

BRIEF



A dog and its trainer participate in the Furry Friends Fashion Show, at Latasil ground in Guwahati, Sunday.

Seized

Coimbatore: The Department of Forest on Sunday said three elephants tusks have been confiscated and as many people arrested in Tirupur, near here. Based on tip-off that a loadman was trying to sell the tusks, a forest official posing as a buyer approached the worker and offered to buy them for Rs 80 lakh. When the deal was struck, the official and others from the forest department caught hold of the loadman and his two accomplices.

Watery grave

Kanpur: An eleven-year-old girl drowned and two men went missing while bathing in River Ganga in Maharajpur area here. Three other minors were rescued, police said on Sunday. Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and divers from the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been pressed into service to trace and rescue the missing youths, they said. Uttar Pradesh caretaker Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident on Sunday.

Mishap

Bikaner: Two people died and five others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between a car and truck here on Sunday, police said. According to police, five people were in the car when the accident occurred near Deshnok town on the Bikaner-Jodhpur National Highway, they said. Surya Pratap Singh (22) and Mangu Singh (25), residents of Bikaner, died while three other occupants of the car were injured, they added.

Raid

Mumbai: Thirty persons were arrested and 25 women were rescued after a raid in a bar in Mumbai's Malad area in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The raid was carried out by the Social Service Branch of the city's Crime Branch, an official said. "A decoy customer found women dancing in violation of norms after which the raid was carried out. We have rescued 25 women and arrested 30 persons comprising customers, waiters and other staff of the eatery-cum-bar," he said.

Weather
High 37 Low 25

KEJRIWAL TO MINISTERS IN PUNJAB

'Perform or get ready to be replaced'

Chandigarh, Mar 20

(PTI):

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday told the newly-appointed ministers in Punjab in no uncertain terms to perform or be ready to be replaced and said those unhappy with missing out on ministerial berth need to leave behind personal ambitions for the state's progress.

While he will be there "like an elder brother to guide" them, Kejriwal said the 92 MLAs have to work with honesty as a strong team under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, whom he lauded for the decisions taken after assuming office.

"Every minister will be given a target by Mann sahab regarding works they have to do. They will have to work round-the-clock.

"If your (ministers) targets are not met, then the public will say change this minister, bring another minister... work has to be done and whatever target given by Mann Sahab has to be met, the Aam Aadmi Party chief said in his first address to party legislators through videoconferencing after the formation of the new government in Punjab. Kejriwal



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and party leader Raghav Chadhas during a meeting with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, via video conferencing in Mohali.

also advised the MLAs to be polite and not to be rude or use objectionable language against anyone, including officials. They would have to win the hearts of the people of Punjab with performance, the Delhi chief minister said and warned the party leaders of "strict action" if they indulge in any wrongdoing.

I can tolerate anything but not dishonesty and theft of public money. If I come to know or Mann sahib comes to know that anybody has indulged in wrongdoing, then not even a single chance will be given, he said, adding people have shown faith in us and we cannot break their trust.

Pointing out that political stalwarts of rival parties lost in the elections, Kejriwal said, 'ghamand mat karna' (do not be ar-

rogant). You did not defeat them. It is the people who defeated them. Do not think I have become an MLA now and will become a minister and then CM. These things should not come into your mind, he said.

Kejriwal praised Mann for his decisions related to the announcement of 25,000 government jobs, withdrawal of security of former ministers and ex-MLAs and release of compensation for the damaged crops.

He claimed that while the AAP government is doing wonderful work in Punjab, the BJP, which won elections in four states, was still fighting over ministerial positions.

"In the last three days, Mann sahib, 'tussi kamaal kar ditaa' we are really proud of you," said Kejriwal.

Sharad Yadav merges his party with RJD, seeks opposition unity



Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) leader Sharad Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav being garlanded, during a programme for the merger of LJD with RJD, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Former Union minister and socialist leader Sharad Yadav merged his party Loktantrik Janata Dal with Rashtriya Janata Dal on Sunday, pitching for unity in opposition ranks to take on the BJP.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav welcomed the veteran leader, who had fought some of the keenest Lok Sabha poll battles against his father Lalu Prasad Yadav in the 1990s, into his party's fold, saying that it is a message for the anti-BJP parties to unite to

take on the ruling dispensation. Sharad Yadav (74) had been keeping low after battling health issues for months, and the development is seen as an effort to rehabilitate his colleagues and other associates as his party LJD could never become a serious force after being launched following his separation with JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

He had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election on the RJD ticket while his daughter had fought the 2020 Bihar assembly poll as a nominee of the Congress, then an RJD ally. Unity of opposition parties is his priority, Sharad Yadav told reporters here, while lauding Tejashwi Yadav for leading the fight against the BJP-led NDA in Bihar.

'Russia bombs school housing 400 refugees'



This satellite image shows the aftermath of the airstrike on the Mariupol Drama theater, Ukraine.

Lviv, Mar 20 (AP): Ukrainian authorities said Sunday that Russia's military bombed an art school sheltering some 400 people in the embattled port city of Mariupol, where Ukraine's president said an unrelenting Russian siege would be remembered for centuries to come. It was the second time in less than a week that city officials reported a public building where residents had taken shelter coming under attack. A bomb hit a Mariupol theatre with more than 1,300 believed to be inside

on Wednesday, local officials said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the reported strike on the art school, which The Associated Press could not independently verify. Ukrainian officials have not given an update on the search of the theatre since Friday, when they said at least 130 had been rescued. Mariupol, a strategic port on the Azov Sea, has been under bombardment for at least three weeks and has seen some of the worst horrors of the war in Ukraine.

Biren Singh named CM of Manipur for second term

Imphal, Mar 20 (PTI):

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday announced that N Biren Singh would remain the chief minister of Manipur for a second term.

Sitharaman, who has been sent to the northeastern state as central observer, said Singh was unanimously chosen by the BJP's state legislature party as its leader.

The legislature party's meeting and announcement follows 10 days of uncertainty since the assembly poll results were announced, with rivals Biren Singh and senior BJP MLA Th Biswajit Singh rushing to Delhi twice to meet central leaders in what was seen as part of a hectic lobbying exercise by competing camps, de-



Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a bouquet to BJP leader N. Biren Singh after his election as the leader of BJP Manipur Pradesh legislative party & Chief Minister of Manipur, during the legislative party meeting of BJP Manipur, in Imphal.

spite denials of differences.

It is a good decision taken unanimously, which will ensure that Manipur has a stable and responsible government. The

Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gives special attention to the northeastern states, the finance minister said. Sitharaman and Union Law and

Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is the co-observer, arrived at Imphal earlier on Sunday to attend the meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs in Manipur.

Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Manipur's titular king and BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba and party national spokesperson Sambit Patra also flew in for the crucial meet.

The BJP returned to power in Manipur by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House in the recent assembly elections.

In the 2017 polls, although the BJP had won only 21 seats, it managed to lure MLAs from the Congress, which clinched 28 seats, and Biren Singh was sworn in as the first-ever BJP chief minister in Manipur.

I-T department detects Rs 224-crore undisclosed income

After raids on start-up firm Infra Market

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The Income Tax department has detected "undisclosed" income of more than Rs 224 crore after it recently raided Maharashtra-based unicorn start-up Infra.Market, officials said on Sunday.

The searches were launched on March 9 at the firm's 23 premises in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The CBDT said the

group, founded by Souvik Sengupta and Aaditya Sharda in 2016, is "engaged in wholesale and retail (business) of construction materials and has a pan-India presence with an annual turnover exceeding Rs 6,000 crore."

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the policy-making body for the I-T department.

Officials identified the searched entity as the Infra.Market group. An email sent by PTI seeking the company's

response remained unanswered. The construction materials marketplace had in August last year said that it had raised USD 125 million (about Rs 928.1 crore) in funding from Tiger Global.

The company has been identified as a unicorn, a financial term for a business entity that has achieved a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

The CBDT said "unaccounted" cash worth Rs 1 crore and jewellery worth Rs 22 lakh have been seized till now.

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CM announces significant projects for development of Kumhari

World Consumer Rights Day celebrated



● At Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on March 15 by the Commerce Department of Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya. Dr Anita Pandey, Head of the Department of Commerce, while making the students aware on World Consumer Rights Day, explained to them the rights of consumers and how to use the

rights in case of harassment.

Principal Dr J Durga Prasad Rao while congratulating the department, such programs make our students aware of consumer rights. A total of 63 students were present in this program and all the senior professors of the department including Dr SK Dwivedi, Dr KK Srivastava, Dr SK Srivastava shared their experiences with the students. The program was conducted by Assistant Professor Manjula Rajput.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced various significant projects for changing the face of Kumhari. He made these announcements after inaugurating the development works worth Rs 5.72 crore in Kumhari. He also performed bhoomipujan for development works worth Rs 1.52 crore. He announced construction of wholesale vegetable market in Kumhari with an expenditure of Rs 23 crore.

Along with this, the Chief Minister also announced to conduct renovation of all the schools located within the limits of Kumhari Municipal Council. He also announced the restoration of the quarry near Mahamaya Udyan and directed to conduct activities like fisheries so that

fishermen can also get employment. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that development works worth Rs 94 crore are under progress in Kumhari area and development works worth Rs 100 crore will commence soon.

He said that in the last three years, the face of Kumhari has changed rapidly. If any person visits Kumhari after 3 years, he will feel a big change. It is a matter of pride that Kumhari now has all facilities. Earlier, the residents were suffering due to lack of health facilities and poor education facilities. Now there is a good hospital and two Swami Atmanand English Medium schools are running in Janjiri and Kumhari.

Along with this, a college has also been opened. Kumhari connects Bhilai



to Raipur but the situation here was very poor. "After coming to power, Congress Government decided to change this situation and today the satisfaction and happiness is clearly visible on the faces of locals. Chief Minister further said that Kumhari Gauthan is operating appreciably. The women of Self Help Groups are cultivating bananas and selling it.

Cow Dung is also being

procured on a large scale which has created the possibilities of generating electricity from cow dung. He said that the government is working on the project of generating electricity from cow dung. This system has double benefit with production of vermi compost and electricity both.

The Chief Minister said that the government has made plans for the development of all sections of

society. CG Government has introduced Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana for farmers, schemes for landless labourers and much more. The government has also taken a big step for government employees. Now about 3.80 lakh government employees will be able to take advantage of the old pension scheme. Earlier, they were under stress in worry of financial security in old age, but the government has removed their stress.

The Chief Minister also inspected the Mahamaya Garden. The park has been prepared at a cost of Rs 1.27 crore. Chief Minister not only praised the beauty of the park, but also appreciated the initiative of installing statues of great men. There are statues of Gundadhur, Veer Narayan Singh and Balle Singh. It is a tribute to

them in true sense. Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan also addressed the gathering. He said that in the last three years, all the sections have benefited from the schemes of the state government and prosperity has increased rapidly in the state.

In his address, Kumhari Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, rapid development work is being done in Kumhari and the development aspirations of the people are being fulfilled. Kumhari is moving fast on the path of development. IG OP Pal, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, SSP Badrinarayan Meena and other public representatives and officers were present.

45 youth depart for Chennai under Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

CM tries his hand at badminton with SSP and Collector

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Under the 13th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 45 tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Chennai. It was the second group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of 22 boys and 23 girls is being accompanied by two female and three male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising three such tours this year.



Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in diversity aspect of

our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational

and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage.

This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other part of the country and enhance their self-esteem. IG SK Tyagi (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and Nodal Officer DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Kumhari witnessed an exciting men's double badminton match when Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paired up with Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan and tried his hand on badminton while playing against Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and SSP Badri Narayan Meena.

It was the occasion of the inauguration of a badminton court which has been built at a cost of Rs 97 lakhs. The sports infra-



structure in the state is improving continuously. Chief Minister encouraged the players after inaugurating the badminton court.

The badminton court built in Kumhari has two courts. Along with this, there is also the facility of

changing room. A vertical garden has also been built in the campus at a cost of Rs 60 lakh. Along with this, a garden has also been built at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. On this occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the gov-

ernment is committed to develop sports infrastructure along with civic amenities in the cities and continuous efforts are being made in this direction. Better sports infrastructure is constantly being created in the state and in the district.

He hoped that Chhattisgarh would emerge very strong in the field of sports. On the occasion, Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Municipal President Rajeshwar Sonkar and other public representatives were present.

CSVTU organises awareness workshop for women on IWD



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, organised an awareness workshop for women under the auspices of the Internal Complaints Committee constituted by the university. The two day workshop concluded on March 09.

The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of Director, University Department of Education Dr PK Ghosh while Vice Chancellor Dr MK Verma graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Present as special guests were Dr Chitra Verma, DSP, Sub-Divisional Officer, District- Kanker and Nisha Deshmukh (social worker) from Bhilai. From Internal Complaints Committee those present were Dr Deepti Verma, President, Hema Sahu, Member (Social Worker), Mamta Awasthi (CFO), and Seema Soni. The workshop began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony in front of the portraits of Maa Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda.

Taking the program forward by welcoming the guests, ICC President Dr Dipti Verma provided information about Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Vice-Chancellor spoke on maternal power and also said that it is necessary to have equanimity between men and women, which help in creating a safe workplace environment.

Social worker Nisha Deshmukh and Hema Sahu stressed on women to be aware and empowered, as well as urged them to know their rights and tell that right to other women as well. Director Dr PK Ghosh advised children to look upon women as goddess with respect and urged the children not to indulge in any such work which has to be hidden from their mother.

Dr Chitra Verma asked women and girl students to become financially empowered and instead of becoming someone else's shadow, they should make their own. Thereafter, Dr Dipti Verma and Mamta Awasthi expressed gratitude to the guests members, teachers and students and announced the conclusion of the program. Information on this account was given by Dr Deepti Verma, Chairman of the Internal Complaints Committee of the University through a press communique.

Three arrested for theft of TMT Rebar laden truck

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Police have arrested three ruffians on charges of stealing a TMT Rebar laden truck. The stolen vehicle and the rebar worth Rs 44 lakhs have been recovered. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that on March 18, Old Bhilai Police Station received a complaint regarding theft of a TMT Rebar laden truck.

The victim Arjun Prasad Singh complained that a consignment of 32.76 tonnes TMT Rebar was loaded on his truck trailer (CG07-AX-8873) on March 14 from Bhilai Steel Plant. The driver Ajay Chaudhary had parked the vehicle in Transport Nagar, Hathkhaj. On March 18, they found that



the vehicle and the consignment were missing.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena gave instructions to Old Bhilai Police Station for trapping the accused. During investigations, Police came to know about

some suspects.

They were immediately taken in custody and during interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused had taken the vehicle with consignment to Simga and had concealed the vehicle in the village while the

TMT Rebar was hidden in bushes near the nullah.

The accused were identified as Gurvel Singh (28) son of Kashmir Singh; Gurpreet Singh (35) son of Nirmal Singh and Amreet Singh (21) son of Surup Singh, all residents of Gurdaspur (Punjab) and were presently residing in Transport Nagar, Bhilai. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC.

Sub Inspector Prakash Shukla, ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Rakesh Singh, Subhash Borkar, Constable Sandeep Singh, Krishna Singh, Vijay Singh, Harish Rao and Rajesh Chandraul played vital role in arresting the accused.

Cable wars erupts in twin-city

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: With complaints of damaging the cable network and theft of related devices, the cable war is once again erupting in twin-city.

Due to the rivalry and clash between the cable network operators, a large number of customers are deprived of the cable tv transmission and are unable to watch their favourite shows and programmes.

In a recent incident, Amol Garudi, Manager of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Police Station for theft of cable wires and devices worth lakhs.

He complained that Raipur resident Deepak Pandey (Manager of Shark Net) and his accomplices Ashok Sharma of Durg, Mithlesh Singh of Padmanabhour, Arun Dalai Mohsin Khan and others had cut the cable network supply lines of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited and had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Telugu community remembers Potti Sriramulu on Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: The members of Telugu community celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Potti Sriramulu at a function organised in Camp 1 at the statue of the leader. Badruddin Qureshi, former minister of the state of Chhattisgarh was present as the guest at the function. At the outset, the guest and the members of the community garlanded the statue of Potti Sriramulu on 121st anniversary.

They remembers the contribution of Sriramulu in getting the separate state of Andhra Pradesh from erstwhile Madras state. How he had undertaken 56 days fast for the cause.

Qureshi, in his address, said that the creator of the Andhra Pradesh state, Potti Sriramulu sat on a fast unto death for the creation of Andhra Pradesh from the Madras state and went into a coma on the 56th day and died on the 58th day.

The news of Potti Sriramulu's death spread like fire in Vijayanagar, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Ongole and Nellore and violence spread to all the places and 7 people died in the district including Vijayawada due to police firing and violence. On December 17, 1953, the then Prime Minister of the country, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, agreed to give statehood to Andhra. Due to the sacrifice of Potti Sriramulu, the state of Andhra Pradesh was carved out of Madras state. T Joga Rao, Samay Lal Sahu, Arun Singh, Rama Rao, Upendra, M Krishnarao, K Venkatrao, K Rajendra, Hemraj, Eshwar Rao, Mohd Shahbuddin, Shanji Yadav, K Arpita Rao, Naem Khan, Parvez Alam, Akhilesh Srivastava, Amresh Giri, Shashikant etc were present.

Bicycles distributed to girl students



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Bicycles were distributed to the girl students studying in Government Higher Secondary School, Ward-

30, Camp-1, under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme in the presence of teachers including Principal Jyoti Tiwari, Ward-30 councillor Satyadevi Jaiswal, senior

BJP leaders Prabhunath Mishra, Rajkumar Jaiswal, BJYM leaders Amit Mishra, Ramesh Chaudhary, Anita Soni, Tuleswari were mainly present in the program.

Child kidnapped from Raipur, rescued in Dehradun

● Kidnapper had sold child to his brother-in-law at Rs 50000 to fulfill his wish for son

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The child, who had gone missing from the Civil Line area of Raipur ten days ago, was finally found by the police. Police recovered 3-year-old Subhash Sonwani from Dehradun. Raipur resident Irfan who allegedly kidnapped the child has also been arrested. Irfan's brother-in-law Salim has also been caught by the police and the entire conspiracy has been revealed.

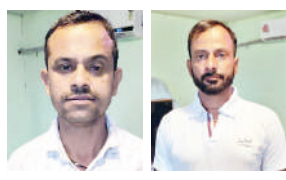
Raipur SSP Prashant Agrawal said that on the night of March 9, a 3-year-old Subhash, who was sleeping outside the hut near Budhi Mai temple of Rajendra Nagar, was kidnapped. He was sleeping



outside with his mother when the person who came on a bike kidnapped Subhash and then took away with him. A team of Civil Line Police Station along with Anti Crime and Cyber Unit was formed to solve this case.

Irfan's brother-in-law Salim Ahmed, living in Dehradun, had 3 daughters and he wanted a son. Salim's wife was told by the doctor that due to medical problems she could not give birth to the next child, so Salim told his relatives that he was ready to pay any price if someone brought him a boy. On knowing this Irfan, talked to Salim and assured to bring the child.

Irfan along with his friend Sher Khan living in



Telibandha planned to kidnap a child. They were constantly carrying out rece of children in different areas of Rajendra Nagar and Civil Line. After about 10 to 15 days of rece, Irfan targeted Subhash, who was sleeping outside with his mother every day near the Budhi Mai temple. Taking the opportunity very cleverly, Irfan and his friend executed their plan on the night of March 9.

According to the police, after kidnapping the child, Irfan had booked a ticket to go to Uttarakhand. He also left for Uttarakhand with his wife and daughter and there he sold Subhash to Salim at Rs 50 thousand.

Irfan was seen carrying the child in a CCTV cam-

era installed near Budhi Mai temple on the night of the incident. After this, the police team examined more than 1000 CCTV footages on different routes. It has been learnt that Irfan had also gone to jail earlier for theft in Raipur itself. Due to the old criminal record, the police tried to trace Irfan. The footage of the railway station was checked. The team came to know that the accused had fled to Dehradun.

For two-three days, the team of Raipur Police stayed in Dehradun and carried out its operation without informing the local police. In Dehradun, the team found Irfan and successfully traced the child with Salim. The child is being brought to Raipur safely. Irfan and his brother-in-law Salim have been arrested in this case. Sher Khan, an associate of Irfan, absconding in this case also being traced by the police.

CHEAPER OPTIONS



As a time-gap arrangement, a chariot owner perhaps realise it is more cheaper to pull a chariot with a scooter, rather than a horse.

CM to table Appropriation Bill in House today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The budget session of the state assembly is in progress and on Monday CM and Finance Minister Bhupesh Baghel can table

the Appropriation Bill in the House. In other words, that with presentation of this Appropriation Bill, the state government gets permission to carry out expenditure from the budget in 2023.

According to reports, this Bill is expected to get approval of the same on March 22 and after which the budget session can be declared as closed. Prior to the declaring end of the session, the main

Opposition party in the House i.e BJP may raised ruckus demanding continuation of session till the last date i.e March 27. The Vidhan Sabha secretariat has issued the agenda for tomorrow's proceedings.

Cleanliness is directly related to human health: Baghel



Raipur, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inspected faecal sludge treatment plant in Kumhari Municipal Council recently. The capacity of this plant is 6 KLD per day (6000 KL per day), i.e. two trucks of faecal sludge can be treated per day. On this occasion, the concerned officers apprised the Chief Minister about the main components and working method of the plant. The Chief Minister thoroughly understood the entire process from the screen chamber to the polishing

pond. The Chief Minister was told about nature based solution. After water treatment, the water can be used in gardens and agriculture and dried sludge can also be used as manure. Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure told the Chief Minister that the plant is gravity based. Chief Minister expressed happiness after hearing that the plant is operated without electricity.

Baghel said that cleanliness is directly related to human health. Cleanliness is an indispen-



sable requirement for healthy human life. It is not possible to ignore it under any circumstances. This state's largest faecal sludge treatment plant has been set up for the residents of Kumhari's area, which will undoubtedly help in waste management.

Nearby farmers will also get chemical free fertilizers so that they can produce high quality food grains and vegetables. People in the nearby areas can also take manure from this plant for their house plants and this manure can also be used in gardens. Faecal sludge treatment plant is definitely a better option for proper disposal and efficient management of human waste.

Health coordinators to sit on dharna

● In support of six-point demand

Raipur, Mar 20: As many as 15000 health coordinators of Chhattisgarh are going on indefinite strike from Monday March 21, in support of six-point demand. Their demonstration will start at 11 am at the protest site near Budha Talab in the capital. Swasthya Samyojak Karmachari Sangh state president Tarjan Gupta, Secretary Praveen Dhirwanshi informed at a press conference here that the Congress party had talked about fulfilling other demands including salary increase in the election manifesto.

In view of the work of the health coordinator during COVID situation in the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced special corona allowance while Health Minister TS Singhdeo had announced salary hike of the staff. However, none of the demands of health coordinators has been ful-

filled yet, they said.

Taking note of government indifference towards the demand, the Sangh decided to stage dharna. They said that the health arrangements in other health centers including 5200 sub-health centers and 550 primary health centers would be affected due to the dharna of 15,000 health coordinators.

The health coordinators are demanding 5200-20200 and grade pay of 2800 on the basis of similar educational qualification and training period, change in the name of the post of rural health coordinators to rural health assistant officers to boost their morale, appointment of wardboys and sweepers at the collector rate in the sub-health centers and health and wellness centers and separate incentive amount of Rs 5000 per month for the work of on-line data entry, monthly incentive to health coordinators and special corona allowance to health workers who rendered services during COVID pandemic.

Cash, jewellery worth Rs 1.50 lakh stolen



From the govt bungalow in VVIP area of RS MP Ramvichar Netam in Ambikapur

Central Chronicle News

Ambikapur, Mar 20 : Thieves ran away with cash and jewellery worth Rs 5 lakhs from the house of former Home Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Ramvichar Netam here on Saturday and the security guards and other peons present in the house could not even get a hint of that. The information to Police was given on Saturday and after two days a case of theft of Rs 1.50 lakh was filed.

RS MP Ramvichar Netam is having a house in Gandhi Nagar area of city and it is a government bungalow. It is learnt that on the night of Holi, the thieves broke open the main lock of the house and then break the lock of three almirahs and ran away with two diamond rings, two gold rings and a gold chain worth Rs 50000.

BJP State spokesman Anurag Singh Deo has held this as theft of Rs 5 lakh, but the Police said it is theft of Rs 1.50 lakh. So far the list of items stolen has not been received by the Police.

Police checking CCTV footage: The Police informed that during the incident, there was one peon and

security guard in the servant quarter in the House. Since it was day of Holi, all were busy in their own programmes and due to which none could get a hint of this theft taking place. The thieves just scattered all the item in three almirahs on the floor and the Police says that the thieves entered breaking the main lock of the gate and presently they are checking all CCTV footage.

Area comes under VIP area:

The government bungalow of Ram Vichar Netam comes in VVIP area of city and just behind the MP's bungalow is the bungalow of Addl SP. Whereas the house of SDM, SP and a judge is also nearby and just at a short distance from it is the circuit House. Presently this theft has raised question mark on safety and security in the city and there are reports that the thieves have stolen items and jewellery worth Rs 7 lakh from another house in the same locality.

Security siren rang in Mumbai when youth tried to pull out ATM

Chakarbhata Police informed, reaches on time

Accused turns out to be mentally retarded, so no action taken

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 20: When the thieves tried to pull out the ATM machine in Bilaspur, then the siren of central security command system in Mumbai rang and the Bilaspur Police was informed about the same. On hearing about the news, the Police reached the site, but by this time the youth managed to escape. The incident is that of Chakarbhata area of Bilaspur city.

The Police was on patrolling on Saturday night in Chakarbhata area and just than the Police got information from photo-modern informatics security Mumbai that attempt is being made to pull out the Bank of India's ATMs in Chakarbhata area.

The team from Mumbai informed that the siren of ATM is ringing here and

in the picture a youth is trying to pull out the ATM machine. On hearing this the Police team reached ATM site at 3:00 am in the morning and by this time the youth managed to escape.

Youth identified from CCTV, appears to be mentally retarded:

The Police has sought CCTV footage and got him identified from persons nearby. At that time they came to know that the youth is from Chakarbhata area and is mentally retarded and undergoing treatment at Mental Hospital in Sendari. Since the youth is mentally retarded the Police is not taking any action.

Instructions given to keep security guard: Chakarbhata TI Manoj Nike informed that the Police during night patrolling are keeping watch on ATMs, Banks, Sarafa and Transport Nagar, High Court and near Airport area. During inspection, they found that there was no guard at the ATM and the Bank management has been asked to keep one guard round-the-clock in ATM for safety purpose.

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Wild elephant tramples girl to death

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Mar 20: A 10-year-old girl was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Marwahi forest range in Bilaspur district on Sunday, a forest official said.

The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village in the morning, Marwahi Divisional Forest Officer Dinesh Patel said.

Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away



when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time, he said.

The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death, the official said.

The forest officials rushed to the spot after being informed about the incident, he added.

The kin of the deceased have been given an initial

relief amount of Rs 25,000, the official said, adding that the remaining compensation will be disbursed soon after the completion of the necessary process, he said.

The forest department had alerted the residents on Saturday night that a herd of around three elephants from Katghora forest division was roaming around in the surrounding

villages, but the children ignored the warning and went to collect the flowers in the morning, he said.

About the incident

The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village on Sunday morning. Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time. The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death. The kin of the deceased have been given an initial relief amount of Rs 25,000.

SMILE ON GETTING VACCINATED



A youth in age-group of 12-14 is with all smile, as he is being administered corona vaccine here on Sunday.

Cop dies after collapsing during attempt to pacify clashing groups

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 20: An assistant sub-inspector of police was declared dead soon after he collapsed on the ground in Mahasamund district, where he went to placate two groups engaged in a brawl, an official said on Sunday.

The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell, he said.

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night, M a h a s a m u n d Superintendent of Police

About the incident

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell. After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground. ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he was declared dead.

Vivek Shukla said. "After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground," the SP said, adding that the ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he

was declared dead. According to doctors, no injury mark was found on Sharma's body, he said.

The body was later sent for an autopsy and the entire procedure is being videographed, Shukla added.

Registration for free education in private schools under RTE begins

Process to be conducted till May 25

Lottery and seat allotment from June 3 to 15, 2022

Nine thousand seats available

Raipur, Mar 20: Registration of children in schools under the Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE) began on Thursday. The process of admission in the first phase will continue till June 30. The registration of students is being done from March 17 to May 15, 2022. The lottery and seat allotment will be conducted from June 3 to 15, 2022. Process of admission will be conducted in 820 pri-

private schools of Raipur, which have about nine thousand seats. Information about the number of seats, schools can be obtained from the website <https://eduportal.cg.nic.in/RT/E/>. Children belonging to families living below poverty line are eligible for admission in private schools under RTE. Census of 2007 in urban areas and 2002 in rural areas will be the basis of admission. Antyodaya card holders according to the 2011 census will be eligible for admission.

Admission will be allowed in Nursery, KG I, KG II and Class I. In 6,511 private schools in the state, the number of 25 percent seats reserved under RTE is 83,006. Presently 3,01,317 children are studying under this scheme.

Fag song now becoming popular among girls

● Young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya fill atmosphere with enthusiasm with their songs

Raipur, Mar 20: On the occasion of Holi, men have been giving the presentation of the song 'Fag'. From this year onwards, girls have also started taking interest in fag songs. A group of young girls are presenting the hymns of Radha-Krishna in the form of fag songs. Their style of presentation is also being liked.

Due to this other girls are also being attracted to learn the songs of fag.

The fun of fag songs had disappeared in the last two years due to COVID pandemic. This year again Fag songs are resonating in Fiza. This year the specialty was seen that the girls also participated enthusiastically in this and cast a spell over listeners by singing the songs. This was visible in the ongoing 'Aakar Shivir' organized by the Culture Department in Raipur where training in various crafts is being given. Children and girls are reaching to learn many crafts including Dhokra craft, clay craft, paper cutting, chalk and clay art.

For the entertainment of those who came here, a group of girls had also come to present the songs of Fag. The young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya created an atmosphere full of enthusiasm with their singing. According to singer Akanksha Dubey the program of fag songs was not being held in the capital for the last two years due to corona pandemic. Earlier, in the street, the songs of C h a n g - M r i d a n g, Harmonium, Dholak, drums were heard on the beats of the drums, whose sweetness and the style drenched young and old in fun.

Three meet watery grave at Ramdaha waterfall



The search continues for the body of third missing youth.

13 youths had come from MP for picnic

Bharatpur, Mar 20: In the remote forest area of Bharatpur block is present Ramdaha waterfall and on the next day after Holi 13 youths from MP came there to celebrate Holi. While they entered the waterfall two of them slipped inside and met watery grave while another youth who had also entered this waterfall is still missing and Kotadol police is in search of the missing youth. The two youths who met watery grave have been identified as Vimal Gupta and Ramkishore Patel. About the incident As per information received, 13 youths from

Manpur area of Umaria district in MP had come to Ramdaha waterfall for celebrating picnic. While they were taking bath, three youths met watery grave, two bodies were traced while third youth Deepak Gupta is still missing. After receiving the information Kotadol police reached the spot and with the help of villagers fished out the body of two youths.

This place is visited by many people for celebrating picnic but even after many incidents in the past administration has issued no guidelines for the safety of tourists coming here. Baikunthpur Home Guard team has been informed and they are searching for the missing youth.

Rangotsav and CAP held with COBRA Battalion



● In Naxal affected area Minpa

Konta, Mar 20: On the auspicious occasion of Holi, DIG Yogyan Singh and 206 COBRA Battalion, based at Elmagunda Camp of Sukma district, under the direction of Luv

Kumar, PMG, Commandant, organized Holi Milan ceremony and Civic Action Programme (CAP) with the villagers of Elmagunda. The programme started with the greetings on Holi by the villagers and security force personnel by applying colours and exchanging greet-

ing with each other and at the same time lunch was provided to all the villagers on behalf of Cobra.

In the second episode of the program, under the Civic Action Programme of 206 COBRAs, sports materials, copy books for children, kitchen utensils, clothes for women, slippers, solar lanterns etc. were distributed. In the interior areas of Bastar, where the local people have almost negligible contact with the outside world, radio transistors were distributed to them to keep them abreast of the news and entertainment of the country and the world. During the ceremony, necessary medical and medi-

cines were given to the needy people by the medical team of COBRA. Addressing the function, Camp Commander of Elmagunda Camp Ranjit Mandal, Deputy Commandant urged the villagers to continue the efforts being made by COBRA, CRPF and other security forces in the overall development of the area and always be ready for any help to the villagers.

All the villagers of Renga Para, Patel Para and Ju Para of Elmagunda village participated in the program, in which the enthusiasm of women and children gave the form of Holi Milan and Civic Action as a fair.

Villagers enjoyed Holi for full two-days

Churrikala, Mar 20: It was after long break of two-years, that the people of all age-groups in the region, celebrated this festival of colours with great enthusiasm and fanfare. They applied 'Gulal' to each other at chowks and in houses and embraced each other with Holi greetings.

Facing the threat and danger of corona pandemic for last two years, this time the denizens of Katagi and nearby villages observed Holi without any fear or hesitation in their mind and fulfilling all their wishes of colouring each other with 'gulal and colours'.



It was on Thursday night, 'Holika-dahan' was done and in this female of the village reached venue of 'Holika' and offered all rituals and then the 'holika' was set on fire. The waste wood from all over the village was collected in advance and then it was placed for bonfire. People also played 'Nagadas' late in the evening to create atmosphere

for 'Holi' and it was set on fire late in the night.

On this occasion 'Faag-geet' competition was also organised at many places and Leader of Opposition in Nagar Palika Churrikala Devendra Dewangan organised it and in this 'faag-geet' participants from nearby villages took part in large number.

It was on Friday morning onwards, right from kids to elders, celebrated Holi, applying variety of colours and 'gulal' to each other, apart from bursting water-balloons and there was huge sales of colours and other items on

Holi this year.

Former President Ashok Dewagan had organised 'Holi-Milan' programme at his residence and in this all the denizens of city and his close friends were invited and they all celebrated holi with great fanfare. Along with him corporator, Aldermen, MLA's rep and other public representatives also took part in Holi celebrations. At the same time the Police department has made special arrangements for safety and security and due to which no untoward incident took place in the region.

Holi celebrated in rural areas peacefully

Katagi, Mar 20: The festival of Colour 'Holi', falling in the month of 'Fagun' is celebrated on the day of 'Poonnima' and to celebrate the occasion, people play 'Nagadas' and DJs, music and drums. But this year with Collector's order, there was no loud playing of 'DJ'. This festival of 'Holi', like any other festival is symbol of victory of good over evil. As per ancient scripts, this festival is related to story of King Hiranakshyap.

For 'Holika Dahan' on Thursday, kids of the village started gathering obsolete wood and other dry



wastes for last 15 days for the bonfire on Holika. On this day, the villagers offer prayers to 'Holika' and offer 'coconut', cow-dung cake, wood and other items and forgetting all ill and hatred with each other, the villagers re-start a new life with new year with this festival of colours-Holi.

Prior to the Holi celebrations, meeting of peace-

committee members was held at Thana Chowki and an appeal was made to all heads of the village to maintain peace, law & order on Holi. At the same time police jawans also conducted patrolling to avoid any untoward incident at sensitive places. This village Katagi, Saravani, Kalmidih, Lakhmaisati, Khaira, Jhabadi, Amodi, Navapara, Dhamalpur, Dheradih, Rampur, Kot, Tiparau, Manakoni, Darra, Giroudpuri, Sukali, Bareli, Madwa, Matia and others and at all these places Holi was celebrated with great fanfare and peacefully.

Villagers celebrate 'Holi' with 'Nagadas'



Anwari, Mar 20: The festival of Colours 'Holi' was celebrated with fanfare and enthusiasm in Anwari and nearby villages. The enthusiasm for celebrating this festival which promotes love, brotherhood and

unites all was at its peak this year, with people from all age-group participating in it. People from villages met each other on Holi and exchanged greeting applying 'Gulal' and later took part in the 'faag geet' and

playing of drums and 'dholaks' singing Holi songs and dancing to the tunes of new songs. It was just few days before start of this festival, that beats on 'Nagadas' could be heard and after which 'Holika Dahan' was done on Thursday night. Villages played 'nagadas' singing 'faag geet' and enjoyed the Holi celebrations. Women dressed in their traditional style met each other and applied 'gulal' and variety of colours to celebrate the occasion, with wishes to keep the relations of love and happiness intact among all.

ESAF observes Int'n'l Women's Day



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: ESAF Raipur Branch celebrated International Women's Day program with its valuable customers. Resource person's of this program were Shatabdi Pandey (Advisor, National Women Commission), Dr. Preeti (Principal-Copernics Deaf and Dumb College), Ms. Pushpalata (Director-H a r s a m b h a v

Foundation), Ms. Babli (Women Entrepreneur and Royalty Achiever), Ms. Merry (Renowned Social Activist), Vikash (Cluster Head-Retail), Preetpal (BH), Abhishek (Head-other products), Rajesh(CSM) and Mitu Henry.

The entire program was an experience sharing session on 'Women in present Socio-Economic Scenario' and how to make them self reliant.

BJP united to ensure justice for victim youth

CRPF conducts civic action programme

Party burns effigy of CM

Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: In the village Maragpur under Baderajpur of Kondagaon last year farmer Dhaniram Markam's total farm area was reduced while making calculation of total land area and he was given a token for 11 tonne paddy while his field is of 6 acres and he sold 75 quintal paddy every year. But as his acreage was reduced and he could sell only 11 quintals of paddy, he became sad and committed suicide.



The deceased farmer had taken Rs 60,000 land from District Cooperative Bank Vishrampuri, the victim's

family did not receive any compensation from the administration, neither the agriculture loan was

waived and the family was asked to pay Rs 71,000 including interest on the loan amount.

The office bearers of 10 BJP divisions of Kondagaon along with BJP state vice president Lata Usendi met the family members of deceased and assured to be with them till they get justice. They demanded government service for one member of the family.

Usendi alleged that state government is playing with the sentiments of the farmers and they are torturing them by engaging banks to make repayment of loans even after the farmer who had taken loan had died. BJP workers also burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and raised slogans against the state government.



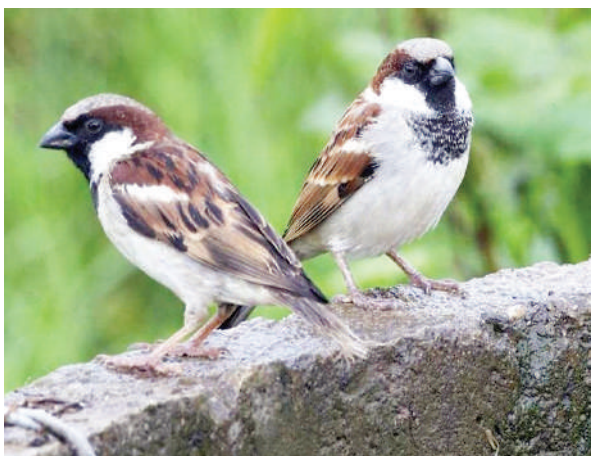
Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: 188 CRPF Battalion conducted civic action programme in Khargaon area in which villagers were

distributed daily use items. The programme was conducted under the directives of Sunil Kumar Commandant and in presence of Kailash Chand Assistant Commandant

and other jawans of the battalion. About 390 villagers were benefited and CRPF official Kailash Chand assured the villagers of forces with them for all their needs.

Conserve 'Sparrows' on verge of extinction



Main reason is increasing urbanisation and lack of plantation

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Mar 20: On occasion of World Sparrow Day, the members of Environment Conservation Committee (ECC) have urged the people to save this species of

bird on verge of extinction. One of the member's of the Committee Mohan Rajput and Anurag Thakur informed that to ensure that this species of Sparrow does not get extinct, we all will have to take initiatives. For this one should spread grains either on the rooftop or in the courtyard to save the birds and also place an earthen pot with water this summer. Apart from this one can

also prepare nests, plant saplings, save trees, so that birds have ample space and trees to live in peace with nature.

Duo informed that it is for the first time that World Sparrow Day was observed all over the country on March 20, 2010 and it was on 9 July 2010, Indian Postal Department released a postal stamp on 'sparrow' bird.

What few years back was a common site in the courtyard or near a tree were hundreds of 'sparrow' birds fluttering from one tree to another and now it has become a rare site in urban areas.

This species of bird 'Sparrow' was generally seen in large number among public places, but now the very chirping sound of these birds is rarely heard in the concrete jungle which has enveloped the greenery found earlier.

Though in last two years of corona lockdown, the number of sparrow birds in rural

areas has increased, but it has reduced a lot in urban areas. Set aside this more use of pesti-

cides, mobile towers, sound pollution, urbanisation, industrialisation and felling of trees are

some of the reasons behind extinction of this species of bird - 'Sparrow'. So now there

is need to conserve and protect them and put a control on increasing urbanisation.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I, Sudhir kumar S/o Deenanath Choudhary resident of MIG 8/22 Jawahar nagar supela Bhilai, Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh have changed my old name Sudhir kumar S/o Deenanath Choudhary, so in future I should be recognized by my new name Sudhir Choudhary S/o Deenanath Choudhary in all government and other documents.

Sudhir Choudhary
MIG 8/22 Jawahar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh (India)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Ravi Agarwal s/o Shankar Lal Agarwal resident of ward no 7 house no 110, near Shri Ram Mandir, Sakti, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh-495689 have changed my old name Ravi Agarwal son of Shankar Lal Agarwal, so in future I should be recognised by my new name that is Ravi Kumar Agrawal son of Shankar Lal Agarwal in all government and other documents.

RAVI KUMAR AGRAWAL
Ward no 7 house no 110, Near Shri Ram Mandir, Sakti, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh-495689

नाम परिवर्तन

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि RAKESH GUPTA S/O- RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA निवासी AZAD NAGAR, MAHAVEER NAGAR, RAIPUR (C.G.) यह शपथ करता हूँ, की मैंने अपना यह पुराना नाम को त्याग कर नया नाम RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA रख लिया है। अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्थात् शासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नए नाम RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O-RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA से ही जाना पहचाना जावे।

RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA
AZAD NAGAR, MAHAVEER NAGAR, RAIPUR CHHATTISGARH-492001

AFFIDAVIT/ SELF DECLARATION

I, No. 14845619L Rank Nk/HK Name Ashok Kumar Ratre presently residing at Vill.- Pandripali, PO: Pandripali, Teh.: Bilargarh, Dist.: Baloda Bazar, State : Chhattisgarh, Pin : 493 559 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

(a) That, I have changed my son from Adrsh to Adarsh Ratre due to wrong publication of Birth Part - II Order in my service documents that my son date of birth is 16 Mar 2011 (one six zero three two zero one (In words)).

(b) That, I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my son name

(c) That both Named Adrsh and Adarsh Ratre pertain to one and the same person.

(d) That, I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only Adarsh Ratre.

(e) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 14 March 2022
Signature of Individual

AFFIDAVIT/ SELF DECLARATION

I, Abha Devi, is legally wedded spouse of No. 14845619L Rank Nk/HK Name Ashok Kumar Ratre presently residing at Vill.- Pandripali, PO: Pandripali, Teh.: Bilargarh, Dist.: Baloda Bazar, State : Chhattisgarh, Pin : 493 559 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

(a) That, I have changed my name from Abha Devi to Abha Devi Ratre due to wrong publication of Marriage Part-II Order in my service documents that my date of birth is 17 Dec 1982 (One seven one two one nine eight two (In words)).

(b) That, I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my name.

(c) That both Named Abha Devi and Abha Devi Ratre pertain to one and the same person.

(d) That, I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only Abha Devi Ratre.

(e) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge information and belief Nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 14 March 2022
Signature of Individual

Yuwa Jagriti Panthi team enthral audience In 'Basantotsav' held in Gandhi Nagar



Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasoud, Mar 20: The youths of Yuwa Jagriti Panthi Party under leadership of Ved Prakash Maheshwari near Gram Bahana Kadi, organised 'Basantotsav' in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat from March 13-22 jointly under aegis of Western Area Cultural Centre Udaipur and Yuwa Sewa Sanskritik Pravrittiya Gujarat government.

In this 15-member 'Yuwa Jagriti Panthi Party' from Gram Bahana-Kadi near capital city took part and enthralled the audience with their 'Panthi' dance performance. CM Gujarat Bhupendra Bhai Patel lighted the traditional lamp to inaugurate 'Basantotsav' programme and this started the series of cultural programmes.

