaram, Master OCT, HME, Gurudutt Deshpande, Techn (EF/B Attdt), DNW, Dulendra Kumar Sen, Master Techn (Switch), Telecom were felicitated for their exemplary work.

The norms of social distancing were followed in conducting and distribution of the prizes during the function in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The function was presided over by Prakash, GM

(Telecomm). Departmental HODs US Barwal, GM (ETL), AK Nayak, GM (CRME), Ravindra Kumar, GM (MSDS-II), PK Padhy, GM (ERS) and MA Siddique, GM (HME), Bensey George, GM (DNW), HK Sirmour, DGM (Telcomm) and Kuntal Baghel, DGM (ERS) presented the award winners with a certificate of merit, memento and appreciation letter for the spouse of the employee.

The programme was conducted by Personnel Office of P&E Zone.

LS Sahu wins Runner up position in SPSB Table Tennis tournament

**Bhilai, Mar 14:**

Inter Steel plant Table tennis tournament was organised at ISP, Burnpur from March 10-12, 2022 by Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB). LS Sahu, AM (Projects) from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant was declared as the Runner up in the Inter Steel Plant Table Tennis tournament. Various

steel plants including Tata Steel compete in this tournament. LS Sahu fared well in the tournament and secured the Runners up position. It is noteworthy that LS Sahu has been felicitated with the Shaheed Vinod Chaubey award by Chhattisgarh Government for his contribution in the field of Table Tennis.

IWD celebrated at Shri Shankaracharya College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

To create awareness on women's health and hygiene

Bhilai, Mar 15: Shri Shankaracharya College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Junwani celebrated International Women's Day under the theme women's health and hygiene. The convener of the programme, Dr Swarnali Das Paul, Principal SSCPS said that creating awareness on female diseases was the main motto of this event. Special guest Dr Kirti Verma Bhandari, Gynaecologist, SJM Maternity and diagnostic

centre, Bhilai and Dr Rekha Ratnani, Head Gynaecologist, SSIMS, delivered lectures on the theme. Jaya Mishra, President SGEES delivered a beautiful talk on "Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow" in which vice principal and guest explored the ways in which women and girls are leading the charges on climate change adaptation, mitigation, a response around the world, contributing powerful leaders and change makers to more

sustainable future for all.

The first session was conveyed by Dr Kirti Verma Bhandari in which she addressed the audience regarding the health issues related to women and girls and taught how to maintain hygiene and live a healthier life. The second session was conveyed by Dr Rekha Ratnani. She emphasized the role of women in their personal and professional life and motivated to live an independent life. More than hundred participants were present in this event.



'No new promises made, stress on development works'

Mayor presents annual budget of Rs 1475 cr of RMC for 2022-23

Members of Opposition creates ruckus on 'user charges' and hosts of other issues

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: The Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar presented annual budget of Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) for 2022-23 for that of Rs 1475 crore and gave emphasis on balanced development. Not making any new promises, the Mayor laid stress on implementation of the pending or the recently started works. During this the members of the Opposition created din in the House on the issue of 'user charges' and other issues and even staged protest coming to



dais of the Speaker.

Mayor Ejaz Dhebar in his main budget speech said that at present Raipur is with three star rating and is among the best six states in the country and to bring it on No. 1 a lot of hard work needs to be done and added that the pace with which the state government is working, they will definitely get suc-

cess. Mayor informed that lifeline of Raipur city is 'Kharun' River and new initiative will be taken for its purification and cleaning. Similarly work plans will be prepared for small traders and city will be made tanker-free. All the 10 wards of RMC will be provided with ambulance facility and the people BPL will be provided 'gau-



kash' free of cost for performing final rites of deceased. Similarly by paying attention on health services, around 80 new Clinics will be opened in the city, he added.

Budget presented in briefcase made out of cow-dung:

In line with the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel carrying a briefcase made out of cow-dung for presentation of state's budget in the VS, the Mayor Ejaz Dhebar also followed in his footsteps and came along with briefcase made from cow-dung and presented the budget in the House. It was 'Goumai

Vaste Laxmi' written on top of the briefcase.

Budget at a glance:

- # Provision of Rs 31 cr has been made for housing scheme for all.
- # Provision of Rs 110 cr for 'Amrut Mission Yojana'
- # Provision of Rs 150 cr for Infrastructure Development
- # Provision of Rs 5.5 cr for 'Pushpa-Vatika'
- # Provision of Rs 1 cr for City Bus Project
- # Provision of Rs 1.5 cr for 'Gyan Sthali Yojana'
- # Provision of Rs 44.5 cr for 'safai' contract

Promises made in the budget

- For cleaning of capital city Raipur's life line - Kharun River, a work plan of three years has been prepared and for this four STPs of total 206 MLD will be started for purification of stale water from drains entering Kharun river.
- Under 'Pauni Pasari Yojana' and by fixing new vending zones, a work plan will be prepared for entire RMC to assist small traders for running their business smoothly and then it will be implemented.
- To make city 'Tanker-Free', 'Amrut Mission Yojana' will be immediately implemented.
- Health and medical facilities in entire RMC will be expanded and to ensure that a patient gets ambulance facility well on time, all the ten zones of RMC will be provided with ambulance vehicle.
- In case of sudden death of one from family, there is immediately need for keeping the body inside deep freezer and taking a sensitive initiative, RMC will be providing one 'Deep Freezer' facility in all 10 zones of RMC.
- For performing final rites of deceased person in the family from BPL and middle class families, RMC will be provided 'Gau Kash' free of cost.
- To provide children from poor families with education facility in English medium, the Binni Bai Sonkar Best School' will be upgraded as English Medium School from this FY.
- To provide domestic services like that of plumber, cooler, TV, fridge repair mechanic, carpenter and others, an online portal app will be prepared and this will help the local workers get employment and people would be able to get facilities sitting at home.
- By developing infrastructure along with study and teaching in the Government Schools, a strong foundation will be prepared by introducing and promoting intellectual, educational, sports and cultural activities.
- The Sports grounds in capital city Raipur will be developed and along with this all the seven ponds and gardens will be given facelift in the coming three years.
- With Raipur developing into cosmopolitan city, RMC is already working on 'Smart Road Scheme' to ensure smooth movement of traffic and proper parking facilities in areas facing traffic congestion. In the first leg, Raipur Smart City Limited, will be developing 220 mts road from near Oxyzone in GE Road to Raja Tabal Road and develop it as 'Smart Road'.

Work according to the aspirations of the people: Governor

Corporators should be sensitive towards problems of the public

Uikey first Governor to attend the GBM of RMC

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey attended the general body meeting (GBM) of Raipur Municipal Corporation on Tuesday. After reaching the Corporation office, Mahatma Gandhi Sadan, the Governor paid homage to the father of the nation by garlanding his statue.

On this occasion, MLA duo Satyanarayan Sharma, Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey, Leader of Opposition Minal Choubey and women corporators also gave a warm welcome to Governor Uikey. This is probably the first time that



a Governor has attended a general body meeting of a municipal corporation.

Addressing the general body meeting of the Municipal Corporation, Governor Ms. Uikey called upon the corporators to work according to the aspirations of the people and be sensitive to the problems of the people. All of you corporators are the voice of the people and it is your responsibility to fulfill the basic needs of the common people. Do not be arrogant in your conduct and rituals, she added.

Governor also told corporators to visit their area regularly and also take

feedback of your work from people, so that you are aware of what people want. Ms. Uikey said that urban bodies and village panchayats are the primary schools of democracy. The people's representatives who have been elected here are introduced for the first time to democracy and parliamentary functioning. This is my first experience in this house.

Like Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, there are questions and answers of pros and cons, time is fixed for question hours. Certainly the role of the House would have been important in making

Raipur a clean, beautiful and smart city. People are occupying many important posts after leaving the house of the urban body. The Governor of Jharkhand, Ramesh Bais was once a member of this House. Many MLAs and MPs have also started their journey from this house. The more good work you do, the more people's affection and respect you will get and you will reach new heights in your future political career.

Governor Uikey in her remarks appreciated the remarkable works done by the corporation in Raipur city including initiatives like Vivekananda Sarovar, Telibandha Talab Beautification and Nalanda Library, Pink Toilet. On this occasion, RMC Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Speaker Pramod Dubey and Commissioner Municipal Corporation Prabhat Malik also addressed the gathering. Mayor Ejaz Dhebar honoured Governor Uikey with a memento.

Nine officers served notices on Tender process irregularities

Reply sought within 15 days: Minister

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Nine senior officials including 6 Indian Forest Services (IFS) Officers have been served show cause notices on the reported complaint of irregularities in Tender works being carried out for various works in Forest Department.

Minister for Forest Md Akbar said that appropriate action would be taken against those responsible for irregularities after receiving reply from them. Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dharmal Kaushik on Tuesday raised the issue during Question Hour here. He asked the Minister about the action taken against the officials after irregularities were reported in the Tender Process for various works



in Forest Department. Minister Akbar confirmed about the irregularities and added that nine officers are responsible for the irregularities.

Oppn alleges irregularities in DMF expenditure

Raipur: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Keshav Chandra alleged irregularities in the expenditure from the amount of District Mineral Fund (DMF) and added that nearly Rs 21 crore were spent on Training purpose and sought reply from the Treasury bench on utilization of fund and the Audit for the said. Replying to the charges, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that state government is ready to investigate on the alleged irregularities on receiving a written complaint. BJP MLAs too grilled the Treasury bench on the rational utilization of the DMF Fund. Akaltara MLA Saurabh Singh alleged that the guidelines of DMF utilization is being violated in several districts.

ties and have been served notices. Minister said that 30 days duration is essential for the Tender Process but only 21 days time were given to the interested firms whereas the rules of Warehouse Purchase too were ignored. Minister said that departmental process has been initiated whereas Probe Officer has not been appointed so far and added that the accused officers have been given time of 15 days to reply to the show cause notices. Leader of Opposition said that violation of rules would encourage corruption in government departments.

Officials whose name have been reported in the irregularities are Vishnuraj Narendran, Ayush Jain, Amitabh Bajpai, Stylo Mandavi, Vijaya Vinod Kurre and Ashok Kumar Patle from IFS rank whereas NK Sharma, DK Sahu and DK Mehar are from State Forest Services.

NYAY scheme failed to provide justice to farmers: Brijmohan

Oppn grills Treasury bench during discussion on budgetary demands of Agriculture department

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday termed the NYAY scheme of Congress government to be injustice to the farmers as the eligible farmers are not able to get the benefits.

Launching attack on the Treasury bench during the discussion on the budgetary provision of the Agriculture department in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, the senior BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal said that said that the farmers are being provided Rs 2500 under the NYAY scheme but the recipients are paying heavy price as their electricity, road and education benefits of their family members are curtailed by the

state government. He further added that the state government has provided compensation of just Rs 4 lakh to the family members of the farmer died during the protest against land acquisition in Naya Raipur whereas Chief Minister had given Rs 50 lakh compensation to the farmer from Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh only to please the party high command. He also held the Congress government responsible for growing corruption.

Counting the allegation, the senior Congress MLA Mohan Markam held the previous BJP government responsible for the alleged suicide of the farmers. He also claimed that several development works have been taken place during the last three years whereas previous BJP government had failed to deliver the promises to the people. He also mentioned the waiver of agriculture loan of the farmers as part of the exercise initiated by the Congress government towards welfare of the farmers.



A shopkeeper selling variety of colours in an area locally seems to be fully drenched in all colours, providing instant acceptance from customers.

Over 204 killed, 81 injured in elephant attacks

In three years

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: At least 204 people were killed and 81 injured in elephant attacks, while 45 pachyderms died due to various reasons, including electrocution, in Chhattisgarh in the last three years, the state legislative Assembly was informed on Tuesday.

In a reply to a question by BJP MLA Rajneesh Kumar Singh, state Forest and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Akbar said that 72,112

cases of injury and loss of life and damage to crops and properties in elephant attacks were registered in the state from January 1, 2019 to February 1 this year. As many as 204 people have died and 81 sustained injuries in elephant attacks, while 63,603 cases of crop damage, 5,232 of damage to houses and 2,992 of other property damages were reported in the last three years, he said in a written reply.

Over Rs 60.5 crore were paid in compensation in these cases during this period, the minister said,

adding that compensation to the tune of over Rs 1.01 crore was pending in 664 of these cases.

On October 7, the state government notified an area of 1,995.48 sq km (in northern Chhattisgarh) as Lemru elephant reserve. At least 39 coal mines in two coal blocks - Mand Raigarh and Hasdeo Arand - fall within limits of Lemru elephant reserve. Under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the Central government has not permitted mining in any of the mines in the elephant reserve area, the minister said in the reply.

CG witnessing growing patients of Endometriosis

AIIMS-R leads month long awareness programme with State level CME

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh is witnessing a growing number of Endometriosis patients in the last few years. All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been receiving almost 100 female patients per month suffering from Endometriosis. It can lead to excessive menstrual cramps and heavy



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal and Dr. Nilaj Bagde during CME on Endometriosis by AIIMS, Raipur.

menstrual flow and pain. Experts say that timely diagnosis and treatment could be decisive to over-

come the challenge. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at AIIMS,

Raipur is organizing a month long awareness programs to educate women on the issue. A state level CME 'Key Practice Updates on Endometriosis' has been organized by the department to disseminate information on the topic.

In his keynote address Director Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that females generally ignore their health problems due to family related responsibilities. It is other family members' duty to give them much needed support. Prof. Nagarkar said that AIIMS is leading state medical colleges to create awareness

about Endometriosis. 'Timely intervention can save women from pain and other disorders related to Endometriosis. We are focusing more on the research to come out with specific treatment protocols in the state, he said.

Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal elaborated the genetic base of Endometriosis and said that women with Endometriosis are more likely to have infertility or difficulty getting pregnant. 'Patients with Endometriosis have some tissue outside of the uterus mostly affecting women between ages

of 25 to 40. Timely diagnosis and minimal invasive surgery can definitely treat it, she said.

Dr. Nilaj Kumar Bagde said that Obs and Gyne OPD is receiving around 100 patients per month which shows alarming situation in the state. 'Women suffering from Endometriosis develop tissue outside the uterus which can lead to pain and excessive bleeding. All diagnosis and treatment facilities are available at AIIMS for Endometriosis, he said. The CME witnessed impressive numbers of participants around the state in hybrid mode.

Future of the country lies in educational institutions, says Governor

● Appreciated the painting of children on Smart City

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Governor Anusuiya Uikey attended the Education Excellence Award distribution function organized by a media group in Durg on Tuesday. On this occasion, she honored educational institutions for their contribution in various fields. The Governor praised the painting of children on Smart City. She said that I saw your painting on the vision of Smart City. You have made such a beautiful painting and have shown the city of your dreams in such a way that I am sure you guys are the future of the country.

In her address while felicitating educational institutions and children in Twin City, she said that the future of the country lies in educational institutions. The better the work done here, the brighter the future of the country will be. She said that the city which is seen in the imagination of children. How beautiful it is which has



licitating educational institutions and children in Twin City, she said that the future of the country lies in educational institutions. The better the work done here, the brighter the future of the country will be. She said that the city which is seen in the imagination of children. How beautiful it is which has

modern facilities. There is universal harmony. This beautiful hypothesis shows how much potential our children have.

The more responsibility the educational institutions fulfill their duties, the better will be the future of the country. India will have a different identity in the world stage. Such

felicitating ceremony is very useful. This will lead to healthy competition among educational institutions and improve the quality of education.

She said that the honour given to these educational institutions today will give encouragement to them. The Governor said that the new education policy

has been prepared under the guidance of the Prime Minister. It emphasizes on the all round development of the children. Along with studies, children are also prepared for cultural and skill development.

Children gain a better understanding of their environment and move towards saving it. She said that work is being done towards the implementation of the education policy of the year 2020. On this occasion, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, Rajat Moona, Vice Chancellor of CSVTU, Mukesh Verma, IP Mishra of Shankaracharya Group and other dignitaries were present.

The Governor met the heads of educational institutions performing well in the award ceremony and congratulated them and also encouraged the children.

HOLI IN SCHOOL



School children enjoying pre-Holi celebration with school friends as there is holiday on occasion of Holi.

CM releases a book based on the journey of 'Kosa' silk



Raipur, Mar 15: At his office in the Vidhan Sabha premise today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book 'The Incredible Journey of Kosa', edited by senior journalist K.N. Kishore and Dr. Rajendra Mohanty. This book is based on the journey of Kosa silk from the mythical period to the present day, Kosa sarees and dress material. Senior journalist Babul Sharma was also present on the occasion.

This book discusses the mythology behind 'Kosa' silk, its historical origin, literary evidence telling about the arrival and development of silk in India and its arrival in Chhattisgarh as well. Moreover, the book also

consists of a detailed discussion on the traditional process of silk production, thread making and different types of silk fabrics such as sarees, dress material, furnishing etc. Also, this book will give a brief on the handloom Kosa product of Chhattisgarh and will serve as a storehouse of knowledge for the new generations. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel congratulated and extended best wishes to all the people involved in the publication of the book.

Kishore informed that this book is an attempt to document the journey, motifs, colors and weaves of Kosa along with traditional forms of silk weaving and also to preserve the history of Kosa.

CAP increasing confidence of tribals among 219th Corps CRPF

Konta, Mar 15: Civic Action Program and Medical Camp was organized by 219th Corps CRPF on March 15 under the direction of Commandant Nitin Kumar. Under which, keeping in mind the scorching heat, a terracotta water filter was installed for the supply of pure drinking water in village-Injram on the Konta-Sukma main road (National Highway-30). So that people traveling on National Highway and Injram-Bhee road and nearby villagers can get its benefit. Along with this, medicines were distributed by treating common diseases like cold, cough, fever, high blood pressure, body ache, joint pain, chronic wounds/wounds, sore throat and malaria through medical camps for better health of the villagers.

Civic Action Program (CAP) was organized in village-Injram with the



aim of connecting with the main stream of development and making them aware of the importance of government schemes and programs. Through the Civic Action Programme, radio, mosquito nets, solar lamps and other items of daily use were distributed to the villagers of Injram, Gondipara and Asirguda. Along with this, sports material like bat-ball, carom, football, volleyball, badminton set etc. were

given to make children aware of sports and to increase their enthusiasm. During this, people were made aware about the diseases caused by drinking impure water by Rahul R (Senior Medical Officer). Also told that we will all fight together against Covid-19 Corona virus and if anyone has any kind of disease, then he can come at any time for treatment to the hospital located at Injram Headquarters.

'World Consumer Day' observed in all branches of PNB



● Coming under Bilaspur Zone

Bilaspur, Mar 15: Punjab National Bank, zonal and branch office Bilaspur and BDA observed World Consumer Day on March 15, with an objective to provide 'consumer protection and consumer prosperity'. The meeting was attended

by PNB Zonal Head Tapas Kranti Jha, Chief Manager Pratap Singh, Chief Manager Deepraj, Branch Manager Umakant Mehar, Senior Manager Official Language Ashraf Ansari addressed the valuable customers and exchanged their views as well. This programme was organized in all branches of Bilaspur zone.

KPS becomes the State Champion in Fit India Quiz State Finals



Raipur, Mar 15: Krishna Public School (KPS) Kamal Vihar, Dunda again proved its mettle at Fit India State Finals. Ishant Talreja and Manan Sethia, 2 students from KPS achieved the distinction of representing their state at the national level and the only team of Raipur Chhattisgarh in the state finals of Fit India Quiz. In this quiz, 36,299 students from 13,502 schools participated in the preliminary round from all over India. This competition was jointly organized

by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and CBSE. It is a national platform wherein opportunity is provided to the students to showcase their knowledge related to fitness and sports at the school level. In this competition, Ishant Talreja and Manan Sethia, after clearing the preliminary round (which was organized by National Talent Agency), secured their first position in the state semi-final and final round.

Various questions were

asked in this competition which was based on Indian Sports History, Traditional Games, Yoga, Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Khelo India Games and other popular sports. By giving good answers to each question based on these topics, through their talent and intelligence, the students bagged first position in Chhattisgarh State Finals and defeated other teams by a huge margin. The school will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 2.5 Lakhs rupees as prize money and Rs 25000 will be given jointly to both the winners. This competition was held online. Team KPS has been selected for the National Round which will be held in three phases: Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Final.

Delegation of CPROA, CSTEU, SPS pay courtesy call on CM

To express gratitude for the restoration of old pension scheme

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association (CPROA) has thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the announcement to resume implementation of old pension scheme for government employees in Chhattisgarh. The union has called it a historic decision in the interest of state government employees.

The delegation of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association today met Chief Minister Baghel at his office in the assembly premise and thanked him for the decision.

On the occasion, President of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association, Balmukund Tamboli said that this announcement made by Chief Minister



Baghel is a compassionate step of Chhattisgarh Government to ensure that the government employees and their families live a respectable life even after retirement. He said that Chief Minister has always taken decisions in the interest of government employees with empathy and compassion. This is the reason why government employees in the state have their morale high and they are wholeheartedly engaged in the implementation of government schemes and policies. Tamboli further said that

under the old pension scheme, the employees would get a fixed pension amount after retirement and the dependent family would get the benefit of pension. Government employees and officers are overjoyed with this announcement of Chief Minister and now they can work with renewed enthusiasm and dedication. The delegation included the patrons of Chhattisgarh Public Relations Officers Association, J.L. Darjo and Umesh Mishra, along with other officials namely, Munnalal Choudhary, Manrakhan Markam, Nitin Sharma, Zarif Khan, Kamlesh Sahu, Kamalajyoti Zahire, Sachin Sharma, Omprakash Dahria, Bhavani Singh Thakur, and Ravindra Chaudhary.

Similarly a delegation of Chhattisgarh School Teacher Employees Union (CSTEU) and under the leadership of Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai and MLA Ram Kumar Yadav and Chhattisgarh State Police Services (SPS) paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his office in

the Vidhan Sabha premises today. They expressed their gratitude towards Chief Minister for restoration of the old pension scheme for the officers and employees of the state. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel has announced to restore old pension scheme in the state's budget for the year 2022-23.

On this occasion, State President of the Union Sanjay Tiwari, Secretary Prakash Sahu, Tirath Narayan Banjare and members of the Union from Raipur, Bilajigarh, Bhatapara and Baloda-Bazar were also present.

State Police Service (SPS) officers delegation comprised of Kamleshwar Chandel, Mukesh Thakur, Sukhmandan Rathore, Kirtan Rathore, Abhishek Maheshwari, Khoman Sinha, DC Patel, Udayant Behar, Manoj Dhruv and police inspectors including Rajesh Singh, Amit Tiwari and Nilesh Singh were among those present on the occasion.

OBITUARY

Shanti Mishra

Raipur: Shanti Mishra (Tarpongi-Mohadawale), R/o Manana (Battalion) Raipur, breathed her last here on March 14. She was W/o Late Ramesh Mishra and her final rites were performed at Mana crematorium. She was mother of Ashok Mishra.

'Efforts being made not to allow screening of Hindi Film'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: MLA Brijmohan Agrawal raised the issue of the film 'The Kashmir Files' during zero-house in Vidhan Sabha here on Monday. He said that effort is being made not to allow screening of this film in the theatres and it is equivalent to sedition charges. He said that plans are afoot to stop its

screening from talkies in Raipur city and the place where the film is running, the audience is being taken for a ride by flashing boards that it is running Houseful and no tickets are available. He charged that there is conspiracy to avoid audience from watching the film. It will be better if this film can be made tax-free like the way it has been done in MP and Gujarat.

Raipur, Mar 15: In Guru Ghasidas University (Central University), 'The Urchins', a socio-cultural and theatrical group of the Central University performed a street play after the university reopened. This was the team's first performance in the University after a long gap of the Corona period.

The play was staged in front of the Silver Jubilee Auditorium on March 14 at 1 pm. The team returned with the play 'Stree Aur Woh Din' written by renowned play-



wright, Arvind Gaur and which was directed by Urchins. The play presents social issues like toxic masculinity and menstruation, and seeks to dispel the misconceptions associated with these issues.

Team Urchins' teacher coordinator, Dr. Manish Srivastava was present during the entire performance to encourage the team. The play proved to be a success among the audience and it was well received by the audience. University students also gave their positive and

appreciative feedback to the team. The new students seemed excited about the team and the theatre. The performance was directed by student coordinators, Shruti Sharma and Saurabh Yadav.

The members of the performing team in the play were Divya Rani, Tina Rani Sahu, Adarsh Mishra, Pranay Naidu, Lokesh Singh, Shivani Vishwakarma, Akanksha Tirkey, Matraka Sahu, Abhijit Chandra, Prachi Jaiswal and Gaurav Sinha.

Ruling govt filing pockets of 'mafias': Brijmohan

Mungeli, Mar 15:

Former WRD Minister and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal was accorded warm welcome on his arrival in Mungeli by the BJP party workers and later he met the workers at BJP leader Prem Arya's residence.

On this occasion Brijmohan Agrawal informed that prior to going for programme in Lormi, he was welcomed in Mungeli and with past memories he recalled that it is almost 2-3 years that he visited this place. With presence of MLA CJC (J) Dharmjeet Singh, there were speculations that he may join BJP and replying to which Brijmohan said that Dharmjeet Singh is also in Opposition and since both are in the Opposition and therefore they are friends and they jointly grill the ruling government. On asking about present condition of rul-



ing government in state, Brijmohan Agrawal charged that it is the most corrupt of all the government and most unsuccessful and failure on all fronts. From one point of view it is basically a government of mafias, he alleged, adding that there is hardly any place left in Chhattisgarh be it sand mafia, drug mafia, liquor mafia, real-estate mafia, 'paddy' mafia and others which is bereft of involvement by present-day government in the state.

Speaking further Brijmohan said that earlier Chhattisgarh used to be a peaceful state and despite 42% of forest reserve, no mafia prevailed in that region. But now there is mafia existing in almost all the fields in Chhattisgarh, who are prospering with due protection from the state government. Contrary to this the government's coffers are being emptied and it is going more into the pockets of 'well-protected' mafias of the state govern-

ment. Brijmohan charged that the ruling government in the state is only after looting state of its rich resources and is working with the sole one intention on how to make the government's reserves empty. The last BJP government in the state ruled for 15 yrs and at that time the loan amount was just Rs 36000 crore and which in just 3 yrs rule of Congress government has shot upto Rs 51000 crore and the near future it will touch Rs

90000 crore. The state's budget is that of Rs 1.04 lakh crore and on this the annual interest itself will be Rs 10000 crore. This amount is equivalent to the amount of interest waived off to the farmers and the amount being paid under Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana. Paddy was purchased from just 42 lakh farmers in the state, whereas the actual number of farmers in state are 49 lakh and in this way, paddy is being purchased from just 22 lakh farmers and Brijmohan questioned as to where the paddy of other farmers is being sold. If the Mazdoor Nyay Yojana has been started, then leaving 22 lakh labourers, it should be passed onto 27 lakh people, as there are only 22 lakh labourers registered in the state and their Rs 560 cr is into account of the state government, he added.

Dr. ML Rathi award conferred to Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal

Raigarh, Mar 15:

The Provincial Convention of the Medical Council of India, being organized for almost a decade, was organized for the first time in the city. This two-day convention began on March 12 in the presence of the best doctors of four states. For the first time in the convention, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal of AIIMS Raipur was present on the invitation for the speech on the title 'from death to life'.

Dr. Agrawal, who has changed the lives of more than one thousand bone cancer patients, enriched the knowledge of the doctors present about the complex treatment related to bone diseases. Alok Chandra Agrawal was honored with a memento from the stage of IMA. In a special conversation, Ortho specialist Dr. AC Agrawal told that from diet to disorderly routine can also be the

In provincial convention of IMA



reason for bone disease. For the treatment of complex bone diseases and bone cancer, Dr. Agrawal traveled from the metropolis of the country to London and many countries of Europe and humbly learned the art of treatment from specialist

doctors. Expert Dr. Alok Chandra Agrawal is currently the only FAMS degree holder of Chhattisgarh. Earlier this qualification was with Dr. HSD Sharma, a doctor of undivided Madhya Pradesh, who died in 2002. Dr. Aggarwal, a gentleman and a brilliant student by nature, started work on bone treatment with Dr. HKT Raza, an orthodontist from Jabalpur who has been treating serious orthopedic related ailments for nearly 30 years. Describing the IMA convention as a better environment for learning and learning, Dr. Agrawal opined for hospitals to have their own expert panels, so that their availability is maintained round the clock. This experiment is very important in the era of super-speciality, and doctors have to understand that ultimately the patient's interest is paramount, he asserted.

State govt fulfills what it promises: Akbar



Kawardha, Mar 14:

Forest, Transport, Housing and Environment, Law-Legislative Minister and Kawardha MLA Mohammad Akbar here inaugurated the community hall of Marar Patel Samaj during his stay at Sahaspur Lohara in Kabirdham district. For this, Rs.25 lakh from the MLA fund was approved by the Minister. Addressing the gather-

ing Mohammad Akbar said that the promises made by the State Government are fulfilled one by one. Mr. Akbar said that, the state government formulated the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana for the empowerment of the farming community. On providing the amount at the rate of Rs. 9 thousand per acre, the farmers were paid Rs. 2500 per quintal and in the Kharif year 98 lakh metric

tonnes of paddy has been purchased for Rs.25 thousand crores and now paddy will be purchased from farmers at the rate of Rs 2540 per quintal, he said.

On this occasion, Pandaria MLA Mamta Chandrakar, Neelkanth Chandravanshi, Bodla District President Smt. Leela Dhanuk Verma, Manharan Shrivastava, Shakambhari Board members Hari Patel, Sitaram Patel, Ashok Patel, Pardeshi Patel, Ramcharan Patel, Dhus Patel including members of the society, public representatives, and senior citizens were present. The program was addressed by the representatives of Patel Samaj including MLA of Pandaria, Mamta Chandrakar. These included Bhagwan Singh Patel, Hari Singh Patel, Sitaram Patel, Ramkumar Patel, Ramcharan Patel etc.

Couple arrested in Human Trafficking case

Surajpur, Mar 15:

The game of human trafficking continues unabated in the remote Chandni Biharpur area of ??the district, where a 21 year old pregnant woman belonging to the Pando tribe was sold for lakhs of rupees, by a couple belonging to the same village as that of the woman. The woman was allegedly sold to Prem Tawar of Madhya Pradesh for Rs 1.50 lakh by Sagar Singh and Shyama Bai Jaiswal, who on pretext of a good life had entrapped the 21 year old in her plans.

As per information, when the victim girl has a dispute with her husband, she decides to reach out to Jaiswal for help, who in the pretext of helping her took her to Ratan Singh, a native of Moldi village of Khilchipur, Rajgarh district police station of Madhya Pradesh. Thereafter she was sold to

the main accuse Prem Tawar, a resident of the same village. After subjected to rape and torture by Tawar, the victim fled and reached her village.

Meanwhile the victim's husband had filed a missing person case, after the sudden disappearance of his wife, and after two months, the victim somehow reached her house and reported the matter to the local police station.