In this the members of Yuwa Jagriti Panthi party gave colourful and mesmerising performance of 'Panthi' dance and it was hailed by one & all pres-

ent. In this Ved Prakash Maheshwari, Hitendra, Surendra Bharti, Shekhar Gaikwad, Charandas, Sanjay, Yogesh, Parmeshwar, Anil and ther colleagues took part.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर जिला बेमेतरा (छ.ग.)
राजस्व मामले में नोटिस
प्रकरण क्रमांक 31/ब-121/2020-21

आवेदक - एस्पायर होम फायनेस कॉरिशन लिमिटेड
फंजीकृत कार्यालय एस्पायर होम फायनेस लिमिटेड, मोतीलाल ओसवाल टॉवर, रहितमुकलाह परेल एस.टी डिपो के सामने प्रभादेवी मुम्बई 400025
शाखा कार्यालय- 203 नेशनल कॉर्पोरेशन पार्क, गीता नगर, रामकुंड, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
विरुद्ध

अनावेदक-

- श्री राजेश कुमार साहू
ग्राम धनौरा मारका, कबीरधाम बाजाली कुलर्स के पास, छ.ग. आदर्श स्कूल बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) 491336
- श्रीमती उषा राजेश कुमार साहू
ग्राम धनौरा मारका, कबीरधाम बाजाली कुलर्स के पास, छ.ग.आदर्श स्कूल बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) 491336
- श्रीमती धनबाई, साधु हीरा नगर, उरला, अचोली-2 रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492003

आवेदक द्वारा वितीत आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुर्नगहन और प्रतिभूतिहित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा -14 के अंतर्गत आवेदन पेश किया गया है। अनावेदकगण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपर्युक्त मामले की सुनवाई दिनांक 24.03.2022 दिन गुरुवार को समय दोपहर 12.00 बजे स्थान न्यायालय कलेक्टर जिला बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) पर होगी। अतएव आप स्वतः या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उक्त सुनवाई तिथि को अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होंगे। उपस्थिति नहीं होने की स्थिति में आपके विरुद्ध एफयुवीसी कार्यवाही कर प्रकरण में अग्रिम कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

आज दिनांक 15/03/2022 को न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

सही
आदेशानुसार /
कलेक्टर, जिला बेमेतरा,
बेमेतरा, दि. 15.03.2022

मुहर

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Dhamtari, First Floor, Bank of Baroda, Indira Place, Civic Center, Bhilai, (Chhattisgarh) - 490006
Telephone: 0788-2963574, www.bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitization of financial asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No 54 of 2002) and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notices to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the said rules on the date mentioned in respective columns. Descriptions are as under:

Branch Name	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Possession date
Dhamtari	Borrower: Shri Mohammad Sajid Raza S/o Yusuf Raza, Shri Yusuf Raza S/o Shri Mohd. Sirajuddin and Smt. Sayra Bano W/o Shri Yusuf Raza Guarantor: Shri Mohammad Shahid Raza S/o Shri. Yusuf Raza	Land & Building at Kh. No. 354/31, New Kh. No. 962/2, PH. No. 46/13, Village: Demar RIC Bhothli, Distt: Dhamtari bounded by: North : Land of Bhuneshwar South : Solid land of seller Om Kumar East: Dhamtari-Bakhara Main Road West : Govt land	13/01/2022 Rs.1978692.00 + Interest and other charges 15/03/2022
Dhamtari	Borrower: Shri Mohammad Yusuf Raza S/o Shri Sirajuddin, Smt. Sayra Bano W/o Shri Mohd Yusuf Raza and Shri. Mohammad Sajid Raza S/o Mohd. Yusuf Raza Guarantor: Shri Mohammad Shahid Raza S/o Shri Yusuf Raza	Land & Building at Kh. No. 354/31, New Kh. No. 962/2, PH. No. 46/13, Village: Demar RIC Bhothli, Distt: Dhamtari bounded by: North : Sajid Raza South : Road East : Bakhara Road, West : Govt land	13/01/2022 Rs.1991927.00 + Interest and other charges 15/03/2022

The borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned properties. Any dealing with the properties will subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda
Date: 21/03/2022 Place : Dhamtari

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

DHAMTARI, BASTAR ROAD, DHAMTARI, 134150700008500, 9155, 9160, 9476, 9477, 9497, 9499, 9525, 9539, 134150730008500, 8573, 8767, 8768, 8885, 8929, 9374, 9532, 134150730010040, 0315, SADAR BAZAR, DHAMTARI, 131990700008023, 131990730003668, 3958, 4536, 5284, 5288, 5289, DURG, CHARODA SQUARE, BHILAI, 134110700011804, 1962, 2820, 3279, 3370, 3371, 3386, 3578, 3655, 3724, 3788, 3935, 4241, 4283, 4286, 4304, 4309, 4310, 4313, 4322, 4336, 134110730014583, 5165, 5174, 5194, 5243, 5352, 5700, 6202, 6522, 6523, 7396, 7641, 7848, 8015, 8060, 8080, 8530, 8579, 8682, 8683, 9176, 9261, 9262, 9332, 9340, 9346, 9362, 9364, 9382, CHOUHAN ESTATE, 115880700019301, 9359, 9428, 9767, 9952, 115880700020306, 0329, 0345, 0500, 0659, 1166, 1170, 1177, 1180, 1181, 1184, 1188, 1190, 1209, 1212, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1236, 1245, 1258, 1264, 1275, 1279, 1285, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1304, 1306, 1310, 1313, 1320, 1322, 1325, 1328, 115880730018626, 8942, 8989, 9431, 9729, 115880730020688, 1471, 1544, 2646, 2648, 2650, 2804, 2805, 3399, 3577, 3646, 3788, 3848, 3940, 4364, 4390, 4395, 4415, 4419, 4424, 4432, 4437, 4438, 4444, 4521, GURUDWARA STATION ROAD, 112310700018526, 8684, 9263, 9264, 9266, 9570, 9588, 9912, 112310700020025, 0062, 0445, 0461, 0483, 0506, 0515, 0548, 0560, 0565, 0570, 0578, 0594, 112310730024154, 7200, 7757, 8073, 9959, 112310730010466, 2135, 3675, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3738, 3739, 3768, 3770, 3777, 3796, 3798, 3799, 3810, 3833, KRISHNA THEATER ROAD, 125930700018186, 8472, 8665, 8844, 9028, 9128, 9530, 9570, 9572, 9689, 9772, 9800, 9821, 125930700020395, 125930730013234, 3235, 3236, 3912, 4188, 4773, 4857, 4989, 5091, 5252, 5253, 5254, 5455, 6114, 6123, 6203, MAHARAJA CHOWK, 116770700012334, 2335, 2360, 2696, 116770730007736, 8013, 116770730011756, 1866, 1892, 1949, 2332, 2400, MALVIYA NAGAR SQUARE, 116610700013460, 3463, 4350, 4489, 4501, 4537, 4554, 4567, 4581, 4769, 4770, 4827, 4839, 4856, 116610730014674, 6194, 6290, 116610730022425, 3705, 3887, 3933, 4178, 4453, 4492, 4498, 4499, NEHRU NAGAR BHILAI, 125780700015471, 6401, 6823, 6933, 6965, 7060, 7174, 7188, 7489, 7494, 7505, 7537, 7566, 7581, 125780730016807, 7415, 7475, 7851, 7979, 7995, 8011, 8346, 8353, 8360, 8361, 8362, 8394, 8397, 8399, 8406, 8413, 8415, 8424, 8435, NEW BUS STAND DURG, 126220700012039, 2093, 2162, 2273, 2289, 2359, 2439, 2442, 2489, 2730, 2769, 2782, 2785, 2829, 2833, 2860, 126220730005686, 7756, 8272, 9679, 126220730010200, 0568, 0656, 0665, 0673, 0907, 0921, POWER HOUSE CHOWK, BHILAI, 1340307000022376, 5765, 5991, 6062, 6387, 6857, 6858, 7078, 7189, 7321, 7467, 7575, 7625, 7748, 7750, 7762, 7771, 7839, 7869, 7912, 7915, 1340307300020355, 1272, 2121, 4672, 5740, 5846, 5946, 5947, 6479, 6861, 6865, 6900, 6988, 7084, 7639, 7768, 7769, 134030780000077, SANTRABADI, 112610700014855, 5075, 5099, 5127, 5367, 5410, 112610730007265, 7336, 7596, 7600, 8670, 8781, 8902, 9127, 9190, 9192, 9193, 112610730011515, 1516, 1738, 1777, 1791, 1792, 2213, 2248, 2266, 2558, 3234, SMITHI NAGAR, BHILAI, 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6380, 6829, BANPURI, 114590700022131, 2515, 2578, 2877, 2974, 2985, 2986, 3016, 3036, 3037, 3039, 3047, 3058, 3063, 3092, 3120, 3121, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3132, 3140, 114590730010508, 1893, 1899, 1900, 2284, 2285, 2382, 2404, 2428, 2433, 2434, 2453, 2456, 2488, 2498, 2506, 2527, 2529, 2552, 2562, 2564, 2565, 2571, 2587, BANSTAL, RAIPUR, 124250700006984, 7143, 124250730003102, 3565, 3571, BUDHAPARA, RAIPUR, 124430700020756, 1181, 1617, 1827, 2893, 3056, 3241, 3242, 3292, 3294, 3310, 3406, 3790, 3799, 3800, 3828, 3841, 3882, 3890, 3894, 3895, 3896, 3897, 3898, 3899, 3901, 3902, 3904, 3906, 3908, 3911, 3915, 3916, 3917, 3919, 3931, 3947, 3949, 3953, 3955, 3959, 3966, 3972, 3975, 3978, 3979, 3980, 3981, 3986, 3990, 3991, 4010, 4012, 4013, 4014, 124430730013435, 4766, 5304, 6356, 6535, 6802, 6868, 7065, 7411, 8188, 8215, 8221, 8227, 8228, 8234, 8242, 8246, 8248, 8251, 8252, 8253, 8285, 8289, 8295, 8320, 8322, 124430780000022, DEVENDRANAGAR RAIPUR, 124680700011561, 1621, 1628, 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BRIEF

Fabricating

New Delhi: A 24-year-old driver was arrested for allegedly fabricating a robbery of Rs 20 lakh in north Delhi's Civil Lines area. The accused has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a resident of Rohini and a native of Jharkhand. A businessman, who has a business of grains, had made a complaint with police alleging a robbery. He had sent his driver Kumar to drop Rs 20 lakh at his nephew's office. Police zeroed in on Kumar as suspect.

Seized

Bengaluru: Authorities including those from Customs Intelligence Unit (CIU) said they have seized Ephedrine, weighing 46.799 kg, and having a street price of about Rs 9.23 crores, under the provisions of the NDPS Act. Ephedrine was hidden in kitchen utensils consignment. Based on specific intelligence, the officers intercepted a shipment in the export shed that was attempted to be exported to Australia by a exporter.

Rescued

Nuh: A 9 year old boy was rescued within eight hours of his kidnapping from Tirwada village in Haryana's Nuh district, the police said. The boy went missing from his house. The boy's father had got ransom call of Rs 2 lakh from an unknown number. After tracing number and its location, police found the child from forested area near Mahu Chopra village.

Shootout

Kolkata: Two persons were injured in a shootout in the city's Tiljala area. The injured were identified as Raju Roy, a taxi driver, and his father, Dablu Roy. They were admitted to the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital. The incident took place in Tarikhana Road when a few locals, who had asked for money from Raju, allegedly gheraoed him when he was returning home with his brother, and an altercation followed, police said.

Injured

Palghar: A 65-year-old tribal woman from Mokhada in Maharashtra's Palghar district was injured in a tiger attack, an official said. The incident took place in a forested patch near Poshora village. Parvati Sapte was saved by her 72-year-old husband Kahisnath Sapte who managed to ward off the big cat. She was attacked very close to the door of her house.

Booked

Panaji: Two constables attached to Ponda police station in North Goa district were suspended and an FIR was registered against them for allegedly assaulting a man. Constables Rama Khanekar and Omark Mankar have been placed under suspension for allegedly assaulting a man at Codar village, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Ponda) CL Patil said.

'Huge welfare schemes expenditure hitting public finances'

● **Yashwant Sinha had quit BJP over policy differences**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Yashwant Sinha

Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha on Sunday said that huge expenditure on welfare schemes by the Modi government has severely impacted the public finances which are currently in a mess with fiscal deficit touching abnormally high levels.

Sinha in an interview with PTI said the shocking thing is nobody seems to be worried about the state of government finances, including those in the government.

"The Modi government is spending large sums of money on welfare schemes, including the

free food scheme and all the rest of it. But government finances are in a mess. The fiscal deficit has touched abnormal proportions even according to the undependable figures of the government," Sinha, a senior vice-president of the Trinamool Congress, said.

The country's fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent of the GDP this fiscal as

against the earlier estimate of 6.8 per cent of the GDP. Sinha alleged that everything in the economic policy today is based on whether it will enable the government or the ruling party to win elections or not.

"So on the one hand, we have this welfarism for the poor. And on the other hand, select corporates are making windfall gains and again that is something about which nobody in this country seems to be bothered," he alleged.

Sinha said that it is a complete mismatch between what one would call prudent financial policies, prudent economic policies and the reality today. To a question, Sinha said the Indian economy will face the challenge of inflation, challenge of growth.

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to

grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than the previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to recent government data. Sinha, a bitter critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime, noted that the economy is in crying need of fresh investment, both from the government and from the private sector.

"And that is nowhere in sight. You know, the increase in capital expenditure in the budget is just a chimera," he said. According to the former finance minister, while the government investment is not going to go up, private investment is slacked. "It will become a slacker because of rising interest rates. And in the absence of investment, the Indian economy will not be able to make progress," he stated.

KPCC Prez proposes 'Fly Kerala' as alternative to SilverLine



K Sudhakaran

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 20 (PTI):

Amidst the raging controversy in the state over the Left government's ambitious SilverLine project, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president and MP K Sudhakaran on Sunday suggested an alternative to the rail corridor — an air link between Kasaragod to

Thiruvananthapuram called 'Fly Kerala'. The Congress leader, in a video message titled 'Let's Talk Politics' on Facebook, said there was already an air link from Mangaluru to Thiruvananthapuram and a flight on this route can stop at Kannur, Calicut and Kochi and such a trip would only take a total of around three hours. Sudhakaran also said more flights can be pressed into operation for shorter distances or duration on this route and the entire project would not cost the state more than Rs 1,000 crore, instead of the expected Rs 1.33 lakh crore of the SilverLine. He further said a system can be put in place to enable purchase of tickets at the time of travel or on the go, like while travelling on buses.

Fortified Ganga sludge substitute planned for chemical fertilisers

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The government is planning to fortify sludge from the Ganga river to use it as fertiliser to promote organic farming and prevent chemicals from entering rivers, a senior official said. Treated water, rich in phosphorus and nutrients, is good for crop growth and in the last two weeks various rounds of discussions have been held on ways to handle the sludge from the Ganga river, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Director General Asok Kumar said. According to him, efforts are underway to produce fortified sludge and provide it to farmers at subsidised rates. "We found that treated sludge can be



A water treatment plant on banks of river Ganga in Prayagraj district, UP.

very similar to fertiliser. So, if we can add a little bit of fortification, then it (sludge) can be as good as a fertiliser and will help in organic farming," Kumar told PTI.

"We are in talks with companies to produce fortified sludge that could be

IMMUNISATION DRIVE



UP CM Yogi Adityanath administers a drop of polio vaccine as part of immunisation drive, in Gorakhpur, Sunday.

CISF seeks end of ex-Army personnel hiring

● **1.64 lakh personnel force was raised in 1969**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

An experimental hiring of about 1,700 retired Army personnel in the CISF for rendering unarmed duties has not found favour with the paramilitary force and it has sought discontinuation of these contracts from the Union home ministry, official sources said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had last year asked the CISF to toy with the idea of hiring 2,000 ex-army personnel for "non core" duties at 13 of its security units in the country, including those engaged in thermal power and coal production.



The contractual hiring was made for a period of one year initially which may be renewed on an year-to-year basis for 2 additional years. The trial was meant to "help and rehabilitate" retired army personnel and take benefit of their experience for security purposes.

'BJP promoting 'The Kashmir Files' with eye on Assembly polls'

● **In Gujarat, Rajasthan, alleges Raut**

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday accused the BJP of promoting 'The Kashmir Files' movie with an eye on the forthcoming Assembly polls in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and also alleged that an attempt has been made in the film to suppress several "harsh truths".

In his weekly column 'Rokhtok' in Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut said it was the BJP's promise to ensure the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir, but the same has not happened despite the abrogation of Article

370, and sought to know whose failure it was.

Raut also labelled Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being the main promoter of the film.

Attacking the BJP further, the Rajya Sabha member asked the NDA constituent what happened to its promise of integrating Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) with India.

Written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri and pro-

duced by Zee Studios, the film 'The Kashmir Files' depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir following systematic killings of people from the community by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Since its release on March 11, the film has sparked a debate among political parties. Several BJP-ruled states, including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, have exempted the film from entertainment tax.

"The story based on the fleeing of Hindu Pandits in Kashmir, their killings, atrocities inflicted on them and their anger disturbs one's mind. But what disturbs even more is (the attempt) to divide Hindu-Muslims out of it (the story) again and win the upcoming elections," Raut said.

"The Kashmir file has been opened to win the (forthcoming) elections in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan," he alleged.

Raut said that films like 'The Kashmir Files' should be created, but - he alleged - the agenda of such movies has now been to spread hatred and confusion about (political) opponents.

The Shiv Sena leader said the makers of 'The Kashmir Files' had earlier produced 'The Tashkent Files', through which, he alleged, it was implied that only the Gandhi family was responsible for the death of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

"In 'The Kashmir Files', an attempt has been made to suppress several other harsh truths while showing true news.

Amid rising heat, MP cabinet to hold meeting in Pachmarhi

Bhopal, Mar 20 (PTI):

With the mercury levels in Madhya Pradesh going up, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government has decided to hold its cabinet meeting in Pachmarhi, a popular hill station in Narmadapuram district of the state, over the coming weekend.

The cabinet meeting will be held on March 26 and 27, a minister said on Sunday. As per the agenda of the meeting, talks will revolve around the issue of development of Madhya Pradesh, he said, adding that making the state self-reliant was on the top of the chief minister's mind.

The cabinet meeting is generally held in state capi-



MP government office complex in Pachmarhi.

tal Bhopal either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

When asked whether Pachmarhi, known as the 'Queen of Satpura', has been chosen as the venue for the cabinet meeting in

view of the heat wave in the state, he said, "Nothing of that sort should be read into it as such meetings were held at places other than Bhopal in the past as well."

Fresh notice to Narayan Rane's bungalow for alterations

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Narayan Rane's Arabian seaside bungalow in Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a fresh notice to Union minister Narayan Rane's family, asking it to remove the "unauthorised" alterations at its Juhu bungalow within 15 days.

In the notice issued on March 16 to BJP leader Rane's wife and son, the BMC said the corporation will demolish the changes and recover charges for the same from the owner if he failed to remove the "unauthorised change of use" works.

On February 21, a team of civic officials had inspected the bungalow named 'Adhish', located in

the upscale Juhu area, for the alleged violation of CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) norms.

In their March 11 reply to the BMC's earlier notice, the Rane family's representatives had dismissed the allegations and said the corporation's action (of issuing the notice)

was "actuated purely by malice and political vendetta" borne by the Shiv Sena against the family and the Union minister.

The BMC in its reply to the point said that the owner was expected to answer the notice "as contemplated in law".

Charges framed against two accused in Srinagar acid attack case

Srinagar, Mar 20 (PTI):

A court here has framed charges against two persons who were arrested for throwing acid on a woman in February in downtown city and the trial will begin from the end of this month.

The two accused were presented before Principal Sessions judge Jawad Ahmad, who framed charges under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 326-A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), officials said. The trial will start at the end of this month, they said. Expressing satisfaction

over the development, Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) Rakesh Balwal said the police will fight this case till the end and ensure that the victim gets justice.

"Our aim is that this case becomes a milestone in history for a speedy trial and punishment to the accused so that it acts as a deterrent for those harbouring such thoughts or having such tendencies," Balwal said.

Advocate Mir Naveed Gul, who represents the victim, said the charges were framed against the accused persons involved in the acid attack on the 24-year-old woman. "The principal sessions

judge, Srinagar, without any delay, listed the matter on an urgent basis. I appreciate the expeditious hearing of the case and the framing of charges," he said.

The charge sheet was prepared in a record time of three weeks by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Balwal was personally monitoring the case and had also constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by Superintendent of Police (North) Raja Zuhair Tanveer. SDPO Mohammed Yasir Parray, SHOs Tasir Hamid, Owais Geelani and Sub-Inspector Shahista Mughal were its mem-

bers. The charge sheet has been filed against three people — Sajjad Altaf Rather, Mohammed Saleem Kumar and a juvenile, against whom the police want to press charges as an adult because of his involvement in the crime.

According to the charge sheet, the juvenile helped the police recover the black glass bottle that was used to throw acid on the victim's face.

Police had also noticed injury marks on the upper side of the juvenile's right hand. He was taken to a hospital for examination and doctors opined that the injury was caused by some chemical substance.

BRIEF

Ruins

Irbil: Once a lavish mansion, the sprawling home of an Iraqi Kurdish oil tycoon was laid to waste in a barrage of missiles that struck near a US consulate complex here earlier this week. Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said it launched the attack, firing off 12 cruise missiles at a strategic centre of the Israeli spy agency Mossad in retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two Iranian paramilitary force's members the previous week.

Context

Kampala: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni recently remarked that Russia's war on Ukraine should be seen in the context of Moscow being the center of gravity for Eastern Europe. His son, Lt Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, was more forceful, declaring that most Africans support Russia's stand in Ukraine and Putin is absolutely right. Amid worldwide chorus of condemnation, much of Africa has either pushed back or remained quiet.

Bans

Sao Paulo: A justice of Brazil's Supreme Court ordered the shutdown of messaging app Telegram nationwide, arguing it has not cooperated with authorities. The move is a blow to President Jair Bolsonaro, who has more than 1 million followers on the platform and defends it as a key tool for his re-election bid in October. Justice Alexandre de Moraes said in his ruling that Telegram repeatedly ignored requests from authorities.

Arrests

Lahore: Pakistani law enforcement agencies have claimed to have averted terror attacks on government buildings and security personnel as it arrested five terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from the country's Punjab province. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab police said explosive material, hand grenades, detonators have also been recovered.

Crash

Helsinki: Four US Marines were killed when their Osprey aircraft crashed in a Norwegian town in the Arctic Circle during a NATO exercise unrelated to Russia's war in Ukraine. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre tweeted that they died in the crash. The cause was under investigation, but Norwegian police reported bad weather in the area. The Marines were taking part in NATO exercise called Cold Response in Arctic.

Found

Tunis: Tunisia's coast guard has recovered the bodies of 12 unidentified migrants found washed up on the coast, according to the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, which closely follows migration.

Yemen rebels target LNG plant in Saudi Arabia

Dubai, Mar 20 (AP):

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday unleashed a barrage of drone and missile strikes on Saudi Arabia, targeting a liquefied natural gas plant, water desalination plant, oil facility and power station.

The attacks did not cause casualties, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen said, but damaged civilian vehicles and homes in the area.

The salvo marked the latest escalation in Houthi cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia as peace talks remained stalled and the conflict that ran over seven years in Yemen raged on.



Shells after attack on LNG plant in Saudi Arabia.

The attacks also came as Saudi Arabia's state-backed oil giant Aramco announced that its profits surged 124 per cent in 2021 to USD110 billion, a big jump fuelled by renewed anxieties about global supply shortages, soaring oil prices and a recovery in fuel demand from the pandemic. Aramco, also known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co, released its earnings report on the heels of weeks of intense volatility in energy markets triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Punitive sanctions on Russia, among the world's largest exporters of crude

and petroleum products, have added to turmoil to an already-tight energy market.

The international oil benchmark Brent crude hovered over USD107 on Sunday after nearly touching a peak of USD140 earlier this month.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have so far resisted Western appeals to increase oil production to offset the loss of Russian oil as gasoline prices skyrocket. Yehia Sarie, a spokesman for Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, said the group had launched a wide and large military operation into the depth of Saudi Arabia, without immediately elaborating.

Tunisian eco-pioneers battle to save Sahara oasis life

Some recipes are also adapted to use Indian Moringa

Nefta, Mar 20 (AFP):

A remote oasis in Tunisia's desert was exhausted by decades of wasteful water use for agriculture — but now pioneers around an eco-lodge are reviving the spot with innovative projects. They hope their back-to-basics approach can keep alive the ancient Saharan caravan stop and its traditions as a sustainable alternative to the region's high-irrigation date plantations. "Among the palm trees, everything can grow," said Mohamed



Employees cultivate the Dar Hi hotel's vegetable garden amidst palm tree in the remote Nefta oasis.

Bougaa, 63, a farmer in the remote Nefta oasis, a seven-hour drive from the coastal capital Tunis. "There's everything you need here: vegetables, fruit. We can plant peppers, tomatoes, carrots — everything grows when there's sun

and water." The problem has been that the Nefta spring — which once delivered some 700 litres (185 gallons) of water per second — has been exhausted to irrigate the region's famous dates, called "deglet nour".

South Korea's next Prez to abandon Blue House for new office

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

South Korea's president-elect said Sunday he will abandon the current mountainside presidential palace of Blue House and establish his office in central Seoul as part of efforts to better communicate with the public.

Relocating the presidential office was one of President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol's main campaign promises. The conservative former top prosecutor whose single five-year term begins on May 10 said the location and design of the Blue House have fed criticisms that



South Korea's president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol shows a bird's eye view of his planned relocation in Seoul on Sunday.

South Korean presidents are cut off from the public and wield excessive

power. At the Blue House, offices for presidential ad-

American gunmakers help Ukrainians fight back

Miami, Mar 20 (AP):

Adrian Kellgren's family-owned gun company in Florida was left holding a \$200,000 shipment of semi-automatic rifles after a longtime customer in Ukraine suddenly went silent during Vladimir Putin's invasion of the country.

Fearing the worst, Kellgren and his company KelTec decided to put those stranded 400 guns to use, sending them to Ukraine's nascent resistance movement to help civilians fight back against a Russian military that has been repeatedly shelling their apartment buildings, schools, hospitals and hiding places.

"The American people want to do something," said Kellgren, a former US Navy pilot. "We enjoy our free-



KelTec employee looks through lines of rifles, similar to ones being shipped to Ukraine.

doms, we cherish those things. And when we see a group of people out there getting hammered like this, it's heartbreaking." Cocoa-based KelTec's donation is a high-profile example of Americans collecting guns, ammunition, body armor, helmets and other tactical

gear in response to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's promise to arm his citizens. But many similar grassroots efforts have been snarled by inexperience with the complex web of regulations governing the international shipment

of such equipment.

Kellgren, who has dealt with such red tape for years, managed to connect through a Ukrainian neighbor with a diplomat in the Ukrainian Embassy who helped him secure a federal arms export license in just four days. That process can often take months.

This week, as Congress debated whether to send more advanced weapons and defense systems to Ukraine, workers at KelTec's warehouse fork-lifted four plastic-wrapped pallets containing their 9 mm foldable rifles for delivery to an undisclosed NATO-run facility. From there, the shipment's new recipient, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, will be responsible for smuggling the weapons into the war zone.

Algiers recalls Madrid envoy over West Sahara policy change

Algiers, Mar 20 (AFP):

Algeria recalled its ambassador from Madrid in protest at Spain's decision to back a Moroccan autonomy plan for the disputed former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

A foreign ministry statement condemned the "abrupt about-turn" by Madrid, which had previously maintained neutrality in the decades-old conflict for the territory between Morocco and the Algerian-backed

Polisario Front independence movement.

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares backed a 2007 proposal by Morocco to offer Western Sahara autonomy under its sovereignty, describing it as the "most serious, realistic and credible basis" to end the long-running conflict.

"Completely stunned by the statements on the Western Sahara issue from the highest levels of

the Spanish government, and surprised by this abrupt about-turn from Western Sahara's former rulers, the Algerian authorities have decided to recall the ambassador to Madrid for consultations with immediate effect," the statement said.

The Polisario had already responded angrily to the statement from Albares, calling for political pressure to be put on Madrid for a change of heart.

Antarctica hits record temperatures due to climate change

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Eastern Antarctica has recorded exceptionally high temperatures this week, more than 30 degrees Celsius above normal, say experts.

The Concordia research base at Dome C of the Antarctic, which is at an altitude of 3,000 metres (9,800 feet), last week registered a record -11.5 degrees Celsius (11.3 Fahrenheit), Etienne Kapikian, a meteorologist from France-Meteo tweeted.

Normally, temperatures fall with the end of the southern summer, but the Dumont d'Urville station on



Two penguins stare amid high temperatures in Antarctica.

Antarctica registered record temperatures for March with 4.9C (40.82F), at a time of year when normally temperatures are already sub-zero. Gaetan Heymes of France-Meteo described the unseasonably mild weather as a "historic event". And

geoscientist Jonathan Wille wrote on Twitter: "And there it is, Concordia broke its all time record temperature by 1.5 degrees C."

"This is when temperatures should be rapidly falling since the summer solstice in December. "This is a Pacific Northwest 2021 heat wave kind of event," he added. "Never supposed to happen." The unprecedented temperatures come after the National Snow and Ice Data Center in the United States said Antarctica's sea ice fell below two million square kilometres (772,204 sq miles) in late February for the first time since 1979.

North Korea fires artillery into sea days after missile launch

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

North Korea fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after the North's latest missile launch ended in failure amid the country's recent burst of weapons testing activity.

There is speculation that North Korea could soon try to launch its developmental longest-range ballistic missile to bolster its arsenal and dial up pressure on the United States to wrest concessions as negotiations remain stalled.

South Korea's military suggested North Korea's

midair missile explosion last Wednesday involved parts of the Hwasong-17 missile, its biggest weapon. On Sunday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said it detected firings likely from multiple rocket launch systems off North Korea's west coast.

The ministry said the military closely monitors North Korea moves and maintains its readiness.

South Korea's presidential office said in a separate statement it held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss what it called the North's short-range projectile launches.

Freud 'mad' president and century of European diplomacy

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Finding a lost manuscript by Sigmund Freud has caused a French historian to revisit a key moment in European diplomacy 100 years ago that reverberates today as war returns to the continent. "Le President est-il de-

venu fou?" (Has the president gone mad?) by Patrick Weil takes a fresh look at US president Woodrow Wilson (1913-21), who helped forge the Treaty of Versailles after World War I and tried to establish lasting peace through the creation of the League of Nations.

Wilson, of course, failed: the treaty's harsh conditions on Germany created resentment that helped fuel the rise of the Nazis. Nor could he convince his colleagues in Washington to approve the treaty — it was never ratified by the US, dooming the League of Nations at birth.

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ICMR-DHR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

One of the major mandates of ICMR and DHR is to augment capacity strengthening of Indian scientists. This ICMR-DHR international fellowship programme is intended to create a pool of talented health research personnel by facilitating advanced training and exposure to the latest advancements in knowledge through interaction with the international scientists in emerging areas of clinical/medicine/health sciences.

I. Short Term International Fellowships for Senior Indian Biomedical Scientists
Duration of Fellowships: Two weeks to 3 months
Number of Fellowships: Twenty five (25) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 57 years as on last date of receipt of application

II. Long Term International Fellowships for Young Indian Biomedical Scientists
Duration of Fellowships: 6 to 12 months
Number of Fellowships: Forty (40) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 45 years as on last date of receipt of application

Applications should be submitted online through the website ICMR/DHR: www.icmr.nic.in; www.dhr.gov.in. Details of the eligibility; format, of application, terms and conditions, and guidelines of the programme are available on ICMR and DHR websites.

Last date of receipt of applications: 15th May, 2022

*The selected Fellows will only be permitted to undertake the foreign visit to avail fellowship, subject to the Gol guidelines and necessary clearance on international travel in the near future.

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Happiness lessons

The World Happiness Report 2021 has been released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country. India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the list of UN World Happiness Report 2021. In 2019, India was ranked 140th. India saw a marginal improvement in its happiness ranking, jumping up three spots to 136. It was ranked at 139 in last year's World Happiness Report. The World Happiness Report ranks countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The World Happiness Index is based on two key ideas happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in an apparent jibe at the Centre over the country's ranking in the latest World Happiness Report, said India would soon top hate and anger charts. Although India improved its position in the list compared to last year, it ranks lower than its neighbours such as China, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan. India has to look at overall policies being implemented in the happiest nation of Finland. The central, state and local level administration and civil society in India shall learn lessons from experience of Finland and try to emulate some aspects. In a nutshell, the population of Finland, more than any other on Earth at the moment, realises that what it has, what it is living with, each individually and collectively is very good. The expectations of Finnish people are realistic. They are also aware of what they have achieved in so many spheres of life. It is not just educational achievement but, more importantly, in health, where, a few years ago, Finland recorded the lowest infant mortality the world has ever known.

There are fewer grieving parents in Finland than anywhere else, per capita. Finland scores in the top three, usually being the top one, in more than 100 similar social statistics. But the Finns are not smug or complacent. Neither life satisfaction, positive emotions nor absence of depression are enough for happiness. Instead, something more is required as one has to experience one's life as meaningful. The Finnish tendency to downplay one's own happiness and the norm against too much public display of joy might actually make Finns happier. This is because social comparison seems to play a significant role in people's life satisfaction. If everybody else is doing better than a person, it is hard to be satisfied with one's own life conditions, no matter how good they objectively are. By not displaying, let alone exaggerating, their own happiness, Finns might help each other to make more realistic comparisons, which benefits everybody's happiness. In case of India, a reasonable explanation for the puzzle is that India's people expect better, and they are feeling disappointed. The idea of rising expectations is a familiar one in the Indian context, and it is difficult to think of any other explanation, though increasing inequality and feelings of injustice or unfairness are also plausible contributing factors. Until India gets better leadership, its citizens may continue to be less happy than the data might predict. The quest for happiness is closely tied to the quest for sustainable development which is a combination of social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The growing wealth disparity in India, where a small class enjoys all the luxuries and comfortable life in a bubble, while majority of people have to live with hard economic and social constraints. No welfare scheme can raise happiness, if citizens witness such disparity.

Gains from capital

Centre is expected to revamp the capital gains tax structure in the next budget to augment revenue collections and boost spending on welfare scheme. According to the proposal, which is reportedly being studied in the finance ministry, the central government's philosophy is that passive income earned from the capital market should not be taxed at a lower rate than income earned from doing business, which involves taking entrepreneurial risks and job creation. The government wants to boost revenue from the capital market to support welfare activities. Currently, long-term capital gains (LTCG), which was introduced with effect from 1 April 2019, on listed equities held for more than a year is taxed at 10 percent on profits above a threshold of Rs 1 lakh. On the other hand, short-term capital gains on listed equities held for less than a year is taxed at 15 percent. Equity shares or units of equity-oriented mutual funds held for more than 12 months are considered long-term, while house property held for 24 months is considered a long-term capital asset. Most of the long-term capital gain from equities in FY-20 was made by people earning Rs 50 lakh and more, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj had said, highlighting that the tax introduced in Finance Act of 2018 on long term capital gain has served as a fair tax.

The government has done some groundwork comparing the capital gains tax regime in India and in other countries and is keen to revamp the regime to make it simpler. At an estimate of Rs 80,000 crore of taxes from capital gains, it implies almost 6.4 percent of the total direct tax collections of Rs 12.5 lakh crore were estimated in the revised stats for 2021-22. Capital gains taxes are a small part of all taxes on saving and investment. Even that modest gain could be erased if the long-term capital gain tax rate is not raised as it increases the deficit, causing interest rates to rise. Whenever any such tinkering is brought about, there would be a segment of taxpayers who would stand as gainers while there would be a segment who would lose out, compared to their present tax provision and that becomes the most difficult part. The idea that wealthy people will stop investing if they have to pay higher tax rates on their returns is absurd.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com

The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

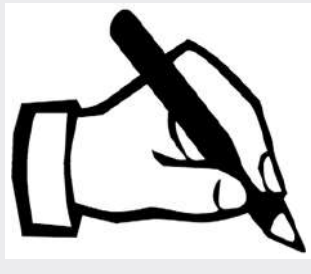
KASHMIRI MUSTARD BLOOM



A view shows mustard fields bloom on the outskirts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Ineffective treaty helped Russia's nuclear threat escalate

JOELIEN PRETORIUS



Russia's nuclear blackmail is prompted by a flawed treaty and ambivalence by nuclear weapon states towards nuclear disarmament. The invasion of Ukraine saw Russia's nuclear forces put on high alert by President Vladimir Putin on the fourth day of fighting. Telling the world that Russia is "today one of the most powerful nuclear states", the rhetoric and activity goes against the spirit of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the document that forms the foundation of international nuclear governance. Using nuclear weapons to deter or compel action is effectively holding humanity at ransom, blackmail of the nuclear kind. Nuclear armed states like Russia have the power to do this partly because of weaknesses embedded in the NPT and how nuclear weapon states have chosen to interpret it over the past 50 years. Of particular relevance to the current crisis are nuclear sharing arrangements. These see nuclear weapon states stationing their arms on the territory of their non-nuclear allies. As long as they retain custodianship and control over the weapons, this is seen as legal under one interpretation of the NPT.

The most recent referendum in Belarus voted to lift the country's non-nuclear status and allow Russia to station weapons on its soil. This decision comes in the context of unresolved problems with nuclear sharing arrangements: NATO stations nuclear weapons in Turkey, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, despite criticism from non-nuclear weapon states and Russia since 2015. Putin is not the first leader to bring nuclear weapons into a conflict: the US and Soviet Union did so on several occasions during the Cold War. US President George Bush did not raise the nuclear alert levels during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, but implied that the US could use nuclear arms if Iraqi forces used chemical or biological weapons. The NPT, inked in 1968, was premised on a proposal that disarmament negotiations would be better served if nuclear weapons were contained to as few states as possible. It's one of the most ascribed to treaties in history with only five non-member states (Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea and South Sudan).

The treaty has three pillars: non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use. Non-proliferation prevents the spread of nuclear weapons by distinguishing the countries that tested nuclear arms by 1967, the US, the Soviet Union (now Russia), China, the UK and France and the non-nuclear weapons states who had not. The former agree not to help other states obtain nuclear weapons, the latter agree not to acquire nuclear weapons. This arrangement entrenched power with the nuclear weapon states, but the pillars of nuclear disarmament and peaceful use helped make the NPT palatable for the other states. Nuclear disarmament is a commitment by all parties to negotiate in good faith for an end to the arms race and towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The peaceful use pillar assures non-nuclear weapon states that they will have access to nuclear technology for civilian industries, such as nuclear power, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the NPT is credited for reducing prolifer-

ation of nuclear weapons, some of its shortcomings are being highlighted during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nuclear deterrence, the fourth unacknowledged 'ghost pillar' of the NPT, as argued by Lyndon Burford is the asserted principle put forward by nuclear weapon states and their allies that these weapons are essential for defence, peace and stability by preventing coercion and deterring aggression. Although nuclear weapon states regularly make disarmament promises in the NPT forum, their perceived net security benefit from having nuclear weapons trumps their commitment to disarmament.

The problem is encapsulated by former US President Barack Obama's 2009 speech in Prague: the speech envisaged a world free of nuclear weapons, but also made clear that the US will possess nuclear weapons as long as they exist. NATO bases its identity as a nuclear alliance on the US policy that nuclear weapons are essential for its defence. Nuclear weapon states insist that their possession of nuclear weapons is a sovereign right and legal under the NPT. There are still almost 13,000 nuclear weapons in existence, despite the US and Russia dramatically decreasing their stockpiles after the Cold War. Disarmament seems to be reversing: nuclear weapon states are modernising their arsenals and some are increasing their warheads, renewing the nuclear arms race. Many of the bilateral nuclear arms control treaties between the US and Russia have been scrapped, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Broader confidence building agreements, such as the Treaty on Open Skies, have been abandoned. One of the last remaining nuclear arms control treaties, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (or New START), is at risk. It was designed to put limits on nuclear weapons deployed by Russia and the US. Many civil society

organisations in favour of nuclear abolition, and many non-nuclear weapon states, interpret the disarmament obligation in the NPT to mean irreversible elimination of all nuclear arms. Those in favour of total abolition believe the risk of nuclear weapons being used is present as long as they exist.

The world has come very close to nuclear war, miscalculation and accidents have happened, and the fact that there has not been a major nuclear disaster since 1945 is basically down to 'luck'. Stalling disarmament under the NPT has led non-nuclear weapon states to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, informally known as the 'ban treaty'. Adopted in 2017 and entered into force in 2021, the ban treaty closes all the disarmament loopholes in the NPT and shifts the focus from deterrence to the humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. Many ban treaty proponents see it as a compatible way to fulfil the NPT's disarmament obligation by making nuclear weapons illegal for all states rather than a replacement. Nuclear weapon states and some of their allies feel otherwise, and declined to participate in negotiations. Some actively discouraged its adoption and ratification, stating that the ban treaty has no legal bearing over them. Ban treaty supporters point to its broad-based civil society participation process, and the record time it took to enter into force. They say ongoing engagement with the treaty sends a strong signal to nuclear weapon states to take their disarmament obligation seriously. It is hoped that this may light a path to preventing nuclear risks of the kind now seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, or something even worse.

(Joelien Pretorius is associate professor at the University of Western Cape in South Africa.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tectonic surprises

AAP party's thumping majority in Punjab is a welcome step and is a good sign of matured democracy in India. There are numbers of challenges before the party and the party has to show its performance meticulously. CM has declared on taking the charge that maximum efforts will be taken so that youth may not have to go to abroad to find the jobs in foreign countries. Photographs of son and daughter of CM had today published who had come from USA to attend the swearing in ceremony and as per maxim that "Charity begins at home". CM should recall the family from abroad and get them settled in Punjab. Seven Rajyasabha members will be nominated from Panjab and it will be a challenge for the party.

We are aware that PM Modi during the Parliament election in 2014 had won the election only on the basis of his achievements in Gujarat and the same may happen in case of Kejriwal. Due to this reason, Kejriwal will show the performance of Punjab State and Delhi. AAP is contesting the elections continually in other States too, so that the party may be registered as All India Party and the party has decided to contest the assembly elections in HP and Gujarat which will be held within six months.

There are many other burning issues of the Punjab which demand immediate solutions to their need-based problems such as unemployment, drugs and trend of going to foreign countries for education, burden of debt on state, existence of Mafias in various fields, deep rooted corruption in every department etc. People of the State have rejected the traditional parties and they have very high hopes from AAP. The sand has shifted and the powerful have been routed and even before taking oath many newly elected legislators have hit the ground running, visiting hospitals and schools as well as police stations and electricity offices. The plethora of promises in the face of state's precarious financial condition would require special delivery skills. Though the opposition's presence will not be strong yet they will lose any occasion to criticise the party.

Political opponents have been quick to criticise the decisions to hold a victory roadshow in Amritsar and a mega event for the CM's swearing-in at Khatkar Kalan, but though every new government deserves a shot at celebration after a hard toil, a party like AAP that swears by loftier ideals needs to be mindful of the public sentiment that wants little of the same old thing. A mandate such as this is a testament to what a party inspires in voters, but also of their aspirations and expectations. Good luck to AAP.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar



WHAT THEY TWEET!



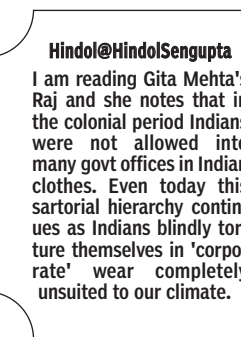
Manu@KhajuriaManu
Started with Granddaddy Sheikh Abdullah who launched a virulent campaign against Dogras and played the communal card. In this pic he sits in a room full of #Dogra heritage. The fly looted & made sure the glorious Dogra history was erased from people's consciousness.

Aniruddha@malpani
It's surprisingly hard being a philanthropist. People think I have a hidden agenda when I try to promote homeschooling! How could I possibly benefit by doing this? I wonder why they are so suspicious about motives! Can't I be altruistic because I enjoy it?



Akshat@Akshat_World
30% LTCG tax on equities is being proposed in India. Rationale: developed nations have a higher capital gains tax. Problem: less than 4% people invest in stock markets in India. Our capital markets are still quite new. Poor taxation will kill it in a nascent stage.

Virat Kohli@imVkohli
The Earth has music for those who listen.



Hindol@HindolSengupta
I am reading Gita Mehta's Raj and she notes that in the colonial period Indians were not allowed into many govt offices in Indian clothes. Even today this sartorial hierarchy continues as Indians blindly torture themselves in 'corporate' wear completely unsuited to our climate.



SukhieBrar@BrarSukhie
I have to say one thing: I have neither been asked for nor have given any bribe to anyone in these last 6 years. There are enough honest, straight forward people within the system. From the lowest to the highest levels. They need to be appreciated.

Shivam Vij@DilliDurAst
India's massive unemployment crisis can be solved in one generation simply by introducing English medium education for the poor in government schools. English for the rich and Hindi for the poor is India's greatest crime against the poor.

BRIEF

Growth



New Delhi: Lexus is now looking to chart its next phase of growth in India as it looks to consolidate sales network and drive in new models, including fully electric cars, Lexus India President Naveen Soni told PTI, that it is now at cusp of sustainable growth.

Exports

Kochi: Amid the havoc created by the pandemic for the past two years, the Infopark here reported an increase in software exports by an impressive 21 per cent in financial year 2020-21 and created over 2,000 job opportunities. In the last financial year, a total of 88 new companies started operations with an allotment of 1,57,602 square feet space, Kerala State IT Parks CEO John M Thomas said, adding that workforce increased.

Difficult



New Delhi: Venture capitalist firms that do not have women in decision-making positions find it difficult to understand a women-centric business. Nykaa CEO Adwaita Nayar said that the founders of her company approached several investors but were rejected.

Prepayment

New Delhi: Homegrown steel major JSPL on Sunday said its subsidiary in Mauritius has made a prepayment of USD 357 million to lenders. The prepayment will help clear the entire debt on Jindal Steel & Power (Mauritius) (JSPML). Over the past three years, JSPL said, it has been able to reduce its overseas debt from USD 1.8 billion to USD 130 million.

Plans



Mumbai: Smartr Logistics MD CEO Yogesh Dhingra told PTI that it is looking to enter into fast-growing third-party logistics (3PL) business from next year and plans to set up 15 fulfillment centres as well as some big warehousing facilities at select locations.

Co-working

Kochi: Catering to aspirations of the new crop of employees and employers, especially in the post-pandemic phase, leading co-working space provider SpazeOne has launched its first centre in Kerala at a mall here.

FMCG makers to go for around 10% price hike

To mitigate inflationary pressures

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Consumers may have to pay more for their daily essential items with FMCG companies mulling another round of price hike to offset the impact of an unprecedented level of inflation in commodity prices such as wheat, palm oil and packaging materials.

Besides, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has also added another blow to FMCG makers as they expect a rise in the prices of wheat, edible oil and crude. Companies such as Dabur and Parle are watching the situation and will undertake calibrated price increases to mitigate the inflationary pressures. According to some media reports, makers such as HUL and

Nestle have increased the prices of food products last week. "We are expecting a 10-15 per cent hike by the industry," Parle Products Senior Category Head Mayank Shah told PTI.

Shah further noted that the prices are witnessing high fluctuation and hence it would be difficult to tell about the exact increase due to volatility of price. The price of palm oil had

increased to Rs 180 per litre and now has come down to Rs 150 per litre. Similarly, crude oil prices had risen to nearly USD 140 a barrel and has now slipped below USD 100 per barrel, he added.

"However, it is still higher than what it was earlier," Shah said, adding that the companies are also hesitant in taking price increases significantly because demand was reviv-

ing after COVID and they do not want to tinker with that. Last time, the makers did not take the price hike to completely mitigate the impact and had absorbed some part of that. "Everybody is currently talking about a price hike of 10-15 per cent, although the input cost has gone much more than that," he said. When asked as to whether Parle would also go for a hike, Shah said right now it has enough stock of packaging materials and other stocks and would take a decision after a month or two on this. Expressing similar thoughts, Dabur India Chief Financial Officer Ankush Jain said inflation remains unabated and is a cause of concern for the second year in a row.

Govt working on cryptocurrency classification under GST law

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



The government is working on classification of cryptocurrency as goods or services under the GST law, so that tax can be levied on the entire value of transactions. Currently, 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied only on service provided by crypto exchanges and is categorised as financial services. GST officers are of the view that cryptos, by nature, are similar to lottery, casinos, betting, gambling, horse racing, which have 28 per cent of GST on the entire value. Besides, GST at 3 per cent is levied on the entire transaction value in case of gold. "There is a clarity needed in regard to levy of

GST on cryptocurrencies and whether it has to be levied on the entire value. We are seeing whether cryptocurrencies can be classified as goods or services and also removing any doubt on whether it can be called an actionable claim," an official said. Another official said that if the GST is levied on the en-

tire transaction of cryptocurrencies then the rate could be in the range of 0.1 to 1 per cent. "Discussions are in a nascent stage on the rate of tax, whether it would be 0.1 per cent or 1 per cent. First a decision on classification will have to be finalised and then rate will be discussed," the official told PTI.

Stamp duty, registration fee mop-up crosses Rs 1 lakh cr

In 8 months of FY-22

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Led by Maharashtra, the cumulative revenue collection from stamp duty and registration fee of all the states jumped to Rs 1,00,100 crore for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, which for the entire FY21 was Rs 1,27,700 crore, according to a report. An analysis of state-wise data by Motilal Oswal Financial Services showed that the average monthly collection by 28 states stood at Rs 12,500 crore during the reporting period of April-November 2021, which is slightly lower than Rs 12,800 crore in the pre-pandemic days. But, the monthly average is higher than Rs 10,600 crore recorded in FY21. The report did not offer a

comparative number for the same eight months period of FY21 when the country was hit with the pandemic. Thanks to Mumbai and Pune, Maharashtra recorded the highest collection of Rs 17,097 crore, contributing 17.1 per cent of the total collection during the period, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with Rs 12,800

crore, Rs 8,700 crore and Rs 8,400 crore, respectively, as per the analysis. In FY21, Maharashtra's collection stood at Rs 25,427 crore or 19.9 per cent of the national total, followed by Uttar Pradesh at Rs 16,475 crore or 12.9 per cent of the total, Tamil Nadu Rs 11,675 crore or 9.1 per cent, Karnataka 10,576 crore or 8.3 per cent, Telangana Rs 5,243 crore

or 4.1 per cent, Gujarat 7,390 crore or 5.8 per cent, Haryana 5,157 or 4 per cent.

Madhya Pradesh collected 6,760 crore or 5.3 per cent of the national mop-up in FY21, Bengal Rs 5,527.6 crore or 4.3 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 5,603.3 crore or 4.4 per cent, Rajasthan Rs 5,297.3 crore or 4.1 per cent, Bihar Rs 4,206.3 crore or 3.3 per cent, and Kerala Rs 3,489.6 crore or 2.7 per cent.

Other states had under Rs 3,000 crore collection or less than 3 per cent of the national share.

According to Nikhil Gupta, the chief economist at the brokerage, the residential real estate sector has bounced back strongly since the second half of FY21, and it continues to perform well in FY22.

Govt plans to merge BBNL with BSNL this month

BSNL given chance to become strategic asset

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



The government is planning to merge Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with the loss-making state-run telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) this month, a senior official has said.

BSNL chairman and managing director PK Purwar at a recent event organised by the All India Graduate Engineers and Telecom officers Association (AIGETOA) said that the government is giving the telecom firm an opportunity for a turnaround. "The government has taken a policy decision that BBNL is going to be

merged into BSNL. This means all work of BBNL at the pan-India level is going to come to BSNL," Purwar said at the All India Conference of AIGETOA on March 13. Referring to his meeting with the union telecom

minister, Purwar said he had an hour-long meeting to this effect.

BSNL already has a network of over 6.8 lakh kilometer of optical fibre cable (OFC) network.

With the proposed merger, BSNL will get 5.67 lakh kilometer of optical fibre which has been laid across 1.85 lakh village panchayats in the country using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Special purpose vehicle (SPV) BBNL was formed in February 2012, to lay out optical fibre network across 2.5 lakh village panchayats across the country using USOF and provide its access to all telecom operators on a non-discriminatory basis.

NMDC creates history with 40 Million Tonnes (MT) iron ore production

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



Mining major NMDC became the first company in the country to cross 40 million tonnes (MT) iron ore production in a year. From a production of 4 MTPA in the late 1960s to 40 million tonnes now, the growth trajectory of the largest iron ore producer of the country has been exceptional. Starting from 4 million tonnes in 1969-70, NMDC crossed 10 million tonnes in 1977-78, added another ten million by 2004-05, crossed 30 million tonnes within a decade and has now breached the 40 million mark. Keeping pace with the constant surge in the domestic iron ore demand, the company has been rolling out ambitious expansion plans and capex outlay in pursuit of enhanced production. In recent times, NMDC has adopted cutting-edge tech-

nology and built a transformational digital infrastructure to overcome Covid induced slowdowns and the cyclical volatilities in the sector. Growing from scale to strength, the company has achieved the milestone of 40 million tonnes iron ore production on the back of steady fundamentals and a visionary workforce. Congratulating the team on the historic achievement, Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC said, "NMDC's ground-breaking achievement of be-

coming the first iron ore mining company in India to cross 40 MT is an illustrious display of its ability to accept challenges despite all odds. The company's perseverance and consistency has paid off and I congratulate the team for this historic accomplishment. I am confident that we will continue to cross many more milestones on our way to fulfil Nation's vision of #Atmanirbhar Bharat. This achievement also shows that we are on the track to become a 100 MTPA company by 2030."