The Chandni police have registered a crime under 370,376 and arrested husband and wife Sagar Singh-Shyama Bai Jaiswal, resident of Mahuli, while another accused Prem Tawar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, is on the run presently. In the interrogation of the police, many shocking cases have come to the fore and many other women are suspected to have fallen to human trafficking by the couple.

Youths take out massive 'bike-rally'

With demand to make Khairagarh a new district

Khairagarh, Mar 15:

The people in support of making Khairagarh block as district, took out a massive bike-rally which was flagged off by Pensioners Sangh. It is notable here that an indefinite strike to make Khairagarh, Chuikhadan and Gandai as district is going on for last 200 days in Khairagarh city.

In this context the supporters of this demand took out a bike-rally on March 12. The rally passed through main thoroughfares in city and reached Chuikhadan via Piparia, Dimrinakua. Here the rallyist were welcomed and after this they passed through Betalrani Ghat and reach Narmada Chowk via Kumbharvad, Bakarkatta, Rampur, Palimeta and sought support of the people present.



From Narmada Chowk they went to Gandai and then back to Khairagarh via. Daniya, Udaipur and Bazar Ataria.

It is worthwhile to mention here that demand to make Khairagarh a separate district is going on for long and in this campaign a bike rally was taken out and it was supported by 'Adhivakta Sangh', 'Vayapari Sangh'

and common men. During this rally, Narendra Soni, Hemudas Sahu, President Adhivakta Sangh Suresh Bhatta, Kaushal Prasad, Kosare, Ramkumar Jangde, Manoj Choubey, Kishore Soni, Rajkumar Borkar, Raju Yadu, Ramesh Yadu, Hemdas Kosare, Manharan Dewangan, Manesh Banjare and others were present.

Cycles distributed under SCY to 25 girl students



Dhamdha, Mar 15:

Under 'Sarswati Cycle Yojana' at Government HS School Ghotla, cycles were distributed to 25 girl students here on Monday. On this occasion Principal Manoj Kumar Shukla, Sarpanch Balaram Sunhare, Himachal Patel,

Lubhan Singh Patel, Gajanand Nourange, staff of the School Radhekumar Verma, Sarita Verma, Pila Kurre, Dilip Kumar, Kamlesh Tamrakar, Teerath Markande, Vimla Chandel, Hitendra Dheewar were present.

Camp organised to create awareness about corona

By Kashpore Micro-Credit Sansthan in Mainpura

Pandaria, Mar 15:

One-day camp to create awareness about corona was organised by Kaishpore Micro-Credit Sansthan in Mainpura and this awareness was created about corona and were also informed about the benefits to them from vaccination. The camp was inaugurated by TI Pandaria Mukesh Yadav as the chief guest and Dr Pawan Sahu was present as the special guest. TI Yadav created awareness about initial symptoms of corona and about vaccination. Dr Sahu highlighted on how to increase immunity against diseases



through Yoga and eating healthy food. ADO Bilaspur region Vinod Mishra in his address gave information about different programmes of the Company related to health and education for the poor members and gave information about distribution of rebate amount of Rs 26 crore to dedicated 5 lakh poor members of Kaishpore. Mishra in his

address gave information about the poor members facing the problems of huge debts/loans. At the same time, the needy were distributed masks, sanitizer, soaps and corona kits at the hands of the Chief Guest. In this programme branch Manager Saurabh Tiwari, SC Lokesh Tiwari, and Ambika, Brijesh, Sant Kumar and other employees were present.

Speaker lays stone for water tank, pipeline work

In Gram Khamtarai under Dilippur Gram Panchayat

Khairagarh, Mar 15:

Under 'Jal Jeewan Mission' (JJM) in Gram Khamtarai dependent upon Gram Panchayat Dilippur, stone was laid by District Panchayat 'sahbapati' - Ghamman Sahu for construction of an overhead tank and expansion of pipeline at the cost of Rs 62.23 lakh.

It was in the presence of villager, Ghamman Sahu performed prayers and made the beginning for start of development work. Speaking on the occasion Sahu said that it is under PM Jal-Jeewan Mission that a mission has been launched by the PM Narendra Modi to ensure that water



reaches every household. Under the 'Amrut Yojana', the work that of construction of water tank and expansion of pipeline is being done.

He expressed gratitude on behalf of the villagers towards PM Narendra Modi, former CM Dr Raman Singh, LS MP Santosh Pandey and said that what all development that is being carried out in the village is through funds from the central government. He charged

that the state government is last three year's of its governance is least bothered about development and only playing politics of rivalry. On this occasion Janpad rep and Yuwa Morcha V-P Raju Verma, Mandal secy. Gorelal Verma, Suresh Verma, Ubbheran Verma, Vishnu Janghel, Ramesh Verma, Sanjay Verma, Manish Verma, Ratiram and Shiv Prasad Yadav and other villagers were present.

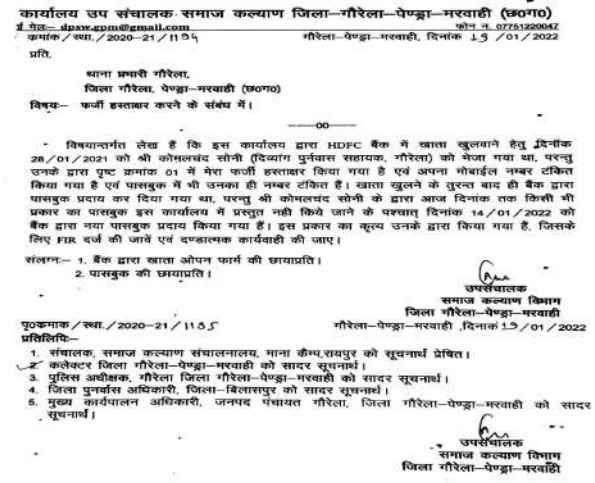
Cases of fake signatures, order on rise in region

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 15:

The news about fake orders for Holi celebrations from March 17-18 is in the air through social media these days. Right after formation of district, cases related to fake signatures has been highlighted and on this no action has been taken by the District or Police administration and therefore such cases is on the rise. There are reports of fake signatures in Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi district, but so far district administration has not taken any firm action and due to which many cases have come forward in government department, Gram Panchayats. One of the re-

Lack of action boosting morale of such persons

cent case was that of fake recruitment in the Project office and in this through fake signatures the accused were misleading people about appointment in the Project office. In this way about two months back, fake signature of Asst. Director in social welfare department was done by Komal Soni-Rehabilitation Assistant. In this even after signature by Asst. Director, Komal Soni forged his signature and put his mobile number near it and in this also no action was taken.



Copy of written complaint by deptt office in Thana.

Apart from this a bigger forgery than this was done by Komal Soni remaining in the post of Asst. Director and got all his brothers viz. Kailash, Kapoor Soni and nephew Sagar Soni recruited in

the Social Welfare Department Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi.

So with no firm action in such cases, the incidents of fake signature and forgery and fake recruitments are on the rise in the district and so far no concrete step has been taken to put a check on the same. In such a case, Komal Soni and his brother Kapoor Soni are employed in two posts in the Social Welfare Department and in this one of the post is that of 'Divyan Mitan' and other that of watchman. Getting work done by so many persons from one family raises many eyebrows and so far in this case no action has been taken.

One arrested on charges of molestation

Refused to marry the girl even after promise

Khairagarh, Mar 15:

On charges of molestation with a girl after promising her with marriage, the Jalbandha Police has arrested the accused and sent him to jail. As per information in this regard, a girl reached Jalbandha Chowki to file a complaint on March 12, that one Dharmendra Verma of the village, S/o Tipu Ram Verma (23), became friend

with her about 2 yrs back and on March 6 Dharmendra called her to his home and assured her of getting married. With this promise he reportedly outraged her modesty for five days and later when the girl asked him to get married, he turned down the same. It was based upon report by the girl, the Police arrested the accused Dharmendra Verma filing a case under section 376 (2) (N) and produced him in the court, from where he was sent to jail.

GENERAL NOTICE

I on behalf of my client Mrs. Jayanti Thakur, W/o Kamlesh Singh Thakur, R/o Tilek Nagar, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur, (C.G.) is hereby getting this general notice published as per their instructions

- That my client entered into a confirm deal and an agreement for purchase of land from land owner Ashinwad Dubey S/o Shyam Kishore Dubey, for his land in Gram Ameri, on Ph. H. No. 43, Revenue Board and Tehsil Sakri on Kh. No. 34/9, having total land area of 2400 sq. ft.
- In the agreement it was decided to prepare all necessary documents and execute the registry at the earliest.
- The location of the plot is plot of Choudahi in North, that of Bina Dubey in South and Vinod Singh in East and 'nistari rasta' is in the West.
- So for the above piece of land and for the above agreement, if any individual, bank or any government or semi-government institution is having any objections, they can submit the same in writing to me within 7 days of publication of this notice.
- That after this period, no claims or objections would be entertained and stand null and void.

Place: Bilaspur
Advocate
Vishnu Kant Gupta
Kapil Nagar, Sarkanda
Bilaspur (C.G.)
Mo. 7583005180, 9770779455

BRIEF

Overshot

■ **Faridabad:** A reversing goods train overshot the dead end of its track and rammmed into its stopper and a wall beyond it in Old Faridabad railway station, damaging a couple of vehicles in the parking lot across the wall, an official said. A railwayman standing behind the train to guide its reversal miraculously escaped unhurt in the incident which occurred. Station superintendent AK Goyal said. It was meant to unload consignment, he said.

Held

■ **Srinagar:** Security forces arrested a militant belonging to the Jaish e Mohammad outfit in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. During surprise checking by security forces, movement of a suspicious person was noticed and he was apprehended. He was identified as Abrar Bashir, a resident of Takia Pulwama. Incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a magazine, grenade were seized from him.

Convicts

■ **Kolkata:** The TMC government in Bengal has in the last 11 years released 574 life convicts who had served over 14 years in correctional home "after a meticulous background check". Of the 574 convicts, 541 are male and 33 female. The government, under the recommendation of state sentence review board (SSRB), West Bengal, has, from time to time, taken a decision to prematurely release life-convicts from correctional homes.

Held

■ **Berhampur:** Nine people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the post-poll violence in Odisha's Ganjam district. There has, however, been no breakthrough yet in the violence at Kendupadar in Gangapur, in which an elected ward member was killed and four others were injured. There was clash between BJD and BJP supporters at Hinjalakuda in Ganjam district in which eight people were injured, five of them seriously.

Charas

■ **Maharajganj:** Two people were arrested with 20.5 kg charas worth Rs 2.1 crore in Maharajganj district, police here said. Bechu (28) and Sanjeev Kumar (26), both from Maharajganj, were arrested near Baba Mandir area of Shyamdeurwa, Superintendent of Police Pradeep Kumar Gupta said. One member of the gang managed to escape and a hunt is on to nab him, Gupta said.

Notice

■ **Indore:** Taking cognizance of some police personnel brutally beating a naked man in Indore, the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission served a notice to police seeking an explanation. MPHRC chairman Justice Narendra Jain has sought a reply from the police commissioner in ten days, an official of the commission said.

Amid heat wave, Mumbai civic body asks citizens to stay hydrated

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

In the wake of severe heat wave conditions in Mumbai and neighbouring districts, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has appealed to citizens to stay safe and hydrated and avoid going out in the afternoon.

A person suffering from a heat stroke should immediately be taken to hospital, it said, and asked people to increase the intake of water and other healthy fluids.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'orange alert' (severe heat wave conditions in some parts) for Tuesday and a 'yellow alert' (heat wave conditions in isolated parts) for Wednesday.

It has predicted that the



People walk under scorching Sun in Mumbai on Tuesday.

maximum temperature in Mumbai will be around 40 degrees Celsius over the next two days.

On Monday, suburban Santacruz recorded the maximum temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius, as per the MeT department.

In view of the IMD's warning, the Mumbai civic body took to Twitter

to inform citizens about the do's and don'ts and asked them to "stay hydrated and safe".

To minimise the impact during the heat wave and to prevent a serious ailment or death because of the heat stroke, the BMC also asked people to avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12 noon

and 3 pm.

It suggested people to carry water while going out in the afternoon.

"Drink sufficient water and as often as possible, even if not thirsty," the BMC said and asked people to avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high.

It also asked citizens to avoid tea, coffee, soft drinks, high-protein and stale food, and suggested that people use a hat or an umbrella and also use a damp cloth on head, neck, face and limbs if they work outdoors.

The BMC also asked people to take ORS (oral rehydration salts) and homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water and buttermilk which help to re-hydrate the body. Use fans and take bath in cold water frequently, it said.

Maha Council adjourned for the day after din

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Maharashtra Legislative Council was adjourned for the day on Tuesday after an uproar over the issue of an FIR against Leader of Opposition in the Upper House Pravin Darekar.

The Mumbai police on Monday registered the FIR against BJP MLC Darekar for allegedly using bogus membership of a labour organisation to become director of the Mumbai Bank, following a complaint by an Aam Aadmi Party functionary.

On Tuesday, BJP members shouted slogans in the Council against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress) gov-

ernment.

BJP MLC Bhai Girkar said, "The FIR against Darekar is an attempt to muzzle the voice of the opposition. The MVA government has taken action against him because it is being cornered for its own wrong doings and various scandals that the BJP is exposing."

Amid the din in the Council, Chairman Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar adjourned the House for 25 minutes.

After the House proceedings resumed, the opposition continued its objection against the FIR and shouted slogans against the state government.

The council chairman later adjourned the House for the day.

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday demanded a court-monitored CBI probe into the killing of party councillor Tapan Kandu and the mysterious death of student activist Anis Khan in West Bengal.

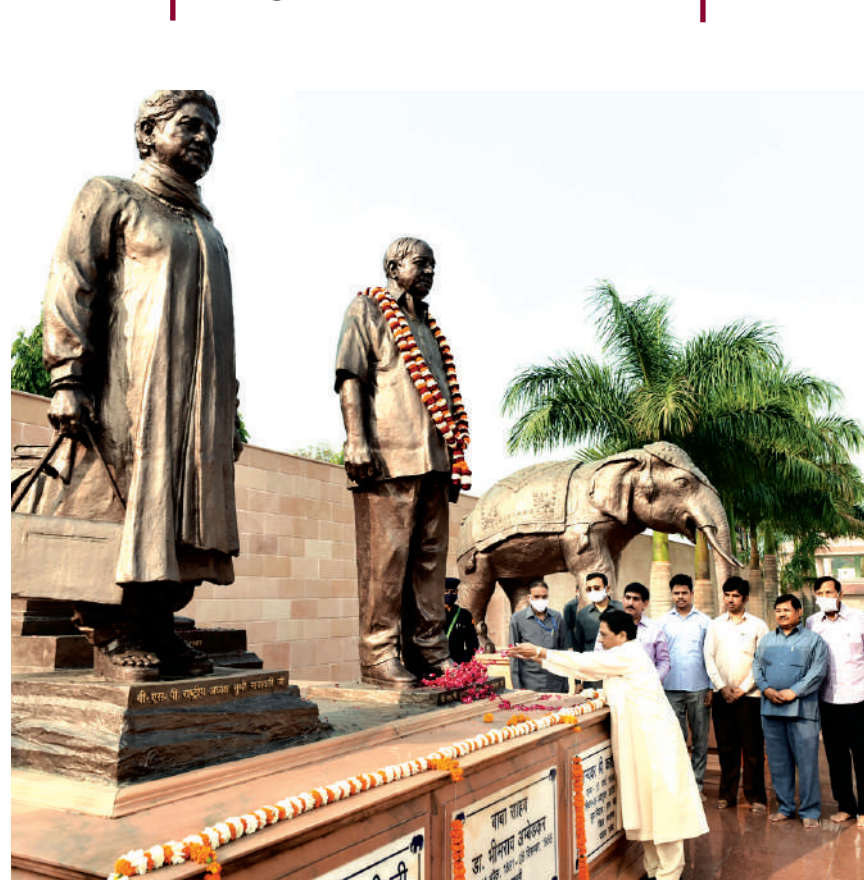
A four-time Congress councillor of Jhalda Municipality in West Bengal's Purulia district, Kandu was shot dead on Sunday. Raising the issues during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Chowdhury alleged the Trinamool Congress, the ruling party in West Bengal, was involved in the murder of Kandu in collusion with a section of the police. About the death of



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

18-year old Khan last month, Chowdhury, who is also the state Congress chief, claimed that elections can no longer be held independently in the state amid the prevailing "lawlessness". "I demand a court-monitored CBI inquiry into the murder of Kandu and Khan. I urge the Human

KANSHI RAM REMEMBERED



BSP supremo Mayawati pays a floral tribute to party founder Kanshi Ram on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the party office, in Lucknow, Tuesday.

'Demand CBI probe into WB councillor murder'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday demanded a court-monitored CBI probe into the killing of party councillor Tapan Kandu and the mysterious death of student activist Anis Khan in West Bengal. A four-time Congress councillor of Jhalda Municipality in West Bengal's Purulia district, Kandu was shot dead on Sunday. Raising the issues during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Chowdhury alleged the Trinamool Congress, the ruling party in West Bengal, was involved in the murder of Kandu in collusion with a section of the police. About the death of

Rights Commission, Scheduled Caste Commission and the Minorities Commission that they also demand such an inquiry," Chowdhury said.

Anis Khan's family members have alleged that he was pushed off the second floor of their residence at Amta in Howrah district on the night of February 18 by four people with one donning a police uniform and the others wearing the dress of civic volunteers. Meanwhile, Two more people were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the murder of TMC councillor Anupam Dutta, taking the total number of apprehensions in the case to three, police said.

6,411 candidates in fray for Odisha urban polls

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15 (PTI):

As many as 6,411 candidates remain in the fray for the elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha scheduled on March 24 after 641 people withdrew their nominations on the last date of the process, the State Election Commission (SEC) said.

The polling for 109 civic bodies, including three municipal corporations, is scheduled to be held on March 24. After the withdrawal of nomination papers, 569 candidates are vying for the post of either chairperson or mayor, while 5,842 nominees are seeking election for the post of either councillor or corporator, the SEC said. As many as 102 candi-

dates withdrew their nominations filed for the post of either chairperson or mayor, while 539 people opted out of the elections for the post of either councillor or corporator, the SEC said. The SEC has asked the district magistrates cum collectors to ensure that the ongoing campaigning for the urban polls ends at 5 PM on March 22, 48 hours before the polling. As per rules, no person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting in any polling area during the period of 48 hours before voting. SEC Secretary R N Sahu, in a letter to all district collectors, said that public meetings and campaigning in any mode should be positively stopped at 5 PM on March 22.

Action plan to ensure preservation of indigenous, tribal faiths

Guwahati, Mar 15 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that his government's newly created department for indigenous faith would create an action plan to ensure the preservation and promotion of faith and culture of anthropologically indigenous and tribal communities.

Assam is a microcosm of a bigger region where people belonging to different indigenous and tribal faith and culture have resided since ages, a manifestation of different factors, the younger generations seem to be losing touch with the ancient faith and practices due to several factors, the chief minister said during his interaction with representatives of 30 tribal communities here. Considering the importance of ancient



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma meets with tribal communities representatives in Guwahati.

wisdom of the indigenous tribal faith and culture, my government has taken the decision to create a department to work for the promotion of faith and culture of anthropologically indigenous and tribal communities, Sarma said. "The department would create an

action plan for the state government to enrich the state's demography and will essentially undertake deep research to help the younger generation to imbibe the virtues of ancient faith and culture", the chief minister said. He asked the representatives to register

their organizations with the department to enable the government to provide institutional support to the organizations that have been engaged in the preservation and promotion of indigenous and tribal faith and culture. The tribal communities that are still preserving and practising their ancient religion, faith and culture can also apply for government support through a portal, Sarma added. The government will initiate adequate steps for studies on these subjects by the younger generation so that the society at large gets benefited, he said. The state government was also planning to hold a mega exhibition encapsulating in miniature the characteristics, creations, art and culture of indigenous and tribal faith to create more patronage for them, Sarma added.

Wildfires burn down several hectares of land in Kerala

Wayanad, Mar 15 (PTI):

Several acres of high range areas of Palakkad and Wayanad districts in Kerala were burnt down in wildfires, which occurred a few days ago, before forest officials managed to douse them. High range areas of Wayanad in Palakkad and Vellamunda in Wayanad were affected by wildfires which occurred on Saturday and Sunday respectively, forest officials said and added that similar incidents were reported earlier in the month also in these two districts.

Wayanad North DFO, Darshan Gattani IFS, speaking to PTI, said the recent wildfire occurred in the grassland areas of the for-



Wildfires in Kerala.

est region of the district. He said that while the actual reason for the fire has to be determined, the extreme heat, rising temperatures, wind conditions and hilly terrain were contributing factors. Besides the recent wildfire incident, others were also reported earlier in the month from various parts of the district like

Kalpetta, Banasura dam area and Pericherimala, he said and added that in all these places the fire was contained in less than 12 hours. Palakkad DFO, Srinivas Kurra IFS, told PTI that the wildfire in the Wayanad area of the district occurred on Saturday and could be doused only by Tuesday morning.

Girish Chodankar resigns as Goa Congress chief

● After party's poor show in Assembly polls

Panaji, Mar 15 (PTI):

Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar has resigned from the post, taking moral responsibility for his party's poor performance in the recently concluded state Assembly elections.

All India Congress Committee's Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao told PTI on Tuesday that Chodankar has sent his resignation to the AICC.

Chodankar was at the helm of affairs of the Congress during the recent elections held for the 40-member Goa Assembly.

The Congress managed to win 11 seats and its ally Goa Forward Party secured one seat, while the



Girish Chodankar

BJP emerged as the single largest party by bagging 20 seats.

After the poll results were declared last Thursday, Chodankar had offered to quit while accepting moral responsibility for his party's poor show. Sources in the Congress said Chodankar's resignation will be accepted and a new face will replace him.

Leaders like Sankalp Amonkar, Aleixo Sequeira and Elvis Gomes are front-runners for the post, they said.

Amonkar and Sequeira won the recent Assembly polls, while Gomes, a former bureaucrat, lost the election from Panaji Assembly seat.

The sources also did not rule out the possibility of the Congress considering senior leader Digambar Kamat, who won the poll Margao Assembly seat, for the top party post in the coastal state. In the 2017 Goa Assembly polls, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 seats, but it failed to form government. The BJP, which had then bagged 13 seats, came to power with the support of some regional parties and independents.

Oppn ruckus over 'insult' of speaker by Nitish

● Nitish Kumar Bihar CM since 2005

Patna, Mar 15 (PTI):

The alleged insult of Bihar assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar paralysed the House where ruckus created by the opposition over the issue forced repeated adjournments of the proceedings on Tuesday.

Strangely, both Sinha and Kumar chose not to attend the House which was in turmoil over the showdown between the two on the previous day. While the speaker remained seated inside his chamber, meeting MLAs who dropped in out of cu-



RJD legislators wear a black ribbon in protest against the Bihar government during the ongoing Budget session of the state Assembly, in Patna, Tuesday.

riosity, the chief minister was away in Maner Sharif, a Sufi shrine on the outskirts of the state capital, where he ducked queries from journalists about the stalemate with a cryptic smile

and a wave. MLAs of the RJD, the principal opposition party, had come to the House wearing black badges as a mark of protest against what they saw as a slight in-

flicted on the Chair by the head of the government.

They were further provoked upon seeing senior BJP leader Prem Kumar in the Chair, when the House first assembled at 11 AM, and after being adjourned till 2 PM met for the post-lunch session. Opposition members trooped into the well, shouting slogans like "Nitish Kumar Murdabad" and "Nitish Kumar Hosh Mein Aao", forcing the adjournment of proceedings till 4.50 PM. Earlier, in the pre-lunch session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary sought to defend the chief minister, who "acknowledges the importance of the Chair".

BRIEF

Expels

Bratislava: Slovakia's Foreign Ministry says it has decided to expel three Russian diplomats following its assessment of information from the country's intelligence services. The ministry said the decision was made and the diplomats based at Russian embassy in the capital of Bratislava have 72 hours to leave the country. The ministry said it urged Russian embassy to make sure the activities of their diplomats were in line with convention.

Freezes

Beirut: A Lebanese judge froze the assets of five of Lebanon's largest banks and those of their board of directors as she investigates possible transfers of billions of dollars aboard during the country's economic meltdown. Decision by Judge Ghada Aoun with Mount Lebanon district court covers real estate, vehicles and shares that the five banks or their directors own in other companies. Move came days after travel bans were imposed.

Airlifts

London: The UK government has airlifted 21 Ukrainian children from the conflict zone with Russia for life-saving cancer treatment by experts at different hospitals across England. The 21 children and their immediate family members arrived in England from Poland and will be assessed by National Health Service (NHS) doctors to understand their health needs before being sent to NHS hospitals free of charge to continue care.

Ukraine war may lead to rethinking of US defence of Europe

Washington, Mar 15 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine and his push to upend the broader security order in Europe may lead to a historic shift in American thinking about defence of the continent. Depending on how far Putin goes, this could mean a buildup of US military power in Europe not seen since the Cold War. The prospect of a bigger US military footprint in Europe is a remarkable turnaround from just two years ago. In 2020, President Donald Trump ordered thousands of American troops out of Germany as part of his argument that Europeans were undeserving allies. Just days after taking office, President Joe Biden stopped the withdrawal before it could start, and his administration has stressed NATO's importance even as Biden identifies China as the main long-term threat to US security.



An old so called 'raisin bomber' airplane from WW II is seen at the airlift memorial at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany.

Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine. 'We are in a new era of sustained confrontation with Russia,' says Alexander Vershbow, a former US ambassador to Russia and former deputy secretary-general of NATO. He argues that the United States, in cooperation with NATO allies, will need to establish a more muscular stance to deal with a more threatening Russia. That is especially so in Eastern Europe, where Russia's proximity poses a problem for the three Baltic nations that are former Soviet states. defence Secretary Lloyd Austin was flying to Europe on Tuesday for his second round of Ukraine consultations at NATO headquarters in Brussels. He also will travel to two Eastern European NATO countries Slovakia, which borders Ukraine, and Bulgaria, which does not. After a NATO meeting last month, Austin visited two other allies on the eastern flank, Poland and Lithuania. In just the past two months, the US presence in Europe has jumped from about 80,000 troops to about 100,000, which is nearly as many as were there in 1997 when the United States and its NATO allies began an expansion of the alliance that Putin says threatens Russia and must be reversed. By comparison, in 1991, the year the Soviet Union dissolved, the United States had 305,000 troops in Europe, including 224,000 in Germany alone, according to Pentagon records. The number then dropped steadily, reaching 101,000 in 2005 and about 64,000 as recently as 2020.

COVID-19 cases more than double in China



An official in front of a barrier blocking off a street in Shanghai on Tuesday.

Beijing, Mar 15 (AP):

China's new COVID-19 cases Tuesday more than doubled from the previous day as the country faces by far its biggest outbreak since the early days of the pandemic. The National Health Commission said 3,507 new locally spread cases had been identified in the latest 24-hour period, up from 1,337 a day earlier. A fast-spreading variant known as 'stealth omicron' is testing China's zero-tolerance strategy, which had kept the virus at bay since the deadly initial outbreak in the city of Wuhan in early 2020. China has recorded more than 10,000 cases in the first two weeks of March, far exceeding previous flare-ups. No new deaths have been reported.

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in the multiple outbreaks across China, and the case count remains low compared to many other places in the world. The UK recorded more than 444,000 cases in the past week. Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous city that tracks its outbreak separately from the mainland, reported 26,908 new cases. Nearly three-fourths of China's new infections were in Jilin, a province in the northeast that reported 2,601 cases. Smaller outbreaks have hit more than a dozen provinces and major cities including Beijing and Shanghai.

Jilin has barred residents from leaving the province and from traveling between cities within it. The 9 million residents of Changchun, the provincial capital and an auto manufacturing hub, have been locked down since Friday as authorities conduct repeated rounds of mass testing both there and in the city of Jilin.

Army attacks in eastern Myanmar worst in decades

More than 1,670 civilians have been killed

Bangkok, Mar 15 (AP):

While Russia's war in Ukraine dominates global attention, Myanmar's military is targeting civilians in air and ground attacks on a scale unmatched in the country since World War II, according to a longtime relief worker who spent almost three months in a combat zone in the Southeast Asian nation.

David Eubank, director of the Free Burma Rangers, a humanitarian relief organization, told The Associated Press that the military's jets



Black smoke arises from burning buildings in Waraisuplia village in Kayah State.

and helicopters stage frequent attacks in the areas of eastern Myanmar where he and his volunteers operate, bringing medical and food aid to civilians caught in conflict. Ground forces are also firing artillery indiscriminately, he said causing

Peru's congress votes to debate Prez impeachment

Lima, Mar 15 (AFP):

Peru's opposition-dominated congress voted in favor of a motion to debate whether or not to impeach leftist President Pedro Castillo. It is already the second time Castillo, a former rural school teacher, has faced such a vote in just seven months in office.

Similar moves resulted in former presidents Pablo Kuczynski (in 2018) and Martin Vizcarra (2020) leaving office. "The motion (to debate) was admitted," said Congress president Maria del Carmen Alva, an opposition legislator. The motion was passed by 76 votes for, with 41 against and one abstention.

The debate could take place as early as Friday.

In December, Congress voted against opening an impeachment process. The latest motion was presented by 50 legislators from right wing parties Popular Renovation, Country Advances and Popular Force, with support from other groups.

The opposition accuses Castillo of "moral incapacity" but will have a hard job securing the 87 out of 130 votes needed to remove him from office. "The president must immediately explain to the country his repeated misconduct," said conservative legislator Jorge Montoya, a retired general.

US working towards global coalition far beyond G7, NATO

Washington, Mar 15 (PTD):

The Biden administration is working to build a global coalition far beyond G7 and NATO partners,

the White House has said. Some of the biggest countries like China, India, Brazil and Mexico are not part of America's economic warfare against Russia, but that does not undermine the efforts of the Biden administration against Moscow, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

"Not just China, but some of the biggest countries in the world like India or Brazil, some countries in Latin America like Mexico, they are not part of this economic warfare against Russia."

South Korea's next Prez to face North Korea threat

Seoul, Mar 15 (AP):

After winning a bitterly contested presidential election, South Korean conservative Yoon Suk Yeol will enter office facing a quickly growing North Korean nuclear threat and with few easy choices ahead to deal with it. A former prosecutor with no foreign policy experience who kick-started his political career nine months ago, Yoon will face a turbulent moment in global affairs and the decades-old standoff with the North, over which many experts see Seoul as having lost leverage under



Yoon Suk Yeol

the policies of outgoing President Moon Jae-in. It appears Yoon will be tested quickly, possibly even before he starts his presidency in May. North Korea often attempts to rattle new

administrations in Washington or Seoul with major weapons demonstrations and has been signaling a resumption of long-range missile testing this year.

Yoon, who narrowly beat out a liberal ruling party rival in last week's election, has rejected pursuing 'talks for talks' sake and vowed to be sterner with Pyongyang, as the North's accelerating weapons tests in 2022 show a renewed strategy of brinkmanship to pressure Washington and Seoul into giving it badly needed relief from economic sanctions.