ESAF celebrates 30th anniversary

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



ESAF Small Finance Bank, a leading social bank celebrated the 30th anniversary of ESAF, which started as an NGO in 1992. District Collector Haritha V Kumar IAS inaugurated the function at ESAF Bhavan, Mannuthy. K. Paul Thomas, ESAF Founder and MD & CEO ESAF Bank delivered the Founder's Day Message. P.R. Ravi Mohan, Chairman, ESAF Bank presided over the event. Adv. K. Rajan, Minister of Revenue delivered the felicitation message. Speaking on the occasion K. Paul Thomas said, "32 percent of our branches are located in unbanked rural areas. We have around five million women borrowers across India. ESAF has always been a lending support to

small entrepreneurs and self-help groups for empowering women. ESAF has also set up schools and hospitals for rural communities. Besides the success of business, social commitment makes us more satisfying. We are on a journey of fulfilling our vision of reducing social inequality in the society." The book 'Joyful Stories of Transformation', which

showcased selected success stories of ESAF, was released by Mereena Paul, Chairperson and MD, ESAF Financial Holdings by presenting the same to Anne Wang, Director, Opportunity International Australia. The Mahila Housing Loan Scheme was launched by Dr. V.A. Joseph, Director, ESAF Bank and George K. John, Executive Vice President.

Vinod Vasudhevan, Alex George, C. P. Mohanan, Saneesh Singh, Directors, ESAF Bank, M. G. Ajayan, George Thomas, Executive Vice Presidents, ESAF Bank, Idicheria Ninan, President, ESAF Foundation, Alok Thomas Paul, MD, CEDAR Retail and Saleena George, Chairman, ESAF Cooperative also spoke on the occasion.

Russia-Ukraine tussle, COVID in China major drivers for markets

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Stock markets will be guided by global factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID-19 situation in China and crude oil prices in absence of major domestic events this week, analysts said.

Stock markets are expected to keep their winning momentum this week as FIIs may come back aggressively fuelling a further rally in the market, they added.

"In absence of any major event, global cues viz the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID situation in China and movement of crude will remain in focus. Besides, participants will be also eyeing FIIs flow for cues," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Tata AIA Life delivers strong business performance

Mumbai, March 20:

Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA Life), one of India's fastest growing life insurers, has reported an Individual Weighted New Business Premium (IWNBP) of INR 1,193 Crore for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 44% compared to INR 831 Crore garnered for the third quarter of 2020-21.

For the nine-month period ending December 2021, the Company registered a growth of 32% with an IWNBP income of INR 2,786 Crore, as compared to INR 2,110 Crore for the same period of the previous financial year.

The Total Premium Income for FY22 Q3 increased to INR 3,652 crores as compared to INR 2,766 Crore, a growth of

32%. Total premium income increased to INR 8,907 crores for the nine-month period ending December 2021, as against INR 7,035 Crore in the same period in FY21, a growth of 27%.

Tata AIA Life strengthened its pre-eminence in the Retail Protection business with an 89% growth in Q3 FY22. Tata AIA was the leader in Retail sum assured among private life insurers. The Retail sum assured for Q3 FY22 is INR 102,520 Cr, a growth of 148% over the same period last year and a market share of 25.4% against 13.1%.

The Company continued to deliver robust Persistency growth. For the FY22 Q3, the Company registered a 13th Month Persistency ratio of 86.68%, an increase from 85.38% for the same period of the previous financial year.

Gold ETFs log Rs 248 cr outflow in Feb

As investors prefer equity funds

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) witnessed a net outflow of Rs 248 crore in February, making it the second consecutive month of withdrawals as investors preferred equities over other segments on record SIP flows. Net outflows from the gold ETFs were at Rs 452 crore in the month of January. Prior to that, the asset class had seen a net investment of Rs 313 crore, according to the data of Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). Despite the outflows, the category witnessed an increase in net assets under management (AUM) of gold ETFs to Rs 18,727 crore at the end of

February from Rs 17,839 crore in January-end. Also, the segment saw a surge in the number of folios by 3.09 lakh to 37.74 lakh during the period under review. This move could be directed towards gold assets being considered as a tool for diversification of the portfolio by the investors and a hedge against market volatility, Priti Rathil Gupta, Founder, LXME, said. She attributed the latest outflow from gold ETFs to two factors — investors could

be diverting their investments from gold instruments to equity as a portfolio rebalancing strategy due to the attractive returns garnered by the equity markets. Also, investors view this market correction as an opportunity to enter the markets.

"Secondly, given the rise in prices of gold, traders may have booked the profits and exited their trades for managing their margin money for trade in other asset classes," she added. Kavitha Krishnan, Senior

Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said that investors have almost always favoured gold as an asset that can be used to mitigate risks and diversify their investments. Over time, the rising prices of gold and the increasing appeal around the commodity has led to a lot of investors choosing to invest in gold ETF's. However, the category has been witnessing outflows for a second month in a row. "With equities garnering the most flows and SIP (systematic investment plan) touching record highs, investors seem to prefer this segment over the others, including gold ETFs. Moreover, investors also seem to be booking profits by redeeming their investments, given the uptick in gold prices," she added.

'Woh Toh Hai Albela' takes off with a puja before grand launch

Gearing up for the premiere of Star Bharat's upcoming release of 'Woh Toh Hai Albela', producer Rajan Shahi follows all the rituals to ensure good fortune to the show.

The show, 'Woh Toh Hai Albela' is scheduled to air 14th March onwards on Star Bharat. Keeping up with tradition, the producer organised for a Puja and havan on the sets of the show itself with the entire cast and crew to ensure Star Bharat and the show's grand success. Talking about the plan to visit these places Anuj says,

"The cast and crew went to four places, Rajan Shahi always does this. During covid this wasn't very feasible. He lets the cast choose where to join after making a schedule for when they will reach which spot. It has been a nice way to send a message of unity. I firmly believe in Shiv Ji.

These places are often visited by people to feel sure about what they are doing and this is something that has helped me too. I believe that these kinds of visits help us in the long run. We went to Haji Ali, Siddhivinayak,

Mahim church and the Gurudwara in fort." The series has been drawing attention for its storyline surrounding brotherhood and family and the popular actors in the cast.

Starring in lead roles in the show are Indian Heartthrobs Shaheer Sheikh, Anuj Sachdeva, Kinshuk Vaidya and the gorgeous Hiba Nawab along with various others.

Stay tuned for more details and behind the scenes from the sets of Star Bharat's 'Woh Toh Hai Albela'!



Anushka Sharma steps away from her production company to focus on acting

Anushka Sharma has stepped away from Clean Slate Filmz (CSF), a production banner that she co-founded with her brother Karnesh Ssharma in the year 2013. The actress shared the news of her departure from the production company through social media on Saturday.

The actress wants to commit her time to the craft of acting and this decision allows her to dedicate her time and resources to her first love which is acting. The move makes Karnesh the sole decision maker and places him at the helm of affairs at Clean Slate Filmz. Taking to her Instagram, Anushka shared a long note as she wrote in the caption, "Onwards and Upwards @kans26 @officialcsfilms! My best wishes are always with you!!" The actress shared in the long note, "When I started Clean Slate Filmz with my brother Karnesh

Ssharma, we were novices when it came to production but we had a fire in our belly and we wanted to try and set the agenda of entertainment in India through clutter-breaking content. Today, when I look back at our journey so far, I'm deeply proud of what we have created and the disruption that we have managed to achieve." Mentioning the reason behind this decision, she said, "While CSF started with my vision to change the narrative of what commercial projects should be like, I have to credit Karnesh who has excelled in shaping what CSF has become today. Being a new mother who has chosen to be an actor by profession, I have to balance my life in an entirely new fashion like never before." She continued, "So, I have decided that whatever time I have at hand, I will dedicate it to my first love, acting! Therefore, I have decid-

ed to step away from CSF, confident that the most able person, Karnesh, is taking forward the vision with which it was created in the first place." Anushka gave her best wishes to Karnesh maintaining that the production house will go from strength to strength under Karnesh's leadership. She added, "I will continue to be the biggest cheerleader for Karnesh and CSF and hope to be a part of many clutter-breaking projects that would be produced by CSF.

I can't wait to see how he grows the company from strength to strength with the stellar line up of projects that he has handpicked, nurtured and given life to. My best wishes to the entire family at CSF. Love you all!" For Anushka, the single point of focus is her acting career now she returns to the movies with 'Chakda Xpress' after her pregnancy.



Rashmi Desai opens up on her latest track 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'

Popular television actress Rashmi Desai seems quite excited for her latest Holi song 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'. She can be seen twirling in the track in a traditional attire. The song is based on the mythological significance of the festival revolving around Lord Krishna's reunion with Radha. Rashmi says: "Holi is by far the most fun-filled festival in our country. And the history backing this energetic festival is all hearts." "Rarely anyone has tapped in on the story behind Holi in Holi songs and to be part of something so spiritual and creative is a great opportunity for me. I am thrilled to be in a song so close to Lord Krishna's sojourn of love," she adds. 'Biraj Mein Jhoom' is sung by Anuradha Palakurthi Juju, music by Salim Sulaiman and Bappa Lehri and produced by Juju production.

Some occasions are worth celebrating, especially when Indian television's most endearing family completes 300 episodes. Throughout this journey, Wagle ki Duniya has been consistent with capturing thoughtful storylines which revolve around the everyday life of a common man, his family and how they navigate through the challenges in the most unique ways.

Launched as a modern-day rendition of the 80's sitcom created by RK Laxman; the show has managed to resonate with audiences. From Rajesh Wagle's (Sumeet Raghavan) ingenious ideas to manage day-to-day adventures to the level headedness of his warm-hearted wife Vandana (Pariva Pranati) the antics of their kids Sakhi (Chinmayee Salvi) and Atharva (Sheehan Kapahi) and the Senior Wagles, Srinivas (Aanjan Srivastav) and Radhika (Bharati Achrekar), it has been a delight to watch them maneuver through their daily lives and support each other.

Over the last 300 marvelous episodes, Wagle Ki Duniya, in its humor and subtlety has touched upon several topical issues and life experiences that induce inspiration and relatability. The show has not shied away to speak on period taboo, good touch - bad touch, work-life balance, women empowerment, and continues to do so in the most unique ways. Rajesh Wagle and his family are a part of our everyday life now and there is no denying that we are all deeply attached to the show. As they celebrate the completion of 300 episodes, we are more than excited to look forward to



'Wagle Ki Duniya' completes 300 glorious episodes!

what the show has in store for us in future. **Keep watching Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kissey, Mon - Sat at 9 PM only on Sony SAB!**



Samantha's stunts in 'Yashoda' to raise the bar higher

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is getting ready for her upcoming movie 'Yashoda', in which she will perform some difficult stunts. Yannick Ben, a Hollywood stuntman, has been brought in to train and choreograph stunts for the 'Oh Baby' actress. Samantha, who had earlier worked with Yannick Ben for popular web series 'The Family Man 2', has come together with the stunt coordinator for another time. Touted to be a thriller, 'Yashoda' will have Samantha essaying a titular role, for which she will now perform a few stunts. The excited actress posed with her stunt coordinator Yannick, as she begins for the high-octane sequences. 'Yashoda' is produced by debutant director duo Hari - Harish under Sridevi Movies. Produced by Sivalka Krishna Prasad, 'Yashoda' will have Tamil actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar in an important role as well. The makers of 'Yashoda' aim to release it in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi & Kannada simultaneously.

HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 21

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesh.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesh. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesh.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

It is likely that you will reach an important milestone in life today. Keep in mind that your success may be a cause of envy for a few people, some of whom may want to harm you. You are left with two choices: either try to help them out of their troubles and miseries, or prepare for a battle.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Easy come, easy go â€” that is the best way to sum up today. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesh, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

The whole point of being a Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesh feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain. But only you are capable of doing that, thanks to your extremely high-power status today.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Hagging will be a trait you have closeted today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your natural sensitivity and compassion are given a powerful impetus today by strong feelings of love and affection for everyone around you, Capricorn. Therefore, you're likely to give and receive a lot of expressions of affection, both overt and subtle.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Watch face
- December 24 and 31
- Blouse
- Norway's capital
- Slangy negative
- Creepy
- Bullring shouts
- Fizzy beverage
- Curtain
- Colonize again

DOWN

- Portal
- ___ of Capri
- Pub drinks
- Forfeit
- Oriental
- Fiddle's kin
- Concluded
- Train terminal (abbr.)
- Tranquilize
- That girl's
- Incensed
- Mature
- Adolescents
- Not here
- Obedy
- Ledge
- Enjoy gum
- Vex
- Border

SOLUTION 244

Sen enters final of All England Championships

Birmingham: World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen stunned defending champion Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia to reach his maiden final at the All England Championships here on Saturday. The 20-year-old Sen became only the third men's singles player after Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand to reach the final after outwitting Lee 21-13 12-21 21-19 in a gruelling semifinal match. Padukone and Gopichand are the only Indians to have won the prestigious event, while Saina Nehwal had reached the final in 2015. Sen has been in sensational form in the last six months as he secured his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January and then claimed a runner-up finish at the German Open last week.



Messi ruled out of PSG match at Monaco

Paris: Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's French league match at Monaco after experiencing flu-like symptoms over the past couple of days, his club said. Messi, who joined Paris Saint-Germain last summer, has been struggling throughout his first season in the French league. Before Sunday's trip to Monaco, Messi has scored just seven goals in 26 games in all competitions. It's a stark contrast compared to his figures from last season when he bagged 38 goals with Barcelona. In addition to the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, PSG will also be missing Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, Angel di Mar a, Juan Bernat, Layvin Kurzawa and Ander Herrera at the Stade Louis II.



Asia Cup Archery: India finish 2nd behind Bangladesh

Phuket: Indian archers clinched two gold and six silver medals to finish second behind Bangladesh in the overall standings of the Asia Cup World Ranking Stage 1 tournament here on Saturday. In a depleted field without South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan, India had stormed into seven out of 10 finals. But they fell short on expectations and choked under pressure losing five finals, either in tie-breakers or by slender margins under overcast conditions. Of the five losses, two were against neighbours Bangladesh, who finished atop the medal standings with three gold and one silver. The two gold came in recurve men's team and compound women's individual section where it was an all-Indian affair.

AC Milan wins 1-0 at Cagliari to maintain Serie A lead



Rome: Amid a tight race for the Serie A title, AC Milan is displaying more consistency than its rivals. On a night when defending champion Inter Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Fiorentina, Milan won 1-0 at relegation-threatened Cagliari to extend its unbeaten run to eight matches. Milan remained three points ahead of Napoli, which came from a goal down to beat visiting Udinese 2-1 earlier Saturday. On a rainy night in Sardinia, Ismael Bennacer scored with a long-distance volley for Milan near the hour mark. The goal was set up by Olivier Giroud, who failed to take advantage of a prime opportunity early on when he missed the target from close range. Also in the first half, Milan midfielder Franck Kessie hit the post from long range. Cagliari nearly equalized in the 90th with a shot from Leonardo Pavoletti that hit the crossbar. Milan won at Napoli two weeks ago, while Inter has gained only seven points from its last seven matches.

Rupan Debnath, Tamali Basu crowned winners of Kolkata Full Marathon

Kolkata: Ace long-distance runner Rupan Debnath added another feather to his crown by clinching the Ageas Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Full Marathon 2022 here on Sunday. Debnath recorded an impressive time of 2:42.39 on a hot morning on way to the title. Dulu Sarkar (2:46.31) and Nimesh Chettri (3:05.48) claimed the first and second runner-up positions. The women's full marathon was taken by local girl Tamali Basu (4:01.12) followed by Shruti Agarwal (4:39.15) and Prema Rajaram (5:07.27). The half marathon witnessed an intense battle, with over 2,000 runners lining up for a shot at the laurels. In the end, Sahinur Molla (1:14.02) emerged victorious. Rishikesh Chakraborty (1:15.58) and Prasant Ropal (1:16.01) followed close on his heels to take the other two positions on the podium. Among women, the 2020 winner, Sabina Khatun (1:42.03) grabbed the title again while Anita Das claimed the first runner-up position with 1:49.04. Priyanka Gupta (1:50.38) finished as second runner-up.

England keep SF hopes alive with nervy win over NZ

Auckland, Mar 20 (PTD):

Defending champions England huffed and puffed to a one-wicket win over hosts New Zealand in a league stage match to keep their semifinal hopes alive at the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Sunday.

Experienced middle-order batter Maddy Green top-scored for New Zealand with an unbeaten 52, while skipper Sophie Devine contributed 41 before England bowled out the hosts 203 at the Eden Park.

England pacer Kate Cross (3/35) and star spinner Sophie Ecclestone (3/41) shared six wickets between them, while spinner Charlie Dean (2/36), who took the pace off the ball in a solid performance, accounted for two batters.

All-rounder Natalie Sciver (61) then anchored the innings with a patient

half-century but the holders slipped from a comfortable 176 for five to 196 for nine in five overs to almost snatch defeat from a winning position.

Anya Shrubsole (7) and Charlie Dean (0) though held their nerves to take England past the finish line for their second win of the tournament.

By virtue of this win, England have managed to stay in the mix for a semi-final berth as they displaced New Zealand from the fifth position. India, England and New Zealand are all now on 4 points.

While India and England have two matches left to play New Zealand have one game in hand.

England's top order made an aggressive start to their chase of 204, backing the work of their spinners who held New Zealand to a modest total.

Openers Danni Wyatt fell to Jess Kerr for 12,



while Tammy Beaumont (25) was clean bowled by Lea Tahuu (1/18).

Skipper Heather Knight raced to 42 runs of 53 balls before being adjudged leg before to Frankie Mackay in the 23rd over. Wicketkeeper Amy Jones (1) soon followed her captain.

Sciver then combined forces with Sophie Dunkley (33) to stitch a crucial 70-run partnership as England looked set for a win.

However, New Zealand bowlers managed to make a comeback with a flurry of wickets, intensifying

pressure on England. Earlier put to bat, New Zealand seemed to be cruising towards a massive total at one point of time, with Devine scoring at will and Amelia Kerr (24) looking assured at the crease. However, Devine was forced to retire hurt with a back problem in the 15th over and Kerr holed out for 24 to become Charlotte Dean's (2/36) first victim as England fought back strongly during the middle overs. The experienced Amy Satterthwaite (24) and Green attempted to mount a fightback, but England, who have been sloppy in the field in their earlier matches, performed well in that area, effecting two run outs. Satterthwaite was trapped leg before by Dean and then the duo of Cross and Ecclestone cleared off the tail to dismiss the White Ferns in the penultimate over of

England's Anya Shrubsole and Charlie Dean celebrate victory over New Zealand in the Women's Cricket World Cup match, at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Sunday.

Nadal outlasts teen Alcaraz in 3 sets to go 20-0 this year



Indian Wells, Mar 20 (AP):

Rafael Nadal faced down the future and emerged victorious, outlasting Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the BNP Paribas Open final and improve to 20-0 this year.

The 21-time major champion threw his head back, smiled and raised both arms in triumph after escaping an aggressive Alcaraz. The 18-year-old never appeared rattled

playing his vaunted countryman, who had the crowd, a 17-year advantage in age and loads of experience in his favor.

Nadal's perfect record is the third-best start to a season since 1990.

Nadal staved off three break points on his serve in the fifth game of the third set and then broke Alcaraz with a forehand volley winner to go up 5-3. Nadal served out the match with a love game, punctuating the 3-hour, 12-

minute struggle with a 95-mph ace.

He will meet Taylor Fritz in the final Sunday. Seeded 20th, Fritz is the first American man to make the final since John Isner in 2012 and he'll try to be the first to win the title since Andre Agassi in 2001.

Fritz ended No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev's 13-match winning streak with a 7-5, 6-4 victory in the other semifinal. The Russian had won 13 consecutive matches since Feb. 14, including back-to-back titles at Marseille and Dubai.

After holding to go up 4-3 in the third, Nadal called for a trainer, who appeared to give the soon-to-be 36-year-old star a chiropractic adjustment.

Alcaraz outdueled Nadal in a second set that featured five service breaks, including four in a row.

Tied 4-all, Alcaraz broke Nadal in a game that lasted 19 minutes, 42 seconds. Nadal's errant forehand gave Alcaraz the advantage on the seventh break point of the game. The teenager tossed up a topspin lob near the baseline that Nadal could not catch up to and Alcaraz led 5-4. He served out the set, 6-4.

Permanent saliva ban not a big deal, says Cummins



Lahore, Mar 20 (PTD):

Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins says since the impact of precautionary prohibition on use of saliva for shining the ball was not as huge as anticipated, a permanent ban on its usage will not be a "big deal" for the seam bowlers.

Saliva application was

barred by the ICC in view of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2020.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of cricket laws, recently imposed a complete ban on the use of saliva while announcing its amended 2022 code, which will come into effect in October this year. The MCC reasoned that applying saliva had

no impact on the ball's movement, according to its research.

"I don't think so (permanent saliva ban will hamper the performance of the swing bowlers)," Cummins, himself a pacer, told reporters ahead of Australia's third Test against Pakistan.

Great that KKR have retained most of the squad

Cummins, who had become the most expensive foreign buy in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2019 when Kolkata Knight Riders bought him for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore, will turn out for the Kolkata-based outfit once again. "Really excited. It's been great that most of the squad has been able to keep together. So, most of the players and staff know really really well," he said.

KKR have named Indian batter Shreyas Iyer as skipper and having shared the dressing room with him in the 2017 edition of the IPL, Cummins is looked forward to joining forces with him once again. "Shreyas, I played with at Delhi (Daredevils), we got on really well. He's seem like a very calm guy and seems in form at the moment."

Saini eager to connect with Boult and discuss various aspects of fast bowling



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Indian quick Navdeep Saini is eager to observe Trent Boult "go about his business" and pick the New Zealand pace spearhead's brain in a bid to improve his game during his stint with the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL this season.

One of the fastest bowlers in the country currently, Saini will be an important cog in the Royals' newly forged fast bowling line-up alongside Boult.

I am most looking forward to connecting with Trent Boult during the

IPL. He is someone who has achieved so much in both international and IPL cricket, and it'll be a great experience to just speak to him about various aspects of fast bowling," Saini was quoted as saying in a release.

"I'll be most focused on observing him go about his business, and hopefully that should also help in improving my own game, added Saini, who has 17 wickets in the IPL at an economy of 8.47.

Having recently been a part of the Delhi squad during the league stage of the Ranji Trophy, where he picked up five wickets in two matches, the Karnal Express hopes to get better as he shifts his focus to the white-ball game, aiming to contribute and help the Royals. "I'm looking forward to working with the very experienced coaching group and a talented group of players. The Royals are known for fostering a fantastic atmosphere around the group, and I'm simply looking forward to experience that and connect with everyone and get going this season."

'Retained players have a responsibility to guide youngsters in the team'



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Having bought a lot of new faces at the IPL mega auction this year, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting stressed that the players who have been retained by the franchise now have a responsibility to guide the youngsters in the team.

The Capitals had retained four players — skipper Rishabh Pant, opener Prithiv Shaw, spin all-rounder Axar Patel and South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje — ahead of the auction and the coach is trying his best to get to know the rest of the squad ahead of the league which begins on March 26.

"I have told the boys to keep their doors open when they are in their rooms and get to know each other. I am going to have breakfast, lunch and dinner with all the younger guys that I don't know," Ponting was quoted as saying in a media release.

"When you show love towards the younger guys as a coach or a senior player, you know that they are going to give it back."

"The guys who have been in the Delhi Capitals camp for a while definitely have the responsibility of guiding the youngsters in the team."

England leads West Indies by 136 as draw beckons in Barbados

Bridgetown, Mar 20 (API):

England led West Indies by 136 runs and was setting up a second declaration to try and force a result in the second test at Kensington Oval.

West Indies was finally bowled out for 411, trailing by 96 runs, and England openers Zac Crawley and Alex Lees added 40 without loss in 15 overs before bad light ended play on the fourth day. Last week in Antigua, England led by 153 into the final day and set West Indies a winning target of 286 in 71 overs. West Indies didn't take the bait and the test was safely drawn. England's strategy shouldn't change in Barbados, and neither should the end result on a similarly flat pitch.

West Indies captain and opener Kraigg Brathwaite frustrated England for a third straight day until he was out for 160 after nearly 12 hours. He started the day on 109 and his team on 288-4. Nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph supported him for 1 1/2 hours until he was dismissed by Ben Stokes for 19, the only wicket in the



Kraigg Brathwaite of West Indies celebrates his century.

morning session. Jason Holder was out to the second ball after lunch from a rash hack, giving England pacer Saqib Mahmood his first test wicket on debut. Brathwaite was handling the third new ball of his innings when he came forward to spinner Jack Leach, was beaten and heard his off stump rattled. The captain's 160 on his home ground came from 489 balls and included 17 boundaries.

HOLA MOHALLA FEST



Devotees spray perfume and shower flower petals on the Palki Sahib, which carries the Guru Garth Sahib, to mark the Hola Mohalla festival during a procession from the Golden Temple to Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, in Amritsar.

'Target is to make J-K free of terror, corruption'

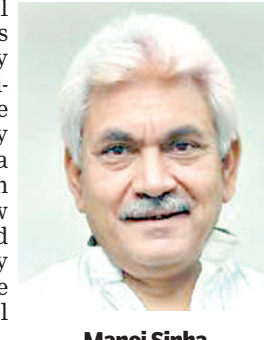
Udhampur (J&K), Mar 20 (PTI):

The Jammu and Kashmir administration intends to make the union territory a developed society free of terror and corruption, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday.

In his address at the attestation-cum-passing out parade of 636 newly recruited Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Subsidiary Training Centre here, Sinha lauded the role of the security forces for bravely facing various challenges, including infiltration attempts, and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from across the border. Jammu and Kashmir is full of diversity, which is our strength. We

have faced all the challenges successfully and our security forces are alert. They have played a pivotal role in building a new Jammu and Kashmir by thwarting the anti-national elements, Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor, who inspected the parade and took salute at the march past, said the decades-old terror ecosystem needs to be dismantled completely. We have continued our efforts to deal a decisive blow on corruption, terror financing, and terror ecosystem to make Jammu



Manoj Sinha

and Kashmir a developed society, free of corruption and fear. This is our target, he said. Sinha urged the fresh BSF recruits to live up to the tradition and expectation of the force and the people, and perform their

duties with professionalism so that no enemy can violate the country's borders. Drug addiction is a big challenge as drugs are smuggled by Pakistan under a conspiracy. You have to play a big role to check the smuggling of drugs, he said. Congratulating the re-

cruits, Sinha said, You are fully capable and ready the country is witnessing that BSF is performing its duties in mountainous regions, plains, deserts and deep forests with great devotion and dedication. The force is bravely facing every danger to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor said India has always desired to live with mutual harmony with its neighbours for peace but, We are ready to give a befitting response if someone wants to test us. Lauding the BSF, he said its motto of 'lifelong duty' is the identity card of its personnel. I am proud to be here among the brave soldiers of the force, he said.

After Punjab, AAP eyes Congress-ruled Chh'garh

New Delhi, Mar 20:

After its landslide victory in Punjab, the AAP has now set its eyes on Chhattisgarh with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party deciding to contest the assembly polls in the tribal-dominated state next year. As part of the plan, senior AAP leader and Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai will on Sunday embark on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh to set in motion his party's preparations for the assembly elections in the state currently ruled by the Congress.

AAP's Purvanchal wing incharge and Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha will accompany Rai to Chhattisgarh. During his visit, Rai will

hold a series of meetings with AAP leaders and workers to chalk out the party's "action plan" for the upcoming assembly polls and also launch "a massive" membership drive in the state, a party leader said. He will inaugurate the party's state office in Raipur on Sunday.

On Monday, he will participate in a 'Vijay Yatra' (victory march), to be taken out by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Raipur, to mark the party's stupendous victory in Punjab and also to project itself as an alternative to the Congress and the BJP in Chhattisgarh, a party leader added. "This visit is to prepare our action plan

for the assembly polls next year. Through our Vijay Yatra, we will be sending out our party's message to the masses," Rai told PTI when asked about the purpose of his visit.

Rai, who is AAP's Delhi convenor, said the party has decided to contest the Chhattisgarh assembly polls next year as people of the state, especially youth and women, are disappointed with the Congress government and want a "change". "For 15 years, the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh after its formation as a separate state but it did not fulfil its promises. In the last assembly election, the people voted for change and gave their mandate to the Congress," he said.

Chennai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Over 70,000 new jobs that were available in more than 500 leading companies are up for grabs at a mega employment fair inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin near here on Sunday.

Stalin presented job offers to 20 aspirants as part of kicking off the event that was held near the city and organised by the labour welfare and skill development department, an official release said.

Job aspirants from the city and also hailing from neighbouring Chengalpet, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts took

part in the programme in which more than 500 leading private companies were taking part.

"These companies have announced 73,950 vacancies and Chief Minister M K Stalin handed over appointment orders to 20 job seekers (as part of launching the event)," the release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Stalin said the vision of the DMK government was to create employment opportunities based on educational qualification and skill of a job aspirant.

"That is the objective of this government. That is why we are enhancing the school and college education, thereby, honing the

students skill enabling them get job offers based on their education," he said. The Chief Minister noted that soon after DMK assumed office in May 2021, 2,50,708 job seekers attended 36 mega job fairs and 297 job camps conducted by 5,708 companies.

"As many as 41,213 people received job offers of which 517 were persons with disabilities (PwD). I am happy to give away appointment orders during this job fair which is being conducted for the first time," he said.

The Chief Minister also requested his cabinet colleague and Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill

Development C V Ganesan to conduct such mega job fairs in all the districts of the state.

Stalin also appealed to candidates who have secured jobs in the fair to keep enhancing their skill levels so as to progress in their career. He also requested those candidates who have not received any job offers to develop necessary skills to get placed.

Referring to the 'Naan Muthalvan' (I am first) scheme launched by him earlier this month, he said such a scheme was launched with the initiative to hone the educational skills, knowledge, talent and efficiency of 10 lakh youth annually.

BJP to stake claim to form govt in Goa today

Panaji, Mar 20 (PTI):

The BJP will meet the Goa governor on Monday and stake a claim to form the next government, state unit resident Sadanand Shet Tanavade said on Sunday. The much-awaited BJP legislature party meeting will also be held on Monday to select the leader of the House, who will be the next chief minister. "BJP president J P Nadda has informed that the legislature party meeting would be held on Monday after which party leaders will meet Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and stake a claim to form the next government." Tanavade told a press conference. The legislature party meeting will begin at 4 PM on Monday.

NMDC, IIT-Kharagpur ink pact for drone-based mineral exploration

New Delhi, Mar 20:

NMDC on Saturday said it has signed a pact with IIT-Kharagpur for exploration of minerals using drones. The MoU for 'drone-based mineral exploration' was signed virtually by the senior officials of NMDC and professors of IIT Kharagpur, the miner said in a statement. NMDC, under the Ministry of Steel, is into exploration of wide range of minerals such as iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten and beach sands etc. NMDC CMD Sumit Deb said, "NMDC would be the first CPSE in India to conduct drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration in the country." The tie up with IIT-Kharagpur, he said, will open a new chapter and set a benchmark in the field of mineral exploration for the nation.

HERITAGE RAILWAY TRACK



A toy train runs on the Kalka-Shimla heritage railway track, in Solan district, Sunday.

Uddhav rejects AIMIM alliance offer

Says it's part of BJP's game plan to defame Sena's Hindutva agenda

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Asserting that Shiv Sena is a "Hindutvavadi" party, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday rejected AIMIM's offer for an alliance calling it a "conspiracy" by the opposition BJP to defame the Sena, which heads the Maha Vikas Aghahdi (MVA) government.

Thackeray, who heads Shiv Sena, virtually addressed a meeting of the party MPs and office-bearers here wherein he lashed out at BJP, the former ally of Sena, on Hindutva and other issues.

Who has sought an alliance with the AIMIM? This is a game plan and conspiracy of the BJP. The AIMIM and the BJP have a tacit understanding. The BJP has ordered the AIMIM to defame the Shiv



Uddhav Thackeray

Sena, to raise questions on Shiv Sena's Hindutva. Accordingly, the AIMIM leaders are making the offer of alliance, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut told reporters quoting Thackeray.

On Saturday, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Imtiaz Jaleel caused a stir stating that his party can ally with the Shiv Sena-led MVA to prevent the BJP

from coming to power, evoking sharp reactions from Sena. The NCP and Congress, the other two partners in the MVA, had said the AIMIM must prove that it was a "like-minded" party and not the "BJP's B-team".

Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP, said the Sena will launch 'Shiv Sampark Mohim', a mass outreach programme, on March 22 in 19 districts across Vidarbha and Marathwada regions in Maharashtra on Thackeray's orders to dispel the confusion the BJP was trying to create about Sena on various issues.

Uddhav ji said Shiv Sena will never join forces with the AIMIM. The Shiv Sena president also said that his party had never been associated with and will never be associated with those who bow before the grave of Aurangzeb, Raut said.

With Mughal-style 'baradari' and flowers, President opens new 'heritage park'

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Endowed with a Mughal-style 'baradari' and rich stocks of flowers, a new heritage-themed park near Jama Masjid in old Delhi was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday evening. In the first phase, an area of about 1.75 acres has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.65 crore, civic officials said.

The plot, which was earlier covered in filth, encroached from multiple sides and often used by anti-social elements, after months of hard labour and meticulous planning has been transformed into

a beautiful park, they said. Conceived in 2017, the park has been built with North Delhi Municipal Corporation's funds and contributions from various MPs cutting across party lines and former Union minister Vijay Goel, officials had earlier said.

It has been developed using rich stocks of flowers and has structures built with traditional craftsmanship. A white marble-made 'baradari' (pavilion) with cusped arches is the centrepiece of this garden while red sandstone, white marble, Dholpur stone, and Delhi quartzite stones have been used in the construction.

Odisha observes 'Pakhala Dibas'

Bhubaneswar, Mar 20 (PTI):

Odisha Sunday observed the 'Pakhala Dibas' marking the popularity of the state's main staple food since ages even in the age of pizza, burgers and other fast food items.

March 20 is being observed as Pakhala Dibas to promote the cuisine in the modern era. The initiative was started in 2015 by Odias to celebrate their traditional food worldwide. Pakhala (rice water) is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water.

The social media platforms were busy with a large number of people posting pictures of them observing the Pakhala



Dibas. This particular Odia food is consumed by all from ultra-rich families to the working and labour classes.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who spent most of his youth in

foreign countries before entering into politics in 1997, also claimed that Pakhala is his favourite dish.

Patnaik's love for Pakhala came to the fore in 2018 when he invited

national leaders like the then President Pranab Mukherjee, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, BJP veteran L K Advani and CPI(M) stalwart Sitaram Yechury to his residence and served 'Pakhala' in the lunch.

The chief minister had shared the picture on his Twitter handle showing the dignitaries taking Pakhala. "It is always a pleasure to relish Odia cuisine, especially my favourite pakhala, which I have a special liking for. Remember fondly the appreciation of guests from outside the state and country whenever we served them pakhala. Wishing you all a happy Pakhala Dibas," Patnaik said in the social media post.

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BRIEF



A dog and its trainer participate in the Furry Friends Fashion Show, at Latasil ground in Guwahati, Sunday.

Seized

Coimbatore: The Department of Forest on Sunday said three elephants tusks have been confiscated and as many people arrested in Tirupur, near here. Based on tip-off that a loadman was trying to sell the tusks, a forest official posing as a buyer approached the worker and offered to buy them for Rs 80 lakh. When the deal was struck, the official and others from the forest department caught hold of the loadman and his two accomplices.

Watery grave

Kanpur: An eleven-year-old girl drowned and two men went missing while bathing in River Ganga in Maharajpur area here. Three other minors were rescued, police said on Sunday. Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and divers from the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been pressed into service to trace and rescue the missing youths, they said. Uttar Pradesh caretaker Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident on Sunday.

Mishap

Bikaner: Two people died and five others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between a car and truck here on Sunday, police said. According to police, five people were in the car when the accident occurred near Deshnok town on the Bikaner-Jodhpur National Highway, they said. Surya Pratap Singh (22) and Mangu Singh (25), residents of Bikaner, died while three other occupants of the car were injured, they added.

Raid

Mumbai: Thirty persons were arrested and 25 women were rescued after a raid in a bar in Mumbai's Malad area in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The raid was carried out by the Social Service Branch of the city's Crime Branch, an official said. "A decoy customer found women dancing in violation of norms after which the raid was carried out. We have rescued 25 women and arrested 30 persons comprising customers, waiters and other staff of the eatery-cum-bar," he said.

Weather
High 37 Low 25

KEJRIWAL TO MINISTERS IN PUNJAB

'Perform or get ready to be replaced'

Chandigarh, Mar 20

(PTI):

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday told the newly-appointed ministers in Punjab in no uncertain terms to perform or be ready to be replaced and said those unhappy with missing out on ministerial berth need to leave behind personal ambitions for the state's progress.

While he will be there "like an elder brother to guide" them, Kejriwal said the 92 MLAs have to work with honesty as a strong team under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, whom he lauded for the decisions taken after assuming office.

"Every minister will be given a target by Mann sahab regarding works they have to do. They will have to work round-the-clock.

"If your (ministers) targets are not met, then the public will say change this minister, bring another minister... work has to be done and whatever target given by Mann Sahab has to be met, the Aam Aadmi Party chief said in his first address to party legislators through videoconferencing after the formation of the new government in Punjab. Kejriwal



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and party leader Raghav Chadhas during a meeting with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, via video conferencing in Mohali.

also advised the MLAs to be polite and not to be rude or use objectionable language against anyone, including officials. They would have to win the hearts of the people of Punjab with performance, the Delhi chief minister said and warned the party leaders of "strict action" if they indulge in any wrongdoing.

I can tolerate anything but not dishonesty and theft of public money. If I come to know or Mann sahib comes to know that anybody has indulged in wrongdoing, then not even a single chance will be given, he said, adding people have shown faith in us and we cannot break their trust.

Pointing out that political stalwarts of rival parties lost in the elections, Kejriwal said, 'ghamand mat karna' (do not be ar-

rogant). You did not defeat them. It is the people who defeated them. Do not think I have become an MLA now and will become a minister and then CM. These things should not come into your mind, he said.

Kejriwal praised Mann for his decisions related to the announcement of 25,000 government jobs, withdrawal of security of former ministers and ex-MLAs and release of compensation for the damaged crops.

He claimed that while the AAP government is doing wonderful work in Punjab, the BJP, which won elections in four states, was still fighting over ministerial positions.

"In the last three days, Mann sahib, 'tussi kamaal kar ditaa' we are really proud of you," said Kejriwal.

Sharad Yadav merges his party with RJD, seeks opposition unity



Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) leader Sharad Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav being garlanded, during a programme for the merger of LJD with RJD, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Former Union minister and socialist leader Sharad Yadav merged his party Loktantrik Janata Dal with Rashtriya Janata Dal on Sunday, pitching for unity in opposition ranks to take on the BJP.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav welcomed the veteran leader, who had fought some of the keenest Lok Sabha poll battles against his father Lalu Prasad Yadav in the 1990s, into his party's fold, saying that it is a message for the anti-BJP parties to unite to

take on the ruling dispensation. Sharad Yadav (74) had been keeping low after battling health issues for months, and the development is seen as an effort to rehabilitate his colleagues and other associates as his party LJD could never become a serious force after being launched following his separation with JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

He had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election on the RJD ticket while his daughter had fought the 2020 Bihar assembly poll as a nominee of the Congress, then an RJD ally. Unity of opposition parties is his priority, Sharad Yadav told reporters here, while lauding Tejashwi Yadav for leading the fight against the BJP-led NDA in Bihar.

COURT ORDER

Frame charges against Yasin Malik and Hafiz Saeed

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

'Russia bombs school housing 400 refugees'



This satellite image shows the aftermath of the airstrike on the Mariupol Drama theater, Ukraine.

Lviv, Mar 20 (AP): Ukrainian authorities said Sunday that Russia's military bombed an art school sheltering some 400 people in the embattled port city of Mariupol, where Ukraine's president said an unrelenting Russian siege would be remembered for centuries to come. It was the second time in less than a week that city officials reported a public building where residents had taken shelter coming under attack. A bomb hit a Mariupol theatre with more than 1,300 believed to be inside

on Wednesday, local officials said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the reported strike on the art school, which The Associated Press could not independently verify. Ukrainian officials have not given an update on the search of the theatre since Friday, when they said at least 130 had been rescued. Mariupol, a strategic port on the Azov Sea, has been under bombardment for at least three weeks and has seen some of the worst horrors of the war in Ukraine.

Biren Singh named CM of Manipur for second term

Imphal, Mar 20 (PTI):

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday announced that N Biren Singh would remain the chief minister of Manipur for a second term.

Sitharaman, who has been sent to the northeastern state as central observer, said Singh was unanimously chosen by the BJP's state legislature party as its leader.

The legislature party's meeting and announcement follows 10 days of uncertainty since the assembly poll results were announced, with rivals Biren Singh and senior BJP MLA Th Biswajit Singh rushing to Delhi twice to meet central leaders in what was seen as part of a hectic lobbying exercise by competing camps, de-



Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a bouquet to BJP leader N. Biren Singh after his election as the leader of BJP Manipur Pradesh legislative party & Chief Minister of Manipur, during the legislative party meeting of BJP Manipur, in Imphal.

spite denials of differences.

It is a good decision taken unanimously, which will ensure that Manipur has a stable and responsible government. The

Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gives special attention to the northeastern states, the finance minister said. Sitharaman and Union Law and

Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is the co-observer, arrived at Imphal earlier on Sunday to attend the meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs in Manipur.

Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Manipur's titular king and BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba and party national spokesperson Sambit Patra also flew in for the crucial meet.

The BJP returned to power in Manipur by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House in the recent assembly elections.

In the 2017 polls, although the BJP had won only 21 seats, it managed to lure MLAs from the Congress, which clinched 28 seats, and Biren Singh was sworn in as the first-ever BJP chief minister in Manipur.

I-T department detects Rs 224-crore undisclosed income

After raids on start-up firm Infra Market

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The Income Tax department has detected "undisclosed" income of more than Rs 224 crore after it recently raided Maharashtra-based unicorn start-up Infra.Market, officials said on Sunday.

The searches were launched on March 9 at the firm's 23 premises in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The CBDT said the

group, founded by Souvik Sengupta and Aaditya Sharda in 2016, is "engaged in wholesale and retail (business) of construction materials and has a pan-India presence with an annual turnover exceeding Rs 6,000 crore."

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the policy-making body for the I-T department.

Officials identified the searched entity as the Infra.Market group. An email sent by PTI seeking the company's

response remained unanswered. The construction materials marketplace had in August last year said that it had raised USD 125 million (about Rs 928.1 crore) in funding from Tiger Global.

The company has been identified as a unicorn, a financial term for a business entity that has achieved a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

The CBDT said "unaccounted" cash worth Rs 1 crore and jewellery worth Rs 22 lakh have been seized till now.

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CM announces significant projects for development of Kumhari

World Consumer Rights Day celebrated



● At Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on March 15 by the Commerce Department of Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya. Dr Anita Pandey, Head of the Department of Commerce, while making the students aware on World Consumer Rights Day, explained to them the rights of consumers and how to use the

rights in case of harassment.

Principal Dr J Durga Prasad Rao while congratulating the department, such programs make our students aware of consumer rights. A total of 63 students were present in this program and all the senior professors of the department including Dr SK Dwivedi, Dr KK Srivastava, Dr SK Srivastava shared their experiences with the students. The program was conducted by Assistant Professor Manjula Rajput.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced various significant projects for changing the face of Kumhari. He made these announcements after inaugurating the development works worth Rs 5.72 crore in Kumhari. He also performed bhoomipujan for development works worth Rs 1.52 crore. He announced construction of wholesale vegetable market in Kumhari with an expenditure of Rs 23 crore.

Along with this, the Chief Minister also announced to conduct renovation of all the schools located within the limits of Kumhari Municipal Council. He also announced the restoration of the quarry near Mahamaya Udyan and directed to conduct activities like fisheries so that

fishermen can also get employment. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that development works worth Rs 94 crore are under progress in Kumhari area and development works worth Rs 100 crore will commence soon.

He said that in the last three years, the face of Kumhari has changed rapidly. If any person visits Kumhari after 3 years, he will feel a big change. It is a matter of pride that Kumhari now has all facilities. Earlier, the residents were suffering due to lack of health facilities and poor education facilities. Now there is a good hospital and two Swami Atmanand English Medium schools are running in Janjiri and Kumhari.

Along with this, a college has also been opened. Kumhari connects Bhilai



to Raipur but the situation here was very poor. "After coming to power, Congress Government decided to change this situation and today the satisfaction and happiness is clearly visible on the faces of locals. Chief Minister further said that Kumhari Gauthan is operating appreciably. The women of Self Help Groups are cultivating bananas and selling it.

Cow Dung is also being

procured on a large scale which has created the possibilities of generating electricity from cow dung. He said that the government is working on the project of generating electricity from cow dung. This system has double benefit with production of vermi compost and electricity both.

The Chief Minister said that the government has made plans for the development of all sections of

society. CG Government has introduced Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana for farmers, schemes for landless labourers and much more. The government has also taken a big step for government employees. Now about 3.80 lakh government employees will be able to take advantage of the old pension scheme. Earlier, they were under stress in worry of financial security in old age, but the government has removed their stress.

The Chief Minister also inspected the Mahamaya Garden. The park has been prepared at a cost of Rs 1.27 crore. Chief Minister not only praised the beauty of the park, but also appreciated the initiative of installing statues of great men. There are statues of Gundadhur, Veer Narayan Singh and Balle Singh. It is a tribute to

them in true sense. Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan also addressed the gathering. He said that in the last three years, all the sections have benefited from the schemes of the state government and prosperity has increased rapidly in the state.

In his address, Kumhari Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, rapid development work is being done in Kumhari and the development aspirations of the people are being fulfilled. Kumhari is moving fast on the path of development. IG OP Pal, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, SSP Badrinarayan Meena and other public representatives and officers were present.

45 youth depart for Chennai under Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

CM tries his hand at badminton with SSP and Collector

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Under the 13th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 45 tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Chennai. It was the second group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of 22 boys and 23 girls is being accompanied by two female and three male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising three such tours this year.



Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in diversity aspect of

our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational

and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage.

This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other part of the country and enhance their self-esteem. IG SK Tyagi (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and Nodal Officer DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Kumhari witnessed an exciting men's double badminton match when Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paired up with Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan and tried his hand on badminton while playing against Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and SSP Badri Narayan Meena.

It was the occasion of the inauguration of a badminton court which has been built at a cost of Rs 97 lakhs. The sports infra-



structure in the state is improving continuously. Chief Minister encouraged the players after inaugurating the badminton court.

The badminton court built in Kumhari has two courts. Along with this, there is also the facility of

changing room. A vertical garden has also been built in the campus at a cost of Rs 60 lakh. Along with this, a garden has also been built at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. On this occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the gov-

ernment is committed to develop sports infrastructure along with civic amenities in the cities and continuous efforts are being made in this direction. Better sports infrastructure is constantly being created in the state and in the district.

He hoped that Chhattisgarh would emerge very strong in the field of sports. On the occasion, Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Municipal President Rajeshwar Sonkar and other public representatives were present.

CSVTU organises awareness workshop for women on IWD



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, organised an awareness workshop for women under the auspices of the Internal Complaints Committee constituted by the university. The two day workshop concluded on March 09.

The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of Director, University Department of Education Dr PK Ghosh while Vice Chancellor Dr MK Verma graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Present as special guests were Dr Chitra Verma, DSP, Sub-Divisional Officer, District- Kanker and Nisha Deshmukh (social worker) from Bhilai. From Internal Complaints Committee those present were Dr Deepti Verma, President, Hema Sahu, Member (Social Worker), Mamta Awasthi (CFO), and Seema Soni. The workshop began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony in front of the portraits of Maa Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda.

Taking the program forward by welcoming the guests, ICC President Dr Dipti Verma provided information about Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Vice-Chancellor spoke on maternal power and also said that it is necessary to have equanimity between men and women, which help in creating a safe workplace environment.

Social worker Nisha Deshmukh and Hema Sahu stressed on women to be aware and empowered, as well as urged them to know their rights and tell that right to other women as well. Director Dr PK Ghosh advised children to look upon women as goddess with respect and urged the children not to indulge in any such work which has to be hidden from their mother.

Dr Chitra Verma asked women and girl students to become financially empowered and instead of becoming someone else's shadow, they should make their own. Thereafter, Dr Dipti Verma and Mamta Awasthi expressed gratitude to the guests members, teachers and students and announced the conclusion of the program. Information on this account was given by Dr Deepti Verma, Chairman of the Internal Complaints Committee of the University through a press communique.

Three arrested for theft of TMT Rebar laden truck

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Police have arrested three ruffians on charges of stealing a TMT Rebar laden truck. The stolen vehicle and the rebar worth Rs 44 lakhs have been recovered. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that on March 18, Old Bhilai Police Station received a complaint regarding theft of a TMT Rebar laden truck.

The victim Arjun Prasad Singh complained that a consignment of 32.76 tonnes TMT Rebar was loaded on his truck trailer (CG07-AX-8873) on March 14 from Bhilai Steel Plant. The driver Ajay Chaudhary had parked the vehicle in Transport Nagar, Hathkhaj. On March 18, they found that



the vehicle and the consignment were missing.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena gave instructions to Old Bhilai Police Station for trapping the accused. During investigations, Police came to know about

some suspects.

They were immediately taken in custody and during interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused had taken the vehicle with consignment to Simga and had concealed the vehicle in the village while the

TMT Rebar was hidden in bushes near the nullah.

The accused were identified as Gurvel Singh (28) son of Kashmir Singh; Gurpreet Singh (35) son of Nirmal Singh and Amreet Singh (21) son of Surup Singh, all residents of Gurdaspur (Punjab) and were presently residing in Transport Nagar, Bhilai. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC.

Sub Inspector Prakash Shukla, ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Rakesh Singh, Subhash Borkar, Constable Sandeep Singh, Krishna Singh, Vijay Singh, Harish Rao and Rajesh Chandraul played vital role in arresting the accused.

Cable wars erupts in twin-city

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: With complaints of damaging the cable network and theft of related devices, the cable war is once again erupting in twin-city.

Due to the rivalry and clash between the cable network operators, a large number of customers are deprived of the cable tv transmission and are unable to watch their favourite shows and programmes.

In a recent incident, Amol Garudi, Manager of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Police Station for theft of cable wires and devices worth lakhs.

He complained that Raipur resident Deepak Pandey (Manager of Shark Net) and his accomplices Ashok Sharma of Durg, Mithlesh Singh of Padmanabhour, Arun Dalai Mohsin Khan and others had cut the cable network supply lines of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited and had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Telugu community remembers Potti Sriramulu on Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: The members of Telugu community celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Potti Sriramulu at a function organised in Camp 1 at the statue of the leader. Badruddin Qureshi, former minister of the state of Chhattisgarh was present as the guest at the function. At the outset, the guest and the members of the community garlanded the statue of Potti Sriramulu on 121st anniversary.

They remembers the contribution of Sriramulu in getting the separate state of Andhra Pradesh from erstwhile Madras state. How he had undertaken 56 days fast for the cause.

Qureshi, in his address, said that the creator of the Andhra Pradesh state, Potti Sriramulu sat on a fast unto death for the creation of Andhra Pradesh from the Madras state and went into a coma on the 56th day and died on the 58th day.

The news of Potti Sriramulu's death spread like fire in Vijayanagar, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Ongole and Nellore and violence spread to all the places and 7 people died in the district including Vijayawada due to police firing and violence. On December 17, 1953, the then Prime Minister of the country, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, agreed to give statehood to Andhra. Due to the sacrifice of Potti Sriramulu, the state of Andhra Pradesh was carved out of Madras state. T Joga Rao, Samay Lal Sahu, Arun Singh, Rama Rao, Upendra, M Krishnarao, K Venkatrao, K Rajendra, Hemraj, Eshwar Rao, Mohd Shahbuddin, Shanji Yadav, K Arpita Rao, Naem Khan, Parvez Alam, Akhilesh Srivastava, Amresh Giri, Shashikant etc were present.

Bicycles distributed to girl students



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Bicycles were distributed to the girl students studying in Government Higher Secondary School, Ward-

30, Camp-1, under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme in the presence of teachers including Principal Jyoti Tiwari, Ward-30 councillor Satyadevi Jaiswal, senior

BJP leaders Prabhunath Mishra, Rajkumar Jaiswal, BJYM leaders Amit Mishra, Ramesh Chaudhary, Anita Soni, Tuleswari were mainly present in the program.

Child kidnapped from Raipur, rescued in Dehradun

● Kidnapper had sold child to his brother-in-law at Rs 50000 to fulfill his wish for son

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The child, who had gone missing from the Civil Line area of Raipur ten days ago, was finally found by the police. Police recovered 3-year-old Subhash Sonwani from Dehradun. Raipur resident Irfan who allegedly kidnapped the child has also been arrested. Irfan's brother-in-law Salim has also been caught by the police and the entire conspiracy has been revealed.

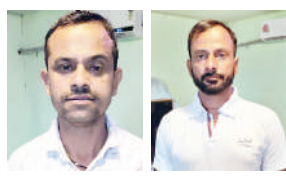
Raipur SSP Prashant Agrawal said that on the night of March 9, a 3-year-old Subhash, who was sleeping outside the hut near Budhi Mai temple of Rajendra Nagar, was kidnapped. He was sleeping



outside with his mother when the person who came on a bike kidnapped Subhash and then took away with him. A team of Civil Line Police Station along with Anti Crime and Cyber Unit was formed to solve this case.

Irfan's brother-in-law Salim Ahmed, living in Dehradun, had 3 daughters and he wanted a son. Salim's wife was told by the doctor that due to medical problems she could not give birth to the next child, so Salim told his relatives that he was ready to pay any price if someone brought him a boy. On knowing this Irfan, talked to Salim and assured to bring the child.

Irfan along with his friend Sher Khan living in



Telibandha planned to kidnap a child. They were constantly carrying out rece of children in different areas of Rajendra Nagar and Civil Line. After about 10 to 15 days of rece, Irfan targeted Subhash, who was sleeping outside with his mother every day near the Budhi Mai temple. Taking the opportunity very cleverly, Irfan and his friend executed their plan on the night of March 9.

According to the police, after kidnapping the child, Irfan had booked a ticket to go to Uttarakhand. He also left for Uttarakhand with his wife and daughter and there he sold Subhash to Salim at Rs 50 thousand.

Irfan was seen carrying the child in a CCTV cam-

era installed near Budhi Mai temple on the night of the incident. After this, the police team examined more than 1000 CCTV footages on different routes. It has been learnt that Irfan had also gone to jail earlier for theft in Raipur itself. Due to the old criminal record, the police tried to trace Irfan. The footage of the railway station was checked. The team came to know that the accused had fled to Dehradun.

For two-three days, the team of Raipur Police stayed in Dehradun and carried out its operation without informing the local police. In Dehradun, the team found Irfan and successfully traced the child with Salim. The child is being brought to Raipur safely. Irfan and his brother-in-law Salim have been arrested in this case. Sher Khan, an associate of Irfan, absconding in this case also being traced by the police.

CHEAPER OPTIONS



As a time-gap arrangement, a chariot owner perhaps realise it is more cheaper to pull a chariot with a scooter, rather than a horse.

CM to table Appropriation Bill in House today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The budget session of the state assembly is in progress and on Monday CM and Finance Minister Bhupesh Baghel can table

the Appropriation Bill in the House. In other words, that with presentation of this Appropriation Bill, the state government gets permission to carry out expenditure from the budget in 2023.

According to reports, this Bill is expected to get approval of the same on March 22 and after which the budget session can be declared as closed. Prior to the declaring end of the session, the main

Opposition party in the House i.e BJP may raised ruckus demanding continuation of session till the last date i.e March 27. The Vidhan Sabha secretariat has issued the agenda for tomorrow's proceedings.

Cleanliness is directly related to human health: Baghel



Raipur, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inspected faecal sludge treatment plant in Kumhari Municipal Council recently. The capacity of this plant is 6 KLD per day (6000 KL per day), i.e. two trucks of faecal sludge can be treated per day. On this occasion, the concerned officers apprised the Chief Minister about the main components and working method of the plant. The Chief Minister thoroughly understood the entire process from the screen chamber to the polishing

pond. The Chief Minister was told about nature based solution. After water treatment, the water can be used in gardens and agriculture and dried sludge can also be used as manure. Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure told the Chief Minister that the plant is gravity based. Chief Minister expressed happiness after hearing that the plant is operated without electricity.

Baghel said that cleanliness is directly related to human health. Cleanliness is an indispen-



sable requirement for healthy human life. It is not possible to ignore it under any circumstances. This state's largest faecal sludge treatment plant has been set up for the residents of Kumhari's area, which will undoubtedly help in waste management.

Nearby farmers will also get chemical free fertilizers so that they can produce high quality food grains and vegetables. People in the nearby areas can also take manure from this plant for their house plants and this manure can also be used in gardens. Faecal sludge treatment plant is definitely a better option for proper disposal and efficient management of human waste.

Health coordinators to sit on dharna

● In support of six-point demand

Raipur, Mar 20: As many as 15000 health coordinators of Chhattisgarh are going on indefinite strike from Monday March 21, in support of six-point demand. Their demonstration will start at 11 am at the protest site near Budha Talab in the capital. Swasthya Samyojak Karmachari Sangh state president Tarjan Gupta, Secretary Praveen Dhirwanshi informed at a press conference here that the Congress party had talked about fulfilling other demands including salary increase in the election manifesto.

In view of the work of the health coordinator during COVID situation in the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced special corona allowance while Health Minister TS Singhdeo had announced salary hike of the staff. However, none of the demands of health coordinators has been ful-

filled yet, they said.

Taking note of government indifference towards the demand, the Sangh decided to stage dharna. They said that the health arrangements in other health centers including 5200 sub-health centers and 550 primary health centers would be affected due to the dharna of 15,000 health coordinators.

The health coordinators are demanding 5200-20200 and grade pay of 2800 on the basis of similar educational qualification and training period, change in the name of the post of rural health coordinators to rural health assistant officers to boost their morale, appointment of wardboys and sweepers at the collector rate in the sub-health centers and health and wellness centers and separate incentive amount of Rs 5000 per month for the work of on-line data entry, monthly incentive to health coordinators and special corona allowance to health workers who rendered services during COVID pandemic.

Cash, jewellery worth Rs 1.50 lakh stolen



From the govt bungalow in VVIP area of RS MP Ramvichar Netam in Ambikapur

Central Chronicle News

Ambikapur, Mar 20 : Thieves ran away with cash and jewellery worth Rs 5 lakhs from the house of former Home Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Ramvichar Netam here on Saturday and the security guards and other peons present in the house could not even get a hint of that. The information to Police was given on Saturday and after two days a case of theft of Rs 1.50 lakh was filed.

RS MP Ramvichar Netam is having a house in Gandhi Nagar area of city and it is a government bungalow. It is learnt that on the night of Holi, the thieves broke open the main lock of the house and then break the lock of three almirahs and ran away with two diamond rings, two gold rings and a gold chain worth Rs 50000.

BJP State spokesman Anurag Singh Deo has held this as theft of Rs 5 lakh, but the Police said it is theft of Rs 1.50 lakh. So far the list of items stolen has not been received by the Police.

Police checking CCTV footage: The Police informed that during the incident, there was one peon and

security guard in the servant quarter in the House. Since it was day of Holi, all were busy in their own programmes and due to which none could get a hint of this theft taking place. The thieves just scattered all the item in three almirahs on the floor and the Police says that the thieves entered breaking the main lock of the gate and presently they are checking all CCTV footage.

Area comes under VIP area:

The government bungalow of Ram Vichar Netam comes in VVIP area of city and just behind the MP's bungalow is the bungalow of Addl SP. Whereas the house of SDM, SP and a judge is also nearby and just at a short distance from it is the circuit House. Presently this theft has raised question mark on safety and security in the city and there are reports that the thieves have stolen items and jewellery worth Rs 7 lakh from another house in the same locality.

Security siren rang in Mumbai when youth tried to pull out ATM

Chakarbhata Police informed, reaches on time

Accused turns out to be mentally retarded, so no action taken

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 20: When the thieves tried to pull out the ATM machine in Bilaspur, then the siren of central security command system in Mumbai rang and the Bilaspur Police was informed about the same. On hearing about the news, the Police reached the site, but by this time the youth managed to escape. The incident is that of Chakarbhata area of Bilaspur city.

The Police was on patrolling on Saturday night in Chakarbhata area and just than the Police got information from photo-modern informatics security Mumbai that attempt is being made to pull out the Bank of India's ATMs in Chakarbhata area.

The team from Mumbai informed that the siren of ATM is ringing here and

in the picture a youth is trying to pull out the ATM machine. On hearing this the Police team reached ATM site at 3:00 am in the morning and by this time the youth managed to escape.

Youth identified from CCTV, appears to be mentally retarded:

The Police has sought CCTV footage and got him identified from persons nearby. At that time they came to know that the youth is from Chakarbhata area and is mentally retarded and undergoing treatment at Mental Hospital in Sendari. Since the youth is mentally retarded the Police is not taking any action.

Instructions given to keep security guard: Chakarbhata TI Manoj Nike informed that the Police during night patrolling are keeping watch on ATMs, Banks, Sarafa and Transport Nagar, High Court and near Airport area. During inspection, they found that there was no guard at the ATM and the Bank management has been asked to keep one guard round-the-clock in ATM for safety purpose.



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Wild elephant tramples girl to death

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Mar 20: A 10-year-old girl was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Marwahi forest range in Bilaspur district on Sunday, a forest official said.



The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village in the morning, Marwahi Divisional Forest Officer Dinesh Patel said.

Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away

when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time, he said. The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death, the official said.

The forest officials rushed to the spot after being informed about the incident, he added.

The kin of the deceased have been given an initial

relief amount of Rs 25,000, the official said, adding that the remaining compensation will be disbursed soon after the completion of the necessary process, he said. The forest department had alerted the residents on Saturday night that a herd of around three elephants from Katghora forest division was roaming around in the surrounding

villages, but the children ignored the warning and went to collect the flowers in the morning, he said.

About the incident

The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village on Sunday morning. Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time. The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death. The kin of the deceased have been given an initial relief amount of Rs 25,000.

SMILE ON GETTING VACCINATED



A youth in age-group of 12-14 is with all smile, as he is being administered corona vaccine here on Sunday.

Cop dies after collapsing during attempt to pacify clashing groups

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 20: An assistant sub-inspector of police was declared dead soon after he collapsed on the ground in Mahasamund district, where he went to placate two groups engaged in a brawl, an official said on Sunday.

The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell, he said.

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night, M a h a s a m u n d Superintendent of Police

About the incident

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell. After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground. ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he was declared dead.

Vivek Shukla said. "After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground," the SP said, adding that the ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he

was declared dead. According to doctors, no injury mark was found on Sharma's body, he said.

The body was later sent for an autopsy and the entire procedure is being videographed, Shukla added.

Registration for free education in private schools under RTE begins

Process to be conducted till May 25

Lottery and seat allotment from June 3 to 15, 2022

Nine thousand seats available

Raipur, Mar 20: Registration of children in schools under the Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE) began on Thursday. The process of admission in the first phase will continue till June 30. The registration of students is being done from March 17 to May 15, 2022. The lottery and seat allotment will be conducted from June 3 to 15, 2022. Process of admission will be conducted in 820 pri-

private schools of Raipur, which have about nine thousand seats. Information about the number of seats, schools can be obtained from the website <https://eduportal.cg.nic.in/RT/E/>. Children belonging to families living below poverty line are eligible for admission in private schools under RTE. Census of 2007 in urban areas and 2002 in rural areas will be the basis of admission. Antyodaya card holders according to the 2011 census will be eligible for admission. Admission will be allowed in Nursery, KG I, KG II and Class I. In 6,511 private schools in the state, the number of 25 percent seats reserved under RTE is 83,006. Presently 3,01,317 children are studying under this scheme.

Fag song now becoming popular among girls

● Young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya fill atmosphere with enthusiasm with their songs

Raipur, Mar 20: On the occasion of Holi, men have been giving the presentation of the song 'Fag'. From this year onwards, girls have also started taking interest in fag songs. A group of young girls are presenting the hymns of Radha-Krishna in the form of fag songs. Their style of presentation is also being liked.

Due to this other girls are also being attracted to learn the songs of fag.

The fun of fag songs had disappeared in the last two years due to COVID pandemic. This year again Fag songs are resonating in Fiza. This year the specialty was seen that the girls also participated enthusiastically in this and cast a spell over listeners by singing the songs. This was visible in the ongoing 'Aakar Shivir' organized by the Culture Department in Raipur where training in various crafts is being given. Children and girls are reaching to learn many crafts including Dhokra craft, clay craft, paper cutting, chalk and clay art.

For the entertainment of those who came here, a group of girls had also come to present the songs of Fag. The young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya created an atmosphere full of enthusiasm with their singing. According to singer Akanksha Dubey the program of fag songs was not being held in the capital for the last two years due to corona pandemic. Earlier, in the street, the songs of C h a n g - M r i d a n g, Harmonium, Dholak, drums were heard on the beats of the drums, whose sweetness and the style drenched young and old in fun.

Three meet watery grave at Ramdaha waterfall



The search continues for the body of third missing youth.

13 youths had come from MP for picnic

Bharatpur, Mar 20: In the remote forest area of Bharatpur block is present Ramdaha waterfall and on the next day after Holi 13 youths from MP came there to celebrate Holi. While they entered the waterfall two of them slipped inside and met watery grave while another youth who had also entered this waterfall is still missing and Kotadol police is in search of the missing youth. The two youths who met watery grave have been identified as Vimal Gupta and Ramkishore Patel. About the incident As per information received, 13 youths from

Manpur area of Umaria district in MP had come to Ramdaha waterfall for celebrating picnic. While they were taking bath, three youths met watery grave, two bodies were traced while third youth Deepak Gupta is still missing. After receiving the information Kotadol police reached the spot and with the help of villagers fished out the body of two youths.

This place is visited by many people for celebrating picnic but even after many incidents in the past administration has issued no guidelines for the safety of tourists coming here. Baikunthpur Home Guard team has been informed and they are searching for the missing youth.

Rangotsav and CAP held with COBRA Battalion



● In Naxal affected area Minpa

Konta, Mar 20: On the auspicious occasion of Holi, DIG Yogyan Singh and 206 COBRA Battalion, based at Elmagunda Camp of Sukma district, under the direction of Luv

Kumar, PMG, Commandant, organized Holi Milan ceremony and Civic Action Programme (CAP) with the villagers of Elmagunda. The programme started with the greetings on Holi by the villagers and security force personnel by applying colours and exchanging greet-

ing with each other and at the same time lunch was provided to all the villagers on behalf of Cobra.

In the second episode of the program, under the Civic Action Programme of 206 COBRAs, sports materials, copy books for children, kitchen utensils, clothes for women, slippers, solar lanterns etc. were distributed. In the interior areas of Bastar, where the local people have almost negligible contact with the outside world, radio transistors were distributed to them to keep them abreast of the news and entertainment of the country and the world. During the ceremony, necessary medical and medi-

cines were given to the needy people by the medical team of COBRA. Addressing the function, Camp Commander of Elmagunda Camp Ranjit Mandal, Deputy Commandant urged the villagers to continue the efforts being made by COBRA, CRPF and other security forces in the overall development of the area and always be ready for any help to the villagers.

All the villagers of Renga Para, Patel Para and Ju Para of Elmagunda village participated in the program, in which the enthusiasm of women and children gave the form of Holi Milan and Civic Action as a fair.

Villagers enjoyed Holi for full two-days

Churrikala, Mar 20: It was after long break of two-years, that the people of all age-groups in the region, celebrated this festival of colours with great enthusiasm and fanfare. They applied 'Gulal' to each other at chowks and in houses and embraced each other with Holi greetings.

Facing the threat and danger of corona pandemic for last two years, this time the denizens of Katagi and nearby villages observed Holi without any fear or hesitation in their mind and fulfilling all their wishes of colouring each other with 'gulal and colours'.



It was on Thursday night, 'Holika-dahan' was done and in this female of the village reached venue of 'Holika' and offered all rituals and then the 'holika' was set on fire. The waste wood from all over the village was collected in advance and then it was placed for bonfire. People also played 'Nagadas' late in the evening to create atmosphere

for 'Holi' and it was set on fire late in the night.

On this occasion 'Faag-geet' competition was also organised at many places and Leader of Opposition in Nagar Palika Churrikala Devendra Dewangan organised it and in this 'faag-geet' participants from nearby villages took part in large number.

It was on Friday morning onwards, right from kids to elders, celebrated Holi, applying variety of colours and 'gulal' to each other, apart from bursting water-balloons and there was huge sales of colours and other items on

Holi this year.

Former President Ashok Dewagan had organised 'Holi-Milan' programme at his residence and in this all the denizens of city and his close friends were invited and they all celebrated holi with great fanfare. Along with him corporator, Aldermen, MLA's rep and other public representatives also took part in Holi celebrations. At the same time the Police department has made special arrangements for safety and security and due to which no untoward incident took place in the region.

Holi celebrated in rural areas peacefully

Katagi, Mar 20: The festival of Colour 'Holi', falling in the month of 'Fagun' is celebrated on the day of 'Poonnima' and to celebrate the occasion, people play 'Nagadas' and DJs, music and drums. But this year with Collector's order, there was no loud playing of 'DJ'. This festival of 'Holi', like any other festival is symbol of victory of good over evil. As per ancient scripts, this festival is related to story of King Hiranakshyap.

For 'Holika Dahan' on Thursday, kids of the village started gathering obsolete wood and other dry



wastes for last 15 days for the bonfire on Holika. On this day, the villagers offer prayers to 'Holika' and offer 'coconut', cow-dung cake, wood and other items and forgetting all ill and hatred with each other, the villagers re-start a new life with new year with this festival of colours-Holi.

Prior to the Holi celebrations, meeting of peace-

committee members was held at Thana Chowki and an appeal was made to all heads of the village to maintain peace, law & order on Holi. At the same time police jawans also conducted patrolling to avoid any untoward incident at sensitive places. This village Katagi, Saravani, Kalmidih, Lakhmaisati, Khaira, Jhabadi, Amodi, Navapara, Dhamalpur, Dheradih, Rampur, Kot, Tiparau, Manakoni, Darra, Giroudpuri, Sukali, Bareli, Madwa, Matia and others and at all these places Holi was celebrated with great fanfare and peacefully.

Villagers celebrate 'Holi' with 'Nagadas'



Anwari, Mar 20: The festival of Colours 'Holi' was celebrated with fanfare and enthusiasm in Anwari and nearby villages. The enthusiasm for celebrating this festival which promotes love, brotherhood and

unites all was at its peak this year, with people from all age-group participating in it. People from villages met each other on Holi and exchanged greeting applying 'Gulal' and later took part in the 'faag geet' and

playing of drums and 'dholaks' singing Holi songs and dancing to the tunes of new songs. It was just few days before start of this festival, that beats on 'Nagadas' could be heard and after which 'Holika Dahan' was done on Thursday night. Villages played 'nagadas' singing 'faag geet' and enjoyed the Holi celebrations. Women dressed in their traditional style met each other and applied 'gulal' and variety of colours to celebrate the occasion, with wishes to keep the relations of love and happiness intact among all.

ESAF observes Int'n'l Women's Day



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: ESAF Raipur Branch celebrated International Women's Day program with its valuable customers. Resource person's of this program were Shatabdi Pandey (Advisor, National Women Commission), Dr. Preeti (Principal-Copernics Deaf and Dumb College), Ms. Pushpalata (Director-H a r s a m b h a v

Foundation), Ms. Babli (Women Entrepreneur and Royalty Achiever), Ms. Merry (Renowned Social Activist), Vikash (Cluster Head-Retail), Preetpal (BH), Abhishek (Head-other products), Rajesh(CSM) and Mitu Henry.

The entire program was an experience sharing session on 'Women in present Socio-Economic Scenario' and how to make them self reliant.

BJP united to ensure justice for victim youth

CRPF conducts civic action programme

Party burns effigy of CM

Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: In the village Maragpuri under Baderajpur of Kondagaon last year farmer Dhaniram Markam's total farm area was reduced while making calculation of total land area and he was given a token for 11 tonne paddy while his field is of 6 acres and he sold 75 quintal paddy every year. But as his acreage was reduced and he could sell only 11 quintals of paddy, he became sad and committed suicide.



The deceased farmer had taken Rs 60,000 land from District Cooperative Bank Vishrampuri, the victim's

family did not receive any compensation from the administration, neither the agriculture loan was

waived and the family was asked to pay Rs 71,000 including interest on the loan amount.

The office bearers of 10 BJP divisions of Kondagaon along with BJP state vice president Lata Usendi met the family members of deceased and assured to be with them till they get justice. They demanded government service for one member of the family.

Usendi alleged that state government is playing with the sentiments of the farmers and they are torturing them by engaging banks to make repayment of loans even after the farmer who had taken loan had died. BJP workers also burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and raised slogans against the state government.



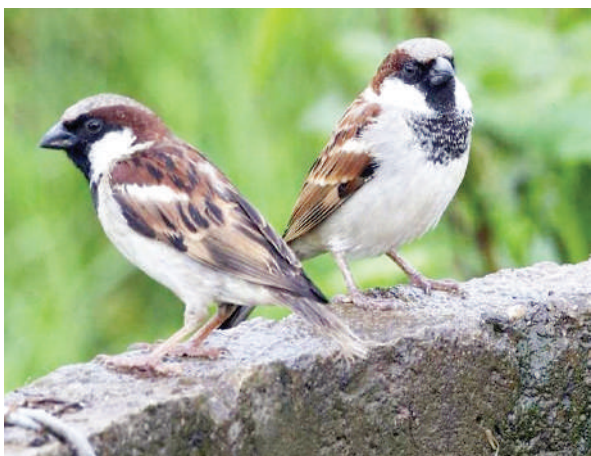
Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: 188 CRPF Battalion conducted civic action programme in Khargaon area in which villagers were

distributed daily use items. The programme was conducted under the directives of Sunil Kumar Commandant and in presence of Kailash Chand Assistant Commandant

and other jawans of the battalion. About 390 villagers were benefited and CRPF official Kailash Chand assured the villagers of forces with them for all their needs.

Conserve 'Sparrows' on verge of extinction



Main reason is increasing urbanisation and lack of plantation

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Mar 20: On occasion of World Sparrow Day, the members of Environment Conservation Committee (ECC) have urged the people to save this species of

bird on verge of extinction. One of the member's of the Committee Mohan Rajput and Anurag Thakur informed that to ensure that this species of Sparrow does not get extinct, we all will have to take initiatives. For this one should spread grains either on the rooftop or in the courtyard to save the birds and also place an earthen pot with water this summer. Apart from this one can

also prepare nests, plant saplings, save trees, so that birds have ample space and trees to live in peace with nature.

Duo informed that it is for the first time that World Sparrow Day was observed all over the country on March 20, 2010 and it was on 9 July 2010, Indian Postal Department released a postal stamp on 'sparrow' bird.

What few years back was a common site in the courtyard or near a tree were hundreds of 'sparrow' birds fluttering from one tree to another and now it has become a rare site in urban areas.

This species of bird 'Sparrow' was generally seen in large number among public places, but now the very chirping sound of these birds is rarely heard in the concrete jungle which has enveloped the greenery found earlier.

Though in last two years of corona lockdown, the number of sparrow birds in rural

areas has increased, but it has reduced a lot in urban areas. Set aside this more use of pesti-

cides, mobile towers, sound pollution, urbanisation, industrialisation and felling of trees are

some of the reasons behind extinction of this species of bird - 'Sparrow'. So now there

is need to conserve and protect them and put a control on increasing urbanisation.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I, Sudhir kumar S/o Deenanath Choudhary resident of MIG 8/22 Jawahar nagar supela Bhilai, Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh have changed my old name Sudhir kumar S/o Deenanath Choudhary, so in future I should be recognized by my new name Sudhir Choudhary S/o Deenanath Choudhary in all government and other documents.

Sudhir Choudhary
MIG 8/22 Jawahar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh (India)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Ravi Agarwal s/o Shankar Lal Agarwal resident of ward no 7 house no 110, near Shri Ram Mandir, Sakti, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh-495689 have changed my old name Ravi Agarwal son of Shankar Lal Agarwal, so in future I should be recognised by my new name that is Ravi Kumar Agrawal son of Shankar Lal Agarwal in all government and other documents.

RAVI KUMAR AGRAWAL
Ward no 7 house no 110, Near Shri Ram Mandir, Sakti, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh-495689

नाम परिवर्तन

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि RAKESH GUPTA S/O- RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA निवासी AZAD NAGAR, MAHAVEER NAGAR, RAIPUR (C.G.) यह शपथ करता हूँ, की मैंने अपना यह पुराना नाम को त्याग कर नया नाम RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA रख लिया है। अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्थात् शासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नए नाम RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O-RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA से ही जाना पहचाना जावे।

RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA
AZAD NAGAR, MAHAVEER NAGAR, RAIPUR CHHATTISGARH-492001

AFFIDAVIT/ SELF DECLARATION

I, No. 14845619L Rank Nk/HK Name Ashok Kumar Ratre presently residing at Vill.- Pandripali, PO: Pandripali, Teh.: Bilargarh, Dist.: Baloda Bazar, State : Chhattisgarh, Pin : 493 559 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

(a) That, I have changed my son from Adrsh to Adarsh Ratre due to wrong publication of Birth Part - II Order in my service documents that my son date of birth is 16 Mar 2011 (one six zero three two zero one (In words)).

(b) That, I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my son name

(c) That both Named Adrsh and Adarsh Ratre pertain to one and the same person.

(d) That, I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only Adarsh Ratre.

(e) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 14 March 2022
Signature of Individual

AFFIDAVIT/ SELF DECLARATION

I, Abha Devi, is legally wedded spouse of No. 14845619L Rank Nk/HK Name Ashok Kumar Ratre presently residing at Vill.- Pandripali, PO: Pandripali, Teh.: Bilargarh, Dist.: Baloda Bazar, State : Chhattisgarh, Pin : 493 559 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

(a) That, I have changed my name from Abha Devi to Abha Devi Ratre due to wrong publication of Marriage Part-II Order in my service documents that my date of birth is 17 Dec 1982 (One seven one two one nine eight two (In words)).

(b) That, I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my name.

(c) That both Named Abha Devi and Abha Devi Ratre pertain to one and the same person.

(d) That, I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only Abha Devi Ratre.

(e) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge information and belief Nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 14 March 2022
Signature of Individual

Yuwa Jagriti Panthi team enthral audience In 'Basantotsav' held in Gandhi Nagar



Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasoud, Mar 20: The youths of Yuwa Jagriti Panthi Party under leadership of Ved Prakash Maheshwari near Gram Bahana Kadi, organised 'Basantotsav' in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat from March 13-22 jointly under aegis of Western Area Cultural Centre Udaipur and Yuwa Sewa Sanskritik Pravrittiya Gujarat government.

ent. In this Ved Prakash Maheshwari, Hitendra, Surendra Bharti, Shekhar Gaikwad, Charandas, Sanjay, Yogesh, Parmeshwar, Anil and ther colleagues took part.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर जिला बेमेतरा (छ.ग.)
राजस्व मामले में नोटिस
प्रकरण क्रमांक 31/ब-121/2020-21

आवेदक - एस्पायर होम फायनेस कॉरिशन लिमिटेड
फंजीकृत कार्यालय एस्पायर होम फायनेस लिमिटेड, मोतीलाल ओसवाल टॉवर, रहितमुकलाह परेल एस.टी डिपो के सामने प्रभादेवी मुम्बई 400025
शाखा कार्यालय- 203 नेशनल कॉर्पोरेशन पार्क, गीता नगर, रामकुंड, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
विरुद्ध

अनावेदक-

- श्री राजेश कुमार साहू
ग्राम धनौरा मारका, कबीरधाम बाजाली कुलर्स के पास, छ.ग. आदर्श स्कूल बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) 491336
- श्रीमती उषा राजेश कुमार साहू
ग्राम धनौरा मारका, कबीरधाम बाजाली कुलर्स के पास, छ.ग.आदर्श स्कूल बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) 491336
- श्रीमती धनबाई, साधु हीरा नगर, उरला, अचोली-2 रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492003

आवेदक द्वारा वितीत आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुर्नगहन और प्रतिभूतिहित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा -14 के अंतर्गत आवेदन पेश किया गया है। अनावेदकगण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपर्युक्त मामले की सुनवाई दिनांक 24.03.2022 दिन गुरुवार को समय दोपहर 12.00 बजे स्थान न्यायालय कलेक्टर जिला बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) पर होगी। अतएव आप स्वतः या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उक्त सुनवाई तिथि को अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होंगे। उपस्थिति नहीं होने की स्थिति में आपके विरुद्ध एफयुवीसी कार्यवाही कर प्रकरण में अग्रिम कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

आज दिनांक 15/03/2022 को न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

सही
आदेशानुसार /
कलेक्टर, जिला बेमेतरा,
बेमेतरा, दि. 15.03.2022

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

DHAMTARI, BASTAR ROAD, DHAMTARI, 134150700008500, 9155, 9160, 9476, 9477, 9497, 9499, 9525, 9539, 134150730008500, 8573, 8767, 8768, 8885, 8929, 9374, 9532, 134150730010040, 0315, SADAR BAZAR, DHAMTARI, 131990700008023, 131990730003668, 3958, 4536, 5284, 5288, 5289, DURG, CHARODA SQUARE, BHILAI, 134110700011804, 1962, 2820, 3279, 3370, 3371, 3386, 3578, 3655, 3724, 3788, 3935, 4241, 4283, 4286, 4304, 4309, 4310, 4313, 4322, 4336, 134110730014583, 5165, 5174, 5194, 5243, 5352, 5700, 6202, 6522, 6523, 7396, 7641, 7848, 8015, 8060, 8080, 8530, 8579, 8662, 8683, 9176, 9261, 9262, 9332, 9340, 9346, 9362, 9364, 9382, CHOUHAN ESTATE, 115880700019301, 9359, 9428, 9767, 9952, 115880700020306, 0329, 0345, 0500, 0659, 1166, 1170, 1177, 1180, 1181, 1184, 1188, 1190, 1209, 1212, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1236, 1245, 1258, 1264, 1275, 1279, 1285, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1304, 1306, 1310, 1313, 1320, 1322, 1325, 1328, 115880730018626, 8942, 8989, 9431, 9729, 115880730020688, 1471, 1544, 2646, 2648, 2650, 2804, 2805, 3399, 3577, 3646, 3788, 3848, 3940, 4364, 4390, 4395, 4415, 4419, 4424, 4432, 4437, 4438, 4444, 4521, GURUDWARA STATION ROAD, 112310700018526, 8684, 9263, 9264, 9266, 9570, 9588, 9912, 112310700020025, 0062, 0445, 0461, 0483, 0506, 0515, 0548, 0560, 0565, 0570, 0578, 0594, 112310730024154, 7200, 7757, 8073, 9959, 112310730010466, 2135, 3675, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3738, 3739, 3768, 3770, 3777, 3796, 3798, 3799, 3810, 3833, KRISHNA THEATER ROAD, 125930700018186, 8472, 8665, 8844, 9028, 9128, 9530, 9570, 9572, 9689, 9772, 9800, 9821, 125930700020395, 125930730013234, 3235, 3236, 3912, 4188, 4773, 4857, 4989, 5091, 5252, 5253, 5254, 5455, 6114, 6123, 6203, MAHARAJA CHOWK, 116770700012334, 2335, 2360, 2696, 116770730007736, 8013, 116770730011756, 1866, 1892, 1949, 2332, 2400, MALVIYA NAGAR SQUARE, 116610700013460, 3463, 4350, 4489, 4501, 4537, 4554, 4567, 4581, 4769, 4770, 4827, 4839, 4856, 116610730014674, 6194, 6290, 116610730022425, 3705, 3887, 3933, 4178, 4453, 4492, 4498, 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Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact: 9072604049

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Dhamtari, First Floor, Bank of Baroda, Indira Place, Civic Center, Bhilai, (Chhattisgarh) - 490006
Telephone: 0788-2963574, www.bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitization of financial asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No 54 of 2002) and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notices to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the said rules on the date mentioned in respective columns. Descriptions are as under:

Branch Name	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Possession date
Dhamtari	Borrower: Shri Mohammad Sajid Raza S/o Yusuf Raza, Shri Yusuf Raza S/o Shri Mohd. Sirajuddin and Smt. Sayra Bano W/o Shri Yusuf Raza Guarantor: Shri Mohammad Shahid Raza S/o Shri. Yusuf Raza	Land & Building at Kh. No. 354/31, New Kh. No. 962/2, PH. No. 46/13, Village: Demar RIC Bhothli, Distt: Dhamtari bounded by: North : Land of Bhuneshwar South : Solid land of seller Om Kumar East: Dhamtari-Bakhara Main Road West : Govt land	13/01/2022 Rs.1978692.00 + Interest and other charges 15/03/2022
Dhamtari	Borrower: Shri Mohammad Yusuf Raza S/o Shri Sirajuddin, Smt. Sayra Bano W/o Shri Mohd Yusuf Raza and Shri. Mohammad Sajid Raza S/o Mohd. Yusuf Raza Guarantor: Shri Mohammad Shahid Raza S/o Shri Yusuf Raza	Land & Building at Kh. No. 354/31, New Kh. No. 962/2, PH. No. 46/13, Village: Demar RIC Bhothli, Distt: Dhamtari bounded by: North : Sajid Raza South : Road East : Bakhara Road, West : Govt land	13/01/2022 Rs.1991927.00 + Interest and other charges 15/03/2022

The borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned properties. Any dealing with the properties will subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

Authorized Officer
Date: 21/03/2022 Place : Dhamtari
Bank

BRIEF

Fabricating

New Delhi: A 24-year-old driver was arrested for allegedly fabricating a robbery of Rs 20 lakh in north Delhi's Civil Lines area. The accused has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a resident of Rohini and a native of Jharkhand. A businessman, who has a business of grains, had made a complaint with police alleging a robbery. He had sent his driver Kumar to drop Rs 20 lakh at his nephew's office. Police zeroed in on Kumar as suspect.

Seized

Bengaluru: Authorities including those from Customs Intelligence Unit (CIU) said they have seized Ephedrine, weighing 46.799 kg, and having a street price of about Rs 9.23 crores, under the provisions of the NDPS Act. Ephedrine was hidden in kitchen utensils consignment. Based on specific intelligence, the officers intercepted a shipment in the export shed that was attempted to be exported to Australia by a exporter.

Rescued

Nuh: A 9 year old boy was rescued within eight hours of his kidnapping from Tirwada village in Haryana's Nuh district, the police said. The boy went missing from his house. The boy's father had got ransom call of Rs 2 lakh from an unknown number. After tracing number and its location, police found the child from forested area near Mahu Chopra village.

Shootout

Kolkata: Two persons were injured in a shootout in the city's Tiljala area. The injured were identified as Raju Roy, a taxi driver, and his father, Dablu Roy. They were admitted to the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital. The incident took place in Tarikhana Road when a few locals, who had asked for money from Raju, allegedly gheraoed him when he was returning home with his brother, and an altercation followed, police said.

Injured

Palghar: A 65-year-old tribal woman from Mokhada in Maharashtra's Palghar district was injured in a tiger attack, an official said. The incident took place in a forested patch near Poshora village. Parvati Sapte was saved by her 72-year-old husband Kahisnath Sapte who managed to ward off the big cat. She was attacked very close to the door of her house.

Booked

Panaji: Two constables attached to Ponda police station in North Goa district were suspended and an FIR was registered against them for allegedly assaulting a man. Constables Rama Khanekar and Omkar Mankar have been placed under suspension for allegedly assaulting a man at Codar village, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Ponda) CL Patil said.

'Huge welfare schemes expenditure hitting public finances'

● **Yashwant Sinha had quit BJP over policy differences**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Yashwant Sinha

Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha on Sunday said that huge expenditure on welfare schemes by the Modi government has severely impacted the public finances which are currently in a mess with fiscal deficit touching abnormally high levels.

Sinha in an interview with PTI said the shocking thing is nobody seems to be worried about the state of government finances, including those in the government.

"The Modi government is spending large sums of money on welfare schemes, including the

free food scheme and all the rest of it. But government finances are in a mess. The fiscal deficit has touched abnormal proportions even according to the undependable figures of the government," Sinha, a senior vice-president of the Trinamool Congress, said.

The country's fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent of the GDP this fiscal as

against the earlier estimate of 6.8 per cent of the GDP. Sinha alleged that everything in the economic policy today is based on whether it will enable the government or the ruling party to win elections or not.

"So on the one hand, we have this welfarism for the poor. And on the other hand, select corporates are making windfall gains and again that is something about which nobody in this country seems to be bothered," he alleged.

Sinha said that it is a complete mismatch between what one would call prudent financial policies, prudent economic policies and the reality today. To a question, Sinha said the Indian economy will face the challenge of inflation, challenge of growth.

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to

grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than the previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to recent government data. Sinha, a bitter critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime, noted that the economy is in crying need of fresh investment, both from the government and from the private sector.

"And that is nowhere in sight. You know, the increase in capital expenditure in the budget is just a chimera," he said. According to the former finance minister, while the government investment is not going to go up, private investment is slacked. "It will become a slacker because of rising interest rates. And in the absence of investment, the Indian economy will not be able to make progress," he stated.

KPCC Prez proposes 'Fly Kerala' as alternative to SilverLine



K Sudhakaran

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 20 (PTI):

Amidst the raging controversy in the state over the Left government's ambitious SilverLine project, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president and MP K Sudhakaran on Sunday suggested an alternative to the rail corridor — an air link between Kasaragod to

Thiruvananthapuram called 'Fly Kerala'. The Congress leader, in a video message titled 'Let's Talk Politics' on Facebook, said there was already an air link from Mangaluru to Thiruvananthapuram and a flight on this route can stop at Kannur, Calicut and Kochi and such a trip would only take a total of around three hours. Sudhakaran also said more flights can be pressed into operation for shorter distances or duration on this route and the entire project would not cost the state more than Rs 1,000 crore, instead of the expected Rs 1.33 lakh crore of the SilverLine. He further said a system can be put in place to enable purchase of tickets at the time of travel or on the go, like while travelling on buses.

Fortified Ganga sludge substitute planned for chemical fertilisers

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The government is planning to fortify sludge from the Ganga river to use it as fertiliser to promote organic farming and prevent chemicals from entering rivers, a senior official said. Treated water, rich in phosphorus and nutrients, is good for crop growth and in the last two weeks various rounds of discussions have been held on ways to handle the sludge from the Ganga river, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Director General Asok Kumar said. According to him, efforts are underway to produce fortified sludge and provide it to farmers at subsidised rates. "We found that treated sludge can be



A water treatment plant on banks of river Ganga in Prayagraj district, UP.

very similar to fertiliser. So, if we can add a little bit of fortification, then it (sludge) can be as good as a fertiliser and will help in organic farming," Kumar told PTI.

"We are in talks with companies to produce fortified sludge that could be

IMMUNISATION DRIVE



UP CM Yogi Adityanath administers a drop of polio vaccine as part of immunisation drive, in Gorakhpur, Sunday.

CISF seeks end of ex-Army personnel hiring

● **1.64 lakh personnel force was raised in 1969**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

An experimental hiring of about 1,700 retired Army personnel in the CISF for rendering unarmed duties has not found favour with the paramilitary force and it has sought discontinuation of these contracts from the Union home ministry, official sources said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had last year asked the CISF to toy with the idea of hiring 2,000 ex-army personnel for "non core" duties at 13 of its security units in the country, including those engaged in thermal power and coal production.



The contractual hiring was made for a period of one year initially which may be renewed on an year-to-year basis for 2 additional years. The trial was meant to "help and rehabilitate" retired army personnel and take benefit of their experience for security purposes.

'BJP promoting 'The Kashmir Files' with eye on Assembly polls'

● **In Gujarat, Rajasthan, alleges Raut**

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday accused the BJP of promoting 'The Kashmir Files' movie with an eye on the forthcoming Assembly polls in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and also alleged that an attempt has been made in the film to suppress several "harsh truths".

In his weekly column 'Rokhtok' in Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut said it was the BJP's promise to ensure the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir, but the same has not happened despite the abrogation of Article

370, and sought to know whose failure it was.

Raut also labelled Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being the main promoter of the film.

Attacking the BJP further, the Rajya Sabha member asked the NDA constituent what happened to its promise of integrating Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) with India.

Written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri and pro-

duced by Zee Studios, the film 'The Kashmir Files' depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir following systematic killings of people from the community by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Since its release on March 11, the film has sparked a debate among political parties. Several BJP-ruled states, including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, have exempted the film from entertainment tax.

"The story based on the fleeing of Hindu Pandits in Kashmir, their killings, atrocities inflicted on them and their anger disturbs one's mind. But what disturbs even more is (the attempt) to divide Hindu-Muslims out of it (the story) again and win the upcoming elections," Raut said.

"The Kashmir file has been opened to win the (forthcoming) elections in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan," he alleged.

Raut said that films like 'The Kashmir Files' should be created, but - he alleged - the agenda of such movies has now been to spread hatred and confusion about (political) opponents.

The Shiv Sena leader said the makers of 'The Kashmir Files' had earlier produced 'The Tashkent Files', through which, he alleged, it was implied that only the Gandhi family was responsible for the death of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

"In 'The Kashmir Files', an attempt has been made to suppress several other harsh truths while showing true news.

Amid rising heat, MP cabinet to hold meeting in Pachmarhi

Bhopal, Mar 20 (PTI):

With the mercury levels in Madhya Pradesh going up, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government has decided to hold its cabinet meeting in Pachmarhi, a popular hill station in Narmadapuram district of the state, over the coming weekend.

The cabinet meeting will be held on March 26 and 27, a minister said on Sunday. As per the agenda of the meeting, talks will revolve around the issue of development of Madhya Pradesh, he said, adding that making the state self-reliant was on the top of the chief minister's mind.

The cabinet meeting is generally held in state capi-



MP government office complex in Pachmarhi.

tal Bhopal either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

When asked whether Pachmarhi, known as the 'Queen of Satpura', has been chosen as the venue for the cabinet meeting in

view of the heat wave in the state, he said, "Nothing of that sort should be read into it as such meetings were held at places other than Bhopal in the past as well."

Fresh notice to Narayan Rane's bungalow for alterations

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Narayan Rane's Arabian seaside bungalow in Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a fresh notice to Union minister Narayan Rane's family, asking it to remove the "unauthorised" alterations at its Juhu bungalow within 15 days.

In the notice issued on March 16 to BJP leader Rane's wife and son, the BMC said the corporation will demolish the changes and recover charges for the same from the owner if he failed to remove the "unauthorised change of use" works.

On February 21, a team of civic officials had inspected the bungalow named 'Adhish', located in

the upscale Juhu area, for the alleged violation of CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) norms.

In their March 11 reply to the BMC's earlier notice, the Rane family's representatives had dismissed the allegations and said the corporation's action (of issuing the notice)

was "actuated purely by malice and political vendetta" borne by the Shiv Sena against the family and the Union minister.

The BMC in its reply to the point said that the owner was expected to answer the notice "as contemplated in law".

Charges framed against two accused in Srinagar acid attack case

Srinagar, Mar 20 (PTI):

A court here has framed charges against two persons who were arrested for throwing acid on a woman in February in downtown city and the trial will begin from the end of this month.

The two accused were presented before Principal Sessions judge Jawad Ahmad, who framed charges under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 326-A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), officials said. The trial will start at the end of this month, they said. Expressing satisfaction

over the development, Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) Rakesh Balwal said the police will fight this case till the end and ensure that the victim gets justice.

"Our aim is that this case becomes a milestone in history for a speedy trial and punishment to the accused so that it acts as a deterrent for those harbouring such thoughts or having such tendencies," Balwal said.

Advocate Mir Naveed Gul, who represents the victim, said the charges were framed against the accused persons involved in the acid attack on the 24-year-old woman. "The principal sessions

judge, Srinagar, without any delay, listed the matter on an urgent basis. I appreciate the expeditious hearing of the case and the framing of charges," he said.

The charge sheet was prepared in a record time of three weeks by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Balwal was personally monitoring the case and had also constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by Superintendent of Police (North) Raja Zuhair Tanveer. SDPO Mohammed Yasir Parray, SHOs Tasir Hamid, Owais Geelani and Sub-Inspector Shahista Mughal were its mem-

bers. The charge sheet has been filed against three people — Sajjad Altaf Rather, Mohammed Saleem Kumar and a juvenile, against whom the police want to press charges as an adult because of his involvement in the crime.

According to the charge sheet, the juvenile helped the police recover the black glass bottle that was used to throw acid on the victim's face. Police had also noticed injury marks on the upper side of the juvenile's right hand. He was taken to a hospital for examination and doctors opined that the injury was caused by some chemical substance.

BRIEF

Ruins

Irbil: Once a lavish mansion, the sprawling home of an Iraqi Kurdish oil tycoon was laid to waste in a barrage of missiles that struck near a US consulate complex here earlier this week. Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said it launched the attack, firing off 12 cruise missiles at a strategic centre of the Israeli spy agency Mossad in retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two Iranian paramilitary force's members the previous week.

Context

Kampala: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni recently remarked that Russia's war on Ukraine should be seen in the context of Moscow being the center of gravity for Eastern Europe. His son, Lt Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, was more forceful, declaring that most Africans support Russia's stand in Ukraine and Putin is absolutely right. Amid worldwide chorus of condemnation, much of Africa has either pushed back or remained quiet.