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 नि.मी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 नि.मी व्यास के कनोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मि.मी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6&10 kg/cm², स्पेशल सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टेस्टिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत मॉडल अनुसार।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./ दिनांक/ सिस्टम नम्बर	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (राशि रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि (राशि रु. में)
1	206/18.01.2022 94097	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहार, ग्राम अकिरा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 113 नग	79.92	60000/-
2	254/30.01.2022 94100	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम मलमण्डा एवं जामटोली के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 65 नग	50.73	38050/-
3	274/01.02.2022 94102	विकासखण्ड पल्लगांव के ग्राम पाकरगांव के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 266 नग	183.71	137800/-
4	276/01.02.2022 94103	विकासखण्ड कुनकुरी के ग्राम धंभीडांड एवं रमते के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 217 नग	147.13	110350/-
5	278/01.02.2022 94104	विकासखण्ड दुलदुला के ग्राम बंमुरकेला एवं सांपघारा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 154 नग	87.88	65950/-
6	283/01.02.2022 94111	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम बरटोली, जकबा एवं गुर के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 134 नग	91.77	68850/-
7	286/01.02.2022 94123	विकासखण्ड जशपुर के ग्राम सरडीह एवं सारुडीह के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 159 नग	52.88	39700/-
8	293/02.02.2022 94804	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम ओडका के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 298 नग	179.37	134550/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 25.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-68694/1

Iran says several held in nuclear facility sabotage plot

Tehran, Mar 15 (AP): Iranian state television has reported that the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard arrested members of a network working for Israel that planned to sabotage Iran's major underground nuclear facility at Fordo. The TV claimed that the Zionist regime a Tehran reference meaning Israel has for years been trying to hit Fordo, a top nuclear facility in the country, but without success. The report did not say how many suspects were arrested, what their nationalities were or when and where the arrests supposedly took place. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Iran has recently stopped the International Atomic Energy Agency from accessing its surveillance camera footage and has resumed enrichment of uranium at Fordo as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers fell apart and talks of returning to the deal paused.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, MAHASAMUND
DISTRICT - MAHASAMUND (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call)

System Tender No. 94919 / NIT No.: 21/SAC/2021-22
Mahasamund Dated: 11.03.2022
Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 04.04.2022 at 17.30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : REMODLING & CC LINING OF MAIN CANAL RD RD 450 TO 1290 M, RD 1350 TO 1440 M & RD 1560 TO 1650M OF KARAGULA TANK IN BLOCK BAGBAHARA OF MAHASAMUND DISTRICT. (UNDER D.M.F. FUND)

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs.25.38 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.03.2022, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
MAHASAMUND (C.G.)

G-68682/2

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (S&P-Gen) 5th Floor, Viduyat Sewa Bhawan, Danganiya, Raipur - Pin 492013
Phone : 0771-2574451/61 Fax : 0771-2574458; e-mail : cesnp.cspgcl@cspec.co.in web site : www.cspec.co.in

No. 03-03/ TN- 442-22/4607
Raipur, Dtd. 14/ 03/2022

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN- 442 /22

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from Experienced & reputed contractors for Supply/ work as mentioned below:-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification	Description	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Due date & time for bid submission
1.	EW- 548 [Rfx. no. 8100024815] (With RLA)	Daily cleaning of New crusher house (VGFs, RGS & RBFs), CHP-INT. at 1x500 MW Extn. HTPS, Korba (West).	17,000/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	04.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
2.	EW-549 [Rfx. no. 8100024816] (With RLA)	Day to day Preventive, General & Breakdown maintenance, of DM plant and Water system at 1x500 MW Extn. HTPS, Korba (West).	24,600/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	05.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
3.	HW-550 [Rfx. no. 8100024818] (Without RLA)	Deployment of labour to assist maintenance work of EMD-II of PH-II, HTPS, Korba (West) for a period of 24 months	23,500/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	04.04.2022 15:00 Hrs
4.	HW-551 [Rfx. no. 8100024819] (With RLA)	AOH of Mills & its components of 2x210 MW BHEL make Boilers of U # 1 & 2 of HTPS, Korba (West).	46,500/-	885/- (750/- + GST @ 18%)	05.04.2022 15:00 Hrs

The details of NIT can be viewed from our website www.cspec.co.in. The Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded online from our e-bidding portal: - <https://ebidding.cspec.co.in:50724/irj/portal> Any amendment/ corrigendum, including bid submission & opening date, if required, will be displayed on our website only.

Chief Engineer (S&P: Gen)
CSPGCL: Raipur

"SAVE ELECTRICITY" S-31803/1

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
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davp 48124/12/0010/2122

कार्यालय - कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड - जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का नाम :- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अन्तर्गत 63 से 75 नि.मी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 नि.मी व्यास के कनोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मि.मी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6&10 kg/cm², स्पेशल सहित प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इन्टरकनेक्शन टेस्टिंग क्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह ट्रायल रन सहित स्वीकृत मॉडल अनुसार।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./ दिनांक/ सिस्टम नम्बर	योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (राशि रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि (राशि रु. में)
1	629/07.03.2022 94084	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम कोटानपानी एवं लपई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 114 नग	64.47	48400/-
2	630/07.03.2022 94086	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम नकदीमुण्डा, पातरतोरा, खुटेरा एवं सुजीबहार के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 134 नग	110.39	82800/-
3	631/07.03.2022 94088	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल के ग्राम रेवडा के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 130 नग	76.56	57450/-
4	632/07.03.2022 94089	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम पिरई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 109 नग	79.92	59950/-
5	633/07.03.2022 94091	विकासखण्ड बगीचा के ग्राम पिरई के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 123 नग	79.72	59800/-
6	634/07.03.2022 94036	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहार के ग्राम बोकी एवं डूमरिया के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना FHTC 85 नग	46.65	35000/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 24.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-68692/1



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Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 344

Inspiring scientific collaboration

The Centre said that the campaign will include children in the age group of 12-14 years and that the country's second indigenous vaccine, Corbevax, will be rolled out for the new group. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had granted emergency use authorisation to Corbevax, for use on children between ages of 12-18. This is the second vaccine to be approved for use in the 12-18 age category. Zydus Cadila's three-dose COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D was the first jab to get approval from the DCGI for use on all individuals above the age of 12. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has been used to inoculate teenagers in the 15-18 years category from January onward. Serum Institute of India (SII) has sought EUA from India's drug regulator for its COVID-19 vaccine Covovax for ages 12 to 17 group. Corbevax will inspire more scientific collaborations without intellectual property rights like patents and open source technology for humanity. The story of Corbevax is inspiring for international scientific cooperation. Two years ago, when a pair of Houston scientists first began crafting a cheap, easy-to-make COVID-19 vaccine, they had a tough time finding support for it at home in the US, a country that rewards expensive, flashy new tech. But the team at the Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine, led by Dr Maria Elena Bottazzi and Peter Hotez, worked on their patent-free vaccine with donated money in relative obscurity, failing to garner much outside interest. Then one thing finally broke through and spoke to the people who had been overlooking their open-source approach to the vaccine known by its first producer as Corbevax. It came without strings or a secret formula, making it a true humanitarian pursuit that could finally reach the unvaccinated corners of the developing world. Bottazzi and Hotez, both pioneers in the field of immunology, run Baylor's National School of Tropical Medicine and have been developing coronavirus vaccines for more than a decade, including formulas for the SARS and MERS viruses. Their vaccine uses the same recombinant protein technology already used for decades in the hepatitis B vaccine, a common childhood shot. The vaccine technology has no intellectual property rights attached to it. That means the building blocks of the vaccine can be had for the price of a phone call. Once produced, the vaccine can be sold to governments for far less than any other vaccine currently on the market. Much of the praise for Corbevax and its Texas inventors seems to be their willingness and that of Biological E and the investors to forgo a large profit in favour of the more altruistic goal of better access and distribution of the vaccine. Bottazzi and Hotez were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for practicing what Hotez calls 'Texas vaccine diplomacy,' by creating a path for the entire world to be inoculated. Earlier in the week, members of America's influential Congressional Hispanic Caucus have urged US President Joe Biden to champion vaccine collaboration with India to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to Biden, Texas delegation members and other members (Hispanic areas), requested the administration to lead distribution of low-cost vaccines to low-income nations with low vaccination rates to save millions of lives and bring an end to the worldwide pandemic. The lawmakers urged the President to use the two vaccines which are a result of India-US collaborations for the global good and to end vaccine inequity through Corbevax and Covovax. While the Corbevax vaccine is patent-free, another vaccine, developed by American biotechnology company Novavax, is in production in India and its export is planned to the COVAX facility.

Comparing hijab debates

The Karnataka High Court pronounced its judgment in the hijab case. The court has upheld the government's order and dismissed petitions challenging the ban on hijab in educational institutes. The petitioners for hijab plan to move the Supreme Court after reading the full high court order. Wearing of hijab is not a part of Essential Religious Practice in Islamic faith and thus, is not protected under Article 25 of the Constitution, the Karnataka High Court has held. An important question before the Court in this case was whether wearing of hijab is part of essential religious practise of Islam and whether State interference in such matters is warranted. The court was also called to consider whether wearing of hijab partakes the character of right to expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and whether restriction can be levied only under Article 19(2). Internationally, particularly in Europe, the hijab is often in controversy as personal attire, not just school or work uniform. The debate over hijab in Europe is even more extreme than in India. The latest controversy over the hijab erupted in October last year. Ironically, the trigger was an anti-discrimination video campaign launched by the Council of Europe. The video caused an uproar in France. The French minister Sarah El Hairy, spoke out forcefully against the video and claimed credit for the Council's decision to withdraw it from circulation. Right-wing politicians such as Marine le Pen and Michel Barnier and prominent television pundits added their voices to the criticism of the campaign. France is not the only European country that restricts the hijab. The inflow of Muslim immigrants to Europe and the threat of violent Islamist groups have made Muslim minorities a target of hostility and discrimination, and the hijab has become a visual symbol of these tensions. Of the 27 EU member states and the United Kingdom, nine have some legal restriction on veiling; there have been legislative proposals to limit the practice in five more. In countries with no national restrictions, some regions have decided independently to ban face coverings. There are only six EU countries, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Romania where there has been no public debate so far on restricting the veil. But there is nuance in the interaction between prior levels of religiosity and modernisation. Need to compare debates regarding hijab.

'HOLI' SHOPPING

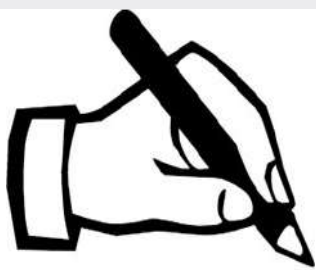


Children visit a shop selling 'Gula' and water pistols in preparation for 'Holi' in Amritsar, Punjab.

Law to protect camel is contributing to its decline in Rajasthan



AZERA RAHMAN



Camels were once a prized possession for breeders in Rajasthan. Madhavram Raika, a breeder from Pali district, said that his father owned 150 camels. Of these, both young and adult male camels would be sold at a handsome price, sustaining the family for decades. A law in 2015, the Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, that aimed to protect the state animal, however, is contributing to its downfall, lament breeders. The price of the animal has dipped so much and the losses have been so high that those like Madhavram have had to sell all their camels, even as others are struggling for sustenance, bringing down the total number of camels in the state significantly. 'Koi fayda nahin hua (There has been no gain)', Madhavram said about the state government's decision to declare the camel as the state animal back in 2014. 'We thought that after being declared the state animal, our animals' and our future would look brighter. But that has not been the case. On top of that, the 2015 law restricting selling our animals outside the state has caused the prices to dip by a large margin,' he said. Prices of camels have dropped by 80-90 percent from the price that they would fetch earlier. Hariram Raika, another camel breeder from Manigar village in the same district, chipped in, 'Before 2015 when the Act came into being,' he said, 'an eight-ten-month-old camel would be sold for Rs 15,000 or more. Now we hardly get Rs 3000 for a three-four-year-old animal.' The animals would mostly be sold to buyers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh. Most of them would be farmers who use the camel for agricultural purposes, or for

life,' Rathore said. 'But when the Act was passed, there was a blanket ban on the sale of both male and female camels. This stopped all trade and hit us bad.' The law, however, is not the only reason why camel breeders are struggling. Loss of grazing land for their animals is another reason. Pastoralists like Hariram Raika for instance said that for generations, their animals would graze openly and venture into the forests of Kumbalgarh for two months in a year, during the monsoons. 'But once it was declared a wildlife sanctuary, we were no longer allowed,' he said. 'Earlier we would earn as much as Rs 2-2.5 lakh a year by selling our animals,' Hariram said, 'Now (after the law) we make about Rs 25,000-30,000. This has severely impacted our economic status.' From 60 camels, he now has 30, selling the rest in desperation since he could no longer afford their upkeep. For Madhavram, things have been even more drastic. He now herds others' camels, and earns a monthly income of Rs 8,000. His lowered economic prowess affected his family, leading to domestic problems, and finally forcing his wife to work as a daily wage worker to run their house. Theirs are not uncommon stories. And the proof is in the depleting numbers of the camel. In a village called Ansh Ki Dhani in the Pali district where 100 families live, back in 1991, there were 5,000 camels. Now there are just 200. In another village called Jodhwar Ki Dhani, there were 7,000-8,000 camels about six years back; now there are just 300-400. In most cases, breeders are now letting go of the male camels to fend for themselves, while trying to keep the females. There has been an unprecedented rise in the number of stray camels in recent times, Rathore said. In desperation, some people have resorted to selling their animals illegally, walking across the state border on foot for trade, he added. In a bid to check the declining camel population, the state government started a Camel Development Scheme in 2016 to give an incentive of Rs 10,000 for every newborn calf in three installments. Many breeders however could not avail of this incentive, and some did not get the final installment, making this scheme unsuccessful. As an alternative means of livelihood, breeders have begun to sell camel milk. This was after much persuasion since it went against their traditional

beliefs. Camel milk has often been touted as a superfood, claimed to be beneficial for autism, diabetes, liver disease, jaundice, even cancer. Camel Charisma is one such initiative through which breeders of the Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan now sell camel milk. 'Through this, a family can earn between Rs 18,000 to Rs 30,000 a month,' Rathore said. Camel Charisma pays Rs. 60 per litre of camel milk to the breeders. They also make camel milk products like cheese and soap; even camel poop paper. Things, however, are moving slowly. Competitive pricing in comparison to cow's milk or buffalo's, and a lack of demand among the general populace because of inadequate marketing, they feel, is the reason behind this. Lack of infrastructure in the cold chain is another challenge. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson, who has been engaged in camel research for more than 30 years and is a co-founder of Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan, added that there is a huge demand for camel milk outside India, 'particularly China', but because of lack of infrastructure, they haven't been able to meet the need. 'We think that if the 2015 law is amended, we will be able to save our animals,' Hariram Raika said, 'Otherwise the next five years will be critical for our camels.' The state government had formed a committee to look into the issues after the camel breeders staged a protest against the ban during the 2019 Pushkar Mela. In the list of recommendations submitted thereafter, the breeders asked, in addition to amendment of the law, to include camel milk in mid-day meals in schools, to promote it in the market, and for free-range grazing rights. An official of the Animal Husbandry department has now assured that the process to amend the law is underway. 'There is a proposal of amendments that have been cleared by the law ministry and will soon be introduced in the assembly,' the official told. 'The new provisions would be such that except for slaughter, breeders would be able to send their animals across the state's borders and earn their revenue.' There is no estimate of when this would happen so it is still a wait-and-watch game for the camel breeders of Rajasthan. (Azera Rahman based in Jodhpur is WaterAid India media fellow 2018 and NFI media fellow 2014.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poland's humanity


No, the border security force there are not armed with Chilli Guns to dissuade escaping tortured refugees from entering the territory. Neither the politicians there render a barbaric call of "Throw Out the Termites" with the delighted "nationalist" population clapping in unison. Instead, refugees are accorded a warm welcome there with the homeless delivered free SIM cards, biscuits, drinks, blankets, nappies and most importantly even homes are offered too. The heart-touching pictures of Polish volunteers handing out warm beverages to Ukrainians at the border checkpoints deserve the caption "where humanity and divinity meet". Indeed in the current international perspective of "Neutrality" "Dine with the Devils" "Strategic interest" and "Rabid nationalism", if there is paradise on earth; it is in Poland, in Poland, in Poland.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata


Proper uniform

The Noble laureate from Pakistan Malala Yousafzai had poked her nose into the ongoing hijab row in India. Recently, while speaking to media in Pakistan she said, "Refusing to let go to school in their hijabs is horrifying". We should make it clear to her that every school and even colleges in India has proper uniform and one should come to school in proper uniform irrespective of caste, creed, religion, gender or status. Secondly, why she is maintaining pin-drop silence when everyday Hindu girls are kidnapped and raped in Pakistan? Before coming to lecture on the condition of minorities in India, one should tell her in clear term that minorities are treated at par with the majority. In fact, in some areas the minorities are given special (VVIP) status. So, people like Malala who come from a terrorist-funded country like Pakistan should better not comment over India. Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi in her last-ditch effort to salvage some pride by pleasing a particular people in before the impending UP election defeat of her party echoed the similar lines of Malala. She opined that wearing hijab, jeans and bikini are fundamental rights of every Indian. Yes, we all agree that our Constitution has given us rights to wear according to our wishes, but does it mean that one student should go to school or college wearing bikini? Julie, via email


WHAT THEY TWEET!