Bans

Sao Paulo: A justice of Brazil's Supreme Court ordered the shutdown of messaging app Telegram nationwide, arguing it has not cooperated with authorities. The move is a blow to President Jair Bolsonaro, who has more than 1 million followers on the platform and defends it as a key tool for his re-election bid in October. Justice Alexandre de Moraes said in his ruling that Telegram repeatedly ignored requests from authorities.

Arrests

Lahore: Pakistani law enforcement agencies have claimed to have averted terror attacks on government buildings and security personnel as it arrested five terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from the country's Punjab province. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab police said explosive material, hand grenades, detonators have also been recovered.

Crash

Helsinki: Four US Marines were killed when their Osprey aircraft crashed in a Norwegian town in the Arctic Circle during a NATO exercise unrelated to Russia's war in Ukraine. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre tweeted that they died in the crash. The cause was under investigation, but Norwegian police reported bad weather in the area. The Marines were taking part in NATO exercise called Cold Response in Arctic.

Found

Tunis: Tunisia's coast guard has recovered the bodies of 12 unidentified migrants found washed up on the coast, according to the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, which closely follows migration.

Yemen rebels target LNG plant in Saudi Arabia

Dubai, Mar 20 (AP):

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday unleashed a barrage of drone and missile strikes on Saudi Arabia, targeting a liquefied natural gas plant, water desalination plant, oil facility and power station.

The attacks did not cause casualties, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen said, but damaged civilian vehicles and homes in the area.

The salvo marked the latest escalation in Houthi cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia as peace talks remained stalled and the conflict that ran over seven years in Yemen raged on.



Shells after attack on LNG plant in Saudi Arabia.

The attacks also came as Saudi Arabia's state-backed oil giant Aramco announced that its profits surged 124 per cent in 2021 to USD110 billion, a big jump fuelled by renewed anxieties about global supply shortages, soaring oil prices and a recovery in fuel demand from the pandemic. Aramco, also known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co, released its earnings report on the heels of weeks of intense volatility in energy markets triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Punitive sanctions on Russia, among the world's largest exporters of crude

and petroleum products, have added to turmoil to an already-tight energy market.

The international oil benchmark Brent crude hovered over USD107 on Sunday after nearly touching a peak of USD140 earlier this month.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have so far resisted Western appeals to increase oil production to offset the loss of Russian oil as gasoline prices skyrocket. Yehia Sarie, a spokesman for Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, said the group had launched a wide and large military operation into the depth of Saudi Arabia, without immediately elaborating.

Tunisian eco-pioneers battle to save Sahara oasis life

Some recipes are also adapted to use Indian Moringa

Nefta, Mar 20 (AFP):

A remote oasis in Tunisia's desert was exhausted by decades of wasteful water use for agriculture — but now pioneers around an eco-lodge are reviving the spot with innovative projects. They hope their back-to-basics approach can keep alive the ancient Saharan caravan stop and its traditions as a sustainable alternative to the region's high-irrigation date plantations. "Among the palm trees, everything can grow," said Mohamed



Employees cultivate the Dar Hi hotel's vegetable garden amidst palm tree in the remote Nefta oasis.

Bougaa, 63, a farmer in the remote Nefta oasis, a seven-hour drive from the coastal capital Tunis. "There's everything you need here: vegetables, fruit. We can plant peppers, tomatoes, carrots — everything grows when there's sun

and water." The problem has been that the Nefta spring — which once delivered some 700 litres (185 gallons) of water per second — has been exhausted to irrigate the region's famous dates, called "deglet nour".

South Korea's next Prez to abandon Blue House for new office

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

South Korea's president-elect said Sunday he will abandon the current mountainside presidential palace of Blue House and establish his office in central Seoul as part of efforts to better communicate with the public.

Relocating the presidential office was one of President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol's main campaign promises. The conservative former top prosecutor whose single five-year term begins on May 10 said the location and design of the Blue House have fed criticisms that



South Korea's president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol shows a bird's eye view of his planned relocation in Seoul on Sunday.

South Korean presidents are cut off from the public and wield excessive

power. At the Blue House, offices for presidential ad-

American gunmakers help Ukrainians fight back

Miami, Mar 20 (AP):

Adrian Kellgren's family-owned gun company in Florida was left holding a \$200,000 shipment of semi-automatic rifles after a longtime customer in Ukraine suddenly went silent during Vladimir Putin's invasion of the country.

Fearing the worst, Kellgren and his company KelTec decided to put those stranded 400 guns to use, sending them to Ukraine's nascent resistance movement to help civilians fight back against a Russian military that has been repeatedly shelling their apartment buildings, schools, hospitals and hiding places.

"The American people want to do something," said Kellgren, a former US Navy pilot. "We enjoy our free-



KelTec employee looks through lines of rifles, similar to ones being shipped to Ukraine.

doms, we cherish those things. And when we see a group of people out there getting hammered like this, it's heartbreaking." Cocoa-based KelTec's donation is a high-profile example of Americans collecting guns, ammunition, body armor, helmets and other tactical

gear in response to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's promise to arm his citizens. But many similar grassroots efforts have been snarled by inexperience with the complex web of regulations governing the international shipment

of such equipment.

Kellgren, who has dealt with such red tape for years, managed to connect through a Ukrainian neighbor with a diplomat in the Ukrainian Embassy who helped him secure a federal arms export license in just four days. That process can often take months.

This week, as Congress debated whether to send more advanced weapons and defense systems to Ukraine, workers at KelTec's warehouse fork-lifted four plastic-wrapped pallets containing their 9 mm foldable rifles for delivery to an undisclosed NATO-run facility. From there, the shipment's new recipient, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, will be responsible for smuggling the weapons into the war zone.

Algiers recalls Madrid envoy over West Sahara policy change

Algiers, Mar 20 (AFP):

Algeria recalled its ambassador from Madrid in protest at Spain's decision to back a Moroccan autonomy plan for the disputed former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

A foreign ministry statement condemned the "abrupt about-turn" by Madrid, which had previously maintained neutrality in the decades-old conflict for the territory between Morocco and the Algerian-backed

Polisario Front independence movement.

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares backed a 2007 proposal by Morocco to offer Western Sahara autonomy under its sovereignty, describing it as the "most serious, realistic and credible basis" to end the long-running conflict.

"Completely stunned by the statements on the Western Sahara issue from the highest levels of

the Spanish government, and surprised by this abrupt about-turn from Western Sahara's former rulers, the Algerian authorities have decided to recall the ambassador to Madrid for consultations with immediate effect," the statement said.

The Polisario had already responded angrily to the statement from Albares, calling for political pressure to be put on Madrid for a change of heart.

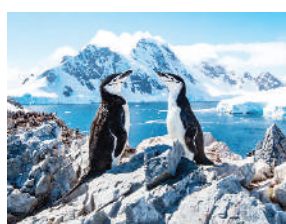
Antarctica hits record temperatures due to climate change

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Eastern Antarctica has recorded exceptionally high temperatures this week, more than 30 degrees Celsius above normal, say experts.

The Concordia research base at Dome C of the Antarctic, which is at an altitude of 3,000 metres (9,800 feet), last week registered a record -11.5 degrees Celsius (11.3 Fahrenheit), Etienne Kapikian, a meteorologist from France-Meteo tweeted.

Normally, temperatures fall with the end of the southern summer, but the Dumont d'Urville station on



Two penguins stare amid high temperatures in Antarctica.

Antarctica registered record temperatures for March with 4.9C (40.82F), at a time of year when normally temperatures are already sub-zero. Gaetan Heymes of France-Meteo described the unseasonably mild weather as a "historic event". And

geoscientist Jonathan Wille wrote on Twitter: "And there it is, Concordia broke its all time record temperature by 1.5 degrees C."

"This is when temperatures should be rapidly falling since the summer solstice in December. "This is a Pacific Northwest 2021 heat wave kind of event," he added. "Never supposed to happen." The unprecedented temperatures come after the National Snow and Ice Data Center in the United States said Antarctica's sea ice fell below two million square kilometres (772,204 sq miles) in late February for the first time since 1979.

North Korea fires artillery into sea days after missile launch

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

North Korea fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after the North's latest missile launch ended in failure amid the country's recent burst of weapons testing activity.

There is speculation that North Korea could soon try to launch its developmental longest-range ballistic missile to bolster its arsenal and dial up pressure on the United States to wrest concessions as negotiations remain stalled.

South Korea's military suggested North Korea's

midair missile explosion last Wednesday involved parts of the Hwasong-17 missile, its biggest weapon. On Sunday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said it detected firings likely from multiple rocket launch systems off North Korea's west coast.

The ministry said the military closely monitors North Korean moves and maintains its readiness.

South Korea's presidential office said in a separate statement it held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss what it called the North's short-range projectile launches.

Freud 'mad' president and century of European diplomacy

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Finding a lost manuscript by Sigmund Freud has caused a French historian to revisit a key moment in European diplomacy 100 years ago that reverberates today as war returns to the continent. "Le President est-il de-

venu fou?" (Has the president gone mad?) by Patrick Weil takes a fresh look at US president Woodrow Wilson (1913-21), who helped forge the Treaty of Versailles after World War I and tried to establish lasting peace through the creation of the League of Nations.

Wilson, of course, failed: the treaty's harsh conditions on Germany created resentment that helped fuel the rise of the Nazis. Nor could he convince his colleagues in Washington to approve the treaty — it was never ratified by the US, dooming the League of Nations at birth.

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173	95606 (1st Call)	Empanelment of Advocate for Bilaspur Smart City Limited.	20.00 Lakhs	11/04/2022 IST 05:30 PM

Interested parties may view the RFP Document and download details online directly from date 21.03.2022 from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> & BSCL Website <https://www.smartcitybsp.com/>

Note: These NIT(s) are subject to direction of Honorable High Court of Chhattisgarh, WP (PL) No. 2 of 2021

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ICMR-DHR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

One of the major mandates of ICMR and DHR is to augment capacity strengthening of Indian scientists. This ICMR-DHR international fellowship programme is intended to create a pool of talented health research personnel by facilitating advanced training and exposure to the latest advancements in knowledge through interaction with the international scientists in emerging areas of clinical/medicine/health sciences.

I. Short Term International Fellowships for Senior Indian Biomedical Scientists

Duration of Fellowships: Two weeks to 3 months
Number of Fellowships: Twenty five (25) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 57 years as on last date of receipt of application

II. Long Term International Fellowships for Young Indian Biomedical Scientists

Duration of Fellowships: 6 to 12 months
Number of Fellowships: Forty (40) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 45 years as on last date of receipt of application

Applications should be submitted online through the website ICMR/DHR: www.icmr.nic.in; www.dhr.gov.in. Details of the eligibility; format, of application, terms and conditions, and guidelines of the programme are available on ICMR and DHR websites.

Last date of receipt of applications: 15th May, 2022

*The selected Fellows will only be permitted to undertake the foreign visit to avail fellowship, subject to the Gol guidelines and necessary clearance on international travel in the near future.

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Happiness lessons

The World Happiness Report 2021 has been released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country. India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the list of UN World Happiness Report 2021. In 2019, India was ranked 140th. India saw a marginal improvement in its happiness ranking, jumping up three spots to 136. It was ranked at 139 in last year's World Happiness Report. The World Happiness Report ranks countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The World Happiness Index is based on two key ideas happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in an apparent jibe at the Centre over the country's ranking in the latest World Happiness Report, said India would soon top hate and anger charts. Although India improved its position in the list compared to last year, it ranks lower than its neighbours such as China, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan. India has to look at overall policies being implemented in the happiest nation of Finland. The central, state and local level administration and civil society in India shall learn lessons from experience of Finland and try to emulate some aspects. In a nutshell, the population of Finland, more than any other on Earth at the moment, realises that what it has, what it is living with, each individually and collectively is very good. The expectations of Finnish people are realistic. They are also aware of what they have achieved in so many spheres of life. It is not just educational achievement but, more importantly, in health, where, a few years ago, Finland recorded the lowest infant mortality the world has ever known.

There are fewer grieving parents in Finland than anywhere else, per capita. Finland scores in the top three, usually being the top one, in more than 100 similar social statistics. But the Finns are not smug or complacent. Neither life satisfaction, positive emotions nor absence of depression are enough for happiness. Instead, something more is required as one has to experience one's life as meaningful. The Finnish tendency to downplay one's own happiness and the norm against too much public display of joy might actually make Finns happier. This is because social comparison seems to play a significant role in people's life satisfaction. If everybody else is doing better than a person, it is hard to be satisfied with one's own life conditions, no matter how good they objectively are. By not displaying, let alone exaggerating, their own happiness, Finns might help each other to make more realistic comparisons, which benefits everybody's happiness. In case of India, a reasonable explanation for the puzzle is that India's people expect better, and they are feeling disappointed. The idea of rising expectations is a familiar one in the Indian context, and it is difficult to think of any other explanation, though increasing inequality and feelings of injustice or unfairness are also plausible contributing factors. Until India gets better leadership, its citizens may continue to be less happy than the data might predict. The quest for happiness is closely tied to the quest for sustainable development which is a combination of social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The growing wealth disparity in India, where a small class enjoys all the luxuries and comfortable life in a bubble, while majority of people have to live with hard economic and social constraints. No welfare scheme can raise happiness, if citizens witness such disparity.

Gains from capital

Centre is expected to revamp the capital gains tax structure in the next budget to augment revenue collections and boost spending on welfare scheme. According to the proposal, which is reportedly being studied in the finance ministry, the central government's philosophy is that passive income earned from the capital market should not be taxed at a lower rate than income earned from doing business, which involves taking entrepreneurial risks and job creation. The government wants to boost revenue from the capital market to support welfare activities. Currently, long-term capital gains (LTCG), which was introduced with effect from 1 April 2019, on listed equities held for more than a year is taxed at 10 percent on profits above a threshold of Rs 1 lakh. On the other hand, short-term capital gains on listed equities held for less than a year is taxed at 15 percent. Equity shares or units of equity-oriented mutual funds held for more than 12 months are considered long-term, while house property held for 24 months is considered a long-term capital asset. Most of the long-term capital gain from equities in FY-20 was made by people earning Rs 50 lakh and more, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj had said, highlighting that the tax introduced in Finance Act of 2018 on long term capital gain has served as a fair tax.

The government has done some groundwork comparing the capital gains tax regime in India and in other countries and is keen to revamp the regime to make it simpler. At an estimate of Rs 80,000 crore of taxes from capital gains, it implies almost 6.4 percent of the total direct tax collections of Rs 12.5 lakh crore were estimated in the revised stats for 2021-22. Capital gains taxes are a small part of all taxes on saving and investment. Even that modest gain could be erased if the long-term capital gain tax rate is not raised as it increases the deficit, causing interest rates to rise. Whenever any such tinkering is brought about, there would be a segment of taxpayers who would stand as gainers while there would be a segment who would lose out, compared to their present tax provision and that becomes the most difficult part. The idea that wealthy people will stop investing if they have to pay higher tax rates on their returns is absurd.

Central Chronicle welcomes articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com

The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

KASHMIRI MUSTARD BLOOM



A view shows mustard fields bloom on the outskirts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Ineffective treaty helped Russia's nuclear threat escalate

JOELIEN PRETORIUS

Russia's nuclear blackmail is prompted by a flawed treaty and ambivalence by nuclear weapon states towards nuclear disarmament. The invasion of Ukraine saw Russia's nuclear forces put on high alert by President Vladimir Putin on the fourth day of fighting. Telling the world that Russia is "today one of the most powerful nuclear states", the rhetoric and activity goes against the spirit of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the document that forms the foundation of international nuclear governance. Using nuclear weapons to deter or compel action is effectively holding humanity at ransom, blackmail of the nuclear kind. Nuclear armed states like Russia have the power to do this partly because of weaknesses embedded in the NPT and how nuclear weapon states have chosen to interpret it over the past 50 years. Of particular relevance to the current crisis are nuclear sharing arrangements. These see nuclear weapon states stationing their arms on the territory of their non-nuclear allies. As long as they retain custodianship and control over the weapons, this is seen as legal under one interpretation of the NPT.

The most recent referendum in Belarus voted to lift the country's non-nuclear status and allow Russia to station weapons on its soil. This decision comes in the context of unresolved problems with nuclear sharing arrangements: NATO stations nuclear weapons in Turkey, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, despite criticism from non-nuclear weapon states and Russia since 2015. Putin is not the first leader to bring nuclear weapons into a conflict: the US and Soviet Union did so on several occasions during the Cold War. US President George Bush did not raise the nuclear alert levels during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, but implied that the US could use nuclear arms if Iraqi forces used chemical or biological weapons. The NPT, inked in 1968, was premised on a proposal that disarmament negotiations would be better served if nuclear weapons were contained to as few states as possible. It's one of the most ascribed to treaties in history with only five non-member states (Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea and South Sudan).

The treaty has three pillars: non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use. Non-proliferation prevents the spread of nuclear weapons by distinguishing the countries that tested nuclear arms by 1967, the US, the Soviet Union (now Russia), China, the UK and France and the non-nuclear weapons states who had not. The former agree not to help other states obtain nuclear weapons, the latter agree not to acquire nuclear weapons. This arrangement entrenched power with the nuclear weapon states, but the pillars of nuclear disarmament and peaceful use helped make the NPT palatable for the other states. Nuclear disarmament is a commitment by all parties to negotiate in good faith for an end to the arms race and towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The peaceful use pillar assures non-nuclear weapon states that they will have access to nuclear technology for civilian industries, such as nuclear power, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the NPT is credited for reducing proliferation of nuclear weapons, some of its shortcomings are being highlighted during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nuclear deterrence, the fourth unacknowledged 'ghost pillar' of the NPT, as argued by Lyndon Burford is the asserted principle put forward by nuclear weapon states and their allies that these weapons are essential for defence, peace and stability by preventing coercion and deterring aggression. Although nuclear weapon states regularly make disarmament promises in the NPT forum, their perceived net security benefit from having nuclear weapons trumps their commitment to disarmament.

The problem is encapsulated by former US President Barack Obama's 2009 speech in Prague: the speech envisaged a world free of nuclear weapons, but also made clear that the US will possess nuclear weapons as long as they exist. NATO bases its identity as a nuclear alliance on the US policy that nuclear weapons are essential for its defence. Nuclear weapon states insist that their possession of nuclear weapons is a sovereign right and legal under the NPT. There are still almost 13,000 nuclear weapons in existence, despite the US and Russia dramatically decreasing their stockpiles after the Cold War. Disarmament seems to be reversing: nuclear weapon states are modernising their arsenals and some are increasing their warheads, renewing the nuclear arms race. Many of the bilateral nuclear arms control treaties between the US and Russia have been scrapped, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Broader confidence building agreements, such as the Treaty on Open Skies, have been abandoned. One of the last remaining nuclear arms control treaties, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (or New START), is at risk. It was designed to put limits on nuclear weapons deployed by Russia and the US. Many civil society

organisations in favour of nuclear abolition, and many non-nuclear weapon states, interpret the disarmament obligation in the NPT to mean irreversible elimination of all nuclear arms. Those in favour of total abolition believe the risk of nuclear weapons being used is present as long as they exist.

The world has come very close to nuclear war, miscalculation and accidents have happened, and the fact that there has not been a major nuclear disaster since 1945 is basically down to 'luck'. Stalling disarmament under the NPT has led non-nuclear weapon states to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, informally known as the 'ban treaty'. Adopted in 2017 and entered into force in 2021, the ban treaty closes all the disarmament loopholes in the NPT and shifts the focus from deterrence to the humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. Many ban treaty proponents see it as a compatible way to fulfil the NPT's disarmament obligation by making nuclear weapons illegal for all states rather than a replacement. Nuclear weapon states and some of their allies feel otherwise, and declined to participate in negotiations. Some actively discouraged its adoption and ratification, stating that the ban treaty has no legal bearing over them. Ban treaty supporters point to its broad-based civil society participation process, and the record time it took to enter into force. They say ongoing engagement with the treaty sends a strong signal to nuclear weapon states to take their disarmament obligation seriously. It is hoped that this may light a path to preventing nuclear risks of the kind now seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, or something even worse.

(Joelien Pretorius is associate professor at the University of Western Cape in South Africa.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tectonic surprises

AAP party's thumping majority in Punjab is a welcome step and is a good sign of matured democracy in India. There are numbers of challenges before the party and the party has to show its performance meticulously. CM has declared on taking the charge that maximum efforts will be taken so that youth may not have to go to abroad to find the jobs in foreign countries. Photographs of son and daughter of CM had today published who had come from USA to attend the swearing in ceremony and as per maxim that "Charity begins at home". CM should recall the family from abroad and get them settled in Punjab. Seven Rajyasabha members will be nominated from Panjab and it will be a challenge for the party.

We are aware that PM Modi during the Parliament election in 2014 had won the election only on the basis of his achievements in Gujarat and the same may happen in case of Kejriwal. Due to this reason, Kejriwal will show the performance of Punjab State and Delhi. AAP is contesting the elections continually in other States too, so that the party may be registered as All India Party and the party has decided to contest the assembly elections in HP and Gujarat which will be held within six months.

There are many other burning issues of the Punjab which demand immediate solutions to their need-based problems such as unemployment, drugs and trend of going to foreign countries for education, burden of debt on state, existence of Mafias in various fields, deep rooted corruption in every department etc. People of the State have rejected the traditional parties and they have very high hopes from AAP. The sand has shifted and the powerful have been routed and even before taking oath many newly elected legislators have hit the ground running, visiting hospitals and schools as well as police stations and electricity offices. The plethora of promises in the face of state's precarious financial condition would require special delivery skills. Though the opposition's presence will not be strong yet they will lose any occasion to criticise the party.

Political opponents have been quick to criticise the decisions to hold a victory roadshow in Amritsar and a mega event for the CM's swearing-in at Khatkar Kalan, but though every new government deserves a shot at celebration after a hard toil, a party like AAP that swears by loftier ideals needs to be mindful of the public sentiment that wants little of the same old thing. A mandate such as this is a testament to what a party inspires in voters, but also of their aspirations and expectations. Good luck to AAP.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Manu@KhajuriaManu**

Started with Granddaddy Sheikh Abdullah who launched a virulent campaign against Dogras and played the communal card. In this pic he sits in a room full of #Dogra heritage. The fly looted & made sure the glorious Dogra history was erased from people's consciousness.

Aniruddha@malpani

It's surprisingly hard being a philanthropist. People think I have a hidden agenda when I try to promote homeschooling! How could I possibly benefit by doing this? I wonder why they are so suspicious about motives! Can't I be altruistic because I enjoy it?

**Akshat@Akshat_World**

30% LTCG tax on equities is being proposed in India. Rationale: developed nations have a higher capital gains tax. Problem: less than 4% people invest in stock markets in India. Our capital markets are still quite new. Poor taxation will kill it in a nascent stage.

Virat Kohli@imVkohli
The Earth has music for those who listen.

**Hindol@HindolSengupta**

I am reading Gita Mehta's Raj and she notes that in the colonial period Indians were not allowed into many govt offices in Indian clothes. Even today this sartorial hierarchy continues as Indians blindly torture themselves in 'corporate' wear completely unsuited to our climate.

**SukhieBrar@BrarSukhie**

I have to say one thing: I have neither been asked for nor have given any bribe to anyone in these last 6 years. There are enough honest, straight forward people within the system. From the lowest to the highest levels. They need to be appreciated.

Shivam Vj@DilliDurAst

India's massive unemployment crisis can be solved in one generation simply by introducing English medium education for the poor in government schools. English for the rich and Hindi for the poor is India's greatest crime against the poor.

BRIEF

Growth



New Delhi: Lexus is now looking to chart its next phase of growth in India as it looks to consolidate sales network and drive in new models, including fully electric cars, Lexus India President Naveen Soni told PTI, that it is now at cusp of sustainable growth.

Exports

Kochi: Amid the havoc created by the pandemic for the past two years, the Infopark here reported an increase in software exports by an impressive 21 per cent in financial year 2020-21 and created over 2,000 job opportunities. In the last financial year, a total of 88 new companies started operations with an allotment of 1,57,602 square feet space, Kerala State IT Parks CEO John M Thomas said, adding that workforce increased.

Difficult



New Delhi: Venture capitalist firms that do not have women in decision-making positions find it difficult to understand a women-centric business. Nykaa CEO Adwaita Nayar said that the founders of her company approached several investors but were rejected.

Prepayment

New Delhi: Homegrown steel major JSPL on Sunday said its subsidiary in Mauritius has made a prepayment of USD 357 million to lenders. The prepayment will help clear the entire debt on Jindal Steel & Power (Mauritius) (JSPML). Over the past three years, JSPL said, it has been able to reduce its overseas debt from USD 1.8 billion to USD 130 million.

Plans



Mumbai: Smartr Logistics MD CEO Yogesh Dhingra told PTI that it is looking to enter into fast-growing third-party logistics (3PL) business from next year and plans to set up 15 fulfillment centres as well as some big warehousing facilities at select locations.

Co-working

Kochi: Catering to aspirations of the new crop of employees and employers, especially in the post-pandemic phase, leading co-working space provider SpazeOne has launched its first centre in Kerala at a mall here.

FMCG makers to go for around 10% price hike

To mitigate inflationary pressures

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Consumers may have to pay more for their daily essential items with FMCG companies mulling another round of price hike to offset the impact of an unprecedented level of inflation in commodity prices such as wheat, palm oil and packaging materials.

Besides, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has also added another blow to FMCG makers as they expect a rise in the prices of wheat, edible oil and crude. Companies such as Dabur and Parle are watching the situation and will undertake calibrated price increases to mitigate the inflationary pressures. According to some media reports, makers such as HUL and

Nestle have increased the prices of food products last week. "We are expecting a 10-15 per cent hike by the industry," Parle Products Senior Category Head Mayank Shah told PTI.

Shah further noted that the prices are witnessing high fluctuation and hence it would be difficult to tell about the exact increase due to volatility of price. The price of palm oil had

increased to Rs 180 per litre and now has come down to Rs 150 per litre. Similarly, crude oil prices had risen to nearly USD 140 a barrel and has now slipped below USD 100 per barrel, he added.

"However, it is still higher than what it was earlier," Shah said, adding that the companies are also hesitant in taking price increases significantly because demand was reviv-

ing after COVID and they do not want to tinker with that. Last time, the makers did not take the price hike to completely mitigate the impact and had absorbed some part of that. "Everybody is currently talking about a price hike of 10-15 per cent, although the input cost has gone much more than that," he said. When asked as to whether Parle would also go for a hike, Shah said right now it has enough stock of packaging materials and other stocks and would take a decision after a month or two on this. Expressing similar thoughts, Dabur India Chief Financial Officer Ankush Jain said inflation remains unabated and is a cause of concern for the second year in a row.

Govt working on cryptocurrency classification under GST law

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The government is working on classification of cryptocurrency as goods or services under the GST law, so that tax can be levied on the entire value of transactions. Currently, 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied only on service provided by crypto exchanges and is categorised as financial services. GST officers are of the view that cryptos, by nature, are similar to lottery, casinos, betting, gambling, horse racing, which have 28 per cent of GST on the entire value. Besides, GST at 3 per cent is levied on the entire transaction value in case of gold. "There is a clarity needed in regard to levy of



GST on cryptocurrencies and whether it has to be levied on the entire value. We are seeing whether cryptocurrencies can be classified as goods or services and also removing any doubt on whether it can be called an actionable claim," an official said. Another official said that if the GST is levied on the en-

tire transaction of cryptocurrencies then the rate could be in the range of 0.1 to 1 per cent. "Discussions are in a nascent stage on the rate of tax, whether it would be 0.1 per cent or 1 per cent. First a decision on classification will have to be finalised and then rate will be discussed," the official told PTI.

Stamp duty, registration fee mop-up crosses Rs 1 lakh cr

In 8 months of FY-22

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Led by Maharashtra, the cumulative revenue collection from stamp duty and registration fee of all the states jumped to Rs 1,00,100 crore for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, which for the entire FY21 was Rs 1,27,700 crore, according to a report. An analysis of state-wise data by Motilal Oswal Financial Services showed that the average monthly collection by 28 states stood at Rs 12,500 crore during the reporting period of April-November 2021, which is slightly lower than Rs 12,800 crore in the pre-pandemic days. But, the monthly average is higher than Rs 10,600 crore recorded in FY21. The report did not offer a

comparative number for the same eight months period of FY21 when the country was hit with the pandemic. Thanks to Mumbai and Pune, Maharashtra recorded the highest collection of Rs 17,097 crore, contributing 17.1 per cent of the total collection during the period, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with Rs 12,800

crore, Rs 8,700 crore and Rs 8,400 crore, respectively, as per the analysis. In FY21, Maharashtra's collection stood at Rs 25,427 crore or 19.9 per cent of the national total, followed by Uttar Pradesh at Rs 16,475 crore or 12.9 per cent of the total, Tamil Nadu Rs 11,675 crore or 9.1 per cent, Karnataka 10,576 crore or 8.3 per cent, Telangana Rs 5,243 crore

or 4.1 per cent, Gujarat 7,390 crore or 5.8 per cent, Haryana 5,157 or 4 per cent.

Madhya Pradesh collected 6,760 crore or 5.3 per cent of the national mop-up in FY21, Bengal Rs 5,527.6 crore or 4.3 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 5,603.3 crore or 4.4 per cent, Rajasthan Rs 5,297.3 crore or 4.1 per cent, Bihar Rs 4,206.3 crore or 3.3 per cent, and Kerala Rs 3,489.6 crore or 2.7 per cent.

Other states had under Rs 3,000 crore collection or less than 3 per cent of the national share.

According to Nikhil Gupta, the chief economist at the brokerage, the residential real estate sector has bounced back strongly since the second half of FY21, and it continues to perform well in FY22.

Govt plans to merge BBNL with BSNL this month

BSNL given chance to become strategic asset

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



merged into BSNL. This means all work of BBNL at the pan-India level is going to come to BSNL," Purwar said at the All India Conference of AIGETOA on March 13. Referring to his meeting with the union telecom

minister, Purwar said he had an hour-long meeting to this effect.

BSNL already has a network of over 6.8 lakh kilometer of optical fibre cable (OFC) network.

With the proposed merger, BSNL will get 5.67 lakh kilometer of optical fibre which has been laid across 1.85 lakh village panchayats in the country using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Special purpose vehicle (SPV) BBNL was formed in February 2012, to lay out optical fibre network across 2.5 lakh village panchayats across the country using USOF and provide its access to all telecom operators on a non-discriminatory basis.

NMDC creates history with 40 Million Tonnes (MT) iron ore production

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



Mining major NMDC became the first company in the country to cross 40 million tonnes (MT) iron ore production in a year. From a production of 4 MTPA in the late 1960s to 40 million tonnes now, the growth trajectory of the largest iron ore producer of the country has been exceptional. Starting from 4 million tonnes in 1969-70, NMDC crossed 10 million tonnes in 1977-78, added another ten million by 2004-05, crossed 30 million tonnes within a decade and has now breached the 40 million mark. Keeping pace with the constant surge in the domestic iron ore demand, the company has been rolling out ambitious expansion plans and capex outlay in pursuit of enhanced production. In recent times, NMDC has adopted cutting-edge tech-

nology and built a transformational digital infrastructure to overcome Covid induced slowdowns and the cyclical volatilities in the sector. Growing from scale to strength, the company has achieved the milestone of 40 million tonnes iron ore production on the back of steady fundamentals and a visionary workforce. Congratulating the team on the historic achievement, Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC said, "NMDC's ground-breaking achievement of be-

coming the first iron ore mining company in India to cross 40 MT is an illustrious display of its ability to accept challenges despite all odds. The company's perseverance and consistency has paid off and I congratulate the team for this historic accomplishment. I am confident that we will continue to cross many more milestones on our way to fulfil Nation's vision of #Atmanirbhar Bharat. This achievement also shows that we are on the track to become a 100 MTPA company by 2030."

ESAF celebrates 30th anniversary

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



ESAF Small Finance Bank, a leading social bank celebrated the 30th anniversary of ESAF, which started as an NGO in 1992. District Collector Haritha V Kumar IAS inaugurated the function at ESAF Bhavan, Mannuthy. K. Paul Thomas, ESAF Founder and MD & CEO ESAF Bank delivered the Founder's Day Message. P.R. Ravi Mohan, Chairman, ESAF Bank presided over the event. Adv. K. Rajan, Minister of Revenue delivered the felicitation message. Speaking on the occasion K. Paul Thomas said, "32 percent of our branches are located in unbanked rural areas. We have around five million women borrowers across India. ESAF has always been a lending support to

small entrepreneurs and self-help groups for empowering women. ESAF has also set up schools and hospitals for rural communities. Besides the success of business, social commitment makes us more satisfying. We are on a journey of fulfilling our vision of reducing social inequality in the society." The book 'Joyful Stories of Transformation', which

showcased selected success stories of ESAF, was released by Mereena Paul, Chairperson and MD, ESAF Financial Holdings by presenting the same to Anne Wang, Director, Opportunity International Australia. The Mahila Housing Loan Scheme was launched by Dr. V.A. Joseph, Director, ESAF Bank and George K. John, Executive Vice President.

Vinod Vasudhevan, Alex George, C. P. Mohanan, Saneesh Singh, Directors, ESAF Bank, M. G. Ajayan, George Thomas, Executive Vice Presidents, ESAF Bank, Idicheria Ninan, President, ESAF Foundation, Alok Thomas Paul, MD, CEDAR Retail and Saleena George, Chairman, ESAF Cooperative also spoke on the occasion.

Russia-Ukraine tussle, COVID in China major drivers for markets

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Stock markets will be guided by global factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID-19 situation in China and crude oil prices in absence of major domestic events this week, analysts said.

Stock markets are expected to keep their winning momentum this week as FIIs may come back aggressively fuelling a further rally in the market, they added.

"In absence of any major event, global cues viz the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID situation in China and movement of crude will remain in focus. Besides, participants will be also eyeing FIIs flow for cues," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Tata AIA Life delivers strong business performance

Mumbai, March 20:

Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA Life), one of India's fastest growing life insurers, has reported an Individual Weighted New Business Premium (IWNBP) of INR 1,193 Crore for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 44% compared to INR 831 Crore garnered for the third quarter of 2020-21.

For the nine-month period ending December 2021, the Company registered a growth of 32% with an IWNBP income of INR 2,786 Crore, as compared to INR 2,110 Crore for the same period of the previous financial year.

The Total Premium Income for FY22 Q3 increased to INR 3,652 crores as compared to INR 2,766 Crore, a growth of

32%. Total premium income increased to INR 8,907 crores for the nine-month period ending December 2021, as against INR 7,035 Crore in the same period in FY21, a growth of 27%.

Tata AIA Life strengthened its pre-eminence in the Retail Protection business with an 89% growth in Q3 FY22. Tata AIA was the leader in Retail sum assured among private life insurers. The Retail sum assured for Q3 FY22 is INR 102,520 Cr, a growth of 148% over the same period last year and a market share of 25.4% against 13.1%.

The Company continued to deliver robust Persistency growth. For the FY22 Q3, the Company registered a 13th Month Persistency ratio of 86.68%, an increase from 85.38% for the same period of the previous financial year.

Gold ETFs log Rs 248 cr outflow in Feb

As investors prefer equity funds

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



February from Rs 17,839 crore in January-end. Also, the segment saw a surge in the number of folios by 3.09 lakh to 37.74 lakh during the period under review. This move could be directed towards gold assets being considered as a tool for diversification of the portfolio by the investors and a hedge against market volatility, Priti Rathil Gupta, Founder, LXME, said. She attributed the latest outflow from gold ETFs to two factors — investors could

be diverting their investments from gold instruments to equity as a portfolio rebalancing strategy due to the attractive returns garnered by the equity markets. Also, investors view this market correction as an opportunity to enter the markets.

"Secondly, given the rise in prices of gold, traders may have booked the profits and exited their trades for managing their margin money for trade in other asset classes," she added. Kavitha Krishnan, Senior

Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said that investors have almost always favoured gold as an asset that can be used to mitigate risks and diversify their investments. Over time, the rising prices of gold and the increasing appeal around the commodity has led to a lot of investors choosing to invest in gold ETF's. However, the category has been witnessing outflows for a second month in a row. "With equities garnering the most flows and SIP (systematic investment plan) touching record highs, investors seem to prefer this segment over the others, including gold ETFs. Moreover, investors also seem to be booking profits by redeeming their investments, given the uptick in gold prices," she added.

'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' takes off with a puja before grand launch

Gearing up for the premiere of Star Bharat's upcoming release of 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa', producer Rajan Shahi follows all the rituals to ensure good fortune to the show.

The show, 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' is scheduled to air 14th March onwards on Star Bharat. Keeping up with tradition, the producer organised for a Puja and havan on the sets of the show itself with the entire cast and crew to ensure Star Bharat and the show's grand success. Talking about the plan to visit these places Anuj says,

"The cast and crew went to four places, Rajan Shahi always does this. During covid this wasn't very feasible. He lets the cast choose where to join after making a schedule for when they will reach which spot. It has been a nice way to send a message of unity. I firmly believe in Shiv Ji.

These places are often visited by people to feel sure about what they are doing and this is something that has helped me too. I believe that these kinds of visits help us in the long run. We went to Haji Ali, Siddhivinayak,

Mahim church and the Gurudwara in fort." The series has been drawing attention for its storyline surrounding brotherhood and family and the popular actors in the cast.

Starring in lead roles in the show are Indian Heartthrobs Shaheer Sheikh, Anuj Sachdeva, Kinshuk Vaidya and the gorgeous Hiba Nawab along with various others.

Stay tuned for more details and behind the scenes from the sets of Star Bharat's 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'!



Anushka Sharma steps away from her production company to focus on acting

Anushka Sharma has stepped away from Clean Slate Filmz (CSF), a production banner that she co-founded with her brother Karnesh Ssharma in the year 2013. The actress shared the news of her departure from the production company through social media on Saturday.

The actress wants to commit her time to the craft of acting and this decision allows her to dedicate her time and resources to her first love which is acting. The move makes Karnesh the sole decision maker and places him at the helm of affairs at Clean Slate Filmz. Taking to her Instagram, Anushka shared a long note as she wrote in the caption, "Onwards and Upwards @kans26 @officialcsfilms! My best wishes are always with you!!" The actress shared in the long note, "When I started Clean Slate Filmz with my brother Karnesh

Ssharma, we were novices when it came to production but we had a fire in our belly and we wanted to try and set the agenda of entertainment in India through clutter-breaking content. Today, when I look back at our journey so far, I'm deeply proud of what we have created and the disruption that we have managed to achieve." Mentioning the reason behind this decision, she said, "While CSF started with my vision to change the narrative of what commercial projects should be like, I have to credit Karnesh who has excelled in shaping what CSF has become today. Being a new mother who has chosen to be an actor by profession, I have to balance my life in an entirely new fashion like never before." She continued, "So, I have decided that whatever time I have at hand, I will dedicate it to my first love, acting! Therefore, I have decid-

ed to step away from CSF, confident that the most able person, Karnesh, is taking forward the vision with which it was created in the first place." Anushka gave her best wishes to Karnesh maintaining that the production house will go from strength to strength under Karnesh's leadership. She added, "I will continue to be the biggest cheerleader for Karnesh and CSF and hope to be a part of many clutter-breaking projects that would be produced by CSF.

I can't wait to see how he grows the company from strength to strength with the stellar line up of projects that he has handpicked, nurtured and given life to. My best wishes to the entire family at CSF. Love you all!" For Anushka, the single point of focus is her acting career now she returns to the movies with 'Chakda Xpress' after her pregnancy.



Rashmi Desai opens up on her latest track 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'

Popular television actress Rashmi Desai seems quite excited for her latest Holi song 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'. She can be seen twirling in the track in a traditional attire. The song is based on the mythological significance of the festival revolving around Lord Krishna's reunion with Radha. Rashmi says: "Holi is by far the most fun-filled festival in our country. And the history backing this energetic festival is all hearts." "Rarely anyone has tapped in on the story behind Holi in Holi songs and to be part of something so spiritual and creative is a great opportunity for me. I am thrilled to be in a song so close to Lord Krishna's sojourn of love," she adds. 'Biraj Mein Jhoom' is sung by Anuradha Palakurthi Juju, music by Salim Sulaiman and Bappa Lehri and produced by Juju production.

Some occasions are worth celebrating, especially when Indian television's most endearing family completes 300 episodes. Throughout this journey, Wagle ki Duniya has been consistent with capturing thoughtful storylines which revolve around the everyday life of a common man, his family and how they navigate through the challenges in the most unique ways.

Launched as a modern-day rendition of the 80's sitcom created by RK Laxman; the show has managed to resonate with audiences. From Rajesh Wagle's (Sumeet Raghavan) ingenious ideas to manage day-to-day adventures to the level headedness of his warm-hearted wife Vandana (Pariva Pranati) the antics of their kids Sakhi (Chinmayee Salvi) and Atharva (Sheehan Kapahi) and the Senior Wagles, Srinivas (Aanjan Srivastav) and Radhika (Bharati Achrekar), it has been a delight to watch them maneuver through their daily lives and support each other.

Over the last 300 marvelous episodes, Wagle Ki Duniya, in its humor and subtlety has touched upon several topical issues and life experiences that induce inspiration and relatability. The show has not shied away to speak on period taboo, good touch - bad touch, work-life balance, women empowerment, and continues to do so in the most unique ways. Rajesh Wagle and his family are a part of our everyday life now and there is no denying that we are all deeply attached to the show. As they celebrate the completion of 300 episodes, we are more than excited to look forward to



'Wagle Ki Duniya' completes 300 glorious episodes!

what the show has in store for us in future. **Keep watching Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kissey, Mon - Sat at 9 PM only on Sony SAB!**



Samantha's stunts in 'Yashoda' to raise the bar higher

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is getting ready for her upcoming movie 'Yashoda', in which she will perform some difficult stunts. Yannick Ben, a Hollywood stuntman, has been brought in to train and choreograph stunts for the 'Oh Baby' actress. Samantha, who had earlier worked with Yannick Ben for popular web series 'The Family Man 2', has come together with the stunt coordinator for another time. Touted to be a thriller, 'Yashoda' will have Samantha essaying a titular role, for which she will now perform a few stunts. The excited actress posed with her stunt coordinator Yannick, as she begins for the high-octane sequences. 'Yashoda' is produced by debutant director duo Hari - Harish under Sridevi Movies. Produced by Sivalka Krishna Prasad, 'Yashoda' will have Tamil actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar in an important role as well. The makers of 'Yashoda' aim to release it in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi & Kannada simultaneously.

HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 21

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesh.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesh. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesh.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

It is likely that you will reach an important milestone in life today. Keep in mind that your success may be a cause of envy for a few people, some of whom may want to harm you. You are left with two choices: either try to help them out of their troubles and miseries, or prepare for a battle.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Easy come, easy go â€” that is the best way to sum up today. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesh, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

The whole point of being a Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesh feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain. But only you are capable of doing that, thanks to your extremely high-power status today.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Hagging will be a trait you have closeted today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your natural sensitivity and compassion are given a powerful impetus today by strong feelings of love and affection for everyone around you, Capricorn. Therefore, you're likely to give and receive a lot of expressions of affection, both overt and subtle.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Watch face
- December 24 and 31
- Blouse
- Norway's capital
- Slangy negative
- Creepy
- Bullring shouts
- Fizzy beverage
- Curtain
- Colonize again

DOWN

- Portal
- ___ of Capri
- Pub drinks
- Forfeit
- Oriental
- Fiddle's kin
- Concluded
- Train terminal (abbr.)
- Tranquilize
- That girl's
- Incensed
- Mature
- Adolescents
- Not here
- Obedy
- Ledge
- Enjoy gum
- Vex
- Border

SOLUTION 244

Sen enters final of All England Championships

Birmingham: World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen stunned defending champion Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia to reach his maiden final at the All England Championships here on Saturday. The 20-year-old Sen became only the third men's singles player after Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand to reach the final after outwitting Lee 21-13 12-21 21-19 in a gruelling semifinal match. Padukone and Gopichand are the only Indians to have won the prestigious event, while Saina Nehwal had reached the final in 2015. Sen has been in sensational form in the last six months as he secured his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January and then claimed a runner-up finish at the German Open last week.



Messi ruled out of PSG match at Monaco

Paris: Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's French league match at Monaco after experiencing flu-like symptoms over the past couple of days, his club said. Messi, who joined Paris Saint-Germain last summer, has been struggling throughout his first season in the French league. Before Sunday's trip to Monaco, Messi has scored just seven goals in 26 games in all competitions. It's a stark contrast compared to his figures from last season when he bagged 38 goals with Barcelona. In addition to the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, PSG will also be missing Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, Angel di Mar a, Juan Bernat, Layvin Kurzawa and Ander Herrera at the Stade Louis II.



Asia Cup Archery: India finish 2nd behind Bangladesh

Phuket: Indian archers clinched two gold and six silver medals to finish second behind Bangladesh in the overall standings of the Asia Cup World Ranking Stage 1 tournament here on Saturday. In a depleted field without South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan, India had stormed into seven out of 10 finals. But they fell short on expectations and choked under pressure losing five finals, either in tie-breakers or by slender margins under overcast conditions. Of the five losses, two were against neighbours Bangladesh, who finished atop the medal standings with three gold and one silver. The two gold came in recurve men's team and compound women's individual section where it was an all-Indian affair.

AC Milan wins 1-0 at Cagliari to maintain Serie A lead



Rome: Amid a tight race for the Serie A title, AC Milan is displaying more consistency than its rivals. On a night when defending champion Inter Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Fiorentina, Milan won 1-0 at relegation-threatened Cagliari to extend its unbeaten run to eight matches. Milan remained three points ahead of Napoli, which came from a goal down to beat visiting Udinese 2-1 earlier Saturday. On a rainy night in Sardinia, Ismael Bennacer scored with a long-distance volley for Milan near the hour mark. The goal was set up by Olivier Giroud, who failed to take advantage of a prime opportunity early on when he missed the target from close range. Also in the first half, Milan midfielder Franck Kessie hit the post from long range. Cagliari nearly equalized in the 90th with a shot from Leonardo Pavoletti that hit the crossbar. Milan won at Napoli two weeks ago, while Inter has gained only seven points from its last seven matches.

Rupan Debnath, Tamali Basu crowned winners of Kolkata Full Marathon

Kolkata: Ace long-distance runner Rupan Debnath added another feather to his crown by clinching the Ageas Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Full Marathon 2022 here on Sunday. Debnath recorded an impressive time of 2:42.39 on a hot morning on way to the title. Dulu Sarkar (2:46.31) and Nimesh Chettri (3:05.48) claimed the first and second runner-up positions. The women's full marathon was taken by local girl Tamali Basu (4:01.12) followed by Shruti Agarwal (4:39.15) and Prema Rajaram (5:07.27). The half marathon witnessed an intense battle, with over 2,000 runners lining up for a shot at the laurels. In the end, Sahinur Molla (1:14.02) emerged victorious. Rishikesh Chakraborty (1:15.58) and Prasant Ropal (1:16.01) followed close on his heels to take the other two positions on the podium. Among women, the 2020 winner, Sabina Khatun (1:42.03) grabbed the title again while Anita Das claimed the first runner-up position with 1:49.04. Priyanka Gupta (1:50.38) finished as second runner-up.

England keep SF hopes alive with nervy win over NZ

Auckland, Mar 20 (PTD):

Defending champions England huffed and puffed to a one-wicket win over hosts New Zealand in a league stage match to keep their semifinal hopes alive at the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Sunday.

Experienced middle-order batter Maddy Green top-scored for New Zealand with an unbeaten 52, while skipper Sophie Devine contributed 41 before England bowled out the hosts 203 at the Eden Park.

England pacer Kate Cross (3/35) and star spinner Sophie Ecclestone (3/41) shared six wickets between them, while spinner Charlie Dean (2/36), who took the pace off the ball in a solid performance, accounted for two batters.

All-rounder Natalie Sciver (61) then anchored the innings with a patient

half-century but the holders slipped from a comfortable 176 for five to 196 for nine in five overs to almost snatch defeat from a winning position.

Anya Shrubsole (7) and Charlie Dean (0) though held their nerves to take England past the finish line for their second win of the tournament.

By virtue of this win, England have managed to stay in the mix for a semi-final berth as they displaced New Zealand from the fifth position. India, England and New Zealand are all now on 4 points.

While India and England have two matches left to play New Zealand have one game in hand.

England's top order made an aggressive start to their chase of 204, backing the work of their spinners who held New Zealand to a modest total.

Openers Danni Wyatt fell to Jess Kerr for 12,



while Tammy Beaumont (25) was clean bowled by Lea Tahuu (1/18).

Skipper Heather Knight raced to 42 runs of 53 balls before being adjudged leg before to Frankie Mackay in the 23rd over. Wicketkeeper Amy Jones (1) soon followed her captain.

Sciver then combined forces with Sophie Dunkley (33) to stitch a crucial 70-run partnership as England looked set for a win.

However, New Zealand bowlers managed to make a comeback with a flurry of wickets, intensifying

pressure on England. Earlier put to bat, New Zealand seemed to be cruising towards a massive total at one point of time, with Devine scoring at will and Amelia Kerr (24) looking assured at the crease. However, Devine was forced to retire hurt with a back problem in the 15th over and Kerr holed out for 24 to become Charlotte Dean's (2/36) first victim as England fought back strongly during the middle overs. The experienced Amy Satterthwaite (24) and Green attempted to mount a fightback, but England, who have been sloppy in the field in their earlier matches, performed well in that area, effecting two run outs. Satterthwaite was trapped leg before by Dean and then the duo of Cross and Ecclestone cleared off the tail to dismiss the White Ferns in the penultimate over of

England's Anya Shrubsole and Charlie Dean celebrate victory over New Zealand in the Women's Cricket World Cup match, at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Sunday.

Nadal outlasts teen Alcaraz in 3 sets to go 20-0 this year



Indian Wells, Mar 20 (AP):

Rafael Nadal faced down the future and emerged victorious, outlasting Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the BNP Paribas Open final and improve to 20-0 this year.

The 21-time major champion threw his head back, smiled and raised both arms in triumph after escaping an aggressive Alcaraz. The 18-year-old never appeared rattled

playing his vaunted countryman, who had the crowd, a 17-year advantage in age and loads of experience in his favor.

Nadal's perfect record is the third-best start to a season since 1990.

Nadal staved off three break points on his serve in the fifth game of the third set and then broke Alcaraz with a forehand volley winner to go up 5-3. Nadal served out the match with a love game, punctuating the 3-hour, 12-

minute struggle with a 95-mph ace.

He will meet Taylor Fritz in the final Sunday. Seeded 20th, Fritz is the first American man to make the final since John Isner in 2012 and he'll try to be the first to win the title since Andre Agassi in 2001.

Fritz ended No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev's 13-match winning streak with a 7-5, 6-4 victory in the other semifinal. The Russian had won 13 consecutive matches since Feb. 14, including back-to-back titles at Marseille and Dubai.

After holding to go up 4-3 in the third, Nadal called for a trainer, who appeared to give the soon-to-be 36-year-old star a chiropractic adjustment.

Alcaraz outdueled Nadal in a second set that featured five service breaks, including four in a row.

Tied 4-all, Alcaraz broke Nadal in a game that lasted 19 minutes, 42 seconds. Nadal's errant forehand gave Alcaraz the advantage on the seventh break point of the game. The teenager tossed up a topspin lob near the baseline that Nadal could not catch up to and Alcaraz led 5-4. He served out the set, 6-4.

Permanent saliva ban not a big deal, says Cummins



Lahore, Mar 20 (PTD):

Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins says since the impact of precautionary prohibition on use of saliva for shining the ball was not as huge as anticipated, a permanent ban on its usage will not be a "big deal" for the seam bowlers.

Saliva application was

barred by the ICC in view of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2020.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of cricket laws, recently imposed a complete ban on the use of saliva while announcing its amended 2022 code, which will come into effect in October this year. The MCC reasoned that applying saliva had

no impact on the ball's movement, according to its research.

"I don't think so (permanent saliva ban will hamper the performance of the swing bowlers)," Cummins, himself a pacer, told reporters ahead of Australia's third Test against Pakistan.

Great that KKR have retained most of the squad

Cummins, who had become the most expensive foreign buy in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2019 when Kolkata Knight Riders bought him for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore, will turn out for the Kolkata-based outfit once again. "Really excited. It's been great that most of the squad has been able to keep together. So, most of the players and staff know really really well," he said.

KKR have named Indian batter Shreyas Iyer as skipper and having shared the dressing room with him in the 2017 edition of the IPL, Cummins is looked forward to joining forces with him once again. "Shreyas, I played with at Delhi (Daredevils), we got on really well. He's seem like a very calm guy and seems in form at the moment."

Saini eager to connect with Boult and discuss various aspects of fast bowling



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Indian quick Navdeep Saini is eager to observe Trent Boult "go about his business" and pick the New Zealand pace spearhead's brain in a bid to improve his game during his stint with the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL this season.

One of the fastest bowlers in the country currently, Saini will be an important cog in the Royals' newly forged fast bowling line-up alongside Boult.

I am most looking forward to connecting with Trent Boult during the

IPL. He is someone who has achieved so much in both international and IPL cricket, and it'll be a great experience to just speak to him about various aspects of fast bowling," Saini was quoted as saying in a release.

"I'll be most focused on observing him go about his business, and hopefully that should also help in improving my own game, added Saini, who has 17 wickets in the IPL at an economy of 8.47.

Having recently been a part of the Delhi squad during the league stage of the Ranji Trophy, where he picked up five wickets in two matches, the Karnal Express hopes to get better as he shifts his focus to the white-ball game, aiming to contribute and help the Royals. "I'm looking forward to working with the very experienced coaching group and a talented group of players. The Royals are known for fostering a fantastic atmosphere around the group, and I'm simply looking forward to experience that and connect with everyone and get going this season."

'Retained players have a responsibility to guide youngsters in the team'



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Having bought a lot of new faces at the IPL mega auction this year, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting stressed that the players who have been retained by the franchise now have a responsibility to guide the youngsters in the team.

The Capitals had retained four players — skipper Rishabh Pant, opener Prithiv Shaw, spin all-rounder Axar Patel and South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje — ahead of the auction and the coach is trying his best to get to know the rest of the squad ahead of the league which begins on March 26.

"I have told the boys to keep their doors open when they are in their rooms and get to know each other. I am going to have breakfast, lunch and dinner with all the younger guys that I don't know," Ponting was quoted as saying in a media release.

"When you show love towards the younger guys as a coach or a senior player, you know that they are going to give it back."

"The guys who have been in the Delhi Capitals camp for a while definitely have the responsibility of guiding the youngsters in the team."

England leads West Indies by 136 as draw beckons in Barbados

Bridgetown, Mar 20 (API):

England led West Indies by 136 runs and was setting up a second declaration to try and force a result in the second test at Kensington Oval.

West Indies was finally bowled out for 411, trailing by 96 runs, and England openers Zac Crawley and Alex Lees added 40 without loss in 15 overs before bad light ended play on the fourth day. Last week in Antigua, England led by 153 into the final day and set West Indies a winning target of 286 in 71 overs. West Indies didn't take the bait and the test was safely drawn. England's strategy shouldn't change in Barbados, and neither should the end result on a similarly flat pitch.

West Indies captain and opener Kraigg Brathwaite frustrated England for a third straight day until he was out for 160 after nearly 12 hours. He started the day on 109 and his team on 288-4. Nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph supported him for 1 1/2 hours until he was dismissed by Ben Stokes for 19, the only wicket in the



Kraigg Brathwaite of West Indies celebrates his century.

morning session. Jason Holder was out to the second ball after lunch from a rash hack, giving England pacer Saqib Mahmood his first test wicket on debut. Brathwaite was handling the third new ball of his innings when he came forward to spinner Jack Leach, was beaten and heard his off stump rattled. The captain's 160 on his home ground came from 489 balls and included 17 boundaries.

HOLA MOHALLA FEST



Devotees spray perfume and shower flower petals on the Palki Sahib, which carries the Guru Garth Sahib, to mark the Hola Mohalla festival during a procession from the Golden Temple to Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, in Amritsar.

After Punjab, AAP eyes Congress-ruled Chh'garh

New Delhi, Mar 20:

After its landslide victory in Punjab, the AAP has now set its eyes on Chhattisgarh with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party deciding to contest the assembly polls in the tribal-dominated state next year. As part of the plan, senior AAP leader and Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai will on Sunday embark on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh to set in motion his party's preparations for the assembly elections in the state currently ruled by the Congress.

AAP's Purvanchal wing incharge and Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha will accompany Rai to Chhattisgarh. During his visit, Rai will

hold a series of meetings with AAP leaders and workers to chalk out the party's "action plan" for the upcoming assembly polls and also launch "a massive" membership drive in the state, a party leader said. He will inaugurate the party's state office in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur on Sunday.

On Monday, he will participate in a 'Vijay Yatra' (victory march), to be taken out by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Raipur, to mark the party's stupendous victory in Punjab and also to project itself as an alternative to the Congress and the BJP in Chhattisgarh, a party leader added. "This visit is to prepare our action plan

for the assembly polls next year. Through our Vijay Yatra, we will be sending out our party's message to the masses," Rai told PTI when asked about the purpose of his visit.

Rai, who is AAP's Delhi convenor, said the party has decided to contest the Chhattisgarh assembly polls next year as people of the state, especially youth and women, are disappointed with the Congress government and want a "change". "For 15 years, the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh after its formation as a separate state but it did not fulfil its promises. In the last assembly election, the people voted for change and gave their mandate to the Congress," he said.

Over 70,000 jobs up for grabs at mega employment fair

Chennai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Over 70,000 new jobs that were available in more than 500 leading companies are up for grabs at a mega employment fair inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin near here on Sunday.

Stalin presented job offers to 20 aspirants as part of kicking off the event that was held near the city and organised by the labour welfare and skill development department, an official release said.

Job aspirants from the city and also hailing from neighbouring Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts took

part in the programme in which more than 500 leading private companies were taking part.

"These companies have announced 73,950 vacancies and Chief Minister M K Stalin handed over appointment orders to 20 job seekers (as part of launching the event)," the release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Stalin said the vision of the DMK government was to create employment opportunities based on educational qualification and skill of a job aspirant.

"That is the objective of this government. That is why we are enhancing the school and college education, thereby, honing the

students skill enabling them get job offers based on their education," he said. The Chief Minister noted that soon after DMK assumed office in May 2021, 2,50,708 job seekers attended 36 mega job fairs and 297 job camps conducted by 5,708 companies.

"As many as 41,213 people received job offers of which 517 were persons with disabilities (PwD). I am happy to give away appointment orders during this job fair which is being conducted for the first time," he said.

The Chief Minister also requested his cabinet colleague and Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill

Development C V Ganesan to conduct such mega job fairs in all the districts of the state.

Stalin also appealed to candidates who have secured jobs in the fair to keep enhancing their skill levels so as to progress in their career. He also requested those candidates who have not received any job offers to develop necessary skills to get placed.

Referring to the 'Naan Muthalvan' (I am first) scheme launched by him earlier this month, he said such a scheme was launched with the initiative to hone the educational skills, knowledge, talent and efficiency of 10 lakh youth annually.

Udhampur (J&K), Mar 20 (PTI):

The Jammu and Kashmir administration intends to make the union territory a developed society free of terror and corruption, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday.

In his address at the attestation-cum-passing out parade of 636 newly recruited Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Subsidiary Training Centre here, Sinha lauded the role of the security forces for bravely facing various challenges, including infiltration attempts, and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from across the border. Jammu and Kashmir is full of diversity, which is our strength. We

have faced all the challenges successfully and our security forces are alert. They have played a pivotal role in building a new Jammu and Kashmir by thwarting the anti-national elements, Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor, who inspected the parade and took salute at the march past, said the decades-old terror ecosystem needs to be dismantled completely. We have continued our efforts to deal a decisive blow on corruption, terror financing, and terror ecosystem to make Jammu



Manoj Sinha

and Kashmir a developed society, free of corruption and fear. This is our target, he said. Sinha urged the fresh BSF recruits to live up to the tradition and expectation of the force and the people, and perform their duties with professionalism so that no enemy can violate the country's borders. Drug addiction is a big challenge as drugs are smuggled by Pakistan under a conspiracy. You have to play a big role to check the smuggling of drugs, he said. Congratulating the re-

cruits, Sinha said, You are fully capable and ready the country is witnessing that BSF is performing its duties in mountainous regions, plains, deserts and deep forests with great devotion and dedication. The force is bravely facing every danger to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The Lieutenant Governor said India has always desired to live with mutual harmony with its neighbours for peace but, We are ready to give a befitting response if someone wants to test us. Lauding the BSF, he said its motto of 'lifelong duty' is the identity card of its personnel. I am proud to be here among the brave soldiers of the force, he said.

BJP to stake claim to form govt in Goa today

Panaji, Mar 20 (PTI):

The BJP will meet the Goa governor on Monday and stake a claim to form the next government, state unit resident Sadanand Shet Tanavade said on Sunday. The much-awaited BJP legislature party meeting will also be held on Monday to select the leader of the House, who will be the next chief minister. "BJP president J P Nadda has informed that the legislature party meeting would be held on Monday after which party leaders will meet Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and stake a claim to form the next government." Tanavade told a press conference. The legislature party meeting will begin at 4 PM on Monday.

NMDC, IIT-Kharagpur ink pact for drone-based mineral exploration

New Delhi, Mar 20:

NMDC on Saturday said it has signed a pact with IIT-Kharagpur for exploration of minerals using drones. The MoU for 'drone-based mineral exploration' was signed virtually by the senior officials of NMDC and professors of IIT Kharagpur, the miner said in a statement. NMDC, under the Ministry of Steel, is into exploration of wide range of minerals such as iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten and beach sands etc. NMDC CMD Sumit Deb said, "NMDC would be the first CPSE in India to conduct drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration in the country." The tie up with IIT-Kharagpur, he said, will open a new chapter and set a benchmark in the field of mineral exploration for the nation.

HERITAGE RAILWAY TRACK



A toy train runs on the Kalka-Shimla heritage railway track, in Solan district, Sunday.

Uddhav rejects AIMIM alliance offer

Says it's part of BJP's game plan to defame Sena's Hindutva agenda

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Asserting that Shiv Sena is a "Hindutvavadi" party, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday rejected AIMIM's offer for an alliance calling it a "conspiracy" by the opposition BJP to defame the Sena, which heads the Maha Vikas Aghahdi (MVA) government.

Thackeray, who heads Shiv Sena, virtually addressed a meeting of the party MPs and office-bearers here wherein he lashed out at BJP, the former ally of Sena, on Hindutva and other issues.

Who has sought an alliance with the AIMIM? This is a game plan and conspiracy of the BJP. The AIMIM and the BJP have a tacit understanding. The BJP has ordered the AIMIM to defame the Shiv



Uddhav Thackeray

Sena, to raise questions on Shiv Sena's Hindutva. Accordingly, the AIMIM leaders are making the offer of alliance, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut told reporters quoting Thackeray.

On Saturday, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Imtiaz Jaleel caused a stir stating that his party can ally with the Shiv Sena-led MVA to prevent the BJP

from coming to power, evoking sharp reactions from Sena. The NCP and Congress, the other two partners in the MVA, had said the AIMIM must prove that it was a "like-minded" party and not the "BJP's B-team".

Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP, said the Sena will launch 'Shiv Sampark Mohim', a mass outreach programme, on March 22 in 19 districts across Vidarbha and Marathwada regions in Maharashtra on Thackeray's orders to dispel the confusion the BJP was trying to create about Sena on various issues.

Uddhav ji said Shiv Sena will never join forces with the AIMIM. The Shiv Sena president also said that his party had never been associated with and will never be associated with those who bow before the grave of Aurangzeb, Raut said.

With Mughal-style 'baradari' and flowers, President opens new 'heritage park'

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Endowed with a Mughal-style 'baradari' and rich stocks of flowers, a new heritage-themed park near Jama Masjid in old Delhi was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday evening. In the first phase, an area of about 1.75 acres has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.65 crore, civic officials said.

The plot, which was earlier covered in filth, encroached from multiple sides and often used by anti-social elements, after months of hard labour and meticulous planning has been transformed into

a beautiful park, they said. Conceived in 2017, the park has been built with North Delhi Municipal Corporation's funds and contributions from various MPs cutting across party lines and former Union minister Vijay Goel, officials had earlier said.

It has been developed using rich stocks of flowers and has structures built with traditional craftsmanship. A white marble-made 'baradari' (pavilion) with cusped arches is the centrepiece of this garden while red sandstone, white marble, Dholpur stone, and Delhi quartzite stones have been used in the construction.

Odisha observes 'Pakhala Dibas'

Bhubaneswar, Mar 20 (PTI):

Odisha Sunday observed the 'Pakhala Dibas' marking the popularity of the state's main staple food since ages even in the age of pizza, burgers and other fast food items.

March 20 is being observed as Pakhala Dibas to promote the cuisine in the modern era. The initiative was started in 2015 by Odias to celebrate their traditional food worldwide. Pakhala (rice water) is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water.

The social media platforms were busy with a large number of people posting pictures of them observing the Pakhala



Dibas. This particular Odia food is consumed by all from ultra-rich families to the working and labour classes.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who spent most of his youth in

foreign countries before entering into politics in 1997, also claimed that Pakhala is his favourite dish.

Patnaik's love for Pakhala came to the fore in 2018 when he invited

national leaders like the then President Pranab Mukherjee, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, BJP veteran L K Advani and CPI(M) stalwart Sitaram Yechury to his residence and served 'Pakhala' in the lunch.

The chief minister had shared the picture on his Twitter handle showing the dignitaries taking Pakhala. "It is always a pleasure to relish Odia cuisine, especially my favourite pakhala, which I have a special liking for. Remember fondly the appreciation of guests from outside the state and country whenever we served them pakhala. Wishing you all a happy Pakhala Dibas," Patnaik said in the social media post.

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BRIEF



A dog and its trainer participate in the Furry Friends Fashion Show, at Latasil ground in Guwahati, Sunday.

Seized

Coimbatore: The Department of Forest on Sunday said three elephants tusks have been confiscated and as many people arrested in Tirupur, near here. Based on tip-off that a loadman was trying to sell the tusks, a forest official posing as a buyer approached the worker and offered to buy them for Rs 80 lakh. When the deal was struck, the official and others from the forest department caught hold of the loadman and his two accomplices.

Watery grave

Kanpur: An eleven-year-old girl drowned and two men went missing while bathing in River Ganga in Maharajpur area here. Three other minors were rescued, police said on Sunday. Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and divers from the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been pressed into service to trace and rescue the missing youths, they said. Uttar Pradesh caretaker Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident on Sunday.

Mishap

Bikaner: Two people died and five others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between a car and truck here on Sunday, police said. According to police, five people were in the car when the accident occurred near Deshnok town on the Bikaner-Jodhpur National Highway, they said. Surya Pratap Singh (22) and Mangu Singh (25), residents of Bikaner, died while three other occupants of the car were injured, they added.

Raid

Mumbai: Thirty persons were arrested and 25 women were rescued after a raid in a bar in Mumbai's Malad area in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The raid was carried out by the Social Service Branch of the city's Crime Branch, an official said. "A decoy customer found women dancing in violation of norms after which the raid was carried out. We have rescued 25 women and arrested 30 persons comprising customers, waiters and other staff of the eatery-cum-bar," he said.

Weather
High 37 Low 25

KEJRIWAL TO MINISTERS IN PUNJAB

'Perform or get ready to be replaced'

Chandigarh, Mar 20

(PTI):

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday told the newly-appointed ministers in Punjab in no uncertain terms to perform or be ready to be replaced and said those unhappy with missing out on ministerial berth need to leave behind personal ambitions for the state's progress.

While he will be there "like an elder brother to guide" them, Kejriwal said the 92 MLAs have to work with honesty as a strong team under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, whom he lauded for the decisions taken after assuming office.

"Every minister will be given a target by Mann sahab regarding works they have to do. They will have to work round-the-clock.

"If your (ministers) targets are not met, then the public will say change this minister, bring another minister... work has to be done and whatever target given by Mann Sahab has to be met, the Aam Aadmi Party chief said in his first address to party legislators through videoconferencing after the formation of the new government in Punjab. Kejriwal



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and party leader Raghav Chadhas during a meeting with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, via video conferencing in Mohali.

also advised the MLAs to be polite and not to be rude or use objectionable language against anyone, including officials. They would have to win the hearts of the people of Punjab with performance, the Delhi chief minister said and warned the party leaders of "strict action" if they indulge in any wrongdoing.

I can tolerate anything but not dishonesty and theft of public money. If I come to know or Mann sahib comes to know that anybody has indulged in wrongdoing, then not even a single chance will be given, he said, adding people have shown faith in us and we cannot break their trust.

Pointing out that political stalwarts of rival parties lost in the elections, Kejriwal said, 'ghamand mat karna' (do not be ar-

rogant). You did not defeat them. It is the people who defeated them. Do not think I have become an MLA now and will become a minister and then CM. These things should not come into your mind, he said.

Kejriwal praised Mann for his decisions related to the announcement of 25,000 government jobs, withdrawal of security of former ministers and ex-MLAs and release of compensation for the damaged crops.

He claimed that while the AAP government is doing wonderful work in Punjab, the BJP, which won elections in four states, was still fighting over ministerial positions.

"In the last three days, Mann sahib, 'tussi kamaal kar ditaa' we are really proud of you," said Kejriwal.

Sharad Yadav merges his party with RJD, seeks opposition unity



Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) leader Sharad Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav being garlanded, during a programme for the merger of LJD with RJD, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Former Union minister and socialist leader Sharad Yadav merged his party Loktantrik Janata Dal with Rashtriya Janata Dal on Sunday, pitching for unity in opposition ranks to take on the BJP.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav welcomed the veteran leader, who had fought some of the keenest Lok Sabha poll battles against his father Lalu Prasad Yadav in the 1990s, into his party's fold, saying that it is a message for the anti-BJP parties to unite to

take on the ruling dispensation. Sharad Yadav (74) had been keeping low after battling health issues for months, and the development is seen as an effort to rehabilitate his colleagues and other associates as his party LJD could never become a serious force after being launched following his separation with JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

He had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election on the RJD ticket while his daughter had fought the 2020 Bihar assembly poll as a nominee of the Congress, then an RJD ally. Unity of opposition parties is his priority, Sharad Yadav told reporters here, while lauding Tejashwi Yadav for leading the fight against the BJP-led NDA in Bihar.

COURT ORDER

Frame charges against Yasin Malik and Hafiz Saeed

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



This satellite image shows the aftermath of the airstrike on the Mariupol Drama theater, Ukraine.

Lviv, Mar 20 (AP): Ukrainian authorities said Sunday that Russia's military bombed an art school sheltering some 400 people in the embattled port city of Mariupol, where Ukraine's president said an unrelenting Russian siege would be remembered for centuries to come. It was the second time in less than a week that city officials reported a public building where residents had taken shelter coming under attack. A bomb hit a Mariupol theatre with more than 1,300 believed to be inside

on Wednesday, local officials said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the reported strike on the art school, which The Associated Press could not independently verify. Ukrainian officials have not given an update on the search of the theatre since Friday, when they said at least 130 had been rescued. Mariupol, a strategic port on the Azov Sea, has been under bombardment for at least three weeks and has seen some of the worst horrors of the war in Ukraine.

Biren Singh named CM of Manipur for second term

Imphal, Mar 20 (PTI):

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday announced that N Biren Singh would remain the chief minister of Manipur for a second term.

Sitharaman, who has been sent to the northeastern state as central observer, said Singh was unanimously chosen by the BJP's state legislature party as its leader.

The legislature party's meeting and announcement follows 10 days of uncertainty since the assembly poll results were announced, with rivals Biren Singh and senior BJP MLA Th Biswajit Singh rushing to Delhi twice to meet central leaders in what was seen as part of a hectic lobbying exercise by competing camps, de-



Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a bouquet to BJP leader N. Biren Singh after his election as the leader of BJP Manipur Pradesh legislative party & Chief Minister of Manipur, during the legislative party meeting of BJP Manipur, in Imphal.

spite denials of differences.

It is a good decision taken unanimously, which will ensure that Manipur has a stable and responsible government. The

Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gives special attention to the northeastern states, the finance minister said. Sitharaman and Union Law and

Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is the co-observer, arrived at Imphal earlier on Sunday to attend the meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs in Manipur.

Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Manipur's titular king and BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba and party national spokesperson Sambit Patra also flew in for the crucial meet.

The BJP returned to power in Manipur by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House in the recent assembly elections.

In the 2017 polls, although the BJP had won only 21 seats, it managed to lure MLAs from the Congress, which clinched 28 seats, and Biren Singh was sworn in as the first-ever BJP chief minister in Manipur.

I-T department detects Rs 224-crore undisclosed income

After raids on start-up firm Infra Market

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The Income Tax department has detected "undisclosed" income of more than Rs 224 crore after it recently raided Maharashtra-based unicorn start-up Infra.Market, officials said on Sunday.

The searches were launched on March 9 at the firm's 23 premises in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The CBDT said the

group, founded by Souvik Sengupta and Aaditya Sharda in 2016, is "engaged in wholesale and retail (business) of construction materials and has a pan-India presence with an annual turnover exceeding Rs 6,000 crore."

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the policy-making body for the I-T department.

Officials identified the searched entity as the Infra.Market group. An email sent by PTI seeking the company's

response remained unanswered. The construction materials marketplace had in August last year said that it had raised USD 125 million (about Rs 928.1 crore) in funding from Tiger Global.

The company has been identified as a unicorn, a financial term for a business entity that has achieved a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

The CBDT said "unaccounted" cash worth Rs 1 crore and jewellery worth Rs 22 lakh have been seized till now.

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CM announces significant projects for development of Kumhari

World Consumer Rights Day celebrated



● At Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on March 15 by the Commerce Department of Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya. Dr Anita Pandey, Head of the Department of Commerce, while making the students aware on World Consumer Rights Day, explained to them the rights of consumers and how to use the

rights in case of harassment.

Principal Dr J Durga Prasad Rao while congratulating the department, such programs make our students aware of consumer rights. A total of 63 students were present in this program and all the senior professors of the department including Dr SK Dwivedi, Dr KK Srivastava, Dr SK Srivastava shared their experiences with the students. The program was conducted by Assistant Professor Manjula Rajput.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced various significant projects for changing the face of Kumhari. He made these announcements after inaugurating the development works worth Rs 5.72 crore in Kumhari. He also performed bhoomipujan for development works worth Rs 1.52 crore. He announced construction of wholesale vegetable market in Kumhari with an expenditure of Rs 23 crore.

Along with this, the Chief Minister also announced to conduct renovation of all the schools located within the limits of Kumhari Municipal Council. He also announced the restoration of the quarry near Mahamaya Udyan and directed to conduct activities like fisheries so that

fishermen can also get employment. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that development works worth Rs 94 crore are under progress in Kumhari area and development works worth Rs 100 crore will commence soon.

He said that in the last three years, the face of Kumhari has changed rapidly. If any person visits Kumhari after 3 years, he will feel a big change. It is a matter of pride that Kumhari now has all facilities. Earlier, the residents were suffering due to lack of health facilities and poor education facilities. Now there is a good hospital and two Swami Atmanand English Medium schools are running in Janjiri and Kumhari.

Along with this, a college has also been opened. Kumhari connects Bhilai



to Raipur but the situation here was very poor. "After coming to power, Congress Government decided to change this situation and today the satisfaction and happiness is clearly visible on the faces of locals. Chief Minister further said that Kumhari Gauthan is operating appreciably. The women of Self Help Groups are cultivating bananas and selling it.

Cow Dung is also being

procured on a large scale which has created the possibilities of generating electricity from cow dung. He said that the government is working on the project of generating electricity from cow dung. This system has double benefit with production of vermi compost and electricity both.

The Chief Minister said that the government has made plans for the development of all sections of

society. CG Government has introduced Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana for farmers, schemes for landless labourers and much more. The government has also taken a big step for government employees. Now about 3.80 lakh government employees will be able to take advantage of the old pension scheme. Earlier, they were under stress in worry of financial security in old age, but the government has removed their stress.

The Chief Minister also inspected the Mahamaya Garden. The park has been prepared at a cost of Rs 1.27 crore. Chief Minister not only praised the beauty of the park, but also appreciated the initiative of installing statues of great men. There are statues of Gundadhur, Veer Narayan Singh and Balle Singh. It is a tribute to

them in true sense. Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan also addressed the gathering. He said that in the last three years, all the sections have benefited from the schemes of the state government and prosperity has increased rapidly in the state.

In his address, Kumhari Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, rapid development work is being done in Kumhari and the development aspirations of the people are being fulfilled.

Kumhari is moving fast on the path of development. IG OP Pal, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, SSP Badrinarayan Meena and other public representatives and officers were present.

45 youth depart for Chennai under Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

CM tries his hand at badminton with SSP and Collector

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Under the 13th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 45 tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Chennai. It was the second group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of 22 boys and 23 girls is being accompanied by two female and three male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising three such tours this year.



Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in diversity aspect of

our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational

and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage.

This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other part of the country and enhance their self-esteem. IG SK Tyagi (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and Nodal Officer DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Kumhari witnessed an exciting men's double badminton match when Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paired up with Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan and tried his hand on badminton while playing against Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and SSP Badri Narayan Meena.

It was the occasion of the inauguration of a badminton court which has been built at a cost of Rs 97 lakhs. The sports infra-



structure in the state is improving continuously. Chief Minister encouraged the players after inaugurating the badminton court.

The badminton court built in Kumhari has two courts. Along with this, there is also the facility of

changing room. A vertical garden has also been built in the campus at a cost of Rs 60 lakh. Along with this, a garden has also been built at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. On this occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the gov-

ernment is committed to develop sports infrastructure along with civic amenities in the cities and continuous efforts are being made in this direction. Better sports infrastructure is constantly being created in the state and in the district.

He hoped that Chhattisgarh would emerge very strong in the field of sports. On the occasion, Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Municipal President Rajeshwar Sonkar and other public representatives were present.

CSVTU organises awareness workshop for women on IWD



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, organised an awareness workshop for women under the auspices of the Internal Complaints Committee constituted by the university. The two day workshop concluded on March 09.

The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of Director, University Department of Education Dr PK Ghosh while Vice Chancellor Dr MK Verma graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Present as special guests were Dr Chitra Verma, DSP, Sub-Divisional Officer, District- Kanker and Nisha Deshmukh (social worker) from Bhilai. From Internal Complaints Committee those present were Dr Deepti Verma, President, Hema Sahu, Member (Social Worker), Mamta Awasthi (CFO), and Seema Soni. The workshop began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony in front of the portraits of Maa Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda.

Taking the program forward by welcoming the guests, ICC President Dr Dipti Verma provided information about Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Vice-Chancellor spoke on maternal power and also said that it is necessary to have equanimity between men and women, which help in creating a safe workplace environment.

Social worker Nisha Deshmukh and Hema Sahu stressed on women to be aware and empowered, as well as urged them to know their rights and tell that right to other women as well. Director Dr PK Ghosh advised children to look upon women as goddess with respect and urged the children not to indulge in any such work which has to be hidden from their mother.

Dr Chitra Verma asked women and girl students to become financially empowered and instead of becoming someone else's shadow, they should make their own. Thereafter, Dr Dipti Verma and Mamta Awasthi expressed gratitude to the guests members, teachers and students and announced the conclusion of the program. Information on this account was given by Dr Deepti Verma, Chairman of the Internal Complaints Committee of the University through a press communique.

Three arrested for theft of TMT Rebar laden truck

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Police have arrested three ruffians on charges of stealing a TMT Rebar laden truck. The stolen vehicle and the rebar worth Rs 44 lakhs have been recovered. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that on March 18, Old Bhilai Police Station received a complaint regarding theft of a TMT Rebar laden truck.

The victim Arjun Prasad Singh complained that a consignment of 32.76 tonnes TMT Rebar was loaded on his truck trailer (CG07-AX-8873) on March 14 from Bhilai Steel Plant. The driver Ajay Chaudhary had parked the vehicle in Transport Nagar, Hathkhaj. On March 18, they found that



the vehicle and the consignment were missing.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena gave instructions to Old Bhilai Police Station for trapping the accused. During investigations, Police came to know about

some suspects.

They were immediately taken in custody and during interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused had taken the vehicle with consignment to Simga and had concealed the vehicle in the village while the

TMT Rebar was hidden in bushes near the nullah.

The accused were identified as Gurvel Singh (28) son of Kashmir Singh; Gurpreet Singh (35) son of Nirmal Singh and Amreet Singh (21) son of Surup Singh, all residents of Gurdaspur (Punjab) and were presently residing in Transport Nagar, Bhilai. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC.

Sub Inspector Prakash Shukla, ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Rakesh Singh, Subhash Borkar, Constable Sandeep Singh, Krishna Singh, Vijay Singh, Harish Rao and Rajesh Chandraul played vital role in arresting the accused.

Cable wars erupts in twin-city

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: With complaints of damaging the cable network and theft of related devices, the cable war is once again erupting in twin-city.

Due to the rivalry and clash between the cable network operators, a large number of customers are deprived of the cable tv transmission and are unable to watch their favourite shows and programmes.

In a recent incident, Amol Garudi, Manager of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Police Station for theft of cable wires and devices worth lakhs.

He complained that Raipur resident Deepak Pandey (Manager of Shark Net) and his accomplices Ashok Sharma of Durg, Mithlesh Singh of Padmanabhour, Arun Dalai Mohsin Khan and others had cut the cable network supply lines of Grand Vision Hathway CBN Multinet Private Limited and had stolen cable wires, EDFA, Power Supply, NOD, OLT and other devices. On his complaint, police have lodged an FIR under sections 379, 427, 34 of IPC.

Telugu community remembers Potti Sriramulu on Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: The members of Telugu community celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Potti Sriramulu at a function organised in Camp 1 at the statue of the leader. Badruddin Qureshi, former minister of the state of Chhattisgarh was present as the guest at the function. At the outset, the guest and the members of the community garlanded the statue of Potti Sriramulu on 121st anniversary.

They remembers the contribution of Sriramulu in getting the separate state of Andhra Pradesh from erstwhile Madras state. How he had undertaken 56 days fast for the cause.

Qureshi, in his address, said that the creator of the Andhra Pradesh state, Potti Sriramulu sat on a fast unto death for the creation of Andhra Pradesh from the Madras state and went into a coma on the 56th day and died on the 58th day.

The news of Potti Sriramulu's death spread like fire in Vijayanagar, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Ongole and Nellore and violence spread to all the places and 7 people died in the district including Vijayawada due to police firing and violence. On December 17, 1953, the then Prime Minister of the country, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, agreed to give statehood to Andhra. Due to the sacrifice of Potti Sriramulu, the state of Andhra Pradesh was carved out of Madras state. T Joga Rao, Samay Lal Sahu, Arun Singh, Rama Rao, Upendra, M Krishnarao, K Venkatrao, K Rajendra, Hemraj, Eshwar Rao, Mohd Shahbuddin, Shanji Yadav, K Arpita Rao, Naem Khan, Parvez Alam, Akhilesh Srivastava, Amresh Giri, Shashikant etc were present.

Bicycles distributed to girl students



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 20: Bicycles were distributed to the girl students studying in Government Higher Secondary School, Ward-

30, Camp-1, under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme in the presence of teachers including Principal Jyoti Tiwari, Ward-30 councillor Satyadevi Jaiswal, senior

BJP leaders Prabhunath Mishra, Rajkumar Jaiswal, BJYM leaders Amit Mishra, Ramesh Chaudhary, Anita Soni, Tuleswari were mainly present in the program.

Child kidnapped from Raipur, rescued in Dehradun

● Kidnapper had sold child to his brother-in-law at Rs 50000 to fulfill his wish for son

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The child, who had gone missing from the Civil Line area of Raipur ten days ago, was finally found by the police. Police recovered 3-year-old Subhash Sonwani from Dehradun. Raipur resident Irfan who allegedly kidnapped the child has also been arrested. Irfan's brother-in-law Salim has also been caught by the police and the entire conspiracy has been revealed.

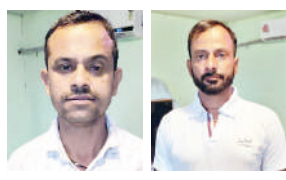
Raipur SSP Prashant Agrawal said that on the night of March 9, a 3-year-old Subhash, who was sleeping outside the hut near Budhi Mai temple of Rajendra Nagar, was kidnapped. He was sleeping



outside with his mother when the person who came on a bike kidnapped Subhash and then took away with him. A team of Civil Line Police Station along with Anti Crime and Cyber Unit was formed to solve this case.

Irfan's brother-in-law Salim Ahmed, living in Dehradun, had 3 daughters and he wanted a son. Salim's wife was told by the doctor that due to medical problems she could not give birth to the next child, so Salim told his relatives that he was ready to pay any price if someone brought him a boy. On knowing this Irfan, talked to Salim and assured to bring the child.

Irfan along with his friend Sher Khan living in



Telibandha planned to kidnap a child. They were constantly carrying out rece of children in different areas of Rajendra Nagar and Civil Line. After about 10 to 15 days of rece, Irfan targeted Subhash, who was sleeping outside with his mother every day near the Budhi Mai temple. Taking the opportunity very cleverly, Irfan and his friend executed their plan on the night of March 9.

According to the police, after kidnapping the child, Irfan had booked a ticket to go to Uttarakhand. He also left for Uttarakhand with his wife and daughter and there he sold Subhash to Salim at Rs 50 thousand.

Irfan was seen carrying the child in a CCTV cam-

era installed near Budhi Mai temple on the night of the incident. After this, the police team examined more than 1000 CCTV footages on different routes. It has been learnt that Irfan had also gone to jail earlier for theft in Raipur itself. Due to the old criminal record, the police tried to trace Irfan. The footage of the railway station was checked. The team came to know that the accused had fled to Dehradun.

For two-three days, the team of Raipur Police stayed in Dehradun and carried out its operation without informing the local police. In Dehradun, the team found Irfan and successfully traced the child with Salim. The child is being brought to Raipur safely. Irfan and his brother-in-law Salim have been arrested in this case. Sher Khan, an associate of Irfan, absconding in this case also being traced by the police.

CHEAPER OPTIONS



As a time-gap arrangement, a chariot owner perhaps realise it is more cheaper to pull a chariot with a scooter, rather than a horse.

CM to table Appropriation Bill in House today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: The budget session of the state assembly is in progress and on Monday CM and Finance Minister Bhupesh Baghel can table

the Appropriation Bill in the House. In other words, that with presentation of this Appropriation Bill, the state government gets permission to carry out expenditure from the budget in 2023.

According to reports, this Bill is expected to get approval of the same on March 22 and after which the budget session can be declared as closed. Prior to the declaring end of the session, the main

Opposition party in the House i.e BJP may raised ruckus demanding continuation of session till the last date i.e March 27. The Vidhan Sabha secretariat has issued the agenda for tomorrow's proceedings.

Cleanliness is directly related to human health: Baghel



Raipur, Mar 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inspected faecal sludge treatment plant in Kumhari Municipal Council recently. The capacity of this plant is 6 KLD per day (6000 KL per day), i.e. two trucks of faecal sludge can be treated per day. On this occasion, the concerned officers apprised the Chief Minister about the main components and working method of the plant. The Chief Minister thoroughly understood the entire process from the screen chamber to the polishing

pond. The Chief Minister was told about nature based solution. After water treatment, the water can be used in gardens and agriculture and dried sludge can also be used as manure. Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure told the Chief Minister that the plant is gravity based. Chief Minister expressed happiness after hearing that the plant is operated without electricity.

Baghel said that cleanliness is directly related to human health. Cleanliness is an indispen-



sable requirement for healthy human life. It is not possible to ignore it under any circumstances. This state's largest faecal sludge treatment plant has been set up for the residents of Kumhari's area, which will undoubtedly help in waste management.

Nearby farmers will also get chemical free fertilizers so that they can produce high quality food grains and vegetables. People in the nearby areas can also take manure from this plant for their house plants and this manure can also be used in gardens. Faecal sludge treatment plant is definitely a better option for proper disposal and efficient management of human waste.

Health coordinators to sit on dharna

● In support of six-point demand

Raipur, Mar 20: As many as 15000 health coordinators of Chhattisgarh are going on indefinite strike from Monday March 21, in support of six-point demand. Their demonstration will start at 11 am at the protest site near Budha Talab in the capital. Swasthya Samyojak Karmachari Sangh state president Tarjan Gupta, Secretary Praveen Dhirwanshi informed at a press conference here that the Congress party had talked about fulfilling other demands including salary increase in the election manifesto.

In view of the work of the health coordinator during COVID situation in the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced special corona allowance while Health Minister TS Singhdeo had announced salary hike of the staff. However, none of the demands of health coordinators has been ful-

filled yet, they said.

Taking note of government indifference towards the demand, the Sangh decided to stage dharna. They said that the health arrangements in other health centers including 5200 sub-health centers and 550 primary health centers would be affected due to the dharna of 15,000 health coordinators.

The health coordinators are demanding 5200-20200 and grade pay of 2800 on the basis of similar educational qualification and training period, change in the name of the post of rural health coordinators to rural health assistant officers to boost their morale, appointment of wardboys and sweepers at the collector rate in the sub-health centers and health and wellness centers and separate incentive amount of Rs 5000 per month for the work of on-line data entry, monthly incentive to health coordinators and special corona allowance to health workers who rendered services during COVID pandemic.

Cash, jewellery worth Rs 1.50 lakh stolen



From the govt bungalow in VVIP area of RS MP Ramvichar Netam in Ambikapur

Central Chronicle News

Ambikapur, Mar 20 : Thieves ran away with cash and jewellery worth Rs 5 lakhs from the house of former Home Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Ramvichar Netam here on Saturday and the security guards and other peons present in the house could not even get a hint of that. The information to Police was given on Saturday and after two days a case of theft of Rs 1.50 lakh was filed.

RS MP Ramvichar Netam is having a house in Gandhi Nagar area of city and it is a government bungalow. It is learnt that on the night of Holi, the thieves broke open the main lock of the house and then break the lock of three almirahs and ran away with two diamond rings, two gold rings and a gold chain worth Rs 50000.

BJP State spokesman Anurag Singh Deo has held this as theft of Rs 5 lakh, but the Police said it is theft of Rs 1.50 lakh. So far the list of items stolen has not been received by the Police.

Police checking CCTV footage: The Police informed that during the incident, there was one peon and

security guard in the servant quarter in the House. Since it was day of Holi, all were busy in their own programmes and due to which none could get a hint of this theft taking place. The thieves just scattered all the item in three almirahs on the floor and the Police says that the thieves entered breaking the main lock of the gate and presently they are checking all CCTV footage.

Area comes under VIP area:

The government bungalow of Ram Vichar Netam comes in VVIP area of city and just behind the MP's bungalow is the bungalow of Addl SP. Whereas the house of SDM, SP and a judge is also nearby and just at a short distance from it is the circuit House. Presently this theft has raised question mark on safety and security in the city and there are reports that the thieves have stolen items and jewellery worth Rs 7 lakh from another house in the same locality.

Security siren rang in Mumbai when youth tried to pull out ATM

Chakarbhata Police informed, reaches on time

Accused turns out to be mentally retarded, so no action taken

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 20: When the thieves tried to pull out the ATM machine in Bilaspur, then the siren of central security command system in Mumbai rang and the Bilaspur Police was informed about the same. On hearing about the news, the Police reached the site, but by this time the youth managed to escape. The incident is that of Chakarbhata area of Bilaspur city.

The Police was on patrolling on Saturday night in Chakarbhata area and just than the Police got information from photo-modern informatics security Mumbai that attempt is being made to pull out the Bank of India's ATMs in Chakarbhata area.




The team from Mumbai informed that the siren of ATM is ringing here and

in the picture a youth is trying to pull out the ATM machine. On hearing this the Police team reached ATM site at 3:00 am in the morning and by this time the youth managed to escape.

Youth identified from CCTV, appears to be mentally retarded:

The Police has sought CCTV footage and got him identified from persons nearby. At that time they came to know that the youth is from Chakarbhata area and is mentally retarded and undergoing treatment at Mental Hospital in Sendari. Since the youth is mentally retarded the Police is not taking any action.

Instructions given to keep security guard: Chakarbhata TI Manoj Nike informed that the Police during night patrolling are keeping watch on ATMs, Banks, Sarafa and Transport Nagar, High Court and near Airport area. During inspection, they found that there was no guard at the ATM and the Bank management has been asked to keep one guard round-the-clock in ATM for safety purpose.

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Wild elephant tramples girl to death

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Mar 20: A 10-year-old girl was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Marwahi forest range in Bilaspur district on Sunday, a forest official said.

The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village in the morning, Marwahi Divisional Forest Officer Dinesh Patel said.

Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away



when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time, he said.

The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death, the official said.

The forest officials rushed to the spot after being informed about the incident, he added.

The kin of the deceased have been given an initial

relief amount of Rs 25,000, the official said, adding that the remaining compensation will be disbursed soon after the completion of the necessary process, he said.

The forest department had alerted the residents on Saturday night that a herd of around three elephants from Katghora forest division was roaming around in the surrounding

villages, but the children ignored the warning and went to collect the flowers in the morning, he said.

About the incident

The victim, identified as Chhoti, a native of Tendumadhi village, was attacked by the rogue elephant when she went to pick 'mahua' flowers with a group of around four children in the forest area near Rumba village on Sunday morning. Some other children, who were also present with her in the forest, managed to run away when they saw the pachyderm, but the minor girl failed to escape in time. The elephant ran behind the girl and trampled her to death. The kin of the deceased have been given an initial relief amount of Rs 25,000.

SMILE ON GETTING VACCINATED



A youth in age-group of 12-14 is with all smile, as he is being administered corona vaccine here on Sunday.

Cop dies after collapsing during attempt to pacify clashing groups

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 20: An assistant sub-inspector of police was declared dead soon after he collapsed on the ground in Mahasamund district, where he went to placate two groups engaged in a brawl, an official said on Sunday.

The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell, he said.

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night, M a h a s a m u n d Superintendent of Police

About the incident

The incident occurred near Sharma's house in Clubpara area in Kotwali police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased police officer, identified as Vikas Sharma, was posted with the district's cyber cell. After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground. ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he was declared dead.

Vivek Shukla said.

"After learning about a brawl near his house, Sharma rushed to the spot to pacify the warring members, but collapsed to the ground," the SP said, adding that the ASI was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he

was declared dead.

According to doctors, no injury mark was found on Sharma's body, he said.

The body was later sent for an autopsy and the entire procedure is being videographed, Shukla added.

Registration for free education in private schools under RTE begins

Process to be conducted till May 25

Lottery and seat allotment from June 3 to 15, 2022

Nine thousand seats available

Raipur, Mar 20: Registration of children in schools under the Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE) began on Thursday. The process of admission in the first phase will continue till June 30. The registration of students is being done from March 17 to May 15, 2022. The lottery and seat allotment will be conducted from June 3 to 15, 2022. Process of admission will be conducted in 820 pri-

private schools of Raipur, which have about nine thousand seats. Information about the number of seats, schools can be obtained from the website <https://eduportal.cg.nic.in/RT/E/>. Children belonging to families living below poverty line are eligible for admission in private schools under RTE. Census of 2007 in urban areas and 2002 in rural areas will be the basis of admission. Antyodaya card holders according to the 2011 census will be eligible for admission.

Admission will be allowed in Nursery, KG I, KG II and Class I. In 6,511 private schools in the state, the number of 25 percent seats reserved under RTE is 83,006. Presently 3,01,317 children are studying under this scheme.

Fag song now becoming popular among girls

● Young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya fill atmosphere with enthusiasm with their songs

Raipur, Mar 20: On the occasion of Holi, men have been giving the presentation of the song 'Fag'. From this year onwards, girls have also started taking interest in fag songs. A group of young girls are presenting the hymns of Radha-Krishna in the form of fag songs. Their style of presentation is also being liked.

Due to this other girls are also being attracted to learn the songs of fag.

The fun of fag songs had disappeared in the last two years due to COVID pandemic. This year again Fag songs are resonating in Fiza. This year the specialty was seen that the girls also participated enthusiastically in this and cast a spell over listeners by singing the songs. This was visible in the ongoing 'Aakar Shivir' organized by the Culture Department in Raipur where training in various crafts is being given. Children and girls are reaching to learn many crafts including Dhokra craft, clay craft, paper cutting, chalk and clay art.

For the entertainment of those who came here, a group of girls had also come to present the songs of Fag. The young girls who learned music in Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya created an atmosphere full of enthusiasm with their singing. According to singer Akanksha Dubey the program of fag songs was not being held in the capital for the last two years due to corona pandemic. Earlier, in the street, the songs of C h a n g - M r i d a n g, Harmonium, Dholak, drums were heard on the beats of the drums, whose sweetness and the style drenched young and old in fun.

Three meet watery grave at Ramdaha waterfall



The search continues for the body of third missing youth.

13 youths had come from MP for picnic

Bharatpur, Mar 20: In the remote forest area of Bharatpur block is present Ramdaha waterfall and on the next day after Holi 13 youths from MP came there to celebrate Holi. While they entered the waterfall two of them slipped inside and met watery grave while another youth who had also entered this waterfall is still missing and Kotadol police is in search of the missing youth. The two youths who met watery grave have been identified as Vimal Gupta and Ramkishore Patel. About the incident

As per information received, 13 youths from

Manpur area of Umaria district in MP had come to Ramdaha waterfall for celebrating picnic. While they were taking bath, three youths met watery grave, two bodies were traced while third youth Deepak Gupta is still missing. After receiving the information Kotadol police reached the spot and with the help of villagers fished out the body of two youths.

This place is visited by many people for celebrating picnic but even after many incidents in the past administration has issued no guidelines for the safety of tourists coming here. Baikunthpur Home Guard team has been informed and they are searching for the missing youth.

Rangotsav and CAP held with COBRA Battalion



● In Naxal affected area Minpa

Konta, Mar 20: On the auspicious occasion of Holi, DIG Yogyan Singh and 206 COBRA Battalion, based at Elmagunda Camp of Sukma district, under the direction of Luv

Kumar, PMG, Commandant, organized Holi Milan ceremony and Civic Action Programme (CAP) with the villagers of Elmagunda. The programme started with the greetings on Holi by the villagers and security force personnel by applying colours and exchanging greet-

ing with each other and at the same time lunch was provided to all the villagers on behalf of Cobra.