KBS Sidhu
@kbsidhu1961
Instead of making the film #KashmirFiles tax-free, various State Governments should double or triple the entertainment duty, with the proviso that the entire collection derived therefrom shall be dedicated to a fund dedicated to the return/rehabilitation of Kashmiri refugees.



Rachna
@rachnaparmar
I do like Rujuta's wisdom for a lot of Indian food but this one is senseless. Sabudana has no health benefits at all. Sabudana khichdi, vada or kheer are great indulgences, once in a while kind of treats. She is highly qualified in her field, not a quack at all.



Upamanyu@upamanyu70
A lot of things which are happening in this country at the moment were unbelievable to process even ten years back. Some people tend to forget the key to it all, political power. The only thing which legitimately shifts the Overton window.



IFSSaket Badola@Saket_Badola
The character and charisma of Forest Guest Houses ? #ValmikiTigerReserve

James Palmer@BeijingPalmer
the thing about Musk is that he is, in fact, a very poor Poster. can't meme, can't dunk, weak content, but he's propped up by saps because he's rich. He's like a petty autocrat whom his underlings keep letting score goals on the pitch, but who at some level 'knows' he can't play.

db@db_is_db
Would you want an EV with the car's operating system switch lying with the manufacturer? You would be sitting turkey, if it were a Chinese or some foreign manufacturer and India gets into hostilities with a foreign nation friendly to these chaps. Just the humble petrol car for me

Pyaricetamol@SatanKinani
What kind of parents are buying those cheap quality plastic thalis by the kilos for their brats to throw waterbombs on strangers? Just now one senior citizen walking ahead of me was pelted from one balcony. What do these people want their kids to grow up into?

BRIEF

Milestone



New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Tuesday said its CNG range of vehicles has crossed the cumulative sales milestone of 10 lakh units. MSIL MD CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said our aim is to offer safe, reliable, clean, technologically advanced and eco friendly vehicles.

Expand

New Delhi: Drone delivery logistics firm Skye Air Mobility on Tuesday said it plans to ramp up its fleet size to about 120 drones in 12-15 months from the current four as it chases growth opportunities in key areas such as healthcare and diagnostics. Ankit Kumar, CEO of Skye Air Mobility, said the company has crossed the milestone of 1,000 flights in six months of operations, and is looking to reach a level of one lakh flights over next months.

Raises

Mumbai: Omnichannel jewellery retailer Bluestone has raised over USD 30 million (about Rs 228 crore) in a funding round led by Sunil Kant Munjal, chairman of Hero Enterprise, at a valuation of USD 410 million. Bluestone - backed by marquee investors, including Ratan Tata, Accel, Kalaari, Iron Pillar, IvyCap and Saama Capital - claims to be the largest omnichannel precious jewellery brand, the company said in a statement.

Funding

New Delhi: Unicorn startup Licious, which sells meat products and seafood, on Tuesday said it has raised USD 150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) in funding led by Singapore-based Amansa Capital for business growth. Other major investors in the Series F2 funding round include Kotak PE and Axis Growth Avenues AIF-I.

Buys

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Ltd said it has bought about 50 acres of land parcel at Sonipat in Haryana for plotted development as part of its plan to expand business across major cities. The Mumbai-based firm did not disclose the deal value as well as the name of the seller. This is the second major land deal by Godrej Properties in the Delhi-NCR area.

Platform

Washington: Indian-American entrepreneur from Silicon Valley has launched an artificial intelligence-based platform through which people can invest in stocks for as low as USD1. "We are bringing one of the best ways to earn more to people who need it the most. We are trying to make the investments as much as possible to be socially responsible, impactful and conscious," Selvan Rajan, CEO of SmartMoney IA, said in a statement.

Over Rs 53,600 cr GST compensation yet to be released to states

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Over Rs 53,600 crore of GST compensation for the current fiscal is yet to be released to the states, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. So far this fiscal, Rs 96,576 crore has been released to the states on account of GST compensation, and an additional Rs 1.59 lakh crore has been given as back-to-back loan to make good the revenue shortfall on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation from July 1, 2017.

The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16.

The compensation amount to be paid from the



Nirmala Sitharaman

compensation fund is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

"Centre is committed to release full GST Compensation to the States/UTs as per GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 for the transition period by extending the levy of Compensation cess beyond 5 years to meet the GST revenue shortfall as well as servicing the loan borrowed through special window scheme," Sitharaman said.

Giving details of GST compensation yet to be released to the states for current fiscal ending March, the minister said Rs 53,661 crore is yet to be released for the 2021-22 fiscal.

This include Rs 11,563 crore to be released to Maharashtra, Rs 6,954 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs 6,733 crore to Tamil Nadu, Rs 5,461 crore to Delhi and Rs 4,292 crore to West Bengal.

Sitharaman further said GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 has already been paid to the

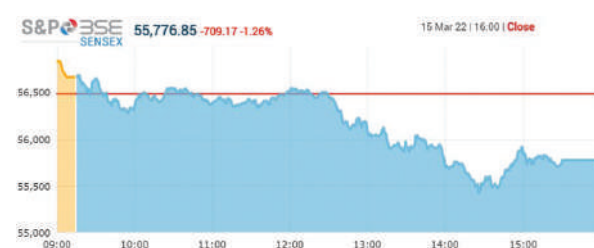
States/UTs. "The economic impact of the pandemic has led to higher compensation requirement due to lower GST collection and at the same time lower collection of GST compensation cess," she said.

In a separate reply, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the total GST collection during the current fiscal till February is over Rs 13.33 lakh crore. This include Central GST mop up of over Rs 2.43 lakh crore, Integrated GST of over Rs 6.87 lakh crore, State GST of over Rs 3.11 lakh crore and cess of Rs 90,442 crore.

"CGST is credited to Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) while SGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of respective States. Out of this total IGST collected by the Centre, Centre received Rs 3,09,150 crore and Rs 2,60,467 crore have been received by the States by way of settlement (regular & adhoc) of IGST till February, 2022," Chaudhary said.

Sensex tumbles 709 pts on weak global trends

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):



Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their five-day rally on Tuesday and settled deep in the red, mirroring weak global markets, with decline in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank.

Despite opening with gains of over 200 points, the 30-share Sensex turned highly volatile and tumbled 709.17 points or 1.26 per cent to close at 55,776.85. During the day, the benchmark index plunged 1,067.07 points or 1.88 per cent to 55,418.95.

The broader NSE Nifty also declined 208.30 points or 1.23 per cent to close at 16,663.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, Reliance Industries Limited, Axis Bank and HCL Tech were the major drags.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Nestle

India, Asian Paints and Titan were among the gainers.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Shanghai settled sharply lower amid concerns over fresh virus lockdowns. Tokyo was marginally higher.

Exchanges in Europe were largely trading lower in the afternoon trade. Germany's DAX lost 2.3% to 13,612.44 and the CAC 40 in Paris was also 2.3% lower at 6,223.67. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 1.5% to 7,088.89.

The futures for the S&P 500 and Dow industrials were down 0.7%. Shares in Hong Kong have sunk to near six-year lows after the neighbouring city of Shenzhen was ordered into a shutdown to combat

China's worst COVID-19 outbreak in two years.

The Hang Seng index lost 5.7% to 18,415.08 after wobbling more than 6% lower. The Shanghai Composite gave up 5% to 3,063.97.

Fears continue to dog stock markets that lockdowns could spread, which would severely impact China's growth," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a commentary.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.2% to 25,346.48, while the Kospi in Seoul gave up 0.9% to 2,621.53. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slid 0.7% to 7,097.40 and shares also fell in Taiwan and Bangkok.

Stock exchanges in the US settled on a mixed note in the overnight trade.

DSP Investment Managers launches DSP Nifty SDL Plus

Mumbai, Mar 15:

DSP Investment Managers announced the launch of DSP Nifty SDL Plus G- Sec Jun 2028 30:70 Index Fund, an open-ended target maturity index fund, which will mature after about six years in June 2028. The portfolio will be invested only in sovereign securities with a 70:30 split between Government Securities (G-Sec) and State Development Loans (SDL) respectively, in line with the Nifty SDL Plus G- Sec Jun 2028 30:70 Index.

The portfolio has a unique design with dual filters for selecting SDLs. Instead of just applying a Liquidity Filter, there is an additional Quality Filter of low leverage. This Quality Filter is based on each State's GDP in proportion to its total li-

abilities and the top 10 States/UTs with the best quality scores will be selected. Hence the portfolio will have a combination of highly liquid G-Secs and a selectivelist of SDLs with low leverage and high liquidity, all which are maturing during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2028.

The Fund offers investors the potential of relatively stable and predictable returns. Long term investors (holding >3 years) can also get additional year of indexation benefit if invested before 31 Mar 2022. Investors who subscribe during the NFO and remain invested till the defined maturity can get a total of 7 years Indexation benefit.

The New Fund Offer opened for subscription on March 11th, 2022 and closes on March 17th 2022.



Samsung Southwest Asia President Ken Kang exchanges the MoU for setting up a new compressor plant with Industries Secretary S Krishnan in presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in Chennai, Tuesday.

Amazon Business announces exciting deals for MSMEs

Mumbai, Mar 15:

Amazon Business today announced the commencement of an 'End of Financial Year Sale' to help its business customers utilize their procurement budgets efficiently before the end of the current financial year. The event that started today is curated to help B2B customers discover relevant selection and also get incremental cashback and discounts on these purchases to save costs. The event aims to ensure that MSMEs can efficiently utilize their pending budgets for the current financial year.

The event will run till March 18th 2022 and focus on supplies for MSMEs to cater both ends of hybrid work model, thus offering curated selections for both Work From Home (WFH) and Back To Work (BTW). Under work from home, MSMEs can buy supplies for an efficient work from home setup across multiple categories such as laptops, electronics products, stationary items, furniture's. Back to work store will include protective equipment, essential back to work supplies, social distancing friendly office setup such and COVID medical supplies. From sneeze guards, cones,

signs, tape, barriers, strips, labels, measurement instruments to IT peripherals, breakroom supplies, the shopping event will offer wide selection of products to its business customers.

Business customers can enjoy 10% cashback, up to Rs 500 on a minimum spend of Rs 1500, with the application of code FYES22 at the time of payment checkout. This cashback is applicable across all the business relevant categories including computers & accessories, electronic appliances, office products, office improvement, office kitchen, industrial & scientific.

NaBFID to commence operations from first quarter of FY-23

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will begin its operations from the first quarter of the next financial year, its chairman KV Kamath said on Tuesday.

NaBFID was set up by the government last year as a development financial institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in the country.

"The board structure (for NaBFID) is in place. The basic foundation and policy framework have been built. From the next quar-



ter, which is the quarter starting April, we should be operationalised," Kamath said at an event organised by the Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers' Association (ICEMA).

He said a core team of 25 people is already in place and the process of selection of the CEO and other leaders to run the bank is underway.

Toyota Kirloskar drives in new Glanza starting at Rs 6.39 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday launched the all-new version of its premium hatchback Glanza in the country with a price starting at Rs 6.39 lakh (ex-showroom).

The model comes with an 1197 cc petrol engine mated with manual and automatic transmissions.

The five-speed manual variants of Glanza have been priced between Rs 6.39 lakh and Rs 9.19 lakh, while the automatic trims (AMT) are tagged between Rs 7.79 lakh and Rs 9.69 lakh. The new version delivers fuel ef-



iciency of over 22 kmpl and also features an idle start-stop function, the automaker said. Other prominent features include six airbags, ABS (anti-lock braking system), hill hold control, head-up display, 360-degree camera and nine-inch smart play cast, among others. "Over these last few years, the Glanza has won many hearts in India. And yet again with

States must decide soon to decriminalise Legal Metrology Act

Goyal highlighted action on misleading advertisements

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the government intends to decriminalise the Legal Metrology Act and asked his department as well as states to take a decision on this issue at the earliest in order to stop harassment of small shopkeepers.

Addressing an event here to celebrate the World Consumer Rights Day, the minister said the government's priority is to pro-



Piyush Goyal

tect consumers from unfair trade practice, but the law should not become a "tool of harassment".

The Legal Metrology Act 2009 enforces standards related to weights and measures. In its present form, the law prescribe imprisonment, in addition to fine, for second or subsequent offence. "I personally

would like to flag off a couple of concerns...because I do believe that it's important. I do believe it's important that what Rohit Kumar Singh (Consumer Affairs Secretary) said about decriminalisation should also be understood by all of us," he said.

"We have a Legal Metrology Act. And I myself being a startup entrepreneur 35 years ago. And 35 years ago, also the harassment that we faced due to the Act as an entrepreneur is possibly something which is being faced even today, particularly by small shopkeepers, small businesses on a day to day basis," he said.

75 cos to get sops under auto PLI scheme

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):

Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotoCorp, Lucas-TVS, Tata Cummins and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts are among the 75 firms approved for receiving incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile and auto components sector, the government said on Tuesday.

Proposed investment of Rs 29,834 crore is expected from the 75 approved applicants under the Component Champion Incentive Scheme.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries had earlier se-



lected 20 applicants under the Champion OEM Incentive Scheme. The two components are part of the PLI scheme.

The scheme offers incentive of up to 18 per cent to encourage industry to make fresh investments in indigenous supply chain of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products.

Vikram Singh Chauhan in awe of Ajay Devgn while working in 'Rudra'



Dehradun-born lawyer-turned-actor Vikram Singh Chauhan, who was seen in 'Mardaani 2', is receiving good response for his performance in Ajay Devgn starrer 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness'.

Vikram shifted to Mumbai to work in a law firm and soon he was keen to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. In 'Rudra' the actor plays Captain Ashok Nikose, a person suffering from Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Vikram shares his experience of working with Ajay in the web series: "Its one of the best learning experiences for me. I had my scenes with Ajay sir, Atul (Kulkarni) sir and Ashwini (Kalsekar)

ma'am. Their hold on their craft is so strong that just to watch them perform is so serene."

"I specifically took a lot from Ajay sir, not just nuances of acting but a way of life. He doesn't talk much but is always listening and aware of what's going around him. Super focused, always greeting people with a gentle smile," he adds.

The actor believes that the Covid break gave him the time that he required to prepare for the role and says: "I got a lot of prep time during covid break. I saw a lot of documentaries on war veterans suffering from PTSD and on abused childhood. I worked on my body language to get that of Ashok Nikose."

Buzz about Sonali Bendre's Tollywood appearance after 18 years



Actress Sonali Bendre is in talks for an upcoming biggie in Telugu, as the news has now caught the attention of all. It is reported that Sonali will star in Jr NTR's untitled movie, which is to be helmed by 'Srimanthudu', 'Mirchi', and 'Janatha Garage' fame Koratala Siva.

The makers want to get Sonali on board, for an important role. So, they seemed to have approached the 'Manmadhudu' actress, for which she apparently gave it a nod. If the news is to be believed, Sonali Bendre is all set to make a comeback in the Tollywood film industry after 18 years. Sonali was last seen in Chiranjeevi's 'Shankar Dada MBBS' before she quit acting in Tollywood.

Now that she is all set to play a pivotal role in the film combination of Koratala Shiva and Jr NTR, her fans can't get happier.

Sonali Bendre had appeared in super hit Telugu movies like 'Murari', 'Indra', 'Manmadhudu', 'Shankar Dada MBBS' and many more. She was well-received by the Telugu audience, but the actress had to move back to Mumbai, as she had started her family. More details about the project are expected to be out soon.



Neetu Kapoor to judge 'Dance Deewane Juniors'

Children are blessed not only with the most beautiful hearts but possess talent hardcore, and now they are all set to take on the dance floor with COLORS' new show 'Dance Deewane Juniors'! After the spectacular success of 'Dance Deewane', COLORS is introducing the juniors version wherein children from the age group of 4-14 years can showcase their hardcore dancing talent fueled with deewangi and perform in solos, duet or in group on a national platform. As the young dancers gear up to set the stage on fire with their immense talent, the channel has roped in Bollywood's TIMELESS Beauty star Neetu Kapoor to judge this show, hereby marking her debut on television! She will be joining the judging panel alongside Bollywood diva Nora Fatehi and esteemed choreographer Marzi Pestonji. Ahead of taking charge as the judge, Neetu Kapoor says, "It gives me great joy to be part of a show that will give the upcoming dance prodigies a golden opportunity to showcase their talent. I see my role in 'Dance Deewane Juniors' as a responsibility to nurture and support the little ones. I can't wait to see them take on the stage."

I want every Indian to hate my character: Pallavi Joshi on 'The Kashmir Files'



Pallavi Joshi, producer of 'The Kashmir Files' and also plays one of its pivotal characters, has said that her role was a very challenging one. The award-winning film and television actress essays the role of Professor Radhika Menon, a JNU professor who motivates her students to fight for 'Azad Kashmir'.

When asked why she chose to play the character, Joshi said: "When I was talking about their trauma, I could sense the villain they were staring at. I made up my mind to do the character and play the role so vehemently that every Indian should hate the character." She was addressing the

media in the Capital along with the rest of 'The Kashmir Files' team. Joshi's character, believed to have been modelled after Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy, is heard declaring in the film, "Kashmir has never been an integral part of India and this is a historical fact. Agar India Britain se apni Independence ke liye lad sakti hai toh Kashmir kyun nahi (If India can fight the British Raj for independence, then why not Kashmir)?"

When asked if the character was defaming the university, Director Vivek Agnihotri said: "Research and Google, and you will get the answers."

World TV premiere of Sooryavanshi on Mar 19



WORLD TV PREMIERE

SAT, 19th MAR 8 PM

ZEECINEMA

सिने में CINEMA

Hit the siren, kyunki Zee Cinema par hogi dhamakedar entry saal ke sabse bade blockbuster 'Sooryavanshi' ki! The film that revived the big screens from a long slumber with a whopping 200 crores at the box office, the film that got families rejoicing at theatres - Sooryavanshi is all set to bring the same roar to your TV screens. This Holi, enjoy the grandest television event of the year with your friends and family with the World Television Premiere of the most awaited blockbuster of the year Sooryavanshi on Zee Cinema on 19th March at 8pm. The prelude to the premiere saw people across the length and breadth of the country celebrate the Sooryavanshi mania as their cities were transformed with one-of-a-kind themed activations to match the colossal hype for the film!

With an intent to spread joy, grandeur, and cheer, a tailored delicious experience for home

towners will be offered by adding a masaledar twist to their local specialty food with some of the most famous food stalls across the country. Harping on the tagda punch of the special trio Indore's globally

recognized 'Johnny Hot Dog', Bhopal's super popular 'Anand Namkeen' and the iconic 'Deena Chat Bhandar' in Varanasi transformed their popular items like Hot Dog, Crispy Samosa and Tamatar Chat into a

Sooryavanshi specials for their customers. If we're celebrating with food, how can one leave out the famous 'Parle Vada Pav Samrat' from Mumbai, 'Sharma ji ki Chai' from Lucknow and 'Thaggu ke Ladd' from Kanpur,

as the shopkeepers bring you the delectable Sooryavanshi special Vada Pav, Kadak Chai-Samosa combo, and Laddu, kyuki muh meetha karna toh banta hai! Embracing the very, many qualities of Rohit Shetty's mighty cops, the visitors of the stalls are offered free taste to this Sooryavanshi special delicacies during this on-ground celebration. But that's not all, Sooryavanshi themed canters will be traveling to the streets of multiple cities engaging visitors with experiential activities and special gifts. This will be followed by #HoliWithSooryavanshiToli challenge on social media, where viewers will be asked to recreate the hook step of 'Aila re Aila' with their super fun toli tagging Zee Cinema to spread the joy further. This Holi, join the celebration of the biggest blockbuster of the year with the World Television Premiere of Sooryavanshi on Zee Cinema on 19th March at 8pm!

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesha approves and predicts peace in plenty.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesha.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Ganesha finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your subordinates will be enthusiastic, compliant and cooperative.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You will be faced with serious financial problems today. You may even have to pay through your nose to get what you desire. Later in the evening, you might accomplish some short-term goals. Ganesha predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesha says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be good news coming from friends or relatives living abroad. Your working ability and efficiency will make you popular in the office today. In the day today you shall have a variety of good and bad experiences.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

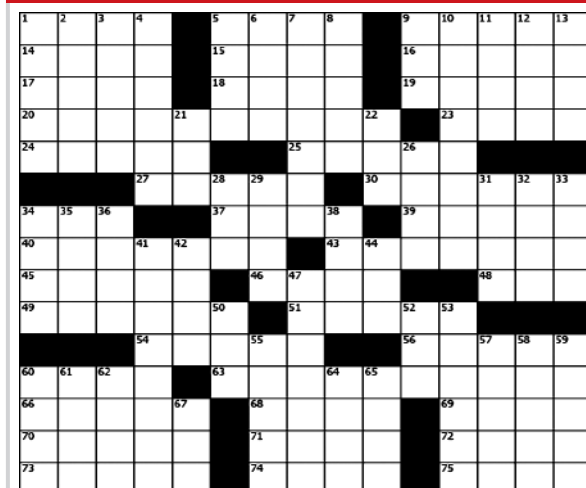
Ganesha foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesha.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you.

CROSSWORD

242



ACROSS

- Ripped
- Cruise and Hanks
- Singer _____ Reddy
- Lincoln, et al.
- Eden resident
- Digging tool
- Castle ditch
- Earth's center
- Fork features
- Walker

- Fender-bender result
- Resource
- Barter
- Excessive excitement
- Zodiac sign
- Can.'s neighbor
- She, in Valencia
- Assisted
- Umbrella
- Hide
- Public
- Arctic transport

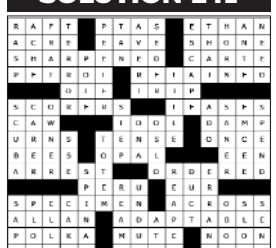
- Had brunch
- Approached
- Totalled
- Sends forth
- Actress _____ Evans
- Auction actions
- Ownership
- Incensed
- Thoroughfare
- Come together
- Fables
- Minister to
- Farm unit
- Disparaging
- Irritable
- Minus

DOWN

- Florida City
- Certain woodwinds
- Peruses
- Admiration
- Diplomacy
- Smell
- Matrimonial
- Greasy streak
- FDI's successor
- Widespread outbreak
- Alley
- Genesis location
- Cozy abode
- Bus terminal (abbr.)
- Scold constantly
- School official
- New (prefix)
- Evils

- Brainstorm
- Uncluttered
- Loafing
- "Once _____ a time..."
- Hoard
- _____ code
- Scored on serve
- Took into custody
- Flower stalk
- Unusual
- Roped
- Quick swim
- Overhead trains
- Deary
- Rich dessert
- Female relative
- Achievers
- Stakes
- Morsels
- Iraq's neighbor
- Artist Salvador _____
- Harmonized
- Water whirl
- Vane letters

SOLUTION 241



Indian campaign ends in Singapore after exit of Manika-Archana pair



Singapore: India's campaign in the USD 2 million Singapore Smash came to an end with the quarterfinal exit of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath in the women's doubles here on Tuesday. The second-seeded Japanese pair of Hina Hayata and Mima Ito needed just 25 minutes to dispose of the Indian duo 11-7, 11-4, 11-8 to enter the semifinals. Ranked No. 6 in doubles, Manika and Archana struggled against the left-right Japanese onslaught, but tackling left-hander Hayata's powerful spins turned out to be a big ask. There was no respite for the Indians from the right-hander Ito either. Ito, with superb service variations, put them in the dock. Though the world No. 2 Japanese conceded seven points in the first game, they brought it down drastically in the second when the Indian duo not only made several unforced errors but failed time and again to capitalise on their service.

Vihari, Abhimanyu back at Dhaka Premier League



Kolkata: Test specialist Hanuma Vihari and Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran are among the seven Indian cricketers featuring in the Dhaka Premier League one-day tournament. It's a free window for the domestic Indian cricketers who were not picked for the IPL beginning March 26. Fresh from featuring in India's 2-0 sweep over Sri Lanka, Hanuma has joined Abahani Limited and is expected to join them after a short break in Hyderabad. Bengal captain Abhimanyu on the other hand was back at Prime Bank Cricket Club for his third season after 2017 and 2019. It's an invitational tournament and Abhimanyu got the BCCI's clearance on Monday to fly out to Dhaka for the one and a half month long tournament. Abhimanyu scored 30 in their 50-run win over City Club in their opening match at Savar on Tuesday.

Vishwanath, Vanshaj strike gold

New Delhi: Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Vanshaj (63.5kg) clinched gold medals in the men's youth competition as the Indian contingent concluded its campaign with a whopping 39 medals, including 15 gold, at the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan. The haul also included 10 silver and 14 bronze. Indian youth boxers secured seven gold, three silver and eight bronze medals while the junior team finished with 21 medals including eight gold, seven silver and six bronze. Chennai-boxer Vishwanath produced a clinical performance during his thumping 5-0 win over Kyrgyzstan's Ergeshov Bekzat late on Monday night. Later Vanshaj, who hails from Sonapat, added a second gold to youth men's tally as he registered a 4-1 win over Uzbekistan's Javokhir Ummataliev. However, in the +92kg category, Aman Singh Bisht ended with a silver medal after suffering a 1-4 loss to the local boxer Saif Al-Rawashdeh. Vishwanath, and Vanshaj had won silver while Aman had secured bronze in the last edition of the tournament.

Mumbai Indians begin preparation for IPL; Kishan, Rohit, Bumrah join squad

Mumbai: Record five time IPL champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday set the ground running for their 2022 campaign. The 12-day strength and conditioning pre-season camp, ahead of Mumbai Indians' first match, is being held at their in-house training facility at Reliance Jio Stadium in neighbouring Navi Mumbai. "Mumbai Indians will also play a couple of inter-squad practice matches towards the second week of the camp," a media statement issued by Mumbai Indians stated. The first day training session was preceded with player assessment analysis by the coaching staff led by director of cricket Zaheer Khan and coach Mahela Jayawardene. Joining Zaheer and Mahela on this task will be Shane Bond, Robin Singh, Kiran More, Rahul Sanghvi, Vinay Kumar, TA Sekar, Paul Chapman and data analyst CKM Dhananjai.

PCB planning to introduce women's PSL early next year

Karachi: Alarmed by the poor showing of the national team in the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja on Tuesday said the PCB is planning to introduce a proper domestic set-up for them, which includes a T20 franchise-based league to begin early next year to unearth new talent. "There is a lot of work to be done in our women's cricket set-up. You have to take into consideration the restrictions and other issues that are unique to women in sports. We have to take steps to have a proper domestic calendar for women with three-day matches," Ramiz told reporters here. Pakistan lost all its opening four games in the World Cup to lie at the bottom of the points table. Pakistan still have three league matches remaining against the West Indies, England and New Zealand.

Australia's dominant show continues in Women's WC

Wellington, Mar 15 (PTI):

A dominant Australia confidently carried on their march towards a record seventh title as they pummelled West Indies by seven wickets in a lopsided league stage contest to register their fourth consecutive win at the ICC Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

Australia, the most successful team in the history of the event, has lived up to its favourites tag so far in the tournament as it has looked way too strong compared to the other seven teams in the fray.

The Meg Lanning-led side seemed to have all its bases covered, dishing out clinical performances one after another to lead the standings with eight points from four wins.

West Indies, the 2013 runner-up side, were no match for Australia as the team from the Caribbean was bundled out for a meagre 131 in 45.5 overs after opting to bat.

Skipper Stafanie Taylor played a lone hand with a fighting 91-ball 50 as West Indies kept losing wickets at regular intervals from the word go.

Taylor held one end as wickets kept tumbling from the other. West Indies struggle can be gauged from the fact that their best partnership was a 36-run fourth wicket stand

Defeat WI by 7 wickets to remain unbeaten



Ellyse Perry struck early to dent West Indies.

between Taylor and wicketkeeper batter Shemaine Campbelle (20). Ellyse Perry (3/22) and

Ashleigh Gardner (3/25) shared six wickets between them for Australia, while Jess Jonassen

Brief Scores:

West Indies: 131 all out in 45.5 overs (Stafanie Taylor 50; Ellyse Perry 3/22, Ashleigh Gardner 3/25). **Australia:** 132 for 3 in 30.2 overs (Rachael Haynes 83 not out, Beth Mooney 28 not out; Chinelle Henry 1/20).

picked up two scalps giving away 18 runs.

The chase was always going to be a cakewalk for the Australians. Opener Rachael Haynes hit a stylish 83 not out off 95 balls with the help of nine boundaries to anchor Australia's chase after they suffered two early blows in the form of Alyssa Healy and Lanning.

With Australia in a spot of bother at seven for two and later 58 for three, Haynes took the onus on herself to guide the innings in Beth Mooney's (28 not out) company and the duo overwhelmed the target easily in 30.2 overs.

Chinelle Henry (1/20), Hayley Matthews (1/31) and Shamillia Connell (1/32) picked up a wicket each for the Windies.

While Australia remain unbeaten in the tournament so far, West Indies suffered their second defeat, a heavy one, from four games and are placed fifth in the standings with four points.

Lakshya Sen climbs a spot to 11th, Sindhu static in 7th position



Badminton world rankings

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen rose a place to 11th in the men's singles chart, while double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu is static at the seventh spot among women in the latest BWF world rankings issued on Tuesday.

Sen has risen remarkably over the last few months in the BWF rankings riding on his impressive performances at the world stage. He currently has 70,086 points in the men's singles list which is being headed by Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, followed by Japan's Kento Momota and another Dane Anders Antonsen.