In the second episode of the program, under the Civic Action Programme of 206 COBRAs, sports materials, copy books for children, kitchen utensils, clothes for women, slippers, solar lanterns etc. were distributed. In the interior areas of Bastar, where the local people have almost negligible contact with the outside world, radio transistors were distributed to them to keep them abreast of the news and entertainment of the country and the world. During the ceremony, necessary medical and medi-

cines were given to the needy people by the medical team of COBRA. Addressing the function, Camp Commander of Elmagunda Camp Ranjit Mandal, Deputy Commandant urged the villagers to continue the efforts being made by COBRA, CRPF and other security forces in the overall development of the area and always be ready for any help to the villagers.

All the villagers of Renga Para, Patel Para and Ju Para of Elmagunda village participated in the program, in which the enthusiasm of women and children gave the form of Holi Milan and Civic Action as a fair.

Villagers enjoyed Holi for full two-days

Churrikala, Mar 20: It was after long break of two-years, that the people of all age-groups in the region, celebrated this festival of colours with great enthusiasm and fanfare. They applied 'Gulal' to each other at chowks and in houses and embraced each other with Holi greetings.

Facing the threat and danger of corona pandemic for last two years, this time the denizens of Katagi and nearby villages observed Holi without any fear or hesitation in their mind and fulfilling all their wishes of colouring each other with 'gulal and colours'.



It was on Thursday night, 'Holika-dahan' was done and in this female of the village reached venue of 'Holika' and offered all rituals and then the 'holika' was set on fire. The waste wood from all over the village was collected in advance and then it was placed for bonfire. People also played 'Nagadas' late in the evening to create atmosphere

for 'Holi' and it was set on fire late in the night.

On this occasion 'Faag-geet' competition was also organised at many places and Leader of Opposition in Nagar Palika Churrikala Devendra Dewangan organised it and in this 'faag-geet' participants from nearby villages took part in large number.

It was on Friday morning onwards, right from kids to elders, celebrated Holi, applying variety of colours and 'gulal' to each other, apart from bursting water-balloons and there was huge sales of colours and other items on

Holi this year.

Former President Ashok Dewagan had organised 'Holi-Milan' programme at his residence and in this all the denizens of city and his close friends were invited and they all celebrated holi with great fanfare. Along with him corporator, Aldermen, MLA's rep and other public representatives also took part in Holi celebrations. At the same time the Police department has made special arrangements for safety and security and due to which no untoward incident took place in the region.

Holi celebrated in rural areas peacefully

Katagi, Mar 20: The festival of Colour 'Holi', falling in the month of 'Fagun' is celebrated on the day of 'Poonnima' and to celebrate the occasion, people play 'Nagadas' and DJs, music and drums. But this year with Collector's order, there was no loud playing of 'DJ'. This festival of 'Holi', like any other festival is symbol of victory of good over evil. As per ancient scripts, this festival is related to story of King Hiranakshyap.

For 'Holika Dahan' on Thursday, kids of the village started gathering obsolete wood and other dry



wastes for last 15 days for the bonfire on Holika. On this day, the villagers offer prayers to 'Holika' and offer 'coconut', cow-dung cake, wood and other items and forgetting all ill and hatred with each other, the villagers re-start a new life with new year with this festival of colours-Holi.

Prior to the Holi celebrations, meeting of peace-

committee members was held at Thana Chowki and an appeal was made to all heads of the village to maintain peace, law & order on Holi. At the same time police jawans also conducted patrolling to avoid any untoward incident at sensitive places. This village Katagi, Saravani, Kalmidih, Lakhmaisati, Khaira, Jhabadi, Amodi, Navapara, Dhamalpur, Dheradih, Rampur, Kot, Tiparau, Manakoni, Darra, Giroudpuri, Sukali, Bareli, Madwa, Matia and others and at all these places Holi was celebrated with great fanfare and peacefully.

Villagers celebrate 'Holi' with 'Nagadas'



Anwari, Mar 20: The festival of Colours 'Holi' was celebrated with fanfare and enthusiasm in Anwari and nearby villages. The enthusiasm for celebrating this festival which promotes love, brotherhood and

unites all was at its peak this year, with people from all age-group participating in it. People from villages met each other on Holi and exchanged greeting applying 'Gulal' and later took part in the 'faag geet' and

playing of drums and 'dholaks' singing Holi songs and dancing to the tunes of new songs. It was just few days before start of this festival, that beats on 'Nagadas' could be heard and after which 'Holika Dahan' was done on Thursday night. Villages played 'nagadas' singing 'faag geet' and enjoyed the Holi celebrations. Women dressed in their traditional style met each other and applied 'gulal' and variety of colours to celebrate the occasion, with wishes to keep the relations of love and happiness intact among all.

ESAF observes Int'n'l Women's Day



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 20: ESAF Raipur Branch celebrated International Women's Day program with its valuable customers. Resource person's of this program were Shatabdi Pandey (Advisor, National Women Commission), Dr. Preeti (Principal-Copernics Deaf and Dumb College), Ms. Pushpalata (Director-H a r s a m b h a v

Foundation), Ms. Babli (Women Entrepreneur and Royalty Achiever), Ms. Merry (Renowned Social Activist), Vikash (Cluster Head-Retail), Preetpal (BH), Abhishek (Head-other products), Rajesh(CSM) and Mitu Henry.

The entire program was an experience sharing session on 'Women in present Socio-Economic Scenario' and how to make them self reliant.

BJP united to ensure justice for victim youth

CRPF conducts civic action programme

Party burns effigy of CM

Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: In the village Maragpuri under Baderajpur of Kondagaon last year farmer Dhaniram Markam's total farm area was reduced while making calculation of total land area and he was given a token for 11 tonne paddy while his field is of 6 acres and he sold 75 quintal paddy every year. But as his acreage was reduced and he could sell only 11 quintals of paddy, he became sad and committed suicide.



The deceased farmer had taken Rs 60,000 land from District Cooperative Bank Vishrampuri, the victim's

family did not receive any compensation from the administration, neither the agriculture loan was

waived and the family was asked to pay Rs 71,000 including interest on the loan amount.

The office bearers of 10 BJP divisions of Kondagaon along with BJP state vice president Lata Usendi met the family members of deceased and assured to be with them till they get justice. They demanded government service for one member of the family.

Usendi alleged that state government is playing with the sentiments of the farmers and they are torturing them by engaging banks to make repayment of loans even after the farmer who had taken loan had died. BJP workers also burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and raised slogans against the state government.



Central Chronicle News

Vishrampuri, Mar 20: 188 CRPF Battalion conducted civic action programme in Kharagaon area in which villagers were

distributed daily use items. The programme was conducted under the directives of Sunil Kumar Commandant and in presence of Kailash Chand Assistant Commandant

and other jawans of the battalion. About 390 villagers were benefited and CRPF official Kailash Chand assured the villagers of forces with them for all their needs.

Department finding it hard to recover loan amount

From 540 defaulters with loan of Rs 6.25 cr

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Mar 20: In order to provide employment to the educated unemployed youths, 'Antyavaysai' department has provided loan to more than 500 persons and in last ten years, majority have not refunded the loan. The departmental officers are finding it hard to recover the loan of Rs 6.25 crore and even after contacting door-to-door, people are not coming forward to refund the loan amount.

It is notable here that the state government has launched many schemes for educated unemployed youths from SC, ST category in the form of small and minor business.

Out of these, 'Jila Antyavaysai' department has also provided loan to educated unemployed youths and of which many youths have availed this loan. But when it comes to recovery of the amount, the officers of the department are finding it a hard nut to crack.

Departmental officers informed that from 2002 till date the people who have been given loan for small business or four-

wheeler, have still not repaid the loan amount.

The department has so far provided loan worth Rs 6.25 crore to around 540 beneficiaries and this entire amount is outstanding till date. Set aside this even after sending many notices and personal contacts, the beneficiaries are not refunding the loan amount.

This year by launching special campaign for loan recovery in the month of January, the departmental officers could recover just Rs 12.60 lakh. The officers informed that after instructions from the state government, now the department has started acting seriously against loan

defaulters.

So it is with the help of the Revenue department, notices are being issued to loanee through Tehsildar and failing to submit reply, strict action is being taken, giving them final date of repayment of loan amount taken.

What officer says

There is total outstanding of Rs 6.25 crore from the loanee of 'Antyavaysai' department and the recovery drive has been started and this year a total of Rs 17 lakh has been recovered. **BS Sidar-CEO.**

83rd Raising Day celebrated in Konta premises



Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 20: On the auspicious occasion of "83rd Raising Day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)" on March 19, 217th Corps celebrated "83rd Raising Day" with great fanfare in the headquarters of Central Reserve Police Force, Konta. On the occasion of 83rd Foundation Day, a fair

was organized in the headquarters Konta courtyard, in which various types of food stalls, sports stalls and civil shopkeepers also set up their shops in this fair. Inauguration of this fair was done by the chief guest Mrs. Sudha Thakur (wife Rajeev Kumar Thakur, DIG of Police, Parachan Range Konta). Rajeev Kumar Thakur (DIG of Police, OPS Range



Konta) Asit Kumar Choudhary (Command 228th Bt.), Praveen Thapliyal (Command 131st Bt.), Nitin Kumar (Command 219th Bt.), Gazetted Officers and their family members were present. Ashok Kumar (Commandant 217th Bt.), Bhavani Pratap Yadav (Second Commanding Officer, Administration), Kul

Bahadur Thapa (Deputy Commandant), Yagya Kumar Singh, (Deputy Commandant), Mrs. Dr. M. Genna Pratyusha (Deputy Commandant) as host officers. (Medical Officer), Dr. Siddheshwar Kalyan P. (Medical Officer), subordinate officers and jawans, including women platoons of 241 Bastaria Battalion also participated in this program.

NTPC Lara receive safety awards

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 20: Alok Gupta, ED, Lara awarded 18 early birds for reporting a possible threat to safety on March 16. As a novel initiative to encourage the contract labourers to be alert in their workplace and inform the higher authority if found any possible threat to safety.

As recognition for exhibiting alertness NTPC Lara felicitates them to

encourage the culture of safety at workplace. With this initiative most of the safety hazards have been mitigated on time which may lead to any big safety issue and loss to company.

On this occasion JSS Murty, GM (O&M), Santosh Kumar Jha, GM (Projects), Rajeev Ranjan, GM (FM), AK Vashisht, AGM (Safety) and senior officials were present.



Collector inspects mid-day meal and distribution of iron folic tablets



Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Mar 20: District Collector Shri Kuldeep Sharma along with administrative staff inspected Swami Atmanand School in Sonhat block on Wednesday and had a direct interaction with the children, while inquiring about their studies and goals in life. The students happy to find the Collector among them, also studied a lesson n Sanskrit together. The collector observed the arrangement of mid day meal in the school, along with this, informa-

tion was also taken about the distribution of iron folic tablet to the children in the school. He ordered the distribution of folic acid tablets on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, ensure the distribution of tablets to the children so that no child is left behind. He also inspected the infrastructure construction in the school and gave necessary directions. During this, CEO District Panchayat Shri Kunal Dudawat, SDM Sonhat and district level and block level officers of the concerned departments were present.

Yuwa Jagriti Panthi team enthrall audience in 'Basantotsav' held in Gandhi Nagar



Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasoud, Mar 20: The youths of Yuwa Jagriti Panthi Party under leadership of Ved Prakash Maheshwari near Gram Bahana Kadi, organised 'Basantotsav' in Gandhi

Nagar, Gujarat from March 13-22 jointly under aegis of Western Area Cultural Centre Udaipur and Yuwa Sewa Sanskritik Pravrittiya Gujarat government. In this 15-member 'Yuwa Jagriti Panthi Party' from

Gram Bahana-Kadi near capital city took part and enthralled the audience with their 'Panthi' dance performance. CM Gujarat Bhupendra Bhai Patel lighted the traditional lamp to inaugurate 'Basantotsav' programme and this started the series of cultural programmes.

In this the members of Yuwa Jagriti Panthi party gave colourful and mesmerising performance of 'Panthi' dance and it was hailed by one & all present. In this Ved Prakash Maheshwari, Hitendra, Surendra Bharti, Shekhar Gaikwad, Charandas, Sanjay, Yogesh, Parmeshwar, Anil and their colleagues took part.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Mandeep Singh Ubeja (New Name) S/o Kulwant Singh Ubeja resident of 101, Siddhi Vinayak Heights, Rajendra Nagar Civil Line, Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.), have changed my old name Mandeep Singh S/o Kulwant Singh of in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Mandeep Singh Ubeja S/o Kulwant Singh Ubeja in all Government and other documents.

Mandeep Singh Ubeja S/o Kulwant Singh Ubeja Res. 101, Siddhi Vinayak Heights, Rajendra Nagar Civil Line, Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur(C.G.) Pin- 495001

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BILASPUR, BUS STAND, BILASPUR, 117040700018450, 8494, 8527, 9397, 9401, 9405, 9464, 9475, 9487, 9490, 9617, 9644, 9729, 9733, 9781, 9989, 117040700020035, 0054, 0111, 0514, 0519, 0525, 0543, 0550, 0553, 0564, 0565, 0567, 0568, 0569, 0572, 0574, 0596, 0597, 0607, 0608, 0609, 0610, 0611, 0616, 0642, 0653, 0677, 0692, 0693, 0696, 0697, 0700, 0701, 0702, 0703, 0704, 0708, 0720, 0722, 0725, 0728, 117040730029963, 117040730032348, 3041, 3087, 3089, 3115, 3127, 3551, 4074, 4369, 4371, 5479, 5515, 5529, 5621, 5687, 5766, 6031, 6435, 7154, 7184, 7208, 7210, 7211, 7251, 7252, 7290, 7291, 7292, 7429, 7442, 7447, 7448, 7449, 7476, 7505, 7509, 7522, LINK ROAD, BILASPUR, 131560700010829, 1037, 1559, 1619, 1658, 2016, 2379, 2382, 2383, 2388, 2392, 2422, 2458, 2463, 2481, 2482, 131560730011819, 1822, 2480, 3421, 3896, 4260, 4495, 4498, 4499, 4505, 4515, 4553, 4564, 4577, MAHARAJA PRATAP CHOWK, 124630700014233, 4330, 4422, 4497, 4515, 4549, 4669, 4685, 5200, 5202, 5207, 5216, 5227, 5230, 5238, 5240, 5241, 5243, 5247, 5254, 5281, 5286, 5297, 5302, 5312, 5320, 5323, 5324, 5333, 5342, 5345, 5349, 5372, 5378, 5382, 5387, 5391, 124630730013878, 3981, 4013, 4757, 4774, 4783, 4785, 4818, 4826, 4844, 4873, 4874, 4875, 4910, 4921, MANGALA CHOWK, BILASPUR, 122000700016833, 7920, 7931, 7941, 7954, 7985, 8046, 8071, 8077, 8094, 8097, 8156, 8673, 8683, 8715, 8716, 8731, 8733, 8776, 8782, 122000730017283, 8939, 9800, 122000730020561, 0566, 0616, 0648, 1373, 1485, 2309, 2554, 2568, 2584, 2627, 2656, 2670, 2680, 2686, 2689, 2750, 2752, 2767, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2798, 2800, 2808, 2829, 2842, 2881, 2887, 2899, SADAR BAZAR, BILASPUR, 129660700012053, 2069, 2095, 2165, 2548, 2720, 2823, 3210, 3211, 3215, 3216, 3272, 3273, 3283, 3291, 3307, 3324, 3327, 3330, 3343, 129660730009166, 9942, 129660730010249, 0944, 1177, 1301, 1960, 2235, SARKANDA, BILASPUR, 121440700014940, 6191, 6196, 6417, 6499, 6701, 6742, 6853, 6892, 6898, 6986, 7043, 7130, 7155, 7250, 7436, 7451, 7457, 7472, 7528, 7569, 7603, 7610, 7648, 7656, 7659, 7686, 7689, 8152, 8159, 8160, 8168, 8174, 8193, 8200, 8201, 8206, 8212, 8218, 8220, 8241, 8244, 8257, 8261, 8263, 8272, 8282, 8290, 8299, 8308, 121440730016001, 6374, 6495, 6807, 7212, 7433, 7876, 7994, 9381, 9415, 9436, 9590, 9673, 9833, 9956, 121440730020062, 0080, 0193, 0776, 0875, 1034, 1142, 1415, 1890, 2328, 2360, 2394, 121440780000002, VYAPAR VIHAR, 115450700012188, 2413, 3175, 3242, 3520, 4176, 4186, 4210, 4268, 4272, 4635, 4640, 4647, 4648, 4658, 4677, 4683, 4687, 4699, 4720, 4744, 4745, 4751, 4766, 4768, 4777, 115450730015849, 5944, 5945, 7809, 7824, 7825, 8302, 8433, 8462, 8488, 8539, 9016, 9023, 9026, 9035, 9048, 9049, 9052, 9110, 9127, 9133, 9146, 9177, 9184, JANJIR-CHAMPA, AKALATARA, 138220700001589, 1613, 138220730008845, 9814, 138220730012286, 4652, 5203, 5521, BARPALI CHOWK, JANJIR-CHAMPA, 8879, 9394, 9399, 1343807300013286, 5323, 5418, 5789, 5800, 5820, 5828, 5829, 5836, 5837, 5838, 5839, 5845, 5856, 5873, 5895, KORBA, KOSABADI, 125440700017765, 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8940, 126070730018873, 9770, 126070730021906, 2335, 2358, 2546, 2618, 2650, 3706, 3968, 4745, 5055, 5060, 5536, 5630, 5631, 5679, 5693, 5729, 5741, 5751, 5773, 5814, 5821, RAMNIVAS TALKIES ROAD, 117520700023830, 3929, 5952, 6562, 6669, 6822, 6878, 7282, 7681, 7686, 7689, 7696, 7708, 7729, 7755, 7773, 7779, 7786, 7790, 7804, 7807, 7835, 7840, 7867, 8318, 8340, 8389, 8398, 8406, 8420, 8434, 8446, 8474, 8475, 8502, 8511, 8622, 117520730018287, 8389, 9023, 117520730021004, 1095, 1514, 3076, 3265, 3495, 3860, 4227, 4311, 4345, 4349, 4465, 5334, 5450, 5466, 5542, 5545, 5553, 5564, 5573, 5584, 5613, 5617, 5630, 5651, 5671, 5698, 5733, 5736, 5754, 5759, 5781, 117520780000091, SURGUJA, AMBEDKAR CHOWK AMBIKAPUR, 131880700012536, 2673, 3040, 3322, 4081, 4161, 4331, 4423, 4502, 4640, 4664, 4780, 4801, 4804, 4842, 5198, 5289, 5368, 5380, 5412, 5421, 5422, 5424, 5452, 5479, 5509, 5534, 5538, 5540, 5541, 5544, 5555, 5560, 5561, 5572, 5574, 5579, 131880730018129, 8179, 8925, 9420, 131880730020453, 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BRIEF

Fabricating

New Delhi: A 24-year-old driver was arrested for allegedly fabricating a robbery of Rs 20 lakh in north Delhi's Civil Lines area. The accused has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a resident of Rohini and a native of Jharkhand. A businessman, who has a business of grains, had made a complaint with police alleging a robbery. He had sent his driver Kumar to drop Rs 20 lakh at his nephew's office. Police zeroed in on Kumar as suspect.

Seized

Bengaluru: Authorities including those from Customs Intelligence Unit (CIU) said they have seized Ephedrine, weighing 46.799 kg, and having a street price of about Rs 9.23 crores, under the provisions of the NDPS Act. Ephedrine was hidden in kitchen utensils consignment. Based on specific intelligence, the officers intercepted a shipment in the export shed that was attempted to be exported to Australia by a exporter.

Rescued

Nuh: A 9 year old boy was rescued within eight hours of his kidnapping from Tirwada village in Haryana's Nuh district, the police said. The boy went missing from his house. The boy's father had got ransom call of Rs 2 lakh from an unknown number. After tracing number and its location, police found the child from forested area near Mahu Chopra village.

Shootout

Kolkata: Two persons were injured in a shootout in the city's Tiljala area. The injured were identified as Raju Roy, a taxi driver, and his father, Dablu Roy. They were admitted to the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital. The incident took place in Tarikhana Road when a few locals, who had asked for money from Raju, allegedly gheraoed him when he was returning home with his brother, and an altercation followed, police said.

Injured

Palghar: A 65-year-old tribal woman from Mokhada in Maharashtra's Palghar district was injured in a tiger attack, an official said. The incident took place in a forested patch near Poshora village. Parvati Sapte was saved by her 72-year-old husband Kahisnath Sapte who managed to ward off the big cat. She was attacked very close to the door of her house.

Booked

Panaji: Two constables attached to Ponda police station in North Goa district were suspended and an FIR was registered against them for allegedly assaulting a man. Constables Rama Khanekar and Omark Mankar have been placed under suspension for allegedly assaulting a man at Codar village, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Ponda) CL Patil said.

'Huge welfare schemes expenditure hitting public finances'

● **Yashwant Sinha had quit BJP over policy differences**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Yashwant Sinha

Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha on Sunday said that huge expenditure on welfare schemes by the Modi government has severely impacted the public finances which are currently in a mess with fiscal deficit touching abnormally high levels.

Sinha in an interview with PTI said the shocking thing is nobody seems to be worried about the state of government finances, including those in the government.

"The Modi government is spending large sums of money on welfare schemes, including the

free food scheme and all the rest of it. But government finances are in a mess. The fiscal deficit has touched abnormal proportions even according to the undependable figures of the government," Sinha, a senior vice-president of the Trinamool Congress, said.

The country's fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent of the GDP this fiscal as

against the earlier estimate of 6.8 per cent of the GDP. Sinha alleged that everything in the economic policy today is based on whether it will enable the government or the ruling party to win elections or not.

"So on the one hand, we have this welfarism for the poor. And on the other hand, select corporates are making windfall gains and again that is something about which nobody in this country seems to be bothered," he alleged.

Sinha said that it is a complete mismatch between what one would call prudent financial policies, prudent economic policies and the reality today. To a question, Sinha said the Indian economy will face the challenge of inflation, challenge of growth.

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to

grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than the previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to recent government data. Sinha, a bitter critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime, noted that the economy is in crying need of fresh investment, both from the government and from the private sector.

"And that is nowhere in sight. You know, the increase in capital expenditure in the budget is just a chimera," he said. According to the former finance minister, while the government investment is not going to go up, private investment is slacked. "It will become a slacker because of rising interest rates. And in the absence of investment, the Indian economy will not be able to make progress," he stated.

KPCC Prez proposes 'Fly Kerala' as alternative to SilverLine



K Sudhakaran

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 20 (PTI):

Amidst the raging controversy in the state over the Left government's ambitious SilverLine project, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president and MP K Sudhakaran on Sunday suggested an alternative to the rail corridor — an air link between Kasaragod to

Thiruvananthapuram called 'Fly Kerala'. The Congress leader, in a video message titled 'Let's Talk Politics' on Facebook, said there was already an air link from Mangaluru to Thiruvananthapuram and a flight on this route can stop at Kannur, Calicut and Kochi and such a trip would only take a total of around three hours. Sudhakaran also said more flights can be pressed into operation for shorter distances or duration on this route and the entire project would not cost the state more than Rs 1,000 crore, instead of the expected Rs 1.33 lakh crore of the SilverLine. He further said a system can be put in place to enable purchase of tickets at the time of travel or on the go, like while travelling on buses.

Fortified Ganga sludge substitute planned for chemical fertilisers

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

The government is planning to fortify sludge from the Ganga river to use it as fertiliser to promote organic farming and prevent chemicals from entering rivers, a senior official said. Treated water, rich in phosphorus and nutrients, is good for crop growth and in the last two weeks various rounds of discussions have been held on ways to handle the sludge from the Ganga river, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Director General Asok Kumar said. According to him, efforts are underway to produce fortified sludge and provide it to farmers at subsidised rates. "We found that treated sludge can be



A water treatment plant on banks of river Ganga in Prayagraj district, UP.

very similar to fertiliser. So, if we can add a little bit of fortification, then it (sludge) can be as good as a fertiliser and will help in organic farming," Kumar told PTI.

"We are in talks with companies to produce fortified sludge that could be

IMMUNISATION DRIVE



UP CM Yogi Adityanath administers a drop of polio vaccine as part of immunisation drive, in Gorakhpur, Sunday.

CISF seeks end of ex-Army personnel hiring

● **1.64 lakh personnel force was raised in 1969**

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

An experimental hiring of about 1,700 retired Army personnel in the CISF for rendering unarmed duties has not found favour with the paramilitary force and it has sought discontinuation of these contracts from the Union home ministry, official sources said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had last year asked the CISF to toy with the idea of hiring 2,000 ex-army personnel for "non core" duties at 13 of its security units in the country, including those engaged in thermal power and coal production.



The contractual hiring was made for a period of one year initially which may be renewed on an year-to-year basis for 2 additional years. The trial was meant to "help and rehabilitate" retired army personnel and take benefit of their experience for security purposes.

'BJP promoting 'The Kashmir Files' with eye on Assembly polls'

● **In Gujarat, Rajasthan, alleges Raut**

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday accused the BJP of promoting 'The Kashmir Files' movie with an eye on the forthcoming Assembly polls in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and also alleged that an attempt has been made in the film to suppress several "harsh truths".

In his weekly column 'Rokhtok' in Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut said it was the BJP's promise to ensure the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir, but the same has not happened despite the abrogation of Article

370, and sought to know whose failure it was.

Raut also labelled Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being the main promoter of the film.

Attacking the BJP further, the Rajya Sabha member asked the NDA constituent what happened to its promise of integrating Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) with India.

Written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri and pro-

duced by Zee Studios, the film 'The Kashmir Files' depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir following systematic killings of people from the community by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Since its release on March 11, the film has sparked a debate among political parties. Several BJP-ruled states, including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, have exempted the film from entertainment tax.

"The story based on the fleeing of Hindu Pandits in Kashmir, their killings, atrocities inflicted on them and their anger disturbs one's mind. But what disturbs even more is (the attempt) to divide Hindu-Muslims out of it (the story) again and win the upcoming elections," Raut said.

"The Kashmir file has been opened to win the (forthcoming) elections in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan," he alleged.

Raut said that films like 'The Kashmir Files' should be created, but - he alleged - the agenda of such movies has now been to spread hatred and confusion about (political) opponents.

The Shiv Sena leader said the makers of 'The Kashmir Files' had earlier produced 'The Tashkent Files', through which, he alleged, it was implied that only the Gandhi family was responsible for the death of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

"In 'The Kashmir Files', an attempt has been made to suppress several other harsh truths while showing true news.

Amid rising heat, MP cabinet to hold meeting in Pachmarhi

Bhopal, Mar 20 (PTI):

With the mercury levels in Madhya Pradesh going up, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government has decided to hold its cabinet meeting in Pachmarhi, a popular hill station in Narmadapuram district of the state, over the coming weekend.

The cabinet meeting will be held on March 26 and 27, a minister said on Sunday. As per the agenda of the meeting, talks will revolve around the issue of development of Madhya Pradesh, he said, adding that making the state self-reliant was on the top of the chief minister's mind.

The cabinet meeting is generally held in state capi-



MP government office complex in Pachmarhi.

tal Bhopal either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

When asked whether Pachmarhi, known as the 'Queen of Satpura', has been chosen as the venue for the cabinet meeting in

view of the heat wave in the state, he said, "Nothing of that sort should be read into it as such meetings were held at places other than Bhopal in the past as well."

Fresh notice to Narayan Rane's bungalow for alterations

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Narayan Rane's Arabian seaside bungalow in Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a fresh notice to Union minister Narayan Rane's family, asking it to remove the "unauthorised" alterations at its Juhu bungalow within 15 days.

In the notice issued on March 16 to BJP leader Rane's wife and son, the BMC said the corporation will demolish the changes and recover charges for the same from the owner if he failed to remove the "unauthorised change of use" works.

On February 21, a team of civic officials had inspected the bungalow named 'Adhish', located in

the upscale Juhu area, for the alleged violation of CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) norms.

In their March 11 reply to the BMC's earlier notice, the Rane family's representatives had dismissed the allegations and said the corporation's action (of issuing the notice)

was "actuated purely by malice and political vendetta" borne by the Shiv Sena against the family and the Union minister.

The BMC in its reply to the point said that the owner was expected to answer the notice "as contemplated in law".

Charges framed against two accused in Srinagar acid attack case

Srinagar, Mar 20 (PTI):

A court here has framed charges against two persons who were arrested for throwing acid on a woman in February in downtown city and the trial will begin from the end of this month.

The two accused were presented before Principal Sessions judge Jawad Ahmad, who framed charges under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 326-A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), officials said. The trial will start at the end of this month, they said. Expressing satisfaction

over the development, Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) Rakesh Balwal said the police will fight this case till the end and ensure that the victim gets justice.

"Our aim is that this case becomes a milestone in history for a speedy trial and punishment to the accused so that it acts as a deterrent for those harbouring such thoughts or having such tendencies," Balwal said.

Advocate Mir Naveed Gul, who represents the victim, said the charges were framed against the accused persons involved in the acid attack on the 24-year-old woman. "The principal sessions

judge, Srinagar, without any delay, listed the matter on an urgent basis. I appreciate the expeditious hearing of the case and the framing of charges," he said.

The charge sheet was prepared in a record time of three weeks by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Balwal was personally monitoring the case and had also constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by Superintendent of Police (North) Raja Zuhair Tanveer. SDPO Mohammed Yasir Parray, SHOs Tasir Hamid, Owais Geelani and Sub-Inspector Shahista Mughal were its mem-

bers. The charge sheet has been filed against three people — Sajjad Altaf Rather, Mohammed Saleem Kumar and a juvenile, against whom the police want to press charges as an adult because of his involvement in the crime.

According to the charge sheet, the juvenile helped the police recover the black glass bottle that was used to throw acid on the victim's face. Police had also noticed injury marks on the upper side of the juvenile's right hand. He was taken to a hospital for examination and doctors opined that the injury was caused by some chemical substance.

BRIEF

Ruins

Irbil: Once a lavish mansion, the sprawling home of an Iraqi Kurdish oil tycoon was laid to waste in a barrage of missiles that struck near a US consulate complex here earlier this week. Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said it launched the attack, firing off 12 cruise missiles at a strategic centre of the Israeli spy agency Mossad in retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two Iranian paramilitary force's members the previous week.

Context

Kampala: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni recently remarked that Russia's war on Ukraine should be seen in the context of Moscow being the center of gravity for Eastern Europe. His son, Lt Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, was more forceful, declaring that most Africans support Russia's stand in Ukraine and Putin is absolutely right. Amid worldwide chorus of condemnation, much of Africa has either pushed back or remained quiet.

Bans

Sao Paulo: A justice of Brazil's Supreme Court ordered the shutdown of messaging app Telegram nationwide, arguing it has not cooperated with authorities. The move is a blow to President Jair Bolsonaro, who has more than 1 million followers on the platform and defends it as a key tool for his re-election bid in October. Justice Alexandre de Moraes said in his ruling that Telegram repeatedly ignored requests from authorities.

Arrests

Lahore: Pakistani law enforcement agencies have claimed to have averted terror attacks on government buildings and security personnel as it arrested five terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from the country's Punjab province. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab police said explosive material, hand grenades, detonators have also been recovered.

Crash

Helsinki: Four US Marines were killed when their Osprey aircraft crashed in a Norwegian town in the Arctic Circle during a NATO exercise unrelated to Russia's war in Ukraine. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre tweeted that they died in the crash. The cause was under investigation, but Norwegian police reported bad weather in the area. The Marines were taking part in NATO exercise called Cold Response in Arctic.

Found

Tunis: Tunisia's coast guard has recovered the bodies of 12 unidentified migrants found washed up on the coast, according to the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, which closely follows migration.

Yemen rebels target LNG plant in Saudi Arabia

Dubai, Mar 20 (AP):

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday unleashed a barrage of drone and missile strikes on Saudi Arabia, targeting a liquefied natural gas plant, water desalination plant, oil facility and power station.

The attacks did not cause casualties, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen said, but damaged civilian vehicles and homes in the area.

The salvo marked the latest escalation in Houthi cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia as peace talks remained stalled and the conflict that ran over seven years in Yemen raged on.



Shells after attack on LNG plant in Saudi Arabia.

The attacks also came as Saudi Arabia's state-backed oil giant Aramco announced that its profits surged 124 per cent in 2021 to USD110 billion, a big jump fuelled by renewed anxieties about global supply shortages, soaring oil prices and a recovery in fuel demand from the pandemic.

Aramco, also known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co, released its earnings report on the heels of weeks of intense volatility in energy markets triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Punitive sanctions on Russia, among the world's largest exporters of crude

and petroleum products, have added to turmoil to an already-tight energy market.

The international oil benchmark Brent crude hovered over USD107 on Sunday after nearly touching a peak of USD140 earlier this month.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have so far resisted Western appeals to increase oil production to offset the loss of Russian oil as gasoline prices skyrocket. Yehia Sarie, a spokesman for Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, said the group had launched a wide and large military operation into the depth of Saudi Arabia, without immediately elaborating.

Tunisian eco-pioneers battle to save Sahara oasis life

Some recipes are also adapted to use Indian Moringa

Nefta, Mar 20 (AFP):

A remote oasis in Tunisia's desert was exhausted by decades of wasteful water use for agriculture — but now pioneers around an eco-lodge are reviving the spot with innovative projects. They hope their back-to-basics approach can keep alive the ancient Saharan caravan stop and its traditions as a sustainable alternative to the region's high-irrigation date plantations. "Among the palm trees, everything can grow," said Mohamed



Employees cultivate the Dar Hi hotel's vegetable garden amidst palm tree in the remote Nefta oasis.

Bougaa, 63, a farmer in the remote Nefta oasis, a seven-hour drive from the coastal capital Tunis. "There's everything you need here: vegetables, fruit. We can plant peppers, tomatoes, carrots — everything grows when there's sun

and water." The problem has been that the Nefta spring — which once delivered some 700 litres (185 gallons) of water per second — has been exhausted to irrigate the region's famous dates, called "deglet nour".

South Korea's next Prez to abandon Blue House for new office

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

South Korea's president-elect said Sunday he will abandon the current mountainside presidential palace of Blue House and establish his office in central Seoul as part of efforts to better communicate with the public.

Relocating the presidential office was one of President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol's main campaign promises. The conservative former top prosecutor whose single five-year term begins on May 10 said the location and design of the Blue House have fed criticisms that



South Korea's president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol shows a bird's eye view of his planned relocation in Seoul on Sunday.

South Korean presidents are cut off from the public and wield excessive

power. At the Blue House, offices for presidential ad-

American gunmakers help Ukrainians fight back

Miami, Mar 20 (AP):

Adrian Kellgren's family-owned gun company in Florida was left holding a \$200,000 shipment of semi-automatic rifles after a longtime customer in Ukraine suddenly went silent during Vladimir Putin's invasion of the country.

Fearing the worst, Kellgren and his company KelTec decided to put those stranded 400 guns to use, sending them to Ukraine's nascent resistance movement to help civilians fight back against a Russian military that has been repeatedly shelling their apartment buildings, schools, hospitals and hiding places.

"The American people want to do something," said Kellgren, a former US Navy pilot. "We enjoy our free-



KelTec employee looks through lines of rifles, similar to ones being shipped to Ukraine.

doms, we cherish those things. And when we see a group of people out there getting hammered like this, it's heartbreaking." Cocoa-based KelTec's donation is a high-profile example of Americans collecting guns, ammunition, body armor, helmets and other tactical

gear in response to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's promise to arm his citizens. But many similar grassroots efforts have been snarled by inexperience with the complex web of regulations governing the international shipment

of such equipment.

Kellgren, who has dealt with such red tape for years, managed to connect through a Ukrainian neighbor with a diplomat in the Ukrainian Embassy who helped him secure a federal arms export license in just four days. That process can often take months.

This week, as Congress debated whether to send more advanced weapons and defense systems to Ukraine, workers at KelTec's warehouse fork-lifted four plastic-wrapped pallets containing their 9 mm foldable rifles for delivery to an undisclosed NATO-run facility. From there, the shipment's new recipient, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, will be responsible for smuggling the weapons into the war zone.

Algiers recalls Madrid envoy over West Sahara policy change

Algiers, Mar 20 (AFP):

Algeria recalled its ambassador from Madrid in protest at Spain's decision to back a Moroccan autonomy plan for the disputed former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

A foreign ministry statement condemned the "abrupt about-turn" by Madrid, which had previously maintained neutrality in the decades-old conflict for the territory between Morocco and the Algerian-backed

Polisario Front independence movement.

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares backed a 2007 proposal by Morocco to offer Western Sahara autonomy under its sovereignty, describing it as the "most serious, realistic and credible basis" to end the long-running conflict.

"Completely stunned by the statements on the Western Sahara issue from the highest levels of

the Spanish government, and surprised by this abrupt about-turn from Western Sahara's former rulers, the Algerian authorities have decided to recall the ambassador to Madrid for consultations with immediate effect," the statement said.

The Polisario had already responded angrily to the statement from Albares, calling for political pressure to be put on Madrid for a change of heart.

Antarctica hits record temperatures due to climate change

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Eastern Antarctica has recorded exceptionally high temperatures this week, more than 30 degrees Celsius above normal, say experts.

The Concordia research base at Dome C of the Antarctic, which is at an altitude of 3,000 metres (9,800 feet), last week registered a record -11.5 degrees Celsius (11.3 Fahrenheit), Etienne Kapikian, a meteorologist from France-Meteo tweeted.

Normally, temperatures fall with the end of the southern summer, but the Dumont d'Urville station on



Two penguins stare amid high temperatures in Antarctica.

Antarctica registered record temperatures for March with 4.9C (40.82F), at a time of year when normally temperatures are already sub-zero. Gaetan Heymes of France-Meteo described the unseasonably mild weather as a "historic event". And

geoscientist Jonathan Wille wrote on Twitter: "And there it is, Concordia broke its all time record temperature by 1.5 degrees C."

"This is when temperatures should be rapidly falling since the summer solstice in December. "This is a Pacific Northwest 2021 heat wave kind of event," he added. "Never supposed to happen." The unprecedented temperatures come after the National Snow and Ice Data Center in the United States said Antarctica's sea ice fell below two million square kilometres (772,204 sq miles) in late February for the first time since 1979.

North Korea fires artillery into sea days after missile launch

Seoul, Mar 20 (AP):

North Korea fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after the North's latest missile launch ended in failure amid the country's recent burst of weapons testing activity.

There is speculation that North Korea could soon try to launch its developmental longest-range ballistic missile to bolster its arsenal and dial up pressure on the United States to wrest concessions as negotiations remain stalled.

South Korea's military suggested North Korea's

midair missile explosion last Wednesday involved parts of the Hwasong-17 missile, its biggest weapon. On Sunday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said it detected firings likely from multiple rocket launch systems off North Korea's west coast.

The ministry said the military closely monitors North Korean moves and maintains its readiness.

South Korea's presidential office said in a separate statement it held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss what it called the North's short-range projectile launches.

Freud 'mad' president and century of European diplomacy

Paris, Mar 20 (AFP):

Finding a lost manuscript by Sigmund Freud has caused a French historian to revisit a key moment in European diplomacy 100 years ago that reverberates today as war returns to the continent. "Le President est-il de-

venu fou?" (Has the president gone mad?) by Patrick Weil takes a fresh look at US president Woodrow Wilson (1913-21), who helped forge the Treaty of Versailles after World War I and tried to establish lasting peace through the creation of the League of Nations.

Wilson, of course, failed: the treaty's harsh conditions on Germany created resentment that helped fuel the rise of the Nazis. Nor could he convince his colleagues in Washington to approve the treaty — it was never ratified by the US, dooming the League of Nations at birth.

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ICMR-DHR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

One of the major mandates of ICMR and DHR is to augment capacity strengthening of Indian scientists. This ICMR-DHR international fellowship programme is intended to create a pool of talented health research personnel by facilitating advanced training and exposure to the latest advancements in knowledge through interaction with the international scientists in emerging areas of clinical/medicine/health sciences.

I. Short Term International Fellowships for Senior Indian Biomedical Scientists
Duration of Fellowships: Two weeks to 3 months
Number of Fellowships: Twenty five (25) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 57 years as on last date of receipt of application

II. Long Term International Fellowships for Young Indian Biomedical Scientists
Duration of Fellowships: 6 to 12 months
Number of Fellowships: Forty (40) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 45 years as on last date of receipt of application

Applications should be submitted online through the website ICMR/DHR: www.icmr.nic.in; www.dhr.gov.in. Details of the eligibility; format, of application, terms and conditions, and guidelines of the programme are available on ICMR and DHR websites.

Last date of receipt of applications: 15th May, 2022

*The selected Fellows will only be permitted to undertake the foreign visit to avail fellowship, subject to the Gol guidelines and necessary clearance on international travel in the near future.

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Happiness lessons

The World Happiness Report 2021 has been released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country. India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the list of UN World Happiness Report 2021. In 2019, India was ranked 140th. India saw a marginal improvement in its happiness ranking, jumping up three spots to 136. It was ranked at 139 in last year's World Happiness Report. The World Happiness Report ranks countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The World Happiness Index is based on two key ideas happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in an apparent jibe at the Centre over the country's ranking in the latest World Happiness Report, said India would soon top hate and anger charts. Although India improved its position in the list compared to last year, it ranks lower than its neighbours such as China, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan. India has to look at overall policies being implemented in the happiest nation of Finland. The central, state and local level administration and civil society in India shall learn lessons from experience of Finland and try to emulate some aspects. In a nutshell, the population of Finland, more than any other on Earth at the moment, realises that what it has, what it is living with, each individually and collectively is very good. The expectations of Finnish people are realistic. They are also aware of what they have achieved in so many spheres of life. It is not just educational achievement but, more importantly, in health, where, a few years ago, Finland recorded the lowest infant mortality the world has ever known.

There are fewer grieving parents in Finland than anywhere else, per capita. Finland scores in the top three, usually being the top one, in more than 100 similar social statistics. But the Finns are not smug or complacent. Neither life satisfaction, positive emotions nor absence of depression are enough for happiness. Instead, something more is required as one has to experience one's life as meaningful. The Finnish tendency to downplay one's own happiness and the norm against too much public display of joy might actually make Finns happier. This is because social comparison seems to play a significant role in people's life satisfaction. If everybody else is doing better than a person, it is hard to be satisfied with one's own life conditions, no matter how good they objectively are. By not displaying, let alone exaggerating, their own happiness, Finns might help each other to make more realistic comparisons, which benefits everybody's happiness. In case of India, a reasonable explanation for the puzzle is that India's people expect better, and they are feeling disappointed. The idea of rising expectations is a familiar one in the Indian context, and it is difficult to think of any other explanation, though increasing inequality and feelings of injustice or unfairness are also plausible contributing factors. Until India gets better leadership, its citizens may continue to be less happy than the data might predict. The quest for happiness is closely tied to the quest for sustainable development which is a combination of social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The growing wealth disparity in India, where a small class enjoys all the luxuries and comfortable life in a bubble, while majority of people have to live with hard economic and social constraints. No welfare scheme can raise happiness, if citizens witness such disparity.

Gains from capital

Centre is expected to revamp the capital gains tax structure in the next budget to augment revenue collections and boost spending on welfare scheme. According to the proposal, which is reportedly being studied in the finance ministry, the central government's philosophy is that passive income earned from the capital market should not be taxed at a lower rate than income earned from doing business, which involves taking entrepreneurial risks and job creation. The government wants to boost revenue from the capital market to support welfare activities. Currently, long-term capital gains (LTCG), which was introduced with effect from 1 April 2019, on listed equities held for more than a year is taxed at 10 percent on profits above a threshold of Rs 1 lakh. On the other hand, short-term capital gains on listed equities held for less than a year is taxed at 15 percent. Equity shares or units of equity-oriented mutual funds held for more than 12 months are considered long-term, while house property held for 24 months is considered a long-term capital asset. Most of the long-term capital gain from equities in FY-20 was made by people earning Rs 50 lakh and more, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj had said, highlighting that the tax introduced in Finance Act of 2018 on long term capital gain has served as a fair tax.

The government has done some groundwork comparing the capital gains tax regime in India and in other countries and is keen to revamp the regime to make it simpler. At an estimate of Rs 80,000 crore of taxes from capital gains, it implies almost 6.4 percent of the total direct tax collections of Rs 12.5 lakh crore were estimated in the revised stats for 2021-22. Capital gains taxes are a small part of all taxes on saving and investment. Even that modest gain could be erased if the long-term capital gain tax rate is not raised as it increases the deficit, causing interest rates to rise. Whenever any such tinkering is brought about, there would be a segment of taxpayers who would stand as gainers while there would be a segment who would lose out, compared to their present tax provision and that becomes the most difficult part. The idea that wealthy people will stop investing if they have to pay higher tax rates on their returns is absurd.

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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

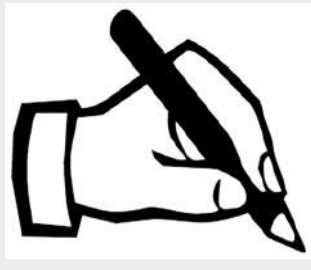
KASHMIRI MUSTARD BLOOM



A view shows mustard fields bloom on the outskirts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Ineffective treaty helped Russia's nuclear threat escalate

JOELIEN PRETORIUS



Russia's nuclear blackmail is prompted by a flawed treaty and ambivalence by nuclear weapon states towards nuclear disarmament. The invasion of Ukraine saw Russia's nuclear forces put on high alert by President Vladimir Putin on the fourth day of fighting. Telling the world that Russia is "today one of the most powerful nuclear states", the rhetoric and activity goes against the spirit of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the document that forms the foundation of international nuclear governance. Using nuclear weapons to deter or compel action is effectively holding humanity at ransom, blackmail of the nuclear kind. Nuclear armed states like Russia have the power to do this partly because of weaknesses embedded in the NPT and how nuclear weapon states have chosen to interpret it over the past 50 years. Of particular relevance to the current crisis are nuclear sharing arrangements. These see nuclear weapon states stationing their arms on the territory of their non-nuclear allies. As long as they retain custodianship and control over the weapons, this is seen as legal under one interpretation of the NPT.

The most recent referendum in Belarus voted to lift the country's non-nuclear status and allow Russia to station weapons on its soil. This decision comes in the context of unresolved problems with nuclear sharing arrangements: NATO stations nuclear weapons in Turkey, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, despite criticism from non-nuclear weapon states and Russia since 2015. Putin is not the first leader to bring nuclear weapons into a conflict: the US and Soviet Union did so on several occasions during the Cold War. US President George Bush did not raise the nuclear alert levels during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, but implied that the US could use nuclear arms if Iraqi forces used chemical or biological weapons. The NPT, inked in 1968, was premised on a proposal that disarmament negotiations would be better served if nuclear weapons were contained to as few states as possible. It's one of the most ascribed to treaties in history with only five non-member states (Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea and South Sudan).

The treaty has three pillars: non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use. Non-proliferation prevents the spread of nuclear weapons by distinguishing the countries that tested nuclear arms by 1967, the US, the Soviet Union (now Russia), China, the UK and France and the non-nuclear weapons states who had not. The former agree not to help other states obtain nuclear weapons, the latter agree not to acquire nuclear weapons. This arrangement entrenched power with the nuclear weapon states, but the pillars of nuclear disarmament and peaceful use helped make the NPT palatable for the other states. Nuclear disarmament is a commitment by all parties to negotiate in good faith for an end to the arms race and towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The peaceful use pillar assures non-nuclear weapon states that they will have access to nuclear technology for civilian industries, such as nuclear power, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the NPT is credited for reducing prolifer-

ation of nuclear weapons, some of its shortcomings are being highlighted during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nuclear deterrence, the fourth unacknowledged 'ghost pillar' of the NPT, as argued by Lyndon Burford is the asserted principle put forward by nuclear weapon states and their allies that these weapons are essential for defence, peace and stability by preventing coercion and deterring aggression. Although nuclear weapon states regularly make disarmament promises in the NPT forum, their perceived net security benefit from having nuclear weapons trumps their commitment to disarmament.

The problem is encapsulated by former US President Barack Obama's 2009 speech in Prague: the speech envisaged a world free of nuclear weapons, but also made clear that the US will possess nuclear weapons as long as they exist. NATO bases its identity as a nuclear alliance on the US policy that nuclear weapons are essential for its defence. Nuclear weapon states insist that their possession of nuclear weapons is a sovereign right and legal under the NPT. There are still almost 13,000 nuclear weapons in existence, despite the US and Russia dramatically decreasing their stockpiles after the Cold War. Disarmament seems to be reversing: nuclear weapon states are modernising their arsenals and some are increasing their warheads, renewing the nuclear arms race. Many of the bilateral nuclear arms control treaties between the US and Russia have been scrapped, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Broader confidence building agreements, such as the Treaty on Open Skies, have been abandoned. One of the last remaining nuclear arms control treaties, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (or New START), is at risk. It was designed to put limits on nuclear weapons deployed by Russia and the US. Many civil society

organisations in favour of nuclear abolition, and many non-nuclear weapon states, interpret the disarmament obligation in the NPT to mean irreversible elimination of all nuclear arms. Those in favour of total abolition believe the risk of nuclear weapons being used is present as long as they exist.