India's Kidambi Srikanth dropped a rung in the chart to be in the 12th spot with 69,158 points, while B Sai Praneeth also dropped a place to be in the 19th position. Sen rose up

the chart riding on his sensational form over the last six months, finishing runners-up at the German Open last week after his title-winning run at the India Open and his bronze medal feat at the World Championships in December last year.

HS Prannoy and Sameer Verma are the next best placed Indians at the 24th and 26th spots respectively.

Among women, Sindhu has maintained her seventh spot with 90,994 points, while another Olympic medallist Sania Nehwal occupies the 28th position.

In the men's doubles rankings list, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are static at eighth spot, while the next best Indians are MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila in the 40th position. The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy are also static at 19th spot, while the mixed doubles combination of Ponnappa and Rankireddy occupy the 25th position.

Nadal now 17-0, No. 1 Medvedev crashes out at Indian Wells



Indian Wells, Mar 15 (AP):

Rafael Nadal is still perfect in the desert to stay at the top, where he replaced Novak Djokovic. Is it better to be No. 1 for let's say one week in your life or never touch it? Medvedev said. You know, I think it's still better to at least touch it. Djokovic will reclaim the No. 1 ranking next week. The Serb is unvaccinated against COVID-19, so he wasn't allowed to enter the United States to play at Indian Wells or the upcoming Miami Open.

So far this year, no one is touching the fourth-ranked Nadal.

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So far this year, no one is touching the fourth-ranked Nadal.

Mount Maunganui, Mar 15 (PTI):

Their confidence high after an impressive win over the West Indies, India would look for much-needed consistency with the bat against a struggling England in their fourth league stage match of the ICC Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.

Currently placed third after a morale-boosting 155-run against the West Indies, India would like to keep the winning momentum going and maintain its stay in the top four especially when they take on table toppers Australia after England.

After an inexplicably slow performance against New Zealand when the Indian batters played out 162 dot balls, Smriti Mandhana (123 off 119) and Harmanpreet Kaur (109 off 107) produce a splendid batting display, slamming twin centuries against the West Indies to power India to their highest total (317/8) in the history of the showpiece

ICC Women's World Cup India aim for consistency in clash against England



event. "I think for us, it is very important the way we performed in the last game; we just need to continue that, rather than thinking about what are your negatives and what are your positive points," vice-captain Kaur told reporters on the eve of the game. Both openers -- Mandhana and Yastika

Bhatia -- showed intent from the very beginning, something coach Romesh Powar had stressed upon ahead of the match.

Mandhana played a fluent 123 run-knock while Kaur also continued her fine run, bringing up her fourth ton and the first since hitting the famous 171 not out against

Australia in the 2017 World Cup. The duo will be eager to continue in the same vein with the race for semifinal berths heating up. However, all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who has been elevated to the top, has to do more with the bat as does skipper Mithali Raj, who has also been off the boil recently.

All England Championships Sindhu, Sen and Srikanth begin India's quest for elusive title

Birmingham, Mar 15 (PTI):

All eyes will be on in-form shuttler Lakshya Sen, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and World Championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth as they look to break India's 21-year title drought at the All England Championships, which begins here on Wednesday.

The top Indian players, including Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Srikanth have failed to lift the prestigious trophy with Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Prakash Padukone (1980) still remaining the only two Indians to claim the coveted title.

While Saina had come



close by reaching the finals in 2015, it remained elusive for Sindhu, who has otherwise claimed medals in all other big-ticket events such as Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. While

Sindhu, seeded sixth, will once again be in the reckoning, it will be unseeded Sen who will be in focus this time, given the kind of build-up the 20-year-old had ahead of the Super 1000 event. Sen has been in sensational form for the last six months as he

added a runners-up finish at the German Open last week, following his title-winning run at India Open and his bronze medal feat at the World Championships in December last year.

The Almora shuttler will be the cynosure of all eyes as he steps on to the court against compatriot Sourabh Verma in the opening round.

Sindhu, however, exited in the second round at the German Open after a shock defeat to a lower-ranked Zhang Yi Man of China and would look to quickly recover from the loss when she opens her campaign against a tricky world No 17 Chinese Wang Zhi Yi.

Indians slip in ICC Women's ODI Rankings

Dubai, Mar 15 (PTI):

India skipper Mithali Raj's descent in the ICC ODI rankings continued as she slipped three places to seventh while opener Smriti Mandhana dropped to 11th in the latest standings released on Tuesday, taking into account the ongoing World Cup in New Zealand.

Raj, who slipped a couple of places last week, has 696 points after she was dismissed for 31 and 5 against New Zealand and West Indies respectively. She is currently joint seventh with Australia opener Rachael Haynes. Mandhana, on the other hand, moved out of the top 10 to 11th despite hitting 123 against West Indies on Saturday.

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami, who became the leading wicket-taker in World Cups, has also slipped two places to be sixth in the bowlers' chart while Deepti Sharma maintained her

sixth place in the all-rounders' list. Sophie Ecclestone, Amy Satterthwaite, Marizanne Kapp and Laura Wolvaardt have all taken major leaps in the rankings after their sizzling performances in the ongoing World Cup.

Despite England failing to win a single match at the World Cup, Ecclestone has been a shining light for her team, bowling with great discipline. Her performances have seen her rise to the No.1 spot in the bowling charts, overtaking Australia's Jess Jonassen.

The other big gainer in the bowling charts is Marizanne Kapp, who registered the best-ever figures of her international career during South Africa's three-wicket win against England.

Her 5/45 helped South Africa restrict England to 235/9 and she made a handy contribution with the bat as well during the chase, chipping in with a vital 32 runs.

Cong leaders hit out at Sibal for criticising Gandhis

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Reflecting the dissensions in the party, senior Congress leaders on Tuesday lashed out at their colleague Kapil Sibal for his remarks against the leadership with the party's Lok Sabha whip accusing him of speaking the language of the BJP and the RSS.

Manickam Tagore, a staunch Rahul Gandhi loyalist, said the RSS and the BJP want the Gandhis to be out of leadership position to kill the Congress party and destroy the idea of India.

Congress national spokesperson Pawan Khara said Sibal should

elections for the post of Congress president instead of making public comments against the leadership.

"Why RSS and BJP wants Nehru-Gandhi's out of the leadership? Because without Gandhi's leadership Congress will be become Janata party. It's easy to kill Congress then it's easy to destroy the idea of India (sic)," Tagore said on Twitter.

"Kapil Sibal knows it but why he is speaking the language of RSS/BJP," the Congress' Lok Sabha whip asked.

Khara also put out a Twitter post hitting out at Sibal. "Dr Harshvardhan did not ask you to step

aside from Chandni Chowk. He fought an election and defeated you Kapil Sibal. Those who want to lead Congress are free to fight upcoming election for the position of party president instead of chanting everyday against current leadership," Khara tweeted.

Sibal has said Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to lead the party. "Leadership is in cuckoo land I want a 'Sab ki Congress'. Some want a 'Ghar ki Congress'," Sibal told the Indian Express in an interview.

The remarks came after the Congress Working Committee met on Sunday,

and after almost five hours of deliberations urged Sonia Gandhi to continue to lead and initiate changes required to strengthen the party.

The CWC also rejected Gandhi's offer to make any and every sacrifice for the party, which was construed by some as an offer of Gandhi family to step aside, and reposed faith in her leadership.

The Congress put out a video of all its former leaders from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, on its Twitter handle.

"We will fight on. We will overcome. We will continue to raise your voice," the party said.

'50% rise in pediatric orthopaedic cases, wrong postures during online classes to blame'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

A 50 per cent rise in pediatric orthopaedic cases with complaints of excruciating pain in the neck and back have been noted in hospital OPDs with doctors attributing it primarily to wrong postures during online classes.

The rise in multiple skeletal issues among children can be attributed to incorrect posture. This, in turn, can be blamed on increased screen exposure following school closure due to Covid which made the children physically and mentally unwell, experts said. Dr Shubhang Aggarwal, Orthopaedic and Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon and Director at NHS

Hospital in Jalandhar said, "Wrong sitting postures coupled with almost no physical activity are to be blamed."

"Pediatric orthopaedic cases increased by 50 per cent. Most of them are overweight, have stamina and suffer from anxiety and attention deficit disorder," Dr Aggarwal said.

According to Dr Surbhit Rastogi, Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Vasant Kunj, a lot of children have been experiencing cervical neck and back stiffness observed mainly among the working adult population.

This is mainly attributed to children being confined to their homes and not getting exposed

to sunlight, the doctor said. "It's essential to observe some precautionary measures such as having calcium-rich diet, sunlight exposure, taking small breaks every half an hour, doing some stretching exercises, switching to ergonomic chairs with proper back support and adding some indoor and outdoor physical activities in the daily routine of kids," Dr Rastogi said.

Even teachers should ensure that during online classes they dedicate five minutes for some fun stretching activities, he said. Ideally, one should stand upright for one minute after sitting for 10 minutes at a stretch. This helps to strengthen your back by ensuring

proper blood circulation and maintaining muscle tone, the doctor said.

Parents should never ignore such back and neck issues in their kids and should visit an orthopaedic if there is any such complaint.

"Parents should be concerned when their kids complain of pain in neck and back, even if an initial x-ray exam doesn't reveal a problem.

"When children complain of back pain, about a third of the time there's a serious reason, whether due to an injury, infection or a tumour.

They should be immediately rushed to the hospital," added Dr Vishal Gupta, Orthopedic Surgeon, Ujala Cygnus Rainbow Hospital, Agra.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command presents Yudh Seva medals to family members of martyred soldiers during an Investiture ceremony in Udhampur, Tuesday.

India sends fourth shipment of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

India on Tuesday sent the fourth shipment of 2,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistani land route as part of its humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. India despatched the first consignment of 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan through Pakistani on February 22 and it reached the Afghan city of Jalalabad on February 26. Fifty trucks carried the consignment.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has so far sent 8,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian aid. "Our partnership continues. Despatched fourth convoy of humanitarian assistance

consisting of 2000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan today. Total of 8000 MTs sent as on date. @WFP_Afghanistan is partnering with us for the internal distribution of wheat within Afghanistan," he tweeted.

India had sent a proposal to Pakistan on October 7 seeking the transit facility to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan via Pakistan and it received a positive response from Islamabad on November 24.

Following the Pakistani response, both sides were in touch to finalise the modalities for the transportation of the shipments. Each of the bags was stamped with the text: 'Gift from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan' in English, Pashto and Dari.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees carry the Seethala Mallikarjuna Swamys Rathotsava during a religious procession towards the Mullayanagiri hill range, in Chikmagalur, Tuesday.

LASTING COLOURS

Widows celebrate Holi at Vrindavan temple

Mathura (UPI), Mar 15 (PTI):

A large number of widows from various shelter homes gathered at the Gopinath Temple in Vrindavan on Tuesday to celebrate Holi, giving a toss to orthodox traditions that forbid them from taking part in the festival of colours.

The celebration at the historic temple, which first began in 2013, was kept in abeyance for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to officials.

"It was unbelievable for the widows in the Indian society to break the age-old tradition," said Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of NGO Sulabh

International who initiated efforts to mobilise widows of Vrindavan to celebrate Holi. Around 10 years ago, taking note of the pathetic condition of widows living in Vrindavan, the Supreme Court had asked NGO Sulabh International to look after them.

On Tuesday, widow Gaurvani Dasi was thrilled to play Holi as maid companion of Radha Rani.

Dressed in white sarees, the widows danced, sang Rasiya (tradition Holi song of Brij) and smeared each other's faces with herbal 'gulal'.

Chhavi Maa, a 70-year-old widow, welcomed the change with open arms

after leading years of monotonous life. Widows hailing from West Bengal also showered flower petals on each other and chanted Krishna bhajans.

Applying colours at the feet of Lord Krishna statue, Manu Ghosh (85) said she never imagined that she would get the opportunity to play Holi at a temple.

"We have no words to express our joy," Widows Vimla Dasi (65), Ratania Devi (67) and Chhaya (66) said in unison, but in a choked voice.

The festival was celebrated in the presence of a large gathering including some saints of Vrindavan.

Army announces chair of excellence at USI in memory of Gen Rawat

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday announced setting up of a 'Chair of Excellence' in memory of India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI), a leading military think tank.

The announcement, made at a ceremony, came a day ahead of the 65th birthday of Gen Rawat who was killed in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on December 8 along with his wife Madhulika and 12 armed forces personnel. The 'Gen Bipin Rawat memorial Chair of Excellence' will focus on the field of jointness and integration among the armed forces. "Late Gen

Bipin Rawat who served as India's first CDS as well as the 27th Chief of Indian Army was an outstanding professional and was in the midst of steering one of the most radical transformations of the Indian military," the Army said.

"The Chair of Excellence is a befitting tribute to the astute leadership and professionalism of the General," it said in a statement.

In his remarks, the Army Chief said Gen Rawat was passionate about strategic thoughts and invested considerable time and energy in the activities of various think tanks. "And, therefore, his 65th birthday provided an opportune moment to reinforce the services' bond with their intellectual institutions. The Chair will

be open to veterans of three services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security," Gen Naravane said.

The Army Chief is also serving as the officiating Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The topic for this year's research has been chosen as "jointness and integration in the context of land warfare in India", officials said.

They said the 'Chair of Excellence' will be open to all veteran officers of the armed forces and civilians having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs.

The period of research would be from July 1 for a period of one year, every year. On January 1, 2020, Gen Rawat had taken charge as India's first

CDS with a mandate to bring in convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

A key mandate of the CDS was to facilitate the restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through the establishment of theatre commands.

As the CDS, Gen Rawat carried out the extensive groundwork to roll out tri-services reforms.

In his role as Chief of Army Chief between 2016 and 2019, he strongly backed a policy of hot pursuit in dealing with cross-border terrorism and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ker ritual artist faces 'ban' to perform as son marries Muslim woman

Kannur (Ker), Mar 15 (PTI):

A Kerala artist is facing a "ban" to perform a ritual artform in local temple festivals here as his son married a Muslim woman at Karivelloor, a known Left bastion, in this north Kerala district.

Vinod Panicker, a known 'Poorakali-Marathukali' artist for the last 37 years, alleged that the management of some local temples informed him that he could not perform the traditional artform as he lives in the same house where his non-Hindu daughter-in-law lives which is against rituals and customs.

The management committee of a temple, a shrine of Thiyya commu-

nity here, even told him that if he shifts to some other place from his own house, where the non-Hindu woman resides, then he would be allowed to perform the rituals.

As he rejected their demand, they conducted the ritual with another artist recently, he said.

"I have clearly told them that I don't want to abandon my son and daughter-in-law or shift to any other house. I had been performing the ritual art for nearly four decades and it is such a pain to suffer this humiliation," Panicker said.

Claiming that the incident revealed the religious and communal mindset of the society, the artist said he is a follower

of the teachings of Sree Narayana Guru, the saint-reformer who professed 'one caste, one religion and one God' for mankind.

However, the temple committee justified the action saying that rituals were not permitting to invite an artist for performance from a house where a non-Hindu person lives.

The also said they did not impose any ban but only informed Panicker that rituals could not be violated.

A temple management official said he was a Marxist party sympathiser but that does not mean that temple rituals need not be followed.

Karivelloor is a place where the ruling CPI(M) has deep roots.

As the issue triggered a controversy, senior Marxist Party leader and former minister E P Jayarajan came out criticising the temple management saying it was a 'grave lapse' from their side and the party was against that.

He also alleged that they had kept the development as a secret but now it has come to the public domain.

"Poorakkali" is a traditional dance ritual performed by men during the nine-day Pooram festival in Bhagavathy temples and sacred groves across Malabar (north Kerala).