The world has come very close to nuclear war, miscalculation and accidents have happened, and the fact that there has not been a major nuclear disaster since 1945 is basically down to 'luck'. Stalling disarmament under the NPT has led non-nuclear weapon states to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, informally known as the 'ban treaty'. Adopted in 2017 and entered into force in 2021, the ban treaty closes all the disarmament loopholes in the NPT and shifts the focus from deterrence to the humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. Many ban treaty proponents see it as a compatible way to fulfil the NPT's disarmament obligation by making nuclear weapons illegal for all states rather than a replacement. Nuclear weapon states and some of their allies feel otherwise, and declined to participate in negotiations. Some actively discouraged its adoption and ratification, stating that the ban treaty has no legal bearing over them. Ban treaty supporters point to its broad-based civil society participation process, and the record time it took to enter into force. They say ongoing engagement with the treaty sends a strong signal to nuclear weapon states to take their disarmament obligation seriously. It is hoped that this may light a path to preventing nuclear risks of the kind now seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, or something even worse.

(Joelien Pretorius is associate professor at the University of Western Cape in South Africa.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tectonic surprises

AAP party's thumping majority in Punjab is a welcome step and is a good sign of matured democracy in India. There are numbers of challenges before the party and the party has to show its performance meticulously. CM has declared on taking the charge that maximum efforts will be taken so that youth may not have to go to abroad to find the jobs in foreign countries. Photographs of son and daughter of CM had today published who had come from USA to attend the swearing in ceremony and as per maxim that "Charity begins at home". CM should recall the family from abroad and get them settled in Punjab. Seven Rajyasabha members will be nominated from Panjab and it will be a challenge for the party.

We are aware that PM Modi during the Parliament election in 2014 had won the election only on the basis of his achievements in Gujarat and the same may happen in case of Kejriwal. Due to this reason, Kejriwal will show the performance of Punjab State and Delhi. AAP is contesting the elections continually in other States too, so that the party may be registered as All India Party and the party has decided to contest the assembly elections in HP and Gujarat which will be held within six months.

There are many other burning issues of the Punjab which demand immediate solutions to their need-based problems such as unemployment, drugs and trend of going to foreign countries for education, burden of debt on state, existence of Mafias in various fields, deep rooted corruption in every department etc. People of the State have rejected the traditional parties and they have very high hopes from AAP. The sand has shifted and the powerful have been routed and even before taking oath many newly elected legislators have hit the ground running, visiting hospitals and schools as well as police stations and electricity offices. The plethora of promises in the face of state's precarious financial condition would require special delivery skills. Though the opposition's presence will not be strong yet they will lose any occasion to criticise the party.

Political opponents have been quick to criticise the decisions to hold a victory roadshow in Amritsar and a mega event for the CM's swearing-in at Khatkar Kalan, but though every new government deserves a shot at celebration after a hard toil, a party like AAP that swears by loftier ideals needs to be mindful of the public sentiment that wants little of the same old thing. A mandate such as this is a testament to what a party inspires in voters, but also of their aspirations and expectations. Good luck to AAP.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Manu@KhajuriaManu

Started with Granddaddy Sheikh Abdullah who launched a virulent campaign against Dogras and played the communal card. In this pic he sits in a room full of #Dogra heritage. The fly looted & made sure the glorious Dogra history was erased from people's consciousness.

Aniruddha@malpani

It's surprisingly hard being a philanthropist. People think I have a hidden agenda when I try to promote homeschooling! How could I possibly benefit by doing this? I wonder why they are so suspicious about motives! Can't I be altruistic because I enjoy it?



Akshat@Akshat_World

30% LTCG tax on equities is being proposed in India. Rationale: developed nations have a higher capital gains tax. Problem: less than 4% people invest in stock markets in India. Our capital markets are still quite new. Poor taxation will kill it in a nascent stage.

Virat Kohli@imVkohli

The Earth has music for those who listen.



Hindol@HindolSengupta

I am reading Gita Mehta's Raj and she notes that in the colonial period Indians were not allowed into many govt offices in Indian clothes. Even today this sartorial hierarchy continues as Indians blindly torture themselves in 'corporate' wear completely unsuited to our climate.



SukhieBrar@BrarSukhie

I have to say one thing: I have neither been asked for nor have given any bribe to anyone in these last 6 years. There are enough honest, straight forward people within the system. From the lowest to the highest levels. They need to be appreciated.

Shivam Vj@DillidurAst

India's massive unemployment crisis can be solved in one generation simply by introducing English medium education for the poor in government schools. English for the rich and Hindi for the poor is India's greatest crime against the poor.

BRIEF

Growth



New Delhi: Lexus is now looking to chart its next phase of growth in India as it looks to consolidate sales network and drive in new models, including fully electric cars, Lexus India President Naveen Soni told PTI, that it is now at cusp of sustainable growth.

Exports

Kochi: Amid the havoc created by the pandemic for the past two years, the Infopark here reported an increase in software exports by an impressive 21 per cent in financial year 2020-21 and created over 2,000 job opportunities. In the last financial year, a total of 88 new companies started operations with an allotment of 1,57,602 square feet space, Kerala State IT Parks CEO John M Thomas said, adding that workforce increased.

Difficult



New Delhi: Venture capitalist firms that do not have women in decision-making positions find it difficult to understand a women-centric business. Nykaa CEO Adwaita Nayar said that the founders of her company approached several investors but were rejected.

Prepayment

New Delhi: Homegrown steel major JSPL on Sunday said its subsidiary in Mauritius has made a prepayment of USD 357 million to lenders. The prepayment will help clear the entire debt on Jindal Steel & Power (Mauritius) (JSPML). Over the past three years, JSPL said, it has been able to reduce its overseas debt from USD 1.8 billion to USD 130 million.

Plans



Mumbai: Smartr Logistics MD CEO Yogesh Dhingra told PTI that it is looking to enter into fast-growing third-party logistics (3PL) business from next year and plans to set up 15 fulfillment centres as well as some big warehousing facilities at select locations.

Co-working

Kochi: Catering to aspirations of the new crop of employees and employers, especially in the post-pandemic phase, leading co-working space provider SpazeOne has launched its first centre in Kerala at a mall here.

FMCG makers to go for around 10% price hike

To mitigate inflationary pressures

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Consumers may have to pay more for their daily essential items with FMCG companies mulling another round of price hike to offset the impact of an unprecedented level of inflation in commodity prices such as wheat, palm oil and packaging materials.

Besides, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has also added another blow to FMCG makers as they expect a rise in the prices of wheat, edible oil and crude. Companies such as Dabur and Parle are watching the situation and will undertake calibrated price increases to mitigate the inflationary pressures. According to some media reports, makers such as HUL and

Nestle have increased the prices of food products last week. "We are expecting a 10-15 per cent hike by the industry," Parle Products Senior Category Head Mayank Shah told PTI.

Shah further noted that the prices are witnessing high fluctuation and hence it would be difficult to tell about the exact increase due to volatility of price. The price of palm oil had

increased to Rs 180 per litre and now has come down to Rs 150 per litre. Similarly, crude oil prices had risen to nearly USD 140 a barrel and has now slipped below USD 100 per barrel, he added.

"However, it is still higher than what it was earlier," Shah said, adding that the companies are also hesitant in taking price increases significantly because demand was reviv-

ing after COVID and they do not want to tinker with that. Last time, the makers did not take the price hike to completely mitigate the impact and had absorbed some part of that. "Everybody is currently talking about a price hike of 10-15 per cent, although the input cost has gone much more than that," he said. When asked as to whether Parle would also go for a hike, Shah said right now it has enough stock of packaging materials and other stocks and would take a decision after a month or two on this. Expressing similar thoughts, Dabur India Chief Financial Officer Ankush Jain said inflation remains unabated and is a cause of concern for the second year in a row.

Govt working on cryptocurrency classification under GST law

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



The government is working on classification of cryptocurrency as goods or services under the GST law, so that tax can be levied on the entire value of transactions. Currently, 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied only on service provided by crypto exchanges and is categorised as financial services. GST officers are of the view that cryptos, by nature, are similar to lottery, casinos, betting, gambling, horse racing, which have 28 per cent of GST on the entire value. Besides, GST at 3 per cent is levied on the entire transaction value in case of gold. "There is a clarity needed in regard to levy of

GST on cryptocurrencies and whether it has to be levied on the entire value. We are seeing whether cryptocurrencies can be classified as goods or services and also removing any doubt on whether it can be called an actionable claim," an official said. Another official said that if the GST is levied on the en-

tire transaction of cryptocurrencies then the rate could be in the range of 0.1 to 1 per cent. "Discussions are in a nascent stage on the rate of tax, whether it would be 0.1 per cent or 1 per cent. First a decision on classification will have to be finalised and then rate will be discussed," the official told PTI.

Stamp duty, registration fee mop-up crosses Rs 1 lakh cr

In 8 months of FY-22

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):



Led by Maharashtra, the cumulative revenue collection from stamp duty and registration fee of all the states jumped to Rs 1,00,100 crore for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, which for the entire FY21 was Rs 1,27,700 crore, according to a report. An analysis of state-wise data by Motilal Oswal Financial Services showed that the average monthly collection by 28 states stood at Rs 12,500 crore during the reporting period of April-November 2021, which is slightly lower than Rs 12,800 crore in the pre-pandemic days. But, the monthly average is higher than Rs 10,600 crore recorded in FY21. The report did not offer a

comparative number for the same eight months period of FY21 when the country was hit with the pandemic. Thanks to Mumbai and Pune, Maharashtra recorded the highest collection of Rs 17,097 crore, contributing 17.1 per cent of the total collection during the period, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with Rs 12,800

crore, Rs 8,700 crore and Rs 8,400 crore, respectively, as per the analysis. In FY21, Maharashtra's collection stood at Rs 25,427 crore or 19.9 per cent of the national total, followed by Uttar Pradesh at Rs 16,475 crore or 12.9 per cent of the total, Tamil Nadu Rs 11,675 crore or 9.1 per cent, Karnataka 10,576 crore or 8.3 per cent, Telangana Rs 5,243 crore

or 4.1 per cent, Gujarat 7,390 crore or 5.8 per cent, Haryana 5,157 or 4 per cent.

Madhya Pradesh collected 6,760 crore or 5.3 per cent of the national mop-up in FY21, Bengal Rs 5,527.6 crore or 4.3 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 5,603.3 crore or 4.4 per cent, Rajasthan Rs 5,297.3 crore or 4.1 per cent, Bihar Rs 4,206.3 crore or 3.3 per cent, and Kerala Rs 3,489.6 crore or 2.7 per cent.

Other states had under Rs 3,000 crore collection or less than 3 per cent of the national share.

According to Nikhil Gupta, the chief economist at the brokerage, the residential real estate sector has bounced back strongly since the second half of FY21, and it continues to perform well in FY22.

Govt plans to merge BBNL with BSNL this month

BSNL given chance to become strategic asset

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



PK Purwar

The government is planning to merge Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with the loss-making state-run telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) this month, a senior official has said.

BSNL chairman and managing director PK Purwar at a recent event organised by the All India Graduate Engineers and Telecom officers Association (AIGETOA) said that the government is giving the telecom firm an opportunity for a turnaround. "The government has taken a policy decision that BBNL is going to be

merged into BSNL. This means all work of BBNL at the pan-India level is going to come to BSNL," Purwar said at the All India Conference of AIGETOA on March 13. Referring to his meeting with the union telecom

minister, Purwar said he had an hour-long meeting to this effect.

BSNL already has a network of over 6.8 lakh kilometer of optical fibre cable (OFC) network.

With the proposed merger, BSNL will get 5.67 lakh kilometer of optical fibre which has been laid across 1.85 lakh village panchayats in the country using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Special purpose vehicle (SPV) BBNL was formed in February 2012, to lay out optical fibre network across 2.5 lakh village panchayats across the country using USOF and provide its access to all telecom operators on a non-discriminatory basis.

NMDC creates history with 40 Million Tonnes (MT) iron ore production

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



Mining major NMDC became the first company in the country to cross 40 million tonnes (MT) iron ore production in a year. From a production of 4 MTPA in the late 1960s to 40 million tonnes now, the growth trajectory of the largest iron ore producer of the country has been exceptional. Starting from 4 million tonnes in 1969-70, NMDC crossed 10 million tonnes in 1977-78, added another ten million by 2004-05, crossed 30 million tonnes within a decade and has now breached the 40 million mark. Keeping pace with the constant surge in the domestic iron ore demand, the company has been rolling out ambitious expansion plans and capex outlay in pursuit of enhanced production. In recent times, NMDC has adopted cutting-edge tech-

nology and built a transformational digital infrastructure to overcome Covid induced slowdowns and the cyclical volatilities in the sector. Growing from scale to strength, the company has achieved the milestone of 40 million tonnes iron ore production on the back of steady fundamentals and a visionary workforce. Congratulating the team on the historic achievement, Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC said, "NMDC's ground-breaking achievement of be-

coming the first iron ore mining company in India to cross 40 MT is an illustrious display of its ability to accept challenges despite all odds. The company's perseverance and consistency has paid off and I congratulate the team for this historic accomplishment. I am confident that we will continue to cross many more milestones on our way to fulfil Nation's vision of #Atmanirbhar Bharat. This achievement also shows that we are on the track to become a 100 MTPA company by 2030."

ESAF celebrates 30th anniversary

Hyderabad, Mar 20:



ESAF Small Finance Bank, a leading social bank celebrated the 30th anniversary of ESAF, which started as an NGO in 1992. District Collector Haritha V Kumar IAS inaugurated the function at ESAF Bhavan, Mannuthy. K. Paul Thomas, ESAF Founder and MD & CEO ESAF Bank delivered the Founder's Day Message. P.R. Ravi Mohan, Chairman, ESAF Bank presided over the event. Adv. K. Rajan, Minister of Revenue delivered the felicitation message. Speaking on the occasion K. Paul Thomas said, "32 percent of our branches are located in unbanked rural areas. We have around five million women borrowers across India. ESAF has always been a lending support to

small entrepreneurs and self-help groups for empowering women. ESAF has also set up schools and hospitals for rural communities. Besides the success of business, social commitment makes us more satisfying. We are on a journey of fulfilling our vision of reducing social inequality in the society." The book 'Joyful Stories of Transformation', which

showcased selected success stories of ESAF, was released by Mereena Paul, Chairperson and MD, ESAF Financial Holdings by presenting the same to Anne Wang, Director, Opportunity International Australia. The Mahila Housing Loan Scheme was launched by Dr. V.A. Joseph, Director, ESAF Bank and George K. John, Executive Vice President.

Vinod Vasudhevan, Alex George, C. P. Mohanan, Saneesh Singh, Directors, ESAF Bank, M. G. Ajayan, George Thomas, Executive Vice Presidents, ESAF Bank, Idicheria Ninan, President, ESAF Foundation, Alok Thomas Paul, MD, CEDAR Retail and Saleena George, Chairman, ESAF Cooperative also spoke on the occasion.

Russia-Ukraine tussle, COVID in China major drivers for markets

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Stock markets will be guided by global factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID-19 situation in China and crude oil prices in absence of major domestic events this week, analysts said.

Stock markets are expected to keep their winning momentum this week as FIIs may come back aggressively fuelling a further rally in the market, they added.

"In absence of any major event, global cues viz the Russia-Ukraine war, the COVID situation in China and movement of crude will remain in focus. Besides, participants will be also eyeing FIIs flow for cues," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Tata AIA Life delivers strong business performance

Mumbai, March 20:

Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA Life), one of India's fastest growing life insurers, has reported an Individual Weighted New Business Premium (IWNBP) of INR 1,193 Crore for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 44% compared to INR 831 Crore garnered for the third quarter of 2020-21.

For the nine-month period ending December 2021, the Company registered a growth of 32% with an IWNBP income of INR 2,786 Crore, as compared to INR 2,110 Crore for the same period of the previous financial year.

The Total Premium Income for FY22 Q3 increased to INR 3,652 crores as compared to INR 2,766 Crore, a growth of

32%. Total premium income increased to INR 8,907 crores for the nine-month period ending December 2021, as against INR 7,035 Crore in the same period in FY21, a growth of 27%.

Tata AIA Life strengthened its pre-eminence in the Retail Protection business with an 89% growth in Q3 FY22. Tata AIA was the leader in Retail sum assured among private life insurers. The Retail sum assured for Q3 FY22 is INR 102,520 Cr, a growth of 148% over the same period last year and a market share of 25.4% against 13.1%.

The Company continued to deliver robust Persistency growth. For the FY22 Q3, the Company registered a 13th Month Persistency ratio of 86.68%, an increase from 85.38% for the same period of the previous financial year.

Gold ETFs log Rs 248 cr outflow in Feb

As investors prefer equity funds

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):



Gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) witnessed a net outflow of Rs 248 crore in February, making it the second consecutive month of withdrawals as investors preferred equities over other segments on record SIP flows. Net outflows from the gold ETFs were at Rs 452 crore in the month of January. Prior to that, the asset class had seen a net investment of Rs 313 crore, according to the data of Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). Despite the outflows, the category witnessed an increase in net assets under management (AUM) of gold ETFs to Rs 18,727 crore at the end of

February from Rs 17,839 crore in January-end. Also, the segment saw a surge in the number of folios by 3.09 lakh to 37.74 lakh during the period under review. This move could be directed towards gold assets being considered as a tool for diversification of the portfolio by the investors and a hedge against market volatility, Priti Rathil Gupta, Founder, LXME, said. She attributed the latest outflow from gold ETFs to two factors — investors could

be diverting their investments from gold instruments to equity as a portfolio rebalancing strategy due to the attractive returns garnered by the equity markets. Also, investors view this market correction as an opportunity to enter the markets.

"Secondly, given the rise in prices of gold, traders may have booked the profits and exited their trades for managing their margin money for trade in other asset classes," she added. Kavitha Krishnan, Senior

Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said that investors have almost always favoured gold as an asset that can be used to mitigate risks and diversify their investments. Over time, the rising prices of gold and the increasing appeal around the commodity has led to a lot of investors choosing to invest in gold ETFs. However, the category has been witnessing outflows for a second month in a row. "With equities garnering the most flows and SIP (systematic investment plan) touching record highs, investors seem to prefer this segment over the others, including gold ETFs. Moreover, investors also seem to be booking profits by redeeming their investments, given the uptick in gold prices," she added.

'Woh Toh Hai Albela' takes off with a puja before grand launch

Gearing up for the premiere of Star Bharat's upcoming release of 'Woh Toh Hai Albela', producer Rajan Shahi follows all the rituals to ensure good fortune to the show.

The show, 'Woh Toh Hai Albela' is scheduled to air 14th March onwards on Star Bharat. Keeping up with tradition, the producer organised for a Puja and havan on the sets of the show itself with the entire cast and crew to ensure Star Bharat and the show's grand success. Talking about the plan to visit these places Anuj says,

"The cast and crew went to four places, Rajan Shahi always does this. During covid this wasn't very feasible. He lets the cast choose where to join after making a schedule for when they will reach which spot. It has been a nice way to send a message of unity. I firmly believe in Shiv Ji.

These places are often visited by people to feel sure about what they are doing and this is something that has helped me too. I believe that these kinds of visits help us in the long run. We went to Haji Ali, Siddhivinayak,

Mahim church and the Gurudwara in fort." The series has been drawing attention for its storyline surrounding brotherhood and family and the popular actors in the cast.

Starring in lead roles in the show are Indian Heartthrobs Shaheer Sheikh, Anuj Sachdeva, Kinshuk Vaidya and the gorgeous Hiba Nawab along with various others.

Stay tuned for more details and behind the scenes from the sets of Star Bharat's 'Woh Toh Hai Albela'!



Anushka Sharma steps away from her production company to focus on acting

Anushka Sharma has stepped away from Clean Slate Filmz (CSF), a production banner that she co-founded with her brother Karnesh Ssharma in the year 2013. The actress shared the news of her departure from the production company through social media on Saturday.

The actress wants to commit her time to the craft of acting and this decision allows her to dedicate her time and resources to her first love which is acting. The move makes Karnesh the sole decision maker and places him at the helm of affairs at Clean Slate Filmz. Taking to her Instagram, Anushka shared a long note as she wrote in the caption, "Onwards and Upwards @kans26 @officialcsfilms! My best wishes are always with you!!" The actress shared in the long note, "When I started Clean Slate Filmz with my brother Karnesh

Ssharma, we were novices when it came to production but we had a fire in our belly and we wanted to try and set the agenda of entertainment in India through clutter-breaking content. Today, when I look back at our journey so far, I'm deeply proud of what we have created and the disruption that we have managed to achieve." Mentioning the reason behind this decision, she said, "While CSF started with my vision to change the narrative of what commercial projects should be like, I have to credit Karnesh who has excelled in shaping what CSF has become today. Being a new mother who has chosen to be an actor by profession, I have to balance my life in an entirely new fashion like never before." She continued, "So, I have decided that whatever time I have at hand, I will dedicate it to my first love, acting! Therefore, I have decid-

ed to step away from CSF, confident that the most able person, Karnesh, is taking forward the vision with which it was created in the first place." Anushka gave her best wishes to Karnesh maintaining that the production house will go from strength to strength under Karnesh's leadership. She added, "I will continue to be the biggest cheerleader for Karnesh and CSF and hope to be a part of many clutter-breaking projects that would be produced by CSF.

I can't wait to see how he grows the company from strength to strength with the stellar line up of projects that he has handpicked, nurtured and given life to. My best wishes to the entire family at CSF. Love you all!" For Anushka, the single point of focus is her acting career now she returns to the movies with 'Chakda Xpress' after her pregnancy.



Rashmi Desai opens up on her latest track 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'

Popular television actress Rashmi Desai seems quite excited for her latest Holi song 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'. She can be seen twirling in the track in a traditional attire. The song is based on the mythological significance of the festival revolving around Lord Krishna's reunion with Radha. Rashmi says: "Holi is by far the most fun-filled festival in our country. And the history backing this energetic festival is all hearts." "Rarely anyone has tapped in on the story behind Holi in Holi songs and to be part of something so spiritual and creative is a great opportunity for me. I am thrilled to be in a song so close to Lord Krishna's sojourn of love," she adds. 'Biraj Mein Jhoom' is sung by Anuradha Palakurthi Juju, music by Salim Sulaiman and Bappa Lehri and produced by Juju production.

Some occasions are worth celebrating, especially when Indian television's most endearing family completes 300 episodes. Throughout this journey, Wagle ki Duniya has been consistent with capturing thoughtful storylines which revolve around the everyday life of a common man, his family and how they navigate through the challenges in the most unique ways.

Launched as a modern-day rendition of the 80's sitcom created by RK Laxman; the show has managed to resonate with audiences. From Rajesh Wagle's (Sumeet Raghavan) ingenious ideas to manage day-to-day adventures to the level headedness of his warm-hearted wife Vandana (Pariva Pranati) the antics of their kids Sakhi (Chinmayee Salvi) and Atharva (Sheehan Kapahi) and the Senior Wagles, Srinivas (Aanjan Srivastav) and Radhika (Bharati Achrekar), it has been a delight to watch them maneuver through their daily lives and support each other.

Over the last 300 marvelous episodes, Wagle Ki Duniya, in its humor and subtlety has touched upon several topical issues and life experiences that induce inspiration and relatability. The show has not shied away to speak on period taboo, good touch - bad touch, work-life balance, women empowerment, and continues to do so in the most unique ways. Rajesh Wagle and his family are a part of our everyday life now and there is no denying that we are all deeply attached to the show. As they celebrate the completion of 300 episodes, we are more than excited to look forward to

'Wagle Ki Duniya' completes 300 glorious episodes!

what the show has in store for us in future. Keep watching Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kissey, Mon - Sat at 9 PM only on Sony SAB!



Samantha's stunts in 'Yashoda' to raise the bar higher

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is getting ready for her upcoming movie 'Yashoda', in which she will perform some difficult stunts. Yannick Ben, a Hollywood stuntman, has been brought in to train and choreograph stunts for the 'Oh Baby' actress. Samantha, who had earlier worked with Yannick Ben for popular web series 'The Family Man 2', has come together with the stunt coordinator for another time. Touted to be a thriller, 'Yashoda' will have Samantha essaying a titular role, for which she will now perform a few stunts. The excited actress posed with her stunt coordinator Yannick, as she begins for the high-octane sequences. 'Yashoda' is produced by debutant director duo Hari - Harish under Sridevi Movies. Produced by Sivalka Krishna Prasad, 'Yashoda' will have Tamil actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar in an important role as well. The makers of 'Yashoda' aim to release it in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi & Kannada simultaneously.

HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 21

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesh.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesh. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesh.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

It is likely that you will reach an important milestone in life today. Keep in mind that your success may be a cause of envy for a few people, some of whom may want to harm you. You are left with two choices: either try to help them out of their troubles and miseries, or prepare for a battle.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Easy come, easy go â€” that is the best way to sum up today. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesh, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

The whole point of being a Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesh feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain. But only you are capable of doing that, thanks to your extremely high-power status today.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Hagging will be a trait you have closeted today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your natural sensitivity and compassion are given a powerful impetus today by strong feelings of love and affection for everyone around you, Capricorn. Therefore, you're likely to give and receive a lot of expressions of affection, both overt and subtle.

CROSSWORD

245

ACROSS

- Watch face
- December 24 and 31
- Blouse
- Norway's capital
- Slang negative
- Creepy
- Bullring shouts
- Fizzy beverage
- Curtain
- Colonize again
- Hurry
- Earphones
- Naval rank (abbr.)
- Moon feature
- Laughing sound
- Slip through winter
- Fragrance
- Avoid capture
- Coolidge's nickname
- Foolish
- Moistens
- Self-assurance

DOWN

- Portal
- ___ of Capri
- Pub drinks
- Forfeit
- Oriental
- Fiddle's kin
- Concluded
- Train terminal (abbr.)
- Tranquilize
- That girl's
- Incensed
- Mature
- Adolescents
- Not here
- Obedy
- Ledge
- Enjoy gum
- Vex
- Border
- Williams and Kennedy
- Squirrel's treat
- Hosiery shade
- Singles
- Aykroyd and Rafter
- Previously
- Marsh grass
- Pagan gods
- Average grades
- From Rome
- Seas
- Get up
- Talks wildly
- Ocean currents
- The ones here
- Juliet's beloved
- Father
- Bangkok native
- Snaky swimmers
- Persia, now
- Bird's abode
- ___ Diego

SOLUTION 244

Sen enters final of All England Championships

Birmingham: World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen stunned defending champion Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia to reach his maiden final at the All England Championships here on Saturday. The 20-year-old Sen became only the third men's singles player after Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand to reach the final after outwitting Lee 21-13 12-21 21-19 in a gruelling semifinal match. Padukone and Gopichand are the only Indians to have won the prestigious event, while Saina Nehwal had reached the final in 2015. Sen has been in sensational form in the last six months as he secured his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January and then claimed a runner-up finish at the German Open last week.



Messi ruled out of PSG match at Monaco

Paris: Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's French league match at Monaco after experiencing flu-like symptoms over the past couple of days, his club said. Messi, who joined Paris Saint-Germain last summer, has been struggling throughout his first season in the French league. Before Sunday's trip to Monaco, Messi has scored just seven goals in 26 games in all competitions. It's a stark contrast compared to his figures from last season when he bagged 38 goals with Barcelona. In addition to the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, PSG will also be missing Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, Angel di Mar a, Juan Bernat, Layvin Kurzawa and Ander Herrera at the Stade Louis II.



Asia Cup Archery: India finish 2nd behind Bangladesh

Phuket: Indian archers clinched two gold and six silver medals to finish second behind Bangladesh in the overall standings of the Asia Cup World Ranking Stage 1 tournament here on Saturday. In a depleted field without South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan, India had stormed into seven out of 10 finals. But they fell short on expectations and choked under pressure losing five finals, either in tie-breakers or by slender margins under overcast conditions. Of the five losses, two were against neighbours Bangladesh, who finished atop the medal standings with three gold and one silver. The two gold came in recurve men's team and compound women's individual section where it was an all-Indian affair.

AC Milan wins 1-0 at Cagliari to maintain Serie A lead



Rome: Amid a tight race for the Serie A title, AC Milan is displaying more consistency than its rivals. On a night when defending champion Inter Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Fiorentina, Milan won 1-0 at relegation-threatened Cagliari to extend its unbeaten run to eight matches. Milan remained three points ahead of Napoli, which came from a goal down to beat visiting Udinese 2-1 earlier Saturday. On a rainy night in Sardinia, Ismael Bennacer scored with a long-distance volley for Milan near the hour mark. The goal was set up by Olivier Giroud, who failed to take advantage of a prime opportunity early on when he missed the target from close range. Also in the first half, Milan midfielder Franck Kessie hit the post from long range. Cagliari nearly equalized in the 90th with a shot from Leonardo Pavoletti that hit the crossbar. Milan won at Napoli two weeks ago, while Inter has gained only seven points from its last seven matches.

Rupan Debnath, Tamali Basu crowned winners of Kolkata Full Marathon

Kolkata: Ace long-distance runner Rupan Debnath added another feather to his crown by clinching the Ageas Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Full Marathon 2022 here on Sunday. Debnath recorded an impressive time of 2:42.39 on a hot morning on way to the title. Dulu Sarkar (2:46.31) and Nimesh Chettri (3:05.48) claimed the first and second runner-up positions. The women's full marathon was taken by local girl Tamali Basu (4:01.12) followed by Shruti Agarwal (4:39.15) and Prema Rajaram (5:07.27). The half marathon witnessed an intense battle, with over 2,000 runners lining up for a shot at the laurels. In the end, Sahinur Molla (1:14.02) emerged victorious. Rishikesh Chakraborty (1:15.58) and Prasant Ropal (1:16.01) followed close on his heels to take the other two positions on the podium. Among women, the 2020 winner, Sabina Khatun (1:42.03) grabbed the title again while Anita Das claimed the first runner-up position with 1:49.04. Priyanka Gupta (1:50.38) finished as second runner-up.

England keep SF hopes alive with neryv win over NZ

Auckland, Mar 20 (PTD):

Defending champions England huffed and puffed to a one-wicket win over hosts New Zealand in a league stage match to keep their semifinal hopes alive at the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Sunday.

Experienced middle-order batter Maddy Green top-scored for New Zealand with an unbeaten 52, while skipper Sophie Devine contributed 41 before England bowled out the hosts 203 at the Eden Park.

England pacer Kate Cross (3/35) and star spinner Sophie Ecclestone (3/41) shared six wickets between them, while spinner Charlie Dean (2/36), who took the pace off the ball in a solid performance, accounted for two batters.

All-rounder Natalie Sciver (61) then anchored the innings with a patient

half-century but the holders slipped from a comfortable 176 for five to 196 for nine in five overs to almost snatch defeat from a winning position.

Anya Shrubsole (7) and Charlie Dean (0) though held their nerves to take England past the finish line for their second win of the tournament.

By virtue of this win, England have managed to stay in the mix for a semi-final berth as they displaced New Zealand from the fifth position. India, England and New Zealand are all now on 4 points.

While India and England have two matches left to play New Zealand have one game in hand.

England's top order made an aggressive start to their chase of 204, backing the work of their spinners who held New Zealand to a modest total.

Openers Danni Wyatt fell to Jess Kerr for 12,



while Tammy Beaumont (25) was clean bowled by Lea Tahuhu (1/18).

Skipper Heather Knight raced to 42 runs of 53 balls before being adjudged leg before to Frankie Mackay in the 23rd over. Wicketkeeper Amy Jones (1) soon followed her captain.

Sciver then combined forces with Sophie Dunkley (33) to stitch a crucial 70-run partnership as England looked set for a win.

However, New Zealand bowlers managed to make a comeback with a flurry of wickets, intensifying

England's Anya Shrubsole and Charlie Dean celebrate victory over New Zealand in the Women's Cricket World Cup match, at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Sunday.

pressure on England.

Earlier put to bat, New Zealand seemed to be cruising towards a massive total at one point of time, with Devine scoring at will and Amelia Kerr (24) looking assured at the crease. However, Devine was forced to retire hurt with a back problem in the 15th over and Kerr holed out for 24 to become Charlotte Dean's (2/36) first victim as England fought back strongly during the middle overs. The experienced Amy Satterthwaite (24) and Green attempted to mount a fightback, but England, who have been sloppy in the field in their earlier matches, performed well in that area, effecting two run outs. Satterthwaite was trapped leg before by Dean and then the duo of Cross and Ecclestone cleared off the tail to dismiss the White Ferns in the penultimate over of

Nadal outlasts teen Alcaraz in 3 sets to go 20-0 this year



Indian Wells, Mar 20 (AP):

Rafael Nadal faced down the future and emerged victorious, outlasting Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the BNP Paribas Open final and improve to 20-0 this year.

The 21-time major champion threw his head back, smiled and raised both arms in triumph after escaping an aggressive Alcaraz. The 18-year-old never appeared rattled

playing his vaunted countryman, who had the crowd, a 17-year advantage in age and loads of experience in his favor.

Nadal's perfect record is the third-best start to a season since 1990.

Nadal staved off three break points on his serve in the fifth game of the third set and then broke Alcaraz with a forehand volley winner to go up 5-3. Nadal served out the match with a love game, punctuating the 3-hour, 12-

minute struggle with a 95-mph ace.

He will meet Taylor Fritz in the final Sunday. Seeded 20th, Fritz is the first American man to make the final since John Isner in 2012 and he'll try to be the first to win the title since Andre Agassi in 2001.

Fritz ended No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev's 13-match winning streak with a 7-5, 6-4 victory in the other semifinal. The Russian had won 13 consecutive matches since Feb. 14, including back-to-back titles at Marseille and Dubai.

After holding to go up 4-3 in the third, Nadal called for a trainer, who appeared to give the soon-to-be 36-year-old star a chiropractic adjustment.

Alcaraz outdueled Nadal in a second set that featured five service breaks, including four in a row.

Tied 4-all, Alcaraz broke Nadal in a game that lasted 19 minutes, 42 seconds. Nadal's errant forehand gave Alcaraz the advantage on the seventh break point of the game. The teenager tossed up a topspin lob near the baseline that Nadal could not catch up to and Alcaraz led 5-4. He served out the set, 6-4.

Permanent saliva ban not a big deal, says Cummins



Lahore, Mar 20 (PTD):

Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins says since the impact of precautionary prohibition on use of saliva for shining the ball was not as huge as anticipated, a permanent ban on its usage will not be a "big deal" for the seam bowlers.

Saliva application was

barred by the ICC in view of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2020.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of cricket laws, recently imposed a complete ban on the use of saliva while announcing its amended 2022 code, which will come into effect in October this year. The MCC reasoned that applying saliva had

no impact on the ball's movement, according to its research.

"I don't think so (permanent saliva ban will hamper the performance of the swing bowlers)," Cummins, himself a pacer, told reporters ahead of Australia's third Test against Pakistan.

Great that KKR have retained most of the squad

Cummins, who had become the most expensive foreign buy in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2019 when Kolkata Knight Riders bought him for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore, will turn out for the Kolkata-based outfit once again. "Really excited. It's been great that most of the squad has been able to keep together. So, most of the players and staff know really really well," he said.

KKR have named Indian batter Shreyas Iyer as skipper and having shared the dressing room with him in the 2017 edition of the IPL, Cummins is looked forward to joining forces with him once again. "Shreyas, I played with at Delhi (Daredevils), we got on really well. He's seem like a very calm guy and seems in form at the moment."

Saini eager to connect with Boult and discuss various aspects of fast bowling



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Indian quick Navdeep Saini is eager to observe Trent Boult "go about his business" and pick the New Zealand pace spearhead's brain in a bid to improve his game during his stint with the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL this season.

One of the fastest bowlers in the country currently, Saini will be an important cog in the Royals' newly forged fast bowling line-up alongside Boult.

I am most looking forward to connecting with Trent Boult during the

IPL. He is someone who has achieved so much in both international and IPL cricket, and it'll be a great experience to just speak to him about various aspects of fast bowling," Saini was quoted as saying in a release.

"I'll be most focused on observing him go about his business, and hopefully that should also help in improving my own game, added Saini, who has 17 wickets in the IPL at an economy of 8.47.

Having recently been a part of the Delhi squad during the league stage of the Ranji Trophy, where he picked up five wickets in two matches, the Karnal Express hopes to get better as he shifts his focus to the white-ball game, aiming to contribute and help the Royals. "I'm looking forward to working with the very experienced coaching group and a talented group of players. The Royals are known for fostering a fantastic atmosphere around the group, and I'm simply looking forward to experience that and connect with everyone and get going this season."

'Retained players have a responsibility to guide youngsters in the team'



Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTD):

Having bought a lot of new faces at the IPL mega auction this year, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting stressed that the players who have been retained by the franchise now have a responsibility to guide the youngsters in the team.

The Capitals had retained four players — skipper Rishabh Pant, opener Prithiv Shaw, spin all-rounder Axar Patel and South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje — ahead of the auction and the coach is trying his best to get to know the rest of the squad ahead of the league which begins on March 26.

"I have told the boys to keep their doors open when they are in their rooms and get to know each other. I am going to have breakfast, lunch and dinner with all the younger guys that I don't know," Ponting was quoted as saying in a media release.

"When you show love towards the younger guys as a coach or a senior player, you know that they are going to give it back."

"The guys who have been in the Delhi Capitals camp for a while definitely have the responsibility of guiding the youngsters in the team."

England leads West Indies by 136 as draw beckons in Barbados

Bridgetown, Mar 20 (API):

England led West Indies by 136 runs and was setting up a second declaration to try and force a result in the second test at Kensington Oval.

West Indies was finally bowled out for 411, trailing by 96 runs, and England openers Zac Crawley and Alex Lees added 40 without loss in 15 overs before bad light ended play on the fourth day. Last week in Antigua, England led by 153 into the final day and set West Indies a winning target of 286 in 71 overs. West Indies didn't take the bait and the test was safely drawn. England's strategy shouldn't change in Barbados, and neither should the end result on a similarly flat pitch.

West Indies captain and opener Kraigg Brathwaite frustrated England for a third straight day until he was out for 160 after nearly 12 hours. He started the day on 109 and his team on 288-4. Nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph supported him for 1 1/2 hours until he was dismissed by Ben Stokes for 19, the only wicket in the



Kraigg Brathwaite of West Indies celebrates his century.

morning session. Jason Holder was out to the second ball after lunch from a rash hack, giving England pacer Saqib Mahmood his first test wicket on debut. Brathwaite was handling the third new ball of his innings when he came forward to spinner Jack Leach, was beaten and heard his off stump rattled. The captain's 160 on his home ground came from 489 balls and included 17 boundaries.

HOLA MOHALLA FEST



Devotees spray perfume and shower flower petals on the Palki Sahib, which carries the Guru Garth Sahib, to mark the Hola Mohalla festival during a procession from the Golden Temple to Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, in Amritsar.

After Punjab, AAP eyes Congress-ruled Chh'garh

New Delhi, Mar 20:

After its landslide victory in Punjab, the AAP has now set its eyes on Chhattisgarh with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party deciding to contest the assembly polls in the tribal-dominated state next year. As part of the plan, senior AAP leader and Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai will on Sunday embark on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh to set in motion his party's preparations for the assembly elections in the state currently ruled by the Congress.

AAP's Purvanchal wing incharge and Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha will accompany Rai to Chhattisgarh. During his visit, Rai will

hold a series of meetings with AAP leaders and workers to chalk out the party's "action plan" for the upcoming assembly polls and also launch "a massive" membership drive in the state, a party leader said. He will inaugurate the party's state office in Raipur on Sunday.

On Monday, he will participate in a 'Vijay Yatra' (victory march), to be taken out by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Raipur, to mark the party's stupendous victory in Punjab and also to project itself as an alternative to the Congress and the BJP in Chhattisgarh, a party leader added. "This visit is to prepare our action plan

for the assembly polls next year. Through our Vijay Yatra, we will be sending out our party's message to the masses," Rai told PTI when asked about the purpose of his visit.

Rai, who is AAP's Delhi convenor, said the party has decided to contest the Chhattisgarh assembly polls next year as people of the state, especially youth and women, are disappointed with the Congress government and want a "change". "For 15 years, the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh after its formation as a separate state but it did not fulfil its promises. In the last assembly election, the people voted for change and gave their mandate to the Congress," he said.

Over 70,000 jobs up for grabs at mega employment fair

Chennai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Over 70,000 new jobs that were available in more than 500 leading companies are up for grabs at a mega employment fair inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin near here on Sunday.

Stalin presented job offers to 20 aspirants as part of kicking off the event that was held near the city and organised by the labour welfare and skill development department, an official release said.

Job aspirants from the city and also hailing from neighbouring Chengalppet, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts took

part in the programme in which more than 500 leading private companies were taking part.

"These companies have announced 73,950 vacancies and Chief Minister M K Stalin handed over appointment orders to 20 job seekers (as part of launching the event)," the release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Stalin said the vision of the DMK government was to create employment opportunities based on educational qualification and skill of a job aspirant.

"That is the objective of this government. That is why we are enhancing the school and college education, thereby, honing the

students skill enabling them get job offers based on their education," he said. The Chief Minister noted that soon after DMK assumed office in May 2021, 2,50,708 job seekers attended 36 mega job fairs and 297 job camps conducted by 5,708 companies.

"As many as 41,213 people received job offers of which 517 were persons with disabilities (PwD). I am happy to give away appointment orders during this job fair which is being conducted for the first time," he said.

The Chief Minister also requested his cabinet colleague and Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill

Development C V Ganesan to conduct such mega job fairs in all the districts of the state.

Stalin also appealed to candidates who have secured jobs in the fair to keep enhancing their skill levels so as to progress in their career. He also requested those candidates who have not received any job offers to develop necessary skills to get placed.

Referring to the 'Naan Muthalvan' (I am first) scheme launched by him earlier this month, he said such a scheme was launched with the initiative to hone the educational skills, knowledge, talent and efficiency of 10 lakh youth annually.

Udhampur (J&K), Mar 20 (PTI):

The Jammu and Kashmir administration intends to make the union territory a developed society free of terror and corruption, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday.

In his address at the attestation-cum-passing out parade of 636 newly recruited Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Subsidiary Training Centre here, Sinha lauded the role of the security forces for bravely facing various challenges, including infiltration attempts, and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from across the border. Jammu and Kashmir is full of diversity, which is our strength. We

have faced all the challenges successfully and our security forces are alert. They have played a pivotal role in building a new Jammu and Kashmir by thwarting the anti-national elements, Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor, who inspected the parade and took salute at the march past, said the decades-old terror ecosystem needs to be dismantled completely. We have continued our efforts to deal a decisive blow on corruption, terror financing, and terror ecosystem to make Jammu



Manoj Sinha

and Kashmir a developed society, free of corruption and fear. This is our target, he said. Sinha urged the fresh BSF recruits to live up to the tradition and expectation of the force and the people, and perform their duties with professionalism so that no enemy can violate the country's borders. Drug addiction is a big challenge as drugs are smuggled by Pakistan under a conspiracy. You have to play a big role to check the smuggling of drugs, he said. Congratulating the re-

cruits, Sinha said, You are fully capable and ready the country is witnessing that BSF is performing its duties in mountainous regions, plains, deserts and deep forests with great devotion and dedication. The force is bravely facing every danger to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The Lieutenant Governor said India has always desired to live with mutual harmony with its neighbours for peace but, We are ready to give a befitting response if someone wants to test us. Lauding the BSF, he said its motto of 'lifelong duty' is the identity card of its personnel. I am proud to be here among the brave soldiers of the force, he said.

BJP to stake claim to form govt in Goa today

Panaji, Mar 20 (PTI):

The BJP will meet the Goa governor on Monday and stake a claim to form the next government, state unit resident Sadanand Shet Tanavade said on Sunday. The much-awaited BJP legislature party meeting will also be held on Monday to select the leader of the House, who will be the next chief minister. "BJP president J P Nadda has informed that the legislature party meeting would be held on Monday after which party leaders will meet Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and stake a claim to form the next government." Tanavade told a press conference. The legislature party meeting will begin at 4 PM on Monday.

NMDC, IIT-Kharagpur ink pact for drone-based mineral exploration

New Delhi, Mar 20:

NMDC on Saturday said it has signed a pact with IIT-Kharagpur for exploration of minerals using drones. The MoU for 'drone-based mineral exploration' was signed virtually by the senior officials of NMDC and professors of IIT Kharagpur, the miner said in a statement. NMDC, under the Ministry of Steel, is into exploration of wide range of minerals such as iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten and beach sands etc. NMDC CMD Sumit Deb said, "NMDC would be the first CPSE in India to conduct drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration in the country." The tie up with IIT-Kharagpur, he said, will open a new chapter and set a benchmark in the field of mineral exploration for the nation.

HERITAGE RAILWAY TRACK



A toy train runs on the Kalka-Shimla heritage railway track, in Solan district, Sunday.

Uddhav rejects AIMIM alliance offer

Says it's part of BJP's game plan to defame Sena's Hindutva agenda

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI):

Asserting that Shiv Sena is a "Hindutvavadi" party, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday rejected AIMIM's offer for an alliance calling it a "conspiracy" by the opposition BJP to defame the Sena, which heads the Maha Vikas Aghahdi (MVA) government.

Thackeray, who heads Shiv Sena, virtually addressed a meeting of the party MPs and office-bearers here wherein he lashed out at BJP, the former ally of Sena, on Hindutva and other issues.

Who has sought an alliance with the AIMIM? This is a game plan and conspiracy of the BJP. The AIMIM and the BJP have a tacit understanding. The BJP has ordered the AIMIM to defame the Shiv



Uddhav Thackeray

Sena, to raise questions on Shiv Sena's Hindutva. Accordingly, the AIMIM leaders are making the offer of alliance, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut told reporters quoting Thackeray.

On Saturday, All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Imtiaz Jaleel caused a stir stating that his party can ally with the Shiv Sena-led MVA to prevent the BJP

from coming to power, evoking sharp reactions from Sena. The NCP and Congress, the other two partners in the MVA, had said the AIMIM must prove that it was a "like-minded" party and not the "BJP's B-team".

Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP, said the Sena will launch 'Shiv Sampark Mohim', a mass outreach programme, on March 22 in 19 districts across Vidarbha and Marathwada regions in Maharashtra on Thackeray's orders to dispel the confusion the BJP was trying to create about Sena on various issues.

Uddhav ji said Shiv Sena will never join forces with the AIMIM. The Shiv Sena president also said that his party had never been associated with and will never be associated with those who bow before the grave of Aurangzeb, Raut said.

With Mughal-style 'baradari' and flowers, President opens new 'heritage park'

New Delhi, Mar 20 (PTI):

Endowed with a Mughal-style 'baradari' and rich stocks of flowers, a new heritage-themed park near Jama Masjid in old Delhi was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday evening. In the first phase, an area of about 1.75 acres has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.65 crore, civic officials said.

The plot, which was earlier covered in filth, encroached from multiple sides and often used by anti-social elements, after months of hard labour and meticulous planning has been transformed into

a beautiful park, they said. Conceived in 2017, the park has been built with North Delhi Municipal Corporation's funds and contributions from various MPs cutting across party lines and former Union minister Vijay Goel, officials had earlier said.

It has been developed using rich stocks of flowers and has structures built with traditional craftsmanship. A white marble-made 'baradari' (pavilion) with cusped arches is the centrepiece of this garden while red sandstone, white marble, Dholpur stone, and Delhi quartzite stones have been used in the construction.

Odisha observes 'Pakhala Dibas'

Bhubaneswar, Mar 20 (PTI):

Odisha Sunday observed the 'Pakhala Dibas' marking the popularity of the state's main staple food since ages even in the age of pizza, burgers and other fast food items.

March 20 is being observed as Pakhala Dibas to promote the cuisine in the modern era. The initiative was started in 2015 by Odias to celebrate their traditional food worldwide. Pakhala (rice water) is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water.

The social media platforms were busy with a large number of people posting pictures of them observing the Pakhala



Dibas. This particular Odia food is consumed by all from ultra-rich families to the working and labour classes.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who spent most of his youth in

foreign countries before entering into politics in 1997, also claimed that Pakhala is his favourite dish.

Patnaik's love for Pakhala came to the fore in 2018 when he invited

national leaders like the then President Pranab Mukherjee, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, BJP veteran L K Advani and CPI(M) stalwart Sitaram Yechury to his residence and served 'Pakhala' in the lunch.

The chief minister had shared the picture on his Twitter handle showing the dignitaries taking Pakhala. "It is always a pleasure to relish Odia cuisine, especially my favourite pakhala, which I have a special liking for. Remember fondly the appreciation of guests from outside the state and country whenever we served them pakhala. Wishing you all a happy Pakhala Dibas," Patnaik said in the social media post.

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